

## ❧ The Month of May ❧

**T**HE most beautiful month of the year is consecrated to the most beautiful of God's creatures : May to Mary. The month of May is the month of Mary. May will bring new life to nature, and why should not the month of Mary bring new spiritual strength to broken hearts and sinful souls? For thirty-one days, the Catholics throughout the world will vie with one another in their devotion to the Queen of Angels. How will our dear Mother compensate them for their piety? Some she will free from chains that have bound them to vice for many a year; under her guidance others will return to the Church of their childhood: timorous souls will receive strength to acknowledge hidden sins and atone for the sacrilegious abuse of the sacraments; a child's prayer will be rewarded with a father's conversion; and many young people will be indebted for the amendment of their ways, to a mother's supplication before one of Mary's altars.

What intentions should direct the prayers of those who wish to celebrate the month of May in a worthy and profitable manner? Naturally their foremost thought must be their own amendment, their own greater progress in virtue. They must pray the Virgin Mary to make them chaste, to keep them pure, to make them holy. They must beseech her to impart to them sufficient constancy to model their lives after the life of her Divine Son. There is certainly no quicker way to sanctification than the faithful imitation of the virtues of Jesus Christ. But in praying for themselves, they must not forget poor unfortunate souls who no longer know what it is to pray. They are dead to grace, to God. They long to return to life but strength fails them. They would ask a compassionate soul for assistance, if shame and pride did not deter them. Yet they must come back, for they are our brothers, our sisters — children of our Heavenly Father. How will their conversion be effectuated? St Alphonsus teaches that the surest, and