

The other Saints have been unto us generous masters, charitable ambassadors; but their office, was limited to the work of instructing and exhorting us, and also of helping us by the faithful transmission of that which they had themselves received; but Mary, their mother and ours, the consolation of the sons of Adam, but Jesus, our adorable chief, to whom do we owe them?

"Happy Couple, Anne and Joachim, shall we again repeat with a Father already quoted, every creature is under strict obligation to you: by you every creature offers to its Creator the most perfect of all gifts, a chaste Mother, alone worthy of her God." (1)

"O Saint Anne, mother of the Virgin Spouse, contrary to all hope, thou hast seen shining within thee the flame of virginity, the glory of chastity."

"We all therefore proclaim thee blessed and the source of our life."

"Thy heart is blessed, O Anne filled with wisdom; it has flowered and given that virginal fruit, which has given birth to the Author and Redeemer of all creatures."

"Rejoice, Joachim, because a Child is born unto us of thy Daughter, and through Her a Son is given unto us. He shall be called the Angel of the great counsel, the Saviour of the world, the God of strength." (2)

George of Nicomedia lays down in the following words the rights of St Anne and St Joachim to our gratitude:

"We had been made out of nothing by a pure act of the divine goodness, and we were destined to serve our Creator in the earthly Paradise, by the practice of holy works; but, repelling just commands, we drew upon ourselves the punishment of death by our own will. Nevertheless our Creator,

---

(1) St John Damascene.

(2) St Andrew of Crete.