

would call her blessed. Such is the repeated fulfilment of the prophecy of that Queen of Prophets.

If we have omitted our good St. Anne in this brief enumeration of the blessed women who were sanctified by their holy children, or who acted as instruments of holiness to those children of predilection, do not think, dear reader, that we consider St. Anne as being an exception to this law. We call it a law, for this doctrine reposes in God's promise, which creates the law, to bless, unto the hundredth generation, the children of those who fear Him. Otherwise, how could St. Paul have said to the pagan and idolatrous Romans, that they still were pleasing to God in remembrance of the holy Patriarchs, their fathers? (Rom. XI. 28)

If, at a distance of two thousand years, Abraham rejoices in the simple prophetic view of the Saviour; if, twelve centuries in advance, David is created according to God's heart, because his daughter, the Immaculate princess of his house, will bring forth Him who will let himself be called "Son of David", can we believe that Anne, who immediately precedes Mary in the lineage that leads up to David and Abraham, did not also benefit by the influence of her grand-son? The wives of Elcana and of Zacharias were endowed with inspiration, the former, for having given birth to Samuel, the latter, to John, and Anne would remain in obscurity after having caused the Dawn to arise? Better say that the starry heaven does not shine that the garden strewn with the lily, the rose and the myrtle, is not redolent with perfume in the season of full bloom. In heaven, in the Church triumphant, the most holy and perfect Angels are they who stand nearest to God and whose occupation is all silence like the ineffable acts of the Divine Persons. Here below, in the Church militant, which is the figure of her sister, the triumphant Church, the holiest souls are assuredly those who were the nearest to the Incarnate God, and who imitated His silent and retired life. Such was the privilege, particularly of Mary and