



The Blessed Sacrament and St. Joseph

THANKS to the Blessed Eucharist, we need not envy the glorious patriarch St. Joseph, for our happiness equals his. His greatest privilege is to have been chosen from among men to be the foster father and the guardian of the Child Jesus.

In this two-fold capacity he was witness of the birth in the stable, of the first miracles of the Man-God ; he lived many years under the same roof in the sweetest intimacy with Him ; finally, he died under his eyes, in the shelter of His arms. Beautiful life ! Happy death ! Praise and thanksgiving to the Blessed Sacrament, through whose power we may all be as favored and happy as was this great Saint.

If St. Joseph is present, in the stable of Bethlehem at the birth of the Child Jesus ; if he worships the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the manger ; if he hears the triumphant "*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*" of Angelic choirs ; if he looks with admiration on the adoration of the lowly shepherds, and of the gifted Magi — can we not assist as often as we wish at Holy Mass, where the sweet Child Jesus is born, as in another Bethlehem, wrapped in Eucharistic forms and laid on the altar ? Can we not lift up our glad voices and join in the "*Gloria*" of the myriad angels prostrate there in loving worship, in fervent adoration ? Can we not see rich and poor, learned and ignorant ; kneel at His feet to offer Him the gold of Charity, the incense of Prayer, the myrrh of Penance and Mortification ?