

FOREWORD

The benefactors given by Divine Providence to our Institute from time to time since the early days of its foundation are very numerous. Many of these devoted friends of the poor have already gone to receive the rewards promised the just. Their names are immortal. Forever inscribed in the Book of Life, we likewise find them written here below in the hearts of their faithful survivors. The remembrance of their beautiful deeds for suffering humanity is transmitted like a priceless heritage from generation to generation.

To perpetuate a souvenir so precious, we have endeavored to reproduce within these pages a few of the striking characteristics of our most signal benefactors. Again, as of yore, will they inspire us with lessons of virtue, although the eloquent, persuasive voices that once were theirs be silenced now forever. In poring over these brief reminiscences of their saintly lives, we shall be following the advice of St. Paul, who bids us keep the traditions of our forefathers with the greatest fidelity. And, too, we shall acquire an ever increasing respect and love for the Rules and pious Customs they have bequeathed unto us.