

Divine Will, of his prompt obedience and above all, of his constant sacrificing love in the service of Jesus and Mary, were deeply impressed in the minds of the hearers. They resolved to be more devout in future to St Joseph.

Why should our Readers not do likewise? Why not try to imitate St Joseph in his angelical purity, in his submission to God? Let them have recourse to him in their spiritual and corporal necessities. He will teach them how to love and serve Jesus and Mary, and will obtain them the grace of a happy death.



A priest's prayer to Our Lady.

Mother of God, in thy surpassing grace
 The Christian priest his gloriouse type may trace,
 His functions study in thy life divine,
 And blushing sigh for virtues like to thine.
 What Holy Order to his soul should be
 Was thy Conception's sanctity to thee;
 A sacramental fount, a living well,
 Whence all thy mighty stream of graces fell: —
 That purest love, which, in thy lowly womb,
 Made Heaven's great Exile find a royal home —
 That thrill of rapturous joy, when Jesus prest
 His infant lips upon thy Virgin Breast —
 That strength to bear thy more than martyr's sword,
 And murmur still: « The handmaid of the Lord. »
 Then, Lady, look with pity upon one
 Who bears the priestly image of thy Son;
 By whose unworthy hands and trembling breath
 The Victim-Priest renews His mystic death;
 Whose functions bind him to thy highest care,
 While conscience cries: « Presumptuous man, beware! »
 O glorious Queen, thy lamp was kindled bright
 In thy Conception; yet, through all the night,
 Waiting the King of kings, thy prudent toil
 Trimmed and replenished it with purest oil:
 My priestly lamp burns dim; oh! pray thy spouse
 Within my sluggish spirit to arouse
 The grace the priestly character demands,
 Pledged by the Pontiff's venerable hands.

T. E. BRIDGETT, C. SS. R.