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Volume IV, Number Eleven

J. F. Durin

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St. Joseph's Archconfraternity,

Canonically Established in the Church of St. Joseph, West De Pere, Wis.

THE OBJECT of this Association, favored by His Holiness, with the title of "ARCHCONFRATERNITY" for Northern America, is:

- 1st. To promote and to propagate the devotion to St. Joseph in America.
- 2d. To unite under the Patronage of St. Joseph all its members, living and dead, so that in a perpetual bond of charity, they help one another by prayer and other good works.
- 3d. To recommend the members to the protection of St. Joseph and to obtain his help and assistance during life, at the hour of death and in the expiation of Purgatory.

Conditions to be members are:

- 1st. To have his name and surname entered into the register of the Archconfraternity.
- 2d. To say every day the following ejaculation: St. Joseph, Most Pure Spouse of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, pray for us.

Indulgences: Plenary. 1st. On the day of admission. 2d. At the hour of death. 3d. On the principal Feast of the Association and Octave. 4th. On the day appointed by the Bishop and on the seven following days.—Partial. 7 years and 7 quarantines four times a year on holidays, Sundays or weekdays for visiting a church or chapel.—60 days for various acts of piety. (ANNALS page 115, Vol. III.)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

The Holy Mass is celebrated at the Altar of St. Joseph for the Associates to obtain the success of their recommendations. Before Mass the intentions addressed to the Director are read and special prayers are said in honor of St. Joseph. Many favors have already been obtained by this practice.

Another Mass is said each week for the members of the Association, by a priest devoted to St. Joseph.

A lamp is burning day and night before the Holy Face and special prayers are offered to the Sacred Face of our Lord every day for the conversion of the intemperate persons and blasphemers. The members of St. Joseph's Association are earnestly requested to join their prayers to check such disastrous evils as intemperance and blasphemy.

The Deliverance unites the living members for the relief of the souls in Purgatory and especially of the departed Associates by the daily offering of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass.

The Holy League of Children

Under the Patronage of St. Joseph.

1. The names of children placed under the protection of St. Joseph, are written on a special book, which remains at the rectory.
2. The consecration is performed on the feast of the Patronage, but can be done at any time, in sending the names.
3. No special ceremony is necessary but teachers or parents who desire to procure a favorable impression to the young ones, can do something in the family circle or in the school.
4. The consecration is not special to pupils of the school, but it is offered also to the infants after baptism, and it will be a security to the anxious and good mothers.
5. A certificate will be sent to those who can read.
6. There is no obligation whatever. But children will do well if they say the Hail Joseph, etc.—It will remember them the good devotion, which will be their safeguard.

The good and ancient practice of burning lamps and candles before the statue of St. Joseph is recommended to the Associates.

The expense for a lamp with olive oil is:

For 9 days,	\$ 0.75
" 30 days,	2.00
" one year	25.00
Wax tapers, candles, from ten to forty cents	

According to its special object, the Archconfraternity publishes the ANNALS OF ST. JOSEPH, which is a treatise of the devotion to St. Joseph in its doctrinal, historical and practical aspect. Every family devoted to St. Joseph should take a subscription.

VOL. IV.

JANUARY, 1893.

NO. 11

ANNALS OF ST. JOSEPH

THE
MOST PURE SPOUSE
OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

Illustration

Monthly Catholic Journal

PUBLISHED BY

The Archconfraternity of St. Joseph, at West De Pere, Wis.

In the Interest of the Devotion to St. Joseph.

With the approbation of RIGHT REV. S. G. MESSMER, Bishop of Green Bay.

PATRON
OF
THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.
PATRON
OF
THE HAPPY DEATH.
PILLAR OF THE WORLD.



MODEL AND PROTECTOR
OF
CHRISTIAN FAMILIES.
HELPER
OF
THE "POOR SOULS."
ORNAMENT OF HEAVEN.

The Annals of St. Joseph.

Entered at the Post Office at West De Pere as second-class matter.

VOL. IV.

JANUARY, 1893.

NO. 11.

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THE ANNALS OF ST. JOSEPH, published with the approbation of the Right Rev. S. G. Messmer Bishop of Green Bay, and with the recommendation of His Eminence Cardinal Simeoni, His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, the Most Rev. Elder, Archbishop of Cincinnati, and the Right Rev. Bishops of Davenport, Covington, South Dakota, Marquette, San Antonio, Joppa, Trois Rivières, St. Albert's, were last year favored with the Apostolic Benediction of the Sovereign Pontiff. They are coming in season, to foster, to propagate, to explain the beautiful Devotion of the Holy and glorious Patron of the Catholic Church.

They will condense all that has been said in the past and all that will be said in the future of St. Joseph. Then each number will be divided in three parts: 1. Theology of the Devotion. 2. The history of the Devotion. 3. The practice of the Devotion, which we intend to promote by the Association.

Not relying upon ourselves but upon the assistance of St. Joseph, the devotedness of the Faithful, the help of all those who desire to glorify Him, we earnestly beg that this paper should not be forgotten among other papers, but that all those who will receive it, become solicitors and try to have other subscribers.

According to the injunction of Pope Urban VIII, we protest that what is contained in the ANNALS rests solely on private authority, and in making use of such words as divine, adorable, ineffable, holy, miraculous, we never intend to speak but of a participation purely merciful, and that we do in no wise wish to forego the judgment of the Church. We do also declare that we intend to write nothing but what may be entirely conformable to the mystic meaning of the Holy Church, Catholic Apostolic and Roman, to the infallible judgement of which we submit, without reserve and forever, our persons, our words, and our writings.

TERMS.

SINGLE SUBSCRIPTION, - - - - - 75 Cents.

Payment in advance. Money may be sent either in registered letter or P. O. order or draft, to

REV. J. F. DURIN, West De Pere, Wis.

Subscribers who do not receive the ANNALS regularly should at once state the fact.

Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered wishing to continue their subscription.

Annals of Saint Joseph.

VOL. IV.

JANUARY, 1893.

NO. 11.

• • • GREETINGS! • • •

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

The conspicuous place which St. Joseph has occupied in the accomplishment of the wonderful counsel of God, the mystery of the Incarnation, his unequalled dignity among saints, is the guarantee of our sincere wishes in this holy season, at Christmas and at the beginning of a New Year. We know all that

THE HEART OF JESUS

is the hidden but infinite treasure of all graces. Its treasurer is our glorious St. Joseph to whom we apply, to receive relief in our want as the Egyptians of old were going to the superintendent Joseph, who sold corn to the famished people.

St. Joseph is truly master of the house of God. He is the head of the Divine Family and we meet him at every step in this joyful season. From him the Shepherds obtain admission into the grotto, approach the manger and adore their Saviour, glorifying and praising God for the things they have heard and seen. The star stands over the blest house where the Child is born, but the wise men must address to St. Joseph for their admission in the place where the Child is with his mother.

We shudder at the calamity impending on the World. Herod seeks the Child to destroy him. But Joseph is ready and the world will hereafter salute Him as the Saviour of the Divine Child.

We have chosen you and proclaimed Our King! With thy comeliness and thy beauty set out prosperously, St. Joseph,

and reign! Look favorably upon us.

ITE AD JOSEPH: GO TO JOSEPH!

This is our motto. It expresses our wishes. Let us go to Joseph, dear Associates, not in a moment of passing devotion, but with the conviction that God in His merciful designs has sent him for our preservation.

May our gracious and lovely King assemble around him his faithful clients, extend his sweet dominion over the whole country, guiding ourselves in the service of Our Lord

JESUS CHRIST,
TO WHOM BE HONOUR AND EMPIRE
EVERLASTING.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.



DISTINCTIVE and glorious mark of this work undertaken for the propagation of the devotion to St. Joseph is the fidelity of the Associates. From the beginning till now our

continual appeals to their piety and generosity were always kindly responded. Though we have never failed to express our gratitude either by our prayers or by constant efforts to develop the good work, we desire to appoint a day of special prayers for the temporal and spiritual welfare of our dear Associates. The most convenient day is indeed the first

day of the New Year, a day of glorious memory for St. Joseph, as it was on that very day that he exercised his extraordinary privilege in giving the name to the Child: *And he called his name Jesus.* We are promised by Our Lord Himself, *that whatsoever we shall ask the Father in His name, that He will do.* How more powerful will be our petition if it is presented by the happy man, who has the first tasted the sweetness of the Holy Name. Let us implore Him that he may draw from his treasure the favors which we desire to obtain. We recommend at this occasion the practice of sending to the shrine sealed petitions, that we may deposit them on New Year's day at the feet of the crowned statue.

May we apply in return for a prayer from each one of our dear Associates for the extension of the Archconfraternity. We are advised by the Holy Writ: *to let not the part of a good gift overpass us.* We have received an extraordinary gift in this Association of St. Joseph, a precious talent which we must divide with our friends, that they may share in the blessings and favors of St. Joseph. We will be in excusable, if we do not endeavor to propagate this precious devotion to St. Joseph. A little trouble to speak of it to our neighbors will be rewarded by abundant blessings. There are so many who need his powerful intercession. There are so many people who suffer. Let us direct them to St. Joseph, and they will be relieved and saved!

We earnestly recommend to our Associates the ANNALS OF SAINT JOSEPH. Being separated from one another, we need means of communication, and there is not one more appropriate than the little messenger, which comes every month to reveal us the glories of our dear Saint, to bring the relation of his favors to convey all news which may be of some interest for our devotion. We are grieved

by the remarks of some good but thoughtless people: I don't want the ANNALS any longer, because I have no time to read it, because there are so many papers, because we cannot spare the subscription. There is a very impressive picture among the tableaux which decorate the shrine. St. Joseph followed by his holy Spouse arrives at Bethlehem and enquires if there is room for his dear company. The haughty innkeepers stand on the threshold refusing admission to the travelers, who have the appearance of poor people.....and the Lord of the Lords is laid in a manger *because there is no room for them in the inn.*

The annual subscription for the ANNALS cannot be refused as it is solicited in the name of St. Joseph for the propagation of his devotion in America. If it seems that it is too much for one, it will be easy to have an understanding with your friends, dividing the subscription in five or ten shares. How many useless and even dangerous papers are admitted in the family circle, while St. JOSEPH'S ANNALS are rejected. There was no room for them.

We beg also earnestly of the devoted clients of St. Joseph that they take interest in the publication, contributing by appropriate articles, interesting correspondence. We desire that the ANNALS become the most attractive paper for the clients of St. Joseph, and for all those who live piously. Therefore we will welcome every contribution directed to this object.

The subscription commences with the March issue, which will be the first number of the fifth volume. Continuing to disclose the wonders which God has accumulated on St. Joseph, we will give a special attention this year to the devotion of the Guardian Angel in the interest of the little ones and also to the devotion to the Holy Face, as a means

of reparation to Our Lord Jesus Christ. We contemplate therefore to give 24 pages to each number.

In return for the proposed improvements we apply for an early renewal of subscription, and for the payment of arrears. We are obliged to say that any person who takes a periodical from the post office is bound in conscience to pay the subscription. It is impossible for an editor to know the intention of the subscriber, if it is not clearly manifested.

We are willing to give time for payment of the subscription, but we beg to be notified so that we may fix our subscription book and know those who are willing to do something for the interest of St. Joseph in this country.

THE HOLY LEAGUE OF CHILDREN CONSECRATED TO ST. JOSEPH.

St. Joseph Protect and Defend your
Children.



PRICELESS Christmas gift is offered this year to St. Joseph by the Mother Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia. It consists in the Consecration to St. Joseph of the pupils of the schools, directed by the Sisters of this congregation. There are twenty-four schools with an average of 150 children. Therefore on the 21st of this month, the day appointed for the ceremony, 3,600 children will assemble at the feet of our glorious Patron and pledge their allegiance to Him, choose Him for *their Father, their Teacher, their Patron, their Protector.* From this day as a remembrance of their Consecration they will say every day the beautiful, *Hail Joseph,* the prayer of the Holy League. When we look at our crowned Patron carrying on his arm his precious charge, the

Child Jesus, we do not hesitate to acknowledge him as the Protector of children. God has prepared, endowed him for this special mission, and to remove all doubt, a messenger is sent from heaven to tell him authoritatively: *Arise, Joseph, and take the child and fly into Egypt, and be there until I shall tell thee. For it will come to pass that Herod will seek the Child to destroy him.* And under the care and protection of St. Joseph, the divine Child is safe.

At the very beginning of our Association we did not fail to point out the design of Holy Providence in the development of the devotion to St. Joseph. He is sent for the preservation of the people of God, but especially for the defense of children, against whom has been plotted a satanic conspiracy: *Herod seeks the Child to destroy him.*

We proposed then to the mothers, to the teachers the Holy League of Children to be consecrated to St. Joseph. We commenced by the pupils of St. Joseph's school which were solemnly consecrated on the Patronage of St. Joseph. Several schools answered our appeal and the Holy League numbers about thirty thousand children. Objections were aroused against this practice. It was not understood by many teachers. It was looked at with indifference by many others. It was said that the children were consecrated to the Sacred Heart and see the necessity of another consecration was not acknowledged.

It was a pious thought to present the children to the sweet Heart of the One who loves them so much. But will he forbid them to nest in the arms of his Foster Father, where He has Himself found such delight, such security, such protection? We would rather believe that the Holy League is an inspiration sent by the Sacred Heart, giving His own Protector to the little ones. The word

of Joseph, the governor of Egypt, resounds and comes to us after centuries: *Bring your youngest brother to me.*

Once a terrible calamity was impending on the Church, the threatening of schism. A council assembled at Constance to settle the divisions. A learned man, the chancellor, Gerson, exposed to the assembly the power of the intercession of St. Joseph and did not hesitate to announce that the danger to which the Church was exposed would be removed, if there was a public and solemn supplication addressed to the saint. He spoke with such eloquence that the Fathers of the Council were persuaded, the Feast of March 19th was established and celebrated and soon the election of Martin V brought joy to the world in placing the Church under the government of one Head.

Who shall come to the help of the Church in the universal conjuration against the children. The pass-word in all countries is: Secularize Education, and certainly with such system to separate the Child from God, we may expect perverse generations of unbelievers and the return of the world to paganism. God Himself has given us a direction to oppose the enemy, who seeks the child to destroy him. He sent an errand to Joseph: Arise and take the Child. Let us assemble the children and confide them to the care and protection of St. Joseph. A solemn appeal to St. Joseph in such danger will save the children and frustrate the plan of the enemy.

In this holy season which reminds us of the great dignity and power of St. Joseph, we beg of all Catholic teachers to assemble their pupils and to place them under the protection of St. Joseph. The program of such consecration is easy to follow. A day is appointed. The children assemble in the church or in their class room. They sing all to-

gether the hymn: *Glorious Father*, and one of them pronounces the consecration: *O blessed Father*. Before retiring they say all together: *Hail Joseph*, which must be said hereafter every day as a condition of membership in the Holy League.

The card of the Holy League, bearing the picture of the crowned statue of St. Joseph, can be distributed to the children as a remembrance of their consecration.

More solemnity can be given to the ceremony, if the rector of the church allows it, as procession in the church, etc.

ST. JOSEPH, THE PERFECT MAN.

BY J. M.



HE idea of perfection is seldom associated with creatures. When used in this connection it is generally intended to express relative perfection, admitting the presence of minor defects

which do not seriously impair the integrity of the character of the person spoken of. Hence the accepted saying: "The best of men are only the least sinful." In the case of St. Joseph, however, exception is made to this rule. No such meaning is attached to or implied in the term perfection. It is to be understood in its broadest signification, without restriction or limitation, for as we shall see he was a perfect man in the fullest and best sense of the word. The scripture assures us that St. Joseph was a "just man;" and in this is comprehended the measure of his praise and the proof of his supereminent merit. Nothing can be added to this divinely inspired testimony as to the completeness of his perfection, for justness in the sense of the text implies the

presence of all the virtues in their fullness of perfection. This will appear from an analysis of the character of St. Joseph.

The standard by which we may judge of the perfection of a creature is the degree of conformity which he manifested to the will of God in all his acts and deeds. If it is shown that his will was in complete subordination to the will of God, it may safely be concluded that his acts were inspired by pure and lofty motives and productive of meritorious results. The will of St. Joseph was in fullest accord with that of God. In this respect he greatly surpassed any and all other men. Since his knowledge of God was greater his motive for doing His will was stronger and more effective. In the light of this truth let us briefly consider some of the virtues that adorned the life of St. Joseph and entitled him to preeminence among men.

The first virtue we shall consider is the purity of St. Joseph. This virtue dignifies and ennoble human nature to such a degree that they who possess it are said to resemble the angels. In St. Joseph it shone forth most resplendently, investing him with peculiar grandeur and exceptional glory. It was fitting that it should be so since he was the Spouse of the Immaculate Mother of God and foster-father of the Redeemer of mankind. Brought into these sacred and holy relations, it was necessary that he should be invested with more than angelic purity to render him a fit companion and worthy object of the esteem and affection of his associates. Therefore no impulse or feeling of passion ever entered the breast of St. Joseph or found a place in his heart. Perfect purity reigned there and shed its holiest influence over his life. When he looked upon the sweet face of Mary, his Virginal Spouse, he beheld in her the purest and fairest of

creatures of God. Her body was the consecrated Temple of the Holy Ghost, and the effects of the indwelling in her of that Holy Spirit was visible to St. Joseph in a wondrously striking manner, so that he entertained for her feelings and sentiments of profound homage and respect. The thought of being united to one so marvelously holy filled him with reverently awe, as we are told by St. Bernard and others, who assures us that it needed the apparition of an angel to reconcile him to continued companionship with a being in whom the Almighty had wrought such miracles of grace. In the presence of Mary he stood in silent admiration, praising the magnificent handiwork of God and offering Him his gratitude in return for the gifts and favors conferred upon her, in which he shared so liberally. Their hearts were joined in holiest union and their minds swayed by feelings of mutual sympathy and affection. Between St. Joseph and his Spouse there existed a tender relationship and sacred intimacy too delicate for words to express. This relationship was sanctified and made still more holy by the presence of Jesus, their precious charge. Who can describe the pure and tender emotions that swelled the heart of St. Joseph as he fixed in loving admiration his gaze upon the meek and holy face of the incarnate Son of God — the most beautiful among the children of men? Surely he must have frequently experienced those ecstatic raptures which fill the soul with inexpressible delight and are sometimes vouchsafed to the clean of heart in anticipation of the joys reserved for them in heaven. He realized to the fullest possible extent that he walked in the presence of and conversed with Him who was begotten before the ages and dwelt in light inaccessible. If on Tabor He revealed only a glimpse of His glory to His Apostles and it over-

whelmed them in rapturous delight, what must have been the effects of His constant manifestations to His beloved foster father whom He favored in a far higher degree? As Jesus conversed with St. Joseph His honest words sunk deeply into his heart and made it responsive to the loftiest and holiest inspirations. At the same time He flooded his soul with exquisite delights and filled the mind with heavenly desires.

The humility of St. Joseph was proportionate to his purity and equally conspicuous in his life. Although honored in a degree superior to all other men he yet had a lowly estimate of himself, referring to God all the glory and merit of his virtues. Never did he put himself forward or seek recognition at the hands of men. Nor did he indulge in self-glorification. He neither sought nor desired honors, though of all men most entitled to receive them, for he was most worthy in the sight of God. Disengaged from all earthly attachments, his life was hidden in God and wholly occupied with the furtherance of His plans. His heart was an abyss unfathomable and a worthy receptacle for the graces and favors abundantly lavished upon him. The world had nothing for which he cared. He had in his possession the treasures of heaven. St. Joseph was custodian of the King and master of his boundless dominions. His chaste bosom was the throne of His mercy and the source whence flowed to humanity the inexhaustible gifts and favors of God. Upon the foundation of his humility was established the imposing edifice of his enduring greatness. Thus is he crowned with honor and glory surpassing all other men. Well may we exclaim in admiration. Because of the humility God hath exalted thee, O St. Joseph! Henceforth all generations shall call thee blessed!

Meekness was also a prominent virtue in the life of St. Joseph. It is the compliment of humility and its necessary adornment. Where one is found the other exists, for these virtues are inseparable. Our Blessed Lord inculcates their necessity when He says: "Learn of Me for I am meek and humble of heart." St. Joseph acquired to the fullest degree the virtues thus commended. He was the perfection of meekness, bearing close resemblance to Christ Himself, whose first disciple he was in the school of perfection.

Poverty likewise marked the life of St. Joseph and enhanced its splendor and glory. Appointed to the most exalted office on earth he was fully entitled to the highest honors, yet he deigned to remain in poverty and obscurity, working for his daily bread and the maintenance of Jesus and Mary. His life was modeled upon that of Him who said: "My kingdom is not of this world," and fashioned in strict accord with His divine purposes. Christ had come in lowliest garb to annihilate pride, so it was meet that those who co-operated with Him should share His humiliations. Hence St. Joseph cheerfully adopted poverty as the rule of His life. It was the badge of nobility which distinguished the Son of God and he was not ashamed to wear it for His sake. Thus did he merit the benediction which He pronounced upon all such; "Blessed are the poor in spirit for they shall inherit the kingdom of heaven."

The faith of St. Joseph was strong and ardent. He shared in the expectations of those who sighed for the realization of the prophecies and the fulfillment of the promises concerning the Redeemer witnessed the accomplishment of the wonders foretold in connection with His coming into the world. He clearly foresaw the fruits of His teaching and the

effects of His death on the cross. The just man, says Holy Writ, lives by faith. St. Joseph fulfilled this requirement as no other has ever done. His faith was firm as the unchanging word of God and as constant as its never failing promise.

Hope, too, burned brightly in the heart of St. Joseph, illuminating his life with the glorious prospect of future happiness in recompense for duty well and faithfully performed. The fruition of this hope dawned upon him at every interval of his life, for he beheld with his eyes Him for whose advent many had sighed and prayed in vain. The vision was complete when calmly he slept in the arms of Jesus and Mary and passed from their sweet embrace into the realms of felicity with the kiss of peace upon his lips and benedictions upon his head.

The charity of St. Joseph crowned him with brightest aureola and most enduring splendor. In him it produced its richest fruits and happiest effects. His heart was a burning furnace ever aglow with the fire of divine love which consumed his very life. Entirely free from defects and imperfections there was no impediment to the free action of this heavenly flame upon his mind and heart. Hence the unspeakable ardor of his love for Jesus and Mary, which surpassed the love of the Seraphims in heaven, who incessantly elicit acts of love and thanksgiving toward God. The same office St. Joseph performed on earth, for he lived as completely in the presence of God as did the blessed in heaven and was no less absorbed in His love. His whole being was immersed in the infinite ocean of love and filled with its ineffable sweetness. In God he lived, moved and had his being, in a sense never experienced by any other man, for no other man ever approached so near to the Divinity. Jesus communicated to him the fullest measure of His love and Mary added her share, em-

balmed with the sweet fragrance of her immaculate purity. Thus was divine love perfected in the heart of St. Joseph and consecrated by the holiest and tenderest ties.

The foregoing is an imperfect outline of the virtues that adorned our beloved Saint and rendered him the holiest production and highest type of perfect manhood. His like is not to be found either upon earth or in heaven, for no other man that has come forth from the hand of the Creator is so beautiful, or so rich in the gifts and favors awarded to him on account of his peerless virtues.

HYMN OF CONSECRATION.

Air: St. Joseph. Page 247. Peters' Catholic Class Book.

Glorias Father, dear St. Joseph
Throng we round thy shrine to-day;
For the sake of Jesus take us
'Neath thy guardianship for aye.
Once like us He called thee Father,
Teacher, Helper, Guard and Guide;
Once like us He sought for safety
At His father Joseph's side.

CHORUS.

Then as round thy shrine we gather,
Consecrating every heart,
Take us for thy children, Father,
And thy blessing fond impart.

Herod sought the Child to slay Him,
But through thee He safety found;
Still the demon seeks the children,
Thou wilt still his arts confound,
Keep us pure as thine own lily,
In baptismal blood-bought grace,
If we fall, dear Father, help us,
By our tears sin to efface.

Take us than, beloved Father,
Thine own children e'er to be,
'Neath thy blessed eyes here daily
We will do our tasks for thee.
Lessons, prayer, or play we'll give thee,
Each in its allotted time
"All for Jesus, Mary, Joseph",
Make of each an act sublime!

Whenever St. Joseph's name was heard in Heaven, all the other Saints respectfully bowed their heads towards the Spouse of the Virgin Mother and cast upon him looks of congratulation upon his incomparable dignity. (St. Gertrude.)

THE ARCHCONFRATERNITY OF ST. JOSEPH,
Most Pure Spouse of the B. V. Mary,
in North America.

CHRONICLE.



OUR hope was realized during the last part of November, the faithful clients of St. Joseph have again manifested their charity for the "Poor Souls," sending their mite to increase the fund of the Archconfraternity for Masses. We cannot yet state the amount collected as we hurry up to prepare January's issue for Xmas but the Holy Sacrifice will be offered every day as long as we will be able to do it.

The month of the "Poor Souls" was closed by a special Novena. During the last nine days we of-

fered them each afternoon the Stations of the Cross. We recommend this practice to all those who are devoted to the Poor Souls. We did not anticipate the profit attached to such exercise, and it is indeed a profit for the living and the dead to associate the dreadful sufferings of the Divine Lord with the pains of His servants, our dear departed. Moreover we are all aware that numberless indulgences are attached to this pious practice which we may apply to the Poor Souls. We may say then that next to the Holy Sacrifice of Mass, the most important act of piety for the relief of suffering souls is the "Via Crucis."

Some reports of the good works done during November for the Poor Souls were returned. But we have not yet

enough to give a statement. Though it seems troublesome to count and to inscribe our acts of charity, we may accept the work willingly, as it is a powerful means to revive our devotion to the Poor Souls.

St. John Chrysostom suggests to every pious Catholic the idea to place in his room a small box and to drop in it a penny every evening before going to bed. Let us follow the good advice of the great doctor, and with the penny we may join a slip on which we will write the good actions done for the Poor Souls. We may wait till the box is full or open it every month and apply the alms to Masses for the Poor Souls.

Shall we attribute to the prayers and Masses offered during November, an unexpected favor? Hardly had we written our proposal for the foundation of a daily Mass in perpetuity, when we received from a devoted client of St. Joseph one hundred dollars for a life membership in the Deliverance Union. It is just the practical means to found in perpetuity the Daily Mass. Sixty persons willing to realize the same offering either by themselves or by collecting small amounts, would definitively enrich the Archconfraternity with this precious favor of a daily Mass offered for the living and departed members. Every one is aware that such foundations are under the supervision and guarantee of the Bishop of the diocese, and therefore no anxiety should be felt about the disposal of the offerings. As soon as possible we will offer to our Associates certificates of membership for life as it seems to be the will of God that we entertain in our midst the charity for the souls suffering in Purgatory.

With the closing day of our exercises for the Poor Souls we commenced our monthly Novena as a preparation to the great Feast of the Immaculate Concep-

tion. Just at the same time we received encouragement in the following letter:

Davenport, Iowa, Nov. 30th, '92.

Rev. Dear Father Durin:—Inclosed please find \$10.00, a small contribution from me to aid in decorating the shrine of St. Joseph. I wish I could send ten times more, but even this will help. I owe much to the great St. Joseph for favors obtained, but I would ask you to recommend him a particular intention, about which I am very solicitous.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

† HENRY COSGROVE,

Bp. of Dav.

All the members of the Archconfraternity will be grateful for this precious encouragement and we will unite our prayers to recommend the intentions of the venerable prelate, who has done so much in words and actions for the glorification of St. Joseph.

The 8th of December was a great festival day at the Shrine of St. Joseph as we celebrate together the most glorious privilege of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the elevation of St. Joseph to the title of "Patron of the Universal Church." As it was remarked often in those pages: We cannot separate Mary and Joseph in our devotion and veneration, they were made for one another, directed together to the accomplishment of the wonderful mystery of the Incarnation, the one giving God, the other one keeping Him: the Immaculate Soil bringing forth the flower, Our Saviour Emanuel, the faithful Gardener taking care of it and preserving it for the remedy of the world.

This glorious association was recently perfected in this country by the participation of the royal dignity granted to St. Joseph on May 8. We have set on his head a crown of precious stones, and now while we rejoice in the veneration of the Immaculate Queen of the United

States, we salute the amiable king, associated to her destiny and glory. How good and how pleasant it is under the guidance of a sweet mother and an amiable father to search out in the depths of the Heart of Jesus.

In our last chronicle, we forgot to mention an incident in the history of our Association. Monday, November 9th, was a festival day at St. Joseph's shrine. Under the advice of his bishop, Rt. Rev. S. G. Messmer, a new ordained priest, Rev. P. Smitz, went to celebrate his second Mass. St. Joseph is a principal patron and a model for the priest, and the Shrine of St. Joseph is a place of attraction for those who have been chosen to be the ministers of Christ. There they will find a guide, a protector. "Imitate the One whom you will handle," says the consecrating pontiff to the newly ordained priest. Who shall teach him the science of ministering Jesus? St. Joseph who has carried him in his arms, and has clothed and nursed Him. It is not surprising that the Church advises the celebrant of Mass before ascending the altar to recommend himself to St. Joseph.

Solemn High Mass was celebrated with deacon and sub-deacon. The choir gave his best selection, and when Father Smith blessed the people, he extended his intentions to all the faithful clients of St. Joseph, who though separated by distance are always with us united in the veneration and love of our glorious Patron.

The ANNALS will be forwarded just at the time when St. Joseph appears to the world in the full exercise of his glorious mission, as Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Foster Father of Our Lord. Let us pray to the Divine Child to reward the fidelity of His Guardian to glorify His hidden Servant and beloved Father. Let us express our own gratitude by contributing to his exaltation and glorification. No! we cannot forget St. Joseph in this holy season, and we must answer practically to this question: *What can we give to him and*

what can be worthy of his benefits? Let us remember that he has chosen a place in this country from which he desires to extend his protection and manifest his powerful intercession. The Shrine where he was crowned deserves the attention of all those who desire to manifest their gratitude to him. We hope that it will not be forgotten at a time when we are so well disposed to gratify our friends. Let us spare a mite for its decoration.

The 16th of January will be a day of precious remembrance to every member of the Archconfraternity. The brief of the Holy Father which gave to our Association this title and privileges was signed on January 16th, 1891. We cannot fail to celebrate this first anniversary. But as it will be near the 23rd the Feast of the Spousals of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we assign this day to thank Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph for the favors granted to this country to have a canonical Association in honor of St. Joseph. The occurrence of Sunday this year will give us the opportunity of singing with due solemnity the first Vespers of the Feast. On the 23rd solemn High Mass will be celebrated for the members of the Archconfraternity, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be given in the evening. We are bound to say to our dear Associates that on this Feast we never failed to obtain a special favor from our dear Patron. We will place this year into his hands, the proposed foundation of a daily Mass in perpetuity for the living and departed members of the Archconfraternity.

The Novena preparatory to the Feast will commence on January 14th. As it will be the first Novena of the year, we will offer every day the Holy Sacrifice for the Archconfraternity. We hope that it will be an occasion of fervent prayers offered by every member of the Associa-

tion and it will certainly bring down from heaven an abundance of blessings. We recommend also the Holy Communion on the 23rd of January as the best means to honor St. Joseph to obtain his favors and to strengthen our union.

On the 20th of January, the feast of Saint Sebastian, who is the patron saint of our Bishop, Right Reverend G. S. Messmer, we will have the pleasing occasion to congratulate him and to offer to him the best wishes of the Archconfraternity. We all gratefully remember that St. Joseph has been crowned by this worthy prelate, who since did not miss any occasion to encourage the good work, giving himself the example of a true and sincere devotion to St. Joseph. In return our Associates will not fail to offer fervent prayers that St. Joseph deign to keep him and preserve his life giving him happiness and protection on earth and an everlasting crown in heaven.

PAPAL DOCUMENTS.

Instituting the Confraternity of the Holy Family.

LEO XIII., POPE.

FOR A PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE.



ALL men know that prosperity, public and private, depends chiefly upon the constitution of the family. The more deeply virtue is rooted in the heart of the family, and the greater has been the solicitude of parents in teaching their children by word and example the precepts of religion, so much the more abundant must be the fruit springing up for the benefit of the race. It is thus of sovereign importance not only that domestic society should be sanctified in its constitution, but also

that it should be ruled by holy laws, and that the spirit of religion and the principles of Christian life should be developed within it, consistently and constantly. It was evidently with this design that our merciful God intended to achieve the work of human reparation expected through the course of many ages, and so disposed the elements and the order of this great work of His, that from the beginning it presented to the world the august form of the divinely constituted family, wherein all men may see the most perfect type of domestic society and a model of all virtue and of all holiness. Such was the Family of Nazareth, where was hidden, before His appearing to the nations in His full light, the Sun of Justice, the Christ, God our Savior, with His Virgin Mother, and Joseph, her most holy Spouse, who in regard to Jesus fulfilled the office of a father. It cannot be questioned that the perfection which results, both in society and in the home, from a common fidelity to the duties of charity, from sanctity of morals, and from the practice of virtue, shone with its utmost brightness in this Sacred Family, the model of all families that were to be. Moreover, by a loving disposition of Divine Providence, this family was constituted in such manner that all Christians of whatsoever condition or nation they might be, might readily, with a little study, find therein a motive and an incitement to the practice of all virtue. Fathers of children possess in St. Joseph a complete model of vigilance and paternal foresight; the most holy Virgin Mother of God is for mothers an admiral model of love, of modesty, of the spirit of submission, and of perfect faith; in Jesus himself, who "was subject unto them," children have a Divine model of obedience to admire, to reverence, and to imitate. Persons of royal estate may learn from this family of royal lineage

how to practice [temperance in prosperity and dignity in affection; the rich may gather how greatly virtue is to be preferred before riches. With regard to workers and all those who, particularly in our own day, are stung to grievous irritation by their narrow means and the lowliness of their condition, they have but to lift up their eyes to the most holy members of this domestic group in order to find in them cause for rejoicing on their lot rather than for repining at it. They, indeed, share with the Holy Family its labors and the burden of the cares of its daily life. For Joseph, too, was bound to provide for the necessities of the day by means of his own toil; nay more, the Divine hands were devoted to the material labor of the artisan. Therefore it is not to be wondered at that men most wise, full of riches, have been willing to despoil and strip themselves, so that they might voluntarily share the poverty of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. With full reason then, and with adequate motive, does the worship of the Holy Family, early introduced into the life of the Church, require day by day a fresh and novel growth. This is proved by the institution of Christian Associations in the name of the Holy Family; by the honor that is paid to it; and, above all, by the graces and privileges granted by our predecessors for the stimulation of zeal and piety in its regard. This devotion has been in particular honor since the seventeenth century; and, after it had greatly spread and increased in Italy, France and Belgium, has passed among almost all the nations of Europe. Crossing, furthermore, the space of the ocean, it has taken hold of America and of the Canadian regions, where it flourished greatly, thanks to the solitude and to the activity of the Venerable Servant of God, François de Montmorency Laval, first Bishop of Quebec, and to the

zeal of the Venerable Servant of God, Marguerite Bourgeois. In these latter days our dear son, François Philippe Francoz, of the Society of Jesus, established in Lyons the pious Association of the Holy Family, which promises with the help of God, most happy and abundant fruits. This association, so fortunately founded, has for its object the work of accomplishing a closer and stricter union, by bonds of piety, between Christian families and the Holy Family of Nazareth—or, rather, the work of devoting and dedicating Christian families totally and completely to the Holy Family, so that Jesus, Mary and Joseph may take under their care the homes thus consecrated, and may protect them as being their very own. According to the statutes, the members of the association shall, together with those abiding under their roof, gather before the image of the Holy Family and practice the prescribed devotions of the Confraternity. They shall also study, with the help of the same Holy Family, how to unite their intelligence by faith, and their will by charity, to the love of God and man, and how thus to reproduce in their lives this divine example. This association erected at Bologna after the mode of that at Lyons has been approved by letters from our predecessors of happy memory, the Sovereign Pontiff Pius IX. The same Pontiff later, in a letter of January 5, 1870, addressed to the pious founder, crowned the association with special praises. As for ourself, inasmuch as we specially seek and hold in supreme love all that is of value in the work of the salvation of souls, we have not been willing to leave this devotion without praise from ourself, or our own recommendation. By a letter addressed to our dear son, Augustine Bausa, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Florence by the favor of the Apostolic See, we notified him that we hold this association to be of salutary use and in accord with the necessities of our times.

The formula of the consecration of Christian families, and prayers to be re-

cited before the image of the Holy Family, have been proposed to us by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, with the approbation of our dear son, Louis Masella, Cardinal Priest of the Holy Roman Church, and Prefect of the same Congregation. We have approved them, and we have had them both forwarded to the ordinaries of dioceses. Moreover, for fear that with time the true spirit of this devotion might decline, we have ordered the same Congregation of Sacred Rites to draw up statutes by virtue whereof the pious Associations of the Holy Family throughout the Catholic world, shall be bound together in such sort that they shall have but one and the same President ruling them by a central, sovereign authority. These statutes, resolved upon after a serious examination by the Sacred Congregation, are of the following tenor:

STATUTES OF THE UNIVERSAL PIOUS ASSOCIATION OF FAMILIES CONSECRATED TO THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH.



HE object of this pious Association is the consecration to the Holy Family to devote themselves in the veneration and imitation of it, to honor it, in presence of its image or representation, with daily prayers, and to shape their lives upon the model of the sublime virtues whereof it gives the example to all social classes, and especially to the working class.

2. The pious Association has its center in Rome, with the most Eminent Cardinal Vicar pro tempore of His Holiness, who is its patron. He it is, who, with the help of the Prelate holding the office of Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and of two other Prelates chosen by himself, as also of an ec-

clesiastic, fulfilling the function of secretary, shall direct this same Association in all parts of the world, keeping watch that it shall keep the character of its first institution, and shall more and more increase.

3. In each diocese or Apostolic Vicariate, the Ordinary, for the propagation of the pious Association among the Faithful, shall employ an ecclesiastic of his own choosing, with the title of Diocesan Director.

4. The Diocesan Directors shall place themselves in communication with parish priests, to whom exclusively is given the charge of inscribing the families of their respective parishes. In the month of May in every year the parish priests shall inform the Diocesan Directors, and inform the central authority in Rome, of the number of families newly added to the pious Association.

5. The consecration of families shall be made according to the formula approved and prescribed by the Sovereign Pontiff Leo XIII. It may take place in private for each family, or may be accomplished by groups of families, in the presence of each parish priest or of his delegate.

6. The image of the Holy Family of Nazareth shall be found with each of the families inscribed, and the members of such families shall at least once a day, and as generally as possible in the evening, pray together before the image. A special recommendation is given for this purpose to the formula of prayer approved by the Sovereign Pontiff now reigning, and also to the frequent use of the three well known ejaculatory prayers: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my life," "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, help me in my last agony," "Jesus, Mary and Joseph may my soul pass away in peace with you."

7. The image of the Holy Family shall

be either that mentioned in the letter of Pius IX., of holy memory, dated January 5, 1870, or any other image representing our Lord Jesus Christ in the hidden life He led with the Blessed Virgin Mary His Mother, and with her most chaste spouse St. Joseph. Nevertheless, the Ordinary shall always reserve the right according to the rules of the Council of Trent, to exclude images which might not conform to the proper intention of the Association.

8. Families inscribed in the Association, enjoy the indulgences and spiritual advantages granted by the Sovereign Pontiffs, as indicated in the bulletin of aggregation.

9. The Cardinal Patron with his Council shall adopt and publish a rule wherein will be found the particular dispositions most valuable for the purposes of the pious Association, with a guide to the dates of its principal festivals, of the titular festival, and of the day for the annual renewal of the act of consideration, which is made collectively, of meetings to be held, etc.

These statutes having been submitted to us by the Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, we have approved them by our Apostolic authority and have ratified and confirmed them. And all else that has been decreed in this matter, particularly in the Apostolic Letters of October 3, 1865, written and published in favor of the first Association of Lyons, we rescind and abrogate. We intend and desire that all Associations of the Holy Family now existing, under whatsoever name or title, shall be absorbed into this one single universal Association. We except, nevertheless, the Religious Congregations of that name, having constitutions approved by the Holy See, and the Confraternities properly so-called, provided they be canonically instituted, and provided they be

directed by the rules and statutes prescribed by the Sovereign Pontiffs, notably by Clement VIII. in the Constitution Quoecumque of December 7, 1604. But such Religious Congregations and Confraternities as have until this day, gathered together Christian families, shall henceforth abstain from this act which is now reserved to parish priests alone. It is not, however, necessary that families already inscribed in Congregations and Confraternities, should have themselves inscribed anew in order to enjoy the indulgences and other spiritual favors, provided they shall observe all that is established in these present statutes. We name the Cardinal Vicar of Rome pro tempore perpetual Patron of the Association, and we confer upon him all the rights and faculties judged to be necessary for the fulfillment of his charge. We desire also that he shall be assisted by a Council of Roman Prelates, among whom shall be the Secretary pro tempore of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

For the rest, we have a certain hope that all those to whom is committed the care of the salvation of souls, and principally the Bishops, will share our intentions and our wishes in the establishment of this pious Association, and will aid us in prospering the same. All who know and who deplore, as we do the depravation and corruption of Christian morals, the extinction within families of the spirit of religion and of piety, the uncontrolled rising of the wish of earthly things, will eagerly desire to bring to evils so great and so many some timely healing. And nothing could be conceived of greater help and succor for Christian families than to see before them the example of the Holy Family, wherein is enclosed the perfection and completion of all the virtues of home. They will therefore take care that the greatest

possible number of families, especially of workmen's families, against whom are directed most persistently the temptations of the enemy, shall give in their names to the pious Association. But they will above all be vigilant that the Association lose not sight of its first aim and that its spirit change not, but that the prayers and other exercises of piety fixed by the statutes be practiced punctually. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph, invoked on the hearth, be favorable to us; may they bring with them charity, may they rule our morality, may they move hearts to virtue by their example, and may they sweeten, and make more tolerable the miseries wherewith man everywhere is burdened.

We decree that all these dispositions and their details, such as they are recorded here, shall be permanent and established in perpetuity, all Constitutions, Apostolic Letters, privileges, indulgences, rules published by ourself or the Apostolic Chancery, and other things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome by St. Peter's, under the Ring of the Fisherman, on the 14th day of June, 1892, in the fifteenth year of our Pontificate.

†S. CARDINAL VANNUCELLI.

ST. JOSEPH'S RINGS.

A beautiful practice which should be accepted by every good Catholic is to wear a blessed ring with the name or monogram of St. Joseph engraved over in place of the ordinary ring. This practice was once popular in Catholic countries and is due to the zeal of the Carmelite Order to spread the devotion to St. Joseph. There is a special benediction for St. Joseph's Rings, which can be given only by priests who have received the faculty from the congregation of Rites. We have been fortunate

enough to obtain the privilege at the time of our journey to Rome. Pressure of work has prevented us to recommend this pious practice to our Associates, but we beg them to consider it seriously at the occasion of the Feast of the Spousals of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which remind us that St. Joseph on this day gave a ring to his Immaculate Spouse. It was indeed the most precious ring which has ever been seen, if not by the material certainly by its privilege to be worn by the most pure creature on earth. We will not give to the practice of wearing the ring of St. Joseph more importance than it deserves. It is an act of piety which will remind us of our dear Father St. Joseph, and dispose him to grant his special protection to those who have a will to honor him.

We have proposed to Mr. Feeley, the jeweler who has made the diadem of St. Joseph and the crown of the Child Jesus, to manufacture the rings of St. Joseph. The firm accepts the proposal and has sent two designs: one with the monogram "S. J." and the other one with the invocation around the ring: *St. Joseph protege nos.*—St. Joseph protect us.—The price will depend upon the material and the work. We will give in the ANNALS designs and prices when we will have the assurance that our Associates will favor this practice. It is sufficiently recommended to our devotion as it receives a special benediction and will contribute to entertain and develop in our hearts a lively remembrance of our dear Saint.

We solicit correspondence on this subject.

THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.



At the beginning of a New Year which seems to be a remarkable and an extraordinary one in the history of America, we beg the reader to pause a while and to consider the future.

We are promised on one side with the display and exhibition of all that science and human skill can produce at the Chicago World's Fair. Human activity is commendable and deserves honor and reward, as God has created this world and

given it to man to dress it and keep it. But there is a danger that man confiding in his skill may forget that all things were created for God's glory. How many people will rush to this unparalleled display of the products of the earth and forget that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

On another side there was lately a sudden terror extending everywhere. The dreadful cholera was advancing. It has made its apparition in New York; and though relieved for a while from this alarm, there is yet an apprehension for this year. What is the duty of the children of God in such a situation? For them there is no reason to be alarmed, their lots are in the hands of God, but they must turn their eyes to the victim of Calvary, who is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. Through Him we give glory to God, through Him we atone for our sins, and we assure to this world an abundance of heavenly blessings.

The devotions of the First Friday of the month were suggested by Our Lord Himself as a means of reparation and atonement. Let us hear the Blessed Margaret Mary, who received directly the revelation.

"During the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel of the Community when Blessed Margaret Mary was kneeling before it in a state of profound recollection, her Divine Master Jesus Christ appeared to her in the splendor of His glory with His five wounds, brilliant as five suns. From His adorable humanity flames issued on every side, but especially from His Sacred breast, which resembled a furnace.

"In the midst of the burning furnace He showed me His amiable Heart, which was the source of these flames. It was then that He discovered to me the inexplicable wonders of His love, and to what an excess He had carried His love for men, from whom he received only contempt and ingratitude. It is this, said He to me, which I feel more deeply than all that I suffered in my passion, for if they would return love, I should reckon all that I have done for them as nothing and if possible, I could ever wish to do more, instead of which I meet with coldness and repulses on every hand in return for all my anxiety to do them good. At least, then, He added, *do thou give me satisfaction of atoning for their ingratitude as far as thou art capable.*"

He afterwards prescribed the manner in which Blessed Margaret Mary should honor His love and His Sacred Heart. "Thou shalt receive ME in the Holy Sacrament," said He, "as often as obedience will permit. Thou shalt receive Holy Communion especially on the First Friday of every month."

Later He suggested Holy Communion on the First Friday during nine successive months, prom-

ising final perseverance to all those who will be faithful to this practice.

Therefore we may consider as specially pleasing to the Sacred Heart, the devotions held on the First Friday of each month. He will lavish His favors on all those who will come to console Him either by Holy Communion or a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

We have given lately more solemnity to the First Friday at the Shrine of St. Joseph. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M. Adorers are appointed to spend half an hour in acts of reparation and supplication. Such was the success of this beautiful practice that we have decided to spare no pains to increase its solemnity and to recommend it to the members of the Archconfraternity. We are well aware that the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in many places, especially in the chapels of religious communities on the First Friday of the month. Let us pray that over all the land it becomes a day of special homages offered to Our Lord in His Blessed Sacrament. Then we will have a mind that we make a covenant with the Lord, Our God, and he will turn away the wrath of his indignation from us. We earnestly beg our Associates to join their intentions with the Congregation of St. Joseph at West DePere, that we may all together on each First Friday console Our Lord and obtain His blessings for Our great country, America.

THANKSGIVINGS.

Boston, Mass.—Rev. Father: Please say a Mass for the holy souls in thanksgiving to St. Joseph for a favor granted. You will remember me asking St. Joseph for a situation. I asked it on the day devoted to him and the favor was granted on Friday, the day devoted to the Sacred Heart.

C. E. C.

Watertown, Mass.—Dear Father: Kindly say a Mass of Requiem for that soul nearest to heaven, who was most devout to St. Joseph, this is in fulfillment of a promise made to St. Joseph for a temporal favor received.

CH. A. R.

St. Joseph's Academy, S. St. Louis, Mo., December 6th, 1892.—Rev. and Dear Father:—For the honor of St. Joseph, and in grateful acknowledgment of his powerful mediation, in behalf of a young man, who had lost his mind, and had been recommended to the prayers of the Archconfraternity of St. Joseph last August.

A few days previous to the 24th ult. he was dismissed from the asylum for the insane, perfectly well, and united to the family Thanksgiving Day. My first impulse when I heard of it was: St. Joseph has done that. The Doctors held out no hopes. All their resource was in prayer, and to our dear, tender Father St. Joseph all united in a Novena promising to have it published, if their petition was granted, in order to inspire others with renewed confidence in this all-powerful intercession. I have notified the family to have a Mass of thanksgiving said by you, and have sent them a copy of the ANNALS. Rev. and Dear Father: I avail myself of this opportune time, to return my sincere and grateful thanks to my dear Father St. Joseph, for special favors recommended to him, and most earnestly solicit a memento in your devout prayers.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH.

O blessed Father St. Joseph, prostrate at thy feet, in presence of Jesus and Mary, I choose thee to be henceforth my Father, my Teacher, my Patron and Protector. I give and consecrate myself entirely to thee: I offer to thee my body and soul, my life. In union with all the children of St. School, I promise to honor thee, to celebrate thy praises, to publish thy benefits and win all hearts to thy love, as far as I have grace to do so. In return, deign to admit me among the number of thy dearest children, to watch over and protect me throughout my future life, and above all to grant me thy special protection in the hour of my death. Amen.

Lack of time and space compel us to postpone the publication of the last list of subscribers for the decoration of St. Joseph's Shrine till our next issue.

UNION OF PRAYERS, PETITIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS.

Our monthly novena will be held from January 14th to the 23d, Feast of the Spousals. As special intention we will solicit from the Blessed Virgin Mary the prosperity and the extension of St. Joseph's Archconfraternity.

We beg our readers to refer to the general intentions of December, the length of the obituary does not allow sufficient space. Particular intentions must be renewed at the beginning of the year.

MONTHLY OBITUARY.



The Archconfraternity of St. Joseph mourns its principal benefactor and devoted protector,

MGR. ALOYSIUS SINISTRI,

Prefect of the Apostolic ceremonies, died at Rome November 19th.

Through wonderful circumstances, it happened that the project of the Coronation of St. Joseph was submitted to this kind and pious prelate. As he had a daily access to the Sovereign Pontiff, he submitted our desire to His Holiness,

the Pope was pleased but would not give himself a decision without consulting the Congregation of Rites. Mgr. Sinistri brought himself the pontifical message and spared no fatigue till he could return to the Sovereign Pontiff the favorable decree. He was glad that his charge gave him the privilege to prepare the ceremonial of the Coronation.

The extraordinary privilege of the erection of the Archconfraternity at St. Joseph's Shrine is due partly to his influence. It was his last work. A severe attack of influenza obliged him to go to the country. He returned to Rome, but he never recovered entirely. Having done so much for the glorification of St. Joseph in America, we may hope that he has been in his turn glorified by St. Joseph, but he deserves from all the members of the Archconfraternity a grateful remembrance.

The Right Reverend Stanislas Verius, Bishop in *partibus infidelium* of Limira, Coadjutor of the Vicar Apostolic of New Guinea, died November 13 at the age of 28 years. A special notice of the life of this heroic missionary, of this true apostle, will be given in the next issue. The young prelate is pictured in these words: *Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* The natives of New Guinea were truly the friends, the children of the deceased and for them he has laid down his life.

Sister Francis Xavier, superior of St. Joseph's Infirmary of Fort Worth, Texas a Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word, died November 23, aged 35 years, being the 18th of her profession.

The members of St. Joseph's Archconfraternity who were called in 1892 from this world to eternity.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE!

Do not allow any day of this month to pass without offering some prayer or good work for the deliverance of the Poor Souls.