

In the Spirit of St. Edward.

"Edward, surnamed the Confessor, was the nephew of the holy King Edward the Martyr, and himself the last Anglo-Saxon King. That he should succeed to the kingdom was shown by the Lord in a trance to a most holy man named Brithwald. When he was ten years old the Danes, who were ravaging England, sought him, to put him to death, and he was driven into exile to dwell with his mother's brother, Duke of Normandy, at whose court he lived among all the allurements of vice a life of such uprightness and innocence as made all men to marvel. He was a burning and shining light for love of God and the things of God, very gentle-hearted, and quite free from any lust for power. Of him the saying is preserved, That he would liefer not be a king than win a kingdom through slaughter and blood.

"When the tyrants, who had robbed his brothers Edmund and Alfred of life and kingdom, were passed away, Edward was called back into his own country, and with the hearty goodwill and rejoicing of all, took the kingdom. He set himself to repair the breaches which wars had made, and began with the things of God. Of the Churches of the Saints, he built some altogether, and renewed others and gifted them with incomes and privileges, being chiefly fain that religion should rise from the low estate wherunto it was fallen. He was brought by the nobles of his court to marry, but it is constantly said by all writers that in matrimony he remained a virgin with a virgin bride. So great was his love toward Christ, and so strong his faith, that some times when the Mass was in saying, he won to see Him, with countenance full of grace, and glory of God's light. By reason of the abundance of his charity he was styled everywhere the father of orphans and of the poor, and he was never happier than when he had spent upon the needy the whole of his kingly treasures.

"He was famous for the gift of prophecy, and foretold by inspiration from heaven many things that were to befall England. Of this gift the following is a remarkable instance. Sweyn, King of the Danes, was embarking on ship-board with the mind to invade England, when he fell into the sea and was drowned, and God made known his death to Edward at the very moment that it happened. He had a wonderful love toward John the Evangelist, so that he was used never to refuse anything for which he was asked in his name. The Evangelist appeared to him one while in tattered raiment, and, in his own name, asked him for an alms. It befell that the King had no money, wherefore he took a ring from off his finger and gifted him therewith. Not long afterward, the Evangelist sent the same ring back to him by a pilgrim, with a message concerning his death, which was then at hand. The King therefore commanded that prayers should be made for him, and then fell blessedly asleep in the Lord, upon the very day that had been foretold to him by the Evangelist, that is to say, upon the 5th day of January, in the year of salvation 1066."

-- The Roman Breviary, Marquis of Bute's translation.

This was the patron Saint of our founder, Father Edward Sorin. Like his heavenly patron, for whom he cherished great devotion, Father Sorin loved the things of God; like him he shunned the allurements of vice when the France of his time was slowly recovering from the devastating revolution; like him he was gentle-hearted and charitable and a lover of the Blessed Sacrament; like him he was a builder. And as St. Edward was vouchsafed prophetic knowledge of the future of England, so Father Sorin was told, by the lips of the sainted Cure of Ars, that Notre Dame would prosper after three-quarters of a century of adversity. What Fr. Sorin sowed, we now reap; but we also must so that others may reap. And the glory of Notre Dame can continue only so long as we follow in the spirit of St. Edward and Father Sorin.

PRAYERS: Aloysius Gaul, of Edward Hall last year, died Friday. Chas. Atchison, of Houston Texas, former student, asks prayers for his deceased father, Rodney Janeway's father is ill; so is Mr. Magarall's mother. A relative of Jack Reilly underwent an operation Friday. Five special intentions.