Dedication

Thus ended the first day in our new fatherland and our new home, concluded with the recitation of the rosary... At the close of every busy day, in perfect unity, we gathered around a large fire, and prayed the rosary... "These facts are recorded in the Chronicle of St. Nazianz, by Anton Stoll, who likewise concludes every year's entry in the Chronicle with the words: Gebet sei Jesus und Maria (Praised be Jesus and Mary). Examples can be swiftly multiplied of the devotion paid to Mary, the Mother of God, by the citizens of St. Nazianz from its founding, the erection of its first shrine, one to our Lady of Loreto, in 1855, down to the present day with its frequent Marian devotions, the dedication of the parish and its work for God's glory under the guidance of the Holy Family, and the weekly novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help, so regularly and well attended by the whole parish — not to mention, daily family recitation of the rosary.

Throughout the history of the community the Blessed Mother has not failed to heed the homage and petitions to her. From the poor, struggling beginnings of St. Gregory's parish until the recent building and educational expansion, so beneficial not only to the community itself, but also to other parishes, Mary's intercession before God has brought manifold blessings, spiritual and material, upon her devotees.

Nor can it be called simply coincidence, as so many people would label it, that the centennial of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and the centennial of St. Nazianz are celebrated in the same year. Before God chance does not exist; attributing events to chance is a blasphemy in His sight, for nothing ever happens on the face of the earth and in the whole of His creation without His knowledge and power. The preparation of the declaration of Mary's absolute sinlessness and the preparation of the foundation of St. Nazianz were equally the work of God's Providence in 1854, as is the rejoicing in 1954 over the one hundredth anniversary of these simultaneous events.

Rightly then, with reasons that extend through the century, in this Marian year St. Gregory's community dedicates its centennial book to the sinless Virgin Mary of Nazareth, our Lady of Loreto, our Lady of Perpetual Help, God's mother and ours.