

**JESUS WILLED TO BE BORN IN A CAVE****RACCOLTA #127**

Most dear Lord Jesus Christ, who, being made a Child for us, didst will to be born in a cave to free us from the darkness of sin, to draw us unto Thee, and to set us on fire with Thy holy love; we adore Thee as our Creator and Redeemer, we acknowledge Thee and choose Thee for our King and Lord, and for tribute we offer Thee all the affection of our poor hearts. Dear Jesus, our Lord and God, graciously accept this offering, and that it may be worthy of Thine acceptance, forgive us our sins, enlighten us, and inflame us with that sacred fire which Thou camest to bring upon the earth and to enkindle in our hearts. May our souls thus become an altar, on which we may offer Thee the sacrifice of our mortification; grant that we may ever seek Thy greater glory here on earth, so that one day we may come to enjoy Thine infinite loveliness in heaven. Amen. *An indulgence of 3 years. A Plenary Indulgence once a month on the usual conditions for the daily recitation of this prayer (S. C. Ind., Jan. 18, 1894; S. P. Ap., Feb. 21, 1933).*

**CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD****RACCOLTA #129**

Eight days being passed, the Child was circumcised and His name was called Jesus. In order to melt the hard and frozen heart of sinful man, O divine Infant, the cold, the poverty, and the tears of Thy manger were not to be enough. Behold, even while the heavenly light and the echo of the angelic harmonies were not yet spent above Thy head, a knife of stone passed over Thy sacred flesh, work of the Holy Spirit, and drew from thence some drops of blood. Now, in the morning of life, those drops are few; but at eventide Thou wilt shed it all even to its last drop. Ah, make us also understand that we cannot escape the necessity of expiating our guilt and of recovering our freedom of spirit through mortification of the base instincts of our flesh.

The grandeur of Thy name, O Jesus, went before, accompanied, and followed Thy coming upon earth. From eternity the Father carried that name written in golden letters in His mind, and at the dawn of creation angelic harps intoned a hymn of praise to it, and the holy men of old greeted it from afar with a joyous heart-beat of hope. At its first echoes in the universe, the heavens opened, earth breathed again, and hell trembled. Its history records nothing but triumphs. For twenty centuries it has been the watch-word of true believers, who have always found in it, and will continue to find therein, the inspiration and the impelling power to reach the most exalted heights of virtue. It will ever be the sweetest name of all; it was spoken over Thy manger and inscribed upon the Cross; and through all the years it will bring to man's remembrance Him who loved us even unto death. O Jesus, take full possession of our hearts, and make them live by Thy love only, until they consecrate their final beating to Thee. Amen. *The faithful, who in the feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord recite this prayer with devotion, are granted: An indulgence of 3 years; A Plenary Indulgence on the usual conditions (S. P. Ap., May 4, 1941).*