November 20th, 1842: This was a Saturday. After thanking Mr. Chatard (that wholly fictitious host) for his hospitality, Father Sorin and his band were off in the direction of Crawfordsville. They had all rested fairly well, with the exception of Brother Patrick, one of whose hands was really frozen the day before. The tingling torment had been almost unbearable during the night, but now that he was up and about he felt better.

Listen to Father Sorin as he converses with Brother Patrick.

"Today, ah! it is the day of Our Blessed Mother!"

"It is, indeed!"

"This mantle of snow that covers the ground! Do you know what it makes me think of, Brother?"

"Yes, I do that!"

"It is the purity of Our Lady! Notre Dame! Her sweet stainlessness! Her immaculate soul!"

"'Tis a grand vision!"

"Ah, Brother, we go to begin a new school, a new college! What could be grander than the prospect of a group of young boys and men dedicated to Our Lady's whiteness? This snow, this white garment, sets me thinking of the numerous souls we may help!"

After a brief pause, Brother Patrick cleared his throat and said: "You always speak of the Blessed Virgin. As for me, I think mostly of Our Lord!"

"Ah, Brother, he who thinks of His Mother, thinks also of Him. I think of her, dream of her, pray to her, because she is nearest to His Heart! I am certain that if she will listen to me, He, also, will hear my prayer. And who could better be my advocate than the woman who bore Him into this world and laid the grave-clothes on his face?"

"'Tis something to consider", answered Brother Patrick.

"Voyez!" (for the moment Father Sorin forgot that he was conversing with an Irish man), "when the Superior of the Seminary at Le Mans had me deliver my first sermon -- I was only a sub-deacon -- I chose for my text: 'Qui elucidadent me, vitam aeternum habebunt, Those who make me known, will have eternal life! It was of the Blessed Virgin I spoke! Make the Blessed Virgin known, and I shall have eternal life!' (That is true historical fact--Father Sorin's first sermon was on that text, and it is recorded that when he read his sermon to his parents, they wept with joy because he had lain his first pulpit utterance at the feet of Our Lady).

"And, Brother," he continued, "when we set out from Le Mans on the 5th of August, I opened the Roman Breviary for the first time. Up until that day, I had always said the office of the diocese of Le Mans. But that day, I opened my Breviary and it proved to be the feast of Our Lady of the Snows! Today, I think so much of that!"

"Well you should!"

"And then, the day we arrived at Vincennes! My first Mass at Vincennes was on the feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin! Was not that a clear sign that we should progress under the aegis of the Mother of God?"

"So, we have left St. Peter's!"

"So, we progress to Notre Dame!"

BENEDICTION AND ROSARY SATURDAY 11:00 A.M.
CONFESSIONS TONIGHT IN CHURCH AT BENEDICTION: AFTERWARDS IN DILLON, CAVANAUGH, ZAHM.