

**LORETO, THE NEW NAZARETH  
AND ITS CENTENARY JUBILEE;  
WITH THE APOSTOLIC LETTER OF  
POPE LEO XIII, "FELIX DOMUS  
NAZARETANA"**

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Loreto, the new Nazareth and its centenary jubilee; with the apostolic letter of Pope Leo XIII, "Felix domus Nazaretana" by William Garratt

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**WILLIAM GARRATT**

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Loreto the New  
Nazareth and its  
Centenary Jubilee ❁ ❁ ❁

BY  
WILLIAM GARRATT M. A.  
*Chamberlain of the Holy House*

With the Apostolic Letter of Pope Leo XIII. "Felix Domus Nazaretana"

—\*—  
Its glorious name fills the Catholic Universe. (Pius IX.)  
—\*—

ILLUSTRATED BY MORE THAN FIFTY ENGRAVINGS  
*Fifty-fifth Thousand in Five Languages*

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1895

LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE AUTHOR BY  
MONSIGNOR THOMAS GALLUCCI, BISHOP OF LORETO.

DOMINE COLENDISSIME,

*Legenti historiam Alme Virginis Lauretane Domus a te perscriptam, facile mihi patuit confortam esse rebus, decoram sententiis, et calidis documentis scitissime distinctam, ut nesciam utram in ea puleri usus, an doctrine sis, an veri intelligentia magis probanda videatur. Amplectitur enim, et ordine digerit, et sane critices lance perpendit documenta, quae amplissima exstant, tam de ejus origine et conditione dum Nazareth adhuc manebat, tum de mira in Dalmaticas oras, et deinde in agrum Picenum Translatione, ubi nunc Laureti incredibili populorum frequentia colitur. Insuper eruditione haud mediocri, et accuratissima temporum et locorum descriptione, factorum veritatem ab incredulorum mendaciis et procacitate vindicat, nec silentio preterit innumeras gentium peregrinationes et gratias, quarum in summis rerum angustiis ipse non semel compotes fuit, et, data occasione, illas admovent de Societate Universali sub Virginis Lauretano nomine eo consilio rite erecta, ut non studeant honore et veneratione prosequi prodigium his documentis iniviam, quae omnem credibilitatem sibi a Christianis repetunt, quos non deficiat, ut optime dicunt, pietas fidei. Ad hoc, ne qua huic historiae decisset laus, accessit quedam inaffectata et perpolitata dicendi ratio, quae lectorem summopere delectat.*

*Quum haec ita sint, pertubenti animo tibi gratulor, et omnia fausta felicia a Domino adprecor.*

✠ THOMAS,

*Episcopus Lauretanus et Recinensis.*

LAURETI,

7 Kal. Octobris, AN. MDCCCLXXXIX.

(THE SAME TRANSLATED.)

MUCH ESTEEMED FRIEND,

*On reading your history of the Holy House of Loreto, I saw at once that it was full of matter, abounding in good feeling, and learnedly illustrated by weighty documents, so that I hardly know whether more to admire the excellent sentiments or the learning displayed in it.*

*Your book brings in, arranges in order, and weighs in a spirit of sound criticism the numerous existing authorities which treat of the origin and condition of the Holy House whilst still at Nazareth, and of its wonderful translation, first to Dalmatia, and afterwards to Loreto, where it is now visited by such crowds of devout people.*

*Moreover, your book defends the truth against the falsehoods and sneers of unbelievers with much learning, and with very accurate historical and local knowledge. It treats also of the numerous pilgrimages which come to Loreto from various nations, and of the signal favours which have so frequently been bestowed on them under the most trying circumstances.*

*You take occasion to speak of the General Confraternity of Our Lady of Loreto, erected for the purpose of promoting the honour and veneration due to this great wonder of God's power—which is couched for by proofs entirely convincing to all Christians who have anything of what is aptly called the "piety of faith."*

*To complete the excellence of your book, it is written in an unaffected and polished style which is very pleasing to the reader.*

*Allow me, therefore, to congratulate you most sincerely, and to wish you every blessing from Almighty God.*

✠ THOMAS,

*Bishop of Loreto and Recanati.*

[The above translation is by a Canon of St. George's Cathedral, Southwark.]



## DEDICATION

BLESSED, O "Full of Grace," is the hallowed Chamber of thy Immaculate Conception, where God infused into thy body thy spotless soul. Blessed, O "Virgin, free, through grace, from every taint of sin,"\*—blessed is the Place where, at the first instant of thy being, God poured into thy soul His grace, preserving thee, by virtue of thy Son and Saviour's merits foreseen, from every stain, and giving thee a "nature" ever "beautiful and inaccessible to all pollution."† "Thou art all fair, O Mary, and there is no original stain in thee. Alleluia."

Blessed, O thou who, as Aurora, camest forth to usher in the dawn,—blessed is the Holy House of thy auspicious Birth, the august Room where holy Ann, thy mother, brought thee forth. "Thy Nativity, O Virgin Mother of God, has filled the whole world with joy. Alleluia."

Blessed, O thou at whose consent heaven rang with jubilee—blessed is the Place of that life-giving consent. Ah! blessed, O "Advocate of Eve," who "didst loose the knot of her disobedience,"‡—thrice blessed is that better Eden where "to thyself and all mankind thou didst become the cause of salvation."§ "Thou didst believe the words of Gabriel, the Archangel," and "He Whom the whole world is unable to contain, being made Man, enclosed Himself in thy Womb. Alleluia, alleluia."

O Thou who art "more glorious than the Seraphim and more honourable than the Cherubim,"|| how can we adequately venerate

\* S. Epiphanius. † S. Ephrem. ‡ St. Irenæus. § *Ibid.* || Liturgy of St. James.

thy Sacred Chamber, wherein thou wast conceived\* and born † Immaculate? How can we worthily revere that hallowed Room in which “the Holy Ghost came upon thee ‡ and the power of the Most High overshadowed thee,” and “without any violation of thy purity thou wast found the Mother of the Saviour”?

Deign, O immaculate and ever-Virgin Mother of God, to accept and prosper all that is done to make wider known the glories of thy Sacred Dwelling. Guide and bless the hand that writes and the zelators who labour. May the family of the Church on earth, of which Jesus from His Cross made thee the Mother, and Christ's Vicar has made thy holy Spouse the Patron—may this whole family rejoice to be enrolled in the “Universal Congregation of the Holy House.” May the names of all its members be written on the tablets of thy heart, and, by thy intercession, *dwell in the House of the Lord unto length of days*, and, hereafter, in that *house not made with hands, eternal in heaven*. Amen.

*Zelus Domus tue comedit me.*

*Dignare me laudare te, Virgo Sacrata.*

*Nisi Dominus edificaverit Domum; in vanum laboraverunt qui edificavit eam.*

Virgo Lauretana, ora pro nobis.

\* Julius II., Paul III., Pius IV., Pius IX.

† Pius IV., Sixtus V., Clement VIII., Innocent XII., Pius IX.

‡ Julius II., Paul III., Pius IV., Sixtus V., Clement IX., Clement X., Innocent XII., Benedict XIV., Pius IX., Leo XIII.

**Ave Maria.**

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\* The author has visited the former site of the Holy House at Nazareth.