

# AS A LITTLE CHILD I LOVED YOU

The Marian anthology of Pope Leo XIII is surprisingly rich and varied, not only with encyclicals about the Blessed Virgin but also with Latin poems written in honor of Mary.

In his poetry, the aged Pontiff tells Mary of his love for her, which grows with the years, and asks for her protection in life and in death.

**A**S a little child,  
I loved you like a Mother.  
Now that I am old,  
my love for you has grown.

Receive me in heaven  
as one of the blessed,  
and I will proclaim  
that I have obtained  
such a great prize  
through your patronage.

*LEO XIII*