

several years older since the previous day —saying : « Now tell me what you think you will do later on ? Henry at once replied : « I want to study to be a missionary. » At that time he thought only of going to Mongolia, but our mother would not hear of it because she knew that in those countries missionaries live in too great isolation. She had recourse to Father Charles Debongnie who worked upon the heart of young Henri and ended by convincing him that the Redemptorists were also missionaries and that he would find ample scope for his vocation with them. »

Meanwhile Providence was pleased to lead everything to a good end. Young Henri received an education that developed in him to a marvelous degree the fine qualities that afterwards rendered relations with him so agreeable and made him beloved by all who knew him. His family was one of those thoroughly Christian families in which the father was honored and the mother exercised her august functions with an authority at once strong and gentle ; wherein work was esteemed ; where pleasure was found in the innocent amusements of the paternal home. It was in this Christian and virile atmosphere that our future apostle made his first studies.

Hardly were they completed than he flew to Saint Trond to ask the grace of being admitted among the sons of St Alphonsus. This was on the 7th September 1885 and he was not yet eighteen years old. It is easy to imagine how fervent the young novice was. God who willed that his servant was to be crowned so soon, allowed him to be disturbed by inward troubles of all kinds. But his courage and humility overcame all obstacles and at the end of a year he pronounced his vows with inexpressible joy. His trials, however were not over. To sunder all ties that attached him to earth, God took his father and mother from him at the same time during his theological studies. Summoned in haste to the paternal home, he had not even the consolation of seeing them alive ; all he cou'd do was to kneel beside their mortal remains and offer this cruel sacrifice to heaven. He did so generously and returned to conclude his studies.

On becoming a priest, as soon as he entered the holy ministry, he manifested the measure of zeal that animated him, laboring ever with incredible ardor at everything he thought could