

soul at its entrance into life ? The priest. Who feeds it giving it the necessary vigor for life's pilgrimage ? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, by cleansing it a last time with the Blood of Jesus Christ ? The priest, always the priest. If a soul dies through sin, who will resuscitate it, who will restore its purity and peace ? Again, the priest. Can we recall one of God's numerous benefits without associating therewith, the priest ? Go to confession to the Blessed Virgin or an angel : will they absolve you ? No. Will they give you the Body and Blood of Our Lord ? No, the Blessed Virgin, powerful as she is, cannot consecrate a Host. Two hundred angels could not absolve you, one humble priest can, saying, "go in peace, I forgive you."

How noble is the priest's dignity ! He himself will only understand it in heaven. If we could understand it, we should die not of fear but of love. All God's other favors would be worthless without the priest. Of what use would a house full of gold be if there was no one to open its door ? The priest has the key of the heavenly gold, it is he who opens its door, he who is God's treasurer, God's administrator. Without the priest the passion and death of Our Lord would be of no avail as the savage tribes fully prove. Of what use was it to them that Our Lord suffered and died ? Alas ! they cannot have part in the benefit of the Redemption as long as they have no priests to apply to them the merits of the precious Blood.

The priest is not ordained for himself : he does not absolve himself, nor administer the sacraments to himself. He is not for himself but for his fellow-men. After God the priest is all. Leave a parish without a priest for twenty years and the inhabitants will inevitably fall into idolatry. If the missionary Father and I were to go away, you would say : "what shall we do in this Church where Mass is no longer offered, where Our Lord no longer abides ? As well say our prayers at home."

Fanatics trying to eradicate religion begin by attacking, by banishing the priests, realizing that where there is no priest, there is no sacrifice, no true religion.

When the bell summons you to Church, if I asked you where you are going, you could answer. I am going to nourish my soul. If pointing to the tabernacle, I ques-