

inspire us with a strong desire of gaining the plenary indulgence of the Jubilee as soon as it is in our power to do so ; and we should cheerfully accomplish the works prescribed, of whatever nature they may be.

The Church is unceasingly telling us to do penance, in order to atone for our sins and the sins of others. But there are periods during which she asks us to do penance with greater fervor than ever. One of these is the time of the Jubilee. The Church is already liberal enough to us, and she does not intend to remit us our sins, or grant us precious indulgences, gratuitously ; no sinner who knows what the justice of God is can ask for such a favor. Penance, then, is the watchword of this year of grace. When our Bishops, prompted by Rome, will have issued, for their respective dioceses, the regulations of the extended Jubilee, we shall hear our priests and pastors, in their turn, explaining what is meant by the Jubilee and its privileges. But we are sure, also, to hear them calling on us to do penance. This is what guarantees to us God's favors, just as it holds off the effects of His vengeance. The Prophets, in the Old Law, were continually inviting the Jews to penance. St. John Baptist, in the New, preached penance as the only fitting preparation for the advent and reign of the Messias. Christ Himself, began His public life by preaching penance. Need we be surprised, then, that Leo XIII. should ask Catholics throughout the world, during the coming months, to do penance, to purify their souls ; to show, in some way, their hatred of sin and their love for Our Lord, in order to profit by the great amnesty of the Jubilee. It matters little what form our penance may take ; the ordinary obligations of the Jubilee entail the visitation of churches, recitation of prayers, fasting, alms-giving, and the many other ways which the Church will prescribe. But if we do those works in the proper spirit, we may expect that God will not be outdone in generosity.

It has been frequently asked how the indulgence of the