

on the vigils of the great feasts. He goes to holy Communion weekly, or, at least, every month. He belongs to one or more Catholic societies. He has a pew in church. He gives alms to the poor and the fatherless. He stands up for his religion in the outside world and is respected for his fidelity to his convictions. He is not afraid of ridicule, or calumny, or opposition in the discharge of his religious duties. He may be rich or poor, but he prizes as the best of his possessions the gift of the faith and the grace of God. He prays daily for the favor of the Last Sacraments. He looks upon death tranquilly as the inevitable way appointed by our Father for us to enter into eternal life.

Such a man, intelligent and virtuous, is a blessing to his own home, a model for his neighbors and an unconscious benefactor of the community in which he lives.

Mass under difficulties.

A priest writing lately from Tonquin (Indo-China) to a friend at the Mission House at Paris says : —

“Thanks be to God, the number of neophytes is increasing in my district ; the seed is sprouting in thirteen villages. In order to help our people to progress in the practise of Christian virtues it is necessary for us to visit them, and to dwell among them.

“You know the country ; you know that in our travels we have only temporary lodgings, and the quarters are usually too limited to admit everything : — the altar, the material necessary for the celebration of the Holy Mass ; my bed and those of the catechists ; the luggage ; a place to cook, to teach catechism, and to receive visitors.”

“On the ground floor are the sheds for cattle, horses, pigs, hens, ducks, goats, etc. During the Holy Sacrifice, during catechism, not to speak of the night, the uproar is anything but respectable. The inhabitants of the house are scarcely more quiet. In the morning the mother calls the children, who are noisy enough, the odor of cooking is strong, the dogs tease the cats, the master of the house gives orders, and, in the midst of this hubbub, we must go to the altar. For the honor of our religion, a chapel is necessary, but it is impossible to do anything alone.”

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