

A. Yes; and by a divine precept also, St. Paul says, *So the Lord ordained, that they who preach the gospel should live by the gospel.* 1 Cor. ix. 13, 14.

Q. Is a clandestine marriage a lawful marriage?

A. Every clandestine marriage is grievously sinful, and those who contract, solemnize, or witness such marriages, are sharers in the guilt.

Q. Is a clandestine marriage valid or binding?

A. *Where the decree of the Council of Trent relating to such marriages has been published and received, a clandestine marriage is no marriage; it is null and void in the sight of God and of the Church.*

Q. What is a clandestine marriage?

A. Every marriage of Catholics is declared clandestine by the church, at which the parish priest of the man or woman is not present, or another priest by his leave, or leave of the bishop, with two or three witnesses. *Con. Trid. SS. 24 de Reform. Mat. Cap. 1.*

Q. Do the precepts of the church oblige, under pain of mortal sin?

A. Yes; *He that will not hear the church, says Christ, let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican.* Luke 16, and Matt. xviii. 17.

Q. What is necessary to keep the commandments of God and of his church?

A. The grace of God, which is to be obtained chiefly by prayer and the sacraments.

## LESSON XXII.

### *On Prayer.*

Q. What is prayer?

A. A raising up of the heart and soul to God, to adore him, to bless his holy name, to praise his goodness, and to return him thanks for his benefits.