

« Today that tender mother, Holy Church, rejoices beside the cradle of the Blessed Virgin Mary, chosen by God to give the world its Redeemer. We also rejoice beside a cradle, that of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in the Vice-Province of Canada. And observe what tender and delicate love presided at the choice of this cradle. Divine Providence placed it under the maternal aegis of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary in this fine convent of Hochelaga, dedicated to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

« Twenty years ago, Belgium, ever fruitful in its apostleship, sent to Canada several of its zealous missionaries to plant here the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. Most of them have died in their adopted country after perfuming it with all the virtues that make a good Redemptorist and a true apostle ; thus their name will ever be blessed among us. They have opened up the path for us and we must walk in their footsteps.

« Therefore, dear youths, in entering our Congregation, you undertake to labor to attain perfection by imitating the virtues of the Most Holy Redeemer. To endeavor to resemble your divine Model more and more in an Institute and according to rules approved by the Sovereign Pontiff, such for the future is your profession, the aim of your life. For this you must, like every good Redemptorist, be animated by a threefold spirit : the spirit of mortification, of prayer, of apostleship. Shut up in a convent, the true son of St Alphonsus must lead a life of humility, recollection and mortification, a life of abnegation, study and prayer. By complete self-immolation he must transform himself into Jesus Christ in such a manner as to be able to truly say : « I live, now not I ; but Christ liveth in me. » (Galat. 11-20.)

« Constant prayer will be his invincible weapon. He will always keep before his eyes that great principle of our Father St Alphonsus : *he who prays assuredly saves himself ; he who prays not damns himself*. By prayer he will sanctify himself and will make his apostleship fruitful ; for we must not forget that the Redemptorist is an apostle ; zeal for souls must incessantly consume his heart.

« At the hour marked by obedience, our religious issue from their silent retreat and go forth to evangelize nations ; they preach eternal truths to them ; make them tremble before God's justice ; by this means they awaken remorse in guilty consciences and work miracles in conversions. O sublime and divine ministry, by which so many souls are snatched from the devil and brought back to Jesus Christ ! In truth