

Zeal and an animated attention to the improvement of our condition, distinguished the early efforts of these Reverend Gentlemen on their arrival. Previously to their presence, Halifax had never known the utility or existence of those instructive and pious Institutions which, in Catholic countries, are found such important auxiliaries for the instruction of the people and the propagation of the Faith. Catechistical Societies were established, and many members of the community, who, though capable of imparting instruction to the unintelligent and uneducated, had up to that period been permitted to remain in indifference or apathy on such matters, were awakened to a sense of their own responsibility and the just demands on their attention and time, which their uninstructed brothers possessed.

A Catholic Library, hitherto a desideratum in the Parish, was established—funds raised, and books of standard value and eminent Catholic usefulness, procured, which are now eagerly read by the people; and many are thus enabled to maintain from these sources of information, the grounds of their Faith against the arguments of heresy and disbelief.

An Auxiliary Branch of the Catholic Institute, that medium of such signal usefulness and manifold advantages to the Catholics of the English community, was also set on foot, and the responsible and active duties assumed by the Reverend Mr. O'Brien. A correspondence with the parent Institute was established—remittances made, and a copious supply of religious documents and tracts received, which have been disseminated by the agency of the Catholic Branch through the various and remote portions of the vicariate—thus diffusing the precepts and lessons of our faith among the distant and scattered settlers of the wilderness, where the deficiencies of spiritual aid