

The best known of these associations was founded at Saint Vallier in France, by Pauline Jericot, about the year 1819, and is known as the Work of the Propagation of the Faith. This zealous lady organised bands of ten associates, from whom she asked one cent a week for missionary needs. Her efforts were so successful from the very beginning, that, a few months later, she had given nearly eight thousand francs to the Catholic missions in America.

On May 3rd, 1822, a Council of Propagation of the Faith was organised at Lyons, and the humble foundress handed over to it the direction of the work. Bishops and priests began to honor it with their praises. The Roman Pontiffs, Pius VII., Leo XII., Pius VIII., Gregory XVI., and Pius IX. recommended it strongly in turn, and enriched it with many indulgences. In 1840, Gregory XVI., in an encyclical letter, spoke of it in these terms: "We regard this great and holy work as worthy of the admiration and love of all good people. The little offerings and daily prayers addressed to God by each associate help and strengthen apostolical men. The Association exercises a great Christian charity towards neophytes, and delivers the faithful from the fury of persecution. We exhort all Bishops to advance its interests in their dioceses." Pius IX. recommended it as warmly as his predecessors did. He seized every occasion to come to its aid, and to augment its prosperity. He granted very ample privileges to the associates, and showed himself a sincere friend and well-wisher to them in many other ways.

All these testimonies of sympathy and good will have made the work of the Propagation of the Faith venerable in the eyes of the Christian world; and it is not surprising that the Apostleship of Prayer and the Propagation of the Faith have always worked hand in hand and taken a deep interest in each other's welfare. Many a time during the past fifty years, the *Messengers of the Sacred Heart* and other organs of the Apostleship of Prayer, have recom-