

those entrusted to our care, and following the example of several Right Rev. members of the Episcopate, who are deeply interested in the foreign missions, we have approved of this institution and authorized Mr. Theodore Ryken to inaugurate, under our direction, in our episcopal city, a congregation of Brothers destined to co-operate, according to their means to the accomplishment of this project.

In order to favor, as much as is in our power, this pious institution, we recommend it for the above named motives to the charitable souls with a firm confidence that their gifts will not only bear the desired fruits, but also that thereby they will draw upon themselves the tender dew of heavenly blessings.

Given at Bruges, the 1st of October, 1840.

† FRANCOIS, Bishop of Bruges, Belgium.

Mr. Ryken visited America twice before he began the foundation of his Congregation; on each occasion laying his plans before a few bishops then in this country. They approved them and encouraged him to put them into effect. On his return to Europe he immediately set to work on the arduous work of maturing his plans, by preparing the constitution and rules for his intended Congregation, in which he was materially assisted by the venerable and learned Jesuit Father Van Kerhoven. The Rev. Jesuit Fathers were chosen the spiritual directors of the young Congregation, and always have manifested a deep interest in the advancement of the same.

His next move was to the seat of all spiritual power and authority—Rome. He was most graciously re-