

OF THE EPISCOPAL VISITATION.

THE visitation of parishes which the bishops make through their dioceses, agreeably to the spirit of the holy Council of Trent (Sess. 24. ch. III. *De reform.*), is one of the most necessary and important functions of the ministry with which they are intrusted. The clergy will therefore most zealously impress the people with the highest idea of its importance, and let them know that the bishops, in visiting them, come in the name of Jesus Christ, to shower on them his blessings, and that their visit must be for them as a sequel of the mission of this divine Saviour, for the sanctification of their souls.

As soon as the curates shall have received the Mandate which announces the episcopal visitation, they will publish it at prone, and invite their parishioners to assist with zeal and piety at the exercises which will take place during that visitation. They will exhort them not to absent themselves from the parish during these days of salvation on which the Lord in his mercy is to visit them. They will recommend them to consider those days as great festivals, in disposing themselves in a holy manner to participate in the fruits and advantages of that visit, by more than ordinary fervent prayers, by good works, and especially by the worthy reception of the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist. These fruits and advantages chiefly are, the renovation of a parish, the cessation of abuses and disorders, the reformation of morals, the love of virtue, and the progress of all towards christian perfection in their respective callings.

The curates will be carefull to prepare by previous solid instructions, such persons as are getting ready to receive Confirmation.

Some days before the visit they will prepare the registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, a catalogue of obits and foundation masses of their church, and, if