

small and imperfect beginnings ; but in the course of time, use and experience having shown their weak and imperfect points, these by degrees are changed, perfected and confirmed. It could not have been hoped, then, that the Apostleship of Prayer should be from its inception absolutely perfect, before trial and experience had proved what was wanting in its constitution and laws, in its manner of working, or, in what might contribute to heighten its reputation, increase its efficacy, and give it a lasting stability.

Now at last, taught by long experience, we can effect this ; so that, with a few omissions, changes, and additions, which were deemed not merely useful but even necessary, the perfected Statutes are published. In these the nature of the Apostleship is defined more exactly and fully, its end is determined, the means are indicated, the degrees are distinguished, and the character and manner of its government are described. By these it is clearly marked off from all other societies with which it might have seemed to have something in common. Finally, everything has been so well ordered that we have good reason to hope that this Pious Association will increase in dignity, efficiency and stability.

When you forward these new Statutes to former Directors of the Apostleship, you will call their attention to them, and will explain and clear up whatever might seem to be difficult in them, dwelling especially upon the norms prescribed.

By this letter, making use of the power granted me by the new Statutes, I appoint Your Reverence to represent me as Director General of the Apostleship of Prayer, and for this I delegate fully and entirely to Your Reverence, all the faculties given me by the Apostolic See, that you may have full authority to exercise in my name the office of Director General.

Do your utmost, then, that the constitution and regulations of the Apostleship of Prayer be conformed to what is