

Considering how much our eternal salvation depends on receiving the fortifying grace of the Holy Ghost, which is conferred on us in the Sacrament of Confirmation, it must be allowed, that it is no inconsiderable portion of a pastors duty to instruct and prepare the youth of his congregation for receiving that Sacrament worthily. The Priests of this Diocess are therefore enjoined to take the greatest pains to make the young people come to confession and communion, previous to their being confirmed; and no person can be admitted to confirmation without such previous preparation.

OF CONFESSION.

There is not a more general, or perhaps a more powerful, argument made use of by our adversaries against the institutions of our holy Religion, than that Catholics come frequently to Confession, and yet do not amend their lives; and hence is propagated the foul calumny, that Priests make their penitents believe that nothing more is necessary for them than to confess their sins, and that then they will be forgiven them, without a true and real sorrow for having offended Almighty God, and a strong and firm determination not to commit sin for the future, and to avoid every occasion that had formerly drawn them into sin.

In order to remove every ground for such false and calumnious charges against our holy Religion, and for the sake of the penitents themselves, the pastors should never impart absolution to habitual sinners until they shall have given satisfactory and substantial proofs of their thorough conversion.

The general apathy and indifference about Religion in the rising generation of this Province, which almost always end in open impiety and contempt of every thing that tends to the worship of the Creator, is an evil to which the pastors of this Diocess cannot oppose too much energy and zeal.

This fatal contagion arises partly from ignorance, caused by the neglect of parents and pastors to instruct their children and young persons under their care, in their religious and moral duties, while their minds are yet pliant, uncontaminated, and susceptible of religious impressions, and