

their frontiers, so that their supplications for the public weal may constantly rise like incense to the throne of God and stay the arm of some avenging angel.

But Christ worked as well as prayed. If the Church's armies want to imitate Christ, they must needs communicate with their fellow-men as well as with God. The Bread of Life must be broken for our neighbor; the words of truth must be sown in his soul; the oil of charity must be poured into his gaping wounds; the kind word must be spoken to raise his drooping spirits. To work, to teach, to exhort, to govern, are incomparable functions that deserve the respect and love of all fair-minded men.

Were it not for the Active Orders in the Church how little would history have to say of the glorious conquests of nations to Christianity? If Catholicity is flourishing with us, may we not thank those Orders whose members are found in the vanguard of all civilizing influences in every clime and in every age? The Active Orders are the defenders of the kingdom of Christ. By pen, and word, and example, they struggle to uphold the rights and prerogatives of both Church and Papacy; their enemies can tell us with what success. One of the glories of the Religious Active Orders is that they have always been powerful auxiliaries and the firm support of the Vicars of Christ and his bishops. This made Montalembert say "that the greatness, the liberty, the prosperity of the Church have always been proportioned to the power, regularity and holiness of the Religious Orders."

The Active Orders are the children of the Church who bear the brunt of persecution when her enemies are bent on injustice and spoliation. They are the victims who