



GENERAL INTENTION FOR DECEMBER.

Named by the Cardinal Protector and blessed by the Pope for all Associates.

THE NEW CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA.

“To bring about, wherever it may still obtain, the total extirpation of slavery, and to extend to the forlorn nations of Africa the blessings of freedom and fraternity in Christ, is the aim of our constant solicitude,” such were the words of Leo XIII in a recent Brief to the General of the Trinitarians.

And not long since, in his admirable Encyclical to Princes and Peoples, he brought out into bold relief the extraordinary facility existing nowadays for the preaching of the Gospel to heathens and unbelievers seated in the shadow of death. “For this spreading of the Gospel,” said the Holy Father, “the times we now traverse seem eminently fitted; never, in fact, has the sense of human brotherhood penetrated deeper the mind of man, and never did any other age bear witness to a keener desire to seek out and become acquainted with the lot of his fellowmen in view of succoring them, nor was the immense expanse of sea and land ever before traversed with such rapidity. Precious indeed are these advantages, not only for commerce and for the discoveries of men of science, but also for the diffusion of God’s word.”