

*ones ad messem.* "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and see the countries, for they are white already to harvest."

But that the garnering of this immense harvest of souls, so providentially prepared, may be effected, and the granaries of the Divine Husbandman filled, before the blight destroys the standing crop, one thing is required, and it depends in a great measure on our own good will. It is that the number of faithful laborers remain not stationary without increase, much less that it diminish not so as to become entirely insufficient for the amount of labor to be performed.

It is for this reason that during the present month of July, *priestly and religious vocations* ever dear to the Divine Master's Heart, but nowadays of paramount importance, are recommended to the prayers of all Associates.

At the very opening of this century, Joseph de Maistre, making a forecast of the wants of Christendom, sagely wrote: "At the present moment, the priesthood should be the supreme preoccupation of society which requires to be born again." And as this marking century in the world's history is about to lapse, no other preoccupation should be uppermost in our minds than that concerning the priesthood and the religious orders, for on them depend the permanency of religion and its vitality in the hearts of men.

The steady diminution in number of vocations of laborers to work in the Master's vineyard has assumed in some countries the proportions of a calamity. It is said, not without some show of reason, that certain parishes which sent, generation after generation, an army of priestly candidates to the seminaries contribute scarcely any now. Whole dioceses where the number at one time far exceeded the requirements of the immediate neighbor-