

What shall we see there? A sight worthy of the admiration of the Universe. The immortal Leo XIII. defending the rights of the church, true he is a prisoner and will be so until justice is done to him, but his voice is not a prisoner, the walls of the vatican enclose the Person, but his voice passes beyond them, it finds its way to the remotest parts of the earth and finds an echo in thousands of hearts. To-day this great Pontiff, the most elevated and dignified of human beings—*lumen in ccelo*—is taking measures and in a learned Encyclical invites the potentates of the earth to aid him in annihilating the errors of the day. This time it is to the clergy he addresses himself, inviting them to draw their doctrine from the purest of sources, the unalloyed doctrine of the angel of the schools—St. Thomas Aquinas. And again a few days ago he startled the world with that unequalled Encyclical on Marriage, most remarkable for its learning and which cannot fail to give to the world an idea of that brilliant mind from which it has proceeded. Such is Leo XIII. and such will be his successors, the friend of truth, the enemy of error and vice. This may seem irrelevant and beside the subject in question, but a further glance will prove the contrary. Why does Leo XIII stand up on the throne of Peter and denounce heresy, why does he solicit the aid of Princes in smothering the errors so prevalent this day, why again does he remind us of the sanctity of the marriage tie. Do not all these points tend to promote the civilization of the world in the sense we have stated the church has undertaken to do it. Does not our felicity not only in time but in eternity depend on it—Most assuredly it does. Such then is the Catholic church, may then this knowledge afforded to you at least, move you to study her claims; and then you will be thoroughly convinced that she is not the enemy of civilization but its warmest friend.

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A very powerful means of conversion which may be successfully used by the laity, the apostolate of social life. Laymen can make better and more effectual use of this than priests, because, living in the world, they have greater opportunities to come in contact with others either through business or through family connections. Numberless occasions are afforded them to win the hearts of non-Catholics to the truth of the holy faith, and hence to the Church of Christ, by being kind and obliging to them, and rendering them useful services.