

and so to bring the pity of Jesus on your own souls, both Priests and people are called on, by the unmistakable voice of the Church, through the earnest and frequent exhortations of our Holy Father Pope Pius the Ninth, to enter into the spirit of this hallowed Institution, and to co-operate with your fellow Catholics through the world, in building up and sustaining this bulwark of your faith. We are, therefore, most anxious that a better system for the enrolment of members, and the collection of the usual contributions, be adopted in every Parish through the Diocese, that so we may vie in holy emulation with the surrounding Provinces in the furtherance of a cause so dear to God and to his Church. Let each Pastor address his flock on this most important subject at the earliest opportunity, and we have no misgiving for the result.

Such, dearly beloved Brethren, is the first Pastoral exhortation, which we send you, on the several momentous topics that seemed to us more immediately connected with the present position and future prospects of Catholicity in this country.

May we hope that, in hearing this heart appeal, you will recognise the voice of your chief shepherd, and that you will obey it at every sacrifice. May we hope that it will have the happy effect, not only of bringing back many a wandering sheep, but that it may keep together the entire flock and securely lead them forth to the richer pasturage of more abundant light and grace and interior edification; and "may the God of all peace, who raised from the dead the great Pastor of the sheep, our Lord Jesus Christ, (Heb. xiii. 20,) feed you and guard you, and keep you together in "the one fold," and under "the one shepherd" (John x. 16.), until you shall be gathered into that more perfect and ample fold in Heaven, where, with your supreme shepherd, Jesus, you will banquet unto everlasting ages.