

PILGRIMAGES TO ST. ANNE.

A FEW WORDS OF ADVICE.

A pilgrimage is a voyage of devotion undertaken in a religious intention, either to render thanks for a grace received, or to beg for some special favour. Experience proves that pilgrimages rightly performed awaken faith, rouse fervor and strengthen souls in the practice of the duties of Christian life. Almighty God has at all times favored the development of these public acts of devotion by granting to the confidence of pilgrims graces, numerous, signal and often wonderful. The Sovereign Pontiffs and Bishops have never ceased to encourage them, but in order that pilgrimages may produce happy fruits, it is necessary that the proper means be used to obtain them.

We deem it advantageous to expose summarily a few counsels which may be utilized in the organization and management of pilgrimages, whether of parishes or confraternities. Those who make private pilgrimages, either alone or with their families, will find these hints useful in practice.

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THE PREPARATION.

1^o The pilgrimage must be announced several weeks before the day appointed, its object and advantages must be explained, and the dispositions which should attend its preparation pointed out.

2^o Before the departure of the pilgrims, a *novena* should be performed, or at least a *Triduum* of prayers in honour of Good St. Anne. These prayers may be said either in church or in the family. All the parishioners must be invited to join in the *novena* or *triduum*, to help the pilgrims in obtaining from St. Anne all the graces they are about to beg of her in her privileged sanctuary; and those who are not to take part in the pilgrimage, may be induced to join in it, not only by preparatory prayers, but also by a