

gium, June 5, 1839, after which several young men came to join the Congregation, and on the 22d of October, 1846, he, with twelve young brothers, made their profession, taking himself the name of Bro. Francis Xavier, after the great apostle of the Indies, who was chosen patron of the Congregation. After making his profession Bro. Francis immediately opened, in Bruges, St. Xavier's Institute, an Institution for day scholars and boarders, which, at the present time is the most flourishing school in the city. Since then several more schools were established by the Brothers in Bruges as well as in others cities of Belgium.

In 1848 Bro. Francis set out for England, where he planted the first branch of the Congregation. That branch has been steadily growing, and they now conduct several flourishing educational establishments, in London, Manchester, Mayfield, Preston, Bolton, &c.

In 1854, the late lamented Archbishop Spalding (then bishop of Louisville) visited Europe to assist at the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. He passed through Bruges, and being a warm personal friend of Mgr. Malou, then Bishop of Bruges, he became acquainted with Bro. Francis, the founder. The result was that Bishop Spalding made arrangements with Bro. Francis to take a colony of the Brothers to America. In accor-