

the Vatican, have never omitted, when it was necessary, to reprove the current errors, and condemn them with Apostolic censure. Following in the footsteps of Our predecessors, we confirm and renew all those condemnations from Our Apostolic See of truth, and, at the same time, we fervently pray to the Father of Light to grant that all the faithful, fully united in the same feelings and sentiments, may think and speak in accord with Us. It is your duty, Venerable Brethren, to devote your assiduous cares to scatter afar in the field of the Lord the seed of your heavenly doctrines, and to cause the principles of the Catholic faith to penetrate early into the souls of the faithful, so that they may push their roots deeper and be preserved in that shelter from the contagion of errors. The greater the efforts of the enemies of religion to present to inexperienced persons, and especially to youth, teachings which may obscure their minds and corrupt their hearts, the more must you labour zealously for the success, not alone of a good and solid method of education, but especially to make the teaching itself conformable in science and discipline to the Catholic faith, particularly in philosophy, on which depends in a great manner the just direction of other sciences, and which, far from tending to destroy the Divine revelation, is likely rather to smooth the way for it and to defend it against its enemies, as has been taught Us in the example and writings of the great Augustine and other doctors of Christian science.

It is, however, necessary that this excellent education of youth, in order to ensure the true faith and religion, and be a real safeguard to morals, should commence with the earliest years and in the very interior of the family. Now, that family, so deplorably disturbed in Our time, can be re-established in its dignity by no other means than by the laws according to which the Divine Maker established it in the Church. Jesus Christ, in elevating into the dignity of a sacrament the ceremony of marriage, which He wished to use as a symbol of His union with the Church, has not only rendered more holy the conjugal union, but has prepared for the parents as well as for the children the most efficacious aids by which they may