

on its careful sheltering and seasonable cultivation depends the future of the church in growth of holiness and fecundity of virtue. The priests of the church are the husbandmen of God. One plants, another waters, and God gives the increase (1 Cor. 3rd chap.) Through your ministry the seeds of sanctification have been planted in the family. It is your office to protect and quicken into activity the sacramental grace of matrimony in the hearts of the parents, and the elements of regenerated life in the souls of the children. The local pastor's mission is not to his congregation in general; but to every household in his district, to parents and children, for vigilance over all, and instruction of all, "in season and out of season," upon the laws and discipline of Christian life; now gravely exhorting, now kindly encouraging, and, when occasion requires it, "reproving, entreating, rebuking, with all patience and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4th chap.)

Duty of Parents Towards their Children.

In enforcing upon parents the duty of sanctifying their lives in accordance with their state, you should insist with special emphasis upon the most important of all parental duties, which is the rearing of their children in holiness by precept and example. God, the Father in heaven, who confided His little ones to their care; and, God, the Son, who redeemed them by His blood; and, God, the Holy Ghost, who consecrated them in grace, to be the temple of His dwelling, will demand a strict account of their most sacred trust. Nature concurs with grace in urging parents to fulfil this duty. Their own happiness is bound up with it. The prosperity of their families, even in this life, depends upon it. "Piety," says the Scripture, "is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Tim. 4th chap.) On the other hand God's grievous displeasure is drawn upon the family by neglect of piety in the domestic home. He who giveth life, can take it. He who builds up families, can pull them down. He gathereth, and He scattereth. Health, peace, prosperity,