

Mr. Ryken visited America twice before he began the foundation of his Congregation; on each occasion laying his plans before the few bishops then in this country. They approved them and encouraged him to put them into execution. On his return to Europe he immediately set about the arduous work of maturing his plans, by preparing the constitution and rules for his intended Congregation, in which he was materially assisted by the venerable and learned Jesuit Father Van Kerkhoven. The Rev. Jesuit Fathers were chosen the spiritual directors of the young Congregation, and always have manifested a deep interest in the advancement of the same.

His next move was to the seat of all spiritual power and authority—Rome. He was most graciously received by the Holy Father, Pope Gregory XVI., who gave him and his efforts his benediction, placing the young congregation under Mgr. Boussen, then Bishop of Bruges, as its protector. Under the paternal protection of this saintly bishop and his illustrious successors, the rising Congregation, after passing through various hard and bitter struggles, that emanated from sources whence they were least expected, has, at last, triumphed over the past difficulties and is now on the most firm footing with every fair prospect before it. He began the institution of the Congregation at Bruges, Bel-