

defect of your blood, contribute to supplying priests to God.

But if He does you the honor of coming to seek among you one of His elect—oh! do not refuse that child to His love! Let Him make His choice. He will perhaps take the best, that one upon whom you counted to succeed you, with whom you had hoped to find even to old age ever faithful affection in your home. But that child belongs more to God than to you, He has a greater right over him than you have. Let His holy will be done and not yours!

Your consent is given beforehand and with gratitude to the designs of Jesus over your son. It would be too little to refrain from placing an obstacle to those designs. You must *favor* them, *promote* them. Pray to obtain for one of your offspring the grace to illustrate your name and sanctify his parentage by his elevation to the priesthood, cultivate in children the inclinations to piety, purity, charity, which can lead them to it. Inspire them with respect for the priest, with confidence in him, and with esteem for his state. Among all the careers toward which their still uncertain attention is turned, hold up to them above all others as an ideal that you should be happy to see realized in them if it so pleased God, that career of the Church in which, doubtless, no one enters of himself without a call, without direction, but access to which God freely opens by the hand of the Bishop to every one who endeavors to render himself worthy of it.

Happy the child that owes his vocation to his mother! Happy the mother that will owe her sanctification and her salvation to the vocation of her child! She shall have much desired it, long implored it, slowly merited and prepared for it. Her prayers, even before the precious birth for which she is hoping, shall have begun to weave