

320,000 Catholics, 470 priests or religious, 208 parishes or missions, 216 churches or chapels, 675 schools, 86 convents, 15 hospitals or asylums and 3 colleges.

In the United States there were in 1800 only 36,000 Catholics ; now there are over 10, 000, 000. The clergy of that vast country at present consists of 14 archbishops, 77 bishops and 11,600 priests or religious. There are 10, 340 churches, 6,450 of which have pastors while the 3, 940 others are ministered to by priests attached to other parishes. The statistics for 1900 show that the number of Catholics has increased by 222, 260 during the year 1899 alone, while during the same period the number of priests has increased by 520 and that of churches by 340.



Echo of the Missions. - On the 18th March last, a retreat was commenced at St Thomas de Montmagny preached by the Redemptorist Fathers of Ste Anne de Beaupré. This retreat for which the parishioners had been carefully prepared by their zealous pastor, Rev. V. O. Marois, was most successful. During fifteen consecutive days, from two to three thousand people filled the vast parish church, night and morning, to hear the word of God. While sermons were preached to the adults, a special retreat was preached to the children. Moreover the old people in the Refuge of the Sisters of Charity were visited and confessed and special instructions were given to the nuns of the Congregation of Notre Dame and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. All this beautiful and consoling work was crowned by a double general communion ; one for the women and girls and the other for the married and young men.

During the retreat the missionaries established the League of the Sacred Heart for the married and young men, to which over 450 gave their adhesion and for the young girls the beautiful society of the « Children of Mary » which received 250 members. The whole parish was also affiliated to the archconfraternity of Ste Anne de Beaupré.

— So great is the goodness of God in your regard, that when you ask through ignorance for that which is not beneficial, He does not grant your prayer in this matter, but gives you something better instead.