

work of propagating the faith is also their work, since it is that of all Christians: all are called to concur in it, all, according to the strength and means given to them by Providence. "Poor of Jesus Christ," he continues, "think not that your indigence deprives you of the honour to co-operate with the excellent Institution for the propagation of the Faith. You have no money to give; then pray, and your prayer favourably heard will decide vocations—will send evangelical labourers—will prepare the way for truth—and will make hearts submit to it. Pray! Pagan families are only awaiting your prayers to give the consoling spectacle of a Christian society, such as was seen in the time of the Apostles; and the kings of the East will come to place at the feet of Jesus Christ the offering of a docile spirit, and of a heart conquered by grace. Pray and fast! and the sovereign pastor of the Church will send new sheep under his pacific crozier, and if it be not given to him to be the sole pastor of one flock, he will see extended at least the bounds of his empire of meekness, and his paternal benedictions will fall on a greater number.

The Archbishop of Chambery styles this Institution the most beautiful religious creation of modern times. The Bishop of Liege, who has twice recommended it, speaks of the benedictions which it draws down upon those who co-operate with it. The Bishop of Siou, in Switzerland, reminds his flock of the ardour with which all the impious throughout Europe endeavours to seduce the faithful people, to entice them into errors contrary to faith, and to corrupt their morals by infamous doctrines. "When so many insane men," says the prelate, "blinded by their hatred

against the religion of Jesus Christ, boast with an incredible malice of their attempts to overthrow it, how is it possible for the true Christian not to be animated with zeal to defend and propagate it throughout the world? How can he refuse assistance to apostolic men, to spread the light of the gospel, these new apostles give all that they possess, even to the last drop of their blood! Shall we suffer the wicked to show more ardour, to make more sacrifices for evil than we do for good? Far from us the thought!

The Bishop of Aosta, in Piedmont, approves of the establishment of the Institution within his diocese, in these terms: "This Institution approved, recommended in the most pressing manner by all the bishops of France, and by many of those of other countries, enriched with the favours and benedictions of the Sovereign Pontiffs is become a Catholic work. Considering, besides, the spiritual advantages which it procures for its associates, we sincerely desire to see it established and prospering in our diocese.

In the centre of Italy, the archbishop of Lucca has published a pastoral letter for the same purpose. After stating the origin and object of the Institution, he adds: "We hasten to make it known to the faithful confided to our care, and we exhort them earnestly in the Lord to be the first in the centre of Italy to give the example of receiving it."

In fine, the Bishop of Annecy, in Savoy, expresses himself in these terms, in one of his charges for Lent: "At the present day there is a kind of alms, of which the results are incalculable, and which will cause whole nations to take part in our . . .