

to nurse the young plant and to make it grow into a large tree. A fervent Christian woman, truly devoted to our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, her confessor Father Chevrier, and Mgr. de Segur, were God's chosen instruments to establish the Eucharistic Congress.

When the imposing ceremonies of Paray-le-Monial had been related to this fervent Christian woman, she had a vision. "I understand," she said, "that God has called me to work for the welfare of society through the holy eucharist." She opened her heart to her confessor, Father Chevrier, who answered, "The work is difficult, but learn the lesson of suffering. . . . In His own good time, God will bless the work. . . . Meanwhile work, pray, and wait."

The good woman waited, prayed and worked. Then at the command of Father Chevrier, she related all to Mgr. Richard, then Bishop of Belley, afterwards Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, lately called to his eternal reward. The good bishop blessed the work and spoke of it to other bishops. Soon pilgrimages to sanctuaries of the blessed sacrament were organized in honor of the holy eucharist. It was on one of these occasions that Mgr. Mermillod pronounced the name of eucharistic congress. In 1877 the resolution was adopted to form a permanent committee having for its mission to establish and promote all eucharistic works. In 1879 Pope Leo XIII said: "For the promotion of eucharistic works I am ready to grant every-thing." In 1880 a full report, based on all that Father Chevrier's penitent had seen and done, was sent to Mgr. de Segur, by whom it was highly praised and approved. As one of the conclusions of the report was that the first International Eucharistic Congress should be held in Belgium, Mgr. de Segur wrote a *supplique* or petition to the Pope and asked Father Chevrier's penitent to show it to Cardinal Deshamps, Archbishop of Mechlin, who exclaimed when he had read it: "Oh, I beg of God that I may not die before this good work is realized for the glory of God." Soon after Cardinal Deshamps went to Rome, presented the petition to Pope Leo XIII, and had the joy of hearing the Holy Father praising and blessing the project of an International Eucharistic Congress. The cause was gained. The Eucharistic Congress was born.