

JAMES VINCENT CLEARY, S.T.D.,  
BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND FAVOR OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE,  
BISHOP OF KINGSTON.

TO THE REV. CLERGY OF HIS DIOCESE.

DEAR REVD. FATHERS :—

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The Church is an aggregate of dioceses governed by Bishops under direction of Christ's Vicar: the diocese is an aggregate of congregations governed by local Pastors under direction of the Bishop: the congregation is an aggregate of families governed by parents under the spiritual direction of the local Pastor. Thus the family is the basis of the edifice of faith, and from it, if well founded and cemented in the law and love of Christ, the congregation and the diocese and the whole superstructure of God's Church will derive firmness and stability against the decay of time, the tempests of human passion, and the fierce attacks of the world and the devil. If therefore, dear Revd. Fathers, we would build up religion throughout our Diocese, and fortify it against the assaults of our spiritual enemies, whose name is Legion, we must make sure of our foundations—we must devote special care to the good ordering of family life.

The husbandman is solicitous for the saplings in his nursery. He delves the hard earth around them, and supplies nourishment to their roots; he waters them in seasons of drought; he shelters them against the blasts of winter; and when spring time comes, he opens a free passage for air and light and heat to act upon them for the strengthening of their vitality and development of their nature in the form ordained by the great Creator. Now, the nursery of the universal household of faith is the family household, and