

It can truly be affirmed that the Church will never be firmly established in this country until it possesses a native Priesthood—until it is interlaced with the feelings, affections, and national habits and traditions of the people—until, in fine, it is made “racy of the soil,” like some giant oak that has grown gradually up in our forests, spreading its roots abroad, and driving them deep into the soil and deriving therefrom its sap and nourishment, until it has acquired the sturdy strength and magnificent proportions that bid defiance to the fiercest storms.

We, therefore, most earnestly entreat Christian parents to encourage in their holy purpose those of their children whom God may call to the high and holy life of the Priesthood and to help them according to their means to reach that cherished object of their hearts.

We exhort the pastors of souls to have special care of the young boys who, in their opinion, give signs of a divine vocation to the Holy Ministry; to encourage and befriend them, and lead them on to piety and the love of God.

Finally we call on pastors and people to co-operate in making the annual collection for ecclesiastical education a generous one. Each family in the Archdiocese ought to contribute, at least, one dollar annually for this purpose. This sum is, in itself, insignificant, and would not be oppressive to the poorest families, but yet, in the aggregate, it would create a fund which would enable the Archbishop, not only to educate theological students, but also to encourage and help deserving students who are not so far advanced, and who have little or no means of prosecuting their studies; and there are several such in the Archdiocese.

We confidently count upon priests and people to co-operate loyally and heartily with us in this important matter, and thus enable us to discharge efficiently one of the weightiest and most essential duties of our episcopal office.