

Archconfraternity of our Lady of Compassion, which has its headquarters in the Church of St. Sulpice, Paris, and for its object the conversion of England to the Catholic faith. The Archbishops and Bishops have not yet indicated what action they will take. If they take any, it will be done very soon, and addresses will be issued to the priests and laity of the Church urging the action, and setting forth the manner in which they expect such affiliated fraternities to be organized and conducted.

This movement originated with Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster, who laid the matter before Pope Leo XIII. about a year ago. After careful deliberation and after calling into consultation the Archbishops of Paris and Autun, the Pope gave his approval of the movement, and his formal sanction of special services to be held in St. Sulpice, Paris, to formally inaugurate the organization of the original Archconfraternity. These services have already been held, Cardinal Vaughan being the principal figure in them, and reading at them the formal sanction and blessing bestowed upon the movement by the Pope.

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*Catholics in Britain.*—London, January 12.—The "Catholic Directory" for 1898, edited at Archbishop's House, estimates the Catholic population of the kingdom at close on five and a half millions. England and Wales contribute 1,500,000, Ireland, 3,500,000, and Scotland, 365,000. In England and Wales there are seventeen archbishops and bishops, 2,698 priests, and 1,482 churches and chapels; in Scotland seven archbishops and bishops, 421 priests, and 350 churches, etc. Of Catholics there are nineteen members of the Privy Council, thirty-one members of the House of Lords, and seventy-three members of the House of Commons. The total of Archiepiscopal and Episcopal sees, Vicariates Apostolic, and Prefectures-Apostolic in the British Empire is 170.

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