

For many of them live in your midst: they are your neighbours, your friends, your fellow-citizens, your associates, your patrons or your clients, and perhaps even your near relatives. It follows therefore, that you have intimate relations with them, more or less frequently, either on account of business, or on account of politeness, friendship and civility.

Amid this intercourse, it is quite natural that you should speak to them of our grand beautiful ceremonies, and of the instructions which are given in our churches. By this means you excite in them a laudable curiosity which induces them to come and see what is done, and to hear what is said at our religious assemblies. There are furthermore, many among them who like to hear the word of God, and who feel themselves interiorly attracted towards the religion of their forefathers. Besides, they are tired at seeing themselves continually fluctuating amid doctrines which change like the wind, and which, consequently, are unable to satisfy the hearts of those who seek the truth with sincerity.

On the other hand, God who has created them like ourselves to his own image, and redeemed them at the price of his blood in order to give them eternal happiness, does not fail, in his infinite goodness, to warn them interiorly, that they are on a false road, walking in the way of error; and that they ought to seek the truth, which alone, can procure them peace of heart.

If then, D. B. B., you tell them that O. H. F. the Pope, whose name is so glorious throughout the whole world, has addressed them a Letter which breathes naught but love and charity; and that in all the churches, this admirable document is read; may we not presume that they will like to hear it read and explained by your pastors, and even to procure themselves copies of it, in order to examine it more attentively in private.

The mission you have to fulfil, D. B. B., is very simple, but also very important, if you seriously consider it. For you are charged to collect with religious respect, the words which fall from the mouth of the Church's common Father, to be penetrated with them yourselves, in order to transmit them to brethren whom you love, but whose errors you deeply deplore. You thus become echoes of that mysterious voice, which pronounces so