

rigorous, the duty to take heed to the whole flock, wherein the Holy Ghost hath placed us bishops (Acts, XX. 28.), and we come to declare unto you all the counsel of God (Acts, XX. 27.)

But before putting you on your guard against many disorders which we have to point out, we desire, O. D. B. B., to speak to you on several subjects worthy of your attention.

I.

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND OF MARY
AND TO ST. JOSEPH.

We lively rejoice, O. D. B. B., to see that this threefold devotion makes every day new progress in our midst.

As the Heart of Jesus has been the sanctuary and the first spring of his love for men, it is proper and supremely just that it should receive a special worship. Accordingly has it been, in all ages, the object of the love, of the adoration and of the confidence of the disciples of Jesus-Christ. It is the focus and symbol of that tender, compassionate and generous, love which has performed such great things in our behalf, *for scarce for a just man will one die ... but the love of God for us has broken forth by the death of Jesus-Christ, who hath justified us by his blood, when we were His enemies.* (Rom. V. 7.) In that divine heart has been formed the design of our salvation; that heart is the tabernacle of the new alliance which has reconciled the earth to heaven; it is the altar of incense and of holocaust, where the eternal Pontiff has offered, and continues to offer, for a savour of sweetness, the sacrifice of His death; and on which burns the fire of a charity which shall never be quenched; it is the table of gold, on which Jesus-Christ has prepared the divine food of his body to feed our souls; it is that Saviour's fountain, from which we are invited to come and draw with joy the blessings of salvation. (Isaiah, XII. 3.)

Accordingly, the servant of God, the venerable Margaret Mary, speaking of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, said these words