

fruitful by grace, was a worthy preparation for the execution of the divine will. Although he was beyond the age at which boys usually commence their studies, he resolved to learn the Humanities with a view of preparing for the priesthood. He went to the Laval Normal School, in Quebec, where, every year, by persevering efforts, he obtained his diploma. Thence, he went to the Seminary of Rimouski to study theology and, if God pleased, to devote his talents, his zeal and his strength to that diocese which, at that time, suffered from a great scarcity of priests. At Rimouski, as at Quebec, success crowned François' generous efforts. His family were soon about to experience the greatest joy of Christian parents, that of giving a priest to the Church. But, what filled the measure of their happiness, was the condescendence of His Lordship the Bishop of Rimouski, who purposely came to St Anne de Beaupré to confer the priesthood upon François, in that very church of St Ann, already so dear to his heart.

That happy day was the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1881. The whole parish witnessed the ceremony and received the first blessing of the new minister of the Lord. All still remember with tenderness the touching impressions that they felt during his first Mass, while the choir sang the « Royal Mass » and the affecting chant of the *Tu es sacerdos*, announcing to all that the Church possessed another laborer.

However, grace attracted François to a still more perfect kind of life. He felt himself called to be a Redemptorist, and informed his parents of his desire. The arrival of the Fathers had greatly impressed him. He liked to pass his vacations in their monastery, and, through contact with them, he formed the project of devoting himself entirely to the work of missions. He therefore asked and obtained admission to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. What glory and what honor ! François is the first child of the parish and even of Canada who clothed himself in the livery of St Alphonsus. About the end of September, he embarked at Quebec to proceed to the Noviciate at St Trond, in company with two other young Canadians, Pierre Pampalon and Ovide Coté, whom his example had influenced. A month after his arrival, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of