

His infinite treasure, His inexhaustible satisfactions, that we dispose. We ought, then, never to be timid about dilating our desires, about sending afar in intention the beneficent dew of our prayers. In praying thus, in the apostolic and catholic spirit, we fulfil the duty of charity, we rejoice the Heart of Our Lord, and we efficaciously co-operate in the work of Redemption. It is, above all, when we pray in union with the Most Blessed Sacrament, with that High Priest who, really present, is offering the sacrifice of His all-powerful prayer and accomplishing by the Eucharist His grand mediation, that we render our prayer liberal, generous, far-reaching, universal. Despite the want of purity of soul, the want of sincere good will, the want of unhesitating confidence, prayer is then at its highest power, in its best condition for securing a favorable hearing.

Pray at that time for all God's interests, all His enterprises, all His affairs, which are those in which the Church is everywhere engaged. But if you want to pray for an interest sacred above all others, for an intention especially dear to Jesus, for His super-excellent glory, His most precious honor, pray for His religious, His sacred spouses, His priests.

Among all His loved ones, they are His dearest, His life-work of predilection, the noblest fruit of His Passion, the firmest hope of His glory.

Pray for them now more than ever. Their holy life, their works of salvation, their very existence — all are threatened. Those friends of Jesus, who cluster round His Tabernacles, who live under the same roof with Him, who console His solitude, — shall they be dispersed? Their houses, asylums for the weak, the sick, the wounded, — shall they be closed? Shall those citadels of the Church be destroyed? Those ramparts of defence razed to the ground? Those chosen phalanxes dissolved? — Shall the voice of truth be silenced? those furnaces of holiness become extinct? — Shall those lightning-rods of the guilty be laid low? — shall their never-ending songs of praise, their prayers by day and by night, their penances, their expiation cease to mount to Heaven in the name of society, ignorant and forgetful of what it owes to God? — And! what strength the Church, and still more the country, would lose by such a calamity!

Pray, then; pray earnestly! Pray through Jesus, the first Religious, the Founder, the Ideal, and the Model of the religious life; pray through Mary and Joseph, who formed with Him at Nazareth the most perfect Community; pray through the Apostolic College, the first religious congregation; pray through St. Benedict, St. Dominic, St. Francis, St. Ignatius, St. Teresa, through all the founders of religious orders; pray that this crime may be averted, this misfortune warded off, this scourge turned away.