

to console, to bless, to fortify and to sanctify innumerable souls.

O, Supreme Pastor, the author and finisher of our faith, have pity on Thy people and send forth priests according to Thy Divine heart into Thy vineyard. This country is already white with an abundant harvest of precious souls; deign in Thy infinite mercy to send forth worthy and numerous workmen to gather up this rich harvest; inspire Catholic mothers with the holy resolution of rearing sons for the service of Thy holy altar and the ministry of salvation; speak to the hearts of generous youths, and call them to the ranks of Thy Priesthood, and finally put it into the hearts of our faithful people to be noble and generous in their contributions, so as to help in the holy work of educating the Priesthood. St. Dionysius justly remarks, that it is the most divine of all divine works, to co-operate with God in the salvation of souls; and our people thus co-operate when they dedicate their sons to God, in the holy office of the Priesthood; or when, by their generous offerings, they contribute to the advancement of ecclesiastical education.

There are some parents in this country who will make any sacrifices to enable their sons to study law or medicine, or to enter into commercial business, but who will do little or nothing for the sons who may be willing to study for the holy Priesthood. The faith and charity of such parents must be very weak and cold. In the ages of faith, and still, in many European countries, Catholic mothers would prefer seeing their sons ministering at God's altar in the office of the Priesthood than placed in the highest positions of worldly honor. Can it be said that it is the dearest wish of the mother's heart, in this country, to see her son a priest? It is a very bad sign of the spiritual life of a people when they do not supply a Priesthood drawn from their own sons. The best and most fruitful seed must decay and die if it gets little or no nourishment from the soil into which it is cast.