



## THE PRIESTLY VOCATION



### *A Call to Christian Parents.*

Fathers and Mothers, to you also is addressed the call of God. He has something to demand of you, something most dear to you,—your children, For once in your life perhaps, reflect upon the possibility of such a demand and the responsibility of a refusal.

Vocations are lost through the fault of families not thoroughly Christian. God has marked them out for sacerdotal vocations, but they do not consent to receive them. He strikes at the portals of their homes to raise therein His contingent. But there are no more recruits possible for His priesthood where, through man's crime, cradles remain empty.

Your first cooperation in the recruiting of the clergy is to respect in the married life the sanctity of marriage, in order to permit God to confer on His predestined the sanctity to the priesthood. Glory to you, Christian families, who do not refuse to the Master of life the consent needed to create souls for children and to make of them some day the souls of priest!

If divine Providence has refused you sons, if He has destined none for the sublime end, if He has withdrawn from you one of those that He had given you,—a child