

full juvenile ardor, beamed in their countenances, and whom the same faith had led from so many distant lands to venerate the mortal remains of St. Aloysius and the august Chair of Peter, he told them of his extreme solicitude to preserve college students from the perfidious snares which the enemies of religion were setting for them, especially that of a Godless system of education, by which it was intended to bring about an entire separation from the Catholic Church, and hand them over defenceless to the slavery of vice and of secret societies. He enlarged on the blessings of a Catholic education. To behold these blessings imaged as in a mirror, they had only to consider the example of Aloysius. "It was owing to the Church and religious influences that he was able, amid the corruption of morals, to preserve the integrity of his purity to such a degree as to be more like an angel than a man. It was due to religion that, amidst the luxury and dissipation of his father's house, he excelled in the austere virtues, as though he lived in a solitude; that, trampling on all earthly advantages, he was led by the grace of God to renounce a principedom; that, reaching his twenty-fourth year, he became a model of charity and religious perfection; that at last he attained such a high degree of heavenly glory as to make the holy virgin, Magdalen of Pazzi, believe he scarcely had an equal in heaven. We pray to God with earnestness that he may preserve in you this mind and these dispositions.

"With the Church the Roman Pontiff is intimately united. The true church could not exist without him. Hence, respect and love for the Church is inseparable from respect and love for the Pope. You know that on account of the evils of the times the present condition of the Roman Pontiff is an unworthy and intolerable one. Owing to the fickleness of the political situation, free access to our person may at any moment be prevented.