

## FROM ROME.



FEW weeks ago Very Reverend Father Soullier, Superior General of the Oblate Order, had an interview with the Sovereign Pontiff. His Holiness was lavish of his praise of the good and great work which is being done by the Oblates in different parts of Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

The Very Rev'd Superior General, whilst in Rome, was also the recipient of a letter addressed to him by Cardinal Ledochowski, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, so eulogistic of the Oblates, that it is with the greatest pleasure that we give it space in the OWL:

VERY REVEREND FATHER:—On the very day on which I was informed of your election as Superior General in the General Chapter of your Congregation, held in Paris a few months ago, I proposed to address to you special letters in which, while congratulating you upon your elevation to such a high dignity, I would also avail myself of this happy occasion to give to all the Fathers of the Society of Oblates of Mary Immaculate an unequivocal proof of my esteem and good will.

Having been, up to the present, prevented by circumstances from realizing this desire, I now the more readily hasten to fulfil it, because I have had, on the occasion of your visit to the Holy City, the opportunity of seeing more closely and by myself, the eminent qualities which, as a matter of course, have led you to the heavy charge of supreme moderator of your Congregation.

Another motive that urges me to express to you herein my sentiments, is my firm hope that your administration will be most profitable to the very illustrious Society of the Oblate Fathers, and, as a consequence, that the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, more and more intent upon the diffusion of the Christian name, can in the future, as it has in the past, rejoice at valuable and efficacious help offered by the said Society.

That this is not a vain trust we have as a guarantee the zeal with which all the religious under your guidance acquit themselves of the duties of evangelical laborers, and the rare prudence that guides them in all the undertakings which,

in one manner or another, are conducive to the glory of the Divine Name.

It is indeed a well known fact to-day that your religious family, from the time it was ranked with the orders which have never ceased to flourish in the Church of Christ, has so earnestly devoted itself to the salvation of souls and to the progress of the faith, that it has, for this two fold end, undertaken and endeavored to complete, works both numerous and varied.

This Sacred Congregation is well aware of all that the pious Society of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate has accomplished in the remotest countries of the earth, whither its missionaries have hastened, eager to gain over to Jesus Christ the most wretched of men, and relying solely on the help from above. Nor were their labors in vain, as is amply proved by the spiritual prosperity of the Vicariates Apostolic which this Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda has confided to you in Asia, Africa and America, and, as is clearly shown also, by your numerous works in the immense region of Canada. There, not content with spreading the truth of the Gospel, you give your special care to the education of youth in the University of Ottawa, where, thanks to your efforts, both divine and human studies are in a flourishing condition.

Not less noteworthy is the zeal of your Fathers displayed in Ceylon, where, in spite of great obstacles and regardless of numberless dangers, they have during the last fifty years, labored for the conversion of infidel nations. This Sacred Congregation, which has from time to time, as behooves its mission, endeavored to inflame your zeal still more and to strengthen you by its counsels, does not ignore the pains you have suffered and how many souls you have gained, with God's grace, by your indefatigable labors.

Therefore, Very Reverend Father, I cherish the hope that you will continue to devote yourself to ever-increasing labors for the Church of Jesus Christ and, that it may be so, I insist on one request only. Keep faithfully the spirit of Jesus Christ which animates you now, and be ever zealous to abide in the obedience and the love that you have always shown to the Holy See and to this Sacred Congregation.

In this hope, I ask the Almighty to keep you in His holy care.

I am your devoted servant,

M. CARDINAL LEDOCHOWSKI.

*Prof.*