

After the ordination the sphere of his labors was enlarged; he was eagerly sought as a confessor, having the gift of discerning the condition of souls. The gift of miracles was his in an extraordinary degree; the touch of his hand being enough to cure frightful ulcers, etc. St. Charles Borromeo, and St. Ignatius had great love and veneration for him; the former of one occasion begged to be permitted to kiss his hands — those blessed hands, at whose contact pain and disease fled!

Pope Clement VIII honored the great gifts of the saint by paying a like homage to him, publicly kissing the hands that had wrought such wonders for the glory of God!

I will not dwell here on the great foundation of the "Congregation of the Oratory" which to this day is gaining souls from error; all that is fully described in the "Life of St Philip Neri", but I will confine myself to the account of one miracle.

Among the noble and princely families of Rome there is not one to take precedence of the *Massimo*. In the time of St. Philip they held, as they do now, the highest place under the rule of the Pontiffs. St. Philip was an intimate friend of the family, and it happened that while he was absent from Rome, a son of the house fell dangerously ill. He called unceasingly for St. Philip, but died before his arrival.

When the saint entered the room and saw the parents and relatives weeping around the bed, he called the young man by name: "Fabricius Massimo"! who immediately sat up, and with great joy received the sacraments from his hand. The saint then asked him if he wished to live, to which he replied that he would much rather die than risk the loss of his soul amid all the occasions of sin which he foresaw in this life. Then closing his eyes, while the saint blessed him he entered into his eternal rest!

This miracle was performed on the 16th of March in the Massimo Palazzo at Rome, and the anniversary has been, and still continues to be kept as a great feast in the Massimo family. I had the happiness of being present at the celebration a few years ago. Masses commence at 5 A.M. in the private chapel of the palace (called the chapel of St. Philip Neri) and continue without intermission until noon. The palace doors stand wide open, all Rome may