

forgetting their duty towards those whose eternal salvation ought to be so dear to them.

Very great dangers are also to be met with in mixed marriages; that is to say, in marriages contracted between persons professing the catholic religion and others, who belong to any of the protestant sects. As to the deplorable evils that arise from such alliances, we can only express to you, Beloved Brethren, how deeply we lament them; it would be useless to enumerate them, since they are already but too well known to you. Apart from the pain they give the Church, how cruel and how deep are the anxieties they occasion to catholic parents, at the sight of their tender off-spring brought up in error and exposed to be lost for all eternity! How overwhelming the thought, for those who have Faith, that at their death they will have to bid, it may be, an eternal farewell to a cherished spouse, to most beloved children, entangled in the ways of perdition.

Having, thus, Beloved Brethren, placed you on your guard against the principal dangers that beset your Faith, in these wretched days, we must, moreover, forewarn you against certain scandals that are calculated to arrest you in the accomplishment of the vigorous duties which christian morality imposes upon you. For we are not permitted to doubt of it: the violation of the commandments of God, is calculated to weaken in us, and even utterly to destroy, the principle of Faith, which is a principle of Life. Here, then, are the most fatal evils to which we believe it our duty to draw your serious attention, now that being assembled in Council, and for that purpose receiving more enlightenment from the Holy Ghost, who governs the church, we are better enabled to discern the misfortunes which threaten our beloved flock.

The first of these evils, and the most to be dreaded, because as the Apostle says, *it is the root of all crimes*, is covetousness or an insatiable and inordinate thirst for the goods of this world. Indeed, Beloved Brethren, if you reflect on it, you cannot fail to see, that it is this unhappy passion which afflicts the whole world with a deluge of most crying acts of injustice; that it has invaded all ranks of Society; that it insinuates itself into a vast multitude of transactions, and gives rise to numberless evils. It is covetousness, above all, that engenders that hideous sore of our age, Usury. Now, is it not Usury that causes men to perpetrate every species of fraud, in order to extort an exorbitant rate of interest, that invents the most iniquitous means of making a fortune without labor, in the shortest possible time; that, without pity, ruins the widow and the orphan, who become the helpless victims of its rapacity: that expropriates so many unfortun-