

The arrival in Canada of Mgr. de Laval in 1658, brought a happy culmination to the evangelical work which had been inaugurated by the Recollects and continued by the Jesuits and the Sulpicians. The ecclesiastical hierarchy was complete. The Church of Quebec began thus its glorious role in the history of North America.

On one of the bas-reliefs of the Laval Monument is what may be called an epitome of the establishment of the Faith in

Canada. We find a Recollect Friar, reminding us of the first missionaries of 1615, at his side is a son of St. Ignatius, recalling to mind the Jesuits who arrived in Canada in 1625. In the centre of the pannel stands out the first Bishop of New France, Mgr. de Laval the organiser of the catholic parish in Canada, and the Founder of the Church of



Quebec. Mgr. de Laval is the crowning and completing factor of the work of the missionaries, his precursors. But in the establishment of the Faith and in the spreading of it in this country all social classes had their part. That is why Mgr. Laval is surrounded by the Clergy of the Seminary, and of the Parishes, rural Seigneurs, citizens, and the humble tillers of the soil. Nor are the devoted Nuns of the teaching Orders and the Hospitals absent from the tableau. For they too had their glorious share in the triumph of the Faith in Canada.

Writing to the Recollects in 1670, on the occasion of their return to the colony, Mgr de Laval pays this tribute to our First Missionaries. "So fervent was the zeal of your predecessors, so exemplary their life, so indefatigable were they in their work of propagating the faith, that in less than 4 years, with the assistance of God Who helps all who trust in Him, they penetrated into the hearts of the forests and instructed the savage children of the woods, right to the extremity of the lands washed by the mighty river. The work of evangelisation which with the help of divine grace the religious of your Province have carried out in this new part of the world, with the authority of the Supreme Pontiffs and the good pleasure of His most Christian Majesty, Louis XIII king of France, of happy memory, is a more than sufficient title for the foundation which you now undertake."