

the members of the Rosary of Life, and invite them to offer up their prayers with the same intentions. This invitation, together with a French translation on the opposite, was printed and dispersed among the faithful. The like shall be done with regard to the complete narrative of the sufferings undergone by the nuns of Minsk, which shall find its fitting place in the *annals of the Propagation of the Faith*.

On the following day the Polish priest, by whom the superioress was accompanied, preached in the church of St Joseph. It was the close of the retreat of five hundred of these nuns, sixty of whom on that very day took the veil and made their vows. One of the vicars-general, encompassed by about twenty clergymen, presided at this ceremony. The auditory was immense, and crowded to fullness the galleries and the court. The emotions of this Christian throng prevailed over them so far as forcing them to tears and sobs. She continued all through to pray with incomparable fervour in presence of the holy sacrament. On that same evening a scene no less touching took place in the church of the Carmelites. When it was time to go forth from the church it became like a new martyrdom, for the good nun whom these fraternal demonstrations astonished and delighted. The crowds thronged around her, every one was anxious to see her, to speak to her, and all asked her for some kind of keepsake; some prayed for permission even to touch her beads; others recommended themselves by written notes, or *viva voce* to her to be remembered in her prayers; her veil, torn into small bits, was shared among the crowd who, for a long time, followed her carriage, and wished to receive her blessing. The pious lady continued tranquil in the midst of this triumph, offering all to God with joy, humility, and singleness of heart.

At Avignon the testimonies of veneration and of sympathy were the same, and perhaps even still more lively. His lordship, the archbishop, received, with perfect courtesy and benevolent respect, the illustrious traveller and her companion. He implored of the latter to preach, and of the lady abbess to be present at the scene of conferring confirmation which he was occupied in bestowing at the establishment of *Le Bon Pasteur* (the Good Shepherd). An assemblage of five thousand persons took place in the church of the Carmelites. There were seen among them the professors of the seminary, several ecclesiastics besides, and every one of the Poles who inhabited in the city united with the citizens of best and highest repute in this great and Catholic city. The eagerness of the people reached even to enthusiasm. Four times the veils of the abbess were borne off by the crowd, and rent into small pieces and shared among thousands of hands. In Avignon, as in Lyons, his lordship, the archbishop, offered to authorise collections among the faithful; but the Polish clergymen, the faithful interpreters of the sentiments of the lady abbess of

Minsk, replied that they would not wish to be suspected of seeking to sell the blood of their martyrs—that they but looked for the edification of souls, and confined themselves to implore prayers alone in favour of their desolate and deplorable church. Nevertheless the travellers were forced to accept of a chalice and complete ornaments for the altar and the priest, which the ladies of the *Sacre-Cœur* offered for their acceptance.

His lordship, the Archbishop of Aix, expressed the regret he felt at not having received information on the Sunday of the approach of the Polish pilgrims, for in that case he would have announced a great assembly in his cathedral. Notwithstanding, a choice auditory assembled in haste at the convent of the *Sacre-Cœur*, and three communities were enabled to satisfy their pious wishes. His lordship has given his promise that the prayers for Poland shall be published. On their arrival at Marseilles, the Lady Abbess of Minsk and her clerical guide repaired to the residence of his lordship, the bishop. By a happy encounter four parish priests of the city happened to be there at the moment. The worthy prelate engaged them on the spot, to avail themselves of the advantage which the occasion afforded for edifying their respective parishes. At once an invitation was given and published. Whilst waiting for the meeting to assemble the pilgrims visited various monasteries of women. "Oh! what sainted spirits!" exclaimed the Polish clergyman in a letter which we have, at this moment, under our eyes. "How greatly we would have desired to prolong those brief interviews! but our time was pressingly short, and we were forced to tear ourselves away from their blessings and their prayers. If our pretended philosophers could behold them, and appreciate them, they would say with us that these women, whom they regard as idle and worthless, are the true guardian angels of guilty nations; they, it is, who shield them against God's wrath beneath the wings of prayers and of penitence." The people of Marseilles, informed of their presence, came thronging in compact masses of the churches named. His lordship was desirous of being present at the first ceremony. After the benediction of the most holy sacrament and the prayers for Poland, his Greatness, having retired to the sacristy caused the humble servant of God to be placed by his side. The faithful then came to kiss the pastoral ring and the crozier of the abbess. The procession continued during an hour and a half, with a recollection and piety worthy of those august scenes of early times which it represented, on the following day, being Sunday, the churches were densely crowded. The fervour of the Marseilles population is one of those spectacles which no words can form an idea of it; it must be