

struck or threatened by the fatal laws of dispersion you must recognize that these very circumstances impose upon you the duty of defending with more zeal than ever the integrity of your religious spirit against the contamination of the world and of holding yourselves ever ready and ever armed against all attacks.

On this point you will recall the different instructions which have been addressed to Regulars by the Apostolic See, and these other prescriptions which have emanated from your own Superiors. Let both one and the other keep their full vigor and be most conscientiously observed. And now, Religious of every age, young and old, lift your eyes to your illustrious founders. Their maxims speak to you, their statutes guide you; their examples are before your eyes. Let your sweetest and holiest desires be to hear them, to follow them, to imitate them. It is thus that multitudes of your ancestors have acted in times of trial; it is thus they have transmitted to you a rich heritage of sublime courage and virtue. Long to make yourselves worthy of your sires and of your brethren in order that you may be able, all of you, to say, while justly glorifying yourselves, "We are the sons and brothers of the saints." It is thus that you will obtain the greatest advantage for yourselves, for the Church and for society. By spurring yourselves onward to reach that degree of sanctity to which God has called you, you will fulfill the designs of Providence in your regard and you will merit the abundant recompense which He has promised you. The Church—your tender Mother—who has heaped favors upon you, will obtain, in return for it all, a more faithful and more efficacious cooperation than ever in its mission of peace and salvation. Peace and salvation; they are the two urgent needs of society at the present time, which so many causes tend to corrupt and degrade.

To arouse it and to bring it repentant to the feet of the merciful Saviour we must have men of superior virtue, of living eloquence, of apostolic hearts, and men who possess, at the same time, the power of drawing abundant graces from heaven. You will be such men. We doubt not, and you will thus become the most opportune and the most glorious benefactors of society.

Dear Sons, the charity of the Lord inspires a last word to strengthen in you the sentiments with which you are animated towards those who attack your Institutes and who wish to destroy your liberty. Just as your conscience prompts you to keep a firm and dignified attitude, so by your profession, you must always show yourselves sweet and indulgent; because it is especially in the religious that the perfection of that true charity should be resplendent, revealing itself, as always open to pity, and ever incapable of harboring hate. Without doubt, to see yourselves rewarded with ingratitude and thrust aside by those you have benefitted would naturally cause bitterness of heart; but, dear Sons, let your faith and what it tells you give you comfort. Bear in mind the sublime exhortation, "Overcome evil by good." That faith places before your eyes the incomparable magnanimity of the apostle. "We are reviled and we bless; we are persecuted and we suffer it; we are blasphemed and we entreat." (I. Cor. 12, 13.) Above all, it invites you to repeat the supplication of the Supreme benefactor of the human race, Jesus Christ, suspended on His cross: "Father, forgive them." Therefore, dear Sons, strengthen yourselves in the Lord. You have with you the Vicar of Jesus Christ; you have with you the whole Catholic world, which regards you with affection, respect and gratitude. Your glorious founders and your glorious brothers encourage you. Your Sov-