

The Society did grow beyond the expectations of the founders. A few years later the eight members had increased to two thousand in Paris alone, where five thousand indigent families were visited and helped. The work of the Conferences was established in other cities in France, and it soon spread to Rome, London, Dublin, Brussels, Liege, Munich, Constantinople, Mexico and the United States. In 1846, that is, thirteen years after its foundation, the Society had ten thousand members, enrolled in two hundred and thirty Conferences.

In this year, also, its beneficent work was extended to Canada. A young physician, Dr. Painchaud, while studying abroad, had seen the Society laboring in Paris, and so impressed was he with its simplicity and efficacy, that his first care after his return to Quebec was to establish a flourishing Conference. Dr. Painchaud has justly been called the Canadian Ozanam. He was a man full of admirable devotedness to the poor and unfortunate, and he closed a noble career, in 1855, by a noble death. He gave up his life in the service of the plague stricken in Mexico.

The impetus given to the work in the old city of Quebec by this Catholic layman, seconded by the clergy, was soon felt in other parts of Canada. In 1850, Mr. George Manly Muir, another layman of great faith and piety, succeeded in planting the Society in Toronto. Montreal, Ottawa, Three Rivers, Hamilton, the Maritime Provinces, soon had their own Conferences. These in turn rapidly branched out into innumerable others; and thus, year after year, for over half a century, the work of organized charity in favor of God's poor has been going on silently and hidden from the eyes of men, but at the same time efficaciously after the manner of all great deeds done for God.

In 1896, the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the Society in Canada was celebrated in the old basilica that witnessed its inception, fifty years before. Four hundred delegates, drawn from every condition of life, and hailing