

This confraternity, erected on the 27th September 1886, was raised to the rank of an archconfraternity by Our Holy Father the Pope, by a rescript of the 26th April 1887 with all the rights, honor and privileges connected with that title. All the confraternities erected in honor of St. Anne in Canada and the United States may be affiliated with it. To that end they must be canonically erected by the Ordinary of the diocese and the directors must, with his permission, apply for affiliation to the Reverend Father Redemptorist, the pastor of Ste. Anne de Beaupré, who is authorized by a pontifical indult to grant it.

Our Lord has promised that *where two or three persons are gathered together in His name, He is in the midst of them: Ubi sunt duo vel tres congregati in nomine meo, ibi sum in medio eorum* (Mat. XVIII. 20). In virtue of this divine promise, each members of a confraternity, by placing in a common treasury the fruit of his good works and prayers, cannot but enrich himself. In the same manner as fire, in communicating itself to new inflammable matter, far from becoming less ardent, on the contrary increases in strength as it extends; in like manner, Christian charity which is a fire enkindled by Jesus-Christ (Luke XII. 49) increases the merit and value of good works in proportion to the use we make of them in behalf of our brethren. All the prayers and acts of charity which are performed by the members of a confraternity, become the common patrimony of each associate during life, and serve as a solace to the soul after death. All are therefore enriched without any one being impoverished.

The numerous pilgrims who, from all parts of Canada and the United States, come to the Sanctuary of Ste. Anne de Beaupré, return home with a more lively faith and a more firm confidence in the powerful intercession of this Saint. Their hearts remain in a certain manner in this sanctuary, in which for more than two centuries the voice of Jesus pleads with such tenderness and force to convert sinners, and in which He manifests His will in so admirable a manner by the wonderful cures which St. Anne obtains for those who invoke her with confidence. Hence it is that so great a number of pilgrims love to revisit this sanctuary, in which they experienced so much consolation and obtained so many favors. Those who cannot return recall with pleasure the sweet emotions which they experienced. The confraternity will strongly contribute to preserve all in these sentiments of faith and confidence, which will merit for them new spiritual and temporal favors.

Pilgrims will not be the only ones to profit by the advantages of this confraternity. Those who have not yet had this happiness and those who may be prevented by insurmountable obstacles from undertaking this voyage, will find in their affiliation to the confraternity, a consolation for not being able and perhaps never being able to come and invoke St. Anne in her church. By practising faithfully the exercises of piety prescribed by the rule, they will be transported in spirit to this blessed sanctuary, and St. Anne who will read the desires of their hearts, will recognize them as her children, will press them to her maternal heart, dry their tears, and do for them what she would have done if they had come in person. The misfortune even which deprives them of the joy of coming to invoke her, will be for this tender mother a greater reason to interest herself in their destiny.

Therefore, having invoked the Holy name of God, We ordain and rule as follows:

1st After the reading of the present Pastoral Letter, the annexed translation of the Bull of the 26th of April 1887, which raises to the rank of an archconfraternity, the Confraternity of Ste. Anne de Beaupré established by Us the 27th of Septem-