

THE JUNIORATE OF THE SACRED HEART.



IN the immediate vicinity of the University of Ottawa and of the magnificent Churches of St. Joseph and the Sacred Heart, rises a fourth cross-crowned edifice, whose imposing appearance and striking originality of style fittingly harmonize with its surroundings. It is the Juniorate of the Sacred Heart, the new home of the junior Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the nursery of the Oblate Congregation for the Dominion of Canada.

The Juniorate of the Sacred Heart is a Mission College, wherein young men desirous of becoming Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, are from their early years trained to the religious life and to the practice of the virtues necessary for their sublime vocation, while at the same time they receive a thorough classical and scientific education. These young aspirants to the missionary state, dwell in community and live a retired, regular life. At the Juniorate, they have their own chapel, their dormitory, refectory, study, and play grounds. For classes, however, they attend the University of Ottawa, and it is a pleasing and edifying sight to see them marching in rank, orderly, silently, modestly, to and from the college. As is evident, from the nature of the institution, only young men of good Catholic families, of unblemished character, frank, upright and docile, are admitted to this little community. In addition to these qualities, the successful postulant must be endowed with a fair share of talent, must enjoy good health, must have acquired sufficient knowledge of his mother-tongue, English or French, to write it passably; and finally and above all, he must have an earnest desire and a firm resolution of becoming a religious Oblate of Mary Immaculate. He must be ready, too, for a great sacrifice. Once a Junior Oblate, or Juniorist, he must relinquish home, relatives and friends. Henceforward, his home is the Juniorate. He belongs no longer to his parents, but to the congregation that has adopted him. Of course, the members of

his family may come to see him, and, indeed, are cordially invited to do so on the days appointed, but he is not free to visit them except during the first ten days of the midsummer vacation. To many readers of the *Owl*, no doubt, such a life will appear cold and monotonous, but no such coldness and monotony exist in fact. The life of the Juniorists is a happy one. The bright, cheerful faces of the young religious attest it. The testimony of parents and guardians confirm it. "What have you done to bewitch my son, Reverend Father?" a fond parent once smilingly inquired of the Reverend Director. "You gave him some holidays this year and he wished to return to the Juniorate before he had been home a week." And this was not an isolated case. The Juniorist, then, finds real and lasting happiness in his new home. True he has left behind forever his old life and all pertaining to it, yet he is not thereby deprived of the joys of the family circle. He has but exchanged one family for another. Kind and loving directors supply the place of father and mother; and the fathers of the congregation treat him as a brother, as the "little Benjamin" of the family, while a bond of truly fraternal charity unites him to his fellow Juniors who never address him without the affectionate title of brother. The weekly communion, too, and the frequent daily visits to the Blessed Sacrament ever present in the little chapel, form golden links in the chain that binds him to his vocation.

Ten months of earnest study are succeeded by two months of midsummer vocation. For a few days the Juniorists separate to visit their respective homes, and then re-unite to spend their holidays at the delightful summer residence provided for them upon the shore of a picturesque little lake nestling among the Laurentide Hills about twenty-five miles from Ottawa. Mountain climbing, boating, fishing, berry-picking, foot-ball, and base-ball become the order of the day, yet ample time is devoted to spiritual exercises and to study. Even in their country house, the juniors enjoy the privilege of a private