

eternal rest and light perpetual, and by holy prayers and solemn benedictions to commit the mortal remains to the guardianship of the consecrated grave. Thus, from the cradle to the grave, in our joys and sorrows, in the epochs that mark the pathway of our existence, with the dearest associations and the deepest interests of our lives, the ministry of the Catholic priest is most intimately connected and intertwined. O what an unspeakable treasure then is the good and holy priest! What a happiness to the Church! What a priceless blessing to the parish or remote mission in which he ministers! Such a priest is one of the greatest gifts that God can bestow on a Christian people. During life his ministry is fruitful in untold blessings, and even after death, his memory, his words, his example, his works remain to console, to bless, to fortify and to sanctify innumerable souls.

O, Supreme Pastor, the author and finisher of our faith, have pity on Thy people and send forth priests according to Thy Divine heart into Thy vineyard. This country is already white with an abundant harvest of precious souls; deign in Thine infinite mercy to send forth worthy and numerous workmen into this rich harvest; inspire Catholic mothers with the holy resolution of rearing sons for the service of Thy holy altar, and the ministry of salvation; speak to the hearts of generous youths, and call them to the ranks of Thy Priesthood, and finally put it into the hearts of our faithful people to be noble and generous in their contributions, so as to help in the holy work of educating the Priesthood. St. Dionysius justly remarks, that it is the most divine of all divine works, to co-operate with God in the salvation of souls; and our people thus co-operate when they dedicate their sons to God, in the holy office of the Priesthood; or when, by their generous offerings, they contribute to the advancement of ecclesiastical education.

There are some parents in this country who will make any sacrifices to enable their sons to study law or medicine, or to enter into commercial business; but who will do little or nothing for the sons who may be willing to study for the holy Priesthood. The faith and charity of such parents must be very weak and cold. In the ages of faith, and still, in many European countries, Catholic mothers would prefer seeing their sons ministering at God's altar than in the highest positions of worldly