

benefit to so many poor souls *still seated in darkness and in the shadow of death, that the light of life may shine upon them.* (S. Matt., IV. 16.)

What better means of testifying to God your gratitude for so many graces that he granted you in holy Baptism, in Confirmation, in the adorable Eucharist, in Penance, in the divine Word ! You are asked so little to enable the holy waters of Baptism to be poured out upon the thousands that, until then, had borne no other yoke than that of the devil : to open to innumerable sinners the saving bath of Penance, and to present to them the delicious banquet of the divine Eucharist, and finally to place them in the way of arriving at eternal happiness !

Whoever, says Jesus-Christ, *receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet, shall receive the reward of a prophet ; and he that receiveth a just man in the name of a just man, shall receive the reward of a just man. And whosoever shall give to drink to one of these little ones a cup of cold water, only in the name of a disciple, amen I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.* (S. Matt., X. 41. 42.) What then shall not be the reward of him, who by his prayers, and by his alms, shall have contributed to draw into holy church those thousands of souls upon whom are poured out every year, the vivifying waters of Baptism ?

A reward even in this world, by the spiritual and temporal blessings which God will bestow upon the families and the parishes where those associations of the Propagation of the Faith and of the holy Childhood are encouraged with zeal.

A reward by the sweet joy of having procured for our fellow men an inestimable benefit, and of having discharged a part of the debt of gratitude which we owe to God.

A reward at the hour of death and before the tribunal of the sovereign Judge, where good works alone can find favor for us.

A reward, finally, for all eternity, by a new degree of glory and of happiness ; *For, says the prophet Daniel, they that are learned shall shine as the lightness of the firmament : and they that instruct many unto justice, as stars for all eternity.* (Daniel, XII. 3.)

The association of the holy Childhood ought to be specially dear to all christian parents who have at heart the true happiness of their children. " Indeed, says " the Sovereign Pontiff, by inviting children to labor according to their strength, " for the salvation of these poor abandoned little ones, it procures for themselves, " by this act of charity, the occasion of testifying to God their gratitude for the " privileged grace by which the Lord has deigned to call them to the admirable " light of Faith. Hence this new work of christian charity, far from injuring