

humble;" (b) that grace without which, according to St. Paul, it is impossible for man to subdue the rebellion of the flesh. (c)

- 27 Since, therefore, man cannot achieve the needful restraint of unruly passion unless he himself first yields to his Creator the humble homage of piety and reverence which is due to Him, it follows that the first necessity in those who unite themselves in the sacred bonds of matrimony is an inner, genuine piety towards God, a piety which will pervade their whole lives and fill mind and will with the deepest reverence for the divine Majesty.

(Obedience to the Church.—Remembrance of the sacrament received.—Preparation for marriage.—Economic reforms.—Associations for workers.—Co-operation of Church and State.—Conclusion.)

THE NURSING APOSTOLATE

All to Catholic nurses, August 27, 1935.

(Words of welcome.—The struggle against paganism.)

- 28 Paganism and materialism try to penetrate everywhere. (23. Therefore you must be first and foremost and at any cost, 109) full of the spirit of spirituality, of Christianity, of the Christian supernatural. That is the first thing to be done. That is what is most needed. It is necessary that you do as the good God Himself did, the divine Redeemer, when He thought of sending His apostles into the world to bring to it the treasure of His doctrine, example, and consolation. And what was it He did? He did nought but fill them with the spirit of the Christian supernatural, and make them the

26b James 4:6.
26c Rom. 7 and 8.

bearers of that spiritual and that supernatural. We can never give to others that which we do not ourselves possess . . . the law remains as inexorable as ever. The measure of the good we do to those with whom we come into contact depends on the abundance of our own riches. And the treasure which your assistance must bring to the infirm is precisely that of spirituality, of the supernatural.

You must also bring material, bodily comfort . . . as did Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He commanded His apostles: "Go and bring well-being everywhere, bring health for the body; but above all and before all else, bring salvation to souls." The life of the body, yes; but still more, infinitely more, spiritual life, the life of the soul, of that soul which gives the body its true value. In a word; be what you are, be it always, always more, and always better.

(To do honor to Christianity in their profession.)

To be outstanding nurses, technically speaking, you will have to continue improving on what you do, and keep abreast of all that you ought to know. Yes: for to act, you must know. And not only to act, but also to know what you are capable of doing, to know what it is your duty to do, and at times perhaps to know what it is your duty not to do, or what you can do only under certain conditions and within certain limits. For your activity extends both to the professional and moral field, the assistance of the sick, and the morality of that assistance. We do not wish to repeat here what you know well enough from personal experience, and from your participation in this excellent and useful Congress. You comprehend not only the scientific difficulties which beset you, but also the growing requirements and ever broader applications which, in the name of science, demand your approval and your competence.

You understand, too, the moral difficulties of your profession: you understand them only too well, thanks precisely to this paganism and materialism which insinuate

