

schools, or again scholasticates, junorates, etc., etc. The atmosphere of the world is not congenial to the development of clerical and religious vocations, and frequently stifles and destroys the tender shoots which Almighty God had destined to grow into vigorous plants of His chosen vineyard. Experience and history prove that the most useful and capable members of religious communities have come forth from these Monastic schools. In 1892 an apostolic school was established at Sacred Heart Mission, and it gave to the Abbey some candidates who today are zealous priests and promising clerics of the order. But it gradually declined and was abandoned. During the recent visitation of the Abbey and its dependent Missions by Rt. Rev. Abbot Leander, O. B., noticing the vast field of labor open before the Missionaries of Oklahoma and Indian Territories, and the scarcity of vocations, he urged upon the Fathers the necessity of reopening such a school, and the Rt. Rev. Abbot Felix De Grasse, O. B., at once set to work to comply with the suggestion and the express wish of his superior. An alumnate was opened November 15, and six young candidates who had applied for admission were judged worthy, on the recommendations furnished, to be admitted. These young men follow the classes of Sacred Heart College, but for the rest have nothing in common with the students thereof. They have their separate director, who, with his assistant, presides over their other exercises and endeavors to inculcate them with the virtues and qualities required for the religious profession, should it prove that Almighty God has really granted them a vocation to the sacred priesthood in the Monastic state. Should it prove otherwise, they shall not the less be fitted out to take honorably and ably the place destined for them in society by a kind Providence, disposing all things for the welfare, temporal and eternal, of His children.

This is our Nascent Alumnate. I call it nascent because all the young alumni thus far received manifest an