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A Social-Minded Bishop

Georges-Henri Lévesque, o.p.

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A SOCIAL-MINDED BISHOP

Last June 29, on the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, was held the Episcopal Consecration of His Excellency Monsignor Charles-Omer Garant, Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec.

This was also a great day for the people devoted to social work in Quebec, and especially for the Faculty of Social Sciences of Laval, of which he was one of the founders and has always had in him, from the very beginning, a wise adviser and a firm supporter of all its works as well as with the difficulties it has confronted. Monsignor Garant has also been on the teaching and directing staffs in our Faculty, as far as his hard work at the Faculty of Theology would allow him to do so.

But Monsignor Garant has always remained what his great love for justice and his sacerdotal charity have made out of him: a social apostle. Monsignor Garant has devoted himself entirely to the cause of professional organization, in Quebec. Imbued with the spirit of the social Encyclicals and attracted by all the good that could and had to be done in our society, he has given himself totally to the difficult — and often thankless — task of inspiring and setting up for it the appropriate institutions capable of maintaining in it order and peace. To him Quebec owes the glory of having been the great instigator of the movement of professional organization of employers, in Quebec.

What is amazing in the career of this great leader is this: while making the employers feel their urgent need of organization, never has he ceased teaching them, at the same time, to have full regard to the workers' just demands. This attitude is easily explainable in Monsignor Garant, for he is a man who sees social life, not as a necessary struggle between irreconcilable enemies, but as a hard and salutary effort of fraternity between men redeemed by love.

Could it be otherwise in him who, one day, on receiving the plenitude of priesthood, would take as his motto: « *In iustitia et caritate* » — two words, or rather two things with which the whole of his life has been assimilated.

To our new and sympathetic Auxiliary Bishop, we are deeply pleased to address our warmest congratulations and to express our earnest wishes. There is no further need to add that he shall always find, in « his » Faculty of Social Sciences, the full co-operation he is entitled to expect, and which our Faculty shall be always proud and glad to give him.

GEORGES-HENRI LÉVESQUE, o.p.