

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 31, 1901.

To Frank Falvo and Lucio Leonardo:

Gentlemen,

Your letter of Dec. 31 was received in due time.

It contained your letter of resignation as Trustees of the newly organized church of Our Lady of St. Gabriel. The term of office of the Lay Trustees of all the Catholic Churches of this diocese expired on the last day of December, and the new Trustees are appointed by the Bishop, the Vicar General and the Pastor, or acting Pastor, on the First of January, or soon after.

The memorial which you presented to me was such a one as was not proper; hence I gave it no attention.

There are two classes of Catholic Italians in Rochester.

One is composed of people who have little or no religious principle, who are not regular at Mass on Sunday, who do not frequent the sacraments, not even at Easter.

The other class is made up of Italian people who do attend to their religious duties, who sincerely desire the establishment of one, or more churches, who are willing to cooperate in their humble way towards their erection.

When the time comes it will give me great pleasure to put in care of these churches Italian Pastors. But all can rest assured that

no one will receive such an appointment except one whose antecedents are well known, and who comes well recommended by proper authority in Italy.

There is another point of great importance to which it is necessary to direct attention.

This is the manner of holding and administering Church property in this State of New York. Our church property is under legal corporations approved by the State. The Trustees of these Corporations enact the necessary by-laws, already approved by the diocesan governing board.

These rules and by-laws apply to all congregations of whatever nationality their members may be. Under this management our Congregations have grown and flourished, and peace and harmony have prevailed.

I anticipate the same blessed success for the Italian population of this diocese as soon as the good people can separate themselves from and their religious interests from the control of ill-disposed and ambitious people.

All will have to remember that they are now in America, and not in Italy, and that in our churches we do not admit Italian or American politics, confining our work solely to church and school concerns.