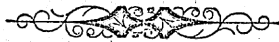


# PASTORAL LETTER

OF THE RIGHT REV.

**MAURICE DE ST. PALAIS,**

BISHOP OF VINCENNES, TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF HIS DIOCESE.



*Maurice, by the Grace of God and the appointment of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Vincennes, to the Clergy and Laity of his Diocese, health and Benediction IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN :

Having lately been informed that in several Congregations, some of the faithful were objecting to the collection prescribed at Easter to defray the expenses incurred yearly for the maintenance & instruction of the Ecclesiastical students of our Diocese, we have thought proper to send you a few remarks concerning the necessity of fulfilling your obligations in that respect.

The foreign fund which has thus far been the main support of the Seminary can no longer, on account of circumstances which it is needless to mention, be relied upon, and consequently it becomes the duty of all the Catholics who have truly at heart the good of religion, to sustain by their generosity an establishment, upon which we and they, must depend for the preservation and advancement of the true faith in our State. Applications for Clergymen are daily made by missions newly formed: but how can we give them Pastors, if they refuse us the means of educating for the ministry the few young men who are now preparing for it? The want of pecuniary resources has already this year compelled us to send them to different parts of the Diocese to be taught there by Priests who, in connexion with the painful task of instructing them, have to attend to the arduous duties of the mission. We might it is true call to our aid, missionaries from other quarters, and we are often told that we ought to do so; but poverty and continual sacrifice of time and health are poor inducements for Clergymen of other nations and of other States of the Union to come to labor in Indiana, and we cannot expect many, until it be well known that the Clergy of the Diocese of Vincennes are treated by their Congregations as they are everywhere else. Let our Catholics be as generous in supporting their Pastors and our Ecclesiastical institutions, as the faithful of other Dioceses are in supporting theirs, and they will be entitled to, and enjoy the same spiritual privileges. The small extra sums given to our Holy Father during the course of last year, cannot assuredly have exhausted your means, and as there shall be only two calls made yearly upon your generosity, one at Christmas and the other at Easter, both of them intended for the general good of the Diocese, the appeal we now make might seem, to us, be answered without complaint. We therefore exhort our Venerable Brethren of the Clergy to renew their exertions and solicitations in behalf of those who are destined to share one day their labors and we earnestly entreat you, dearly beloved brethren of the Laity, to be mindful of what you owe to them who will sooner or later administer to you the consolations of religion.

We also take this occasion to warn you that in future, after taking into consideration the numbers and resources of each Congregation, their generosity towards the Orphan Asylums and the Ecclesiastical Seminary will be the measure of the pecuniary assistance we shall give them; and their treatment of the Clergyman who now visits them, the reason of sending or refusing to send a resident Pastor. Such conduct we deem not only a proper regulation but an act of justice and such we shall always pursue. It is for you that we beg, not for ourselves; be then generous and we trust in God that he will soon send us labourers to cultivate the portion of his vineyard committed to our charge and reward your liberality towards the Orphans who are his children with the abundance of those favors temporal and eternal attached to the practise of charity towards the fatherless.

Given at Vincennes, under our hand this 7th day of March, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty.

† MAURICE, BISHOP OF VINCENNES.

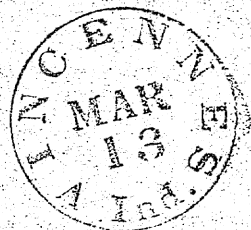
By order of the Right Rev. Bishop.

E. AUDRAN, Sec'y.

N. B. We direct our Venerable Brethren of the Clergy to read the foregoing to the people committed to their care on the first opportunity after its reception, and to remit to us at Vincennes the amount of their collection as soon as possible.

Rev. S. Coindet

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Notre Dame de Lac near  
Southbend  
St. Jos. Co.  
Ind.

M. J. D.  
Cousin de M. J. D.  
de St. Orlans  
de Vincennes