

MAURICE DE SAINT PALAIS,
BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE,
BISHOP OF VINCENNES,
TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF HIS DIOCESE :

BELOVED BRETHREN OF THE CLERGY, AND BELOVED BRETHREN OF THE LAITY :—The Supreme Pastor of the Church, filled with grief at the moral evils that threaten society, and at the temporal afflictions inflicted on us by Providence, has again made an appeal to the piety of his children, and with that earnest solicitude and unction peculiar to the Father of the Faithful, he invites them to offer up their prayers, that peace may be restored, that calamities may cease, and that truth may triumph over the errors and false principles which the enemies of souls and of God endeavor to propagate as a substitute for the saving doctrines of the Gospel.

Another reason assigned by the Holy Father for soliciting our prayers, is, that he may be guided by the light of God's spirit in the decision he is about to make respecting the immaculate conception of Mary the Blessed Mother of Jesus and the dearly beloved Mother of all Christians. To secure more effectually the assistance of these prayers, he has opened the treasures of the Church and has granted a plenary indulgence, in the form of a Jubilee. The period of three months having been assigned by the Pontifical Brief for gaining the indulgence, and the choice of the time being left to each Bishop for his own Diocese, the Jubilee will commence in our Diocese on the 21st day of November, Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin and will last until the 21st of February next. The conditions for gaining the indulgence are as follows : 1st. A good confession and communion. 2d. Three distinct visits to the church usually frequented. 3d. Fasting on one day and giving an alms to the poor, according to each one's ability and devotion. Confessors have the power of dispensing with some of the afore-said conditions, or of commuting the works prescribed into others, when the circumstances in which their penitents are placed require it; and they have likewise the faculty of dispensing, even in Holy Communion, in favor of the children who have not yet been prepared for the worthy reception of that sacrament.

We recommend our Orphan Asylum as a suitable object for the Alms contributed on the occasion of the Jubilee; and in order that days especially consecrated by the church to penance and prayer may prove a profitable season to all the faithful committed to our Pastoral care, we exhort the Clergy to use all the means which their zeal and piety will suggest, to call sinners to a sense of duty and we advise them to make with their brothers in the ministry, arrangements such, that they may secure for the exercises of the Jubilee, in each congregation, the assistance of a neighboring clergyman.

We finally entreat you to avail yourselves of the opportunity which is afforded you of making your peace with God, of amending your lives, and of appeasing by prayers and good works, the wrath of an offended God. The spirit of evil is agitating the world—the Powers of Earth and Hell meet in darkness to conspire against Christ and his Church—but be not alarmed. So long as you remain united with him who conquered the world and its prince, and firmly devoted to Her who crushed the serpent's head, they can do you no harm. Death itself is a gain, when encountered for the cause of religion and the glory of God. Fear not their threats; be not disheartened by their hatred; love those who hate you; do good to them who persecute you, knowing that if the world hates you and persecutes you, it hath hated and persecuted your Divine Master before you. Remember the advice of your meek Redeemer: "And when they shall revile and persecute you and speak all that is evil of you against you, untruly for God's sake, be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in Heaven."

The increase of evil, Beloved Brethren, requires on the part of the Faithful, a multiplication of good works, and we take this occasion of recommending to your zeal and patronage an Association to which most congregations in the Diocese are partly indebted for the benefits which they are now enjoying. I mean the Association for the Propagation of Faith, which has largely contributed to the support of our Missionaries and to the erection of our churches. It has already been instituted in many Dioceses of the United States, and it is high time that we also, should do something to promote in our midst an Association tending so clearly to procure the glory of God and the salvation of souls. We count as yet but very few members of that Association in the Diocese of Vincennes, and we request the Clergy, after explaining to their people its object and its rules, to use all their influence to increase the number. We sincerely hope that the Catholics of Indiana shall contribute liberally to the fund destined to propagate true religion. By so doing, we will come in for our share of the spiritual favors bestowed upon the members of the Association for the Propagation of Faith by the Holy See, and in our contribution for imparting Faith to others, we shall find, I trust, a sure pledge of its preservation amongst us.

The peace of our Lord be with you, dearly beloved brethren, and may you all, during this time of Jubilee, reap an abundant harvest of the fruits attached to the exercise of prayer and good works, which are grace and virtue for this life, and glory and happiness for the next.

This Pastoral will be read in the principal church of each congregation on the first Sunday after its reception, and in the other churches and chapels of the mission on the day of the opening of the exercises of the Jubilee.

Given at our Episcopal residence, in Vincennes, on the Feast of All Saints, November 1st, 1854.

—MAURICE,
BISHOP OF VINCENNES.

PAID



Messrs. E. Worin & Co.



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