

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 21, 1933

Loyalty to the Holy See.

The Archivist has brought to light an interesting Apostolic Letter addressed to the students of Notre Dame by Pope Pius IX in 1868. The Holy See was afflicted at that time by the sore trials which ended two years later in the loss of the Papal States. Notre Dame had demonstrated its loyalty to the Holy Father - as it ever will when there is need for such demonstration. For your inspiration the text of the letter is given below in its English translation, as it appeared in the Ave Maria on September 5, 1868:

"To Our Beloved Sons,

"Pupils of the Fathers known as the Fathers of Holy Cross, in the College of Notre Dame du Lac, Diocese of Fort Wayne, Indiana (United States).

"Beloved Sons, health and Apostolic Benediction:

"These lively sentiments of devotedness and love, which your letter and the gift which accompanied it manifest, have rendered both these most acceptable and pleasing to us. For if we see with joy that you, who will hereafter be called upon to manage the affairs of the Church and state, are so disposed towards this See of Peter, at the same time we know with how much earnestness and zeal your teachers instruct you in religion and piety together with letters and sciences, and how great a hope is afforded that from a solid education of this kind men will be obtained equal to the present necessity. Most gladly, then, do we learn from you that this whole region, committed to the protection of the Immaculate Virgin, is bound to us by a devotedness and affection like yours; but since the Catholic Religion and this Holy See are pressed on all sides by most cruel war, we again and again exhort you, who are soon to come into public notice, not to grow careless by an imprudent confidence, but in proportion as you are exposed to greater dangers, and stand in need of greater strength to oppose wickedness and impiety, so will you more strenuously endeavor to confirm and cherish in yourselves that sound doctrine which you have imbibed. Apply yourselves therefore, zealously, to the study of letters and sciences, but even more zealously to piety, lest you be puffed up by a vain science, and show yourselves docile to your teachers who devote themselves entirely to your interests. But in the first place commit and commend yourselves and your labors, your cares, all that belongs to you, to that divine Mother in whose patronage you justly glory, and who never has failed those who pray to her. We beseech for each one of you the most abundant aid of heavenly grace, and as a mark of divine favor, and a pledge of our paternal good will, we most lovingly impart to you, to the whole College, and to your whole country, the Apostolic Benediction.

"Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, this 16th day of May, 1868, in the 22d year of our Pontificate.

(Signed)

Pius P.P. IX.

Imprudent confidence.... vain science.... Those are sound warnings. Heed them. Confirm and cherish... sound doctrine; apply yourselves... even more zealously to piety. Commit and commend yourselves and your labors to that Divine Mother in whose patronage you justly glory..... There you have the whole burden of Notre Dame's exhortations!

Pope Pius IX and Father Sorin were great friends, and the Holy Father was very good to Notre Dame. Meditate on these words he addressed to our predecessors of 65 years ago. They are as important today as they were then. We should consider them as addressed directly to ourselves.

The Pledge.

Alumni, 4; Badin, 21; Brownson, 27; Carroll, 28; Corby, 6; Dillon, 54; Freshman, 46; Howard, 9; Lyons, 20; Morrissey, 11; St. Edward's, 23; Off-campus, 5; Sorin, 25; Walsh, 7.
BY REQUEST OF THE LAW CLUB the 8:00 Mass Sunday will be offered for the repose of the soul of Professor Manion's mother.