

# The Catholic Journal.

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## ENCYCLICAL LETTER.

Recent Epistle to the Faithful from the Holy Father.

The recent Encyclical Letter from Pope Leo XIII to the faithful is an eminent one and should be read by every Catholic. Its salient points are as follows: In opening, the Holy Father speaks of the necessity of Christian perfection as follows:

"Day by day it appears more manifest that the precepts of Christian perfection ought to be recalled and that the life, the morals, and the institutions of nations ought to be altogether conformed to them. For when these precepts are disregarded, so that is the power of evil that has showed that no wise man can look on its presence without anxiety, nor on to the hereafter without fear. Then the fact that life has more greater duties for Catholics than those who hold not the Catholic faith at all or entertain wrong ideas concerning it," is solemnly impressed on the faithful. Catholics and the world at large are reminded that the natural love of the Church and the natural love of country are principles having the same eternal source, and Himself being the author and end of both. Hence it follows that one duty can never be opposed to another. It is in our power, and we are bound to fulfill both duties; to ourselves, to bear good will to neighbor, to cherish the commonwealth and the authority that rules it; and at the same time to look on the Church as our mother, and to God with the utmost love of which we are capable. Nevertheless, these duties are sometimes set aside, through stress of the times or the wickedness of men. Not unrequently it happens that one way of doing seems to be required by the State and another by religion for the son that the rulers of the commonwealth either despise or would subject to themselves the sacred power of the Church. Hence arises a conflict, and an opportunity for making use of virtue. Two different powers press on us; and when they command things in themselves contrary to the law of God, it is impossible to render obedience at the same time to both; for "no man can serve two masters" (St. Matt., vi, 23). We obey one, we must needs disobey the other; and no one ought to doubt which of the two must be obeyed.

It is a sin to disobey God for the sake of pleasing men; it is wrong to obey the law of Jesus Christ in order to obey the magistrate, or under pressure of civil rights to transgress the law of the Church; *obedire oportet magis quam hominibus*, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (St. Matt., vi, 23). The answer which Peter and the rest of the Apostles were given to give to the governors, when they laid unlawful commands on them, must always be made for all on such occasions. There is no better citizen either in peace or in war than the Christian who is mindful of his duty; and he ought to suffer anything, even death itself, rather than forsake the side of God and the Church.

The force and the nature of laws are not properly understood by those who blame this firmness in the conduct of duty and call it rebellion. We are of matters known to all and of which we have already treated. Law is the order of right reason, proceeding from lawful authority for the common good. There is no true and lawful authority except that which comes from God, the sovereign Lord, who alone has power to give authority over his fellow-men. There is no right reason which is con-

trary to truth and to the law of God, and no true good which does not accord with the highest imperishable good, or which leads astray the will of man from the love of God. Christians hold public authority as sacred, and acknowledge therein a likeness and image of the majesty of God, even when power is in unworthy hands. They render just and due obedience to law, not perforce or through dread of chastisement, but from a consciousness of duty; *non enim dedit nobis Deus spiritum timoris*: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear" (2 Tim., i, 7). But if the laws of the state are openly at variance with the law of God—if they inflict injury upon the Church—if they clash with the dictates of religion, or set at naught the authority of Jesus Christ which is vested in the Supreme Pontiff, then indeed it becomes a duty to resist them, a sin to render obedience, and a wrong done to the State; because every wrong done to religion is also an offense against the State.

Hence it appears how unjust is the charge of rebellion; for due obedience is not refused to the chief and to the makers of the laws, but only to those commands which they have no power to make, because clashing with the law of God they are unjust, and anything but laws.

You know, venerable brethren, that this is the very doctrine of St. Paul the Apostle, who, when he told Titus that Christians were to be admonished, "*Principibus et potestatibus subditus esse, dicto obedire*," "To be subject to princes and powers, to obey at a word," and he adds, "*ad omne opus bonum paratos esse*," "to be ready to every good work" (Acts, iv, 19-20), which would show that, if the laws of men should make any enactment against the eternal law of God, it would not be right to obey them. In like manner the Prince of the Apostles courageously made answer to those who refused him permission to preach the Gospel: "*Si jure est in conspectu Dei, eos potius audire quam Deum, judicate; non enim possumus quar vidimus et audivimus non loqui*." "If it be just in the sight of God to hear you rather than God, judge ye: for we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

To love, therefore, these two countries, both our natural and our heavenly country, and to prefer the latter to the former lest the law of man should be deemed superior to the law of God is the chief duty of every Christian and the source of all other duties. Our Redeemer said of Himself: "For this was I born, and for this came I into the world, that I should give testimony to the truth" (St. John, xviii, 37).

Likewise "I came to send fire upon the earth and what will I but that it be kindled." In the knowledge of this truth, which is the highest perfection of the mind, and in divine charity, which in like manner perfects the will, consist the whole life and liberty of Christians. And this truth, indeed, and this charity, the Church preserves and guards with continual zeal and watchfulness as a noble patrimony committed to her by Jesus Christ.

It scarcely concerns us here to say how bitter and many-sided a war has been waged against the Church. For because human reason has been able, by scientific investigation, to disclose many secrets of nature, men have taken upon themselves to think that they can banish God and His divine authority from their daily life.

Deceived by this error they hand over to human nature the sovereignty which they have snatched from God; they proclaim that nature alone is the foundation and rule of all truth; and

that all the duties of religion proceed from and are to be derived from it.

From this it follows that nothing has been taught us is divine; that obedience cannot be paid to the laws of Christian morality or the Church; that she has no power and no right to make laws, nay, even there can be no place for the Church in the Commonwealth. With all their might they struggle to put themselves at the head of civil affairs in order that they may more easily propagate these doctrines and fashion the public laws and morals. Everywhere the Catholic religion is either openly attacked or secretly assailed; and by the great license permitted in these perverse errors the public profession of Christianity is often hindered by many difficulties.

In so evil a state of affairs it is the first duty of everyone to reflect and be on his guard, that he may, by vigilant care, securely defend the faith which he has received, by guarding against dangers and by being always armed against the fallacies and sophisms of the day. To give steadfastness to virtue we judge that it is most useful and suitable in these times to study diligently Christian doctrine, according to each one's capacity and opportunity, and to imbue the mind, as far as possible, with those things of religion which can be obtained by human reason. And since our faith must not only be pure and uncorrupted in our minds, but also increase constantly day by day, the humble petition of the Apostles must be often repeated: *Adauge nobis fidem*, "Lord, increase our faith" (St. Luke, xvii, 5).

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

The mission entrusted to the spiritual direction of the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Osouf, Vicar Apostolic of Northern Japan, includes the whole northern portion of the Japanese Empire, having a population of 19,000,000. Infidels and 11,552 Catholics. Bishop Osouf is assisted in his labors by 34 European missionaries and 64 native catechists, together with 53 religious, foreign and native, who are engaged in the work of education. There are in the vicariate 101 stations; 67 churches or chapels; a seminary, with nine students; a college, directed by Marianite priests, with 35 students; 3 academies for girls with 119 pupils; 27 schools, with 1,844 pupils; 6 orphan asylums, with 1,048 children; 8 manual labor schools, attended by 84 students; and 5 hospitals. During the year ending August 15, 1889, there were 2,580 baptisms, of which 1,698 were adults, 15 converts from Protestantism, 599 children of pagans and 268 children of Christians; 503 received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and 4,214 made their annual confession. It is in this vicariate that the Rev. P. Testevuide conducts the leper hospital to which we lately directed attention. *Ave Maria.*

It is pleasing news to all who foster a tender devotion to the Sacred Heart, to learn that His Holiness Pope Leo XIII has given expression to his eagerness for the canonization of the Blessed Margaret Mary.

The last French pilgrimage to Rome will be perpetually remembered, as a French chaplaincy has been instituted in St. Peter's, and now, at the Chapel of Santa Petronilla, will be celebrated every day a Mass for France.

A number of French priests have arrived at Malinda. They state that they recently met Dr. Peters, the German explorer, concerning whose death many conflicting reports have been received at Koki. He was in good health.

## CARDINAL PECCI.

Death of the Brother of Pope Leo XIII. Sketch of His Life.

Friday of last week Cardinal Giuseppe Pecci, brother of the Holy Father, died at Rome. The following sketch is reproduced from Saturday's *Post-Express*:

Cardinal Giuseppe Pecci was the elder brother of Pope Leo XIII. He was born in Carpineto, a village of central Italy, on December 13, 1807, and was the offspring of an old and noble family. His father was Count Louis Pecci, who served at one time in the French army as colonel. His mother was Anna Prosperi, a daughter of a noble of Cori. Joachim Pecci, the present head of the Roman Catholic Church, was born March 2, 1810. There were six children in the family, four boys and two girls. Two of the boys, Giuseppe and Joachim, studied for the priesthood. The two sisters made happy marriages. The palace in which the children spent their youth was not a very imposing one, but it is still an object of historic interest to thousands who travel in Italy. The mother, Countess Anna, was a woman of deep religious feeling and devoted careful attention to the education of her boys and girls. She was punctual in her attendance at the meetings held in the Monastery chapel for the purposes of devotion and charity and loved to bring her children with her. Thus, from their earliest years, they were familiar with the brown habit and sandalled feet of the sons of St. Francis of Assisi and heard repeatedly from their mother's lips the wonderful story of the life of this gentle saint. Joachim and Giuseppe Pecci were educated at the Roman college and the Academy of Ecclesiastical Nobles and then entered the priesthood. Giuseppe joined the Society of Jesus, and became professor of philosophy at the Roman college. In this chair, which he occupied until 1851, he made a high reputation, producing several works on the philosophical system of St. Thomas Aquinas, which were discussed widely. These, however, drew upon him the disapproval of his superiors and leaving the order he became a *minutante* in the library of the Vatican. He continued in his humble employment until the election of his brother Joachim to the pontificate in February, 1877. Leo XIII valued the counsel of his brother highly; he intrusted him with several delicate missions, all of which he conducted successfully, and on May 12, 1879, he raised him to the rank of cardinal. Though the senior of his illustrious brother, Cardinal Pecci looked much younger. He was a simple, modest man, and an enthusiastic delver in old books. For many years he has been regarded as the highest authority in all matters connected with the Thomast philosophy. The malady from which he suffered and which caused his death was pneumonia.

On Feb. 3rd, the Pope gave an audience to Archbishop Corrigan, of New York, the Holy Father, through Archbishop Corrigan, has sent his blessing to the clergy and the Catholics of New York, and said he would be glad to see him on his return from Palestine.

The Catholic orphan asylum on Fifth avenue and Fifty-first street, New York city, was damaged by fire Wednesday morning to the extent of \$3,000 at 8 o'clock this morning. The 100 boys, inmates of the asylum, all got out in safety. The origin of the fire is unknown.

It is said that Mgr. Rotelli, papal nuncio at Paris, will be made a cardinal.

## DIOCESAN NEWS.

What is Going on in the Parishes outside Rochester.

The Devotion of the Forty Hours, opens a week from next Sunday at Scottsville; also at the church of the Holy Family, Auburn.

John Overslaugh and Miss Lina Boyse were married at St. Francis church, Phelps, Wednesday afternoon, by Rev. J. F. Nelligan.

John Cavinaw and Miss Mary Fielding were united in marriage at St. Ann's church in Palmyra, Wednesday afternoon, by Rev. Wm. Casey.

The funeral of Miss Kate Costigan, whose death occurred Sunday last at her sister's residence in Rochester, was held in Brockport, from the church of the Assumption, B. V. M., on Tuesday at 10 a. m.

The congregation of St. John's church at Clyde gave a very pleasant reception at the town hall on Wednesday evening. Every arrangement was made for the comfort of guests, and a pleasant and enjoyable evening's sociability was guaranteed to all who attended. Hopkin's full parlor orchestra furnished the music.

### Genesee News.

Mrs. Jas. L. Kelly visited her parents at Avon for a few days this week.

Mrs. J. Neil, of Rochester, was a guest of Mrs. T. O'Meara, Sunday.

Miss Mary Biggins, visited her sister, Mrs. T. Curran, of Avon, this week.

Miss Fannie McGinty of Rochester is home visiting her parents in this village.

Misses Annie and Katie and Jas. O'Donald, of Farmington, N. Y., visited with their sister, Mrs. Wm. Crystal, last week.

A finely executed portrait of Rev. Father Leddy, of Warsaw, was on exhibition at the post office in this village for a few days this week.

Mrs. Margaret O'Connor died at the home of her son, John O'Connor, in this village, last Thursday, at the advanced age of 82 years. Mrs. O'Connor was well known in this village and LeRoy, and for the last four years she has resided with her son. She leaves surviving her one daughter and three sons. The funeral took place Saturday last, and the remains were taken to LeRoy for interment.

### Mt. Morris.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Donovan are receiving congratulations on the birth of a young daughter.

Lena Crowley, aged 31, formerly of Buffalo, died at the home of her mother in this place.

A serious accident happened at the Royal salt block this week, by which Patrick Kane, an employee, was nearly scalded to death. He was engaged wheeling salt from the end of one of the vats, when, owing to the density of the steam which prevented his seeing plainly, he slipped and fell into the boiling liquid, scalding his feet, thighs and back in a dreadful manner. Assistance was immediately rendered. He may possibly recover. He is married and about 25 years of age.

The Mt. Morris Union pays the following well deserved compliment to a well-known young Catholic of this place: "Mr. Charles Murphy, who has for several years been in charge of the United States Express Co.'s business in this place, has been rewarded for his efficiency and faithful attention to the business by promotion to the chief clerkship in the office in Oswego, and left Tuesday evening for that place. Mt. Morris can well be proud of all the young men like Charles that she produces into the world."