

## Letter of Pope Benedict XV to The American Episcopate.

To James Gibbons, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Baltimore, William O'Connell, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Boston, And to the Other Archbishops and Bishops of the United States of America.

BELOVED SONS, VENERABLE BRETHREN, HEALTH AND APOSTOLIC BENEEDICTION.

Your joint letter to Us from Washington, where you had gathered to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Episcopate of Our beloved son James Gibbons, Cardinal Priest of the Holy Roman Church, was delivered to Us on his return by Our Venerable Brother Bonaventura, Titular Archbishop of Corinth, whom We had sent to represent Us and bear you Our message of joy on this very notable occasion. Your close union with Us was confirmed anew by the piety and affection which your letter breathed, while your own intimate union was set forth in ever clearer light by the solemn celebration itself, so perfectly and successfully carried out, no less than by the great number and the cordiality of those present. For both reasons we congratulate you most heartily, Venerable Brethren, all the more, indeed, because you took the opportunity to discuss matters of the highest import for the welfare of both Church and country. We learn that you have unanimously resolved that a yearly meeting of all the bishops shall be held at an appointed place, in order to adopt the most suitable means of promoting the interests and welfare of the Catholic Church, and that you have appointed from among the bishops two commissions, one of which will deal with social questions, while the other will study educational problems, and both will report to their Episcopal brethren. This is truly a worthy resolve, and with the utmost satisfaction We bestow upon it Our approval.

It is, indeed, wonderful how greatly the progress of Catholicism is favored by those frequent assemblies of the bishops, which Our predecessors have more than once approved. When the knowledge and the experience of each are communicated to all the bishops, it will be easily seen what errors are secretly spreading, and how they can be extirpated; what threatens to weaken discipline among clergy and people and how best the remedy can be applied; what movements, if any, either local or nation-wide are afoot for the control or the judicious restraint of which the wise direction of the bishops may be most helpful. It is not enough, however, to cast out evil; good works must at once take its place, and to these men are incited by mutual example. Once admitted that the perfection of the harvest depends upon the method and the means, it follows easily that the assembled bishops, returning to their respective dioceses, will rival one another in reproducing those works which they have seen elsewhere in operation, to the distinct advantage of the faithful. Indeed, so urgent is the call to a zealous and persistent economic-social activity that we need not further exhort you in this matter. Be watchful, however, lest your flocks, carried away by vain opinions and noisy agitation, abandon to their detriment the Christian principles established by Our predecessor of happy memory, Leo XIII, in his Encyclical Letter *Rerum Novarum*. More perilous than ever would this be at the present moment, when the whole structure of human society is in danger, and all civic charity, swept by storms of envious hate, seems likely to shrivel up and disappear.

Nor is the Catholic education of children and youth a matter of less serious import, since it is the solid and secure foundation on which rests the fulness of civil order, faith and morality. You are indeed well aware, Venerable Brethren, that the Church of God never failed on the one hand to encourage most earnestly Catholic education, and on the other to vigorously defend and protect it against all attacks; were other proof of this wanting, the very activities of the Old World enemies of Christianity would furnish conclusive evidence. Lest the Church should keep intact the faith in the hearts of little children, lest her own schools should compete successfully with public anti-religious schools, her adversaries declare that to them alone belongs the right of teaching, and trample under foot and violate the native rights of parents regarding education; while vaunting unlimited liberty, falsely so-called, they diminish, withhold, and in every way hamper the liberty of religious and Catholic parents as regards the education of their children. We are well aware that your freedom from these disadvantages has enabled you to establish and support with admirable generosity and zeal your Catholic schools, nor do We pay a lesser meed of praise to the superiors and members of the religious communities of men and women who, under your direction, have spared neither expense nor labor in developing throughout the United States the prosperity and the efficiency of their schools. But, as you well realize, we must not so far trust to present prosperity as to neglect provision for the time to come, since the weal of Church and State depends entirely on the good condition and discipline of the schools, and the Christians of the future will be those and those only whom you will have taught and trained.

Our thoughts at this point turn naturally to the Catholic University at Washington. We have followed with joy its marvelous progress so closely related to the highest hope of your Churches, and for this Our good will and the public gratitude are owing principally to Our Beloved Son the Cardinal Archbishop of Baltimore and to the Rector of the University, Our Venerable Brother, the Titular Bishop of Germanicopolis. While praising them, however, we do not forget your own energetic and zealous labors, well knowing that you have all hitherto contributed in no small measure to the development

of this seat of higher studies, both ecclesiastical and secular. Nor have we any doubt but that, henceforth, you will continue even more actively to support an institution of such great usefulness and promise as is the University.

We make known to you also how deeply we rejoice to hear that popular devotion to Mary Immaculate has greatly increased in view of the proposal to build on the grounds of the University the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This most holy purpose merited the approval and cordial praise of Our Predecessor of happy memory, Pius X. We, too, have always hoped that at the earliest possible date there would be built in the National Capital of the great Republic, a temple worthy of the Celestial Patroness of all America, and that all the sooner because, under the special patronage of Mary Immaculate, your University has already attained a high degree of prosperity. The University, We trust, will be the attractive center about which will gather all who love the teachings of Catholicism; similarly, We hope that to this great church as to their own special sanctuary will come in ever greater numbers, moved by religion and piety, not only the students of the University, actual and prospective, but also the Catholic people of the whole United States. O may the day soon dawn when you, Venerable Brethren, will rejoice at the completion of so grand an undertaking! Let the good work be pushed rapidly to completion, and for that purpose let everyone who glories in the name of Catholic contribute more abundantly than usual to the collections for this church, and not individuals alone but also all your societies, those particularly which, by their rule, are bound to honor in a special way the Mother of God. Nor in this holy rivalry should your Catholic women be content with second place, since they are committed to the promotion of the glory of Mary Immaculate in proportion as it redounds to the glory of their own sex.

After thus exhorting you, it behooves Us now to set an example that will lead Our hearers to contribute with pious generosity to this great work of religion, and for this reason We have resolved to ornament the High altar of this Church with a gift of peculiar value. In due time, We shall send to Washington an image of the Immaculate Conception made by Our command in the Vatican Mosaic Workshop, which shall be at once a proof of Our devotion towards Mary Immaculate and Our goodwill toward the Catholic University. Our human society, indeed, has reached that stage in which it stands in most urgent need of the aid of Mary Immaculate, no less than of the joint endeavors of all mankind. It moves now along the narrow edge which separates security from ruin, unless it be firmly re-established on the basis of charity and justice.

In this respect, greater efforts are demanded of you than of all others, owing to the vast influence which you exercise among your people. Retaining, as they do, a most firm hold on the principles of reasonable liberty and of Christian civilization, they are destined to have the chief role in the restoration of peace and order, and in the reconstruction of human society on the basis of these same principles, when the violence of these tempestuous days shall have passed. Meantime, We very lovingly in the Lord impart the Apostolic benediction, in-

termediary of divine graces and pledge of Our paternal goodwill, to you Our Beloved Sons, to Our Venerable Brethren and to the clergy and people of your flocks, but in a particular manner to all those who shall now or in the future contribute to the building of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at Washington. Given at St. Peter's, Rome, the tenth day of April, 1919, in the fifth year of Our pontificate. BENEDICT PP. XV.

### Catholic Short Notes

The oldest Cardinal, in age, is Cardinal Cabrières, 89 years; the youngest is Cardinal Ascalesi, 47 years old.

The Redemptorist Order is preparing to erect a new seminary at Oconomowoc, Wis., to cost about \$200,000.

Philadelphia Archdiocese contributed last year for the Propagation of the Faith the large sum of \$124,669.43. This sum added to \$13,000 for the Irish Mission to China, and the sum of \$10,772.31, for the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America makes \$149,643,713 as the contribution of that Archdiocese for mission work.

The War Department has assigned two Chaplains, one Catholic and one Protestant, for each hospital ship.

In Lowell, Mass., a Catholic Charities Center has been organized.

The new Capuchin Monastery and House of Studies at the Catholic University, is built in the style of the monastic architecture of Italy, and is situated about five minutes' walk from the University buildings.

Notre Dame University has a fine collection of Italian art.

The Italians of Philadelphia will erect a large Christopher Columbus hospital in that city and place the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in charge of it. One contributor gave \$60,000 for the purchase of its site.

The number of Catholic daily papers in Holland has increased to twenty.

Italy is now constructing a railway from Rome to the port of Ostia on the Mediterranean. The distance is only about 12 miles.

Mgr. Endrici, the Prince-Bishop of Trent, remained during the war loyal to Italy, wherefore Austria imprisoned him.

At Rangoon, in China, the Little Sisters of the Poor, fourteen in number, care for nearly 100 old men.

In Mongolia there is a Grand Seminary; the ordinary seminary has fourteen theological students. The necessity for a native clergy is great.

In new Germany the great Catholic party, "The Centrum," is to be reorganized as a "Christian Democratic party." Cardinal von Hartmann, Archbishop of Cologne, in an open letter, strongly protests against the issue of the decree for the separation of Church and State on April 1, 1919.

The population of France has decreased 750,000 in four years, due mainly to lowering birth-rate.

### Catholic Press Day

To Be Observed in All Countries On June 29th, 1919.

On the 29th of June 1918, feast of St. Peter and St. Paul the third annual celebration of the Catholic Press took place in each and every city of Spain, with assistance of the Episcopate, and of more than five hundred Catholic Publishers.

The celebration was entitled: "Day of the Catholic Press." The Ora Et Labora, of the Pontifical Seminary of Seville, organized the festival to promote the interests of the Catholic Press, by Prayer, (Masses, Communion, Sermons) Propaganda (Conferences, Meetings, Watches) and collections (in churches, streets and homes).

The contribution amounted to nearly three hundred thousand (300,000 pesetas). Ten per cent of this sum was sent to Rome as an offering to Peter's Pence and the remaining ninety per cent was distributed among the various Catholic publishing houses.

His Holiness Benedict XV by Apostolic Brief on April 26th, 1918, valid for ten years has granted his supreme approbation to this work and a plenary indulgence to all the faithful of Spain who celebrate the Day of Catholic Press on the 29th of June by prayer and contribution.

Let us commence at once to prepare a universal Day of the Catholic Press which with the blessing of His Holiness Benedict XV may be celebrated in all countries of the world on the 29th day of June 1919.

### June Ordinations

Five members of the senior class from Rochester in St. Bernard's Seminary will be ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral on June 14th. Twenty-one members of the class were ordained during the past year because of the need of their services in the absence of so many priests in the army and navy service.

Those to be ordained are: Samuel J. Haughton of Hornell, Cornelius J. Hogan of Lima, John F. Neary of Geneva, Francis J. Rellivan of Rochester and Daniel R. Sullivan of Auburn, all of the diocese of Rochester. Arthur G. Cantwell and Joseph A. Delaney will be ordained in their home dioceses later.

The following will receive the subdeaconship at the same time: John Baksys, Edward Davern, Martin Doran, John L. Drury, Robert Falls, Frederick Fitzgerald, Thomas Fitzgerald, William Gavin, William Hayes, Robert Keleher, Francis Lane, R.E. Larkins, Marshal McMahana, Patrick Moffatt, Francis Nash, Walter Nawakowski, Vincent O'Connor, James Sheridan, Daniel T. Sullivan, James Tyler, John Vaughaan, Patrick Whelan and Joseph Wurzer.

Examinations begin at the seminary June 2d and the students will leave for their homes June 14th.

Ladies Auxiliary, No. 166 Will Hold a Card Party.

Ladies Auxiliary, No. 166, Knights of St. John will hold a card party at the home of Past President, Mary R. Keller, 17 Maryland St., on Monday evening, June 2nd. All members of the Auxiliary and their friends are cordially invited.

### Late News of Ireland

Cork

D. Hayes, chairman Cork Guardians, has been co-opted a member of Cork Co. Council.

At a meeting of the past pupils and friends of the Christian Brothers, Youghal, it was decided to issue a special appeal—the first since the outbreak of the war—in aid of the Brothers. Over \$200 was subscribed at the meeting.

The remains of Timothy Murphy, "Sean Dun," were interred in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Cork. The cortege was large and representative of the Gaelic League and kindred associations. Deceased was a native of Inchigleola, and was a constant contributor to Gaelic publications. He was author of several works in Irish, and translated "Robinson Crusoe." He was one of the founders of the Gaelic League in Cork.

Dublin

Delegates representing the farm laborers in all parts of County Dublin, estimated at upwards of seven thousand, attended a meeting in Liberty Hall and discussed a reduction of hours of work and increased wages. It was decided to notify the Co. Dublin Farmers' Association that unless some definite agreement were come to these men would withdraw their labor. The proceedings were adjourned with the opportunity of communicating with the union in the meantime.

Limerick

Limerick Corporation agreed to recommendations of the Allotments Committee requesting the Department to take compulsory four acres of land owned by Lord Lansdowne, portion of the manor, a football field, and other land in the suburbs.

Mayo

J. A. Mulligan, J. P., Charlestown, has been elected a member of Co. Mayo War Pensions Committee.

Married—At the Church of the Holy Family, Dublin, Martin, son of Stephen Gibbons, Partry, Ballinrobe, to Margaret, daughter of the late Thomas Roche, Prussia street, Dublin.

Died—At Ballyhaunis, of pneumonia, Annie Josephine, daughter of Timothy Eaton. At Burren, Castlebar, Julia, wife of Thomas Monney. At Prospect avenue, Westport, Margaret, wife of Patrick Clancy, Strokestown.

Tipperary

E. A. Hackett, Borough Surveyor for South Tipperary, has resigned the post of Town Surveyor for Carrisk-on-Suir Urban district.

Died—At Borrisoleigh, from pneumonia, Matthew J. Delaney, coachbuilder.—At Nenagh, Margaret, wife of David Keates, Younghalarra, aged 46.

Westmeath

Rev. Father Goodwin, C. C., three directors and a committee representing the parishioners of Streats (Westmeath and Longford) have purchased the large tract of land known as Wakefield Ranch, containing nearly 300 acres, for distribution among the landless and unemployed landholders.

Died—At Dominick street, Mullingar, Michael Scully.

Wexford

Rev. Edward Wheeler, C. C., Cushinstown, County Wexford, was presented by his late parishioners at Gorey with a substantial check in recognition of his exertions on behalf of temperance and for establishing a temperance club here.

Died—At his residence, All Saints street, Wexford, Patrick M. Deane.