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PASTORAL LETTER

—OF—

His Lordship the Bishop of Toronto,
ON MATRIMONY.



John Joseph Lynch, by the Grace of God and by
the Authority of the Holy Apostolic See, Bishop of Toronto,
Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, &c., &c.

To the Faithful of Our Diocese, Health and Benediction.

According to our Diocesan Ordinances each Pastor is bound, once a year, to give an instruction to his parishioners on the holy Sacrament of Matrimony. This year, I undertake to perform this duty myself. This blessed source of a Christian Society, in those unhappy times, is attacked by the enemy of all good, and even so called laws are enacted to place that Divine Institution on a level with merely civil contracts. I wish to remind you that this Most Solemn Engagement that can be entered into in this life has for Author God the Father Himself. That He instituted it with Solemn Ceremonies and Covenants in the Garden of Paradise, between our first parents before their fall; that he made it an indissoluble union between two persons, a man and a woman; but that in course of time, through the hardness of the hearts of the people, Our Heavenly Father tolerated divorce for adultery. His Divine Son, Jesus Christ, who came to repair, and to re-edify the shattered constitution of fallen humanity, and to make all things new (Apoc.) recalled the union of man and woman to its primitive Sanctity, and indissolubility; and raised that union to the dignity of a Sacrament in His Holy Church, that the offspring of such marriages might be a holy nation, a Sanctified people, a royal priesthood; (1 Peter, ii. 9.)