

PASTORAL LETTER

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS THE BISHOP OF MONTREAL... HOLY FATHER POPE PIUS IX. CONCERNING THE JUBILEE OF 1875.

IGNATIUS BOURGET, by the grace of God... Bishop of Montreal, Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, etc.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ON THE JUBILEE.

Dear Brethren, we bring you glad tidings, by publishing the Encyclical of Our Holy Father Pope Pius IX. who grants a universal Jubilee. Now you all know that the Jubilee is a season of great joy...

From this, Dear Brethren, you will no doubt recognize the Jubilee we proclaim to you. It is indeed a season of great joy, and of universal rejoicing...

These, Dear Brethren, are some of the happy results of the Jubilee, when it is made with good dispositions; and we consider it a great favour to be able to celebrate this new Jubilee with you...

II. ENCYCLICALS OF PIUS IX. AND LEO XII.

We have the Encyclical letter of Our Holy Father the Pope, to guide us in this important task and mark out for us the steps to take on this solemn occasion...

III. INSTRUCTION OF LEO XII.

We begin by the Letter of Leo XII. where we find serious counsels to the Bishops, Priests and Laymen, to show them what is required of them in order that the Jubilee be well made...

IV. POWER OF THE POPE IN OPENING ALL THE TREASURES OF THE CHURCH.

In reading this apostolic document, you will admire, with a feeling of earnest faith, the power exercised by the successor of St. Peter, who unlocks the spiritual treasures of Heaven, that they may be distributed over the earth...

V. VALUE OF THE GRACES OF THE JUBILEE.

What is of the greatest consequence to know is the value of the treasure opened by the Vicar of Jesus Christ in the Jubilee, and how easy it is for all to share its wealth...

VI. WORKS OF THE JUBILEE EASY TO PERFORM.

The advantage of the Jubilee should appear much more appreciable, as the works there are to do, in compensation for the long and painful satisfactions which our sins deserve even after they are forgiven, are easier to perform...

How many other examples could be brought forward, to show how much the Children of our compassion for the weakness of her Church, has lessened the severity of the works, formerly prescribed to grant plenary indulgence...

VII. PASTORAL DUTY OF THE JUBILEE. HORROR OF SIN.

As you see clearly, Dear Brethren, the Church like a good mother, applies our reconciliation with God to works easy to do, to induce us to practice zealously the exercises of the Jubilee...

VIII. PREPARING DURING THE JUBILEE.

Dear Brethren, one of the most salutary exercises used during the Jubilee and earnestly recommended, is the preaching of the word of God...

IX. THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE.

This self-consciousness of contrition and sorrow produced in souls pierced by horror at the sight of sins that have so outraged divine goodness, forms a part of the sacrament of penance, necessary to sinners who have forfeited baptismal grace...

X. THE INDULGENCES OF THE JUBILEE.

This temporal punishment is remitted by virtue of the infinite merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and by those of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints, who compose the precious treasure of the indulgences...

XI. OF SATISFACTION.

No matter what be the nature and efficiency of the indulgence of the Jubilee, you must mark well, Dear Brethren, that it does not exempt sinners from the obligation of fulfilling the penances ordered by the Confessors...

How many other examples could be brought forward, to show how much the Children of our compassion for the weakness of her Church, has lessened the severity of the works, formerly prescribed to grant plenary indulgence...

XIII. CONCLUSION.

As you see clearly, Dear Brethren, the Church like a good mother, applies our reconciliation with God to works easy to do, to induce us to practice zealously the exercises of the Jubilee...

(TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.)

FUNERAL EULOGY

DELIVERED BY THE REVEREND JAMES J. CHISHOLM, D.D.

ON THURSDAY, THE 11TH MARCH, AT THE MONTH'S MIND OF THE LATE

RIGHT REV. E. J. HORAN.

Remember your Prelates who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow considering the end of their conversation...

When our blessed Saviour stood by the tomb in which Lazarus had been laid, the sacred text remarks, that He wept, and the Jews thereupon said: "Behold how He loved him!"...

A few days ago, beloved brethren, you met at the obsequies of your late Bishop, whom you all respected and esteemed; you were witnesses to the public attestation of feeling which his bereaved friends made on that occasion...

And, in fine, if you shall have noted the poor and distressed, the orphan to whom he was a father, and the destitute whom he had relieved, have lifted up their voices and wept audibly on hearing of his death, still more consolingly you may say of those whom our blessed Lord and Saviour has left as His substitutes on earth...

But from these tears, you gather not matter for hope and earnest consolation; you feel not that mourning like this is not a barren fruitless request, but rather like the weeping of Jesus over the grave of Lazarus—a pledge that he who is thus mourned has been accepted by God, and hath put in the first resurrection...

It is then with a twofold purpose of justifying the sorrow which many feel and express, and at the same time of alleviating it by proving its justice, that I proceed to lay before you a brief biographical sketch of the lamented Bishop Horan, whose obsequies we are now celebrating...

To prepare a funeral eulogy of an illustrious personage, requires ample time, careful thought, and deep study. These are requisites not always at the command of one who is busily engaged in the discharge of the many duties of a missionary...

Custom requires that of such solemn occasions as this the virtues of the deceased should be the subject of discourse. In complying with this laudable custom, we follow the exhortation of the Apostle to remember the Prelate that spoke to us the word of God...

Each human being who meets in rational intercourse with his fellows, no matter how mean his attainments, or how low his place in the social scale, falls not to leave some impress on his race, and to exert an influence for good or for evil...

As I speak of the virtuous actions of the lamented deceased, you will learn that he made an impress on his contemporaries, that he labored in his station for the welfare of his dependants in a manner to claim their gratitude and respect...

The late Bishop Horan was born in Quebec in the year 1817, of respectable and pious parents, who were in age, if not in affluent circumstances...

When he advanced in his studies, as he advanced in years, when he arrived at that period when prudent young men deem it proper to deliberate and choose their future state of life, he, after much care and thought, after serious consultations with his spiritual director, resolved upon entering the ecclesiastical state...

In coming to this determination he chose to become a member of that distinguished body of Priests who are known as the Seminary of Quebec, a body of men who in times past as well as to-day, have been, and is body of ecclesiastics eminent in learning and piety...

After careful instruction and preparation in that celebrated institution, which has so well trained so many worthy priests of this and other dioceses of the country, he received Holy Orders with the present eminent Prelate the Archbishop of Quebec, and with other distinguished ecclesiastics...

In the Seminary he occupied several of its higher positions. He was at one time manager of its temporalities; at another he was director, and in charge of the discipline and management of the youth...

Although he had not the charge of any parish, he exercised the functions of the ministry as occasion required, with that willingness and devotion belonging to a zealous priest...

That he was a good and zealous priest, ready to expose his life to a dangerous disease for the good of souls, was proved in the eventful year 1847...

That year was painfully an eventful year for Ireland. In the previous year there was a general failure of the crops. The fearful effects of the calamity became apparent in the winter and spring of 1847, when unnumbered thousands were deprived of the necessities of life...

A brother priest and myself, after 27 years, still have a vivid recollection of the appalling scenes witnessed in this city—in the hospital, in the garrets of private dwellings, on the boats, and on the wharves here below...

Too vividly impressed on my memory is a visit I made on an oppressively hot summer's day to that stone hospital beyond. The floors of the sheds building was filled to its utmost. The main-nerved in the garret-baffle description...

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Victims of charity. A brother Priest retains the painful memory of that year. His father and mother in the abundance of their charity received into their home a poor emigrant from Ireland who died within a few hours of one another...

Toronto can boast of Bishop Power as a martyr of charity. Kingston can mention with pride the name of a Priest and of a Sister of the Hotel Dieu, Montreal and Quebec cherish affectionately the memory of the many who fell in the cause of charity...

Our late beloved Bishop was one of that heroic band of Christian heroes who went to that house of penitence and death in Grosjean's Isle. He saw several of his companions carried away by the fell disease, yet unflinchingly and unselfish devotion he remains at his post, till he was stricken by the fearful malady...

I should mention that if there was heroism displayed by the Priests, there was heroism displayed also by the Sisters of Charity. Here, in Kingston, the Sisters of the Hotel Dieu left their peaceful abode and served as nurses in the stone hospital beyond...

Men speak of the courage of the soldier who braves the dangers of death at the mouth of the cannon; while he exposes himself, he goes to kill and destroy, whereas the heroic Priest and the heroic Sister of Charity face the danger of death to comfort and to save...

The great and truly Christian charity of our French Canadian countrymen shone conspicuously during that calamitous year. Though aliens in language and aliens in national feeling they were not aliens as fellow creatures, and as members of the same fold of Christ...

After Father Horan had recovered from his dangerous and painful sickness and had risen as it were from the grave he fulfilled regularly his duties as a member of the Seminary...

In June 1857, the See of Kingston became vacant by the death of Bishop Phelan. In Feb., 1858, Father Horan received the intimation that he was appointed Bishop of Kingston. At this time he was director of the Normal School at Quebec, the object of which is to train teachers for schools, the position was an honorable one, one congenial to his tastes and inclinations...

He was consecrated Bishop on the 1st May, 1858. In the month of June following he left Quebec, and on his arrival in this city, he met with a most cordial welcome. If he naturally felt regret at parting from his native home, his friends and acquaintances here, diminished his regrets, reconciled him to his new home, and cheered and encouraged him to commence his labors in his new sphere with great pleasure and earnest zeal...

A Bishop coming into a diocese already established has to continue the good work of his predecessors. It is true to the memory of Bishop Horan, to say that as long as he was in the vigor of health he zealously attended to all the duties that are to be performed by a Bishop, he visited Missions, administered Confirmation, he was present at laying corner stones of new churches, at the blessing and consecration of churches...

One of the most important and most difficult duties of a Bishop in this country is to provide Priests for new Missions, and to fill the vacancies which occur through death and other causes. With what earnest solicitude he attended to this duty both young and the older members of the Priesthood can bear ample testimony...

While he was anxious for the formation and sanctification of young Priests he was not unmindful of what was due for the sanctification and spiritual advancement of all the Clergy under his charge, with this view he assembled them annually to spend a few days in retirement. Meditation and prayer, for prayer and meditation is not less necessary for Priests than it is for all Christians...

The good Bishop as Chief Pastor, willing to show good example, attended those retreats. He was humble enough to confess that they were as beneficial and necessary for himself as they were for his Priests...

During his administration a large number of churches were erected, many of them of costly and elegant design. A number of others were enlarged and repaired. And here we may say that these and the increased number of Priests and the formation of new Parishes, while they are the evidence of marked progress they are the proofs of his activity and zeal...

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