

III 11.) Councils of Bishops have been always held in the Church on the model of that held in Jerusalem by the Apostles to settle matters of discipline, (Acts xv,) and of that when Matthias was chosen to succeed to the Episcopacy forfeited by the unhappy Judas. (Acts i.) Our Lord Jesus Christ has promised that where two or three would be gathered together in His name, He would be there in the midst of them. (Matt. xviii) Now, may we not with confidence expect that Christ, who promised also to be always with His Church, will be in the midst of His Bishops, praying and consulting together for the extension of His Kingdom on Earth? More than all others, the Faithful are interested that the Holy Spirit preside over and direct these solemn assemblies; consequently they ought to pray with fervor and constancy to obtain this favor from the Father of Lights, from whom cometh every good and excellent gift. (St. James i.) You will, then, Rev. and Dear Sir, engage your parishioners to acquit themselves faithfully of this important duty of prayer. From the receipt of this present letter until the end of the Council, you will please to add to the other collects at Mass the prayer *de Spiritu Sancto*. In Parish Churches and Religious Communities the Litany of the Blessed Virgin will be recited, after Mass, with the people, that She, through whom we have received Him who redeemed us, may obtain for us from her Divine Son, the grace to sanctify us.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

† JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH,

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