

23 Sept 1914
PASTORAL LETTER

OF THE MOST REVEREND AND RIGHT REVEREND
ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES
OF QUEBEC, MONTREAL AND OTTAWA,
REGARDING THE DUTIES OF CATHOLICS IN THE PRESENT WAR.

WE, BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND OF THE HOLY SEE-
ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PRO-
VINCES OF QUEBEC, MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

*To the secular and regular clergy and to all the faithful of our
dioceses, health and benediction in Our Lord.*

Dearly beloved Brethren,

For the past two months — and God alone knows how long
the scourge will last — war has been raging in the greater
part of the Continent of Europe. It is our earnest hope that
all the woes following in its wake may be, in the end, God's
means to work out the moral and social regeneration of nations.
The pall of death spreads over countries hitherto most prosper-
ous, and mournings thicken in homes least known to dis-
tress. The cannon has sown desolation in families past num-
ber by thousands are wives bewailing the loss of their hus-
bands, and mothers that of their children, and orphans
that of their parents. Cities destroyed by fire, monuments
overthrown; hearths extinguished; fields laid waste; fac-