

INSTRUCTIONS
OF
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF MONTREAL
TO HIS CLERGY
REGARDING
MIXED MARRIAGES

Dear Co-Workers,

It is with great sorrow that we witness among the Catholics of our diocese an ever-increasing tendency to mixed marriages. In the past few years, we have sometimes deemed it our duty to yield to the solicitations made, and to grant, though reluctantly, the required dispensations. But these requests are daily becoming more numerous and the time has now come for energetic reactionary measures; the evil must be removed at all costs before it is too late. This is a question, which eminently concerns the faith of our flock, and for this reason, I now appeal to all the earnestness of your apostolic zeal.

In this, it is not by any means our intention to hurt the feelings of those who do not share our belief. But their religious principles, as they well know, are essentially opposed to ours; therefore they must not wonder if our legislation, our direction and our way of acting differ from theirs. When we preach tolerance, nay kindness and charity towards all our brethren, to whatever sect they may belong, we remain and must remain intransigent, when there is question of doctrine. For truth is one, it does not suffer any compromise with error. The good faith of others deserves our respect, but it cannot however change that which God has established. There is but one Church; our duty is to observe its laws and to have them observed. We do not impose our dogmas upon others, and no one can reproach us for being inconsistent.