

But as We are convinced that that peace and victory will be more readily and easily accorded to us if the faithful constantly address their prayers to God to ask Him for it, We exhort you ardently, Venerable Brethren, to excite the zeal and fervour of the faithful by requesting them to seek the mediation at the Throne of God of the Immaculate Queen of Heaven, and as intercessors, St Joseph, the celestial patron of the Church; the holy apostles, Peter and Paul, to whose powerful patronage We recommend Our humble person, all the Orders of the ecclesiastical hierarchy and all the flock of the Lord. In addition, We desire that those days when We celebrate the solemn anniversary of the resurrection of Jesus Christ may be blessed and full of holy joy for you and for all the flock of the Lord, and We pray God, who is so good, to blot out the sins which we have committed, and to mercifully remit the punishments we have deserved, by the virtue of the blood of the Immaculate Lamb, who has effaced the stain of our condemnation.—*Benedictio Dei, &c.*

Given at St.-Peter's, Rome, Easter Sunday, 21st April, 1878, the first year of Our Pontificate.

LEO PP. XIII.