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Edward,

By the Grace of God and Favor of  
The Apostolic See,

Bishop of Saint John,

To the Clergy, Religious Orders and Laity  
of the Diocese:

Health and Benediction in the Lord.

DEAR BRETHREN:

It has seemed good to us at the beginning of the holy season of Lent to stir up your faith and devotion by reminding you of a very sacred and indispensable duty which you all owe to God and to yourselves — the duty of prayer. No man, be he saint or sinner, can ever divest himself of the obligation to pray, for prayer is an essential element of divine worship, a vital necessity of the soul.

The first motive on which the obligation of prayer is founded is the relation that exists between the Creator and creature, by virtue of which man is bound, according to the first principles of the law of nature, to turn himself, as soon as he is capable, to that supreme Being to whom he owes his existence. Even though we could not obtain any new gifts or favors from God, we should still be bound to adore and bless His holy name, to praise His goodness, and to return Him thanks for benefits already bestowed. But because God has established prayer as the ordinary means of obtaining all the graces we need, we have an additional motive for complying with this essential christian duty.