

The seventh, extends to all the Dioceses of this Province, without exception, the ancient rule which circumscribes the limits of the jurisdiction of parish priests in this Archdiocese: so that, henceforward, by virtue of this decree, every parish priest of this Province shall be authorized to preach and to hear confessions in those parishes, even of another diocese than his own, of which the nearest habitations are not more than nine miles distant from the limits of the parish committed to his care.

In the tenth, the fathers of the Council, heedful of the exhortations of the Sovereign Pontiff, raise their voice against that host of errors and heresies which, in this age of unbelief, the agents of hell continually invent, and which they leave no means untried to propagate among men, to the misery of nations, and the ruin of souls. In order to oppose them with greater force and better success, they invoke the supreme authority of the Holy Father, and ordain that to the present decree be joined his two important allocutions (those of 1854 Dec. 9 and 1862 June 9), in which he points out to the christian world, proscribes and condemns all those monstrous errors.

The eleventh, cheerfully do we believe it, D. B. B., will find a loud echo in your catholic hearts. It contains a warm protestation of respect and love for, and attachment to the Sovereign Pontiff, the glorious Pius IX, made in the name of the Bishops, the Clergy, and all the Faithful of this Province, and accompanied with a solemn act of adhesion to the celebrated declaration of the Bishops, gathered in Rome in 1862 for the canonization of the Holy Martyrs of Japan, concerning the temporal rights of the Holy See: which declaration is but the faithful expression of the sentiments of the Bishops, the Clergy, and all true Catholics throughout the world.

This decree, we feel convinced of it, will receive your hearty approbation, and you are prepared to subscribe to it with joy. In these unhappy days, when Hell and the world seem to have formed a league, to wage a relentless war against the Head of the Church, it is glorious for the children of that Church, to proclaim in the face of the world their filial respect and tender love for the Holy Pontiff, and their inviolable attachment to his sacred person; it is desirable and of the utmost importance that all Catholics should raise their voice together to defend him and to safeguard his rights; it is their duty, in fine, and a source of happiness to them, to gather round his throne, in order thus to remain more closely united to him and to each other, and thereby to be enabled to protect him more efficaciously against the aggressions of his enemies.

Lastly, the twelfth decree of our Council relates to our noble Laval University.