

**Cornelius, by the Grace of God, and favour of  
the Apostolic See, Archbishop of Halifax.**

*To the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese health and  
Benediction in the Lord.*

DEARLY BELOVED :

The Apostle St. Paul, writing to the Ephesians concerning the gifts received through Christ our Saviour said :—"For by grace you are saved through Faith ; and this not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God." (Eph. ii., 8.) Not of ourselves then can we gain everlasting life ; but through the supernatural aids of Faith and grace, teaching our intellect the eternal truth, and inclining our will to seek and embrace, and practise in our daily life that truth. The faculties of our soul, and the powers of our body, must in their own way offer service to our Creator. Our first duty is to strive to know the will of God ; and our first obligation is to do it as soon as it is known. Faith will enable us to know the former, and grace will aid us to do the latter. The holy Apostle warns the Ephesians in the same Epistle to "walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise redeeming the time, for the days are evil." "Wherefore," he adds, "become not unwise, but understanding what is the will of God."—(Eph. v., 15, 16, 17.)

If the days were evil when the Apostle wrote this—if it were necessary to warn the faithful to walk circumspectly, and not to become unwise with the many who did not endeavour to understand "what is the will of God," it is no less necessary to renew that warning now, for surely the days are evil, and the times dangerous. We have not the open brutality and public vices of pagan times : we have a better ordered state of society,