

LEO XIII, POPE

Ad perpetuam rei memoriam Motu proprio.

THE filial piety of certain of the faithful inspired them of old with the idea of erecting in the Eternal City and, so to speak, under our very eyes, a church dedicated to St. Joachim, Our heavenly patron. That edifice was intended to recall to posterity the fiftieth anniversary of Our sacerdotal ordination and also our episcopacy. We therefore willingly approved that project, for it seemed to Us but proper that the remembrance of God's favors to Us should be consecrated by a lasting monument.

The Catholics contributed so promptly and so generously to this undertaking that from all sides and without delay considerable sums of money poured in. This striking proof of affection and of filial piety rejoiced Us all the more that We knew that the church would be built in a quarter of the city of Rome where the population is dense and spiritual aid is but too rare.

Thus all contributed to the work; which was begun with such ardor that it was possible to conceive the hope of seeing it completed before long. - But, as every one knows, this expectation was entirely frustrated, and the undertaking fell a prey to bad administration and to disorder. Therefore, in order that the intentions of the Catholics might not be thwarted, we confided the direction of the work provisionally to Our Venerable Brother Joseph Marie Constantini, Archbishop of Patras, and the care of the church to the priest Hippolyte Onesti. We took the completion of the undertaking upon ourselves as well as the debts due upon it.

But to-day being desirous of placing it on a more solid basis, We turn Our eyes upon the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. We know in fact the object that St. Alphonsus, their father and their legislator, has defined for them. to consider as their habitual and special duty to devote all their zeal to spreading Christian morals and piety among nations.

We therefore appoint those religious to administer the said church of St. Joachim and to perform all religious duties therein according to custom. But we decide and declare that the church of St. Joachim itself and all works dependent therefrom shall be under Our proper and perpetual jurisdiction and under that of Our Successors in the Pontificate.