

# C I R C U L A R .

BISHOP'S PALACE,  
KINGSTON, 16TH APRIL, 1863. }

REV. DEAR SIR,—

The third Council of this Ecclesiastical Province will assemble in Quebec on the 14th May next, the feast of the Ascension of Our Blessed Lord.

These periodical meetings of the Bishops of the Province should be, to every Catholic heart, a source of joy and consolation; because they give satisfactory proof that the Church is, in our midst, full of life and vigor, and that She successfully pursues, heedless of the blind hatred of her adversaries, the holy mission of peace and salvation She received from her divine Founder. Those solemn assemblies of the Bishops should also awaken in the breasts of all a lively interest, since they are convoked in order that the Bishops may, after mature deliberation, adopt those measures which will most effectually guard the spiritual interests of the people confided to their care, and establish such disciplinary rules as they may judge necessary for the general good.

If it is, at all times, our duty to have recourse to prayer, to obtain from God that He would bless our labors, and grant us the graces of which we stand in need, what urgent motives have we not, at the present moment, to raise our voices in prayer in order that, ever mindful of the promises made to His Church, God would enlighten and direct the Bishops who are about to assemble in His name to consult on the present wants of the Church in this Province and to make those regulations which may appear to them conducive to the spiritual welfare of those committed to their charge.

You will then, Reverend and Dear Sir, earnestly exhort your people to offer up their prayers to Heaven, and to implore the Father of lights that He would send down from the throne of His Majesty upon the Bishops in Council assembled, *the Spirit of wisdom that sitteth by His throne, that it may be with them and labor with them; that they may know what is acceptable to the Divine Majesty, what is useful for the glory of His Church, and what is best calculated to promote the spiritual advancement of the people confided to their care.*

To this end I have thought proper to issue the following regulations to be observed throughout this Diocese:—

1st.—From the first day of May until the Feast of the Ascension, each Priest will recite besides the collect *Pro Papa* already prescribed, the prayer *de Spiritu Sancto*.

2nd.—On every Sunday and holyday from the same date until Pentecost Sunday included, at the close of the parochial Mass, after the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, which is said for the Holy Father, you will recite publicly, three Our Fathers and three Hail Mary's, to implore the blessing of God on the labors of the Council.

The rigorous season we have just passed through, the deficiency of the crops, and the great want to which the farming population in particular is at present reduced, should convince us of our entire dependence on Divine Providence, and teach us to ask in humble prayer, all that we require to supply our wants.

Our Holy Mother the Church, to encourage in her children this feeling of dependence, and to strengthen in us the spirit of prayer, has established the Rogation days. I invite you to explain to your people the origin and the object of those days, to exhort them to assist, as far as their occupations will allow, at the Holy Sacrifice of Mass on those days, and to unite their prayers to those of the universal Church, to implore the Divine Blessing on the fruits of the earth, and to ask of God all that they stand in need of for time and eternity.

On the Rogation Days, after Mass, you will recite publicly the Litany of the Saints, with the prayers which follow.

I remain, Reverend and dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

† E. J. Bp. of KINGSTON.