

in their ears, while the scenes of scandal were yet present to their view, could the Bishops, your Pastors, who are to give an account for your souls, could they remain silent? Where they not obliged to raise their voice in the name of Religion, to remind you of the sanctity of an attestation under oath, to declare to you solemnly, as they did in their decree, that, under all circumstances and pretences whatever, an appeal to the holy name of God, for the purpose of making rash, unjust, or false oaths, is an enormous insult offered up to the divine majesty and a detestable crime.

Let you, D. B. B., deeply imprint in your hearts the solemn admonitions addressed to you by the Fathers of the Second Council. Fear God, respect his holy name; tremble at the thoughts of profaning it by perjury, and thereby drawing down on you the chastisement of his wrath.

Such is the faith and substance of the decrees of the Second Council, which, for your edification and instruction, we deemed ourselves obliged to make known to you; such is the result of the labours of the bishops of this Province, which they began under the influence of the Holy Ghost, which they prosecuted under the invocation of Mary, in their holy sessions, and which they crowned by an ardent prayer to the Queen of Angels, imploring her to extend her powerful protection over their own persons and their dioceses, over their own souls and yours; invoking her, even then, as the Patroness of this metropolis and of the Province, under the beautiful title of Virgin conceived without sin; title so cherished in your hearts, under which you to-day invoke her with delight, love and confidence; glorious title which heaven has lately revealed to earth and under which we, with the whole Church of God, will henceforth invoke her, repeating incessantly with renewed love and fervor: *Regina sine labe concepta, ora pro nobis*, Queen conceived without sin, pray for us, Amen.

This our pastoral Letter shall be read and proclaimed at the prone of all churches, parochial chapels, or other places of public worship, as also in chapter in all religious houses, on the first Sunday after its reception.

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