

ves, we are certain that you will receive them in a great spirit of faith, being fully persuaded of their importance even to the slightest detail. Every point has been weighed in the scales of the sanctuary. Those rules of discipline are the expression of the will and law of God in your regard. We wish that it may be said of every one of you : *Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius*. (Ps. xxxvi, 31).

In respect to the decrees that concern the faithful in general, make your people understand thoroughly all the respect and obedience which they deserve. They have been proclaimed by those delegates of the Holy Gospel whose mission is to teach the world : *Euntes ergo docete omnes gentes*. (Math. xxviii, 19) ; by those doctors of the new law, grounded in the science of Jesus himself : *quia omnia quaecumque audivi a Patre meo, nota feci vobis*. (Joan. xv, 15) ; by those vicars and representatives deputed by the Saviour to men : *sicut misit me Pater et ego mitto vos*. (Joan. xx, 21) ; by those princes of the Church whom the Holy Ghost has established to lead and direct it : *Sanctus Spiritus posuit episcopos regere ecclesiam Dei* (Act. xv. 28.) ; finally by those successors of the apostles who, under the supreme jurisdiction of the successor of St. Peter, have the right to judge of the orthodoxy of faith and to carry laws into the limits of their respective dioceses. For if Jesus Christ told St. Peter to feed his lambs and his sheep : *Pasce agnos meos ... pasce oves meas* (Joan. xxi, 15-17), Peter in his turn said to the Bishops : *Pascite qui in vobis est gregem Dei*. (1 Pet. v. 2.) Furthermore, their decisions should enjoy all the more authority, that the judges of doctrine assembled in solemn conclave under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, to communicate to each other their studies and their lights, to adopt in concert the most proper means and the most efficacious preservatives, in order