

As the most representative and important of all the congresses, the whole Catholic world was at once interested in the nineteenth, which was held in London, September 9-13, 1908, and regarded as the greatest religious triumph of its generation. In an affectionate letter voicing anew his interest in the congresses, the Pope once more designated Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli as his legate to attend the sessions. More than three hundred and fifty years had elapsed since a legate from the Pope had been seen in England. With him were six other cardinals, fourteen archbishops, seventy bishops and a host of priests. No such gathering of ecclesiastics had ever been seen outside of Rome in modern times, and English Catholics prepared to make it locally even more memorable. The Mass on Sunday, September 13, celebrated by the Papal legate, and at which Cardinal Gibbons preached, closed the series of splendid ceremonies that marked the congress. Vespers followed and the solemn procession took place.

It had been intended to carry the Blessed Sacrament through the streets, but owing to a protest and public clamor against this, made by the societies composing the Protestant Alliance, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, sent a formal request to Archbishop Bourne on the part of "His Majesty's Government," for the abandonment of this program, and this was complied with. The legate, attended by the guard of honor, headed by the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England, and made up of eleven English noblemen and the Duke of Orleans and the Comte d'Eu and some members of the French Chamber of Deputies, after passing over the route, gave solemn benediction from the balcony of the cathedral. — *The Catholic Encyclopedia*.

The Congress of 1909 met in Cologne, that of 1910 in Montreal. At the latter, Cardinal Vannutelli was the papal legate. This was the first congress held in the New World, and was one of the most successful. The Congress of 1911 was held in Madrid, and was a remarkable exhibition of the faith of the Spanish people.

*The Catholic Telegraph*, Oct. 5, 1911.