

APOSTOLIC LETTER

Of Our Holy Father PIUS X.

ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSAL JUBILEE
IN MEMORY OF THE PEACE GIVEN BY THE EMPEROR
CONSTANTINE THE GREAT TO THE CHURCH.

PIUS PP. X.

To all the faithful in Christ who shall read this Our Letter, Health and the Apostolic Benediction.

(*Magni faustique*). The commemoration of the great and happy event through which, sixteen centuries ago, Peace was finally given to the Church, while it fills all Catholics with the greatest joy and calls them to works of piety, moves Us to open the treasures of celestial gifts that choice and copious fruits may accrue from that solemnity. Nothing indeed could be more fitting and opportune than the celebration of the Edict promulgated at Milan by the Emperor Constantine the Great, following close upon the victory over Maxentius obtained under the glorious Standard of the Cross—the Edict which put an end to the cruel persecution of the Christians and placed them in possession of the liberty bought at the price of the Blood of the Divine Redeemer and the Martyrs. Then at last the Church Militant gained the first of those triumphs which throughout its history have invariably followed persecutions of every sort, and from that day ever increasing benefits have accrued to the human race. For men, abandoning by degrees the superstitious worship of idols, in their laws, customs and institutions followed ever more the rule of Christian life, and so it came to pass that justice and love flourished together on the earth. Therefore We think it appropriate that on this happy occasion on which such a great event is commemorated prayers should be multiplied to God, to His Virgin Mother, and to all the Blessed, especially to the Holy Apostles, that all peoples, renewing the dignity and