

St. Boniface—Arch-
and Private Secretary,
al and two theologians,
Montreal—Archbishop
theologians.

Kingston—Archbishop
theologians, Mgr.
Father Hartigan.
Halifax—Archbishop
Private Secretary, Vicar
theologians.

Toronto—Archbishop
ate-secretary, Rev. J.
McCann, V. G. and two
Morris and Moyn,
tigonis—Bishop Cam-
ologian.

Brook—Bishop Lorrain
ologian.
terboro—Bishop R. A.
ery Rev. Archdeacon

ouski—Mgr. Blais, with
Charlotte—Bishop J.
three theologians,
lleyfield—Mgr. Emar

ontreal—Mgr. Labrec-
ologian.
erbrook—Mgr. Laroc-
ologian.

John—Bishop Casey
ologian.
Albert—Mgr. Legal,
theologian.

atham, N. B.—Bishop
theologian.
rieolet—Mgr. Brunault
ologian.

liette—Mgr. Archam-
ologian.
ult St. Marie—Bishop
theologian, Father

Hyacinthe—Mgr. Ber-
ologian.
exandra—Bishop W. A.
ery Rev. Father Cor-

Albert—Mgr. Pas-
ologian.
ictoria—Bishop Alex.
theologian.

ostolic of Athabasca—
theologian, Mgr.
theologian.
ostolic of the Gulf of St.
Blanche and one theo-

ostolic of Temiskaming—
one theologian.
ostolic of the Yukon—
one theologian.

ancouver—Very Rev. P.
L. Administrator, with
Ottawa—Mgr. Rouhier,
with one theologian and
Ottawa University, Very
rphy, O. M. L.

London—Mgr. Meunier,
theologian, Mgr. J. T.
don, theologian.

Hamilton—Very Rev.
y, V. G., representing
and Father Walter,
ologian.

ostolic of Mackenzie—
O. M. L., representing
one theologian.
tbot of Oka.

Orders represented
s, Dominicans, Francis-
cans, Sulpicians, Res-
tutes, Resurrectionists,
St. Vincent and

the Council, notwith-
the cars which have been
years in the preparation,
In order to set the
motion a preliminary

the members of the Council
Laval University on Sat-
day. His Excellency ad-
dressed and eloquent allocu-
tion. After the official

the work was divided,
consisted of seven commis-
sionaires presided over by
bishops. These commis-

their particular subject
committees of parliament,
as might be expected,
also their report to the
tever decision the Coun-

upon a particular point
benefited by admitting
confidence. Little news
be given from week to
well founded confidence

members of the Council
live to the importance of
and the sacred trust im-

the 19th, the first public
Council took place in the
unequaled pomp of cere-
monies, the procession, con-

the members of the Coun-
cils and bishops in cope and
chirochiers, the others in
robes, started from the

company of zones formed
side. The procession
street and around the
front entrance of the

up, all glittering with light
with handsome bunting,
pressive. The arrange-
ment was perfect. Each one had his

Nothing could be
seen than the sight of
ry. On a throne on the
side sat the Apostolic

the epistle side the Arch-
bishop, who sang the Mass,
and the representative of
in the sanctuary were
the Canadian clergy—

ers as perhaps never be-
fore were delivered, one
Mgr. Bruchesi, Arch-
bishop, and the other in
Mgr. Gauthier, Archbishop

We publish both—the
translation. As soon as Mass

was finished the Council was opened by
the Delegate. This ceremony consisted
of prayer, the chanting of psalms and
the "Veni Creator." The Delegate
thereupon pronounced an allocution in
Latin, and was followed by the Chief
Secretary, who read the decrees to be
promulgated.

The following is the list of the pro-
motors, and others officers of the Coun-
cil:

Promoters—Mgr. Marois and Mgr.
C. O. Gagnon.
Secretaries—Chief Secretary, M.
L'Abbe Lecoq; Assistant Secretaries,
Fathers Lortie, Curran, Roy, J. P.
Treacy and Chancellor Piette.

Notaries—Fathers McNally and La-
flamme.
Censors—Fathers Huard and Robert.

ARCHBISHOP GAUTHIER'S SERMON.
"Take heed to yourselves, and the
whole flock, wherein the Holy Spirit
hath placed you Bishops, to rule the
Church of God, which He hath pur-
chased with his own blood." (The Acts,
chap. 20, verse 28.)

With solemnities that well befit an
event destined to mark a distinct epoch
in the ecclesiastical annals of this
country, the First Plenary Council of
Canada opens to-day.

The Councils of the Church rank
with her most venerable institutions,
tracing their origin to the apostolic
times—the first council having been
held in Jerusalem about the middle of
the first century.

They are defined as assemblies of her
Bishops, who, being convoked by com-
petent authority to consider and discuss
matters pertaining to religion, are
vested with power to enact legislation
binding the consciences of all the
faithful subject to the jurisdiction of the
Bishops thus convoked.

Four classes of Councils are to be
enumerated: there is the General or
Ecumenical Council, composed of the
Bishops of the Catholic world with the
Pope at their head; the National or
Plenary Council, composed of the
Bishops of an entire nation or country
and presided over by an Apostolic
Delegate; the Provincial Council, con-
sisting of the Bishops of an ecclesiasti-
cal province under their Metropolitan;
and the Diocesan Council, more com-
monly called a Diocesan Synod, con-
sisting of a Bishop together with his
priests convoked in synod by him.

That Councils are of absolute neces-
sity to the permanent existence of the
Church, cannot be successfully main-
tained: for assuredly Almighty God in
the government of his Church is not
restricted to the employment of any
particular agency.

However, among the most efficacious
means conducing to the great purpose
for which Holy Church endures, Ca-
tholics have always accounted the as-
semblies of Bishops united in obedience
to the Chief Bishop to whom is com-
mitted the care of the whole flock—the
sheep and the lambs, pastors and people.

For, as the Divine Redeemer in
assuming our human nature was pleased
to subject Himself to its conditions—
"Having been made like unto us," as St.
Paul says, "in all things sin alone ex-
cepted," even so it is manifest that, in
ordinating His Church for the outpouring
of plentiful redemption on mankind, the
God-man hath willed that human agency
be employed by her while yet she so-
journs in a world of mortal men.

And thus do we find His Vicars on this earth,
the supreme Pontiffs, although them-
selves inherently endowed with sov-
ereign infallible competency to decide all
controversies relating to doctrine, from
time to time, calling together the
Bishops of the whole world to confer with
them, and the Bishop also appointed by
the Holy Ghost to rule the Church, to
confer with each other for the determina-
tion of matters of vital importance to the
Church—such as the official condemna-
tion of error, the defence and elucidation
of orthodox doctrines, the adoption
of the best means for the promotion of
sound morality among the people, the
enactment of disciplinary regulations
for the guidance of the clergy, and
even for the definition and promulgation
of dogmas of revealed truth.

These celebrated assemblies of the
rulers of the Church of God stand out
through the ages as everlasting monu-
ments of inspiration, her wisdom, her
power and her beneficence, while they
have inaugurated new eras in her
history and in the history of modern
nations.

For some time past the Bishops of
Canada have contemplated the holding
of an assemblage of the kind in which
to take counsel with one another and to
concert such measures in common as
would conduce to the spiritual welfare
of the faithful confided to their care.

It was, therefore, with deep satisfaction
that in a letter addressed to them on the
second of May of the present year they
received an official message from the
illustrious representative of the Holy
See in this country, announcing that the
time had at length come for the holding
of such an assembly, that he had been
appointed to convolve it and preside
over its deliberations, and that "our
Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ on
this earth, amid the innumerable cares
of his supreme Pontificate, in order to
give another signal proof of his paternal
solicitude for this chosen portion of
the Lord's Vineyard, had deigned, after
consultation with the most eminent
fathers of the sacred congregation, to
approve and applaud the project of a
Canadian Plenary Council to be held in
the City of Quebec.

Thus has it come to pass that on this
memorable day and at the call of supreme
authority the whole body of the Canadian
Episcopate is assembled in this
great historic city, wherein is seated
the ancient church which all the other
churches of Canada gratefully acclaim
as their mother, to whom her daughter
churches are ever willing to accord a
filial tribute of homage and veneration
—to deliberate and to legislate for the
permanent sustenance and fruitful in-
crease of our Holy religion in this
vigorous and hopeful young country.

In order then that an assembly of the
Bishops of a country may be endowed
with the prerogatives proper to a Plenary
Council there are four conditions
to be verified: (1), it must be convoked

by legitimate authority; (2), it must be
attended by all the chief rulers of the
Church of the country in which it is
held; (3), it must have for its especial
purpose the consideration and discussion
of matters relating to religion; and (4),
the Bishops taking part therein must be
invested with adequate authority to
legislate for the Church throughout the
whole country.

The present assembly possesses all the
conditions of a Plenary Council, fulfil-
ling, as it does, the conditions re-
quired. It has been convened by a
special delegate of the Holy See in the
person of His Excellency, the Most Rev.
Donato Sbarretti, Archbishop of Ephesus,
and Apostolic Delegate to Canada.

Save those who are lawfully exempted
it includes all the chief rulers of the
Church in this country who are come to-
gether for the purpose of studying and
conferring with one another upon the
needs and other prevailing conditions of
the Canadian Church, and who as a col-
lective body, are duly authorized to pass
such decrees and enact such statutes as
will, after their confirmation by the
Holy See, have the character and force
of ecclesiastical law for all the subjects
of the Church over this entire Dominion.

The opportunity of the Council at a
time when the Church in this country is
passing from its missionary state to its
more fixed and normal condition is man-
ifest. For if we consider the vast extent
of this country—the vastness of this
great Continent of America—in con-
junction with the truly cosmopolitan
character of its inhabitants drawn from
every country in the world and bearing
with them the religious and racial tradi-
tions peculiar to each, we shall readily
reach the conviction that something
special should be done, some special
movement be inaugurated, some special
force set in action to harmonize and
unify the diverse and sometimes discord-
ant elements that form our population,
to remove the inequities and unequal-
ities evolved from those conditions, and
by establishing a greater uniformity of
ecclesiastical discipline to secure a
fuller observance of the general laws of
the Church, and the decrees of the
General Councils, and to strengthen the
ties that bind the individual churches to
the parent Church of Rome, the recog-
nized mistress of all churches of Christen-
dom.

Less than one hundred years ago
there was but one Diocese and one
Bishop in this land. To-day the Cana-
dian Church is governed by an Apostolic
Delegate, eight Archbishops and
nearly thirty Bishops. In the contrast
afforded there is indeed a striking il-
lustration of the rapid growth and
marvellous extension of our Holy re-
ligion during the intervening years.

Therefore, have we abundant cause to
rejoice, and to raise our hearts in
thanksgiving to Almighty God, the
Giver of all good gifts, for the bound-
less favors he has bestowed upon
this chosen portion of his Vineyard.

And while we make humble acknowl-
edgment to the Most Mighty, that
from His divine hand has come what-
ever measure of prosperity our Cana-
dian Church has been blessed with in
the past, let us not cease to pray and
hope for its continued prosperity in the
future.

We have already solicited and again
to-day do we invoke, the generous co-
operation of our faithful people in the
union of their fervent prayers with our
own earnest supplications to God that
He may bless this First Plenary Council
of Canada, and all who take part in it—
the Bishops and the eminent and learned
ecclesiastics associated with them.

Let us beg of Him that His Holy Spirit
may be close to us to enlighten our
minds with His divine light, to inflame
our hearts with the fire of His love, and
to direct us in our labors.

These labors concern His Holy Name
and are undertaken for His greater
honor and glory. May the Divine
Pastor who alone can give the harvest
cause our deliberations to produce
abundant fruit. May the salvation of
multitudes be more assured. May our
Holy religion be further diffused and
extended. May the court yards of our
cities and towns be enlarged.

Amongst us; and as far as possible, may
all things be restored in Christ.

ARCHBISHOP BRUCHESI'S SERMON.
His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi of
Montreal, preached from the text: "Go
ye therefore and teach all the nations,
and lo, I am with you, even unto the
end of the world." He said:

"Monseigneur l'Apostolic Delegate,
my lords, my brethren, St. Matthew
terminated his gospel with these words
and what a command and what a promise
they contained? In fact, up to that
moment the world had never heard
anything of a like nature, for certainly
all the ambitions and all the audacity
of the conquerors and learned men
of the time had been surpassed. Those
words were either divine, or a matter
of fact, they were divine, for He Who
had spoken in this manner died on the
cross. He had mysteriously left the tomb
and was about to ascend to meet His
Heavenly Father, leaving behind Him
disciples of a poor and lowly character,
yet he was about to impose upon them
duties of an almost superhuman nature.
He had gathered them around him from
the byways of Judea, from the borders of
the lakes and rivers, and from the boats
of poor fisherman, instructing them alone
for three long years. They were feeble,
timid, and, besides possessing little eloquence,
they were filled with earthly desires and
surrounded in mystery. They poorly
understood the reign of Christ which
had been announced to them, and
although they became later on doctors
of incomparable wisdom and martyrs to
the new faith, they appeared, however,
at first, a great way off from the race
of which doctors and martyrs are made.

Shall I tell again what took place on
that memorable occasion? Shutting
themselves up in that little room in
Jerusalem, they gave themselves over
to prayer and meditation, when suddenly
a noise was heard and tongues
of fire appeared in the heavens,
while a divine metamorphosis was
being operated on every hand. The
apostles at this moment went out from
their chamber, and beginning to preach
to the people saved souls by the thou-
sand, mocking at the insults and blows

rained upon them. And why all this?
Because it was the Christiana, dissemi-
nated by the apostles, and which was
passing and nothing could stop this
new found torrent. Each taking his
portion, they transformed and converted
the world, bringing all to the feet of
Christ Jesus. In a word, they worked,
suffered and even gave up their blood as
a supreme tribute to the blessed truth
found in their new faith. This, my dear
brethren, is the first page in the glorious
history of the Church of Jesus Christ;
and tell me if it be not full of divinity
and of love? Jesus Christ had not been
mistaken, neither had He deceived
those who had gathered around Him.

The Master's first apostles are dead,
as well as those upon whom they laid
their hands asking them to carry on the
good work and submit to the holy com-
munications which that work entailed. Others
came and performed their predecessors'
work, and through their efforts, appar-
ent in their times, and here we are to-
day, unworthy though we may be, form-
ing a part of that divine phalanx, par-
ticipants by that celestial mandate in
the apostolic mission, and we also are
listening to that precept of the divine
Master: "Go ye therefore and teach all
the nations," as well as the consoling
promise: "I will be with you even unto
the end of the world." Yes, my dear
brethren, although we gathered from the
dust, it cannot be denied that by a prodigy
of infinite power we have become
co-workers of Jesus Christ here below;
consequently that which the apostles
performed we also should do. They
lived only to serve their divine Master,
and we also wish to live for Him
and Him alone. They possessed in the
person of Peter the leader whom they
recognized as the chief, and in the
beloved chief, regenerated through-
out the entire Christian world, and the
same whom Peter foresaw. Yesterday
it was Leo XIII., and to-day it is Pius
X. In whose person we pause to salute
the infallible doctor and the supreme
pastor who received the order to con-
firm his brethren, and who was charged
to feed the lambs and the sheep. As
the apostles cultivated, in loving de-
votion to the Master, the field assigned
to their zeal, so must we cultivate the
special field of labor and solicitude
which is designated a diocese, and all
our devotion and our tenderness and
love must go out to this earthly field.

The apostles of Jesus Christ preached,
directed, counselled and consoled their
people, and desiring to walk in their
footsteps, and not less than they do
wish to emulate their efforts and even our
lives in the service of souls whose sacred
guardianship has been confided to our
hands. One day under the authority of
Peter the apostles were gathered in
Jerusalem, and after having solved the
very grave question of legal observances,
after having resumed in the
symbol the doctrine which they were to
preach everywhere, they exchanged a
sacred farewell in the name of Jesus,
and each returned to his own country
to meet in this world. But as an ex-
ample for us here to-day a council had
just taken place in the cradle of the
Church, and this council, as I have just
said, was an example for us to follow
and a lesson for us to learn. The successors
of Peter did not forget them and being
inspired by them for the welfare of hu-
manity, when they were commanded to
administer alone, and which con-
stituted the very essence of their office,
they were not unmindful of the example
of their predecessors. They have invoked
your tomb! They have invoked your
time-honored name in setting foot
upon this soil of old Quebec, where
you worked and suffered. The im-
mense forests which you traversed as
a valiant missionary, seeking after
souls for Christ, are, however, today re-
placed by splendid cities; yet the cross
you planted then in those Canadian
cities is still erect in our midst as the
personification of your virtues and of
your great work. Count the dioceses,
which are today more numerous than
the missions you founded, for your
successors number more than thirty
archbishops and bishops. We are your
happy brothers, yet we are happy also
to say that we are your sons, who salute
you as "venerable," and we await the day
when we will be able to render public
testimony to your sainted and
venerated memory."

They have, indeed, come within your
gates, my brethren, the spiritual leaders
of the nation, some being yet young and
vigorous, others grown old in their long
and laborious ministry. They have come
from neighboring dioceses, from the sis-
ter provinces, from the North and from
the South, and as far even as the remote
regions of the West and from the Pacific
provinces of Columbia. And what a
touching welcome, I was going to say,
what a triumphant reception you have
prepared for them. The state in the
person of His Honor the Lieutenant-
Governor and the municipal authorities
have associated themselves with the
worthy successor of Mgr. de Laval in
order to do them honor. You have taken
into consideration neither their age,
their nationality, or the locality from
which they come. They are all fathers
of the council, and that sufficed, for your
hearts being as one, seemed to extend to
one and all the sacred welcome: "Blessed
is He Who comes in the name of the Lord."
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

They will soon begin their labors, but
they will not cease to discuss the
difficult problems of our political life,
neither will they treat questions of
commerce, of art, and industry. Not
that they are wholly disinterested in
these questions, for they have certainly
at heart everything that pertains to
the progress and welfare of their
country. Their object, however, aims
at higher things and dominates all
earthly interests. They have but one
preoccupancy, and that is the con-
servation and diffusion of the Catho-
lic faith and the eternal salvation of
souls for which they are responsible
before Almighty God. They will not
seek to formulate new doctrines, as
the inventors and reformers of reli-
gions are to-day the laughing stock of
the whole world. Their credo is
complete and immutable, and from it
not one syllable can be taken, for it
is the old Credo of Jerusalem, of the
Catechism and of the Vatican. What
they have come here to do, I will tell
you in repeating the words of Pius
IX., as they are as true for us to-day
as they were for those who were to

gathered in solemn convocation in the
Eternal City: "This council will ex-
amine with the greatest care and will
determine what it considers best to do
in these calamitous times for the greater
glory of God, for the integrity of the
faith, for the splendor of worship, for
the eternal salvation of men, for the
discipline and solid education of the
secular and regular clergy, for the ob-
servation of the ecclesiastical laws, for the
reformation of morals, for the Christian
education of the young, for the general
peace and universal harmony."

With this object in view your bishops
will study together; they will listen to
the evidence, sentiments and wishes of men
of science and experience who surround
them, and they will authorize discussions
and debates which will alone be animated
by the love of truth and charity in
Christ. They will seek to correct
abuses, to introduce salutary reforms,
to encourage or create good works, in
order to extend and to fortify at every
point the reign of God on earth. But,
knowing, however, that there can be no
durable edifice unless God Himself lays
the foundation, they will implore the
aid of heaven and they will pray to-
gether as the apostles prayed in the
council of old, and then aided by divine
light and knowledge, will make recom-
mendations which the sovereign authority
in Rome will be called upon to
sanction, and which you will receive,
my brethren, with that piety and re-
spective incumbent upon true and sub-
missive sons of the Church.

Here, therefore, is the council. You
are all interested, my dearly beloved
brethren, and take to your home circles
that part which belongs to you, correct
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to encourage or create good works, in
order to extend and to fortify at every
point the reign of God on earth. But,
knowing, however, that there can be no
durable edifice unless God Himself lays
the foundation, they will implore the
aid of heaven and they will pray to-
gether as the apostles prayed in the
council of old, and then aided by divine
light and knowledge, will make recom-
mendations which the sovereign authority
in Rome will be called upon to
sanction, and which you will receive,
my brethren, with that piety and re-
spective incumbent upon true and sub-
missive sons of the Church.

Here, therefore, is the council. You
are all interested, my dearly beloved
brethren, and take to your home circles
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