

PASTORAL LETTER AND CIRCULAR
OF
Most Rev. PAUL BRUCHESI
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ON THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS OF 1910

Dearly Beloved Brethren,

God, who jealously guards His Church, never fails her in her hour of need. At every critical period when impiety seemed bent upon her ruin, a counteracting force, sent from on High, arose to paralyze the malignant influence of her enemies. Society to day reveals to an attentive observer the symptoms of a twofold malady; the pride of reason, on the one hand, rejecting authority and the holy teachings of faith; on the other hand, an unbridled materialism blinding souls to supernatural truths, and dragging them on to the gratification of sensual cravings.

Directed against these two evils, we find a special providence in the revival of piety and, particulary, in an outburst of devotion towards the Holy Sacrament of our Altars, one of the principal developments of which has been the Eucharistic Congresses, or solemn gatherings of Bishops, Priests, and faithful from all parts of the world, to offer in common their public homage to the Hidden God of the Sacred Host.

These Congresses are doubly significant and have a twofold mission to fulfil. First of all, they glorify Jesus Christ dwelling among us, and counteract the arrogant pretentiousness of unbelievers, who would suppress all idea of God or, at least, ignore Him utterly in social life.

By faith we know that God is present in the Consecrated Host. To give emphasis to this belief, the Congress brings to view the Sacred Species, bearing It in triumph