

PASTORAL LETTER

Promulgating the third Council of the Ecclesiastical Province
of Quebec.

CHARLES-FRANCOIS BAILLARGEON,

By the Mercy of God and the Grace of the Holy Apostolic See, Bishop of
Tioa, Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, Administrator of the
Archdiocese of Quebec, &c., &c., &c.

*To the secular and regular Clergy, to the Religious Communities,
and to all the Faithful of this Diocese, Health and
Benediction in Our Lord.*

We feel happy, Dearly Beloved Brethren, in being able at last to publish
our third provincial Council.

This is an event which you have long wished for, no doubt. Our desire to
publish this Council sooner was no less earnest.

But we had first to fulfil a grave duty. Pastors with respect to the people,
the Bishops are but the sheep of the flock with regard to the Successor of Peter.
"Though they have been placed by the Holy Ghost to rule the Church of God"
(Acts, 20, 28), they are nevertheless subject to him, whom Jesus Christ has
appointed his Vicar upon earth, and to whom, in the person of the Prince of
the Apostles, He has said: "Feed my sheep" (John, 21, 17). And this
religious submission which we owe to the Supreme Head of the Church, whom
the Saviour of the world has commissioned "to confirm his brethren"
(Luke, 22, 32), imposed upon us the obligation of laying the acts of our Council
at his feet, and of awaiting his approbation before promulgating them.

The decree which contains this approbation concerns you, D. B. B., as much
as it does ourselves, and therefore, being persuaded that you will be happy to
know it, we make it our pleasing duty to communicate it to you.

The purport of that document is that the S. Congregation of the Propaganda,
in its meeting of the 22nd of May last, after a careful examination of the decrees