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Edward,

By the Grace of God and Favour of the Apostolic See,

Bishop of Saint John,

**To the Clergy, Religious Orders and Laity
of the Diocese:**

Health and Benediction in the Lord.

DEAR BRETHREN:

We are again at the entrance of that solemn season when the Church invites us to withdraw from the distractions of the world, and to examine seriously the state of our souls to see how we stand before God. To encourage us to embrace with eagerness the practices of this holy time, she places before our minds the example of our Lord Who, by fasting and prayer, did penance for our sins, whilst she also urges us not to lose sight of what He endured for us in His sacred Passion. What a privilege to belong to a Church which holds out to her members such spiritual advantages as are soon to be offered us, and which loses no opportunity of directing our thoughts to Christ and of renewing in our minds the saving recollections of His Passion and Death.

Entering into the spirit of Lent, we will find it a time of sweet and hallowed associations. Whatever acts of mortification we may perform, whatever prayers we may address to the throne of mercy and the heavenly court, we feel that we are fasting and praying in union with our brethren throughout the world, and that, when myriads of holy men and women in every land are engaged in the same penitential exercises, ours, poor as they may be, will find favour before God, at least for the sake of the just who walk always in His presence.

No man, however, need hope to spend Lent in a manner pleasing to God or profitable to himself unless he is determined, at the very outset, to renounce sin. It would almost seem that this is expected of us now more than at any other time. Why? Because Lent is a holy season. Strictly speaking, of