

were again returning into vogue: as unfortunately persecutions are once more the order of the day, not as yet of torture and of blood-shedding, but of errors and of seductions so great as to lead us to fear the proximate ruin of civil society which threatens to crumble to its very base. Therefore I feel justified in reiterating the exact words pronounced by St. Gregory himself in a remarkable homily enunciated in this basilica, in which the great Pontiff lamented that the world "was seared within itself, but lived still in the hearts of the faithful. Everywhere reigns death, everywhere desolation and mourning; in every place we are assailed and overwhelmed with bitterness, and yet the mind, blinded by carnal concupiscence, by these very afflictions we love to receive from the world, we follow it through fleeting; we attach ourselves to it, falling though it be, and inasmuch as we cannot save it from its fall, we shall fall with it, because of our clinging thereunto, and be dragged ignominiously to ruin."

To ensure triumph over so many evils as over the newest form of persecutions which the Church of Jesus Christ always endures and ever overcomes, the Cardinal made a fervid appeal to the prayers of the devout Catholics of America, to whom he further addressed most affectionate words of adieu, as follows:

Now, naught remains to me but the utterance of an affectionate adieu, ere you depart from this Holy City, to return to your families and to your homes. Depart, then, with the admiration of all the good Romans, who have been edified by your piety and by the filial love demonstrated by you towards the august and immortal Pontiff: depart with the satisfaction of the good example you have given to Catholicity at large by this your holy pilgrimage; depart, in short, with the blessing of the Church and of her august head, a blessing which will accompany you throughout your entire lives, and fear naught. On the contrary, animate yourselves even more and more with the promises of Him who said, Have confidence, I have conquered the world. Shut yourselves up within the Sacred Heart of Jesus and within the most pure heart of Mary, which the Church now invites us to honor; and secure within that mystic ark, ford courageously the turbid water of this agitated world, and doubt not of obtaining the harbor of salvation promised to those who know how to struggle even to the end.

Having lain aside the pontifical vestments, Cardinal Frarachi and the Prelates of his suite, the American Pilgrims and the other guests