

exceeded them, to the applause of the whole catholic world.

In the very year when it was given to YOUR HOLINESS to open the Council of the Vatican, we exultingly celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the sacerdotal unction, which consecrated and sanctified those hands, that were to impart the apostolic benediction to numberless multitudes, and to hold, with such wisdom and firmness, the helm of the Church, in these most difficult times.

Now dawns upon us the fiftieth anniversary day of Your episcopal consecration. Most rare privilege indeed, lovingly reserved by Almighty God, for our comfort and consolation, in these our most unfortunate times !

At this admirable sight, we, from our inmost heart, return thanks to Jesus Christ for having vouchsafed to His Vicar upon earth a career so long; so wonderful, a career filled with such noble deeds.

For many, many long years to come, may Our Lord grant to us to see and venerate, seated in the chair of Peter, the FATHER whom we most tenderly love, and the DOCTOR in whom, through the divine assistance, resides that infallibility in defining doctrine concerning faith or morals, with which Our Blessed Redeemer has been pleased to endow His Church.

May the Immaculate Mary whom, from your most tender years, you have loved with filial piety, whose ineffable privilege you have proclaimed, may this Immaculate Mother protect, defend, and crown YOUR BEATITUDE, with signal victory. May she obtain from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus what we incessantly ask, that during as many years as we have bewailed the evils of our Holy Mother the Church, we may, together with our most fondly cherished Father, rejoice in her glorious triumph !

We implore for ourselves and for all the inhabitants of this Province, Your Paternal and Apostolic Benediction.