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**Edward, by the Grace of God and Favour of the Apostolic
See, Archbishop of Halifax:**

**To the Clergy, Religious Orders, and Laity of the
Diocese: Health and Benediction in the Lord.**

DEARLY BELOVED:

In view of the calamities which have befallen a great portion of the civilized world, we feel that we are bound by a more urgent duty than ever before to remind you of the obligations and of the special opportunities for prayer which come to us at this season. Of the appalling conflict itself, of the havoc and desolation which it spreads far and wide, you are already aware; each day but adds to the harvest of death and the burden of sorrow. And while our own beloved country has been spared the actual clash of arms and its dreadful consequences, we know that many of Canada's sons have given their lives in loyalty to the cause for which the Empire is struggling. We know, too, and with ever deepening sadness, that more than one Canadian home has been bereft of its bravest and best; and our sympathies go out to those who mourn for their loved ones and tremble for others who yet are in danger on distant fields of battle.

From our own deep concern in this war, we can form some estimate of the dread visitation it has been to countless homes in the lands it has ravaged and of

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