

fessor may commute them for some other work of piety or may defer them to another not distant occasion; power to dispense with Communion in the case of children not yet admitted to First Communion being also allowed.

Moreover, to all and each of the Faithful of Christ, as well lay as ecclesiastics, seculars and regulars, of all Orders whatsoever and institutes (even when required to be specially named) We grant the right of choosing for themselves, to this effect, any approved priest as confessor, whether secular or regular; which right may be enjoyed also by nuns, novices, and other women living within the cloister, provided only that the confessor be approved of for nuns. To Confessors, moreover, on this occasion and only during the time of this Jubilee, We grant all those very same powers which were granted by Us in another Jubilee published by Our Apostolic Letters dated the fifteenth day of the month of February, in the year 1879, beginning, Pontifices Maximi, always with the exception, however, of all things which in those same Letters were excepted.

But in order that the salutary fruits which have been proposed by Us may be produced the more safely and more abundantly from the sacred Jubilee, let all earnestly apply themselves to deserve the favor of the great Mother of God by rendering her during this time especial honour and worship. Moreover, We confide and recommend this same sacred Jubilee to the protection and guardianship of St Joseph, the most chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom the Sovereign Pontiff Pius IX., of glorious memory, declared the Patron of the whole Church, and whose assistance we desire to be daily implored by all the Faithful of Christ.

We also exhort all to undertake pilgrimages, for the sake of piety, to the sanctuaries of the saints, which in different countries have been accustomed, with peculiar devotion, to be held holy and venerable; pre-eminent among these in Italy is the sacred House of the Virgin Mary at Loretto, which the memory of the most sublime mysteries consecrates.

Wherefore, by virtue of holy obedience, We ordain and command all and singular the Ordinaries of places, and their Vicars and Officials, or, if they be absent, those who exercise the cure of souls, that as soon as they shall have received transcripts or even printed copies of these present Letters, they shall, every one in his own jurisdiction, cause them to be published, and shall point out to the people, duly prepared also by the preaching of the Word of God, as soon as possible, the church or churches to be visited, as aforesaid.

Nevertheless, in order that these present Letters, which cannot be delivered to every place, may more easily reach the knowledge of all, We will that to transcripts or even printed copies of these present Letters, when subscribed by the hand of some notary public, and fortified by the seal of a person placed in ecclesiastical dignity, in every place the same credit shall forthwith be given as would be given to these very Presents if they were exhibited or shown.

Given at Rome by St. Peter's, under the seal of the Fisherman, on the twelfth day of March, in the year 1881, and the fourth year of Our Pontificate.

LEO PP. XIII.