

descend into our hearts. Teach us what we must do ; show us the way in which we should walk ; work Thou the work we are to bring about. Do Thou suggest : do Thou accomplish our judgments, who alone with the Father and Son, dost possess the glorious name ; Join us efficaciously Thy gift of grace, alone, that we may be one in Thee, and stay in nothing swerve from the truth ; that being gathered together in Thy name, we may in all things hold fast to justice, tempered with piety, so that here our judgment may in no way contend with Thee, and hereafter we may obtain the eternal reward for what we have well done."

Two things our Blessed Lord has promised to ecclesiastical synods, provided they be called together in His name, namely: A judicial power of binding and loosing, and a divine assistance in their deliberations. Our Blessed Lord said to His apostles, and through them to their successors, the Bishops of the Catholic Church: "Amen, I say to you, whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound also in heaven, and whatsoever you shall lose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven.—Matt. xviii. 18. Our Divine Redeemer also makes the following promise: "Again I say unto you, that if two or three of you shall consent upon earth concerning anything whatsoever they shall ask, it shall be done to them by my Father who is in heaven: for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."—Matt. xvi. 19, 20. These words have according to Catholic tradition a special application to the Synods of the Church. Yet what do we mean the words "gathered together in My name"? Catholic Bishops are gathered together in the name of Christ, when they assemble in Synod according to the order prescribed by Christ himself, namely: obedience to, and in communion with Christ's Supreme Vicar upon earth. It is to St. Peter and his successors that our Lord committed the charge of His entire flock: *i.e.*, Bishops, priests and laity, when he said, "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep."—John xxi. chap. The Pope is the rock-foundation on which the Church is built,

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