

PASTORAL

Of his Lordship Joseph Eugenius Guignes, first Bishop of Bytown, on his assuming the government of the new Diocese of Bytown.

Joseph Eugulus Guigeues, Oblat of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, by the mercy of God and the grace of the Holy Apostolic See, first Bishop of Bytown.

TO THE CLERGY AND ALL THE FAITHFUL OF OUR DIOCESS, HEALTH AND BENEDICTION IN JESUS CHRIST:

In taking possession of our new Diocese, we feel the necessity of addressing you, in order to explain our intentions and our desires.

Thanks to the vigilant solicitude of the Sovereign Pontiff, the Catholic Faith daily takes possession of new territory, and there communicates the benefits of her celestial Hierarchy. Not content that men endowed by God, with an ardent soul and an unbounded devotedness, call to the light those who are in the shadow of Death, or inspire nations with the vivifying spirit of Charity, the supreme Head of the Christian World likewise desires that Bishops to whom he has confided the charge of governing in the Church may be established to confirm the acts of the Priests by the force of their authority, and provide for all emergencies. Therefore does the Catholic behold with admiration the numerous Sees rising in so wonderful a manner in every part of the Globe, illuminated with the rays of the Catholic Church.

Could America escape the ever-attentive eye of the Supreme Pastor? Owing to its wise Institutions, does not America seem destined to rival with those Countries which Catholicity covers with its protecting shade? The numberless children of Emigration penetrate in crowds into those regions where the step of man never reached—where we behold rising, as it were by enchantment, those colonies which bring with them their strength and their industry; but even there are they preceded by Bishops, who display before their anxious gaze, on that land of liberty for every Creed, the sacred and venerable standard by which all Nations are invited to Civilization and to Charity.

The Sovereign Pontiff has not left unperceived that immense tract of territory the Grand River bathes with its waters, uniting Countries the most remote and still in their pristine wildness, with the rich and civilised lands of Lower Canada, as if to afford to the Children of Canada and of Ireland the facility of possessing those Lands which their labours may render abundantly fertile. Already, it is true, the zeal of those great and virtuous Prelates, who, in the See of Quebec, perpetuate piety and disinterestedness, had maintained those Priests who, at the greatest sacrifices, went in quest of the poor Savages to furnish them with the bread of life—already, also, had the pious Prelate who governs the Diocese of Montreal, by whose ever-active zeal no limits can confine, manifested the effects of his Charity towards those rising Missions, which, thanks to his solicitude, become daily more developed: yet, it was not deemed sufficient by generous souls, who in performing the greatest labours, think they never do enough. They called for aid to enable them to bear the burthen of the responsibility with which they were overloaded.

And it is on us his Holiness has deigned to cast his eyes—on us, whom most sacred engagements had devoted to solitude and recollection, or to the charge of assisting and fortifying those on whom that duty is imposed. That voice of the Sovereign Pontiff struck us with amazement and awe, but has not confounded us; for, confiding in Him who calls us, we shall follow his voice, and accomplish his work. Already does our courage revive, and we feel that a firm resolution can overcome all difficulties. Unite with us, then, dear Brethren, for your salvation and your happiness are already the object of our desires. Every day our prayers ascend to Heaven for those Children that are given to us. Your happiness shall constitute ours—your joy shall be our felicity—your souls shall be as dear to us as our own. Unite, then, with us, that God may bless the Pastor and his flock at the same time, and that he may also bestow His benediction on the works, the interest of his glory, and the welfare of your souls demand.

Already have several Priests consecrated to it their sweat and labours. Those generous Apostles were among the first to plant the banner of Faith on these new countries. Already numerous Missions are formed around them, and they heartily rejoice on beholding the Children they have begotten to Jesus Christ or confirmed in the Faith. Ere long their zeal shall no more suffice for every urgent call, for day after day the Canadian youth leave their homes to establish themselves on the Lands already prepared by their labours. More numerous bands will very soon follow; bringing, like their predecessors, their Faith—their polite manners—their industrious habits. Joyfully shall we welcome them, and support their courage by the help of Religion. From the moment of our departure from our native Land, it has been our duty to reanimate the Faith of a people most anxious to hear our: beholding the Canadian Clergy welcome us, and so often invite us to come and participate with them in their arduous labours, witnessing their urbanity, their amiableness and true zeal, Canada has become for us another Home—our second Country; and to it have we consecrated all our labours. Must not, therefore, all its dearest interests be ours? We shall aid with all our endeavours the Priests who are already labouring in that work of salvation, and gratefully receive all the happy inspirations that may contribute to the welfare of your souls and the prosperity of your temporal interests.

And you,

And you, also, generous Children of Erin, calculate on our support and our tender solicitude. Your name has ever sounded in our ears as one of sweetest melody. Your faith so firm, so heroic, that no tribulation can shake—your ardent proselytism which, in every part of the Globe whereupon your sufferings have cast you, invites new children to the Catholic Church—your generosity which, in the midst of poverty and indigence, still finds the generous mite to erect Temples and Altars to the living God and maintain his Priests, have made you long since dear to our heart. You shall still find these Priests in the Lands where you have sought a refuge, and where new Emigrants shall, like you, find a resting place. And should it not be possible to prepare them ourselves for the Ministry, we shall invite them from distant climes to minister to your wants.

Children of Canada and Ireland, whom we name separately, but who, nevertheless, form but one peaceful family, since you are both Catholic, let not the slightest cloud ever disturb that mutual Charity which should ever possess your hearts. Are you not brethren? Are you not heirs to the same inheritance? Do you not sit at the same table to partake of the same life-giving Bread? Are you not united by bonds the most firmly cemented, those of Faith? Are you not by your Faith, by your attachment to the interests of Religion, placed among nations the most devoted to the cause of Catholicity?

Extend the same spirit of Charity to those; also, who are out of the pale of the Catholic Church. If they have not the same Faith as you, they are citizens of the same Country—their labours fertilize the same soil—their Children oftentimes mingle with yours in receiving the same Education. On the standard of Religion is engraven the Olive of Peace. May it constantly shelter the Children of the same Country, and unite them one day in the same Faith!

Preserve, likewise, as a sacred deposit, those virtuous morals which draw down the benediction of Heaven, with temporal prosperity. Divine Providence has confided to you a great mission: your number is yet small, but every day you receive accession to your ranks by crowds of Children that arrive from the most distant climes. If you hold in horror the vice of Lust, they will also avoid it—if you are Religious, they will consider it their glory to walk in your footsteps—if you are Temperate, they will, in like manner, shun those excesses that brutalize Man and degrade the Christian; and, at the present moment, when such noble efforts are being made in the neighbouring Diocesses, shall we not use all our exertions to establish or to consolidate the great Society of Temperance? The welfare of our souls and those of your Families, your fortunes as well as your happiness, now and hereafter, demand it; and the future prospects of those who are destined to people these lands are interested in it.

It shall be our duty to maintain every zealous undertaking which, in the various Missions, has received a happy impulse, and we shall promote such others as the welfare of your souls demands. To accomplish this enterprise, it is not on our own strength we rely, but on the grace of our God—on the aid of our Clergy, who already labour amongst you with zeal and devotedness—on the assistance of those who are united to us by the dearest bonds. You are not ignorant of their labours. Many of them have already exercised the Ministry in Bytown—others in the midst of the Forest, whither they followed the young men employed in the *Chantiers*—others, in fine, to the extremity of this immense Diocese, in quest of the poor Savage who asks for the Priest. We shall continue the same labours, by them and with them; for it shall be our happiness ever to reflect that those rude and difficult Missions are accomplished by Brethren who edify us by their virtues, and render us participant of their merits; and when we shall also have the pleasure of following them, we shall, with joy, bring to our recollection that the thought which encouraged our first steps in the Apostolic Ministry was the desire of hastening to the assistance of the *Souls that were the most abandoned*.

Therefore, the Holy Name of God having been invoked, we have decreed and ordered, do decree and order what follows:—

- 1st.—We renew and confirm all the powers and spiritual faculties given in writing (and not rescinded by Ecclesiastical authority) whether in or out of this Diocese.
- 2nd.—We maintain the same rites and ceremonies in use until this day, not prejudicing, however, to our right of examining and making the changes which local interest and the the necessity of uniformity may require.
- 3rd.—We proclaim first Patron of this Diocese St. Joseph, the spouse of the blessed Virgin Mary; second Patron, St. Patrick.
- 4th.—The first Titulary of our Cathedral shall be the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary—St. James, the Elder, shall be the second Titulary,

This present Pastoral shall be read and published in the Chapters of every Religious community, and from the Pulpit of all the Churches where public worship is performed, the first Sunday after its reception.

Given at Bytown, under our Hand and Seal, and the countersign of our Secretary, this thirtieth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and forty-eight.

† JOS. EUG., BISHOP OF BYTOWN.

(By His Lordship's command,)

D. DANDURAND, PRIEST O. M.,

Secretary.

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