

nation is only expiated by the earnest penance and radical conversion of the entire nation.

Therefore, do your Bishops invite you all with one voice to a common and decisive act of expiation on the Sunday after the feast of the Epiphany, January 10. Our invitation is addressed to all, but quite particularly to men and youths; for they must here, as in the field of battle, stand in the first line for people and country. We shall also inform our soldiers in the field, and invite them to take part as far as they can.

We will above all purify and sanctify ourselves by a devout reception of the holy Sacraments; we will next, on the three preceding days, united in divine worship, make solemn reparation to the divine Heart of our Saviour and through it to the Triune God, above all for our own sins, for our negligence in God's service, for our weakness and cowardice, for our tepidity and lukewarmness; then for the guilt of the entire nation, for so much blasphemy and denial of the eternal Truth, for such shameful transgressing of God's eternal commandments, for so much contempt of grace, for so much ingratitude towards the infinite Saviour love of our Redeemer, for so much injury done to God's kingdom.

We will cry to Heaven with the Prophet Daniel: 'O Lord God, great and terrible, Who keepest the covenant and mercy to them that love Thee and keep Thy commandments, we have sinned, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and we have gone aside from Thy commandments and Thy judgments. O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, but to Thee, the Lord our God, mercy and forgiveness.'

How graciously will the divine Heart of Jesus and the Heart of the Heavenly Father receive this reparation from so many thousand repentant sorrow stirred hearts! So do we pay off the war debt of our nation. So do we do our part to shorten the time of the visitation, to hasten the return of peace, to make our people be born again to truth.

Let the act of atonement be followed by the act of dedication. Ye know, Beloved, that Pope Leo XIII., on June 11, 1899, dedicated the entire world to the most holy Heart of Jesus. We will, at the beginning of the year 1915, dedicate afresh to the most holy Heart of Jesus our hearts, our families, our parishes, our dioceses. The gravity and the needs of the time force us thereto.

In all Europe the nations stand opposed to each other in two hostile camps. The fire is already flaming from the west over into the east. A great turning-point in the world's history has made its appearance. On the bloody field of battle the fate of the nations is being decided. Everything suffers from the consequences of the war, and there is scarcely any longer a house that has no dead member to bewail. Still there is no end in view. So much only is sure, that much misery still awaits us.

Therefore will we do everything to make of a time of need a time of grace by closest union with our Saviour and Redeemer. And so let children and adults, men and women, youths and maidens, those at home and those in the field, priests and bishops, unite together for this solemn act of consecration.

In truth, this union with the Saviour will bring us blessings and make of the year 1915 a year of salvation. In the Heart of our Saviour our hearts become sound again and their life beats stronger. From His Heart shall we draw strength in the pains and sorrows of the war, to live a life of strict self-denial, as every one is bound to do in time of war, to endure in patience and prayer; strength to take our victories humbly and the final victory which may God grant us soon; yes, strength and grace that the victory may not make us arrogant, that we may not be overcome by our own victories but in humble thanks give God the glory and after the return of peace remain on the right path and strive to advance mindful of the Prophet's word: 'Thus saith the Lord thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord thy God that teach thee profitable things, that govern thee in the way that thou walkest. O that thou had'st hearkened to My commandments: thy peace had been as a river, and thy justice as the waves of the sea, and thy seed had been

(numerous) as the sand (of the sea).—Is. xlvi. 18-19.

Such good results do we expect for ourselves and for our whole country from the holy exercises to which we urgently invite you. In this glad conviction we, your Pastors, united with you in spirit, consecrate before all ourselves and our dioceses to the most holy Heart of Jesus. We commend to this divine Heart full of love and grace each and every one of you—for you are all in our hearts in life and in death—our soldiers, to whom our thoughts and prayers go forth day and night; the widows and the orphans of the war on whose wounded hearts may descend, we pray, the balm of divine consolation; our dear country, to which our hearts are devoted with very special love and loyalty at such a time as this.

O sword of the Lord, how long still wilt thou not rest! Return to thy sheath, calm thyself and be still. Jesus, holy Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us and grant us peace! Holy Mary Virgin Mother of God, entreat for us from thy divine Son pardon, grace, and peace. Amen.

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In accordance with the above Pastoral, it is hereby ordered:

(1) The Pastoral shall be read in all Churches on the Sunday after Christmas, December 27, taking the place of the sermon. Those who have care of souls have thus the opportunity of giving the people timely and repeated notice in the Church and by the press—of the religious ceremony, so that all may be able to regulate themselves accordingly.

(2) On January 7, 8, and 9, a Triduum shall be celebrated with a sermon where that is possible, and at least with one evening service or several hours' Adoration *cum SSmo Exposita*; there shall be increased opportunities for confession.

(3) The faithful are recommended to spend one of these days as a fast day.

(4) On the Sunday after the Epiphany, January 10, the day for the Exposition of the most holy Sacrament, there is to be general Communion and solemn divine service with a sermon in the morning, either at the end of the morning service or after the solemn service with procession of the Blessed Sacrament; in the evening the solemn consecration shall be made in the temple of Leo XIII.

(5) The school children shall be enlightened in a catechetical instruction on the signification and object of the devotion, and shall be induced to take a proper part in it.

(6) The military chaplains will be informed through the army-bishops or their ordinaries, and shall induce the men to join as far as possible in the celebration. Relations can also communicate with their friends in the army to the same effect.

Third Sunday in Advent, 1914.

FRANCIS Cardinal von BERTINGER, Archb. of München-Freising—FELIX Cardinal von HARTMANN, Archb. of Cologne—*THOMAS Archb. of Freiburg—*JAMES Archb. of Bamberg—*EDWARD Archb. of Gnesen and Posen—*ADOLF Prince-bishop of Breslau—*M. FELIX B. of Frier—*ADOLF B. of Strassburg—*FERDINAND B. of Würzburg—*PAUL WILLIAM B. of Rottenburg—*AUGUSTINE B. of Kulm—*ANTONY B. of Regensburg—*WILLIBRORD B. of Metz, O.S.B.—*MAXIMILIAN B. of Augsburg—*GEORGE HENRY B. of Mainz—*LEO B. of Eichstätt, O.S.B.—*SIGISMUND FELIX B. of Passau—*JOSEPH DAMIAN B. of Fulda—*AUGUSTINE B. of Emden—*CHARLES JOSEPH B. of Paderborn—*MICHAEL B. of Spire—*JOHN B. of Münster—*AUGUSTINE B. of Limburg—*WILLIAM B. of Osnabrück—*HENRY Titular B. of Eisano, and Catholic Head Military Chaplain of the Field Army—GEISTL. RAT FISCHER, Administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate in the Kingdom of Saxony—DOM-CAPITULAR HAGEMANN, Vicar-Capitular of the Bishopric of Hildesheim.