

honor to acknowledge and confess them, to ask pardon and make reparation for them. Let us strike our breasts and acknowledge that we have all sinned much; and this humble acknowledgment will merit for us the Divine mercy which is besought by so many ardent and persevering prayers, so much untiring devotion, so many heroic sacrifices and so many services rendered in the past.

Here follow the signatures of all the Bishops of France, and the text of the prayer and vow which is to be made.

### THE FAMOUS VATICAN CHOIR

An announcement of considerable importance in the musical season in New York is that the chief soloists of the Sistine Chapel Choir have been granted permission by the Vatican authorities to leave Italy for the first time in the history of the choir, and make a concert tour of the United States. Their programme is devoted to selections from classical opera and modern sacred and secular song.

The history of the choir is rather unique. It was founded by St. Sylvester I., whose pontificate lasted from 314 to 377, and its name was derived from Sixtus IV., who built the Capella Sixtina in 1477. The choir was endowed by Gregory I. (the Great), the actual founder of choir singing, and in whose pontificate, which lasted from 590 to 604, the choir began to attract the attention of the then civilised world. It was not, however, until the pontificate of John XIX. (1024-1032), when the monk Guido d'Arrezzo invented the Gamut and laid down the foundation of harmony, that the choir began to climb to that eminence of perfection from which it has never receded as a musical organisation during 227 of the 260 actual pontificates. When Gregory XI. returned to Rome after the 70 years' exile of the Holy See at Avignon, France, the old Gregorian School of Singing was amalgamated with the new school, and the most eminent singers and composers of Europe made the Schola Cantorum, under which title the choir was endowed, the central seat for the knowledge and cultivation of vocal music. The choir consists of 22 choral chaplains, 8 basses, 8 tenors, 8 counter-tenors, and 8 sopranos and contraltos. The first concert was given at Carnegie Hall in New York, the third week in September.

### THE VENICE OUTRAGE

The Milan correspondent of the *Times* says that it will be recalled that, after the ruin of the famous Tiepolo fresco in the Church of the Scalzi in Venice last year, an official statement appeared in the Austro-German papers, dated from the Press Bureau of the Austrian General Headquarters, to the effect that such destruction was perfectly legitimate, since Italy's patrimony consisted in great measure of works of art, which induced millions of foreigners to spend their money in this country. The character of the recent air raids on Venice does not permit even the most conservative and kindly disposed to doubt Austria's deliberate intention to act up to this theory.

The only two possible excuses for the bombardment of Venice are the port and the arsenal, situated at the two extremes of the city. All between is the domain of beauty and art. In the last two raids the Austrians have deliberately chosen as their targets the most precious of Venice's priceless treasures. They first aimed at St. Mark's a bomb which fell within 30ft of its portal, and last week they attacked the Church of SS. Giovanni e Paolo. A bomb penetrated the vaulting of this church and fell in the right aisle near the Valier monument at the opening of a side chapel. The lower part of the monument, being protected by sand-bags, was unhurt, but the upper statues were damaged.

In the side chapel the explosion severely injured the famous ceiling—Piazzetta's 'Glory of St. Dominic'—which, being painted on canvas firmly nailed to the ceiling by the artist himself, could not be removed

when the portable works of art were put in safety. Vivarini's great window had fortunately been removed, but all the remaining windows were broken. The side chapel where the bomb exploded is 70ft from the Colleoni statue in the square, the most precious of Venice's patrimony, whose loss would be truly irreparable. The Home for the Aged attached to the church was struck by a second bomb with no loss of life. These raids, lacking all military excuse, continue almost nightly.

### ROLL OF HONOR



SERGEANT P. O. CULLEN,  
Hokitika,  
Killed in action, June 16, 1916.



RIFLEMAN E. HICKEY,  
Dunrobin, Otago,  
Died of wounds, September 28, 1916.

### WANTED KNOWN

PRAYER BOOKS, ROSARIES, and OBJECTS OF DEVOTION, now obtainable from the SACRISTAN, St. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, DUNEDIN