

Cath. Ch. in U.S.A. (F. I.)

AE P 8315

Episcopal Approvals.

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The
**American
Federation
of Catholic
Societies.**



Founders of Federation:

Rt. Rev. J. A. McFaul, D. D.,
Trenton, N. J.

Rt. Rev. S. G. Messmer, D. D.,
Green Bay, Wis.

March 1903.

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Bishop A. J. Glorieux, Boise City.

Bishop I. Horstman, Cleveland, O.

Bishop C. P. Maes, Covington, Ky.



From His Holiness Pope Leo XIII.

To Archbishop W. H. Elder:

“His Holiness most lovingly grants his Apostolic Benediction to the American Federation of Catholic Societies.”

M. CARDINAL RAMPOLLA.

Words from Pope Leo's Encyclical.

“There exists between Bishops and clergy a union which is fruitful in numberless works of zeal and charity. It exists likewise between the clergy and the laity who, more closely knit together and more completely freed from human respect than ever before, are awakening to a new life, and organizing with a generous emulation in defense of the sacred cause of religion. It is this union which we have so often recommended, and which we recommend again; which we bless, that it may develop still more, and may rise like an impregnable wall against the fierce violence of the enemies of God.”

From the Papal Delegate.

Apostolic Delegation, United States of America, Washington, D. C., Dec. 11, 1902.

Mr. Anthony Matre, National Secretary
American Federation Catholic Societies.

Dear Sir:—

I have received your kind letter of December 1st, with the enclosed documents. I thank you sincerely for the kind words you send me on behalf of the Federation which you represent. I hope that, in the performance of my duties in this country, I shall have the cooperation and the prayers of the members of the Federation. In return I shall offer my own prayers for the success of the organization, that it may accomplish its good purpose and be ever directed in the path of true usefulness to the Church.

With sentiments of sincere esteem, I am,

Most faithfully yours in Christ,

† D. FALCONIO, Archbishop,

Apostolic Delegate.

From Cardinal Gibbons.

The Cardinal desires me to say that the Federation of all our Catholic Societies would accomplish much good. Such a union would tend to bring in touch the leading Catholics of the country, and would give encouragement to struggling organizations in sections of the country which are decidedly non-Catholic.

† Cardinal JAMES GIBBONS,

Per Rev. W. T. Russell, Secretary.

[Previously received.]

From Cardinal Martinelli.

Washington, D. C., July 8, 1900.

Dear Sir:—

Believing, as I naturally and sincerely do, that Catholic interests are well worth protecting and promoting for the welfare both of religion and of the civil society, and knowing the value of united effort for the protection of any interest, I do not fail to appreciate the importance and desirability of such a movement. . . . No aphorism is truer than that "in union is strength," and it would certainly appear that, under the direction of the Bishops and Clergy of this country, a united action of all the Catholic Societies which exist here would have to be almost irresistible.

Most faithfully yours in Christ,

† Cardinal SEBASTIAN MARTINELLI,

Apostolic Delegate.

From Archbishop W. H. Elder.

Cincinnati, Jan. 8, 1900.

Dear Sir:—

The work that you propose, of uniting our Catholic Societies in one confederation, is one that can be made productive of much good to religion, and conducive to the stability of our free civil institutions.

I agree heartily with those who have encouraged you to proceed with it. The success of the Federation must depend on the wisdom manifested in its constitution and in its rule of operation.

These will need close study and mature deliberation under the guidance of the Holy Ghost. May its successful establishment be one of God's blessings on this closing year of our century.

Your servant in Christ,

† WILLIAM HENRY ELDER,

Archbishop of Cincinnati, O.

From Archbishop P. J. Ryan.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Rush.

Dear Sir:—

In reply to your communication I beg to say that I am entirely in favor of the Federation of Catholic Societies. Such Federation should not be political, but above all politics, with its unitive principle and motives religious. The united societies, whilst their members may belong to any party in a State, should be a unit in defending the Church against undue aggression. To this no honest American can possibly object.

Yours faithfully,

† P. J. RYAN,

Archbishop of Philadelphia.

From Archbishop F. X. Katzer, D. D.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 12, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I gladly accept membership on the National Advisory Board of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, and feel highly honored in being a member of said Board.

Respectfully yours,

† F. X. KATZER,

Archbishop of Milwaukee, Wis.

From Archbishop P. Bourgade.

Santa Fe, Aug. 6, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I gladly seize this occasion to express to you my most sincere wishes for the permanent success of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, called to do much good. May God bless it and prosper its noble end.

Very sincerely yours,

† P. BOURGADE,

Archbishop of Santa Fe.

From Archbishop J. J. Williams.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 5, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

With best wishes for the success of the Federation, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

† JOHN J. WILLIAMS,

Archbishop of Boston, Mass.



From Bishop H. Alerding.

Ft. Wayne, Ind., July 25, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I wish the Federation continued success,
and pray God bless your efforts.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

† H. ALERDING,

Bishop of Ft. Wayne, Ind

From Bishop P. Allen.

Mobile, Ala., Nov. 3, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I am in hearty sympathy with the aims and
purposes of the Federation. Wishing you
abundance of blessings in your good work,
I am,

Very sincerely yours,

† EDWARD P. ALLEN,

Bishop of Mobile.

From Bishop James H. Blenk.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Nov. 11, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

The Federation of Catholic Societies has
my warmest wishes for the success of its
efforts in behalf of Church and State.

Perhaps my peculiar position in these try-
ing times enables me, in a very forceful way,
to look and hope for great results from the
Federation.

Faithfully yours,

† JAMES H. BLENK, I. M.,

Bishop of Porto Rico.

From Bishop J. B. Brondel.

Helena, Mont., Nov. 3, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

How could I but favor the union of Catholic Societies. In union is strength. Let all who love God, country, family and church be one heart and one soul as the first Christians were, and we will conquer the world as they did overcome the world, the devil and the flesh.

Yours devotedly,

† JOHN B. BRONDEL,

Bishop of Helena, Mont.

From Bishop T. A. Burke.

Albany, N. Y., Oct. 28, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I take a deep interest in all that tends to the advancement of our holy faith and the welfare of the Catholic people.

Yours very sincerely,

† T. M. A. BURKE,

Bishop of Albany, N. Y.

From Bishop F. Chatard.

Bishop's House,

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 15, 1903.

Dear Sir:—

I most cordially approve of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, and wish the organization a long life and great usefulness.

Respectfully,

† F. CHATARD,

Bishop of Indianapolis, Ind.

From Bishop P. J. Donahue.

Wheeling, W. Va., May 12, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

It affords me much pleasure to extend to your organization my best wishes, and to express my sincere hopes that it may be successful in accomplishing the good and noble aims which it has in view.

Wishing you and your enterprise God's choicest blessings, I am,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† P. J. DONAHUE,

Bishop of Wheeling.

From Bishop L. M. Fink.

Kansas City, Kan., Oct. 28, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I consider the movement of Federation one of the greatest events in the history of Catholicity in the United States, to be recognized as a body that has its most sacred rights at heart. As I stated in my circular on the subject of federation, we Catholics are the strongest body of Christians, being nearly as numerous as all the so-called Christian sects combined, but we are the weakest as far as influence is concerned, and recognition of our rights as Catholics, for the want of any federation of our working societies and members, and therefore I encourage it whenever and wherever I can. Of course the movement will meet with a lot of opposition, but the atmosphere will clear itself as the sun of better understanding of questions will rise higher.

Yours very respectfully,

† L. M. FINK,

Bishop of Leavenworth.

From Bishop J. S. Foley.

Detroit, Mich., July 23, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I wish every success to the Federation, and feel assured that under the guidance of the Rt. Rev. Bishops of Trenton and Green Bay, the Federation will tend to great good.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

† JOHN S. FOLEY,

Bishop of Detroit.

From Bishop J. A. Forest.

San Antonio, Tex., May 20, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

Here in the western part of Texas, in the Diocese of San Antonio, we are in heart and soul with the American Federation of Catholic Societies. We do not only approve of this grand organization, but we are willing to support it and co-operate with it by bringing our Catholic Societies into this grand Federation, which is established for protecting our Catholic interests.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

† J. A. FOREST,

Bishop of San Antonio.

From Bishop H. Gabriels.

Ogdensburg, N. Y., April 7, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

The American Federation of Catholic Societies, recently organized, has my sincerest approval and my warmest wishes for its success. Prudently governed and firmly acting, as we may trust it will do, the union can not fail in its object of protecting where they exist, and of securing where they are still denied, the Catholic interests and rights throughout the country.

† H. GABRIELS,

Bishop of Ogdensburg, N. Y.

From Bishop A. J. Glorieux.

Boise, Idaho, May 7, 1902

Dear Sir:—

With my whole heart I approve of the Federation, and trust that it will be successful in all its undertakings.

Yours truly,

† A. J. GLORIEUX,
Bishop of Boise.

From Bishop Thomas Grace.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 20, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I give the American Federation of Catholic Societies my blessing, and will give any assistance in my power towards bringing the organization to success and usefulness.

Yours,

† THOS. GRACE,
Bishop of Sacramento, Cal.

From Bishop M. J. Hoban.

Scranton, Pa., Oct. 29, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I sincerely hope that the Federation may bring about not only a unity of action, where Catholic interests are involved, but also a more kindly feeling of the various nationalities for each other, so that each may see and understand and respect the good qualities of others, and all may put forth their best efforts to the up-building of our Holy Mother, the Church of Jesus Christ on earth.

In union there is strength, and victory is to the strong. When the enemies of the Catholic Church know that her children are united and strong they will very probably leave her in peace.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† M. J. HOBAN,
Bishop of Scranton, Pa.

From Bishop Leo Haid.

Belmont, N. C.

Dear Sir:—

From the very beginning I earnestly favored the Federation of Catholic Societies. It is only as a united body they can exercise the influence justly theirs. As in many so-called Catholic countries, so to a certain extent in the United States, Catholic interests are overlooked or neglected because the rulers well understand the loyalty, deep respect for authority, and the spirit of obedience and submission to the powers that be, which guide faithful Catholics. They have nothing to fear from Catholics, hence direct their whole attention to placating others who might prove a disturbing element. While we ask no favors, we must insist on our rights. Party politics can never enter the Federation, but there is no reason why the Federation may not assert its strength to right wrongs and enforce equality before the law and country

Wishing you all success.

† LEO HAID, O. S. B.,
Bishop of North Carolina.

From Bishop Hogan.

Kansas City, Mo., February 16, 1903.

Dear Sir:—

The purpose set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, do not need one word from me to the Catholics of this Diocese, to persuade them of the manifest advantages of uniting with their Catholic Fellow Citizens throughout the United States in lawful, honorable and elevating efforts for God and Country.

Yours Very Truly,

† JOHN J. HOGAN,
Bishop of Kansas City, Mo

From Bishop T. Heslin.

Natchez, Miss., July 26, 1902.

I wish the Federation every success, and I send it my blessing.

Yours truly,

† T. HESLIN,
Bishop of Natchez.

From Bishop I. Horstman.

Cleveland, O.

Dear Sir:—

I cordially add my approbation to those already given concerning the Federation of Catholic Societies. Catholics must be united for the support and defense of Catholic interests. It is their duty. If they fail to show their influence they deserve the neglect and contempt with which they have been treated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† I. F. HORSTMAN,
Bishop of Cleveland, O.

From Bishop Keiley.

Savannah, Ga., Nov. 4, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

Your kind letter of October 22d, and copy of the constitution and proceedings of the late Convention of the Federation, were received.

I am very glad to believe that a great deal of good can be done by the Confederation, and I find that my hopes in this direction have been more than realized so far.

It is high time for us to unite, if for no other purpose than that of protecting our interests and defending our rights.

I hope yet to see Branches formed in the South, and so far as I am concerned, will give all the aid in my power.

Very sincerely yours,

† BENJ. J. KEILEY,
Bishop of Savannah

From Bishop C. P. Maes.

Dear Sir:—

I am in entire sympathy with the objects of Federation. When all Catholics stand together ready to work as well as to fight for principle, the cause of right will prevail; and when Catholics who succeed in obtaining positions of influence and power remain true to Catholic duty and principle, instead of relegating them to private life, or sacrificing them to political or godless influences, the future of the nation, which stands in need of manliness and faith, will be secure. Success to your generous efforts!

Devotedly yours in Christ Jesus,

† CAMILLUS P. MAES,
Bishop of Covington.

From Bishop N. C. Matz.

Denver, Colo., Oct. 29, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I desire to say that I am an ardent advocate of Catholic Federation, and that on every occasion I have advocated union in the ranks of our Catholic Societies. What a power we could control if we were all a unit, and should work with might and main for the attainment of our end! I am confident that there is not a question at issue wherein our welfare as Catholics is concerned, which would not have an immediate hearing before the American people. Most assuredly, therefore, do I bless this glorious Federation. . . .

Wishing you every blessing in this glorious work, on the success of which so much depends for the progress of the Church, I remain,

Very sincerely yours in Christo.

† N. C. MATZ,
Bishop of Denver, Colo.

From Bishop McQuaid.

Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Sir:—

The proposed Federation of Catholics, either as members of organized societies, or as individuals, is a step in the right direction. . . . You have my best wishes and prayers.

Very respectfully,

† B. J. McQUAID,
Bishop of Rochester.

From Bishop Meerschaert.

Vicariate Apostolic,

Guthrie, Okla., Oct. 31, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I heartily endorse the American Federation of Catholic Societies, and pray that it may prosper and continue the good already done and so nobly started.

With my Episcopal Blessing for the great work,

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

† THEO. MEERSCHAERT,
Bishop, Vic. Ap., Guthrie, Okla.

From Bishop J. Michaud.

Burlington, Vt., May 19, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

My sympathy, approval, influence, and whatever assistance I may in any way be in a position to render, are in favor of and promised the "American Federation of Catholic Societies." I believe firmly in the principle, and if the workings are properly conducted within bounds, feel confident the movement shall bring about, in favor of religion, a very satisfactory solution of many questions.

Respectfully yours in Christo,

† J. S. MICHAUD,
Bishop of Burlington, Vt.

From Bishop Moeller.

Address at Columbus:—

“By united efforts, under the plan of Federation, there is no limit to the good you may do. With my whole heart I approve of the movement, pledge it my earnest support, and bless the workers in the cause.”

† HENRY MOELLER,
Bishop of Columbus, O.

From Bishop Geo. Montgomery.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 17, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I beg leave to say that I am in favor of the principle of co-operation, and consequently in the principle of Federation.

Yours respectfully,

† GEO. MONTGOMERY,
Bishop of Los Angeles.

From Bishop O'Connell.

Bishop's House,

Portland, Me., Oct. 31, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I am heartily in sympathy with the movement for the Federation of Catholic Societies, and follow with much interest every action which is being taken towards the realization of this great purpose. The Federation has my heartiest approval and most cordial blessing. Anything I can do to consolidate Catholic influence throughout the land will be done with the greatest pleasure.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† W. H. O'CONNELL,
Bishop of Portland.

From Bishop J. J. O'Conner.

Bishop's House,
South Orange, N. J., Oct. 28, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I cordially approve of the scheme of Federation as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws adopted at Chicago last August, and may every blessing and success attend the good work you have undertaken in the interests of Holy Church.

Very sincerely yours,

† JOHN J. O'CONNOR,
Bishop of Newark, N. J.

From Bishop James Ryan,

Alton, Ill., Sept. 14, 1899.

Mr. H. T. Rush,
Evansville, Ind.

Dear Sir:—

In reply to yours of the 1st inst., the Bishop wishes me to say that he is heartily in favor of the Federation of Catholic Societies, and sincerely hopes the good 'cause will meet with highest success.

Yours respectfully,

WM. J. HEALEY,
Secretary for Rt. Rev. James Ryan,
Bishop of Alton, Ill.

From Bishop J. L. Spalding.

Peoria, Ill., April 7, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

It gives me much pleasure to hear of the progress the American Federation of Catholic Societies is making. The work you propose to do is as great as it is urgent, and should have the sympathy and aid of all sincere Catholics.

Very truly yours,

† J. L. SPALDING,
Bishop of Peoria.

From Bishop Van De Vyver.

Richmond, Va., July 31, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I wish your Federation every success. May it have and produce a powerful influence on individuals, families, and society in general.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

† A. VAN DE VYVER,

Bishop of Richmond, Va.

From Bishop P. Verdaguer.

Laredo, Tex., July 28, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

I give my hearty approbation to the Federation, and I am body and soul with its good, grand, noble and most necessary objects. I know there are some who do not like Federation, and some who oppose it. Ignorance of its real object is no doubt the reason of the dislike of the former; jealousy of the immense good such Federation is going to accomplish to both Catholics and non-Catholics, or some unfounded imaginary fear, is perhaps the cause of the latter's opposition. But, fear not; the first will soon see the true objects of Federation, and will join it; as to the latter, who are few, pray for them, and go on with your important and noble work.

Most respectfully yours,

† P. VERDAGUER,

Vicar Apostolic of Brownsville, Tex.

From the late Bishop M. Wigger.

Seton Hall College,
South Orange, N. J., Sept. 7, 1899.

Dear Sir:—

I have received your circular on the proposed "Federation of Catholic Societies" in America. I heartily approve of the plan, and I hope it will be realized, as I am sure it will be productive of much good among the Catholics of this country. With best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

† M. M. WIGGER.
Bishop of Newark, N. J.

From Abbot Conrad, O. S. B.

Conception, Mo., July 30, 1902.

Dear Sir:—

May God bless the noble efforts of the Rt. Rev., Rev. and Hon. patrons and members of the Federation in order that it may become stronger more and more, and successfully work for the great interests of our Holy Mother, the Church, in this country.

Yours respectfully,

FROWENUS CONRAD, O. S. B.,
Abbot.

**Prelates who have formally approved
the Federation Movement in their
Dioceses.**

Bishop J. E. Fitzmaurice, of Erie, Pa.

"It will always be a pleasure to me to assist as far as I can in anything that could forward the interest and object of your much needed and praiseworthy Federation."

Bishop R. Phelan, of Pittsburg, Pa.

Bishop J. Janssen, of Belleville, Ill.