

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

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The Catholic Church in the United States of America

HER PAST—HER PRESENT—
HER FUTURE



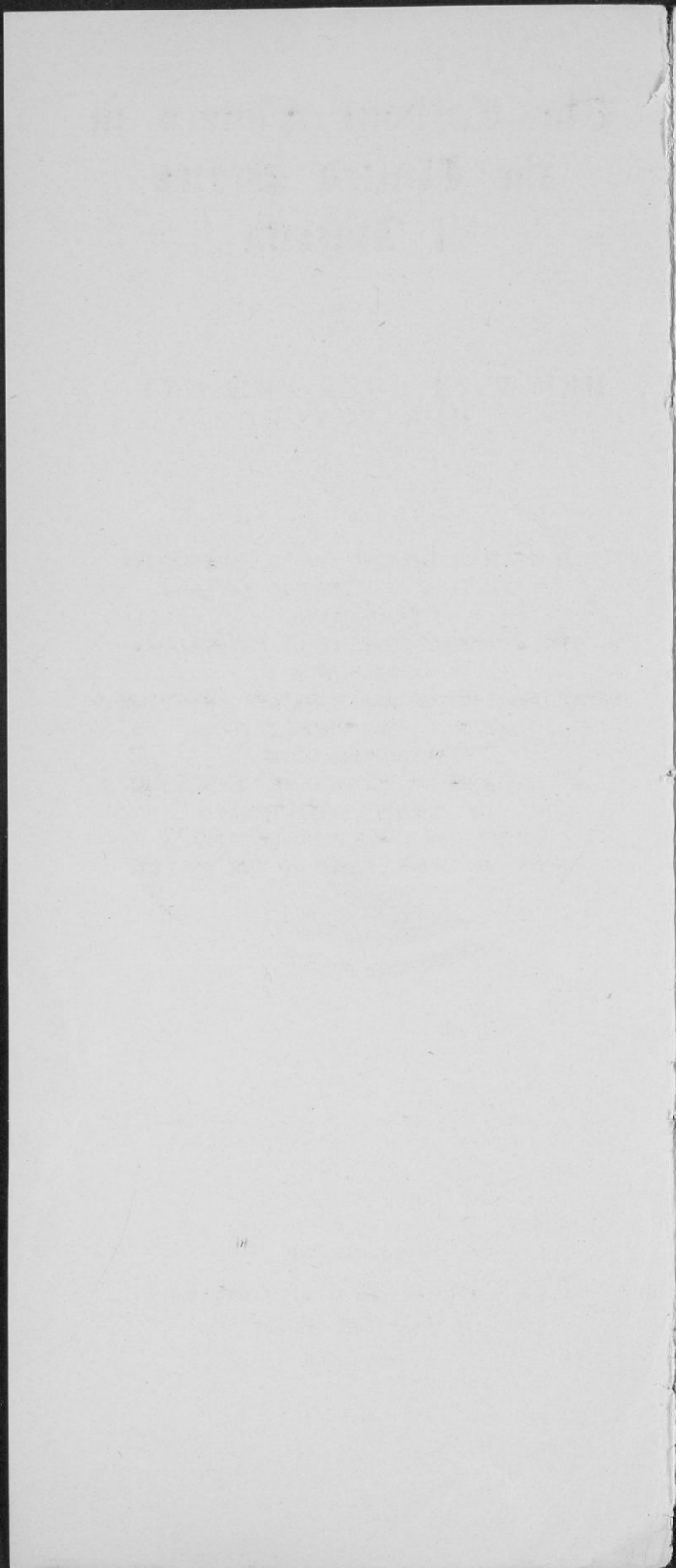
*Ai nostri figli, i collaboratori dell'opera e la storia
della Chiesa Cattolica in America e col voto delle felici
cospicua dell'interessante loro lavoro, impartiamo di
cuore l'Apostolica Benedizione
L' 20 Novembre 1910.*

Pius. PP. X

"Upon our beloved children, collaborators in the History of the
Catholic Church in America, with a prayer for a happy issue of
their interesting work, with all our hearts we bestow the Apostolic
Benediction."

20th November, 1910.

PIUS. PP. X.



AE P5417

The Catholic Church in
the United States
of America

HER PAST—HER PRESENT—
HER FUTURE

THE FIRST COMPLETE AND AUTHORITATIVE
COLLECTION OF CATHOLIC RECORDS
PRESENTING
THE INTIMATE HISTORY OF CATHOLICISM
IN AMERICA
FROM THE DAYS OF HER EARLIEST MISSIONARIES
DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME
TOGETHER WITH
AN ANALYSIS BY PROMINENT CHURCHMEN
OF PRESENT CONDITIONS
WHICH ARE LIKELY TO INFLUENCE
AMERICAN CATHOLICISM IN THE FUTURE

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For every exertion of her bishops; for every privation and labor of her secular and regular clergy; for every soul rescued from heresy or unbelief, or kept from straying from the True Fold; for every church, school or other institution built, renovated or beautified; for every work of piety or charity performed by the faithful, the Church should be given credit.



The denial to the Church of the credit due her has had numberless undesirable and serious consequences.



Her actual accomplishments have been slighted or misrepresented by every writer on American history. Her influence on the social life of the country has been consistently ignored. Her religious communities have been the target for every imaginable libel and suspicion. Far from receiving public commendation, the schools, which only the great liberality and willing sacrifices of her children have enabled her to erect and maintain, are too frequently declared a public menace. Every claim made as to the number of her children, the extent of her ministration and her charitable activity, is received with suspicion or scorn.



Unfortunately, while Catholics show so little interest in producing an authoritative work proving that their Church is (as they claim) the greatest religious and



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Those who have little knowledge of, and far less interest in, the Church and her aims, may argue with a certain show of justice that it is unthinkable that an institution of the magnitude claimed for the Catholic Church in America should be so long in laying before every inquirer an authoritative statement of her history, her aims and her actual status.



Nor is such an authoritative statement necessary only as a weapon of defense — to end once and for all the consistent ignoring and misrepresentation of the Church by prejudiced outsiders. It is still more necessary as a means of extending a more just knowledge of her spirit and activity among well-intentioned inquirers, as a means of inspiring in Catholics an increase of pride in their Church and her past achievements, and as a means of spurring them to renewed efforts to emulate and surpass the exertions of their fathers.



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never surpassed, and seldom equaled in works brought out under Catholic auspices in any land.



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All the matter dealing with his diocese is submitted to the Ordinary for his final revision and approval.



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A special feature of **The Catholic Church in the United States** is its wealth of illustration. Every notable member of its early missionaries; the Catholic Hierarchy past and present; every important institution; all the important parish churches and rectories, and Churchmen of prominence, are represented by their pictures. The history will thus be one of the most elaborate and beautiful works of any kind ever undertaken in America, and, however casually one may turn over the pages, one cannot help being astounded at the huge accomplishment represented by the thousands of glorious institutions seen in these volumes.



To enable them to make their work complete and accurate, the editors of **The Catholic Church in the United States** urgently appeal to the Pastors to co-operate with them in their tremendous and responsible task.



The completeness and accuracy of the remaining volumes depend ultimately on the Pastors, who alone are in a position to furnish the highly important data and statistics for their corner of the Fold.



The Editors quite realize how overburdened with work the average Pastor is; but, if they awaited a time when all the Pastors had leisure, the *Annals of American Catholicism* would never be written.



Every Pastor must realize how essential a complete collection of Catholic records is.



The Catholic history of our country as a whole is at present inaccessible not only to Catholics in general

(every one of whom should take a deep interest and pride in the history of his Church), but even to scholars. For, even if one were to secure the vast library of books dealing with Catholic history in the various localities, these works are written from such various aspects, and the standards aimed at by the authors differ so greatly, that an accurate conception of American Catholic history cannot be gained by this means. Again, these works leave quite untouched vast portions of our huge Republic, and but a negligible proportion of them are up-to-date. And, in not a single instance, has there been a well-planned and scholarly attempt made to compile detailed Catholic statistics for the entire country.



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By supplying the Editors with accurate data concerning the history and present status of Catholicism in his parish, each Pastor is doing his share toward producing the most glorious monument to the progress and achievements of the Church.



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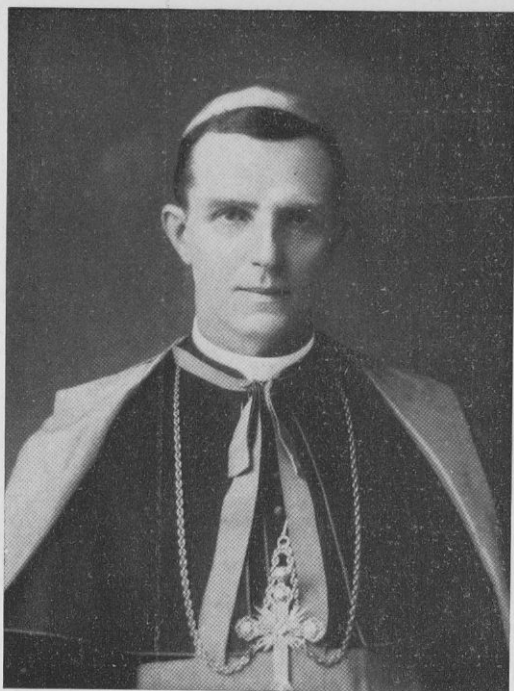
Secretary of State to His Holiness

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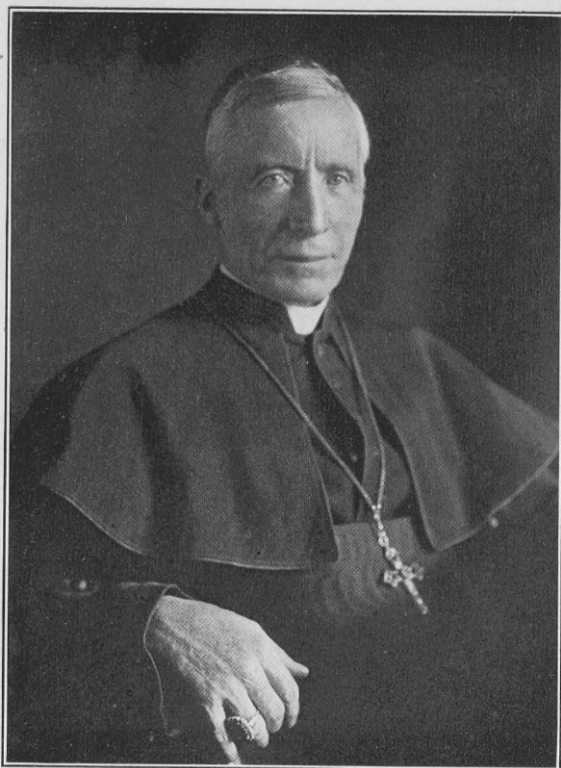
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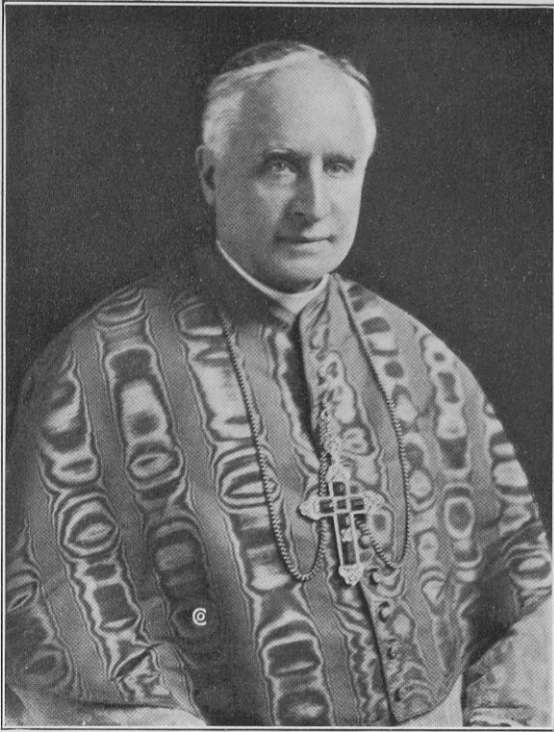
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