The Catholic Church in the United States of America

HER PAST—HER PRESENT—HER FUTURE

"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.

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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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AND OVER TEN THOUSAND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS
The Catholic Church in the United States is the first comprehensive attempt to collect in one work full information concerning the beginnings, the development and the present status of Catholicism in every corner of the American Fold.

For every exertion of her bishops; for every private 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
beneficent agency in America, this attitude of outsiders is neither strange nor even unreasonable.

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.

In Volume I, The Catholic Church in the United States has given full information regarding the history, activity, institutions and membership of all the Religious Orders of Men laboring in the service of the Church in the United States.

In Volume II the Religious Orders of Women have been given similar treatment.

As all the histories were written by the Superiors of the Orders concerned, or under their supervision, these two volumes possess an authority and accuracy
never surpassed, and seldom equaled in works brought out under Catholic auspices in any land.

The remaining six volumes deal in detail with the history of each diocese and its constituent parishes in the United States. Volume III treats of all the Dioceses in the Provinces of New York and Baltimore. The succeeding four volumes treat the other provinces.

The history of each Archdiocese and Diocese is divided into two sections:

I. A general history of the territory comprising the Archdiocese or Diocese from the earliest missionary days down to the present time. This article is always written by an historian appointed or approved by the Ordinary;

II. A short history of each parish, giving its origin, all the important facts of parochial history, and statistics showing the present conditions of Catholicism. The data for these articles are supplied by the pastors, with whose valuable co-operation The Catholic Church in the United States will not only be the first comprehensive history of American Catholicism as a whole, but will also serve as the first exhaustive Catholic Census of the United States.

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

Volume VIII will contain a searching analysis of the chief problems which confront American Catholicism, and whose solution cannot be long delayed without peril to the Church. Many of the Hierarchy have already undertaken articles for this volume.
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.

This collection of Catholic historical sources cannot be undertaken too soon, because pioneer Catholics are daily carrying to their graves information of priceless value and interest regarding the beginnings of the Church in their own localities.

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.

The Editors feel confident that no Pastor will deny to the Church the glory for the progress of Catholicism — all the more glorious when made in the face of grave obstacles — in his parish. And they feel all the more justified in this confidence in view of the careful and detailed information already sent them by the great majority of the pastors.
"The prompt and elegant edition of the first two volumes, that have already aroused the deepest sympathy and approval on the part of the Episcopacy of America, does honor indeed to the eager activity and to the exquisite art of the collaborators, to whom is owed the wealth of the documents produced, and of the artistic illustrations. His Holiness expresses to you through me his sovereign pleasure and congratulations."

Secretary of State to His Holiness
I herewith wish to express my sincere thanks for the first volume of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA which you have so kindly presented to me. It is indeed a beautiful volume. I most gladly congratulate you on the success that you have already reached in your work, and I hope that the same and even greater success will accompany you in the publication of the successive volumes of the work.

+ John Fontana
Archbishop of Baltimore

Apostolic Delegate
"The popular edition of your most valuable publication, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, will, I am sure, receive the deserved attention of the American public for both its authoritative character and the great wealth of illustrations, which gives a full view of the progress of the Church in this country. The important testimonials and recommendations which your work has received from His Holiness Pope Pius the Tenth and from the Hierarchy, will, no doubt, make it all the more popular. With it at hand Catholics will better know themselves and non-Catholics Catholics. The new edition in eight volumes should appeal to all Catholics who can afford to secure a copy of it, and I warmly recommend it to them."

Archbishop of Baltimore

"I take pleasure in adding my commendation of the work you are undertaking in bringing out THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA. It will undoubtedly assist in bringing our people a vast and varied mass of interesting and valuable information concerning the growth of the Church in this country. I wish you every success in the prosecution of your work." — Most Rev. A. CHRISTIE, Archbishop of Oregon.

"To the Rev. Clergy and the Superiors of Catholic Institutions of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee: By these presents I bespeak your hearty cooperation with the editors of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, a magnificent work on the history, growth and present condition of the Church in our country. The work is to be published in eight large folio volumes, richly illustrated, by the Catholic Editing Company of New York. It has already obtained the approbation of many members of the American Hierarchy." — Most Rev. S. G. MESSMER, Archbishop of Milwaukee.

"I very gladly associate myself in the expressions of good will and of commendation that have reached you from his Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons and other Archbishops. So much work remains to be done in this Diocese that I have not had time to give your work the attention it deserves. You have undertaken a large and important work which if it is to succeed, as it deserves, should have the support of the Clergy and Catholic people of this country."
therefore assure you the courtesy of the Reverend Clergy and the Superiors of
the Religious Communities in this Diocese, all of whom will be very glad to
furnish you information necessary for your work." — Most Rev. P. W.
RIORDAN, Archbishop of San Francisco.

"The first volume of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, which you have been so kind as to send me, gives
promise of a monumental work on a subject that ought to be dear to the heart
of every Catholic. It is to be hoped that the same standard of excellence may
characterize the remaining volumes. Please to send me a proof of your article
on the Diocese of Toledo for revision and correction." — Right Rev. JOSEPH
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"I have received the first volume of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. It offers to be a work of great merit,
and useful information. Not only to Catholics, but to non-Catholics it should
be welcome, as showing what a great religious body is doing for the true interests
of the country. The publication is opportune and I wish it a full measure of
success." — Right Rev. THOMAS GRACE, Bishop of Sacramento.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA which treats mainly of the Reli-
gious Orders, the history of which with its abundance of illustrations is valuable
"I have received the first volume of your new edition of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, which appears to be filled with very interesting information. Judging from the list of contributors, the work should be a reliable and trustworthy account of the progress of the Faith in our country. The make-up of the book is excellent, and I look forward with great interest to the arrival of the succeeding volumes."

William Cardinal O'Connell

Archbishop of Boston

and very interesting reading. I gladly recommend the work to clergy, religious institutions and others who can afford to secure the same." — Right Rev. JOSEPH J. FOX, Bishop of Green Bay.

"Allow me to congratulate you on the first volume of your great work THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA just issued from the press. It contains a vast amount of useful information on what the Religious Communities of Men have accomplished for the upbuilding of religion in our great country, besides being enriched with copious illustrations. If the succeeding volumes reach the high standard set by this first volume, the success of your work is assured." — Right Rev. PATRICK A. MCGOVERN, Bishop of Cheyenne.

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the first volume of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. I congratulate you and your associates upon this beautifully printed, well bound effort on a subject matter most interesting and indeed very well presented. I hope that you will be able to carry to successful completion this work, which should be of greatest interest to the Catholic people of this country." — Right Rev. JOS. P. LYNCH, Bishop of Dallas.

"I am much pleased with the initial volume of your popular edition of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES, and I wish
It is with delight and gratitude that I have received the first two volumes of this most important publication, and though, indeed, after the blessings and encouragements of the Holy Father and of illustrious American prelates, my congratulations must needs appear of small moment, nevertheless I wish to give them expression in a spirit of sincere praise, with my best wishes that, thanks to generous cooperation, the subsequent volumes announced for publication will appear without delay, and that those well deserving should reap a full tribute of praise for their apostolic labors, of which it has pleased and please the Divine Providence to avail itself in order to make fruitful the American field. I pray to God that He bless the work in course of publication.

Prefect of the Apostolic Segnatura

It is hoped that the remaining seven volumes will be in keeping with the first volume and that the sale of this timely work will be commensurate with its valuable information to the general public." — Right Rev. MATHIAS C. LENIHAN, Bishop of Great Falls.

"The first volume of THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is a credit to the Catholic Editing Company; especially the illustrations are perfect. This most important work should find a place of honor in every library." — Right Rev. JAMES TROBEC, Bishop of St. Cloud.

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"I will indeed be happy to have all the Priests of the Diocese of Crookston and to furnish them as promptly as possible the historical data relative to your parish. You should be interested in having preserved for future generations the names of the heroic priests who labored to establish the outposts of the Faith and to maintain them or in having permanently recorded edifying or noteworthy incidents connected therewith. Yours in Domno." — Right Rev. E. A. GARVEY, Bishop of Altoona.

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"I wish to offer my sincere congratulations on the excellence of the work, as well as my thorough appreciation of its merits as a descriptive and historical monument to the honor of Mother Church and Religion. If I am not mistaken, instructive and comforting as the subject is, it has not, thus far, been comprehensively treated or authorized in any manner. The credit of the enterprise is all yours. And in return, all encouragement and support is due you. Pray count upon mine." — Right Rev. HENRY GRANJON, Bishop of Tucson.

"The volume you sent me on Jan. 28th, has reached me at last. It must have been delayed by the express. Though I have had no time yet to peruse it at leisure, I must say it is a beautiful work, rich in data and illustrations, and I hope it will have a large circulation among our clergy and people." — Right Rev. C. VAN DE VEN, Bishop of Alexandria.

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[Text about William Henry Harrison, the Catholic Church in America, and its historical importance is redacted due to the nature of the content.]

IMPORTANT

[Redacted information regarding the Catholic Church's role in the nation's history is redacted due to the nature of the content.]

[Redacted information regarding the Catholic Church's involvement in various historical events is redacted due to the nature of the content.]