



LITTERAE S.S. PII P.P. XII
DE DIE SANCTAE INFANTIAE QUOTANNIS ASSIGNATA
AD PONTIFICIUM OPUS PROMOVENDUM
(IV mensis decembris MDCCCCL)

Dilecto Filio Nostro Petro S.R.E. Presb. Card. Fumasoni Biondi
Sacri Consilii catholicae propagandae Fidei Praefecto
Pius PP XII

Dilecte Fili Noster, salutem et Apostolicam Benedictionem. Praeses Consilii Pontificio Operi a Sancta Infantia praepositi, officiosis haud ita pridem datis litteris, Nos demisse instanterque rogavit ut, quemadmodum sacris Missionibus provehendis dies quotannis assignatus est, sic dies pariter singulis annis destinaretur ad idem Pontificium Opus, cui ipse digne praest, admotis ad Deum precibus ac collata stipe promovendum. Nobis placuit admodum susceptum ejusmodi propositum; atque adeo opportunum ducimus hisce obsecundare votis atque huic postulationi benignissime concedere. Futurum enim confidimus ut, hac re ubique in usum pro viribus deducta, et Pontificium Opus a Sancta Infantia latius cotidie cognoscatur in debitaque habeatur aestimatione, et publice indictis supplicationibus corrogatisque largitionibus haud parum accipiat incrementi. Id quidem summopere Nobis cordi est, cum probe noscamus in regionibus illis, in quas Evangelii praecones christianum nomen christianumque cultum inferunt, ingentem haberi infantium puerorumque multitudinem, cujus occurrere necessitatibus tam necessarium est, quam quod maxime. Parvulos derelictos caritate summa excipere, eos catholicorum more educare atque enutrire, lustrali aqua rite abluere atque expiare, litteris exercendisque artibus erudire, evangelica virtute conformare, eosdemque cives reddere christiano civilique nomine dignos: haec omnia pro facultate exsequenda Pontificium hoc Opus laudabili consilio laudabilique nisu suscepit. Quamobrem, si haec pariter omnia christifideles omnes precando elargendoque adjuverint, rem profecto fecerint, quam Nos summopere commendamus, et quae eis, ut confidimus uberrima a Deo conciliabit caelestia munera.

Faveas igitur, Dilecte Fili Noster haec vota Nostra Nostramque voluntatem cum locorum Ordinariis aptiore, quo putaveris, modo communicare; ita quidem ut opportuna praestituantur normae, quibus haec eadem vota ac proposita ad rem feliciter deducantur.

Interea vero supernarum gratiarum auspiciem Nostraeque benevolentiae testem, cum tibi, Dilecte Fili Noster, tum iis, qui Pontificio huic Operi suam sollertem navant operam, iisque singulis universis, qui ad hanc causam promovendam eo praesertim die, qui statuatur, conferent, Apostolicam Benedictionem amantissime impertimus.

Datum Romae, apud Sanctum Petrum, die IV mensis decembris, anno MDCCCCL, Pontificatus Nostri duodecimo.

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LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER PIUS XII
TO CARDINAL FUMASONI BIONDI ESTABLISHING THE WORLD DAY
OF THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD

(December 4th, 1950)

Our Beloved Son, Greetings and Apostolic Blessing.

In a recent letter that referred to the World Mission Day established already every year for the advancement of Catholic Missions, the President of the Superior Council of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood has humbly and graciously asked us to establish also a day of the Holy Childhood, in order to promote this Society that he presides over with such worthiness thanks to prayers to God and collections.

We truly appreciate such a vision and we consider it opportune in order to respond positively to his desires and benevolently grant him the solicited favour.

We are confident, in fact, that such a Day, celebrated everywhere, will make the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood better known and more justly esteemed day by day. And so the prayers and acts of generosity will bring it a noble increase. This is what we have at heart, since we know from good sources that in those regions where the heralds of the Gospel are bringing faith and Christian civilization, there is a multitude of children, boys and girls, whose needs must be taken care of as a priority. To receive abandoned children with the greatest charity, to educate and instruct them according to the Catholic spirit, to purify and redeem them with the water of baptism, to educate them by teaching them a trade, to train them in the evangelical virtues, to make of them men worthy of the name of Christians and citizens. This is what this Society has undertaken, according to the faculties granted to it by the Holy Father, at the worthy intentions and praiseworthy efforts.

Therefore, if likewise *all the Christian faithful* were to simultaneously succour this great Society with their prayers and donations, they would do that which we most highly recommend and we are confident it would provide them with God's highest heavenly favour.

Beloved son of ours, we ask you, therefore, to kindly communicate Our desire and Our will to the Bishops, in the form which you may deem preferable, but in such a way as to prescribe the appropriate rules for putting these wishes and this intention into practice.

In the meanwhile, as a pledge of the heavenly grace and testimony of our benevolence, we heartily grant you, our dear son, to the people who devote their work and their zeal to this Pontifical Society and to those who will continue to promote it, especially on the special day that will be fixed, our apostolic blessings.

In Rome, Saint Peter's, December 4th, 1950, the twelfth of our Pontificate.

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