



"The victory will ever be with God"

BY POPE SAINT PIUS X

Saint Pius X, who occupied the Chair of Saint Peter from 1903 until his untimely death in 1914, is known for vigorously opposing the Modernist infiltration of the Catholic Church.



Verily no one of sound mind can doubt the issue of this contest between man and the Most High. Man, abusing his liberty, can violate the right and the majesty of the Creator of the Universe; but the victory will ever be with God—nay, defeat is at hand at the moment when man, under the delusion of his triumph, rises up with most audacity. Of this we are assured in the holy books by God Himself. Unmindful, as it were, of His strength and greatness, He "overlooks the sins of men" (Wis. 11:24), but swiftly, after these apparent retreats, "awaked like a mighty man that hath been surfeited with wine" (Ps. 77:65), "He shall break the heads of his enemies" (Ps. 67:22), that all may know "that God is the king of all the earth" (Ps. 66:8), "that the Gentiles may know themselves to be men" (Ps. 9:20).

All this, Venerable Brethren, We believe and expect with unshakable faith. But this does not prevent us also, according to the measure given to each, from exerting ourselves to hasten the work of God—and not merely by praying assiduously: "Arise, O Lord, let not man be strengthened" (Ps. 9:19), but, more important still, by affirming both by word and deed and in the light of day, God's supreme dominion over man and all things, so that His right to command and His authority may be fully realized and respected. This is imposed upon us not only as a natural duty, but by our common interest. For, Venerable Brethren, who can avoid being appalled and afflicted when he beholds, in the midst of a progress in civilization which is justly extolled, the greater part of mankind fighting among themselves so savagely as to make it seem as though strife were universal? The desire for peace is certainly harbored in every breast, and there is no one who does not ardently invoke it. But to want peace without God is an absurdity, seeing that where God is absent thence too justice flies, and when justice is taken away it is vain to cherish the hope of peace.

"Peace is the work of justice" (Isa. 22:17). There are many, We are well aware, who, in their yearning for peace, that is for the tranquility of order, band themselves into societies and parties, which they style parties of order. Hope and labor lost. For there is but one party of order capable of restoring peace in the midst of all this turmoil, and that is the party of God. It is this party, therefore, that we must advance, and to it attract as many as possible, if we are really urged by the love of peace.

But, Venerable Brethren, we shall never, however much we exert ourselves, succeed in calling men back to the majesty and empire of God, except by means of Jesus Christ. "No one," the Apostle admonishes us, "can lay other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). It is Christ alone "whom the Father sanctified and sent into this world" (Isa. 10:36), "the splendor of the Father and the image of His substance" (Heb. 1:3), true God and true man: without whom nobody can know God with the knowledge for salvation, "neither doth anyone know the Father but the Son, and he to whom it shall please the Son to reveal Him" (Matt. 11:27.). Hence it follows that to restore all things in Christ and to lead men back to submission to God is one and the same aim. To this, then, it behooves Us to devote Our care—to lead back mankind under the dominion of Christ; this done, We shall have brought it back to God. When We say "to God," We do not mean to that inert being heedless of all things human, which the dream of materialists has imagined, but to the true and living God, one in Nature, triple in Person, Creator of the world, most wise Ordainer of all things, Law-giver most just, Who punishes the wicked and has reward in store for virtue. ■

Pius X, *E Supremi* [Encyclical of Pope Saint Pius X on the Restoration of All Things in Christ], sec. 6–8 (October 4, 1903), The Holy See, https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-x/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-x_enc_04101903_e-supremi.html.

SAINT WHO?

Saints Who Championed the Eucharist

Saint Pius X

Pope († 1914)

Feast: August 21

Few popes have come from humbler circumstances than Giuseppe Sarto. Although born into a modest family in a tiny town, he demonstrated his intellectual and leadership gifts even as a boy. With the aid of a scholarship, he was able to study and be ordained a priest. In each of his priestly assignments, he showed a great love for the poor, a dedication to the catechesis of his flock, and common sense in dealing with complicated situations.

It's no wonder that his bishop gave him increasingly demanding assignments as a priest or that popes did the same after naming him a bishop. Giuseppe had no expectation of being named pope when he attended the conclave following the death of Pope Leo XIII. His friends knew better.

During his eleven-year reign as Pope Pius X, he made many important (and sometimes unpopular) decisions, many in opposition to Modernist heresies within the Church. But he was, at heart, a parish priest who loved the Eucharist. He encouraged reverence in the liturgy and use of Gregorian chant to help Catholics develop a closer relationship with Christ. When he decided to lower the age of reception of the Eucharist to the so-called age of reason, children all over the world thanked him. As he put it, "Holy Communion is the shortest and the safest way to heaven."

*King of Heaven, may receiving your Body and Blood
lead us all safely to the heavenly banquet.*
