



Archdiocese of San Antonio,

230 Dwyer Avenue,

San Antonio, Texas.

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Reverend and Dear Father:-

The Church in Mexico is systematically being strangled to death. The godless tyrants, upheld not by ballots but by force, by the guns and bayonets of a subservient soldiery, hold the Country in their iron grip. No priest, no altar, no Mass, no Sacraments, no Christ is the aim of these Mexican Communists faithfully following Russia's example.

Pursuing their diabolical plan they have closed and stolen all the Seminaries and publicly announced that to educate and train a young man for the Priesthood is a crime by the new Mexican philosophy and Mexican Land.

The Bishops hemmed in on all sides by the most absurd and cruel laws and endless penalties are helpless in this hour of their martyrdom. In their distress they stretch out their hands to us, their more fortunate brothers in the Faith. "Help us or we perish" is their pitiful cry. "Help us in providing future priests for our persecuted and harassed flocks."

I know America's answer: the Catholic Hierarchy, the Clergy, the Religious and Laity of our Land with one voice exclaim that Satan's efforts across the Rio Grande shall and will be frustrated and the old splendid faith of Mexico shall not be uprooted. In every diocese of the United States a special collection will be taken up to gather funds for the erection of a Seminary right here in the "land of the free", and America will see to it that Mexican students are being trained and educated for the holy Priesthood.

In union with the American Bishops and Archbishops we herewith order that this letter be read in every church and chapel of our Archdiocese and at all the Masses on September the 20th and that the collection for the Mexican Seminary be taken up on the following Sunday, September the 27th.

We appeal to all, young and old, rich and poor, to make a real sacrifice for the agonizing Church across our Border. Envelopes will be distributed today in order to give everyone an opportunity to share in this Christ-like work.

Our Reverend pastors will forward the collection to the Chancery office as soon as possible.

Wishing you and your parish a hundredfold reward for their truly Catholic charity, I beg to remain,

Yours truly in Christ,

Arthur J. Casper
Archbishop of San Antonio.

By Order of the Archbishop,
James T. Lockwood, Secretary.
San Antonio, Texas, September the 15th, 1936.

P. S. Henceforth from date of receipt of this letter the Oratio imperata No. 10 may cease, but continue to say one Our Father, Hail Mary with the invocation "Oh Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for Mexico."