



To Our beloved Son
Patrick Peyton
Priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross

The radio apostolate, to which you have been giving the full measure of your priestly devotion during the past seven years, in furtherance of the pastoral mission of Our indefatigable brethren in the Hierarchy of the United States, has been, as you are well aware, a constant object of Our paternal interest and solicitude.

In the admirable selection of «Family Theater» recordings you are presenting to Us in affectionate filial homage, as in the nation-wide repute and spiritual fecundity of the Family Rosary devotion to which they bear eloquent witness, it gives Us no little joy to discern a faithful and dramatic echo of Our own repeated

pleadings, with pastors and with mothers, fathers and the newly wed, to make sure that the new homes they are courageously building for their children and for the Family of Nations are modelled on the prayer, labor and sacrifice of the Holy Home of Nazareth.

It was no mere coincidence, as you have well understood, that in Our Encyclical Letter *Sertum laetitiae* of November 1, 1939, on the progress and problems of the Church in America, We were moved at the same time to invoke this Christian ideal of family life and to rejoice with your pastors and their flocks « that the Marconi radio, which transmits the spoken word to the ends of the earth in an instant - marvellous invention in the image of the Apostolic Faith embracing all mankind! - is used often and advantageously to give the broadest possible publicity to the interests of the Church ».

You may therefore count with confidence, beloved son, on the continued encouragement and prayerful support of the Common Father of the sore-tried universal Christian household, in the measure that your radio broadcast of the Good Tidings, avoiding the perils of mere showmanship with programs of reverent and becoming instruction, song and story, gives ever fuller and more genuine expression to one of Our heart's deepest desires.

In token of this Our abiding trust, and of the heavenly favour which cannot fail to reward the speakers, bearers and doers of the word first made radiant and fruitful within the Holy Family, We gladly impart to you, to your collaborators one and all, and to the dear community of your responsive listeners, the Apostolic Benediction.

From the Vatican, January 14, 1948

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