

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

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LETTER OF OUR ARCHBISHOPS TO PRESIDENT WILSON

The Archbishops of the United States have addressed a letter to President Wilson pledging the loyalty of the Catholic hierarchy, the clergy and people, to the President and Government and accepting the decree of Congress "proclaiming this country to be in a state of war."

The letter is signed by the eight Archbishops who were present at the annual meeting in Washington, Wednesday, April 18, the remaining six being unavoidably absent. It reads:

"MR. PRESIDENT:

"Standing firmly upon our solid Catholic tradition and history from the very foundation of this nation, we reaffirm in this hour of stress and trial our most sacred and sincere loyalty and patriotism toward our country, our Government and our flag.

"Moved to the depths of our hearts by the stirring appeal of the President of the United States and by the action of our nation's Congress, we accept whole-heartedly and unreservedly the decree of that legislative authority proclaiming this country to be in a state of war.

"We have prayed that we might be spared the dire necessity of entering the conflict. But now that war has been declared we bow in obedience to the summons to bear our part of it, with fidelity, with courage and with the spirit of sacrifice which as loyal citizens we are bound to manifest for the defense of the most sacred rights and the welfare of the whole nation.

"Acknowledging gladly the gratitude we have always felt for the protection of our spiritual liberty and the freedom of our Catholic institutions under the flag, we pledge our devotion and strength in the maintenance of our country's glorious leadership in those possessions and principles which have been America's proudest boast.

"Inspired neither by hate nor fear, but by the holy sentiments of truest patriotic fervor and zeal, we stand ready, we and all the flock committed to our keeping, to cooperate in every way possible with our President and our National Government, to the end that the great and holy cause of liberty may triumph, and that our beloved country may emerge from this hour of test stronger and nobler than ever.

"We are all true Americans, ready as our age, our ability and our condition permit to do whatever is in us to do.

"May God direct and guide our President and our Government that

out of this trying crisis in our national life may at length come a closer union among all the citizens of America and that an enduring and blessed peace may crown the sacrifices which war inevitably entails!

"James Cardinal Gibbons, Baltimore; William Cardinal O'Connell, Boston; Archbishops John Ireland, St. Paul; John J. Glennon, St. Louis; Sebastian G. Messmer, Milwaukee; Henry Moeller, Cincinnati; Edward J. Hanna, San Francisco; George W. Mundelein, Chicago."

The reply of President Wilson was as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1917.

"MY DEAR CARDINAL GIBBONS:

"The demands on my time incident to the arrival and entertainment of the foreign commissions now in Washington have delayed my replying to your gracious letter of April 19. I am sure you will understand, and I beg that you will pardon the delay.

"The very remarkable resolutions unanimously adopted by the Archbishops of the United States at their annual meeting in the Catholic University on April 18 last, a copy of which you were kind enough to send me, warm my heart and make me very proud indeed that men of such large influence should act in so large a sense of patriotism and so admirable a spirit of devotion to our common country.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

His Eminence,

J. CARDINAL GIBBONS,
Baltimore, Md.

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

The courses offered by this Department are of three classes: those arranged to meet the needs of students in Civil Engineering; special courses for those wishing to take up advanced work; a course in General Astronomy for those wishing to acquire a knowledge of the principles of the science for its cultural value. The equipment, although limited, is adequate to meet the requirements of the first and third of the above-mentioned classes and is available for advanced work along certain lines as well.

It has seemed that it might be of advantage to make a rather more extended statement than is contained in the University Year Book regarding the third of these courses.

For several years it has been evident that while the comparatively small number of students who have specialized in astronomy have shown steady improvement in both the quality and quantity of work accomplished, still there has been a marked decline as compared with conditions of thirty or forty years ago in the number of graduates of our colleges and universities, who have acquired as a part of a liberal education some