

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

*A copy of the correspondence with the government of the Papal States relative to the mission of Archbishop Gaetano Bedini to the United States.*

JANUARY 27, 1854.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith a report from the Secretary of State, with accompanying documents, in compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 23d instant.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, January 25, 1854.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, January 25, 1854.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the Senate's resolution of the 23d instant, requesting the President "to communicate to the Senate, so far as he may deem it compatible with the public interest, a copy of any correspondence which may have taken place with the government of the Papal States touching a mission to the United States," has the honor to submit a copy and translation of a letter of the 31st of March last, from Cardinal Antonelli, the minister of foreign affairs of his Holiness the Pope, addressed to this department, stating that Archbishop Gaetano Bedini, the apostolic nuncio to the empire of Brazil, had been directed to repair to the United States for the purpose of complimenting the President in the name of his Holiness. This letter was transmitted to the department with a dispatch of the chargé d'affaires of the United States at Rome, on the subject, which, according to the index of the department, was numbered 55, bore date the 19th of March, and was received on the 18th of April last. This dispatch having been accidentally mislaid, a transcript of it cannot at present be furnished. A copy of the original letter of his Holiness to the President delivered by Archbishop Bedini, which was received at the department on the 10th of July last, a translation of the same, and a copy of a dispatch of Mr. Cass of the 7th ultimo, are also herewith communicated.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. L. MARCY.

95 To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

ROMA, 31 Marzo, 1853.

**EXCELLENZA:** Monsignor Gaetano Bedini, Arcivescovo di Tebe, destinato dal S. Padre a Nunzio Apostolico nell' Impero del Brasile, ha ricevuto l'incarico di recarsi negli Stati Uniti, e di complimentare in tal circostanza in nome di Sua Santità l'onorevole Signor Presidente. Questo Prelato, essendo adoro delle piu belle doti di animo e di mente, ha saputo meritarlo dal S. Padre si distinta commissione. Prego quindi l'Excellenza Vostra a volerlo ricevere con quella gentilezza che è tutta sua propria, ed essergli cortese di quell'assistenza di cui possa abbisognare. Il quale di Lei favore gli sarà tanto piu necessario per facilitargli le vie di essere benevolmente accolto dal Signor Presidente, al quale deve presentare una analoga lettera pontificia. Amo confidarmi, che Ella vorrà corrispondere a siffatta mia preghiera, specialmente in vista dello scopo cui essa è diretta, e con tale fiducia mi onoro di attuarle i sensi della mia piu distinta considerazione.

Di vostra excellenza, &c.,

ANTONELLI.

S. E. SIG. MINISTRO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI, *Washington.*

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[Translation.]

ROME, March 31, 1853.

**EXCELLENCY:** Monsignor Gaetano Bedini, Archbishop of Thebes, appointed by the Holy Father as Apostolic Nuncio to the empire of Brazil, has been directed to repair to the United States, and, under such circumstances, to compliment the Honorable President in the name of his Holiness. This prelate, being endowed with the most brilliant qualities of heart and mind, was well deserving of this distinguished commission from the Holy Father. I beg therefore that your excellency will be pleased to receive him in that kindness of spirit which is characteristic of your disposition, and to extend to him whatever assistance he may need. Your favor will be the more necessary to him to facilitate his being kindly received by the President, to whom he is to present, likewise, a Pontifical letter. I venture to flatter myself that you will respond to my request, especially in consideration of the object in view, and with this hope I have the honor to tender you the assurance of my very distinguished consideration.

Your Excellency's, &c.,

ANTONELLI.

HIS EXCELLENCY,

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, *Washington.*

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*Pius P. P. IX.*

**ILLUSTRIS ET HONORABILIS VIR, SALUTEM:** Cum venerabilis frater Cajetanus, Archiepiscopus Thebarum, ad ordinarii nostri et Apostolicæ Sedis Nuncii munus apud Imperialem Braziliensem, aulam obvendum a nobis destinatus per istas transiret regiones, eidem in præcipuis mandatis dedimus, ut nostro nomine nobilitatem tuam conveniat, tibi que has

nostras reddat litteras, plurimam salutem dicat, ac simul nostri in te animi sensus luculentis verbis exprimat, atque testetur.

Procerto habemus, haec nostra in te studia pergrata tibi fore, ac minime dubitamus, quin eundem venerabilem fratrem egregius animi, ingenueque dotibus ornatum pro eximia tua humanitate benignissime sis excepturus. Et quoniam universi dominici gregis cura nobis divinius est commissa, ideo haud possumus, quin hac quoque occasione libentissime utentes, a te totis viribus enixe efflagtemus, ut Catholicos in istis regionibus degentes valido tuo patrocinio et auctoritate tegere ac tuere semper velis. Dum autem confidimus, nobilitatem tuam nostris hisce desideriis, ac postulationibus perlibenter esse satisfacturam, haud omitimus a Deo optimo Maximo humiliter exposcere, ut te, illustris et honorabilis vir, coelestis sine gratiae donis, omniique verae felicitatis genere cumulet, ac perfecta nobiscum caritate conjungat.

Datum Romae, apud S. Petrum die, 31 Martii, anno 1853. Pontificatus nostri anno septimo.

PIUS P. IX.

[Translation.]

*Pius IX Pope*

**ILLUSTRIOUS AND HONORED SIR:** Greeting! As our venerable brother, Cajetanus, Archbishop of Thebes, accredited as our envoy in ordinary and nuncio of the Apostolic See near the imperial court of Brazil, has been directed by us to visit those regions, (the United States,) we have, at the same time, especially charged him to present himself in our name before your excellency, and to deliver into your hands these our letters, together with many salutations, and to express to you, in the warmest language, the sentiments we entertain towards you, to which he will testify.

We take it for granted that these friendly demonstrations on our part will be agreeable to you; and least of all do we doubt, but that the aforesaid venerable brother, a man eminently distinguished for the sterling qualities of mind and heart which characterize him, will be kindly received by your Excellency. And, inasmuch as we have been entrusted by Divine commission with the care of the Lord's flock throughout the world, we cannot allow this opportunity to pass without earnestly entreating you to extend your protection to the Catholics inhabiting those regions, and to shield them at all times with your power and authority. Feeling confident that your Excellency will very willingly accede to our wishes and grant our requests, we will not fail to offer up our humble supplications to Almighty God that he may bestow upon you, illustrious and honored sir, the gift of his heavenly grace, that he may shower upon you every kind of blessings, and unite us in the bonds of perfect charity.

Given at Rome, from the Vatican, March 31, 1853; the seventh of our pontificate.

PIUS IX. POPE.

To his Excellency the PRESIDENT  
of the United States of America.

*Mr. Cass to Mr. Marcy.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

*Rome, December 7, 1853.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of my arrival here on the 3d instant, when I resumed the the duties of this legation.

On the 6th instant I had the honor of an interview with the Cardinal Secretary of State. On this, as on previous occasions, I was struck with the evident desire entertained by this government to cultivate friendly relations with the United States. The cardinal alluded with expressions of gratification, and of personal kindness towards the President, accompanied with assurances of the highest regard for the people and government of the United States, to the kind reception extended to Monsignor Bedini, the Roman nuncio, during his late mission, and spoke of the satisfaction it had given to the Pope. His Holiness is, at present, "in retreat," as it is technically termed, being the observance of certain religious exercises, during the continuance of which he abstains, in a great degree, from all participation in the administration of political affairs.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS, Jr.

Hon. WILLIAM L. MARCY, *Secretary of State.*