| BONIFACIUS EPISCOPUS, SERVUS SERVORUM DEI, VENERABILIBUS FRATRIBUS, UNIVERSIS ARCHIEPISCOPIS ET EPISCOPIS, EXEMPTIS ET NON EXEMPTIS PER REGNUM FRANCIAE CONSTITUTIS,1 SALUTEM ET APOSTOLICAM BENEDICTIONEM | BONIFACE BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD, TO MY VENERABLE BROTHERS, TO EACH AND EVERY APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP AND BISHOP, NAMED OR NOT NAMED THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM OF FRANCE, HEALTH AND APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION |
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| Gloria, laus et honor Patri luminum (a quo est datum optimum et omne donum perfectum) a cunctis fidei orthodoxae cultoribus, quorum spes tendit ad superos summis et sedulis devotionis et reverentiae studiis referantur. Ipse namque in misericordia copiosus liberalis in gratiis et in retributione munificus de supremis coelorum ad ima mundi oculos suae majestatis inflectens, et benigna consideratione discutiens beati Ludovici, quondam regis Franciae inclyti suique gloriossimi confessoris, merita grandia operaque mirifica quibus ipse constitutus in saeculo, ceu lucerna luminosa resplenduit; eaque veluti iustus judex et retributor laudabilis2 intendens condignis recompensare muneribus, eum tanquam emeritum et retributione dignissimum, post vitae praesentis ergastulum et laboriosa mundi certamina (quae fervens in divinis obsequiis potenter et patenter exercuit) aetheris sedibus collocabit, ut sedeat cum principibus et solium gloriae teneat, felicitatis aeternae dulcoribus potiturus. | Glory, praise and honor to the Father of lights ( from Whom has been given every best given and ever perfect gift) from all the cultivators of the orthodox Faith, the hope of whom tends to be referred to those above by the highest and zealous studies of devotion and reverence. For indeed, He Himself, copious in a generous mercy and munificent in graces and retribution, bending the eyes of His majesty from the heights of the heavens to the depths of the world, has by His benign consideration made the great merits and wonderful works of the Blessed Louis, the recent outstanding King of France and her most glorious confessor, shine as if with a luminous light, by which he has been constituted in eternity; and intending to recompense these things as a just judge and praiseworthy rewarder with condign gifts [muneribus], He has set him up upon aethereal thrones as an emeritus and most worthy of retribution, after the prison of the present life and laborious battles of the world (which he exercised powerfully and openly as one fervent in the divine services), to sit with princes and have a throne of glory, as one who will possess the sweeter things of eternal felicity. |
| Exultet igitur mater Ecclesia, et sollempnia festiva concelebret gaudiorum, quod tantum et talem filium genuit, produxit natum, educavit alumnum, jam inter regum gloriosa caelestium agmina rutilantem. Laetetur, inquam, et iubilet, ac in laudes Altisimi voces promat, quod sobolis tam praecelsae, tam celebris illustrata fulgo- / -ribus . . . | Therefore, let Mother Church exult and concelebrate the solemn festivals of joys, because She had begot so great and such a son, brought him forth as a child, educated him as a student, as one now blushing among the glorious battle-lines of the Kingdom of the Heavens. Let Her rejoice, I say, and sing songs of jubilations, and bring forth voices unto the praise of the Most High, because She is conspicuous as one decorated / with such outstanding . . . |
| fulgo- / -ribus, insignis decorata conspicitur. Quae sonoris attollenda praeconiis summaequae venerationis exhibitione colenda, enucleatius aperit, evidentius explicat, illos ad perennis beatitudinis gaudia et hereditatis aeternae participium admittendos, qui praedictam Ecclesiam, matrem fidelium, sponsam Christi claris fidei et operis tetimoniis profitentur nullosque in supernae patriae gloriam, nisi per eius (ut pote coelorum clavigarae) ministerium virtuosum, ostiis reseratis altissimis, intorire. Gaudeant incolarum turbae coelestium, de tam sublimis tam lucidi habitatoris adventu; quodque ipsis expertus probatusque fidei christianae colonus cultorque praecipuus aggregatur. Personet laetitiae jubilum civium gloriosa nobilitas supernorum, quod tanti talisque concivis suscepisse dinoscitur adjectivum; ac venerabilis sanctorum coetus gaudio et exultatione refloreat, de nova dignissimi adhibitione consortis. Exurge itaque concio numerosa fidelium, exurgite fidei zelatores et una cum eadem Ecclesia laudis uberis hymnum concinite. Perfundantur imbre copioso laetitiae vestra praecordia, et fecundo rore dulcedinis arcana pectoris repleantur, de tanta et tam potentis et egregii principis exaltatione terreni, spei tutissimae plenitudine praeconcepta, quod nobis de coindigena terrenorum, compatriota coelestium jam effecto, apud aeterni Patris Filium efficax patronus accrevit, qui pro salutis nostrae profectibus, iam in eius praesentia positus, solteris exercet officium orationis. | decorated / with such outstanding offspring, as one illustrious with a crowd of glittering lights. Who being presented with sonorous proclamations and cared for with the exhibition of the highest veneration, more straightforwardly opens, more evidently explicates, that those to be admitted to the joys of perennial beatitude and to participation in the eternal Inheritance, who by the testimonies of clear faith and work profess the aforesaid Church, as Mother of the Faithful, Spouse of Christ, and that none enter into the glory of the Supernal Fatherland, except through Her (as the Key-Bearess, as it were, of the Heavens) virtuous ministry, having opened its most lofty Doors. Let the crowds of heavenly colonists, at the approach of so sublime and lucid inhabitant, rejoice; since he too, having been put to test and proven as a farmer and outstanding cultivator of the Christian Faith, is aggregated among them. Let the glorious nobility of the supernal citizens shout out a jubilee of joy, as it recognizes that it takes up the addition of such a great and such a co-citizen; let the venerable company of the Saints reflourish with joy and exultation, over the new presentation of a most worthy co-sharer. And thus rise up, o numerous assembly of the Faithful, rise up you zealous for the Faith and sing together as one with the same Church a hymn of rich joy. Let your hearts pour forth in a copious down-pour of gladness, and let the depths of your chests be filled with a fecund dew of sweetness, with such a great exaltation, of so potent and outstanding a prince of earth, anticipating the fullness of the most assured hope, that there has joined with us (who are) of the co-unworthy joy of earthly men, compatriot already with the heavenly in its effect, an efficacious patron before the Son of the Eternal Father, who for the progress of our salvation, having been already placed in His presence, exercises the office of skillful prayer. |
| Porro quis posset amplo famine praepotens, quis disertus qantumlibet aut eloquentiae nitore coruscans, sufficienter exprimere praecelsa sanctitatis insignia et multiplicium excellentiam meritorum quibus beatus Ludovicus praedictus in terris constitutus effulsit, cum eo plura de ipsius laudabilibus actibus referenda se offerant, quo plura calamus exprimit, pandunt labia, lingua pangit? | Again, who prepotent in an ample desire, who eloquent as much as one pleases or shining in the brilliance of eloquence, could sufficiently express the outstanding signs of holiness and excellence of multiple merits by which the aforesaid blessed Louis shown (himself to) have, when for this they present themselves to report more of his laudable deeds, than the pen express, the lips proffer, or the tongue declare? |
| Sed ne ipsorum actuum claritas sub nubilo lateat, tenebris obducatur, dignum duximus ut de illis aliqua sermo noster aperiat, et deducat in publicam notionem. | But lest the clarity of these deeds lie hidden under a cloud, be covered over by the shadows, We judge it worthy that Our own speech lay bare some of them, and bring them to public notice. |
| Hic profecto clarissimus genere, sublimis potentia, facultatibus opulentus, praecelsus virtutibus, moribus elegans, conspicuuus extitit honestate, inhonestis et turpibus a se penitus relegatis. Nam sic pudicitiae adhaesit operibus, sic carnis studuit evitare contagia, quod sicut habet certa credulitas plurimorum, nisi ei nexus accessisset uxorius, candore virgineo rutilaset. Longi quippe temporis spatio praedicti regni regimini praefuit, eiusque gubernacula, plena curis, provida circumspectione, direxit. Nulli noxius, non iniuriosus alicui, nemini violentus, iustitiae limites summopere servavit et coluit, aequitatis tramitem non reliquens. Perversorum conatus nefarios poenae debitae mucrone compescuit; malorum molimina conterens, pravorum illicitos ausus frenans. Pacis zelator eximius, fervidus amator concordae, promotor sollicitus extitit unitatis, dissidia fugiens, vitans scandala, dissensiones abhorrens. Propter quod sui felicis regiminis tempore, sedatis undique fluctibus, subductis noxiis, turbinibus profugatis, regni eiusdem incolis aurora dulcifluae tranquillitatis illuxit, laetaque serenitas votivae prosperitatis arrisit. | He, indeed, stood forth as one most brilliant in origin, sublime in power, opulent in abilities, outstanding in virtues, elegant in morals, conspicuous in honesty, having banished entirely from himself the dishonest and foul. For thus he cleaved to modesty in works, thus he strove to evade the contagions of the flesh, which as a certain belief of very many, holds, that if it were not for his marriage to a wife, he would have shone with the brilliant whiteness of a virgin. Indeed, for the long space of time, he presided over the government of the aforesaid kingdom, and he arranged his governments, full of cares, with cautious circumspection. As one noxious to none, injurious to no one, violent to none, he observed and cultivated in the highest manner the limits of justice, not forsaking the by-ways of equity. He trampled upon the nefarious works of the perverse with the sharp point of due punishment; crushing the great works of the wicked, and reining in the illicit darings of the depraved. He stood forth as an exceptional partisan of peace, a fervent lover of concord, a solicitous promoter of unity, as one fleeing disagreements, avoiding scandals, (and) abhorrent dissensions. On which account in the time of his happy reign, with waves calmed on all sides, injurious (things) removed, disturbances taken to flight, the dawn of a sweet-flowing tranquility rose upon the inhabitants of his kingdom, and the glad serenity of a longed for prosperity smiled upon (them). |
| Et ut de vita ipsius aliqua referamus (licet illa quo majori expositione discutitur, examine indagatur, eo referentis afferat gustui plus dulcoris, mentesque delectet obnixius auditorum), ab ineuntis aetatis primordiis Dei Filium tenera mentis affectione dilexit, nec diligere desiit, studia continuando salubria, dum vitae sibi commoditas affuit temporalis; sed quanto majori profecit aetate ac in tempora prolixiora prosiliit, tanto in eius exarsit amorem fervore spiritus ampliori. Hic quidem cum esset annorum duodecim, paterno destitutus auxilio, sub clarae memoriae Blanchae, reginae Fanciae, matris suae, custodia et guernatione remansit: quae cicra divina obsequia ferventer intenta, eum prudenter dirigere, ac diligenter instruere satagebat, ut ad praefati regni regimen, quod suae directionis expectere providentiam noscebatur, dignus et sufficiens fieret, ideoneus haberetur. Cumque per incrementa temporum idem rex aetatis annum quartum decimum attigisset, praedicta regina sibi magistrum proprium deputavit, qui eum scientia litterarum imbueret ac bonis moribus informaret. Ipseque rex sub eiusdem … | And so that we might relate something of his life (though it to the extent that it be discussed & investigated by a more lengthy exposition & examination, it brings for that reason greater sweetness to the one relating it, and delights more vigorously the minds of listeners), from the first beginnings of his life he loved [dilexit] the Son of God with a tender affection of mind, nor did he cease to love [diligere], in continuing salubrious studies, so long as the commodity of his own temporal life was present; but by as much greater he progressed in age and lept forward into more alluring seasons, so much more did he burst forth in love [amorem] of Him in the fervor of his spirit. He, indeed, when he was twelve years old, having been deprived by the assistance of his father, remained under the custody and governance of his mother, Blanche, the Queen of France, of good memory: who being fervently intent about the divine services, knew enough to prudently direct, and diligently instruct him, so that he might become worthy and sufficient and be held (to be) suitable for the government of the aforesaid Kingdom, which knew to expect the providence of his direction. And when through the passing of seasons he attained to the same as King in the fourteenth year of age, the aforesaid Queen deputed to him his own master, who imbued him with the science of letters and informed him with good morals. And the King placed / under |
| … magistri ferula positus, sic ei obediens et reverens existebat, sicque illius recipiebat humiliter disciplinam, quod superna praeventus gratia, profecit laudabiliter in utriusque: circa divina sic intentus officia, ut nequaquam ipsorum auditione contentus existeret, nisi ea quae coram se die noctuque a suis faciebat clericis sollempniter celebrari, ab ipso eorum aliquo attentius dicerentur. | placed / under the rod of the same master, remained obedient and reverent to him, and thus humbly received his discipline, which having been anticipated by supernal grace, he made laudable progress in each: intent thus about the divine offices, such that he remained content in the hearing of none of them, if he did not cause them to be solemnly celebrated day and night by his clerics in his presence, so that by this very thing there might be discerned something of them more attentively. |
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