

My will

Castel Gandolfo, 12 September, 1961

Under the dear and trustworthy auspices of Mary, my heavenly Mother, to whose name the liturgy of this day is dedicated, and in the eightieth year of my age, I hereby set down and renew my will, annulling every other declaration concerning my wishes, made and written previously, on divers occasions.

I await the arrival of Sister Death and will welcome her simply and joyfully in whatever circumstances it will please the Lord to send her.

First of all I beg forgiveness from the Father of mercies for my "countless sins, offences and negligences", as I have said and repeated so many, many times when offering my daily sacrifice of the Mass.

For this first grace of forgiveness from Jesus for all my sins, and for his acceptance of my soul in his blessed and eternal paradise, I commend myself to the prayers of all who have known me and followed my whole life as priest, Bishop, and most humble and unworthy servant of the servants of the Lord. It is with a joyful heart that I renew wholly and fervently the profession of my Catholic, Apostolic and Roman faith. Among the various forms and symbols in which the faith finds its expression I prefer the Creed of the Mass, said by priest and Pontiff, resounding and sublime, in union with the universal Church of every rite, every century, every land: from the 'Credo in unum Deum patrem omnipotentem' to the 'et vitam venturi saeculi'.