



SEGRETERIA DI STATO  
DI  
SUA SANTITÀ

Vatican City, March 9, 1955

N. 341920

Dear Monsignor O'Connor:

In this tenth year of existence of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the Sovereign Pontiff graciously directs me to convey to you and your colleagues the expression of His benevolent encouragement.

The lofty ideal which inspired the foundation of your Society and to which the members have dedicated themselves, is assuredly most praiseworthy. Indeed, the final purpose of man's being here on earth is to merit eternal salvation by means of knowledge, love and service of his Creator. Greater and deeper knowledge cannot but evoke more ardent love. Thus it is evident that the aims set for itself by the Catholic Theological Society should lead not only to the extension and intensification of the knowledge of divine things, but also to an increase of charity towards God and neighbor.

At the end of this first decade of activity, therefore, the Holy Father would urge the membership of your Society to renewed zeal and effort, in complete dedication to the cause of God and to the mind of His Church. It is in further testimony of His paternal benevolence and in pledge of the blessing of Divine Providence upon your labors that His Holiness imparts to you, to the executive officers and members of your Society, His particular Apostolic Benediction.

With sentiments of personal esteem and religious devotion, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*A. Jell'Anima*  
*Substitut*

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Rt. Rev. Msgr. William R. O'Connor  
President of the Catholic  
Theological Society of America  
New York City