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Benedictus XIV, const. *Apostolici muneris,* 8 febr. 1745.

§ 2. Hinc est, quod Nos omnem dubitandi rationem, quantum cum Domino possumus, de medio auferre cupientes, Motu proprio, ac ex certa scientia, et matura deliberatione nostris, deque Apostolicae potestatis plenitudine, memoratam Constitutionem nostram cum omnibus et singulis in ea contentis, tenore praesentium, quatenus opus sit, confirmamus, illamque integre, penitus, et omnino, atque ab illis, ad quos spectat, et pro tempore quandocumque spectabit, inviolabiliter, et inconcusse observari praecipimus, et mandamus. Praeterea, habita super his cum Venerabili Fratre Nostro Vincentio Episcopo Praenestino S.R.E. Cardinali Petra nuncupato Poenitentiario Nostro Maiori, ac dilectis Filiis Officii Poenitentiariae Apostolicae Ministris, qui rem iussu Nostro mature perpenderunt, deliberatione, motu, scientia, et potestatis plenitudine paribus, edicimus ac declaramus, eadem Constitutione singulis, ut supra, Sacerdotibus, quemadmodum interdictum non est in mortis articulo personam in praedicto turpi peccato complicem confitentem audire, atque ab huius modi quoque culpa rite contritam absolvere, deficiente tunc quocumque alio Sacerdote, qui Confessarii munus obire possit; ita interdici re ipsa et prohiberi praedicto modo tunc audire et absolvere, ut si aluis aliquis Sacerdos non defuerit, etiamsi forte iste aluis simplex tantummodo Sacerdos fuerit, sive alias ad Confessiones audiendas non approbatus, possit nihilominus ipse Sacerdos simplex Confessionem excipere ac absolutionem impertiri.

Apostolici Muneris; Benedict XIV, 8 February 1745
Fontes I, p. 885

Benedict XIV, const. *Apostolici muneris, 8 Feb 1745*

Fontes, Vol. I

§ 2. Hence it is that, desiring to remove (as much as We are able through the Lord) every reason for doubt, by Our will and by certain knowledge and through mature deliberation with Ourselves, and with the fullness of Our Apostolic power We confirm as much as possible Our Constitution of note with each and every thing contained therein, in the tenor of our present sentiments. And we prescribe and mandate that to all to whom it pertains, and for however long it shall do so, that it be observed completely, deeply, and utterly, without violation and unaltered. Moreover, after deliberation held concerning these matters with Our Venerable Brother Vincentius Bishop of Praeneste SRE Cardinal Peter, called Our Penitentiary Major, and the Beloved Sons and Ministers of the Office of Apostolic Penitentiary, who have considered the matter maturely after Our command, we proclaim and declare by our mutual will, knowledge, and fullness of power the following: that in that constitution, to each and every priest, as mentioned above [referring, presumably, to Article I] that inasmuch as it is not prohibited for all priests in that Constitution to hear the confession of a person complicit in the shameful crime mentioned if the person is on the point of death, and to absolve him from guilt of this nature if the person makes due contrition, when there is no priest present who can perform the office of Confessor, so likewise it is not prohibited and forbidden (in that same case and in the aforementioned way) for even a priest of "simplex" rank, should he be present, just as if a priest of sacerdotal rank were there [to perform the rites], and even if otherwise We do not approve the hearing of confessions, a simplex priest may nonetheless hear confession and impart absolution [in a case like this].