

E. CONCORDAT BETWEEN POPE PIUS VII AND NAPOLEON (1801).

Source: Mary H. Allies, Pius the Seventh 1800-1823  
(London: Burns & Oates, Ltd, 1897), pp 53-57 (with modifications).

The Government of the Republic recognizes that the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman religion is the religion of the vast majority of French citizens.

His Holiness, for his part, recognizes that this same religion has received and is receiving at the present time the greatest benefit and prestige from the establishment of Catholic worship in France and from the individual professions of it which are made by the Consuls of the French Republic.

As a result, after this mutual recognition, they have, for the good of religion and the maintenance of internal peace, agreed on the following:

Art. 1. The Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman religion shall be freely practised in France; its worship shall be public, in conformity with the rules of the policy which the Government shall judge to be necessary for public tranquility.

Art. 2. The Holy See, in conjunction with the Government, shall make a new delimitation of the French dioceses.

Art. 3. His Holiness shall declare to the titular holders of French bishoprics that he expects with firm confidence the utmost sacrifice from them, even if it be that of their Sees, for the sake of peace and unity. After this exhortation, if they refuse this sacrifice prescribed by the good of the Church ( a refusal which, however, His Holiness does not expect), the appointment of new nominees to the government of the bishoprics, according to their new delimitation, shall be proceeded with in the following manner.

Art. 4. The First Consul of the Republic shall, within three months following the publication of a Bull of His Holiness, nominate to archbishoprics and bishoprics according to the new delimitation. His Holiness shall confer canonical institution according to the forms established in regard to France before the change of government.

Art. 5. Nominations to bishoprics which shall fall vacant in the future shall also be made by the First Consul and canonical institution shall be given by the Holy See in conformity with the preceding Article.

Art. 6. The bishops, before commencing their duties, shall take personally between the hands of the First Consul the oath of fidelity which was in use before the

change of government, expressed in the following terms: I swear and promise to God on the Holy Gospels to observe obedience and fidelity to the Government established by the Constitution of the French Republic, I also promise not to have any knowledge, not to take part in any scheme, not to associate in any conspiracy, whether internal or external, which may be inimical to public tranquillity and, if in my diocese or elsewhere, I learn that something prejudicial to the State is contemplated, I will make it known to the Government."

Art. 7. Ecclesiastics of subordinate rank shall take the same oath between the hands of civil authorities, designated by the Government.

Art. 8. The following form of prayer shall be recited as the end of Divine worship in all Catholic Churches in France: "O Lord, save the Republic. O Lord, save the Consuls."

Art. 9. The bishops shall make a new delimitation of the parishes of their dioceses; this shall not come into effect without the consent of the Government.

Art. 10. The bishops shall nominate parish priests. Their choice shall not fall on any except persons approved by the Government.

Art. 11. The bishops will be able to have a Chapter in their Cathedral and a seminary for their diocese, but the Government does not guarantee to subsidize them.

Art 12. All metropolitan churches, cathedrals, parish churches and others not alienated which are necessary for worship, shall be put at the disposal of the bishops.

Art. 13. His Holiness, for the sake of peace and the happy restoration of the Catholic religion, declares that neither himself nor his successors will disturb in any way those who have acquired alienated Church property and that in consequence the ownership of such property, and the rights and revenues attached to it, shall remain unchallenged in their possession or in that of their heirs.

Art. 14. The Government will guarantee a suitable settlement for bishops and parish priests whose dioceses and livings shall be effected by the new delimitation.