

## Pastoral Letter From His Excellency Monsignor Saliege Archbishop of Toulouse

[The following is a speech titled: "human dignity", which was read out from the pulpit on August 23, 1942, without comment.]

My very dear Brothers.

There is a Christian morality, there is a human morality which lays down duties and recognizes rights. These rights and duties stem from the nature of man; they come from God. One may violate them... No mortal has the power to do away with them.

That children, women, men, fathers and mothers are treated like a lowly herd, that members of a single family are separated from each other and carted away to an unknown destination, it is our age which was destined to see this dreadful sight.

Why is there no longer any right of asylum in our churches?

Why are we the defeated?

Lord, have pity on us.

Our Lady, pray for France.

In our diocese, moving scenes have occurred in the camps of Noé and Récébédou. The Jews are men, the Jewesses are women. The foreigners are men and women. One cannot do anything one wishes to these men, to these women, to these fathers and mothers. They are part of the human race; they are our brothers like so many others. A Christian cannot forget this.

France, beloved Fatherland, France which bears in all the consciences of all your children, the tradition of respect of human dignity, chivalrous and generous France, I have no doubt, you are not responsible for these errors.

Yours devotedly, dear Brothers,

signed: Jules Gérard Saliege

Archbishop of Toulouse

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