Faulhaber to Archbishop Giuseppe Pizzardo, Sostituto in Vatican Secretariat of State, Congregation for Foreign Affairs, September 19, 1922

Source: L. Volk, ed., *Akten Kardinal Michael von Faulhabers, 1917-1945* [Faulhaber Papers] (Mainz: Matthias-Grünewald-Verlag, 1975), vol. 1, pages 278-280

Translation from the original German:

Reverend Herr!

Your Excellency wrote to the Apostolic Nunciature in Munich that our beloved Holy Father is pleased with my speech to the Catholic Congress in Munich. That was a great joy and a great comfort for me. I lay down reverential thanks at the feet of His Holiness.

In connection with that, might I explain about my intentions and impressions of the recent Catholic Congress. My intention was to give the Catholic Congress in Munich a basic theme: faithfulness to Catholic principle, return to the principles of Catholic order for life and society. The Catholic Congress in Frankfurt the previous year had the basic theme: the meaning of a Volk-community. In Bavaria and Munich, where a far higher proportion of Catholics live than in Frankfurt, it was necessary principally to express once again not merely the German-ness, but also the Catholic-ness of German Catholics. And it is surely by clear and concrete, not diplomatic speech, that the people will understand the principles: We are not merely citizens of the German State, we are, by grace, children of the supra-national (*überstaatlich*) world Church. Reverend Herr Apostolic Nuncio Pacelli essentially contributed, by his gloriously and powerfully delivered address in flawless German, to the success of the Catholic Congress and aroused great enthusiasm for the Holy Father. My guests from neighboring countries, Bishop Rieder of Salzburg and Bishop Schmid-Grüneck stood faithfully at my side in the battle for principle.

I did not condemn the current republican form of government, nor demand the violent overthrow of the current Weimar Constitution. I did, however, declare the Revolution to be a sin against the Fourth Commandment of God and point out the other contradictions of the current German Constitution against the commands of God. A constitution can lawfully come into existence, while the foregoing Revolution remains a wrong. In Germany people want to sanctify the Revolution on account of some good results and play with new revolutions, thus it was necessary to express this principle. . . .