To the most respectable and honorable

Herr Adolf Hitler,

Supreme Fuhrer and Chancellor of the German Reich,

The most respectable and honorable Pope Pius XI offers his greetings and well wishes.

For the informal transmittal of the official letter in which you [*Du*] recently put Us on notice that following the passing away of the outstanding and unforgettable Herr Paul von Beneckendorff und Hindenburg, by the law of August 1 of last year, the office of Reich President was consolidated into one with that of Reich Chancellor and you thereby became the Supreme Fuhrer of the German Reich, we express our grateful thanks. With joy we took note of the sentence in your letter: “It lies very close to your heart, that the ties that bind Germany with the Apostolic See might not only continue but be continually made closer.” Since now in fact a true peace between ecclesiastical and worldly authority contributes optimally to the wellbeing of the people, We will most eagerly strive that, after overcoming the still existing difficulties, so far as it is within Our power, Your desire for the common good will be crowned with portentous success.

For that We implore Almighty God, that He may impart to You, most respectable and honorable man, and to the whole German people, His efficacious help.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter’s, January 15th of the year MCMXXXV, in the thirteenth year of Our pontificate.

Pope Pius XI