
SACRAMENTO

W. H. MORELAND, D.D., Bishop

A Pastoral for the Time

BISHOP MORELAND has issued a pastoral to the diocese urging attention to lessons thrust upon us by the recent epidemic. Without attributing to the epidemic a divine origin, yet, the Bishop says, we may be sure that by means of it God is working a beneficent purpose.

"In the suffering and death which are everywhere you should read the summons of the Most High. Immersed in the affairs of life, unmindful of spiritual and eternal things, the awful hand of God has been laid upon us. Men go about their daily work as if they had no master but themselves. Men cling to the frail thing called life, not realizing that its preciousness is due solely to the fact that it comes from God and returns to God. These bitter weeks, dripping with the tears of the bereaved, black with the storm clouds of pain, and torn with the upheaval of earthly plans, are meant to remind us of the transitory nature of this life, and to bring us in penitence to the feet of God. The funerals passing through our streets are to remind us of our end. The fevers and maladies which have ravaged us are to bid us prepare for the eternal future."

In place of the closed services of the Church the Bishop recommended that the buildings remain open and in constant use for private prayer; that daily offices and frequent

Eucharists be maintained; that the Church's corporate worship be unbroken; that family prayer be generally revived, and that systematic offerings be laid aside as usual.
