

CIRCULAR LETTER, No. 36,  
OF THE  
VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL  
OF THE  
Congregation of the Holy Cross.

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NOTRE DAME, INDIANA, January 31, 1878.

*REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:*

You will all be painfully surprised to hear of the death of our dear BROTHER BERNARD JOSEPH. Since he returned from Ireland, with his seventeen postulants, he had enjoyed an excellent health. When he left here on Tuesday evening, the 21st inst., he seemed to be better than ever. But it appears he suffered from the cold in the cars, between here and Chicago; there he contracted the beginning of a pleurisy which, in spite of the best medical aid, proved fatal on the following Tuesday night. During his sickness, first with the excellent family of J. Scanlon, Esq., and then with the Sisters of Charity, in St. Joseph's Hospital, he received all the helps of our Holy Faith, and died a most edifying death, in the arms of his own dear Brother Joseph, who had been sent from here on Monday previous. His remains were buried here yesterday, at two o'clock, P. M.

In the loss of BROTHER BERNARD JOSEPH, the Congregation loses one of its most faithful and devoted members. None will feel more keenly than myself the sad and unexpected intelligence I now convey, with a special request to immediately offer in his behalf, every suffrage secured to him by the Rules.

He was born in Ireland A. D. 1824; received the habit here in 1853, and made his profession in 1855, on the 15th of August.  
*Requiescat in pace.*

E. SORIN, C.S.C.

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NOTRE DAME, INDIANA, January 31, 1873.

*REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:*

I learn, although not officially, but by the public papers, which must have been informed by a cable despatch, that our venerable Founder died in Le Mans, France, but a few days ago. At this early date, nothing more than the announcement of his death has reached us, this side of the ocean; but I deem it my duty not to wait for the particulars of the sad event, which we may not receive for some weeks, and to immediately recommend to your fervent prayers one to whom we are all indebted for our Religious existence as an Order in the Church.

I need not adduce here any further claim, on his part, to our special suffrages; the commonest minds will readily understand it and accept it. Whatever may have been, within the last few years, our regret and pain at the distant course he seemed to pursue, the tomb has now closed upon the past and leaves us but the memory of our sacred obligations to a Founder whose last years, in God's inscrutable Providence, will be presented to our meditations, purified in the crucible of affliction and possibly richer in merits than any epoch of joy and human prosperity. "For whom the Lord loveth He chastiseth, and He scourgeth every son He receiveth." (Hebr. xii, 6.)

I know full well that you will all be consoled in learning that the suffrages I hereby prescribe must be the same as those of a Superior General deceased. To gratify as much as possible the pious wishes of all, the public suffrages shall be offered as follows: namely—the first Solemn Service at Notre Dame, with the Community Mass daily through February, March and April; the second one in Canada, with the daily Mass through May; the third one, or Month's Mind, in Louisiana, with the Community Mass daily during June; and finally, the Anniversary Service, in France, with the daily Mass through July. For the rest, the suffrages for the Superior General shall be strictly observed as marked in the Rule.

May he rest in peace, and soon help us all on the narrow path to Heaven.

E. SORIN, C.S.C.