

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 119

OF THE

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR GENERAL

ON THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

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NOTRE DAME, IND., Nov. 9, 1882.

REV. FATHERS AND DEARLY-BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Before making any remark upon the manner in which the regular monthly Bulletins are returned I waited until I could compare them with each other. The same difference is noticeable this month as in October. While I congratulate myself on the happy and important results of this regular monthly communication between all our Religious and myself (excepting a few who are likely too wise or too great to submit to such a childish measure, although I have met aged, saintly Sulpicians sending scrupulously to their Superior the same report of themselves every month), I deem it advisable to point out a way for all to do it alike.

1st. All Bulletins from the same house should be mailed in one envelope, instead of using a half-a-dozen or more.

2d. But little writing is required; simply *yes* or *no*, or a few figures, at the end of each printed question, on the same line.

3d. Every Bulletin must be signed.

4th. Black ink should be used.

5th. If sealed, it should be done so as to cause no tearing before any thing can be read.

Some of our Establishments paid very little attention to my Circular of the 17th ult.; not because they are too poor, for the poorest have cheerfully and admirably complied with my modest request. But let it pass: the loss is theirs more than mine. The Dome was intended to be the work of every child of our schools, were it only through a subscription of one cent.

In associating our dear school-children to this meritorious task—which, when once completed as Mr. Gregori has lately designed it, will certainly be the wonder of the country,—my object was to divide among them a singular honor, one of which they might well feel proud all their lives.

But I am prepared for occasional disappointments, *not discouragements*. If our Blessed Lord intends this honor for His Holy Mother, a few insignificant failures will not prevent it. Had the Holy Father waited for the approbation and help of all Catholics when contemplating the erection of the Dome of St. Peter's, the Dome, ever since the admiration of the world, would be yet a scheme, an idea, instead of an accomplished fact. On the whole, I gain more than I lose: this was a test: a few dollars more or less are nothing compared to the knowledge acquired of the real spirit of each House.

Were I to ask from each Establishment an effort to obtain half-a-dozen subscribers to *The "Ave Maria"* and *Scholastic*—the two weekly papers in which all our Religious should evidently take the liveliest interest, even for premiums,—I know full well that I would meet with the same zeal and success in some Houses, and the same total indifference in others. If stars differ from each other above, it should not be surprising to find a difference among Religious on earth. In any case, we may at least know the respective worth of every member of our Family.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior General.