

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 133

OF THE

Very Rev. SUPERIOR GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, IND., JULY 23, 1885.

~~REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:~~

One of our greatest consolations from the day of our profession, in our dear Congregation, to the last of our existence here below, is undoubtedly the assurance that hundreds of holy Masses, Communions, and Ways of the Cross, shall be offered to God in our behalf, as soon as our death shall be known to the faithful members of our Religious Family. Where is the Christian in the world who can depend on the same blessing? Indeed we are privileged, above many others. This is secured by our Constitutions to each one and to all: hence, we depend upon it confidently.

Again, we have here a privileged altar unique in this New World; and all our Rev. Fathers, wherever they are, enjoy, three times a week, the blessing of a privileged altar.

Now, considering that one of our most pleasant duties is to secure to all beloved Religious the full extent of these precious favors, granted us by the Holy See, and even to remove all possible delay in the enjoyment of the same, when we die; considering that we have among ourselves, without appealing to anyone outside of the Congregation, ample means to secure these precious consolations. Considering that our own Rev. Fathers, who feel by right most affectionately for the deceased members of their Family, and who frequently, as is the case in our colleges, have scarcely any intentions of Masses, should therefore be requested, first of all, to say the Masses prescribed by our Rules, instead of waiting elsewhere sometimes whole weeks, because of absense or previous promises; considering also, the distance of some of our Missions, which can scarcely be reached by mail in less than four or five days, I have come to the following conclusion which, I feel confident, all will approve as the best means to secure promptly and most advantageously the blessings we are entitled to by our Constitutions.

Therefore, our Rev. F. Granger, Assistant General, shall take upon himself, as soon as informed of anyone of our Religious' demise, to divide among the Rev. Fathers of the Province all the Masses to which the number of our Houses give a right to the deceased; said holy Masses to be said immediately; every House sending, on receipt of the mortuary notice, the two dollars prescribed for the two Masses; the Brothers and Sisters remitting the same to his Reverence, without failure or neglect. As I come nearer every day to our beloved departed ones, I naturally feel more concerned in their lot. Who, among us, will be first benefited by these regulations? It is God's secret. But we all know "that it is a wholesome thought to pray for the dead," and what we do for them, shall, in Divine Justice, be done for us.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,  
Superior General.