

J. M. J.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

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Notre Dame, Ind., July 18, 1885.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

After such a beautiful and successful Retreat, I am sure you all feel happy, and more than ever desirous to show your gratitude to God, especially by a fixed resolve to live by our holy Rules, and, as far as lies in each one's power, to draw the most abundant blessings upon our dear Congregation.

Let, then, everyone commence this new year (possibly the last for some of us) *with a will* to make his own obedience a rich mine of merits. Let us all finally, prove that we understand the full extent of our obligations, and that we have made up our minds to live, not as nominal, but as real, model Religious, zealous for our daily advancement in perfection, zealous for the complete fulfillment of our personal duties, and equally zealous for the interests and the good name of our precious and promising Family, already so abundantly blessed. As a proof of it, let everyone try his best, by prayer, or exertions, to procure some vocations, or pupils, etc.

The entreaties and thanks I have lately received from a number of our best Religious concerning the alarming abuse of cigars, and the stopping of this scandalous evil, leave no doubt in my mind that it will never re-appear among us. You may see, yourselves, how urgent it was to prohibit their use in virtue of Holy Obedience. The very day after the closing of the Retreat showed, to the painful disappointment of many, that nothing short of it would stop the evil. Again, you may judge, yourselves, of the gravity of the case, and of the obligation in which I was placed to put an end to it: we have, at least, 100 Religious in the Province using cigars, which means a daily expense of from 5 to 15, or even 20 cents for each one, or in average, an expense of 10 cents per day, or from \$30 to \$40 per annum, or a total yearly expense of over \$3,000. I never comprehended it, nor did you yourselves, before my serious attention was drawn to this daily increasing unnecessary expenditure. Who could approve of my taking such a grave responsibility on my conscience when I know that common tobacco is even less injurious to health? I feel no small relief in the joy our best members show in the cure of this threatening abuse. Should anyone still believe that he cannot do without cigars, let him apply to myself for a dispensation.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.