

No. XXVIII.

NOTRE DAME, IND.,
EVE OF THE EPIPHANY, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have purposely delayed the acknowledgment of your kind New Year's congratulations in order to give time to the more distant Houses of our Congregation, as well as those close by, to be heard from.

To those who have found it a pleasure to express to me, by word of mouth or by letters, their pious wishes for the blessings of the season, I now return my unfeigned and heartfelt thanks; most of them have done it, this year, in a manner peculiarly touching to me, and, unquestionably, most creditably to themselves. Now more than ever before am I convinced, by long experience, that it is natural to religious hearts to respect and to love their Superiors, however poor their claims thereto may appear. To the few who scarcely ever give any such manifestations of filial sentiments, I also return my thanks; for, while I fear they are less happy, I prefer them to keep silence rather than deceive themselves in trying to deceive me. The candid expression of a loving soul is a charm; the ambiguous style of a doubtful mind is a painful puzzle, while the highly-colored manifestations of the insincere are loathsome at all times to any sensible man. Hence my cordial thanks to all, for I value honesty and candor, even among Religious, as precious and most estimable qualities.

I consider myself this year singularly blessed from the single fact that in the little crowd of letters received during the past two weeks each one, without exception, bears evidence that it was written from the heart and not as a matter of form or custom. Although they may claim no special merit for the fulfilment of a duty so universally cherished everywhere, still I wish distinctly to assure them that my hearty gratitude for their pious and fervent prayers has been expressed in the Holy Sacrifice, long before these lines will reach them.

For one thing in particular I am thankful to God who is my witness: that He never permitted me to entertain, twenty-four hours, a real ill-will towards any member of our dear little Religious family; and at this moment there is not one in whom I do not recognize some excellent qualities; and if all do not actually give the same full satisfaction, yet there is a fond hope that our merciful God, in His own good time, will renew for them the mystery of the Epiphany; and when mind and heart shall have been flooded with light and grace, who knows if such who may seem now relaxed and indifferent will not be foremost in the manifestation of devotedness and religious dispositions? Such is my daily prayer; such

also my firm expectation. "The earth is filled with God's mercy."
"His mercy is great above the heavens."

A Community is of itself a little world, in which we can scarcely ever see all equally fervent and exemplary. There will always be some difference, whether in obedience or in regularity or in humility. Some will be the joy, while others will be the cross of their Superiors. But because one is not to-day all we could desire, we must not give him up as a hopeless case; for, as long as there is life there is hope. Nor is it always exclusively the fault of a Religious if at times he seems to neglect himself and be no longer the submissive and edifying man he was before. Temptations, sickness, inability to attend exercises regularly, want of attention or of care when needed, etc., etc., may account for much in the change. But a true and honest Religious, who knows that he is ever obliged to advance nearer and nearer to perfection, cannot remain forever in such an abnormal state; some day or other he will yield to better inspirations; the prayers of his companions, the solicitude of his Superior, the examples of his associates will move him effectively to his former fervor; he will yet serve the Community well, and redeem his name before he dies.

Experience daily shows how much can be done by zealous Superiors or Directors in bringing the members of their Houses to a healthy and exemplary discipline and regularity, and how soon an establishment can be ruined through want of energy or love of Rules. It is true, Religious should not require to be continually reminded of obligations they have once sworn to fulfil their life long; still, we all know, from personal experience, how much safer our perseverance is under a watchful and paternal vigilance. A devoted Religious is a treasure everywhere; but a worthy head in a House is beyond all price or valuation. Obedience is due to authority, regardless of personal merits; nevertheless, it is often rendered or refused according to the esteem entertained towards authority. Hence, ultimately, the Superior finds in the religious state of his House his own praise or accusation.

I had intended leaving for Europe early last month, but circumstances which I could not control have thus far detained me here, where I must now stay, at least, until spring. It was well, I think, that I stayed. I am indeed happy to say, before I close this Circular, that at no time during thirty years has the state of our Congregation in this New World been more consoling and satisfactory. We therefore enter upon this new year, thanks to God and His Holy Mother, with brighter prospects and greater hopes than ever before. In almost every direction our Houses are encouraged by unprecedented success. Heaven visibly blesses our efforts; and, at the same time, places us all under new obligations of increasing our fidelity and devotion to the glorious cause we

have embraced, and of manifesting still greater love for our Rules.

Somewhat like the Magi, who will come to-morrow to adore the new-born Babe at Bethlehem, we, too, came from afar, guided by the star of divine inspiration. The glorious Feast of the Epiphany will remind us all of a special blessing, which no grateful heart can ever forget—viz.: our vocation to the Religious life, undeserved on our part, and therefore a mark of special predilection from above, obliging us to more than an ordinary gratitude. In the Magi Faith worked a wonderful change; it made of them new men, and, most probably, as many apostles and martyrs. What must have been the trial to which the poverty of Jesus in His Crib subjected them! But they were humble, and in reward of their humility a ray of Divine grace enlightened their minds, and they *understood* the mysterious humiliations of the God-Child. What an eloquent pulpit the same Crib is for each one of us! "And, opening their treasures, they offered Him gold, incense and myrrh." What shall we offer in imitation of the Magi? It is to be wanting in devotion, says a Saint, to adore God and present Him no offering; for it is written: "Thou shalt not appear before Me with empty hands." Fortunately, by our profession we have given all we had, and we have done it cheerfully: "*In simplicitate cordis mei lætus obtuli universa*" (I Par., 20). To renew this generous offering, and repeat it daily, is to open again a rich treasure, and to present to the Divine Child a most pleasing oblation. Nor should we fear it may be rejected; for it is offering all we have—*universal!* If a cup of cold water be sure of reward, what must be our confidence and our delight when we sincerely and cheerfully give *all!* Oh! let the humble, candid and guileless souls of our Congregation gather around the poor dear little Babe in His Crib, and present Him with the gold of their charity, the incense of their prayers, and the myrrh of their penitential life! Christmas and the Epiphany are, by excellence, the mystery of the humble. Alas! the proud will not enjoy the scene; they will point out the spot, and take no further trouble.

But after seeing and adoring the Infant Saviour, oh! for His sake, for the sake of our holy Faith, for the sake of our beloved family, we, too, shall return from the stable "by a different road." For the sake of our eternity, and even of our peace of mind and happiness here below, we shall respect our Rules and see them respected around us. We will better than ever observe their prescriptions, and especially Meditation, Particular Examen, Spiritual Reading, Visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and the Chaplet,—which form, as it were, the daily spiritual meals of every Religious; other devotions recur only once in a week; others again monthly; all of them are of easy observance to those of good will. To

dispense with any of them without serious reason is a sign of a diseased mind or heart.

May our Blessed Lord, with His Immaculate Mother and His glorious Foster-Father, bless us abundantly from the stable where our best affections are so joyously centred during this fortnight of Christmas time! May the Holy Family keep us from all dangers and accidents, and enrich us with their choicest favors and graces! This is the sincere prayer for the year 1873 of

Your devoted friend, in J. M. J.,

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

P. S.—Rev. Father J. M. Toohey is hereby named Assistant Provincial.

As it is impossible for me to reply individually to all the letters I have received, I direct that a copy of this Circular be sent to all our Religious. E. S.

No. XXIX.

NOTRE DAME, IND., January 31, 1873.

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 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 ears between here and Chicago, and 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 the Monday previous. His remains were interred here yesterday at two o'clock p. m.

In the death of Brother Bernard Joseph the Congregation loses one of its most faithful and devoted members. No one will feel more keenly than myself the sad and unexpected intelligence I now convey, with a special request to immediately offer in his behalf all the suffrages 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.

No. XXX.

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA, January 31, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

I learn, though not officially, but by the public papers, which must have been informed by 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, but 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 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." (Heb., 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 for 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.

No. XXXI.

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA, April 1, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

Yesterday afternoon, a few moments after my return from the South, I received the following letter, which had been forwarded to and sent back from New Orleans:

Death
of
Monsieur

"NOTRE DAME, March 23.

"VERY REV. FATHER GENERAL:

"Our dear Brother Mary-Joseph was buried this morning. He died last Friday evening, after a short sickness, and fortified by the last Sacraments. He was thirty-six years old. Please solicit for his precious soul the usual suffrages of the Congregation.

"A. GRANGER, *Provincial.*"

Brother Mary-Joseph was a novice, and ever since he came to the Community had shown himself a devoted member of it. May he rest in peace!

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

No. XXXII.

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA, April 5, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

God alone knows how painful I feel the duty I have to fulfil in announcing to you the death of our dear Brother Laurence. Last night, at the close of the Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Dolors, as the College clock struck nine, he gave up his soul to his Creator, fortified by all the helps of our Holy Church, and surrounded by a number of his fellow-Religious, Priests and Brothers, who continued to pray around his bed until he had breathed his last. He had been ill, for nearly three months, until at last he sank under the weight of his incessant labors, more from exhausted nature than from any clearly defined disease. He was in the fifty-seventh year of his age, and the thirty-second of his religious profession.

Brother Laurence was one of the six companions I first brought with me from France, in 1841. Three of this little band have long since gone to their reward; but of the other three still remaining none had inspired me with more confidence than the subject of this notice that he was likely to survive us all; for, more than any of the rest, he possessed a robust constitution, which had naturally given us the hope that after we should have disappeared he might be spared yet awhile to keep his watchful eyes upon the field we had so long cultivated together. God, in His inscrutable designs, has ordered it differently; we resignedly submit to His infinite wisdom.

After a long career of nearly thirty-two years, which I may call one of constant, uninterrupted devotedness and self-sacrifice, our dear departed Brother has been removed from our midst—not unprepared, we trust—for his own good and gain; but leaving us, we fear, not a little embarrassed as to the means of replacing such a companion, always so ready, so willing, and so reliable, whatever the emergency or trouble.

Bro. Laurence carries with him the deep and unfeigned sentiments of esteem and respect, not alone of his entire Congregation, but, I believe, of all with whom he came in contact, either as a Religious or as the Agent or Steward of the Institution. For more than thirty years spent here he was always, as everyone knows, foremost among those who sought honestly and earnestly to promote the interests of the Community; and if any one is to be named as having contributed more than others by earnest and persevering exertions, both of mind and body, to the development and prosperity of Notre Dame, if I did not do it here, the public voice would declare it, and name Bro. Laurence. No Religious in our family ever possessed and retained more constantly the confidence of his Superiors and of the Community at large.

Uneducated and unpolished, and with all the appearance of a common man, he was undoubtedly possessed of an uncommon mind, of which he frequently gave evidence in the weekly Councils of administration, and even in the General Chapters of the Congregation, to which he was three times deputed, and where his voice was always listened to with marked attention.

Brother Laurence never separated in his mind the success of the Congregation from its strict adherence to the Rules. Hence his own regularity in attending all the exercises, unless duty prevented; and when I saw him last night die so quietly, at the very hour the Rule calls us all to rest, I could not help recognizing in the incident a special favor from our Blessed Mother, closing his last day on earth at the regular hour he had so many times closed his labors in obedience to God's holy will.

In the death of Brother Laurence we sustain a serious loss, which none can better realize or more keenly feel than myself, however much his memory may be held in gratitude and love among those who knew him best, or whom he assisted most by advice and example, or in pecuniary transactions. It was myself who brought him to the Community, thirty-three years ago; and although I have seen, more than many other men of my age, Religious of undoubted fidelity, of great zeal, and admirable devotedness, I can remember none whom I would place above our dear-departed one on these various points. He leaves behind him not only a long but also a stainless record, such, indeed, as would honor the memory of the most ambitious among us. Not only will you not perceive in the *ensemble* of his Religious life any of those blemishes that paralyze the effect of the best qualities—not only was he remarkable by a complete freedom from serious defects,—but he was really promoted by the strength of his mind, the freshness and often the originality of his inventions and resources in general, of which he always had some in reserve. Directly or indirectly, he has benefited persons and things here more than any one of us. May all whom he leaves

in justice obligated to him acknowledge it now by the fervor of their supplications in his behalf!

The Community loses in Brother Laurence one of its first pillars; but his spirit will not die away with him, or disappear: his virtues and examples shall live forever on the spot where his name is identified with every acre now cleared, and every building erected with his personal assistance. The neighborhood itself loses one of its hardiest pioneers, and one of its most efficient and honest citizens.

As to myself personally, I lose a friend who never refused me any sacrifice; who for thirty-two long years kept himself, without a moment excepted, ever ready and willing for any call of obedience. Never can I forget his devotedness.

His funeral service will take place to-morrow, at three p. m.

May he now rest in peace from his labors!

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

No. XXXIII.

ROME, July 2, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

Yesterday I had the happiness of obtaining an audience with the Holy Father and the Apostolic Benediction for all the members of the family of Holy Cross. To say that His Holiness gave me the best reception would be telling you nothing new. He has never received me otherwise. But I had never seen his countenance so radiant with joy as when I announced to him that all our debts were to be paid this very month. They were the source of all his anxiety in our regard. "You will live again!" he added, with a paternal smile which can never be forgotten, and which I love to consider prophetic. I cannot express the satisfaction which this happy news produced upon the Congregation of the Propaganda. It remains for us to justify the hopes which are raised here by this new era upon which we enter on our coming out of the crisis in which the Congregation would have perished had not Heaven evidently wished to maintain it.

I never despaired of our work; and to-day, after five years of almost unheard-of trials—wherein each showed himself so generous, and so unshaken in constancy and firmness—I have the most thorough conviction that God wills this work, and that we should all, if we are faithful, expect for it a destiny full of consolation.

I learn that in a few weeks our Capitular Acts are to be submitted to the examination of the Ordinary Congregation of the Most Eminent Cardinals; if there be no delay, the promulgation of them may be made at the Annual Retreat in the month of August. I have been assured that the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda gave the kindest reception to them, as well as to all the requests

that I have been able to present since my arrival, except the dispensations relative to the Novitiate, concerning which we must be content, His Holiness having again pronounced upon the subject last Sunday.

With these Acts of the General Chapter there will be sent to you all the Rules announced these many years, but whose publication has been delayed until they could offer you the highest guarantee desirable, and thereby acquire more legitimate right to the scrupulous submission of all. Let them, therefore, henceforth be the law in all our Houses, and let each member find therein the expression of the will of God upon his conduct. In that our future lies, much more even than in the good management of our temporal interests.

In order that the minds of all be well penetrated with their importance, their spirit, and even with the forms which they must give to the Congregation, every day, except Sundays and festivals, for a year, the Meditation, the Particular Examen and the Spiritual Reading shall be made on this new edition of the Rules. Superiors and Directors shall regard it as one of their first duties to explain them to all the Religious of their Houses; and, above all, exact a faithful observance of them on the part of all, without tolerating any usage contrary to them. I write these lines with a certain fear, but with a firmly determined will. The recommendation is very grave,—indeed, vital. I beseech you, Rev. Fathers and dear Brothers, to receive it as such. For a long time it was said that a revision of the Rules was expected in order to submit to them entirely; and under this pretext greater or less dispensations were made in the observance of the Rules. Hence arose indifference and a too general relaxation, which would have infallibly ruined the work if they had continued, and which would still produce the same result if the heads of Houses only half did their duty in establishing religious discipline in all its holy vigor. Let it then be well understood that these should, and shall be, henceforward the soul of each House. In this sweet hope I renew, my Rev. Fathers and dear Brothers, the assurance of my most devoted and affectionate sentiments.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

P. S.—I have consulted his Eminence, the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda, upon the interpretation of a point of the Constitution. As I had already thought myself, the Deputies of each Province to the General Chapter have no precedence except during the holding of the Chapter.

No. XXXIV.

NEULLY-SUR-SEINE, July 23, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

Rev. Father Gastineau, Assistant Provincial in Canada, wrote

from La Côte-des-Neiges, near Montreal, to his Provincial here, on the 14th inst., that he had just learned by telegraph from Memramcook, New Brunswick, of the decease of the dear and venerated Father Hupier, who died the same day at our College of St. Joseph.

How precious and edifying was the death—as was the whole life—of this excellent Father, no one in the Congregation can for a moment doubt. We all mourn this unexpected loss, but we are consoled especially by the certitude of the gain which this model *par excellence* of a Religious has found. For myself, I who knew him well-nigh thirty-seven years and have never seen him other than the man of God, living in the church more than anywhere else, perfecting himself each day, never stopping as he pursued the road of sanctification of himself and his neighbor, I preserve such a remembrance of the well-beloved deceased that his memory shall never grow dim in my mind; and all who have known him will say with me, all their life: *Defunctus adhuc loquitur*—"though dead, he still speaks." Would to God that each of us when dying may leave the subjects of edification which are left us to-day by the dear Father Hupier!

What a beautiful and rich memory! What a precious heritage of faith, of piety, of humility and obedience he has left us, after having given to the Very Rev. Father Founder, thirty-three years ago, all his possessions which he could dispose of, for the purchase of the *Solitude du Sauveur*! One of our Fathers, who made a part of his novitiate under his direction, has just told me that at half-past four in the morning Father Hupier was before the Blessed Sacrament, and at half-past seven he was there still, and always on his knees—it was his custom. Who does not remember having seen him in the angelic attitude, his eyes fixed upon the tabernacle? And who can forget the impression made upon him by this personification of faith and fervor? As everybody knows, I do not here speak of passing fits of fervor, but of permanent habits which never failed nor varied; hence a perfection of sacerdotal life which we all admired, and which we should more seriously study in order to reproduce it more faithfully in ourselves, above all at this moment, when we see in a manner present the recompense with which he is crowned, for he has found rest from his labor. Ah! if the eternal repose promised to the just be not yet begun for this dear soul, the hour cannot be far distant. Let us hasten to offer up for him the suffrages prescribed by the Rule. When could we offer them with greater confidence!

I have just said, in praise of the dear deceased, that he had given his notable pecuniary resources to the House of Mans. I will not add that the act was so much the more worthy of eulogy for having been made spontaneously. In his eyes it was an act

altogether natural, and he would not allow it to be spoken of otherwise. And thus it was that this dear Father was never seen to figure among those who claimed re-imbusement.

I may be allowed to add here that I am happy in announcing the final liquidation of our debt; to state that all our Rev. Fathers and dear Brothers who have lent money to the Congregation have generously given up their right to repayment, and it is only on the strength of this that I call our liquidation final and integral. Only one has not yet told us his final decision, but I am confident he is waiting to tell me at the Annual Retreat, some weeks hence.

In the absence of all details of dear Father Hupier's last moments, I consider it my duty to insert here the last letter he wrote me, and which I received in Rome a fortnight ago. The dear Father is there depicted before us a last time for our edification:

"MEMRAMCOOK, June 6, 1873.

"VERY REV. FATHER:—After having received your kind letter, in which you express your desire to see me at Notre Dame du Lac to evangelize the French Canadian congregations there of which you have charge, I have seen in your desire the will of the good God. I will accomplish it with all my heart, as soon as I am able; for I told you in my letter that the good God had afflicted me with an illness which I received from His bounty as a great grace. 'God afflicts those whom He loves,' says the Holy Scripture. I told you that after several days' indisposition I was obliged to take to my bed on the eve of the Feast of St. Joseph, our well-beloved Father. I have kept it ever since, to the moment I now write to you. However, feeling better, thanks to the goodness of the Heart of Jesus, to the mediation of Mary and Joseph, I had the happiness of celebrating Holy Mass on the Feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross; I was able to celebrate it several days, then I ceased, because Dr. Boissy did not judge it proper for me to go out in the cold and wet weather. Up to the present it has been cold in the morning. Besides I have had bronchitis several days, which made me cough and spit a great deal, so that I have not been able to celebrate Holy Mass. It is a great privation, but the good God so wills it. May His holy and amiable will be done!

"The Doctor, thinking the climate of Memramcook does not agree with me, wants me to go to La Côte-des-Neiges, to recover more speedily in the general hospital of Montreal, where Monseigneur has gone himself.

"When I was in France, I read the *Semaine du Fidèle*, founded and edited by the good and excellent M. l'Abbé Lochet, so full of zeal and of charity, who has written things so admirable and so proper to procure the glory of God, the sanctification and salvation of souls. He had had the kindness to get the proprietor of the paper to send it to me gratis; but after sending it some time they wanted payment of subscription, then I ceased taking it.

"My Very Reverend Father, you remember I wrote to you that one of my relatives had announced to me a little inheritance: I received it a few weeks ago. Desiring, for the greater glory of God, to employ that money in good works, I asked Rev. Father Geoffrion, who replaces the Superior, to be so kind as to permit me to procure for the poor of Memramcook the help which was absolutely necessary for them. There are some who do not go to Mass on Sundays and who fail to fulfil their Easter duties because they have neither suitable clothes nor shoes. By procuring them these things they will be able to fulfil their religious duties. You will not disapprove of what I have done, without doubt. On my arrival at Notre Dame du Lac I will remit to you whatever may be left.

"My Very Reverend Father, may the Sacred Heart of Jesus heap benedictions upon you! may the holy and Immaculate Virgin, our tender Mother, and blessed St. Joseph, our well-beloved father, protect you always and obtain for you the light and grace which are necessary to you to procure the glory of God and the good of our dear Congregation! May your good angel accompany and bring you back safe and sound to Notre Dame! Ah! may we at the great day of the general judgment be all favorably judged, and ascend together to heaven to be eternally happy!

"As soon as I recover I will write you to announce my departure from La Côte-des-Neiges.

"My Very Rev. Father, I am most cordially and with the most profound respect,

"Your very unworthy son in J. C.,

"J. N. HUPIER, C. S. C.

"Be so kind as to remember me to our well-beloved Fathers and Brothers of Neuilly, and also to Rev. F. Lefebvre."

Rev. Father Julien Narcisse Hupier, born the 13th of March, 1810, at Fresmay (Sarthe), made his profession August 15, 1843.

I renew, my Rev. Fathers and dear Brothers, the assurance of my affectionate devotedness.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

SUPPLEMENT TO CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 34.

Our Rev. Father Geoffrion, of St. Joseph's College, Memramcook, writing on the 10th of July, informs us that at the moment he was sending the body of Rev. Father Hupier to the railroad station to be sent on to Canada, by order of the Assistant Provincial, the parishioners of Memramcook had, by stealth, taken away the body, and at the moment of writing he could not discover where the good Acadians had hidden it. What could better reveal to us the veneration which virtue inspires, and the profound attachment which it so soon creates in upright hearts! The Rev. Father Hupier had sojourned only ten months at Memramcook, and two of those he spent accompanying the Bishop of Chatham in his visits through his diocese. I cannot suppress this incident which confirms so well all my presentiments.

Bro. Timothy (P. Coffee), aged 73, professed, died at Notre Dame, on the 29th of May, 1873, fortified by the last Sacraments. *Homo simplex et justus.*

Bro. Simeon (Dominick Flemming), professed, aged about 35, died at Notre Dame, Indiana, on the 22d of August, 1873, fortified by the last Sacraments.

E. SORIN.

No. XXXV.

NOTRE DAME, September 12, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

I am in receipt of the following letter announcing the edifying death of one of our good Brothers in France:

"NEUILLY, August 27, 1873.

"VERY REV. FATHER:

"The good Brother Vincent de Paul has just died, at La Faye, fortified by the Sacraments of our Holy Church. It was on the 22d inst. he gave back his beautiful soul to God, at the age of sixty-seven years and some months. Among those who knew him there was but one voice to say that his death is a veritable gain to the Congregation, which will find in him an intercessor in heaven. He was a perfect model of a Religious in his sweet charity, his piety, his simplicity, his obedience and humility. These beautiful virtues made him beloved by all his *confrères* and cherished by our orphans, who could not refrain from weeping when they saw him on his death-bed.

"But, alas! before the justice of God this beautiful soul may still have to expiate some faults due to human frailty. Therefore I beg you to ask for him of the Congregation the suffrages of the Rule. The good Brother was professed.

"Accept, Very Rev. Father, the assurance of my respectful devotedness.

"Jos. RÉZÉ."

I need not add anything to the foregoing communication. I trust you will offer immediately to God the suffrages secured by the Rules to our dear deceased Brother.

E. SORIN.

No. XXXVI.

NOTRE DAME, October 27, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

The following sad telegram reached us this evening:

"NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 27, 1873.

"Father Ruthmann died at 4.10 this morning.

"M. ROBINSON, C. S. C."

Although we had heard of his being sick, we were not prepared for such melancholy news. Dear Father Ruthmann has undoubtedly found his gain in our loss; for who has known him and not admired his piety and all his Religious virtues? We cannot wait for the particulars of his illness and death, but hasten to commend his precious soul to the prayers of the Congregation. May he rest in peace!

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

No. XXXVII.

NOTRE DAME, December 20, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

Once more, before the close of this eventful year, it is my sad duty to call upon you to pray for the repose of one of the old pioneers of the Congregation in the New World. Brother Benoit, for twenty years Prefect of the Seniors here, departed this life at 11.30 this forenoon, fortified by the Sacraments of the Church, after a short illness of ten or twelve days. He was in his 66th year. He came to Notre Dame with me on my first return from France, in 1846. As a Prefect, he was for many years considered an

accomplished disciplinarian; of late, owing to infirmities and advanced age, he had been removed from the study-hall to the infirmary, where he continued, to the last, to act as Prefect of Discipline among the convalescent. For his long and faithful services Brother Benoit well deserves to be gratefully remembered in the Congregation.

May his dear and precious soul rest in peace; and let all the members of our Religious family hasten to offer in his behalf the suffrages prescribed for the Professed.

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

No. XXXVIII.

NOTRE DAME, December 29, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

The consecration of the Province of Cincinnati to the Sacred Heart of Jesus having been fixed for New Year's Day, I anticipate the usual time of the Annual Circular of the new year to exhort all the members of our Congregation, wherever they are, to join in spirit, to consecrate themselves on the same day to the Adorable Heart, together with their Houses, their pupils, and all their interests, temporal and eternal. Indeed, no Community in the Province has a better right than ourselves to rejoice at this glorious movement, carrying Catholicism, all over the globe, to this Divine Source of all graces, for our chief Patron is the Sacred Heart. We, therefore, from the beginning of our Society were dedicated, first of all, to this glorious Heart; we belong to the Sacred Heart by right, and, above all, as a Religious family among the various orders recognized by the Church; and none should feel more rejoiced than ourselves at the wonderful diffusion of this beautiful devotion through the world. Indeed, it is a matter of the deepest consolation, as well as a reason for the greatest hopes, to see the Heart of our Blessed Lord becoming of late years so rapidly and so universally the central point towards which all eyes are turning in confidence as a last and sure refuge against the innumerable temptations and dangers that encompass our every step in life. A Society thus returning, as a man, to the very Fountain of Life cannot perish. Of all the signs of resurrection we have noticed during the past few years among the *débris* of every religious sentiment there is none more certain, more infallible. What is true of Christianity at large applies with the same strength here,—to any individual, spiritual corporation like ours. If the teaching body in the Church exhorts so powerfully and unanimously all Christians to seek salvation in the Sacred Heart, we, consecrated as we are by our own Constitution to this Adorable Heart, should be foremost in

this solemn act by the fervor of our souls and the entire offering of our whole beings to the loving Heart of our Divine Saviour. Among the thousands and hundreds of thousands in every country consecrating themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, none should derive from this act of religion greater fruits than ourselves. We have made the adorable perfections of the Divine Heart our special study; we are supposed to know them more perfectly; consequently, we are expected to start on our preparations with a greater care and zeal, that nothing be wanting on our part to secure every blessing and favor our Blessed Lord has in store for those who thirst after the waters of life.

Therefore, let every Religious of our Congregation duly prepare himself by a special confession on the eve, and by the recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart at the close of night prayer, to be repeated likewise after the morning prayer. Then at Mass, immediately before Communion, either publicly or privately, let the Act of Consecration be read, piously and fervently; and until noon let there be no recreation, no distraction from this great object of devotion; every one endeavoring to spend, as much as possible, that forenoon before the Blessed Sacrament, renewing by himself, again and again, the unreserved consecration of his faculties and senses to the last moment of his life. This first part of the day being thus employed in wishing a happy New Year to our Blessed Lord, to His Holy Mother, to our dear St. Joseph, to our patron Saint and our Guardian Angels, we shall be better prepared for the ordinary courtesies of the season in the afternoon. Let all understand that such a day must make an epoch in our Religious existence. The emblem of the Sacred Heart shall be worn openly on the heart the whole day.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank you all in advance for the pious prayers which, I know, you will offer to Heaven in my behalf on New Year's Day; and to assure you, in return, that I will not forget you at the altar on that occasion ever so impressive to loving hearts. Present and absent, I will remember all alike in the Holy Sacrifice.

I am pleased to be able to say that not only I am not conscious of ill-will towards any member of the Congregation, but that I feel most kindly disposed towards each and all.

We are well-nigh closing a year which we might call an eventful one, for its severe trials on society at large and on our own Community. For the past twelve months we have met serious losses in our *personnel*; but at this juncture we may well rejoice at the sight of the abundant blessings Divine Providence has so bountifully bestowed on us on every side. In every one of our establishments, the close of the year witnesses an increase of pupils such as we had scarcely ever seen before. Many of the Houses have become too

small, and are now urging before the General Council their respective claims for additional facilities.

While I bless God for such unprecedented success, I deem it my duty to state here, for the instruction of all concerned, that after the terrible lesson of the past we cannot be too cautious in the administration of our finances, and never dream of an outlay beyond our means. The children of the Holy Cross should dread, for a century to come, even the shadow of debts. I must go one step farther, and declare that, more than ever, the administration of each House in the Congregation must be henceforth the object of most serious attention. I recommend to our Very Rev. Provincials to see to this immediately, and take measures to secure everywhere a regular Council and an Administration that can bear due scrutiny, both at the time of the Visit and at the Annual Retreat. And inasmuch as in certain Houses, for years, no regular accounts or statistics could be enforced by the Provincial Secretaries, I must waste neither time nor paper in renewing unheeded entreaties to this effect; but to come at once to a radical change by which all will be benefited, I hereby order the regular, conscientious, honest and complete quarterly statistics to be forwarded to the Provincial Secretaries, in due form and time, under pain of exclusion from the Sacraments until this grave duty be performed.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

No. XXXIX.

NOTRE DAME, March 20, 1874.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

For almost a month I have read attentively every day the cable despatches from Europe, hoping each time to find therein some intelligence concerning the health of his Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda. But, strange to say, the submarine telegraph, which so often brings us false and invented news from Rome, never made a single report either of the sickness or of the death of the Eminent Cardinal than whom, after the Holy Father himself, no prelate in the Church was more widely known and venerated in this country.

It is only at this late hour that we learn, by a letter from our Very Rev. Father Ferdinando Battista, our General Procurator in Rome, that our Eminent Prefect and most beloved protector died on the 24th of February, leaving after him the heartfelt regrets of the whole city and of all who ever approached him. We sincerely deplore his death, which we consider a severe blow to the heart of our Holy Father, who esteemed and loved him, as is well known, in a special manner, and a great loss for all foreign Missions, and particularly for our young Church of the United States, in