

Since our accident I have dwelt at leisure on serious considerations; not only did I pray more, but I have actually felt, day after day, the sensible effects of the many prayers offered to Heaven in my behalf. Before I lose faith in prayer I should certainly lose my mind. It seems that I have commenced here to know and to love our Blessed Mother. The daily recital of the "1000 Hail Marys," accompanied with meditation on the invocations of her Litany, has proved to me a source of unspeakable consolation and joy. A sea-voyage begun on the Feast of her Patronage and possibly to end on that of the Expectation of her Delivery, including her Immaculate Conception, with its entire Octave, could not permit any forgetfulness on the part of the Star of the Sea. Not a day could pass without bringing us nearer to the Mother of the Saviour. My confidence in her was great before; now it is boundless. May her sweet name be forever on our lips and in our hearts! Once more I thank, with my whole soul, every one who has prayed for me; may the same mercy accompany me till I reach the port of eternity!

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

No. LXI.

ROME, February 6, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

After having spoken at such length of my trials and dangers on the ocean, I must now tell you of the happiness which I enjoy in the Eternal City.

I have always loved Rome, the city of the Sovereign Pontiffs;—and as such, what Catholic ought not to love her? But it appears to me that my affection for her increases with my years. These two ideas are so closely united in my case this morning as to constitute but one; and the reason is as follows. To-day I am entering on my sixty-third year, and I must acknowledge that the anniversary of my birth and baptism could not be accompanied with more consolation and happiness. I have celebrated Mass in the very room in which St. Bridget died, attended by her daughter St. Catharine.

There was an additional circumstance which I cannot lightly pass over. On the 1st of the month I had requested His Holiness to celebrate Mass on the next day with the chalice which he had presented to the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and though, in general, he has ceased to grant such favors, he was kind enough to listen to my request; and on the Feast of the Purification, which is a festival of obligation in Rome, he celebrated the Holy

Sacrifice with the beautiful chalice, which, it is needless to inform you, thus became much more precious in my eyes than it had been before. Imagine our joy on seeing it brought back from the Vatican! But especially with what joy did I not make use of it this morning for the first time after His Holiness! I offered up the Holy Sacrifice for our dear family of the Holy Cross, and in thanksgiving for the pious and fervent prayers which had been addressed to Heaven for my safety. Neither did I forget to pray for the Holy Father, whose constant kindness lays us every year under new obligations.

A few days after my arrival in Rome, the Rev. Procurator General and I were admitted to a private audience, and for upwards of a half hour the Holy Father showed himself so kind and paternal that we fairly thought ourselves obliged to say that we had never before seen him so amiable. He listened to my remarks on the "Guardian Angels of the Sanctuary," not only with interest, but with emotion, as you will see when the Brief of approbation permits me to count on your pious concurrence. I am, therefore, happy to be able to state, for your satisfaction as also for my own, that His Holiness is more than ever favorably disposed towards the Congregation. I can, without hesitation, affirm the same of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, where for the past eight years we have invariably met with favor, which, however, was never more clearly manifested than at present.

The request to delay for two years the holding of the General Chapter has been favorably received by His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect, who immediately obtained the sanction of the Holy Father. We could not, in truth, have expected any serious objection, since the Sacred Congregation, though animated with the best intentions, has not yet found time to complete the revision of the Acts of the General Chapter of 1872. I have not yet received these documents, although our Rev. Procurator has made several visits to the Propaganda for that purpose. They sometimes tell us, with a smile: "You must remember that Rome is the Eternal City, and years here are like days elsewhere." The truth is that the dignitaries and officials of this vast Congregation are simply overburdened with work, especially for the past few years, on account of the trouble given by the Italian Government, without speaking of the almost general persecution of the Church. We must, therefore, be patient.

We should all persevere in our efforts to render ourselves more deserving of the favors of the Holy See—and above all of the blessings of Heaven,—drawing closer the bonds of union, which, while giving strength to associations, also constitute the happiness of each associate; studying and observing the Capitular Rules, which should be the law for all, and thus aiming to create that

unity of action, of spirit, and of sentiment—*Cor unum et anima una*—as it was in the primitive Church, among our fathers in the faith.

Let us all read and often meditate upon the admirable discourse of our Saviour, in the 17th chapter of St. John: “Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, those whom Thou hast given Me: that they may be one, as We also are. . . . Those whom Thou gavest Me, have I kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition.” And again: “I ask that they all may be one as Thou Father in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.” I should be happy to hear that during the week which follows the reception of this Circular the admirable chapter to which I have just alluded has afforded a subject for meditation every morning, and that all Communions have been offered with this intention, and also a special *Memento* with the same intention which is the intimate desire of the Heart of Jesus.

As the month of March approaches, consecrated as it is to St. Joseph, I recommend to you in a special manner devotion to this glorious Patron of our Congregation and of the universal Church. One of the most efficacious means of honoring him is to extend his Association and to enrich our *Annals* with edifying facts.

Quite a number amongst you are deserving of praise for their zeal in procuring associates; but few, very few, have complied with the request of the editors, so often repeated both in the *Annals* and at the annual retreats, viz., to furnish documents of interest concerning the progress of the devotion, its results, the festivals of which it is the object, or even particular events which honor religion and which would be interesting to its readers. It might even be advisable to borrow occasionally from different publications and thus spare the editors the trouble of making those long researches which sometimes become impossible for them. I will not disguise from you the fact that I found the *Annals* too little encouraged. Is it not clear that such indifference is an insult to St. Joseph, and that to give up the *Annals* would be a shame for us all?

I hope that what I have said will have the effect of stirring up more zeal on this point, so that at the end of each month a stock of matter may arrive at Neuilly which will leave only the trouble of choosing what is most interesting and edifying.

The *Annals* serve to make our Congregation better known, and they may be a means which God will make use of to draw vocations to us. Let us all ask St. Joseph to treat us in this respect with fatherly affection.

Let us all continue to work with courage; let us love one another; and rest assured that I sincerely love all the members of the Congregation.

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

No. LXII.

STA. BRIGITTA, ROME, March 1, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have just returned from a precious audience at the Vatican, where I had, once more before leaving Rome, the happiness of spending at the feet of His Holiness some of those delightful moments, always too brief, and yet ever making an epoch in a man's life; some of those moments one always loves to remember as a foretaste of the joys awaiting us in heaven. If ever a man has been endowed with the gift of making others happy it must certainly be our immortal Pio Nono: this last audience alone would testify to it most irresistibly.

While I write, I feel yet deeply moved by what I have seen and heard, and it is almost a relief to inform you of it immediately. Little as we are, I am convinced that His Holiness is expecting something from us; indeed, I might say, a great deal more than we ourselves imagine. The new Association of the "Guardian Angels of the Sanctuary" has been the occasion of this manifestation. A little further on you will see the expressions of the Holy Father. Whilst blessing it again this evening, the Pope places in our hands a powerful arm to defend the Church in the dearest portion of her flock. But he wishes us, as we may bring little children to him to pray with him, that we show ourselves most careful to prepare them well for this singular privilege. First of all, he wishes that these dear little children be perfectly instructed, as far as age permits, in the knowledge of our holy Faith. As a teaching body, here is our first duty clearly revealed: we must excel by a special care to place at the head of all sciences that of religion; hence our chief end is to make of our pupils good Christians before they are learned scholars. The Holy Father is filled with this great thought, which in him seems to domineer everything else, as you may perceive presently. Hence when, contrary to prescriptions, I asked him if he would not write on my graceful tableau of the Association a special blessing for the pious group represented in it, and those who would soon join them by his own side, "Certainly, certainly, my beloved son," said he; "let me see again that fine drawing of our Gregori;" and while saying this the Holy Father took his pen and wrote, with a firm hand, the following blessing, which will follow this in a few days to Notre Dame:

"BENEDICAT DEUS OMNES QUI AMBULANT IN SANCTA MANDATORUM SUORUM. P. PP. IX."

If this Association, which the Holy Father has thus again blessed, after enriching it with a brief and indulgences, finds among you all

the welcome it deserves, as I feel confident it will, I will bless God for it with my whole heart; for, in my estimation, it is a rich mine from which we can draw priceless treasures.

Let us come now to the Holy Father's own words, which I give here with his permission, as directly addressed to ourselves: "My beloved son," said he to myself, "it is to the want of religious instruction we must ascribe this universal disturbance that shakes the foundations of society. The only means to bring back order and peace upon the earth is to teach the Catechism to youth; it is to explain to little children the truths of our holy Faith, that they may love them. To-day, children study everything, religion excepted. It remains unknown; hence the flood of errors and evils which threatens to drown and destroy everything."

Qui habet aures audiendi audiat! May God help us to profit by his solemn declaration, personally uttered for the Religious family of the Holy Cross! In the name of all its members, I thanked His Holiness for it, and promised him, on my knees, to bring His grave words before them all, and to make them for myself the basis of my administration. The Holy Father appeared, not only pleased, but gratified by my promise, as far as I could read on that august and wonderful countenance.

Honor and glory to the teachers who will bear me out with a will in this engagement; and especially to those who will impart, besides a real religious instruction, a true sense of piety in the young hearts entrusted to their care. For them I predict choice blessings. In proportion as they will have taken God's own interest to heart, Heaven's blessings will follow them.

Let us place in honor the study of religion; let us give it the time required; and, above all, let us create and maintain in it efficient means of emulation. With a view to carry out the Holy Father's designs, I direct that, on the Sunday which follows the reception of this Circular, the head of each of our Houses assemble in Council all the teaching members of the establishment, that they may examine before God what amendment may be made in their manner of imparting religious instruction. In the minutes of the meeting, the Secretary shall set forth what is actually done; and in a second part, what appears feasible to obey the supreme authority that has spoken; said report shall be forwarded immediately to proper quarters.

Here it is we have reason to thank God for our religious vocation. Had we nothing more to teach than secular educators, as well might we have remained in the world. But what raises us above them is, that our teaching leaves behind us all the aspirations of this world and fits our pupils for eternal life.

I start for Lourdes, thence I go to Lafaye, thence to Chaffes, and afterwards to a few other establishments and to Paris, where

I shall remain until May. May God bless us all and grant us to meet again! Oh! what joy!

Your devoted in Jesus Christ,

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

No. LXIII.

ROME, March 20, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Before leaving Rome, I must relate to you a few of my impressions since my last Circular. You have all heard, perhaps, that His Eminence, the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda, was kind enough to accept an invitation to dine with us on the Feast of St. Joseph. Yesterday His Eminence, accompanied by a few friends, condescended to honor us with his presence, and all assured us of their perfect satisfaction. I then received, through a friend, the Benediction of His Holiness for the Congregation and the young children whom we intend to organize into an Association of Prayer for the Deliverance of the Holy Father and the Conversion of America. This new and precious favor was even more than I had hoped for. In answer to the few words of thanks which I addressed to His Eminence, the excellent Cardinal made a few congratulatory remarks which every member of the Congregation would, I am confident, have been very happy to hear.

Last week I went to Loreto for the third time, with our good Brother Vincenzo, who, at the advanced age of 68, has never visited more than two or three other places a year in the city of Rome. Mgr. de Cornouiller, who paid the good Brother's expenses, accompanied us. On arriving we found that we could say Mass at the altar of the *Santa Casa* itself, and at the second Gospel we read: *Bonum est nos hic esse*,—"It is good for us to be here; let us build three tents." Truly, St. Peter could not but say it. We, therefore built three tents there, for three days, during which time we enjoyed the precious privilege of celebrating Mass at the Altar of St. Peter, and of passing many happy hours in the most august and venerable sanctuary in the world. I there presented to our Holy Mother, to her Adorable Son, and to the head of the Holy Family each and every member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. I am confident that these three days were days of benediction for our Religious family, and that they will be fruitful in good results. Between Rome and Ancona is situated the town of Foligno, and at an hour's journey from this town, Assisi, with the tombs of St. Francis and St. Clare, and the celebrated Portiuncula. What a happiness it is in these days of trial in which we live to be able to kneel in those blessed sanctuaries, and to pour

forth one's soul in prayer near the sacred relics of those holy personages whose eminent virtues were the glory of better days!

But there, as everywhere else in Italy, the results of persecution are unfortunately but too visible. No more revenues, no more magnificence, no more splendor—*Via Sion lugent*—even around those tombs so long the object of universal veneration, but now neglected by the world, which pays homage neither to God nor to His Saints.

And yet this hardened world is not entirely given up to its own blindness. To recall it to Himself, God seems to multiply His prodigies. Only sixteen years ago a wonderful event excited the astonishment of all classes at Foligno. A nun had died in the odor of sanctity at the Convent of St. Anne, founded by Blessed Angelina. A few days after her burial she appeared to one of her pious companions, her countenance bearing the impress of suffering which cannot be described. She declared that she had been condemned for forty years to the flames of purgatory, and that for a trifling fault against the vow of poverty—which we would scarcely consider a venial sin. The Community, profoundly grieved, began to pray night and day, and at the end of three days the deceased Sister again appeared and announced that, through the prayers of her charitable companions, her punishment had been reduced to fifteen years. The prayers of the Community then increased in fervor, and at the expiration of ten days they enjoyed the supreme satisfaction of seeing the soul of their departed Sister rising to heaven in the form of a luminous globe, more dazzlingly bright than the sun; and in proof of the truth of what she had revealed she left on the door, which she touched with her own hand, a mark of fire on which I laid my own hand, in the midst of the seals with which it is surrounded. However calculated to inspire terror this fact may be, it is, nevertheless, less frightful than another which recently happened at Naples, and concerning which the Superior-General of the Lazarists has sent a Circular to his Congregation. In it he makes mention of a mark left by a hand of fire—that of a young girl, who appeared to a young man, now in retirement with the Lazarists, telling him that prayers for her are useless, that she is damned.

To profit by warnings so serious, I have thought more than ever of our dear deceased brethren, and of the means of relieving our own souls when it pleases God to call us to Himself. I am myself astonished at the success I have met, but all is not yet known. I hope soon to be able to place before the eyes of the Congregation a most consoling picture on this subject.

I intended to leave this evening; but while writing these lines I received an invitation to assist to-morrow at an international Audi-

ence at the Vatican. The thought of kissing once more the hand of our venerated Father and Pontiff, and of receiving from him one more benediction for our beloved family does not allow me to hesitate.

Your devoted, in J. M. J.,

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

No. LXIV.

NOTRE DAME DE STE.-CROIX

(NEUILLY), PARIS, April 1, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Yesterday morning, under the protection of our glorious Patron St. Joseph whose beautiful month was closing, I fixed on the 11th of May as the day of our departure for America from Liverpool, by the *City of Berlin*, of the Inman Line, on which Mr. Wile, of Laporte, has kindly obtained for me a complimentary ticket. I was charged to engage on the same a passage for the worthy Bishop of Cleveland, whom I left lately in Naples, very much improved, and almost well. I inform you in time of these particulars that you may pray three times more fervently for our common safety. In eight or nine days the *City of Berlin* usually accomplishes her trip.

The new altar for Notre Dame is finally completed. I have an invitation to go and see it before it is shipped to Philadelphia. They say it is something grand. You know what a precious Indulgence is to be attached to it forever. If not, for your own consolation you must learn it now: this precious Indulgence is the same as the famous Indulgence of the venerable Basilica of SS. Cosmas and Damian, in Rome, where, according to a pious tradition, the Blessed Virgin spoke through a picture to St. Gregory the Great. To perpetuate the memory of this miraculous favor, the holy Pontiff granted forever the following privilege: that any soul for which Mass should be offered at that altar should be immediately delivered from purgatory. On the 9th of March His Holiness granted the very same to the Eminent Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda for the main altar of the new Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. The Holy Father himself, as he declared, believes in the above pious tradition; why not we? If so, how can we express the consolation it imparts! Who could have foreseen, forty years ago, that a time would come when the thought of death would of itself sweeten our laborious life at our dear Notre Dame? The stumps of our forest are not yet all rooted out, and behold our wilderness has bloomed under the richest dews of heaven; and even our dear departed associates are to receive the benefit of an Indul-

gence which, the Holy Father says, he had never transferred yet to any church. God be praised, and His Holy Mother!

Your devoted, in J. M. J.,

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

BELOVED CHILDREN IN CHRIST:

It is the will of His Holiness that all our Religious, with all their pupils, and souls entrusted to our care, join in the Association of the Guardian Angels of the Sanctuary to pray for the ends of its praiseworthy institution. Therefore I thank in advance every one of our beloved family who will take a special interest in its establishment and development. Furthermore, I am confident that it will bring unusual blessings upon the Houses in which it will have been greeted with greater joy, and carried out with a more successful zeal. I know of no better means to realize the intentions and frequent recommendations of His Holiness concerning the training of Christian youth.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

No. LXV.

NEUILLY, April 28, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

On the 28th of April, 1876, Brother Cesaire (Kard Liens), for twenty-three years a Professed member of the Congregation, stationed at Neuilly, fell asleep in the Lord, at the age of 60 years and 3 months. He had been strengthened by the Sacraments of the holy Church. Your pious prayers are requested for the repose of his soul. *Requiescat in pace.*

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

No. LXVI.

NOTRE DAME, Oct. 13, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Sorrows and afflictions are never far separated from our joys here below. Last night our aged and excellent Brother Augustine expired in the Professed House here, fortified by the Sacraments of the Church, in his 83d year, and much regretted by all our Religious.

For more than a quarter of a century, until lately Bro. Augustine had been the regular Baker of the Institution, which he never left even for a moment since his arrival in 1849. He was ever a model of regularity and devotedness; he was possessed of a rare, genial and kind disposition, and never knew what it was to

offend any one by an unkind act or word. In his death the Community loses an uncommonly meritorious member, whose memory will long live among those he *fed*, literally, with excellent bread for so many years. For my own part, I, who knew him so well, and but to esteem and love him the more, shall remember with pleasure and edification, as long as I live, his many virtues, his long and substantial services to the Community, and even his ever-cheerful countenance, which alone would make it a delight to converse with him. May his precious soul rest in peace!

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

No. LXVII.

NOTRE DAME, Oct. 16, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Were it in my power to reply separately to every letter I have received on the occasion of my Patron Saint's Festival, I would cheerfully enter upon the task. But this being out of the question, I must be satisfied, and all my kind correspondents likewise, with a general acknowledgment of the warm and beautiful congratulations so abundantly presented to me since a few days. Such manifestations of filial sentiments never find me indifferent; but it seems to me that I never felt as sensibly affected by the same on any previous similar occasion. Let no one, therefore, doubt for a moment my heartfelt sense of gratitude for the many letters addressed to me (nearly 500 in number). I may say I have read attentively and with pleasure every line. May God return, an hundredfold to my kind well-wishers, all the blessings and good things they have asked for me!

I am particularly pleased and thankful when I see the edifying zeal with which the Association of the Angel Guardians of the Sanctuary has been introduced into our schools in general. I trust every establishment shall have completed its list and forwarded it to Very Rev. Father Provincial here before the close of this month, which is the Month of the Angels. This will be a sure test of religious dispositions among the heads of our Houses. Yesterday 400 new members were announced from New Brunswick, and 300 from Washington. Let it be remembered that this is our own Association, undoubtedly intended by Divine Providence as a new source of blessings upon each one of our establishments and the Congregation at large.

I hope all of us will bear in mind, or rather carry out to the letter the instructions of His Holiness, communicated from Rome last spring, and fully explained at the Annual Retreat. Even those who have done their duty in imparting religious knowledge to

their pupils will endeavor to do still better and secure to Religion in their schools the place it ought to occupy as the branch of education paramount to all others.

In connection with the question of a Christian training in our own schools I must remark, as a fruit of my recent visits to class-rooms in some of our Houses, that sufficient attention is not paid to the exterior behavior and deportment of pupils. They are unnecessarily noisy in their ingress and egress and movements in general, while the largest class can be trained in one day to move, either in a body or privately, as though they were in church. Then, again, they should be inspected every morning, from head to foot, in ranks and in silence, in order to cultivate in them habits of neatness and personal love of a decent appearance. Their class-rooms should be in the most perfect cleanliness, also floors and desks, benches and walls. Scholars should always leave the school in ranks and in silence, and not disband until they reach the second or third square or block. The public will soon notice the results of these prescriptions, which can be easily enforced, to the immediate credit of both teachers and pupils.

Again, grade your classes intelligently. Lose not a minute, but try to create a lively activity among all your students. A spirited teacher will bring or draw out a large class in a few months, while a sleepy one will, at the end of the year, leave it where he found it. Where there is such life in a class there is no need of corporal punishment, which always reveals a teacher *incapable or unprepared*.

The period we are now passing through is a trying one: our schools require all the energy we can command in order to reach an efficiency which alone may justify and keep up the patronage they receive, against temptations continually on the increase. Mark my words, the struggle is terrible; we must win the day, or perish as Educators. The number of our pupils is barely sufficient to keep us alive. In many things we can hardly compete with the public schools of the land: with their stately buildings their immense pecuniary means enable them to choose among the best talent; their halls are crowded; every worldly advantage is at their disposal. But they are Godless institutions; there is a fever of success that always proves fatal wherever God is ignored. In vain will man consume his energy in building up a house which God does not help raising for His own glory. This is their threat, as it is the firm ground of our confidence in ultimate success. We alone can say: "If God is with us, what does it matter who is against us?" But if God is our only hope, we must try fully to deserve His protection. While immorality, the natural offspring of a Godless training, is spreading and daily increasing around us on all sides, we, who know better where to look for the remedy for so many

fearful evils, should find our greatest consolation and even our delight in spending ourselves in the glorious task of training up young and innocent souls for heaven. Let, then, God's holy remembrance permeate all our efforts and their efforts. Let the holy Angels be present to their minds, as protectors and models of purity, of prompt obedience, of reverence and love of God. Thus will you establish the reign of Jesus in those stainless hearts, whose Christian morals will soon form a striking contrast with the infidelity of the day, and an inexcusable evidence of the superiority of our schools over everything that is now done under the inspiration of the prince of this world.

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

No. LXVIII.

NOTRE DAME, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

To reply personally to every letter addressed to me during the past week is fairly out of the question. I have read them all attentively and with pleasure; but all I can be expected to do in return is to present my numerous and kind correspondents with a general and heartfelt acknowledgment of their filial and most acceptable sentiments and assurances of prayer, for the accomplishment of which I join with them with my whole soul.

Indeed, for such expressions of regard I can scarcely find words to fitly express my feelings of gratitude. One should have a stony heart in his breast to remain unmoved while holding in his hands, or listening to, such beautiful and touching accents of affection and fervent wishes. May our bountiful God, in His Justice and Mercy, return an hundredfold to each one of my dear well-wishers all the blessings they have so piously solicited for me! If the care of such a large family can scarcely ever be free from solicitude and anxiety; there are moments and days of compensation and joy when we forget all troubles and sorrows, and readily indulge the hope that everyone, now so decidedly religious in dispositions and resolutions, will prove, in future, a real source of consolation to Superiors and a treasure to the Community. *A treasure to the Community!* Is there one child of the Holy Cross who would slight such an encomium, if truly merited, at the close of this new year? Oh! how delighted and consoled I would feel myself could I only deserve it before God, and find it to be the honest sentiment of all I shall have to answer for! Now, what is an extreme difficulty in my case, becomes comparatively an easy task for every other member of our beloved Congregation. Most assuredly, the greatest blessing Heaven could bestow this year on our Religious family would be