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Circular-Letter.

REV. DEAR FATHERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST :

I learned this morning, by Mgr. Fillion, Bishop of Mans, and our Rev. P. Dillon, Assistant General, that on the 22d ult. they received at Mans a telegram from our Right Rev. Superior General, convoking a General Chapter of the Congregation to meet in Rome without delay. This does not surprise me ; I was for some time past expecting the same. Nor should it much surprise any one, if we take into serious consideration the peculiar circumstances in which the late Chapter in 1866 was held at Mans, in the absence of the new Superior General, elected without any assurance that he would even accept the nomination. Indeed little else besides his election could be done under such circumstances. No wonder if in presence of all the responsibilities left to his decision, he deems it more prudent to advance the epoch of the next general assembly, especially while he is himself in the Eternal City, the centre of light and science, where the members convoked will easily obtain all the counsels and directions they need to place the Congregation on the best possible permanent footing.

It is idle to say how much I regret to be obliged to leave home at a time I would wish so much to meet all the members of our little family.

But I hope to return in time for the Annual Retreat, or even before the end of July.

Meanwhile, let us all pray that this approaching General Chapter may prove a great blessing, a new era in the annals of our Congregation ; and to secure upon it all the lights and graces necessary, let each member add to fervent daily prayers, the irresistible pleading of a perfect discharge of duty, of a hearty devotedness, and of a scrupulous attention to the obligations of a Religious life.

Those who have charge of an establishment and who have not yet sent their statistics, must forward them immediately, as I intend leaving by the latter end of next week.

Until the 25th of June, my address will be at Sta. Brigitta, Piazza Farnese, Roma, Italy.

Once more I commend myself, and above all the important object for which I go, to your fervent prayers. God alone knows how painful is to my heart even a temporary separation from our dear Notre Dame and so many dear souls May we soon meet again with the common consciousness of having persevered faithful and true to God and to each other.

Your devoted friend in J. M. J.

E. SORIN, S. S. C.