

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 5.

OF THE

VERY REV. SUPERIOR-GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of Holy Cross.

*a letter* NOTRE DAME, IND., September 10th, 1869.

*Rev. Fathers and dear Brothers in Christ :*

I just learned by telegram from New York the sudden death of our General Procurator in Rome, our dear Rev. Father Bardeau. God's holy will be done, and not ours! But however perfect our submission may be, nevertheless this is a severe blow;—not on him, I should think, for he was undoubtedly one of our most exemplary Religious; and although death has come for him suddenly, I feel confident he was not found unprepared. But the blow strikes heavily indeed upon the Congregation, which he represented so well by the Holy See. Such piety, such learning, such eloquence, and such virtues are not easily met in the same person; and such an important post should not be intrusted to any one not as well and fully qualified for its weighty responsibilities.

I cannot express how deeply I personally deplore the death of our saintly and dearly beloved Procurator. To my own feelings, it is a poignant and heartfelt sorrow.

I realize that I have lost one of my best and most devoted friends, and the Congregation its first theologian and best preacher, and one of its most brilliant ornaments;

thanks to Heaven that I may also add, one of its most saintly characters. Dear and venerable Father Bardeau; how sorrowingly I deplore your death! I need all my faith to accept it in submission. For you, death has doubtless been a gain; but for us all, what a loss! May the Holy will of God be done, and not ours.

But let us hasten to prove to him the sincerity of our sentiments, especially the high esteem we entertained of his great virtues and the gratitude of our hearts for the eminent services he was rendering to the Congregation as its representative in Rome.

I must here somewhat deviate, in his behalf, from the usual prescriptions for our deceased members, and beg of all our Religious to offer to God for the rest of his precious soul a novena of Masses or Holy Communions—if not in the next nine days, at least within the shortest delay.

It would be quite a consolation to my afflicted heart to learn that the novena has been commenced immediately, and gone through without interruption by all the members of Holy Cross.

E. SORIN.