

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 7,
OF THE
VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL
OF THE
Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, March 22d, 1870.

Reverend Fathers and dear Brothers in Jesus Christ:

I have to inform you of the death of our dear young Brother Athanasius, who breathed his last under my eyes a moment ago.

In one sense I regret him sincerely; but such an edifying death leaves scarcely room for sorrow. Here he had been received into our Holy Church; last year he had been admitted into our Congregation, which he never ceased to edify by the most regular and exemplary conduct. When I reached home on the 12th inst. I found him almost dying, in the last stage of consumption, but resigned, and even cheerful in his resignation to God's holy will. As he approached his last end he became daily more admirable in his sentiments of faith and piety. Last night at 12 o'clock he desired to receive once more Holy Communion, which I had the consolation to carry him myself. I frequently visited him again since, and each time with new edification. Oh! how sweet it is to die young, in innocence and peace, in confidence and love of God! May our last moments be similar to his!

To-morrow, at 4 P. M., we shall consign his mortal remains to the grave; but while I live, I shall remember the edification he has given us all, and pray that when our last hour shall have come, it may find each of us as well prepared.

With full confidence may we pray for the rest of his soul.

E. SORIN, *Superior-General.*