

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

TO THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, May 7, 1874.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

Before we part again, you will allow me to address you a few farewell lines, were it only to assure you that, while journeying far away from you all, I shall remain closely united with each of you, in the bonds of charity and personal affection.

Let no one fear to be forgotten; the nature and the object of the pious expedition which is to sail from New York on the 16th inst., must be a guarantee to the friends of the pilgrims that they shall be remembered at the Sacred Shrines which are about to be visited. Do we not go out for that? A pilgrimage is no pleasure party; it is essentially a praying movement, an earnest search after Divine assistance and protection, to which is added at this peculiar juncture, declarations of boundless filial devotion to our Holy Father, so unjustly kept a prisoner in his own palace. This peculiar circumstance will give our first American Pilgrimage, in the estimation of the world, a character of special importance, which alone should suffice to fill with joy and noble pride the hearts of those who will have the honor and happiness to form it, and go first, in the name of Catholic Americans, to lay at the feet of the immortal Pius IX the homage of the American Church, and at the same time to raise a solemn protest against the crying injustice to which, for the time being, he is subjected. We go then, first of all, to see Peter in prison, and console him by the unfeigned declaration of our love and veneration; we go to secure upon ourselves and our friends the Apostolic blessing, so inexpressibly precious in these our days; we go *ad limina Apostolorum* to pray to the glorious protectors of Rome for the Church and its Infallible Head and our infant Church in America. We go, next, to recommend the same all-important interests to as many Shrines of Our Blessed Mother as we may be permitted to visit. Oh! what a consolation for me, personally, to kneel down in your name, in your behalf, and for your sake at Loreto, at Lourdes, at Chartres, etc. Well may you keep yourselves close to me in spirit and in heart until I return; for, from the day I leave, until then, I will consider it a sacred duty to be your representative wherever I may chance to hit upon a rich source of grace. Follow me in spirit and with fervent prayers; but, above all, follow me, my dear friends, in a true religious spirit, soliciting with me, by the purity of your life and your exemplary conduct, all the blessings you need, and thus enabling me to return to you laden with abundant favors and merits.

In order to secure the blessings of heaven upon our pilgrimage, I direct that all our Rev. Fathers say one Mass a month, and that our other Religious offer a Communion a week, while all shall recite daily the Litany of Loreto for the success of the pious expedition.

In answer to various recent applications to visit parents during next vacation, I beg to say here once for all, that we are not Religious for that, but the reverse; that we gain nothing but often lose much by such visits; and therefore, for this year at least, I refuse all such permissions. Let us all pray for our relatives and remain at home undisturbed in the fulfilment of our duty, persuaded as we must be, upon such an authority as the "Following of Christ," "that the more we mix with men of the world, the less we become men."

In three months time, I hope to be with you here again.

Once more let us remain closely united in the spirit of fervent prayer, and God and His Holy Mother will bless us all.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

POSTSCRIPTUM.—MAY 9.

Since writing the above, a generous lady having offered to defray our Venerable Brother Vincent's expenses to join the Pilgrimage and pray for her and us all, I have joyfully accepted the offer and immediately secured a berth for him on the *Pereire*. Let us pray for her.

This morning's mail brought me a letter from Rome with a special rescript from the Holy Father granting all our Rev. Fathers in the United States the privilege of giving the four Scapulars—viz.; of the Blessed Trinity, of the Immaculate Conception, of Mount Carmel, and of the Seven Dolors. The rescript bears the date of the 8th of February, 1874; the privilege is for five years. The four Scapulars are to be blessed under one formula which is being printed in the "AVE MARIA" Office, and will be forwarded with a specimen of the Scapulars, accompanying the message from Rome.

E. S.