

CIRCULAR LETTER, No. 52.

OF THE

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

TO THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

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NOTRE DAME, Nov. 12, 1874.

*REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:*

Another death has thinned our ranks. Indeed, of late, I have appeared before the Congregation but as the herald of death; of such deaths, however, that whatever loss they may seem to bring, they may well be taken, when viewed in a proper light, as decided gains, not only for those whose apparently premature demise we deplore, but also for the Community which prepared them for a better life.

This morning, at 8.20, our Dear Rev. Father N. H. Gillespie expired at St. Mary's, fortified by the Sacraments of our Holy Church and the fervent and unceasing prayers of the Community.

For several months he had been subjected to intense and almost uninterrupted pains, which he bore with such heroic patience and such evident marks of piety that we may truly say: where our sorrow abounds, our consolation abounds more, and exceeds all regrets.

For my part, I may state from personal experience, that I never witnessed a more edifying scene, or a death that filled my soul with greater hope and more perfect assurance; and far from seeing in this additional bereavement a reason to doubt the efficacy of our prayers to the Holy Mother of God, I freely confess an increase of confidence in her power and tenderness, as I remain fully convinced she has done more than we asked for towards those whom we wished to recover.

Father Gillespie was in his forty-second year, and his Profession dated from the 15th of August, 1853. We certainly have reason to believe that by such long and painful sufferings, so admirably endured, he satisfied in a great measure even the most rigorous demands of Divine Justice, and qualified himself for a no distant enjoyment of eternal bliss.

While we pray for his precious soul, let us try to secure to ourselves the unspeakable blessing to die the same most consoling death.

*Requiescat in pace.*

E. SORIN, C.S.C.,

Superior General.