

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 73.

OF THE

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

TO THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, April 18, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I am happy to transmit to you the following lines from Very Rev. Father General, concerning the new Association of the Guardian Angels of the Sanctuary and his proximate return to America.

A. GRANGER, C. S. C., Prov.

BELOVED CHILDREN IN CHRIST:

It is the will of His Holiness that all our Religious, with all their pupils, and souls entrusted to our care, join, in this Association, to pray for the ends of its praiseworthy institution. Therefore I thank in advance every one of our beloved Family who will take a special interest in its establishment and development. Furthermore, I am confident that it will bring uncommon blessings upon the Houses in which it will have been greeted with greater joy and carried out with a more successful zeal. I know of no better means to realize the intentions and frequent recommendations of His Holiness concerning the training of Christian youth.

E. SORIN, C. S. C., Sup'r. Gen'l.

N.-D. DE STE.-CROIX, (NEUILLY), PARIS, April 1, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND DEARLY BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Yesterday morning, under the protection of our glorious Patron St. Joseph, whose beautiful month was closing, I fixed the day of our departure for America for the 11th May, from Liverpool, by the City of Berlin, of the Inman Line, on which Mr. Wilé of Laporte has kindly obtained me a complimentary ticket. I was charged to engage on the same a passage for the worthy Bishop of Cleveland, whom I left lately in Naples, very much improved, and almost well. I inform you in time of these particulars, that you may pray, three times more fervently, for our common safety. In eight or nine days the City of Berlin usually accomplishes her trip.

The new altar for Notre Dame is finally completed. I have an invitation to go and see it before it is shipped to Philadelphia. They say it is something grand. You know what a precious Indulgence is to be attached to it, forever. If not, for your own consolation you must learn it now: this precious Indulgence is the same as the famous Indulgence of the venerable Basilica of SS. Cosmas and Damian, in Rome, where, according to a pious tradition, the Blessed Virgin spoke, through a picture, to St. Gregory the Great. To perpetuate the memory of this miraculous favor, the Holy Pontiff granted forever the following privilege—viz.: that any soul for which Mass should be offered at that altar should be immediately delivered from Purgatory. On the 9th of March, His Holiness granted the very same to the Eminent Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda for the main altar of the new church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. The Holy Father himself, as he declared, believes in the above pious tradition; why not we? If so, how can we express the consolation it imparts! Who could have foreseen, 40 years ago, that a time would come when the thought of death would, of itself, sweeten our laborious life at our dear Notre Dame? The stumps of our forest are not yet all rooted out, and, behold, our wilderness has bloomed, under the richest dews of Heaven; and even our dear departed Associates are to receive the benefit of an Indulgence which, the Holy Father says, he had never transferred yet to any church. God be praised, and His Holy Mother!

Your devoted, in J. M. J.,

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,
Superior General.