

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 84

OF THE

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

TO THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

October 24

NOTRE DAME, Feast of St. Raphael, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have waited, until the last feast letter had been received, that I might say before answering them that I had read them all ; yes, every line, every word of them. I wish I could reply to each of my kind well-wishers individually ; but the task is beyond my power, and yet I cannot permit even the last of my kind correspondents to question, for a moment, the gratitude with which I received and perused the beautiful expressions of filial sentiments contained in this little avalanche of epistles. May God return in a hundred fold, to each and to all who have offered me their tokens of friendship on the occasion of my glorious Patron's Feast-day, all the blessings they have so fervently solicited for me! May they enjoy not only the reward promised to those who honor their Father on earth, but also and above all, the eternal life of the Children of God.

My gray hairs sufficiently warn me that I should not expect many returns of the same. My great and ever-growing ambition is now to finish the work I have commenced or continued ; that, when I disappear, it may remain and go on increasing and developing itself for the glory of God and salvation of souls.

As the term is approaching when we must part, I feel the more keenly the want of your generous co-operation towards perfecting our common and beautiful task, that I may be cheered by the clear and daily more and more evident and consoling sight of virtues and religious habits which alone can give us a real assurance of permanent efficiency in the Church of God. Let me then once more entreat you all, and especially the Heads of our Houses, to spare no pains in order to keep in our little Family the spirit and love, with the strict practice, of our Constitutions and Rules. Let us remember, in these critical times, the absolute necessity of economy, of retrenchments in our personal wants, and of devotedness to duty.

This forenoon, at 11 o'clock, SISTER M. THOMAS (Anna Tighe), born in 1853, a Novice since the 15th of August, 1876, but who made her profession on her death-bed a few days ago, breathed her last at St. Mary's Convent, near here, fortified by the Sacraments of the Church. We solicit your prayers for the repose of her soul.

The burial will take place to-morrow at 3 p.m.

Requiescat in pace.

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