

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 100  
OF THE  
VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR GENERAL  
TO THE  
Congregation of the Holy Cross.

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N. D. DE STE. CROIX, NEUILLY, PARIS, February 28th, 1880.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

The dear and venerated confrère, whom we thought to have with us yet a long time, has just rendered his soul to God, and entered, we hope, into the eternal repose which a good life and a holy death deserve. 'God's will be done, not ours.

Less than a week ago, we still had the hope to see him recover from his illness through the fervent prayers offered for that object, and through the assiduous care bestowed on him. However, after a few days, a sudden relapse, which nothing could overcome, took away our beloved confrère, doubtless as a mercy to him and to us. In the death of the good and venerated FATHER CHAMPEAU, the Congregation has lost, you will all agree, one of its best and most worthy members. During the forty years he has been a member, his time, his fortune, and his rare talents, have been unreservedly devoted to its service; and as the proof of this three-fold devotion, he leaves us the most important establishment we had in France as a legacy. We must prove that he has not sacrificed himself for ungrateful companions. This proof we must give to God and to men, in following his footsteps. In our greatest peril, he had faith in the success of the Congregation. We will prove our gratitude by imitating his example, even should more serious dangers threaten us in the near future. It was during the Commune that the health of Father Champeau was broken; and if he was not a martyr, he has become a victim.

Yesterday, at 10 o'clock, we asked the Apostolic Benediction for our dying patient. It arrived at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and he received it with great consolation. And now after a long illness, of which you all know, he died this morning, at 10 o'clock, with all the helps of religion, and consoled by the marks of affection and respect of his confrères. He leaves them all deeply touched by the example of edification he gave them in his last moments.

Let all the members of our religious family hasten to offer the suffrages\* to which he has a claim, and which he has so well merited. May the Holy Family, which he has glorified in his writings, receive him into the eternal tabernacles!

This is all I am able to write to you to-day. The obsequies will take place next Monday, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

*Requiescat in pace.*

\* For "suffrages" see Rule XLIII; No. 343 for general officers.

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