

# CIRCULAR.

21 Jan

FEAST OF ST. AGNES, 1885.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

I forgot, last week, to call your attention to something which, I trust, is ever present to your minds, but which is of itself so serious that I can have no rest until I know that you have all taken proper measures to avoid the disastrous consequences an oversight or a forgetfulness might bring again on the Congregation. I mean fire, that dreadful calamity, with which we are threatened day and night, and against which none should be more cautiously guarded by incessant vigilance and prayer than ourselves, after the terrible experiences we have had of its ruinous visitations.

Never had we read of so many fires as we find daily recorded in the press since the 1st of January: what a warning! 273 in 21 days!—lives and property swept away every day and night by the merciless element, of which we ourselves may become victims again at any moment, unless by continual vigilance and prayer, as I have stated, we escape from this terrible scourge, from an appalling wreck, from a horrible death.

A new warning will not suffice to restore peace to my mind. I must have an assurance from the Local Administration of each House, that every possible precaution has been taken, and that every means has been duly provided to successfully meet an emergency we may have to face any day, or night, without a moment's notice.

Let the Local Council meet, and conscientiously examine the case, and report to me without delay. Then, but not before, I will rest in peace, knowing that we have all done, and are doing, our duty to save ourselves from all accidents and all responsibilities of this kind.

Your unfeigned thanks for my last message encourage me to add a few lines, as a postscript of some importance, on the same subject.

I am delighted to see the joy with which the Novena to the Holy Man of Tours has been commenced, and the fervor with which it is continued. But when I remember what this extraordinary Thaumaturgus said to me one day, in his own house, viz., "that I would see, before my death, the Congregation of the Holy Cross prosper as I had not seen it yet," I feel such confidence in applying to him now, that the cause of his Beatification is introduced, that, instead of a single Novena, I want a second one, to open on the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin,—and even a third one, to commence on the 25th of March. A number of miraculous cures at Lourdes are effected, not at the first, or second, but at the third plunging or immersion in the miraculous bath. As a rule, perseverance alone secures success.

In the next novena to the intention for which we are now so fervently praying to our saintly friend and protector, the duplication and sanctification of our Novitiates, shall be added another, viz: the full success, in the sense recently explained, of all our establishments; and in the 3d one, another again, perhaps, the most important of all, shall be added to the other two, already mentioned, viz.: the personal sanctification of each member of our dear Congregation.

Yesterday morning, I learned, with agreeable surprise and heartfelt gratitude, that the Rev. Father Murphy, S. J., had procured, in five years, 400 subscribers to THE "AVE MARIA"; another priest in San Francisco takes 270 copies every week; and a devoted Sister of Charity procured 50 subscribers last year, where she was then teaching, and 20 more in the new mission to which she was removed. Are not such facts worthy of our meditation? Will they go unrewarded? Indeed, they have been already rewarded. To me such facts are worth volumes.

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SUP.-GENERAL.