

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 13

OF THE

Very Rev. SUPERIOR GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, IND., JUNE 6, 1887.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have the pleasure of informing you of the approbation by the Holy See of the Acts of our last General Chapter, held here in August 1886. You will all feel glad, I am sure, to see that not only the approbation is complete and unexceptional, but even accompanied with precious and unprecedented praises, which should prove to each and to all of us a most efficient encouragement in our daily exertions for the advancement of our beloved Congregation. Indeed, to know, from such a source, that the Holy Father is pleased with the good will and devotedness of His loving children, even in the far-away northern part of America, is no slight gratification to us all. But when we hear of the recent proof he has given us of his appreciation of our modest labors, by offering us a new and important mission near Calcutta—in a healthy portion of Bengal—where our Priests, Brothers and Sisters will find a large field for an immense good, we may well rejoice and thank God for the kind and fatherly feelings of His own Vicar upon earth, and try, more earnestly than ever, to be worthy of them. Now, let me ask of you, plainly and squarely: who will volunteer to go? The French and the English are the languages of the place with the Hindoostani. Were I thirty years younger, I would register my name *first*. The call is from the Holy See. 3 Priests, 5 or 6 Brothers, and 8 or 9 Sisters will be sufficient at first to take charge of the mission.

The Letter and the Decree of approbation are as follows:

S. CONGREGAZIONE DI PROPAGANDA SEGRETERIA, N. 5809.

ROMA il 12 Maggio, 1887.

RMO. D. EDUARDO SORIN, *Sup.-Gen. Congregatio S. Crucis.*

RME. PATER:

Post maturum examen institutum circa Decreta a Capitulo Generali istius Congregationis confecta, Sanctitas Sua ea confirmare dignata est. Approbationis Decretum D. T. his meis inclusum reperiet. Nunc pergratum mihi est D. T. significare omni commendatione dignas habitas esse dispositiones quae domum S. Birgittae Romae existentem respiciunt. Per haec enim Decreta statuitur ut Romae domus studiorum altrix fundetur, ad quam duo ex qualibet istius Instituti provincia mitti possint juvenes. Hac ratione fiet ut in dies virorum in ista Congregatione, qui scientia ac virtute praecellant, seges efflorescat, ad majus Religionis bonum, ad salutem animarum procurandam, ad decus etiam et honorem istius Instituti augendum. Cum enim in hac alma urbe totius Christiani Orbis princeps, ac in ipsis Pontificum oculis ad pietatem et scientiam accurata diligentique institutione juvenes informari valeant, omnino sperandum est eorum operam, et zelum non parum ad Fidei incrementum colaturum fore. Proinde Summus Pontifex praefata Decreta enixe laudare, et commendare non omisit. Insuper Sanctitati Suae gratissimum accidit dignoscere, quod pia domus in Statu Indiana posita, magnas progressus fecerit, ac maxima caperit incrementa. Quapropter Summus Pontifex omnibus istius Congregationis membris, ac praesertim D. T., tam optime de Instituto, cujus praesidentiam gerit, merita, ex corde Apostolicam Benedictionem impertitur.

Ego vero fausta omnia Tibi adprecor a Deo D. T.

Addictus

JOANNES CARD. SIMEONI, *Praefectus.*✠ D. ARCHIEP. TYREN, *Sec.*

DECRETUM.

Cum Decreta confecta a Capitulo Generali Congregationis a S. Cruce dicto, mense Augusti 1886 in pia Domo N. D. du Lac, sita in Statu Indiana habito, SSmo D. N. Leoni XIII in Audientia diei 24 Aprilis 1887 a R. P. D. Dominico Jacobini Arch. Tyrensi S. Cong'nis de Propaganda Fide Secretario relata fuerint, Sanctitas Sua, re mature perpensa, eadem approbare dignata est; ea tamen lege quoad Decretum septimum, ut Superior Generalis per alios sex annos in America resideat.

Datum Romae ex Aedibus S. C. de Propaganda Fide, die 8 Maii, 1887.

JOANNES CARD. SIMEONI, *Praefectus.*✠ D. ARCHIEP. TYREN, *Sec.*

[TRANSLATION.]

VERY REV. EDWARD SORIN, *Superior-General of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.*

VERY REV. FATHER:

After a careful examination of the decrees made by the General Chapter of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, his Holiness has deigned to approve them. Your Reverence will find the decree of approval enclosed in this letter of mine. It is most pleasing to me to inform your Reverence that the decision regarding the House of Sta. Brigitta, in Rome, has been found worthy of special commendation. A decree of your Chapter declares that a house of studies shall be es-

established in Rome to which two subjects from each province of the Congregation may be sent. In this way it will come to pass that the Congregation will possess a number of men excelling in virtue and learning, who will be able to advance the interests of religion, procure the salvation of souls, and add honor and glory to the Institute. And, since in this city of Rome,—the capital of the whole Christian world, and under the eyes of the Pontiffs themselves,—young men can be most carefully trained to knowledge and piety, there is every reason to hope that their labors and zeal will be of much avail in spreading the Faith. For this reason the Holy Father was pleased to bestow high commendation and praise upon the above mentioned decree.

Moreover, it was a source of the greatest satisfaction to his Holiness to learn that your pious foundation in Indiana has made great progress and attained a most gratifying growth. Wherefore the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic benediction to all the members of the Congregation and, especially to your Reverence, who have deserved so well of the Institute over which you preside.

Praying that God may bless all your undertakings, I am most sincerely yours,

JOHN CARD. SIMEONI, *Prefect.*

✠ D. ARCHBISHOP OF TYRE, *Secretary.*

DECREE OF APPROBATION.

The decrees made by the General Chapter of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, which was held at Notre Dame, Indiana, in the month of August, 1886, were submitted to his Holiness Pope Leo XIII in the audience of April 24 by Most Reverend Dominico Jacobini, Archbishop of Tyre and Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda.

His Holiness, having given the matter serious consideration, deigned to approve these decrees with the condition, as regards the 7th decree, that for six more years the Superior-General shall reside in America.

Given at Rome from the office of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, May 8, 1887.

JOHN CARD. SIMEONI, *Prefect.*

✠ D. ARCHBISHOP OF TYRE, *Secretary.*

DECREES OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS, HELD AT NOTRE DAME, AUGUST, 1886, RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED FOR THE APPROBATION OF THE HOLY SEE.

1. The House of St. Bridget shall be retained, and made a House of Studies.
2. Each Province shall pay annually to the House of St. Bridget the sum of 2000 francs, or 400 dollars, whether two subjects be sent there or not, and the travelling expenses of the subjects sent.
3. Students in Theology and Philosophy may be authorized by the Provincial, in case of need, to teach an hour or two every day.
4. The expenses of the Mother-House and the Procurature shall in future be met by the Provinces, according to their resources.
5. The Provincial Councillors are members of the Provincial Chapter.
6. The Novitiate shall last for two years to be passed in the House of the Novitiate.
7. During the six years between the present and the next General Chapter the Mother-House shall be retained in Indiana.

MGR. DUFAL, *Procurator-General.*

E. SORIN, *Superior-General.*

These Decrees are now binding, and no dispensation whatever should be expected from any of them. Each Province should send to Rome, next September, its two ecclesiastical students—those best qualified by virtue and talent to do honor to the Congregation.

Now is the time, on the eve of parting with your pupils—alas! with some possibly for ever—to remember what has been so urgently pressed upon the attention of our best Religious, namely, to secure some precious vocations from among their very best scholars. Indeed, it would look strange to close a large school without such a living proof of the zeal of its teachers. The fact alone of closing our schools in the beautiful and rich month consecrated to the Sacred Heart gives us a new assurance that those of our pious teachers, who will properly draw the hearts of their innocent pupils to this inexhaustible centre of all blessings, will not return home *alone*. While your Superiors rejoice at the cheering thought of soon seeing you again at home, let them be spared, this year, the painful obligation of refusing the requests of worldly-minded subjects, in regard to visits, journeys, absences, etc., which amount to nothing but the loss of what little piety may be left. Let all shrink from unnecessary expenses, and make the vacation a time to renew and perfect the best habits of devoted, exemplary and efficient teachers.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior General.