

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 14

OF THE

Very Rev. SUPERIOR GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

INSTITUTION DE STE.-CROIX, NEUILLY, PARIS,

FEAST OF THE PURITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

If I feel at a loss how to convey to you the real sentiments of my heart recently experienced on the receipt of so many beautiful expressions of filial love, by mail and telegraph, on the occasion of my glorious Patron's feast-day, how much more difficult, even impossible, will it not appear to us all to return adequate thanks to God and His Blessed Mother for the extraordinary blessings so abundantly bestowed this year upon our little Religious Family everywhere?

Here, after filling their House with 500 pupils, they refuse daily a number of applications; the same in Canada; the same also at my dear home; and yet, considerable additions to the buildings had been completed everywhere on the eve of the opening of the scholastic year. Again, if we consider the number of precious souls recently added to the Congregation, we will readily acknowledge that Divine Providence has placed us under obligations never known before to the same extent.

Such evidences of Divine assistance and protection, while filling our hearts with renewed confidence and greater hopes for the destinies of our Congregation, evidently impose upon all of us, if we do not wish to be numbered among ungrateful souls, new obligations to correspond, to the best of our ability, to the merciful designs of God in regard to our work. There is every indication that a new era of extension and usefulness has opened before us, if we, each and all, resolve not to prove an obstacle to the sacred will of Heaven, but to seek for its full accomplishment in the most faithful observance of our Rules, an exemplary regularity, and constant devotedness to duty.

An experience of forty-six years in the New World has taught me a lesson which none of us should ever forget, and it is this: that of all means to secure success, the best and most infallible is *true devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. In proportion as it increases in our hearts, God will bless us, to the wonder even of the incredulous. But when every day brings new proofs of it, should not our devotion to Her grow stronger, until it knows no limits? During this admirable month of the Holy Rosary, when so many millions of loving hearts continually send up their warmest aspirations to the throne of Our Heavenly Queen, who could remain *indifferent*? Ah! if you desire in earnest to see your House, your class-room, your fields, yourselves, and all you love on earth *blessed*, pray to Our Blessed Mother; I say, pray to Her, not with the lips alone, but from your heart, and she will answer your petitions.

The love of Our Blessed Mother is a sure sign of predestination. What an encouragement in our efforts to increase and perfect it! But even in our present and temporary undertakings for God's glory, it is a guarantee of success with which nothing can compare. I pity the House presided over by a Superior whose heart does not burn with a love for God's Holy Mother revealed in every word and act. What a consolation for all to know that responsibilities rest on a soul whose every hope lies in this glorious centre of tenderest solicitude and inexhaustible graces! In a circle of pious Religious, in a class-room, what a delightful aroma is continually spreading all around from a heart whose every breath reveals a fountain of filial love for Our Holy Mother!

Once more, I thank you all from my heart for your great kindness, and especially for your fervent prayers to which I chiefly assign the restoration of my health; and in return, I most sincerely pray for an increase of love in your devoted hearts towards Our Blessed Mother.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior General.