

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 17

OF THE

Very Rev. SUPERIOR GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, IND., July 31, 1888.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

The accompanying documents, just received from the Eternal City, would simply cover me with confusion, were I to consider them as personal praise of what has been done by our Congregation in this New World since 1841. But, fortunately, I am not blinded enough by our unexpected little successes to claim undeservedly and unjustly any other share in what others may admire but my unfitness and unworthiness in the direction of a work which the Blessed Virgin most visibly intended to bless from the beginning. Oh! what a great work it might have proved if so many generous religious and heroic souls who devoted themselves to it had been led by a saint! If our glorious Queen has done what surprises so many, with such a poor leading agent, what would be the wonder of her maternal protection, if a worthy man had seconded her loving designs, and corresponded in everything with her merciful desires!

A Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee is to saints alone an occasion of unmixed joys, as it doubtless was for our Holy Father, a few months ago in Rome. To me it brings a new light to see my poverty and call on my best friends to assist me by their fervent prayers, that I may carry out my resolve to begin a new life and prove to the last a worthy member of our pious Congregation.

But while my Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee brings upon me the deepest appreciation of my unworthiness, I find on its occasion a new, a greater reason to admire her unspeakable and merciful tenderness. Hence my greater confidence in the destinies of our dear Congregation in America. Alas! why cannot I say the same of our hopes in Europe? Ah! let us pray for our dear Religious in France. A new persecution is threatening there to-day; and to-morrow the new code of law may be enforced for their merciless expulsion.

The new and unexpected favor of a Plenary Indulgence granted by the Holy Father to all who will attend the Jubilee Mass with proper dispositions, on the 15th of August, makes me the more desirous to see as many members as possible of our dear Religious Family present to enjoy the beauty of the grand solemnity, not of a personal Jubilee, but of a general dedication of the whole Institution of Notre Dame to the glorious Mother of God; beginning with the consecration of the new church—now completed even in its rich decorations,—the blessing of the large bell; the blessing of the buildings of the University, of the statue on the dome, etc.

May this glorious Assumption prove a new era of prosperity and happiness to all who will take an interest in its solemnity!

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

SUPERIOR-GENERAL.

BEATISSIME PATER:

Ego infrascriptus Episcopus Delconensis, nec non Procurator Generalis Congregationis Sanctæ Crucis occurrente quinquagesimo anno a promotione ad sacerdotium nostri ven. Superioris Generalis Rmi. P. Eduardi Sorin degentis in America Septemtrionali ubi per quadraginta et quinque circiter annos opera ejus pro gloria s. m. Ecclesiæ et

animarum salute, ad admirationem omnium effulserunt, et hodie valde effulgent, ad pedes sanctitatis vestræ humiliter provolutus in nomine omnium fratrum meorum in religione, occasione hujus fausti eventus aliquam specialem gratiam, ut Benedictionem Apostolicam nec non indulgentiam Plenariam lucrandam ipsa die in qua anniversarium celebratur, idest die decimaquinta mensis Augusti proxime venturis, nostro Superiori Generali, omnibus suis Religiosis in Congregatione, et etiam omnibus qui sacrosancto Sacrificio Missæ ab eodem Superiore celebrato interfuerint, impertiri dignetur. Pro qua gratia, etc.

[*Ex Audientia SSmi. habita die 8 Julii, 1888.*]

SSmus. Dominus Noster Leo Divina Providentia PP. XIII, referente me infrascripto Archiepiscopo Tyren. S. Congregationis de Propaganda Fide Secretario, benigne adnuere dignatus est pro gratia juxta preces in forma Ecclesiæ consueta.

Datum Romæ ex Aedibus dictæ S. Congregationis die et anno ut supra.

✠ D., ARCHIEP. TYREN., *Sec.*

[*Translation :*]

MOST HOLY FATHER:

I, the undersigned, Bishop of Delcon and Procurator General of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, on the occurrence of the fiftieth anniversary of the promotion to the priesthood of our venerable Superior-General, the Very Rev. Edward Sorin, now living in North America, where, for upwards of forty-five years, his labors for the glory of our holy Mother the Church, and for the salvation of souls, have excited, and continue to excite, the admiration of all, humbly prostrate at the feet of your Holiness, in the name of all my brethren in Religion, beg that you may deign to grant on this happy occasion, some special favor, as the Apostolic Benediction and a Plenary Indulgence on the day on which the anniversary is kept—that is, the fifteenth day of the month of August next, to be gained by our Superior-General, by all his Religious in the Congregation, and by all those who shall assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by the same Superior.

In an audience held July 8, 1888, Our Most Holy Lord Leo XIII, by Divine Providence Pope, on the representation of the undersigned Archbishop of Tyre, the Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda, graciously deigned to grant the above-mentioned favor according to the usual forms of the Church.

Given at Rome in the Palace of the said Sacred Congregation on the day and year mentioned.

✠ D., ARCHBISHOP OF TYRE, *Secretary.*

ROMA, LI II Luglio, 1888.

REVERENDISSIME PATER:

Non levi cum animi mei lætitia Dominationem Tuam, Deo favente, proximo venturo mense Augusti quinquagesimum annum, ex quo primo SSnum Eucharistæ Sacrificium litasti expletum dignovi. In fausto hujusmodi eventu, dum meas gratulationes tibi significare curo, insimul omnia bona Tibi a Domino adprecor, et ut Te diu in amplius Religionis bonum incolumen servet. Graves enim per longum temporis spatium, quo istinc moratus es, exantlasti labores, tum ad Institutum, cui preces, amplificandum, tum præsertim ad studia ac ad liberales ingeniusque artes promovendas. Quapropter etiam Sanctitas Sua ob præclare a te gesta in Religionis incrementum, ac in animarum salutem, ad suæ erga D. T. peculiare benevolentia signum, concedere dignata est ut die celebrationis tui Sacerdotalis Jubilæi omnes qui debito modo eucharistia mensæ et sacrificio a Te offerendo accesserint, Plenariam lucrari valeant Indulgentiam.

Ego vero Deum precor ut Te diutissime sospitet.

D. T.

Addictus.

JOANNES CARD. SIMEONI, *Praefectus.*

✠ D., ARCHIEP. TYREN., *Sec.*

[*Translation :*]

ROME, July 11, 1888.

VERY REV. FATHER:

I have learned, with no small degree of pleasure, that during the approaching month of August your Reverence will have completed the fiftieth year from the day when, for the first time, you offered the holy Eucharistic Sacrifice. In view of this auspicious occasion, while I hasten to extend to you my congratulations, I, at the same time, pray that the Lord may bestow upon you every good gift, and may long preserve you in health and strength for the still greater good of Religion. Great, indeed, during the long space of time thus elapsed, have been the labors that you have endured for the development of the Institute over which you preside, and especially for the promotion of literature, science and art. Therefore His Holiness, on account of your noble work in the interests of Religion and the good of souls, and as a mark of His special good will towards yourself, has deigned to grant that, on the day of the celebration of your Sacerdotal Jubilee, all who with the proper dispositions approach the Holy Table, and assist at the Sacrifice of the Mass offered by you, may gain a Plenary Indulgence.

For myself, I pray that God may preserve you for many long years.

Your devoted

JOHN CARDINAL SIMEONI,
Praefect.