

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 30

OF THE

Very Rev. SUPERIOR GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

May 7
NOTRE DAME, IND., FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, 1891.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

The very thought of parting again with you, even for a short time, would of itself grieve me were it not for the confidence that a sea-voyage will restore my enfeebled health, and give me the consolation of affording some comfort to our dear Religious in France, so severely tried by the cruel adversaries of our holy Faith. You may rest assured that this temporary absence from your midst will only strengthen the ties of our old friendship, as it always did. Indeed, my late failure in health has rendered every loving and loved member of our dear family more precious to me than ever before; for a while, all I could do was to pray. The delight I feel in seeing every day such piety, such regularity, such devotedness around me, from morning to night, has sustained and re-invigorated me more than any remedy or attention to my bodily wants. I know that you have been praying for my recovery, and with all my heart I thank you for your boundless charity. Were it not for such assiduous and fervent prayers I would probably be long since in my grave. Continue, then, your pious intercessions in my behalf, especially during this beautiful month of Mary so dear to every one of us. A true servant of Mary will always feel, as he grows in age, an increasing love for his friends. It is what I realize myself day after day: increase of love as the end is approaching. Our Blessed Lord Himself loved His own to the end. May His Blessed Mother obtain for us all this most precious of favors—a deep feeling of ardent charity towards one another in our religious family. What happiness it will be for me during my absence to remember so many dear souls in the various and saintly shrines I may visit! Fear not to be forgotten: my first consolation will ever be to pray for you, as you pray for me.

Your devoted friend,

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