

J. M. J.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 38

OF THE

Very Rev. SUPERIOR GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, IND., Feb. 16, 1893.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

On the 19th inst. the Church will open the devotion of the holy season of Lent. This must be made the beginning of the devotions of the year, that is to say, renewing within our souls the spirit of prayer and mortification, those religious sentiments and feelings which should animate us as we follow our sacred vocation.

All that I hear on this fundamental point, from all our Provinces—in France, in Canada and Bengal, as well as here, justifies me in saying that we certainly have cause to rejoice. Persecution itself from secret organizations, or from whatever source it may come, only serves to increase the fervor of our Houses and make everyone realize the necessity of securing God's holy protection. Hence the raising of our hearts to Heaven continually, urgently, and lovingly. Everyone in our beloved Family seems to see clearly and feel keenly that without God's assistance we can do nothing. Here in particular, in the midst of such a large community, it is no small consolation to be the witness daily of so many examples of regularity, of devotedness, and of striking piety. Oh, let the same spirit of religious dispositions continue for the edification of all! It will multiply blessings, even upon those who are not members of the Congregation, but ready to profit by the blessed results of what they see from morning to night.

The young are easily affected by what they naturally admire. How many do we not see every year, in admiration of what they love to imitate for their own good! Hence the increasing piety of our growing establishments. We must remember that we are a teaching Family, and that one of our chief duties is to devote ourselves to those entrusted to our care to secure their eternal salvation. To assist us in the most important object of our vocation, our Blessed Lord has given us an example in His fast of forty days which time He spent in the desert without eating or drinking. Hence His predilection for the innocent little ones: "Let them come unto Me and forbid them not." Age often deprives us of that precious innocence which the holy season of Lent is chiefly intended to re-establish in its original purity. May God restore in all that angelical state of soul which delights even the angels in Heaven!

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior General.