

CIRCULAR LETTER.

TO THE

Congregation of the Sisters of Holy Cross.

My dear Daughters :

When you receive these few parting words I shall likely be gone again, and on my way to Europe. I must leave New York on next Saturday, the 30th inst.

Need I say that now, more than ever, I expect you all to pray for the safety of my journey, for the blessings of God upon the important affairs which once more force me to leave you, and for the final triumph of our beloved Congregation over all the trials which have disturbed it for some time past.

I feel confident that you will give me this precious consolation; it will soothe the pains of our separation. I feel no less certain that, while I am gone, each and all will make it a duty to guard against the various attacks of Satan, by a renewed and abiding fervor, an exemplary spirit of obedience and humility, an unfeigned devotedness and charity, and, in a word, by the real practice of all virtues. How far you will have shown yourselves *Religious* in the detail of every day's duties, more than one thing will tell on my return. Among other evidences I shall always reckon the success with which Houses and individual members shall have been attended; for, after all, you may take it for granted you will succeed as you deserve. If anything begins to go wrong with you, look upon it as a warning, if not a direct punishment for some infidelity or abated zeal. Renew the spirit of your faith and piety, and trust in the goodness of God, who abandons only those who first abandoned Him.

I would have been pleased to see the new Constitutions and the new Directory distributed among you before my departure; but what has been postponed against our will, will finally be realized within a few weeks. I trust you will receive both with a spirit of faith and obedience: for the true Religious the one and the other will prove rich sources of merits.

For the present I deem it expedient to send you the following prescriptions:

1. Instead of the fast, when prescribed by the Church, all the Sisters shall recite in common, at night prayer, the Litany of All Saints.

2d. From the first of November to the first of May, in the Establishments not immediately connected with the church, the Sisters shall go to Mass at the parochial church, besides Sundays and festivals of obligation, only once a week. They shall not attend to any evening offices.

3. None but the heads of Houses should be the object of a celebration on their feast; teachers, however, may receive in the class-room the compliments (nothing more) of their pupils, and spend that hour with them in some manner interesting to all.

4. Letters should never be a waste of paper and time among Religious: there should always be an object, and pains should be taken to make them worth sending.

5. Postulants may be tried in private Establishments before being sent to the Novitiate; in a regular House the trial is even advisable.

6. The Budget of Expenses must be strictly adhered to; no change can be made in it without due authorization.

7. No one should leave her House, without proper permission, to visit other Establishments.

E. SORIN.