

standing idle in the market place, and who, even at this eleventh hour, if they could only hear the voice of the Householder, would, gladly enter the vineyard, and, by seriously endeavoring to redeem the time lost, might soon be first in humility, in obedience and devotedness. Such is the blessing for which our united supplications must ascend daily and hourly to the Throne of Mercy. The solemn opening of the year's Novitiate of the Brothers will take place, *D. v.*, on the 17th of March, and that of St. Aloysius on the 24th, to enable the Novices to make their Profession on the 19th and 25th of the following year. From the reception of this Circular to the end of March, we direct all the members of the Congregation to repeat, three times a day, the prayer "O St. Joseph." In every school, the children shall be asked to say daily one decade of the beads for the same intention. Directors are permitted to dispose of one dollar each to have two Masses offered by their Rev. pastors to the same effect: one immediately, if possible, and the other towards the end of March. At both Masses the Brothers should be prepared to receive Holy Communion. We feel confident, if all do their part well, that, before the end of next month, we shall have reason to admire the new blessings which our united efforts shall have drawn on the Province.

The Rev. F. J. Dillon has been sent to visit our establishments. One of his first objects, whilst making the regular visit, will be to promote the same object by every means in his power. Meanwhile, let every member of the Congregation bring his humble and earnest request to the serious notice of the clergy he may meet; let the attention of the schools be directed thereto; in a word, let the desire to obtain from Heaven good vocations be the universal and first object of the Congregation, at least until the end of March; by that time, we trust, we shall be able to show you by the list of entries in the Congregation that your prayers were not in vain.

May the grace of God be with you all!

E. SORIN,  
*Provincial.*

No. VI.

NOTRE DAME, December 19, 1859.

REV. FATHERS, DEAR BROTHERS, AND SISTERS:

Once more, I have to call on every member of the Community for a new effort and particular prayers to secure again extraordinary helps from above. For two years past Divine Providence has listened so kindly to our supplications, and relieved us so promptly in all our necessities, that even now, when our wants are greater and our needs more urgent, we must still trust with the same

confidence that we may withstand this new storm, and come out from our pecuniary embarrassments safe, and full of gratitude to God.

For this end I prescribe again an extra Communion weekly, and every day, after evening prayer, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, with the *Memorare* and the invocation to St. Joseph. Meanwhile, the strictest economy should be observed in all our Houses, and by every member, in a true spirit of religion, with a view to please God, and save something for the Congregation in its distress.

You may imagine from the previous remarks how painful it must be for me to hear that in one of our establishments, where there is a Director and a Steward, scarcely any regard is paid to the Rule for meals and food. I commend that establishment to the prayers of the Community; for unless it is prayed for earnestly, I fear I shall have to inform you soon of its being suppressed. What blessings can attend the labors of Religious who have made, as St. Paul says, their belly their favorite idol—*Quorum Deus venter est?* Are they true members of the Holy Cross? or have they not made void the virtue of the Cross? Thank God, such members are not numerous in our ranks! There are others, whose spirit of regularity, devotedness and self-sacrifice fill our souls with edification, and our hearts with joy and hopes for the future.

While I speak of embarrassments and distress, I am in earnest; and although I do not wish to create any alarm, still I seriously desire everyone to leave nothing untried to assist the Congregation, which I consider, humanly speaking, in a greater danger than ever before. Let all try and offer a holy violence to Heaven, and hope in the mercies of God. Above all, let perfect regularity mark the life of everyone in the Community.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen.

E. SORIN, S. S. C.,

*Provincial.*

No. VII.

NOTRE DAME, IND., May 8, 1868.

REV. DEAR FATHERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST:

I learned this morning, by Mgr. Fillion, Bishop of Mans, and our Rev. P. Dillon, Assistant-General, that, on the 22d ult., they received at Mans a telegram from our Rt. Rev. Superior-General, convoking a General Chapter of the Congregation to meet in Rome without delay. This does not surprise me; I was for some time past expecting the same. Nor should it much surprise anyone, if we take into serious consideration the peculiar circumstances in which the late Chapter in 1866 was held at Mans, in the absence