

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

of the new Superior-General, elected without any assurance that he would even accept the nomination. Indeed, little else besides his election could be done under such circumstances. No wonder if, in presence of all the responsibilities left to his decision, he deems it more prudent to advance the time of the next general assembly, especially while he is himself in the Eternal City—the centre of light and science—where the members convoked will easily obtain all the counsels and directions they need to place the Congregation on the best possible permanent footing.

It is idle to say how much I regret to be obliged to leave home at a time I would wish so much to meet all the members of our little family. But I hope to return in time for the Annual Retreat, or even before the end of July.

Meanwhile, let us all pray that this approaching General Chapter may prove a great blessing, a new era in the annals of our Congregation; and, to secure upon it all the lights and graces necessary, let each member add to fervent daily prayers the irresistible pleading of a perfect discharge of duty, of a hearty devotedness, and of a scrupulous attention to the obligations of a Religious life.

Those who have charge of an establishment and who have not yet sent their statistics must forward them immediately, as I intend leaving by the end of next week. Until the 25th of June, my address will be at *Sta. Brigitta, Piazza Farnese, Roma, Italia*.

Once more, I commend myself, and above all the important object for which I go, to your fervent prayers. God alone knows how painful to my heart is even a temporary separation from our dear Notre Dame and so many dear souls. May we soon meet again with the common consciousness of having persevered faithful and true to God and to each other!

Your devoted friend in J. M. J.,

E. SORIN, S. S. C.

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No. VIII.

NOTRE DAME, May 15, 1868.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN CHRIST:

We have just received the official letter of Convocation to the General Chapter of our Congregation, to be held in Rome, as already intimated in our last Circular.

We had anticipated that two Deputies would be called from this Province, but although the number of capitulants remains unchanged—namely, twenty: ten Priests and ten Brothers, they have dispensed this time the two American Provinces with the additional expense of sending Deputies. For the Priests, the letter names “the Very Rev. Father Founder, Rev. Fathers Chappé, Dillon, Bardeau,

Drouelle, Sorin, Rézé, Champeau, Villandre and Condon. The ten Brothers are all from France, except one from Algiers."

The Chapter is to open on the 8th of June, consequently we shall leave this evening. It is supremely important, says the letter, that all the members be present, and therefore we are requested to telegraph the same to Rev. Fathers Rézé and Condon.

We deem it better to exhort our teaching Brothers to protract their parochial schools to the end of July, so as to reach Notre Dame at the time of our return from Europe.

For the sake of uniformity, we direct that the same prayers be offered daily by all the members of the Congregation in this Province, in order to draw the blessings of God upon the General Assembly, whose Decrees may prove of such vital importance to the whole family of Holy Cross. To this end we prescribe that from now until the day of our return the Litany of Loreto be said daily, with the invocations of 1, 2, and 3 o'clock, for the safety of our journey; and, above all, for the full success of its important object. We desire that, from the 8th to the 15th of June, all the Masses and Communions should be offered for the same intentions.

For reasons duly weighed, we absolutely forbid, until our return, all voting at the polls.

Before setting out, we must make another remark, to which we sincerely hope strict attention will be paid: we mean to recommend a closer economy than ever before. We fear that a deplorable relaxation on this point has crept in, and caused unnecessary expenses and no edification. Let us all bear in mind that the world itself holds us in esteem, or contempt, in proportion as we observe, or neglect, our Rules.

May the peace of God be with us all!

Your devoted in J. M. J.,

E. SORIN, S. S. C.,  
*Provincial.*

