CIRCULAR LETTER No. 94

OF THE

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

TO THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, 1879.

REV. FAMILERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have delayed my acknowledgments until I had read each line sent me, from all parts, on the occasion of the New Year. It has taken time, for I have no recollection of such a number of letters addressed to me within a few days, at any previous epoch. With one exception, (which I deemed not sincere, and returned,) I treasure them all, as precious mementoes of filial devotedness, equally creditable to the dear writers and gratifying to myself.

With regard to that exception, I must beg leave to send at once, and by the same mail, a line in common, conveying, in substance, what I feel for each and for all. I thank you with all my heart; God bless you, and return you a hundredfold every good gift you have asked for me.

In presence of so many unfeigned tokens of affection, one should carry a stone, and not a heart in his breast to remain unmoved. I readily confess they affect me very sensibly. They would even increase, if it were possible, my devotion to our dear Congregation at large, and to every member of it personally, for love calls forth love; but, this time, they make me feel the more keenly my inability, from sickness, to attend, as I would wish, duties and calls which unavoidable delay only multiplies while urging their attendance. But until my health be somewhat

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votedness to our dear Congregation at large, and to every member you have asked for me.

elections in France, yesterday, suddenly and opening of years, it is
dear will.

His delights
'mysterious spot where every
we knelt and listened to the Word
more could be wished
and
I am more than repaid when I

amplius.

words:

Let me, then, remind

H.irnself

am

be this as it

may,

I will none the less regularly fulfil my

reasonably hope to benefit the majority.

Let the responsibility rest

and

we must.realizo that

that other star that shone for each of us in the
darkness of our wearied minds, and brought us to the crib of salvation:

One each was led on by his own; perhaps

no two could be found brought here alike. But to each and to all a star appeared, and moved on, and rested on the

mysterious spot where every faithful follower found all he had desired, viz.: the Child, and His Mother and St. Joseph.

What more could be wished for?

What have we not learned around that mystical Crib? What did we know before we knelt and listened to the Word beneath the鲈? Who could say what we felt there at the feet of Jesus and Mary? Who could even insinuate a disappointment?

In what could we have been disappointed when we had found Jesus, Mary and Joseph? Ever since, as to our fathers, God has spoken to us, in many and various ways; we hear His voice everywhere, we meet Him at every step: since we conversed with Him in the stables of our Novitiate, we never parted.

His delights are to be with us; our greatest happiness is to live for Him and with Him, to follow Him and obey His holy will.

Oh! the blessed star that shone for me, and led me from afar to the House of the true Bread! Praised be forever the merciful, the loving Saviour who singled me out of so many, and brought me from the deepest ignorance and abjedion, to the sunshine of His incomprehensible charity. May I never forget the Epiphany that revealed unto me my God, my all!

Whilst I was rejoicing upon the unprecedented successes of the Congregation in Canada, the news of the Senatorial elections in France, yesterday, suddenly came to realize all my apprehensions. Let us pray more than ever for our dear associates there; they are threatened with the worst of evils.

Need I remind the members of our Community, of what stares us all in the face, viz.: the universal misery that reigns around us, to a degree never known before? When the question for millions of our fellow-beings is, how to keep soul and body together, can we feel justified in exacting the comfort and abundance of better times? Shall we not rather, in presence of daily decreasing resources, spontaneously resolve to be satisfied with the mere necessities of life?

I beg all our regulators to bear in mind that the time for morning prayers and meditation, as a rule, cannot be abridged by anybody. It must cover 30 minutes. Everything else has to be adjusted to this primary and fundamental principle.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." Amen. (Galatians vi, 18.)