

Caracas, Mar. 18, 1904.

My dear ones.

The last mail bro't your copy of the resolutions voted at the Genl. Ann. Meeting, Mar. 9. Therein enclose that copy, approved & signed by me as Genl. Counsellor of the Church of Jesus.

I really warmly approve all the Articles & sections there of, and only say that the matter of rogations can be abused, but in case of the people of Quebrada Limón, I think it will not be. All public processions are in cities, somewhat "risky". They run the danger of being made ridiculous: and anything that can be made ridiculous incurs the suspicion of having a false note about itself. For there is nothing in all that Jesus instituted which can be turned to ridicule. Bread cannot be; Wine cannot:-

Immersion, as performed in our day can become awfully ridiculous, so that I reject this mode of immersing. The ancient mode was to stand in a river or tank in church, & gradually bend the knees & submerge the whole body, aided by the baptizer. It was enough to cover the body & then pour water over the head, so that the whole body was thus under water. - But, as to processions,

there is no particular danger, as they are to offer public prayer & supplication. - When occasion seems to demand the same. In this case alone can a fast be public, as in great need, calamity, pest &c. Otherwise a set fast is too much like Rome & Phariseism. - Rogations including processions will be found to be more difficult to keep within proper limits & avoid certain evils (or tendencies to evil) in a Church Evangelical & democratic than some other observances more or less ritualistic. - Yet in your Church in the country where the procession cannot find many spectators, the end of the ceremony will not be lost sight of so easily, and the reflex influence of the act upon the participants will be good & strong. - The resolutions as a whole are good & timely, and I hope their influence will be good in future. -

I wish I could have been at the gen. l meeting, and have a strong desire to look in upon you again. But fear it will be many days hence. - I have written Dr Stearns all about my visit, and the buildings, & the Contract for speedy making of brick &c.

I hope enough money will come in to push
the work thro' to a finish. in order to have a good
dwelling for yourselves and center for the Congregation.
The Chapel will be of great service. liberating the
house for better lodgement of the mission. & the
orphans. - But I am really anxious lest your
health may not hold out for all the work. I had
hope, you could both go to the U.S. the coming August
or Sep. and rest for a month or two: & then speak in
the classes of Dr. Stearns. If you finish the Church
you could possibly go & spend sixty or ninety days
in the States to great advantage both to the
work and yourselves. - I am afraid of an entire
break down of nerves &c. when you may have
to leave the work for too long a time: -

The news here is that Padre Castro has arrived from
Rome whither he went to be consecrated (archbishop)
Coadjutor. with the right of succession when the
real but imbecile archbishop dies - Padre Castro
was not recognized by the govt., as Castro went
3 days before his arrival to Mexico, and did not
send any official to meet him. - Not an extra
policeman went to the R. R. Station, only certain
priests & the Centro-Catolico Committee to salute

to good by lets us hear from you soon.
Papers from you soon.
+ Escort him to the Cathedral. where a Te Deum
was chanted an hour long. P. Castro was conveyed
in a carriage of state drawn by four white steeds, +
was accompanied by several carriages filled with
priests, + the Committee. He passed under
six arches of wood + paint + flowers. all
decorated with Cardinal hat + tassels. - a
miter, &c. and inscribed "Monseñor" Castro.

Our lad "Bendito aquel que viene en el nombre
del Señor" (!) Rockets flew + burst in the air
and a few houses were decorated skimpily
with Chinese lanterns. From the Cathedral P. Castro
wrote to his house + then to banquet. where much
"soft soap" was used. - 2 days' fast followed with
masses in the church. - And Salva!

But is it peace? When the Congress hastened to
pass a divorce-law. the first wh. ~~has~~ Ven.
has had. P. Castro cabled against its passage
from P. Rico. The cablegram was shown to Castro
+ incensed him greatly, as he is the father
of the bill. (probably for his own convenience)

But what they want of such a law where 2/3 of the
births are illegitimate and marriage is more
shunned in the breach than in the observance!

All else goes on as usual = since the
sad funerals in the Santana family. of wh. mama has written.