

The General Ruling Vicarage of Paraná.

Ponta - Grossa, March 4<sup>th</sup> 1886.-

Circular n. 59.- Most Rev. Vicar.-

It having come to my knowledge that some Protestant ministers, of the evangelical sect, and their disciples, not content with being tolerated among Catholics, to preach their heretical doctrines without the necessary license from the civil authorities of this Province - which could only permit them to preach to their own and not to the Catholics - they carry on their propaganda openly & unconstitutionally, by means of tracts, meetings and other acts, principally in the parishes of Borytiba, Tibage, Imbituva (Cupuni), and in the parish of Thomezina of Guarapuava, carrying their fanaticism to the excess of leading some persons, little instructed in religion, to break the image of Our Lady and other saints, throwing them into the rivers, and more than this, administer or, feign to administer as they understand it the sacrament of baptism, and perform marriages of Catholics, or Catholics with Protestants, contrary to the ecclesiastical & civil laws in force in the Empire, as they are without orders or jurisdiction whatever such marriages are radically null and void. I would remind your Reverence of the urgent duty of exhorting the faithful

of your parish, instructing them upon these and other points of the Catholic dogmas and Christian morals, and warning them that they do not allow themselves to be seduced and drawn away by heresy and thus suffer loss in their most sacred temporal interests and eternal loss of their souls. Still more, I urge your Reverence, that you inform your parishioners that they shall not accept, retain, read or give to be read the tracts or books, that these Protestant ministers are distributing, but that they should burn such writings or hand them to the curate of the place. It would be prudent that your Reverence, and all other curates, advise the Civil Authorities when any of these ministers or those sent by them arrive in your parish, and ask them to take such measures as the necessity and gravity of the case calls for, and I am almost certain that they will at once fulfill their duty, especially as they are representatives of the Catholic people.

It is a current doctrine in the Empire, where the Holy Council of Trent has been accepted, and the political constitution of which declares the Catholic Religion to be the religion of the State: "That the Roman Catholic Apostolic

Priest, as well as the Protestant minister, who receives in matrimony any parties who are not qualified according to laws of the Empire, according to which a Catholic can not be married by a Protestant minister - penalties - those of art. 247 of the Civil Code.....

That a Roman Catholic can not marry a Protestant without conforming to the canonical formalities, obtaining license - Cultus disparitas - and accepting the compromise to educate the offspring, according to the precepts of the Catholic Church etc."

Therefore, these marriages performed, in this Province, by these Protestant ministers, who with impunity trample under foot the laws that govern us, are illegal + null.

This shall be read at high mass, and recorded in the proper book.-

The Lord ever watch over your Reverence.-

João Evangelista Braga,  
General Ruling Vicar.