

(Circular)

CHATHAM, N. B., Feb. 2nd, 1909.

Feast of The Purification of Our Blessed Lady.

REVEREND FATHER, —

We beg to announce to you officially the death of Rev. Joseph R. Doucet at the Hotel Dieu of Montreal on the 9th inst. A native of the Diocese, Father Doucet consecrated his life to the works of religion and zeal in the Diocese of his birth. His sterling qualities of mind and heart, his regular and exemplary priestly life have no doubt merited for him a rich reward. As the frailties of human nature may have left some slight stains to be expiated, We earnestly recommend him to your charitable prayers and those of your people that, in addition to the Mass to be offered by each priest of the Diocese, he may receive the aid of many suffrages and enter speedily into his eternal rest.

In the Report of the Recommendations made at the Retreat at Caraquet in July, 1905, in Paragraph 4, we read: "A revalidation has been obtained from the Holy See for all invalid marriages in the Diocese up to the 9th of November, 1902, &c." By a misunderstanding this assertion was made too sweeping, the text of the Rescript being as follows:

BEATISSIME PATER, —

Thomas Franciscus Barry, Epus Chathamensis, ad pedes S. T. provolutus exponit: Episcopum Prædecessorem pluries concessisse bona quidem fide sed absque speciali Ap'licæ Sedis facultate, dispensationes super impedimentis secundi gradus consanguinitatis et affinitatis collateralis et disparitatis cultus, quapropter cum plura contracta fuerint matrimonia ob ejusmodi dispensationes invalida, humiliter petit ut