

# DECLARATIONS

ON

## THE RULE OF OUR HOLY FATHER ST. BENEDICT

AND

## STATUTES

OF THE

## AMERICAN-CASSINENSE CONGREGATION.

Permissu Superiorum

1910.

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LATROBE, PA.

one vote granted. Let the Capitulars who are lawfully absent send to the Procurator or to the Prior or to the President of the election seven, ten, or more names, from which let a Procurator be selected in the order of enumeration, for each absent Capitular. If, however, two or more appoint the same Procurator, let account be taken of the priority of the monastic profession. Among the causes which constitute lawful absence, let there be reckoned a distance of about eight hundred miles, serious illness, necessary parochial duties, unless another priest can be substituted. As to other causes for lawful absence, let the President consult the Chapter and decide in the preliminary discussion.

From the Pories and the Missions, the Priors, and the Seniors should attend, unless they are prevented by infirmity or other grave personal exigency. For the preliminary discussion which is to be held by the Capitulars assembled in Chapter, all the electors must be summoned; and that the names of those who are thought to be fit to assume the office of Abbot may become known the sooner, two candidates can be named by each elector in secret vote written on slips of paper, that in the discussion their merits and demerits may be investigated. Those who have been named in such a discussion

sion do not acquire any legal prerogative. (S. C. de Prop. Fide 18. Febr. 1902). No one, however, can be elected, unless he has made solemn vows, is ordained to the priesthood, and belongs to our Congregation.

86. In order that the election of the Abbot may be valid, two thirds of the votes are required; however, if on the first ballot no one receives the required number of votes, let a second and a third ballot be taken. If it should happen that on the third ballot the necessary number of votes is still wanting, let three more ballots be taken; but in these let an absolute plurality of votes suffice for election. If, when the sixth ballot has been taken, the election is not effected by an absolute majority of the votes, the election falls to the Rt. Rev. President of the Congregation, or, in case he is prevented, to him, to whom the authority of the Rt. Rev. President is imparted in the Constitution No. 125.

87. The election must, however, be undertaken within a month after the death of the previous incumbent. The confirmation of the Abbot-Elect must be sought from the Holy Apostolic See. When the foregoing confirmation has been obtained, the Abbot thus confirmed attains to the full administration of his monastery, yet so, that in certain cases, specified in