

*Transcript of a note inserted in the Clothing Register in the European Archives, Oxford. It is a handwritten letter, on a folded sheet of notepaper, from Mother Agatha Deacy to Mother Mary Theophila Laprimaudaye. Though not dated or signed and addressed simply to 'Dearest Mother', I would guess that this was written in 1904 when Theophila was writing up the Annals of the Society from whatever sources she could find in the houses at that time. The writing matches Agatha's and Theophila would have realised that there is no mention of Agatha's Clothing in the Clothing Register. There is a big clue to their respective identities in her final sentence. There is no formal ending to the letter. Agatha died later in 1904.*

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Dearest Mother

I went to L'pool with the first who opened the house there, and received the hood February 2<sup>d</sup> there from Rev Mother Foundress.

The Com<sup>y</sup> was as follows -

M<sup>r</sup> Emily Bowles Supr,

M<sup>r</sup> Helen Green Assistant

S<sup>r</sup> Paula a Novice &

S<sup>r</sup> Aloysia [*sic*] as I was called though only a postulant, so as to make a Com<sup>y</sup> of 4.

The next year on February 8<sup>th</sup> I received the habit <sup>alone</sup> from Bishop Browne [*sic*] of L'pool, Mother Foundress being present - she was on her way to open the house /p 2, *recto*/ St Ignatius Preston. M<sup>r</sup> L. Ignatia Payne was with Mother Foundress, M<sup>r</sup> Lucy, S<sup>r</sup> Aloysia & M<sup>r</sup> Regis Sage having gone on to Preston the day before

I made my Vows when you were clothed at St. L. on Sea - Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> 1855 \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments on the above by Sr Helen Forshaw, European Province Archivist, 1 Dec. 2011.*

The first house was in Oxford Street, off Scotland Road, in a very poor and overcrowded area of Liverpool.

Sr Paula, the novice, was Mary McCarthy, who did not proceed to profession. In the Register the dread word '*Failed!*' was added later.

One wonders if saying she was known as Sister Aloysia was just a slip of the pen?

The superscript alone appears above an omission mark.

Lucy is Lucy Woolley and this Aloysia is Frankish.