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S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES, ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book IV.

[Cornelia Connelly's hand]

Letter 110 – Page 155-156]

11 Rev^{mo} Padre

Padre Armellini – Via della Valle 41, Roma Italia

Private & Confidential

Very Rev Father in X^t.

By advice received from the Rev Father Lambert I write to your Reverence for necessary information as to how we ought to proceed in order to obtain the advantage of a Cardinal Protector in our present troubles & anxieties.

I must explain that we are in various complications with our venerated Bishops chiefly originating in our being now under the trial of a New Rule given to us by our Bishop, His Lordship of Southwark, which is not of the same spirit as the one upon which we made our Vows, and which we have practiced [sic] since our foundation in the year 1846.

This new Rule the Bishop of Southwark has given to us to translate into Italian, that His Lordship may present it to Propaganda F. for approbation. It is now printed & nearly ready to be forwarded, and His Lordship has intimated to us that we are free to send any remarks we may wish to make upon it.

Certain complications have already arisen from the Bishop of the Mother House being made in this new Rule the Bishop Superior of the Institute, but there are also other complications, which we fear would greatly impede the work, if not finally ruin it.

May I under these circumstances ask you kindly to suggest to me how we should state our objections regarding these changes and to whom they should be represented?

Also whether it would be advisable to have our notes drawn up and signed only by the Sup: Gen^l and her four Assistants, or by these and the local Superiors of each House ? We wish as much as possible to avoid any excitement in the minds of the various Communities.

We are under the impression that with a Cardinal Protector we shall be quite safe in complying with any changes that may be made or added to our Rules & Constitutions , and that we may thus securely avoid the threatened schisms in the order, and that this alone can preserve our Communities in America as well as in England & France.

Humbly begging your blessing & prayers

I remain V. Rev. Father yr

Servant in X^t

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup G^l

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 27th 1876