

Volume 6

pg 037-8

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

51 Rue du Theatre Paris

Dec 14th [1876]

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J.M.J.

Dear Mother Xavier

Your dear letters are so full and welcome that I hardly know how to make you understand the comfort they are to me, and as there was nothing private in them I could read nearly all to Mth Theresa and Mth M Ignatia – They are both at work all the day if not more than the day. Mother M Ignatia is Refectorian Cleans the Comty Room , sweeps the Chapel and does everything needed. When any acts of mortification are in request, taking the worst of everything & doing all that others might shirk – She really edifies me from morning till night – Mother Theresa is always busy helping in the Laundry, hanging out the clothes, helping in the Kitchen working at her Sewing Machine, and as usual always on the watch for my cold feet & that I may never fail in proper nourishment ! Mth M Angela is most devoted to everybody- She is Infirmarian, Clothing Sr – Mistress of Work & Studio class – Always sweet & amiable with everybody and so devoted to all her duties – I have never lived in close contact with her till now, I mean since we went to Toul, and really I cannot praise her too much (not for her knowledge this) Ah ! how sweet is virtue in all its forms, but particularly in the religious life where it is so free from Self love and so exemplary of the Faith Hope and Charity of our life in this earthly pilgrimage –

[continued below]

Now I must tell you of the enjoyment of our delightful readings – We take the French Testament just during Advent instead of the Chapter of the Imitation & then the letters of St Catherine of Sienna wh are ravishing – Then we take an Evening Reading – we have Rohbracher's Histoire de l'Eglise which is a treasure of treasures. Will you copy out, for the dear ones in the little nook, R's resolutions pg 1st in his life Vol. 1st They are a delicious lesson of the mortification of the French Priests - & of the sort of vigilance they really practice in their ordinary life. I should like you to read this Book with Melle Giraldi if you can It is reading almost for ones life & there is no other knowledge one cares for, much, if at all, out of the History of the Church! – If the whole could be condensed to two Vols it would be a treasure for a Class Book for 1st Class – daily Reading I am with you in Spirit in your nook very often & beg of our dear Lord Blessings on each one and on all together – Such nice letters you have written!

Thanks also for the Register I have received the 3rd yesterday –

[To Mth Xavier Atkinson]