

[Addressed]

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S.H.J.M.

St. A.
Rome, Trinita di Monte, July 16, 1844

Dear George

You may be sure that I was delighted as well as Pierce with the news that you had finally determined to settle yourself in the married state and still more to know that you look to your eternal happiness first, for without this all is flat stale and unprofitable. And what a blessed life it is, in the sweet hope of a blissful eternity! – A hope, that becomes certainty – Oh, what a happiness it is to be a true catholic even were it only for this life, yes, I would say again and again, yes were it only for this life for where else do we see that calm and Sweet peace that God's Saints have enjoyed and that he gives to all who seek him in simplicity of intention, and purity of heart; and ah how easy it is to obtain that simplicity of intention; prayer, and practice will do all for us – When we acknowledge to God our selfishness our crookedness and all our miseries, in humility, and ask Him to change our selfishness into charity, our crookedness into straight-forwardness, our miseries into his perfections, this is what he delights in and it is the first step to this purity of hear and intention – as I told you

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dear George about this time a year ago the only way to obtain purity of heart is to reject what is impure and the same in our intentions, reject what is double, I mean what is not from a pure motive, what is from human respect or any human motive – How else would any human creature be sure of the purity of their motives? Many think their motives pure because they do not know themselves – God teaches us to know ourselves and when we doubt our motives and wish to purify them it is a sign that we begin to know ourselves, our sinful nature, and then alone we learn to act for God alone and to do all for his greater glory, as the apostle says “whether we eat or drink”, How, how can anyone eat or drink for the glory of God unless they purify their motives and make the reason govern the sensual appetite – You did not tell me if you had got over your scruple about your motives when I saw you that sweet little moment at McSherry’s town – Why have you not written to me before this? – not a line since then from you. I do not know what any of the family will say about Pierce and me since we have let them know our decision to devote ourselves to God in religious life but though we would wish them to be quite easy upon any such affairs as concern us in this one particular circumstance we do not expect any protestant to look upon such a step but with the greatest disapprobation. We could not tell you or Molly when you were at Grand Coteau because it was a step that was yet to [be] proved before it became known to any but our holy confessors – God arranged all very sweetly and quietly and dear Pierce is devoted to Study and the Theological classes

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every morning; he comes to see us as often as is consistent, until now once a week.

I am here as Postulant you know, though eating and sleeping in the house where the retreats are given which is a large comfortable house, cool & quiet. Powell the English nurse I brought from [word illegible here] takes care of Frank. She is a convert and a treasure of patience – My time is fully employed dear Georgy or I should have written to you before this; you may be sure I have thought of [you] very often and hoped to hear how all was decided and what your prospects were – Before long no doubt there will be a convent of our Order established in that part of the country and perhaps I may be sent there and then Martha will come to make a retreat with us and should you be blessed with children, then Mary or I will have the educating of them. Our little Ady has grown so much that you would scarcely know her I think. She speaks Italian quite as well as French and her English is not neglected. On St. Peter's day (dear Papa's feast), she played a little duet on the piano with me and sang some pretty verses that were suitable for the occasion and little Pierce Frank he had three little verses that he half sang and half repeated for dear Papa who had brought him a little guitar for the occasion – In the evening papa sent us a treat of ices for all the house and at ten o'clock (to finish the feast) burst forth the Girandola, the fire works that you know are the most famous in the world –

I have not told you yet what a sweet letter we had from Merty the other day, he had been rewarded and advance in the

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school – the little darling says he “had lately felt a burning love within” and speaks with so much feeling that [it] is delightful for us to think of. He is with the Jesuits now you know. Pierce was not satisfied with Oscot[t]. We have here a most sweet superior She is by birth a Marchioness; the house is for the nobility and all the children are noble. There is another house of this order here which is for the second-class of people. But all that does not interest you

Do you hear from Ralph often? I have not had a line: dear fellow, I would give a great deal if he were out of that wretched place. Poor dear sister Martha wrote to me the other day – I am shocked at the state of things with respect to sister – and at the state of her health too – I am truly sorry she takes so [sic] it to heart – If I could influence her she would not care the toss up of a straw for it all. I hope you & Ralph and Mary write often to her and that at least she has some consolation in Ady

I shall wait with impatience to hear from you and to know all your arrangements and if you have made your first communion. Oh, what a happy day for you! - when freed from the load of sin, you will be verily and indeed united to God and on flesh with him.

Goodbye dear George kiss for me your bride if she is already so, and tell her, we love her for your sake and wish you both all earthly joys and blessings
The children send you kisses,

Ever your devoted Sister in the Heart of Jesus,

C.C.

[Written in the margin] P.S. I hope you will have received by this time the little souvenirs we sent you and Martha.