

SHCJ ARCHIVES - ROME

[Copied from original]

The Convent
 St Leonards on Sea
 April 10th 74

+
 JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

The Bishop came down with Mr Arnold at 8½ Wednesday evening and settled that the Funeral could not be till this day week, Friday April 17th You and Mother Angelica must come to it in respect for the Duchess. I think all her orphans ought to have a Mourning dress, to go into the expenses of the funeral, for you will be sadly off for a proper support! I would not advise you to take another child – and the one I send you now, Mary Leary, I think ought to be in exchange for one I could take into our Middle School.

The Duchess has provided by her Will £10,000 more for the boys, but not a farthing more for the girls except the £80 for the Chaplain, so that after all the present expenses are paid the income for the girls will be the interest of £9390.8.8 now £3 pr ct annuities and £4500 New Brunswick 6 per ct Debentures The interest of the annuities will be £282 or a fraction within (being only 3 pr ct) and of the New Brunswick at 6 pr ct £270 wh is together only £552 - The rent of Ore is £150 & this will be £702 out of which comes the £70 for the support of the Sisters & something extra for the Chaplain. The only way that I can see for the safety of keeping out of the Workhouse system will be to limit the numbers. £10 for each child will do with the help of the of the [sic] Farm – This will allow you 60 children only & all the rest ought to come in on a £12 pension as at other Orphanages. It is true that we may get other endowments,

[Letter of April 10th 1874 cont.]

But we shall find most ladies very troublesome & interfering during their life time. I thought of Lady Londonderry but she could not do with other nuns & perhaps might be the same with us. So we had better be wary or it might be almost as bad & Workhouse [sic] Inspectors!!! Do not be too anxious a^{bt} your numbers just yet only take no more.

The Bishop spoke of his anxiety ab^t the Workhouse children, and of his regret that the Duchess had not increased the endowment for the girls, but I said we should find a way to keep it up and to get others to endow it & I feel we shall, but in the meanwhile we must face the difficulties & I would take a certain number to finish at St Michaels School, (who have not duties necessary for your classes) rather than in the least exceed your income for the next year or incur the risk of Workhouse help. I asked Mr Arnold if the hops were sold. He said no. Ours were sold at £5 & now they have sunk to £3 per cwt!! So much for the Duchesses confidence in Mr Clements!

There is to be a grand breakfast here on the day of the Funeral (for 24 at a table) & I suppose the Executors (Dr Danell, Dr Clifford, Lord Howard Sir John Lawson S. Th. Scrope H J Stoner Esq.) will all come if possible – also the Chaplains & Trustees – the Duke etc – Only fancy the Duke's children are to inherit all that is not left to the Orphange (boys) & some other sums. £5000 to the Oblates of St Charles - £100 pr an. to Mrs Campbell & £50 to Kyle and some other sums wh I do not know. The Residuary Legatees are the Duke's children so they will be enormously wealthy protestants.