

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[Bishop Danell's hand: Returned the letter.]

The Convent

Mayfield

Sep 6th / 70

+
JMJ

Very Rev^d & dear Canon Danell

We are in great trouble ab^t an Italian Novice, who knew that we thought she was not suited to our life, and rather than have her habit taken from her walked out of the Gate at S^t Leonards on Sunday while the Com^{ty} were at Diner [sic]. – She was not missed for more than an hour after her departure, when enquiries were made at the Station without effect – She was traced however to Ticehurst Road and sent the enclosed writing with some biscuits and four shillings that we supposed had been given to her – She is upwards of 40 years of age. Today we hear that she was seen yesterday on the road towards Ticehurst Village – We have today informed the Police here and they will write to Wadhurst – F^r Donovan ^ Mother Angelica also we t to the Mad Asylum at Ticehurst to ask them to give us information if any application or knowledge should reach them. She has been in great dread of being deprived of the religious dress & much excited at the possibility of such a result but otherwise we have not suspected insanity.

Will you have the kindness to tell F^r Thomas that we have seen his notice of the “Bold Women”. and that I have told Mth M. Theophila to write the true statement. They were happily never in “the woods” not did they meet a single Prussian – They took the rail at Chalons for Paris – Thanks to God & our Imm. Mother

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[May 5th 1871]

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I must again claim your patience in asking for the profession & clothing of the following Sisters, - who have been accepted by the Community, viz-

For profession,

Miss Matilda Tompson

In religion Sr M. S^t Raphael

Age 35 – Clothed Jan 12. 1869

and for clothing,

Miss Emily Kennett age 18

(Her Dowry is £200 and she will enter upon the fund for the Noviciate during the time) She has the consent of her parents & has passed through the postulate satisfactorily.

Lay Sisters for clothing

Ellen Hearn age 30

Theresa Collins age 20

Will Your Lordship have the kindness to give faculties to F^r Donovan for the ceremony on the 24th "The Help of Christians" - ? – and will you appoint F^r Baron to Examine them as usual about a week before the Ceremony? After the 24th I shall hope to make my annual visit to the North – I always mentioned this to our dear late Bishop & do the same to your Lordship –

Begging a blessing

I am ever my Lord

& d^r Father

Your faithful Ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

May 5th 1871

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

Viva Poi NonoThe Convent
St Leonards on Sea
June 16th 71+
J MJMy Lord & d^r Father in X^t. [Bishop Danell]

You will not think me troublesome if I remind your Lordship that you have not yet given me an answer regarding the 31st of July for the Prizes. A line in pencil on the back of this will be sufficient to settle the matter. – Our sisters return to Toul on the Monday via Belgium which the good Curé advises as the most sure route, & from Natur to Metz & Toul. Will your Ldp send a blessing for the journey? F^r Baron was here on ^{Wed} & Thursday [sic] and we are all very comfortable since his visit. We are having our usual Quarant'Ore and though we thought of illuminating for the Feast of the Holy Father we have come to the conclusion that prayers are our best work & that we might have some broken windows if we made a demonstration – so we had a procession with Banners, Litanies & Hymns, ending with each verse “Viva Pio Nono”. Here I am still with a bad cold but hope to start when the Sisters are on their route for Toul.

Ever my Lord & dear Father

Your faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent. Sep 2nd 71
Mayfield
(till the 7th)
Hawkhurst.

+
JMJ

My Lord & most d^rFather in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I was a^{bt} to write & remind your Lordship of your promise for the 8th of Sep^r, the day we asked for the professions of S^r S^t Aloysius, Cicilia [sic] Bellasis & S^r Mary Augustine, Florence Colegrave, when a letter from the Sergeant tells me he had seen you and that your Lordship was uncertain of the day being settled. – No doubt you have now remembered my asking your Ldp to make a note of it, so we shall very humbly hope there may be no uncertainty, and that your Lordship may settle the hour for the ceremony as well as the 8th fro the day. We shall have your rooms ready at the Presbytery hoping your L: may come on the 7th It will be just five weeks since the prizes.

I hear that M^r Spillane returned from Portland on Thursday where I presume he has been staying with Mr Baker – We had a beautiful retreat given by F^r Lawson to whom Your L. gave the faculties for Confessions. It was a most blest favour, for in the freshness of his fervour he led each & all to a great love of devotion & self sacrifice.

I wonder my Lord whether you think of going to Rome this winter. If you do I wish you would allow us to give you a hundred pounds for your expenses & present our Rules as printed by Propaganda & signed instead of my going with them.

There is no use in putting off a matter of so much importance to us if I ought to press for it at once, and D^r Grant's wish was that there should be no delay.

[continued below]

will ^{your L} give [sic] a few moments thought to this?

I am ever my d^r Lord

Your faithful serv^t in X

Cornelia Connelly.

The Novices are at St Leonards during the holidays and we propose the professions to take place there & not here.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[Sept. 15th 1871]

+
JMJ

My Lord & dear F^r in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I send these notes regarding the various transactions that have transpired concerning the Rules.

All that has been done has been in obedience & good faith, and we sincerely wish to submit matters to some positive decision through your Lordship – I hope you will come to S^t Leonards as you promised very soon & that then yr Lordship will make the Canonical visitation & make all things clear to yourself –

I send the two Rule Books registered by this post, and

I am my d^r Lord & Father

Yrs faithfully

In JC

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

Sep 15th 1871

The Convent
Mayfield
Hawkhurst

+
JMJ

Sep 17th /71

My Lord & dear Father, [Bishop Danell]

Not receiving an answer to my letter I registered the two books of Rules & wrote out the notes upon w^h I had intended to speak with your Lordship, so I had better defer my visit to London, the more so as we hope to see you here this week.

Mons l'abbé Thury arrived last evening just after I had rec^d your Lordship's letter in answer to mine. No doubt your Lordship knows that M^r Spillane is still at S^t Leonards – We have not heard from the Rev M^r Hogan and are looking forward with much pleasure to making his acquaintance. We hear he is much liked generally & that they are sorry to lose him at Arundel. If he is like Mr Butt he will be a great boon, to our comfort & peace, &c &c - &c –

We shall be a full week in repairs at the Presbytery here. And the unfortunate House keeper (destroyer rather) is stopping in the Village to be re-engaged! !

Ever my d^r Lord & Father

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent
S^t Leonards on Sea
Oct 13th 1871

+
JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

I enclose the Rosary collection & sincerely wish it were double the sum.

Will your Lordship kindly let me know how the French Refugees found sale for their work, as it would be a great assistance to us in preparing for an Industrial School. If it is possible to manage without being connected with Government or Government aid we should like to avoid it.

Will your Lordship also put us in the way of knowing the advantages of Industrial Schools under the Government, and the responsibilities. I presume there are regulations or some sort of code to guide those who have charge of them.

I hope my Lord you were not overfatigued by your day at Mark Cross & that we shall soon hear of our turn –

Ever my Lord

Yr faithful serv^{nt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Oct 23rd / 71

+
JMJ

My Lord & most d^r Father in Xt, [Bishop Danell]

Will you have the kindness to send faculties for F^r Coleridge who comes tonight to give the retreat to the children, and also to extend them for the Sisters & others?

I sent to "king" for the Industrial School reports & for the Code of Laws – he sent me the former but not the latter, and I do not know where to get them as I presume the laws for the Reformatories are not applicable to the Industrials.

I am so sorry to give your Lordship an extra line to read knowing how much you have to do!

Ever, begging blessings,

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

C.C. [Cornelia Connelly]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Nov 21st / 71

JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

Day after day we have hoped to hear from your Lordship regarding the answer from Rome but our hopes have as often been disappointed. Have you forgotten us My Lord, and all our anxieties?

I enclose a list of the Novices who have been accepted for profession, and also of those for Clothing with the Habit – Will it be convenient to your Lordship to have the Ceremony within the Octave of the Imm. Concepⁿ? and perhaps you would name the time of the Visitation either before or after the Ceremony. It would be a great kindness to me my Lord if you would give me the real substance of the application to Rome from Preston, as I should them know the truth in itself, and not act in the dark.

I hope it is not true that the Holy Father proposes leaving Rome and going to Castle Pau – Do let me know what you advise as to our going to Rome.

I am my Lord &

Most dear Father

Yr faithful ser^{vt}

In JC

Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from the Original]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Nov 23rd 1871

+
JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father

I ought to have asked your Lordship in my letter written the day before yesterday, permission to publish a translation of Père Medaille's Meditations to which we are adding others compiled from Meditations of different Jesuit Fathers. I have asked F^r Hogan to overlook it, that there may be no errors in the translation and if your Lordship w^{ld} prefer any other Priest to examine it before publication will you kindly name another?

To save time, & if your Lordship has not answered my letter of the 21st will you just take out your pencil and give me the answer for the ^{day of professions &} clothing, & this permission for publishing and whether you will be satisfied with F^r Hogans Examination, as the right Theology of the translations & compilations, on this sheet?

I am my Lord your
Faithful servant in JC.
C.C.

[In Bishop Danell's hand]

Where is the book to be printed & published – If in the archdiocese – the Archbps leave must be asked – If in

[continued below]

(2)

Southwark please send the book after Mr Hogan has seen it, to Dr Todd – Park House, Blackheath S.E. – but let me know first

Blessing all

Yrs

+ J Danell

I have been absent from home – and have not yet read your other letter. I will answer it tomorrow.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

[In another hand:- Refers to the Franco -
Prussian War. July 1870]

The Convent
Mayfield
Sussex
Sep 7th [1870]

JMJ

Very Rev & d^f Canon Danell

I send you the acct of our Sisters leaving Toul. The Curé advised them not to go into the Cellars as they might run the risk of being buried in the ruins if the House took fire. They ought to have left a week earlier.

We rec^d two letters this morning from Signora without an address saying some lady had given her 20/ which would take her by rail too far off for us to find her! - &c &c, & that she will die in the Habit of the Bambin Gesù. – The next post mark may give us some clue to her movements. But even then we cannot take her, or get the religious dress from her, against her will, unless we could get a certificate of insanity – so we are totally at a loss to know what to do, and in the mean while she must be giving scandal.

Begging prayers & a blessing,

Ever faithfully in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Nov 27th [?] / 71

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & F^r in X^t

Many thanks for your kind answer – We intend printing the book ourselves & asking Burns & Oates to take the publishing as they took the Legends -

If your Lordship appoints D^r Todd to examine it I presume this would be sufficient for the Archbishop to give his consent – But if your Lordship prefers we can publish it through a bookseller of St Leonards – or ask the Archbishop's consent after D^r Todd revision [sic] of it – The latter would perhaps be the shortest & best way.

We are anxiously waiting to know the day for the clothing that may best suit your Lordship, and also for your visitation, & to know ab^t Rome &c &c. We depend totally on your Lordship's advice, and I am sure you will not fail to see that any unnecessary anxiety ought to be avoided.

I am my Lord & d^r Father

Yr faithful servant

In JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[Bishop Danell's hand:-
Asked where Miss
W was clothed]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Dec 1st / 71

My Lord & d^r Father [Bishop Danell]

Thanks for the permission for F^r Hogan – It was almost unreasonable of us to hope your Lordship could come just at this time!

Mrs Bellew's (alias Wilkinson's) daughter was clothed ab^t a year ago – (22nd Sep 1870) You will bless God that the poor girl is safe. She is ab^t 23 years of age and was at home after she she [sic] left our School ab^t a year & a half - & in great danger. – Nothing of course can transpire towards her profession till your Lordship will have ^{had} many [sic] opportunities of seeing her, & advising. Will your Lordship have the kindness just to let me have a word on this sheet to say whether I am to send the manuscript to Dr Todd or not - You said I was to wait till you could let me know – Fr Hogan has overlooked the first part of it. We shall never be able to thank your L. enough for sending us such a devoted Priest.

I am ever

My Lord & d^r Father

Your faithful serv^{nt}

In JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Dec 6th / 71

+
JMJ

My Lord & d^f Father [Bishop Danell]

Miss Wilkinson was clothed at St Leonards by Mr Spillane by your Lordship's permission. She knows that at her Fathers death she will be entitled to her fortune & has promised her Mother to pay back more that Mr Bellew ever expended on her - She now receives £45 pr: an: from her own father though she is entitled to ab^t £70 or 75 pr: an: - At your Lordship's next visit I shall endeavour to bring Miss Wilkinson here that you may hear of the sort of home her mother made for her, & of the unchristian way ^{in which} she was treated, even to the age of 22 when her Mother wished her to go out to earn her living as a governess. Her's [sic] is a very sad story, of a deferred vocation, and as far as any one can understand merely a matter of securing for themselves the money that may or may not in the end, if she outlives her father become due to her.

Thanks for the permission to send the manuscript to Dr Todd – I shall do so by today's post.

Ever Your Lordship's most

Faithful servant

In JC

Cornelia Connelly

I ought to add that Miss Wilkinson has made two retreats since she left her home & has had full opportunity for Priestly counsel & direction.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
 St Leonards on Sea
 Jan 13th . 72

+
 JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I write to ask your Lordship's advice quite in confidence as to whether you think it safe for us to employ Mr Pugin for the building at Mayfield. – He drew out the plans for the whole building when he had the order for the restoration of the part which is now finished. It seems useless to employ another Architect & pay for double drawings if by proper precaution, in using Mr Arnold's from of contract, Mr Pugin's power could be limited and the builder made aware that nothing could be changed without a written order signed by both parties. Hughes the Builder, whom we have several times employed, says he can keep the cost within £3000.

We wish to arrange the whole so as to have in industrial Orphanage (orphans and girls) quite separate from the part where we can have a preparatory School for little children connected with our School at St Leonards. We could have no assistance in the building at present beyond the sum ^{to be} borrowed [sic] from the Insurance Office . . Hughes could begin the building early in the Spring, and we wish to come to a positive conclusion regarding the Architect & the plans, so as to advance the specification upon w^h the Contract must be made, to be ready in the first building weather. Will your Lordship ^{answer} on [sic] the fly leaf in pencil, not to occupy your time, as to the prudence of keeping Mr Pugin to finish the restoration or not.

I remain my Lord & Fr

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

[On opposite page in Bishop Danell's hand:- Answered.

As for Mr Pugin- as you already know him I must leave to your decision entirely whether you employ him as your architect at Mayfield – or not.]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Jan 16th / 72

+
JMJ

My Lord & dear F^r in X^t [Bishop Danell}

The Sisters & the children are very anxious to know whether your Lordship will stop for the three nights of their plays – That is, they propose Monday 22nd Wed: 24th & Th: 25th It would be a rest & a good change of air if you would stop for the week at the Presbytery with Fr Hogan, and we shall take care of your table &c &c. – What joy! We want also to invite the Priests who have been here to meet your Lordship for a little wholesome amusement, and if you will pencil an answer in the affirmative by return, I will immediately write to invite them.

Will you also answer a^{bt} Mr Pugin as we ought not to lose time before the Spring reaches us?

Ever My Lord & d^r Father

Yr faithful

Ser^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

St Leonard's on Sea

Oct 12th 1870

V. Rev^{d & dr} Father in X^t [Canon Danell]

Thanks for your kind enquiries – The poor Novice is safe, and we shall try to employ her in some way in the Convent until she learns English at least, & then get her a situation. Sr Monica thanks you very gratefully for the blessing & begs your prayers. the old thing is going on with the children & last week we had to give leave for five to go over to St Thomas's for Conf:

I wish I could double the enclosed for the Rosary collection, but it is impossible with the present state of our finances.

I heard that the Holy Father had said he would certainly have all his territory restored to him in time – The hope is a consolation in the midst of this heartrending war.

Begging blessings & prayers

I am ever

Yr faithful serv^t

In J C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.F. de Sales

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Jan 29th 1871

+
JMJ

V. Rev & dear Father in X^t [Canon Danell]

We saw the news in the Westminster Gazette a week ago, and were rejoicing all over the Convent. – Poor Old S^r Monica fairly cried with joy, and I began a letter of congratulation to your Paternity when alas I was told that the news was premature! How I hope this will not be in the least so & that our prayers may be granted – Out dearest Lord will take charge of your anxieties, and do for you all that you most need – we never hope & trust in Him invain & He will do much more for your reverence (Lordship as soon as we dare) than for many others – Do not forget your promise to send us something that our late dear Bishop had used personally and lately – Mother Theresa begs you will not forget her too and your promise.

Do you remember when you were a boy how you used to carry your Tho à Kempis in your pocket and read a bit between whiles? So that you know it now almost by heart. and what does he tell us about anxieties & trust & confidence in God – and the Royal Way of the Cross and all that, w^h you will now more than ever experience – and then if you you [sic] really put full trust in God all the anxieties will fly away, and not tell upon your health, especially if you let others work for you, and get your proper nights rest regularly. – Do pray give us the news at once and let us know where & when you are to be consecrated Bishop – Have pity on our anxieties !! –

Give us your blessing dear Father

& believe me ever your devoted

Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Feb 24th / 71

+
JMJ

Very Rev^d & d^r Canon Danell

Miss Helène Milanesi one of our former pupils has ended her three months postulat, & she has been accepted by the Community for Clothing. Her Mother brought her to St Leonards just after the war began, or rather in Sep^r, and she has given her consent for the Clothing She has no fortune, but her education takes its place & her pension at Mayfield will be paid on the Novices fund. Will you kindly give Fth Donovan faculties for perform^{ing} the Ceremony on the Annunciation?

I do not ask you to come yourself because there is only this one, but a little later we hope to have others to be clothed when it would be more important.

I remain d^r Father in X^t

Y^r faithful Sv^t

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
March 2nd 71

+
JMJ

Very Rev^d & d^r Father in X^t. [Canon Danell]

Thanks for your letter rec^d this morning – I will write to Farm S^t by this post.

My only reason for asking for F^r Donovan to clothe Miss Milanese is to avoid the unnecessary trouble & expense of bringing her from Mayfield to be clothed here – since she is there & is the only one ready at present for her clothing having waited a month beyond the ordinary time. If you give leave will you kindly send him the faculties for ^{the} clothing? [sic] I ought to have explained that she was at Mayfield, if I did not do so in my last letter –

Begging a blessing

I remain Rev - & d^r F^r

Yr faithful serv^t

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [copied from Letter Book III page 10]

[Copy of a letter sent by Our M[other] to Canon Danell]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
March 6.th [1871]

+
JMJ

My Lord & most d Father

I have just heard that the Brief of the Holy Father is arrived appointing your Reverence B. of S[outhwark] We wish to be the first among your children to congratulate you on being the chosen one of God to guide & govern us as He Himself would guide & govern us & at the same time to offer our obedience & submission and our poor prayers that Our B.L. may confide to you all that you may desire or have need to know & to do in all things. (He will doubtless give you all the prudent circumspection necessary for so high an office & you will never have to reproach those whose prayers have helped to bring this heavy responsibility upon you.

Our d^r M will bless & help you always to do God's holy will & will bear the burden for you, with our late d Bishop very near at hand. Ah! yes let us have great confidence and you will indeed have all you need & ask for.

Bless us dear Father & when you have a free moment, send us a line to bring to the Community the Blessing in its official form.

In union with the devoted Cong^{ts} of the Community I remain My Lord & d Father –

Yr faithful Servant in J C.

Cornelia Connelly

[Letter crossed out &

Not sent]

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book III Page 10]

My Lord and Most dear Father [Bishop Danell]

I have just heard privately that the Brief of the Holy Father appointing Your Reverence B. of S[outhwark] has at last arrived & I hasten to congratulate you in union with the Com^y on Your being the One chosen by our good God to guide & govern us. My Lord, we offer you our obedience & submission & our poor prayers, begging of our B. Lord to grant you all the grace which your high Office needs & which you yourself may desire. And now my dear Father, I must not say more, but will only ask you to bless your "little lambs" in Sussex & to send us a line to say that you do so, & I am ever

My Lord & d^f Father

Your faithful Servant in J C.

Cornelia Connelly

March 25

1871

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
April 28th [1871]

+
JMJ

My Lord & most d^r Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I am almost afraid of taking up your precious time knowing how much you must be pressed on all sides, but I shall be as short as possible in saying, that on the 23rd of March I sent your Lordship a Cope Hood of our work, and I am afraid it may not have been delivered as we have never heard of it, and I ought to make enquiries, as it is of some value, should it have strayed or been stolen!

I wrote to congratulate you my Lord on your consecration & then mentioned the Cope Hood so we hope it may not be lost.

There is much more that I should like to say but as I must keep my word in being short I will only add that

I am
My d^r Lord & father
Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in J.C.
Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
April 9th 1872

+
JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

We are looking forward to your promised visitation, and trust that nothing may interfere to prevent your Lordship coming next week.

Two of the Sisters & two children for the Sch^l at Toul, started yesterday with Mons de Thury, who promised to see them in the train from Paris for Toul – they could not wait any longer for my going as they were needed immediately. 2ndly Perhaps your Lordship has heard of Mrs. Littledale's conversion who was received into the Church some months ago – She was here this morning and is most anxious to be confirmed before she returns amongst her Protestant friends at Cheltenham. I told her that we expected your Lordship here next week, - and if she could be certain of seeing you she would defer her return home for the sake of being confirmed. If however there should be a doubt ab^t your Lordship being able to come will you receive her for the Sacrament at St George's? I enclose her address my Lord & beg of you to let her know for certain. Her little boy, eight years of age learns his Catechism and wishes also to be Confirmed & his father does not oppose his wishes – they are of some standing & wealth and have other sons.

3rdly I wrote to the Bishop of Liverpool at the date your Lordship advised & Canon Fisher answered saying the Bishop was ill & could not see me. I will shew your Lordship his letter when you come, & stop to rest a little.

Begging your Lordship [sic] blessing I am ever

Very faithfully yr o^{bt}

Servant in JC,

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

+
JMJ

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
April 16th 1872

My Lord & dear Fr in Xt [Bishop Danell]

I enclose the lists for your long expected visitation, and hope they are exact & what your Lordship requested by the Vicar G^l.

Will your Lordship let us know the day & the train by w^h you will come that the Priests may meet you without fail?

The weather is now so beautiful that I do trust your visit may be a sweet rest, as well as a good work, for the greater glory of God and our own good. Fr Goldie's plans & the specifications for Mayf^d are most satisfactory and I hear they have begun to dig the foundations of the Church at Mark Cross!

The Duchess told me a few days ago that she had pushed M^r Arnold ab^t settling the Deed, for Hastings House to your Lordship, & that she could not get it done. Perhaps he is very busy.

As soon as we have the estimates for the Mayfield building we shall want one of M^r Arnold ['s] Contracts to secure us, as we must be on the safe side of our bargain –

Ever My Lord & dr Father

Your faithful servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
April 19th 72

+

JMJ

My Lord & dear Father [Bishop Danell]

I enclose a list of children for Confirmation, and F^r Hogan says it is necessary for your Lordship to know before coming that they will be prepared for the Sacrament.

Dr Clifford was here yesterday (& Mr Arnold who will take your Lordship good news) and today the Bishop & the Duchess have gone to Mayfield & to the Orphanages.

Begging a blessing

I am ever My Lord

Your faithful servant

In JC

Cornelia Connelly.

I sent the lists two days ago & hope they were delivered – We shall be anxious to know the train to be met.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

For Confirmation

L. Gilton	aged	16
M. Fellowes	-	14
M. Witham	-	17
Em: Ryan		14
C. Simeon		11
E. Fletcher		11
K. Magee		13
S. Dobson		13
E. Hillman		11
Hon ^{ble} M. Petre		12

For Confirmation

St Michaels Sch^l

Florence Edwards	aged	17
Agnes Conolly	"	14
Agnes Tolhurst	"	12
Agnes Oates	"	11
Agnes Parker		10

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
May 9th / 72

+
JMJ

My Lord and dr Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

I wrote to Mess^{rs} Richardson & Co. for the Instructions to the Sup^r of Communities and his reply is that all were sent to Dr Ullathorn & they have not a copy to send. Will your Lordship have the kindness to procure a couple of copies for me or one would so as we could copy them out.

We have not yet procured our passports but I hope to have them tomorrow, and if so we shall start for Toul either on Saturday or Monday I should be glad to take a copy of the Instructions on the Canons with us for the Superior at Toul to read them over.

We shall continue to pray very constantly that our Lady of dolors may help by her sweet prayers in all these necessities and that her Divine Son may bless & guide all that is being done to fulfil the designs of our good God, to His greater glory –

We trust your Lordship is not over fatigued by the past days of labour for w^h we all unite in expressions grateful & devoted. –

I am ever my Lord &

most dear Father –

Yrs in J C

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[Bp. Danell's hand:-
Answered]The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
June 2nd 1872+
JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

I write without delay to let your Lordship know that we arrived last evening after a very satisfactory visit to our Convent at Toul, where everything promises well for the future success of the work. Nothing could be more consoling than the kind protection of the Priests who seem only to live for the glory of God & the welfare of the people like try fathers – We can only think of them with veneration & gratitude. On our return we stopped at the Convent of the Benedictines at Ypres, The dear Lady Abbess having invited us there & we were introduced into their Community by permission of the Bishop. The Lady Abbess desired me to give her sent respects to your Lordship with devoted messages. She is 71 years of age & they have only four Sisters left! I think they wish us to take ~~there~~ their [sic] work & to take care of them in their old age, & for the good of Souls & the greater glory of God. to raise their Schools and replace them at their death. Should any formal proposal be made by the Bishop Your Lordship will of course be appealed to before it could be accepted.

We have thought a great deal about the changes proposed in the Rule with prayer and some anxiety, and most especially on such points as would change the Spirit of our Institute if acted upon. God does His own ^{work} will and [sic] we must be very careful not to spoil it by our small share in it. Has your Lordship seen the Bishop of Liverpool & jas anything transpired since you left us? If not shall I go to Preston myself & see now matters stand & know what they want & how they are disposed? – It will be no annoyance to me whatever to do so & I only want to know your Lordship's wishes on the subject.-

- 2 -

I beg your Lordship's prayers for one of our Sisters who died at Preston on Whit Sunday, R.I.P. She had been ill a long time & her disease turned to Consumption of the Bowels. She was the Sister of the ^{former} Superior, [sic] (Helen Cusack in Religion S^r Francis Xavier)

I hope your Lordship is quite well & am ever yr faithful
servant in J C.

Cornelia Connelly/

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
June 5th 1872

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & F^r in X^t [Bishop Danell]

When I last wrote I was not aware that they were in want of an Extraordinary at Bletchingly, Mark Cross. Will your Lordship kindly give faculties to Dr de Thury for the Sisters & Children Confessions, and will your Lordship at the same time give faculties to Fr baron to act for the Extraor^{ry} at Mayfield. I think next week w^{ld} be the most convenient time for both parties.

Many thanks for your kind answer. – Of course your Lordship must be very busy just at this time, but we are hoping very soon to see you again – The month will end tomorrow. Two postulants are hoping for their clothing & their prayers must increase in fervour for all your Lordships intentions & movements.

Begging a blessing for all, I am ever

My Lord & most d^r Father in X^t

Yr faithful Servant

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
June 13th / 72

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

Thanks for your kind letter. I was obliged to send one of our Sisters to take the place of a sister in the London Poor Schools who was too ill to teach, - Sr M. Stanislas, E. Birmingham. Even though your Lordship had not mentioned that you did not wish any one changed at his moment my own judgment would have suggested that such would be your wish. In this instance the exercise of charity was necessary. But, if I know the time of your visit, Sr M Stanislas shall be here in waiting for it. – In the meanwhile the Poor School would suffer too great a loss in being minus its teacher.

2. I have done nothing regarding the Lay Sisters- But, my Lord, our first wish is to make them happy as well as good – and though I find that the majority of the ^{elder} Choir [sic] Sisters (or rather almost unanimity) are, speaking freely & frankly, against their return to the recreation, I am quite sure that all are ready to submit their judgment & to comply by any sacrifice with your Lordships wishes & commands – At the same time we must remember that the majority of other Orders very wisely have a separate recreation for their family of Lay Sisters, & lay Brothers, and we never contemplated any Rule to admit them to our recreations, Councils or other Acts that would incorporate them with our religious body. Indeed I did not know that any religious order in the world every incorporated lay Sisters.

The Rule for our House Sisters in word for word that

of the Lay Brothers of the Jesuits & they are separate. Will your Lordship refer to the small book of Rules pg 23 – And believe that we shall do our utmost in carrying out your wishes ^{when [sic]} once decided, and in renewing the past custom, (of three years lapse) but not as a Rule.

Several of our sisters are most anxious to see you My Lord – I among the number. I fear you have not yet seen the Bishop of Liverpool – yesterday I had a letter from the Local Superior at Preston, Mth Lucy, saying that they had had several cases of small pox, but that their house was being cleaned & scraped, and ventilated better than it was, yet not safe for communication from or to another atmosphere.

Begging a blessing I am ever

My Lord & father yr faithful serv^t

in J C.

Cornelia Connelly.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [copied from Letter Book IV page 14]

[Letter from Our Mother to the Bishop dated June 19 1872]

My Lord & dr Father in Xt. [Bishop Danell]

I am sorry to trouble Y. L. with a letter just now, but fear there may be some misunderstanding or informality regarding the Loan from the Fire Insurance Company which I explained to Y. L. would be required for the building at Mayfield. You will remember my Lord that we cannot take a smaller amount than £3500 for the proposed Loan, making ourselves responsible for the remainder. The property at Mayfield cost the D. of Leeds between £6 & 7000, we spent upon it £4000, and the projected building will cost £3935.

We presume that there ought to be no difficulty in getting this sum from the Fire Insurance Office as the money to be raised is to be spent on the building increasing its value to the amount received; and this will make security more than three times the value of the loan. Mr Stoner will no doubt be able to arrange with Mr Arnold to give the property as security for the loan. Will Y. L. treat with Mr Arnold & authorize him to take the preliminary steps to secure the amount of £3500 that no useless anxiety may arise when the time of payment is due? We must make sure that there will be a certainty as to obtaining the Loan, otherwise we should be obliged to arrest the Contract which Y. L. kindly ordered Mr Arnold to draw up for our safety & which I signed as ordered by Mr Arnold. Secondly – it would be useless to take up the loan before

[continued below]

(2)

the money would be needed as we should have the interest to pay, and also the risk of holding it in the Bank without any object. If you like My Lord to enclose this note to Mr Arnold with your sanction, it might save the trouble of writing more fully yourself.

I hope Y.L. is not suffering from the heat as we are – It is, & has been for the last 3 days, intense

I remain My Lord

Your faithful servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES. [Copied from Photostat]

The Convent Mayfield
(to-morrow)

St Leonards – July 1st / 72

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt

I promised to let you know what we have done in carrying out your Lordships wishes –

1st The seats of four of the choir Sisters are behind the House Sisters –

2nd I went to their recreation the same night that your Lordship lest & have arranged with Mth Theresa & Mother Aloysia that we should share in making them as happy as possible, and all are ready to do their part.

3rd For the restoration of the high ceilinged room, we sent for the builder to erect the Kitchen on the other side, but he has other engagements 7 we are now seeking another one that we may carry out your wishes even before the holidays if possible

4^{thly} I called the Sisters together & they all make the erasures of those phrases which you Lord^p ordered me to make in the little Book now in force.

This morning I brought F^r Jarrett over to see the Orphanages & the Convent here. – And I had in interview with Sr Angela, Catherine Hunt, in Mth Catherine's presence & also in private –

She insists upon not retracting the false accusations she makes against all the Communities &c &c. I threatened her Mother's visit – which she declines & says she will write to your Lordship –

I am ever my Lord & d^f Father

Yr faithful servant

In J C

Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME. [Copied from Letter Book IV page 19]

[Letter written to the Bishop by our Mother (dated)]

July 7th 1872

My Lord & dr Father in Xt. [Bishop Danell]

As the meeting of the Diocesan Committee is to take place on the 23rd of this month, could not Y.L. come to S. Leonards either on the Sunday evening the 21st, or early on Monday morning, so that we could have the Distribution of Prizes at St M's School at 11 o'clock a.m.? – then dinner at 2 o'clock; a good rest; a drive out; then the Prizes at S.H.C.J. School at 6 O'clock, followed by Benediction & supper with the Children; & on the following morning Confirmation. Will Y.L. say Yes or No to this, and settle it without doubt?

2ndly I must beg of Y.L. to settle the Day for the Election of the Superior General, & of the Four Assistants. If the 15th of August would be convenient & agreeable to Y.L. may I announce it by the next mail to America? That the Local Chapter may make their election for the Electresses to the General Chapter without delay?

There ought to be time sufficient for this, but the 8th of Sepr would be two months hence, & perhaps the Nativity would suit better, being later, Your Lordship will decide. I remain

My Lord & dr Father in Christ

Your faithful Servant

Cornelia Connelly/

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

Two MSS –

[copy (a) – C.C.'s hand

Copy (b) – (marked Copy – in Mth Ignatia's hand]

+

JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in Xt

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

July 15th 1872

Many thanks for your kind reply.

In sending the notices for the coming election it will be necessary to name & explain who are to be the Electrices &c.

As there is nothing in the Abridged Rule regarding this matter I presume your Lordship would wish me as far as possible to follow the notes of F^r Bosio in connection with the Revised Rule. Am I right?

In consulting with my present Assistants we have come to this conclusion, and that I should send the notices thus

That an election for the General Superior and her Assistants will be held, with permission of the Bishop, at the Convent of the Holy Child Jesus S^t Leonards on Sea on the 8th of September 1872 and His Lordship Dr Danell will preside over [Copy (b) – in] the Assembly.

All the Local Superiors are hereby called to attend the Chapter.

The Chapter Sisters are to be elected by all the professed Sisters of each Convent where the Community numbers ten (the lay Sisters may be included to make up the number of ten without their having any voting power) thus returning one Sister out of ten in the Community with elective powers, that is, one Sister above nine years under vows, out of each ten in the Community not including the Local Superior who is already in possession of these powers.

The Electrices must be chosen by the secret vote [secret crossed out in copy (b)] of all the professed

[continued below]

If this will do my Lord will you write approved & return it. There is no time to be lost.

I remain ever
Your Lordships faithful
serv^t in J. C.
Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Letter Book IV page 31]

[end of a letter to a Bishop – Bishop Danell ? – The whole crossed through.

[July 25th 1872 ?]

a Cloistered Order. Poor Clares – Trapestine – or Perpetual Adoration. The name of the latter would best please her.

F. Gallwey could have information from F. Johnson of her course in Preston & of F. Baron of her present conduct.

I remain

My Lord & dr Father

Your faithful Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat]

Aug 8th 1872
The Convent
Mayfield
Hawkhurst

+
JMJ

My Lord & D^r Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I send a copy of my letter of the 15th July which your Lordship must either have mislaid, or forgotten when you advised me to send (on the day of the Prizes) for the Superiors only of each Convent. – Will you now kindly read it and give me your answer?

We cannot in justice to the whole Order make particular exceptions at Preston. We are all quite willing to have an Electrice chosen out of every ten Sisters by all the professed, but we cannot call upon the Superior of each little Community of from five to seven or eight Sisters to have an election without giving to all the same ratio of privilege such as is proposed in my letter of the 15th viz: to elect one out of every ten in the Com^{ty}

It will be impossible for so many to come from America, but we are ready to accept their written votes, sealed up for the day of the Election or telegraphed for the day to verify them. We beg of your Lordship to accept this for the satisfaction of all parties.

If your Lordship will write by return of post I will immediately make know to all what is to be done. and will you kindly send the letters here that I may lose no time?

I remain my Lord & d^r Father

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent Aug 12th [1872]

Mayfield

Hawkhurst

+
JMJ

My Lord & d^f Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I have sent the telegram to America to say they are not to come – but if they are on the way it will be useless.

Will your Lordship allow me to remind you that you had already put aside the revised Rule as not to be used – and my letter of the 15th of July asking advice regarding the electrices remained unanswered. I again proposed at the Prizes to call one Electric out of every ten Sisters, & your Lordship answered “call the Superiors”. –

2. The Old Rule names the Provincial & two Sisters to be elected out of the whole province by all the professed – We have no Provincial, so I think much wiser heads than mine would be puzzled if the Revised Rule is not to guide us, unless you fall back upon the tenth Sister proposed by Father Bosio.

3. The 15th of October St Therasas Feast, (and the day kept by us as the Anniversary of our having the B. Sacrament for the first time, at Derby,) would give us time to arrange all, but it would be much more charitable to accept written votes than to oblige our poor Sisters to cross the Atlantic in ^{the} swell [sic] of the Equinoctial Storms & to return in November or in the winter, and we cannot go on another year in this uncertainty.

Will your Lordship kindly write the form of Circular you wish me to send, & I will copy it.

Thanks my Lord for your paternal encouragement, I am sure your own patience must be very hardly exercised.

Ever my Lord & d^f Father

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV page 38]

[Copy of a Letter written by Our Mother to Dr Danell (dated)]

The Convent. St Leonards-on Sea
Sep. 13 – 72

+
J.M.J.

My dear Lord & Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

I hear you have returned from the Islands and I write without delay to say that next April & May will suit us for the Religious Examinations – They could not be later without injury to the General Ex & writing of papers &c &c
Are the two upper Courses to have a written as well as a Verbal Examination?
The former will give a truer test to the actual knowledge than the latter, over which they are sure to be very nervous.

The settling of the day of Election is going on too long My dear Lord, and we cannot see why it should be deferred. All the Superiors are kept in suspense as to their future arrangements and now St Theresa's Feast will again be passed over. The Patronage of Our Lady the 27th of October. The Patronage of Our Lady the 27 Octr [cis] will still give us six weeks – will this do? Or would "All Saints" suit better? – I am making Acts of patience till I receive the Form of the Circular to be sent.

The Duchess declines asking the Mayfield Trustees to sign security for the loan as Mr Arnold has explained to Y.L. and if he can devise nothing for us we shall have to

(2)

withdraw from our Contract in humble confusion & discredit. The Duchess is really most unreasonable on the point & will not see the injustice of it.

Ever my Lord & dr Father

Your faithful Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Sep 20th 1872

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt

The enclosed letter was rec^d by S^r Maria Dolores on the 18th, and she consents to my sending it to your Lordship, that you may see in some measure the character of the woman [sic] & know the gross and false accusations she gives utterance to. Mrs. Bellew, alias Wilkinson, She [sic] however sent the Deed to F^r Foy, and S^r Maria Dolores has it, but she will keep it until she has your Lordship's advice.

We have been expecting daily the form of the Circular for the Election, and we think that "a gangrene must either fall off or be cut off" and not left to torment the whole body or ruin it. Why hope for the impossible cure where there is no will to be cured! And no light to see the necessity of cure!

I am very sorry to give you the trouble of reading the enclosed, but I think your Lordship ought to see what charges are made without the shadow of foundation.

Begging your Lordship's blessing & prayers

I am ever yr faithful

ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Private & Confidential

My dear Lord & father [Bishop Danell]

In the strictest confidence I wish to inform your Lordship that the Abbé has brought his cousin to ~~step~~^{live} [sic] with him at the Presbytery She is, I heard, young & handsome, and this morning began by going with the Abbe carrying his portfolio to sketch. Our neighbourhood is not only protestant but of a cast most ready to make very gross remarks, and vile suggestions – You will understand the injury to religion in such matters far better than ourselves – and it w^d be unbecoming on our parts to inform Mon l'Abbé of what will certainly be said if any occasion is given even to a breath of scandal.

Yr faithful ser^{vt}

In JC.

C[ornelia] C[onnelly]

Letter endorsed:

Private

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Oct 2nd / 72

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & Father [Bishop Danell]

I send you the list of names of the Sisters in England & in France – I am not certain of the distribution of the Sisters in America, but they can be sent with the votes written without retarding the Election. The Sisters there are against any Election being made & write to this effect but I am quite sure that they will submit to what is decided as the right thing to do – They wish also to keep to the present Rule without alterations & to put aside the Revised Rule for the present.

Your Lordship will see that we are not under a hundred & forty or fifty.

With many thanks from all for your constant care and kindness

Ever My Lord

Y^r faithful ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

[Bishop Danell's hand: The Convent
Wrote but must send word St Leonards on Sea
who is to examine Miss Ryan] Nov 14th 1872

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I write to ask your Lordship for the Profession & clothing of the following Sisters within the Octave of the Im: Concepⁿ/ they have been accepted by the Com^{ty} at Mayfield & St Leonards where the probation has been made. The names are

Sr Maria Dolores

Miss Kate Wilkinson

Age 24 last April – Clothed Sep. 1870

Pension £45 pr:an: Dower at her parents death

For Clothing with Relig: Habit

Miss Eugenie Ryan Age – 18

Pension £30 pr: an: Dower at her Father's death.

Will your Lordship give me an answer with the settled date as soon as possible as Miss Ryans parents are living in Ireland and wish to make their arrangements?

I hope your Lordship keeps well during this cold weather & that you will be able yourself to perform the Ceremony – Miss Ryan is a relative of ^{Mr or} Mrs Stuart Knill –[sic] We must beg our Lady of the Angels not to allow you to over-fatigue yourself my Lord and to keep every body very good.

Ever my d^r Lord & father

your faithful serv^t

in X^t

Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [copied from Letter Book IV page 48]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Photostat Incomplete.]

The Convent St Leonards – on – Sea
Novr. 23. 1872

+
J.M.J.

My Lord and dear Father in J.C. [Bishop Danell]

In the explanation which I gave your Lordship when last here, regarding the affairs of Sr Maria Dolores, I thought I made it clear that she has no power whatever over her future fortune until the death of her Father. She has at present, as I represented to Your Lordship a pension of £45 pr annum, and nothing more.

2nd The Vows to be made are not perpetual and therefore cannot affect the future fortune.

We think My Lord that it would not be just to her to defer her Profession without any good reason.

If Your Lordship cannot come for the Clothing & Profession we shall be very sorry, for besides the satisfaction to the parents, it is more than ordinarily necessary to us to be upheld by the presence of our Bishop after the trials of this singular year, which God alone knows how we have sustained without breaking down totally! – and again while we are still held in suspense as to the time of the Election, the necessity of which having been once suggested, incurs the absolute obligation of being carried out. I can truly say My Lord that if there were not an almost unlimited elasticity & simplicity of spirit amongst us, I should look upon the faithfully loving confidence proved in our dr Community as an undeniable miracle of God & His Imm. Mother.

[continued below]

(2)

My dr Lord I beg of you to tell me that you will come yourself, and that you will choose your own day for the Ceremony; and we shall beg Our Lady of the Angels to send you. Will you My Lord not forget your promise to get permission from Rome for us to have the Midnight Mass at Christmas?

Begging a blessing for all,

I remain Ever Your Lordship's

Faithful Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

[Dec 2nd 1872]

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father [Bishop Danell]

Thanks, we shall pray that you may come on Tuesday evening & have the Ceremony on Wednesday morning.

Will you send for Mrs Bellew – 91 Holland Road Kensington W.
and end the matter. Miss Wilkinson can do nothing for her Mother, or to repay her Mothers debts till after the death of her Father, Mrs Bellew's husband. I think my Lord we are in justice bound to bring this to a close and not to inflict any unnecessary suspense. Mr. Arnold does not approve of her signing the Deed sent by her Mother.

Ever My Lord & dr Father

Yr faithful ser^{vt}

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

+
JMJ

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Dec 16th 1872

My Lord & dr Father in Xt

I must again thank your Lordship for the delightful visit & functions of last week, and secondly it has occurred to me that as your Lordship has so many new Missions you might not object to having F^r Frank Jarrett at Mayfield in the same way as old F^r Baron is at Mark Cross – It is a most desolate place for a young & active Priest, and Fr Jarrett is at that dark smoky damp Wigan where there are already two other Priests & not more needed. If your Lordship does not object I can readily ask D^r Whitty – He could but refuse and in the meanwhile they can go over to Mark Cross for Mass if needed for a Sunday or two. Thirdly – I want to ask your Lordship to second any move that may be made in the Poor Sch^l Committee regarding the London Training School. – The Archbishop had consented to our bringing the Community from the Culvers to London and we shall do a far better work in taking the Training Sch^l than we could ever do at The Culvers. I have no idea when the P-Sc^l Committee may meet but we should expect to have the same assistance as the Notre Dame Sisters enjoy.

Thank you so much my Lord for the fulfilment of your promise for Midnight Mass. We shall beg of our Lord to grant all your Lordships requests & to give you a hundred fold for all that you bestow upon us.

It requires two months for the Election notice to go to America Your Lordship does not forget –

Ever My Lord & Father

Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

+
JMJ

[Dec. 23. 1872]

My Lord & dr Father in X^t. [Bishop Danell]

Accept our best wishes for a happy X^tmas & New Year. Ah! how sorry we are to hear that you have been ill! Our hearts would fly up to nurse your Lordship if we might & to bring you down to us to secure rest & total freedom from all work or anxiety.

We have had a very joyful "Silver Jubilee" on the 21st and I send your Lordship £10 proceeds of the work done by the Community which they presented to me their unworthy serv^t on the 21st – pray accept it as the fruit of industry & devotion.

Ever my dearest Lord & Father in JC

Yr devoted servant

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent St Leonards on Sea

Dec 23. 1872

The Duchess has been very ill but is expect her [sic] tonight. She cannot walk!

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

[Proposed Training School in
Southwark (in another hand)

+
JMJ

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Jan 13th 1873 [1874?]

My Lord & dr Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

Many thanks for sending F^r Corney to Mayfield, and I hope all parties may be happy satisfied with the nomination that [it] may please your Lordship to make.

Have you forgotten my Dr Lord that I spoke to you regarding the Training School more than a year ago & that you assented to my proposal and referred me to Canon Wenham? – And again that the Poor School Committee offered the T. Sch to us & that I accepted it and have never withdrawn our acceptance? Lord Petre also wrote to me on the subject and he & the Duke of Norfolk were anxious regarding the house we were to take! I am at a loss to understand later proceedings when I have never withdrawn our acceptance of the School and therefore I write directly to your Lordship to know how matters stand and on what ground the Poor School Committee are now acting. Will your Lordship kindly see Canon Wenham and let me know the result of your interview?

I remain

My Lord & dr Father in Xt

Your faithful servant

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Jan 31st 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in Xt. [Bishop Danell]

I am grieving to the heart to hear that your Lordship intends starting for Rome next week! Why not wait at least a fortnight till there will be a settled change in the weather: the cold in Rome is often intense during the month of Feb^y and you will have none of the comforts of home should you be again ill. No warm coal fires or any other way of heating your room which will probably have a brick floor, uncarpeted, at least if you go to the English College – Why run all this risk my Lord when another month later would make your journey ^{safe} & comfortable. [sic] Do be persuaded to stop and give your anxious children the satisfaction of knowing you are safe.

Your Lordship will know that we have been good by our not teasing you with any useless letters even ab^t the Election, which was to be decided on the Purification! Is the time still to be left indefinitely? And ourselves in uncertainty. It will be a happy day to me my Lord when I can say that I have no other responsibility than that of preparing for death, for death may be very near & yet I am as full of business and eagerness for the Schools as if I were only 30 years of age instead of 64! I am longing for heaven at the same time as if I were prepared by a life of sole contemplation:

Thanks again & again for the Mass for the dear Serg^t. I do hope he went straight to heaven & that he is praying for us all, but we offer our poor prayers for his intentions, and also for my own beloved Sister who died like a Saint in the Order of the Sacred Heart on Xmas Eve. R.I.P. She was my best beloved Sister and the sweetest friend of my youthful days, even then like a Guardian Angel to me!

Your kind heart will forgive this thought, remembering that even religious still love their relatives deeply tho' they voluntarily forget them for the greater love of Jesus! and in heaven we shall know our own and love God the more I hope for that very love w^h He has implanted in our hearts.

My Lord will you have the kindness to ask F^r Whitty to send a Father for our children's retreat? They have had none this year & I fear will get none unless your Lordship writes three lines to Fr Whitty to request him to send a Father as soon as possible.

Is there nothing ab^t Mayfield or Mons l'Abbé de T. &c &c.

Begging a blessing

I am

Ever my Lord & dr Father

Yr faithful ser^{vt}

In JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

March 13th 1873

+
JMJ

Very Rev^d & d^r Vicar General

Strictly private and Confidential

Before the Bishop left England for Rome the lady who was living with Mons de Thury at Mayfield (called sometimes his Sister & sometimes his Cousin) was prudently notified to leave the place. No sooner had his Lordship left England than she is brought back, and is now living with him.

For many reasons which I am not at liberty to explain I am convinced that Mons. De Thury ought to leave the place – And if it could be possible for you to ask him to exchange with F^r Donovan, or any other Priest, except F^r Hogan who is here, without letting him know that we have made the request, I should be most grateful to you. I should not trouble you if I did not feel the case an urgent one.

I remain d^r Father in X^t

Your faithful Ser^{vt}

Cornelia Connelly

Supr.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
April 5th / 73

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

Our congratulations were sent to your Lordship by our dear Sister yesterday, & I need not again assure you of our thankfulness for your safe return.-

It is painful to me to have to tell yr Ldp that Sr Angela is growing worse, & Fr Baron has now applied for her removal – Mr Ticehurst our Medical man advises me to send her immediately to her Mother, as the truest charity, and then if there are proofs of insanity that her mother should be the one to place her in the Asylum at Burgess Hill, at our expense.

I hope to arrange to meet Mrs Hunt on Monday and I shall go over to the Orphanage to-day to consult the Doctor there, and to have him on the spot in case of violence on Monday.

I enclose Fr Baron's ^(a copy of) letter that you may know as far as possible what had passed. I doubt if they can prove insanity, and your Lordship's advice months ago was to send for her Mother, so I feel safe in acting upon it now. I will write & let you know the result of her case – I remain

My Lord & dear Father

Your faithful ser^{vt}

In JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent Mayfield

April 8 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in Xt

Though the case of our poor Sister is not quite settled it is so far decided that D^r McIntyre & D^r Ticehurst have given their certificate of insanity & I have sent a telegram to Burgess Hill to request the Superior to send a carriage and an attendant to take her, with her Mother, in a close carriage rather than by rail. She will have to go in her habit and change when there. Mrs Hunt tells us that her case is exactly the same as that of her own brother who died mad in a Military Asylum at the age of 32. S^r A. is 38.

We shall be at an expense of £60 pr: an: at the Asylum which is £40 less than the terms for persons of the world.

Private and Confidential

I have advised Mth Angelica to write to your Lordship herself regarding matters here. I am certain there will be no peace till your Lordship changes the confessor. They would be better without any one, & to be forced to go to the Orphanage to Mass, that to go on as they are.

I am very sorry my dear Lord to add to your cares, but they would be greater in the end if we kept these things to ourselves I think the present manoeuvre is to make an attack rather than to appear to be on the defensive – and also a retaliation for the loss of “Maria”! – The Community is sickened with the French intrigue and systematic duplicity, - but I hope no one takes any scandal. We have only cause to wonder the more when we see the patience of God and admire His Infinite Mercy upon us all.

Begging a blessing

I am ever

My Lord & most dear Father

Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent St Leonards on Sea
May 15th 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt

Today is again the 15th of May and in vain have I hoped again and again to hear from your Lordship the appointed time for the Election. Knowing as I do, my dr Lord, your great kindness I am really grieved to press any extra work upon your attention, but I must beg of your Lordship to admit of no delay in this matter.

From the present date we shall have just three months before the middle of August thus giving full time for the Sisters in America to have their Election proceedings in due form. –

I beg of you my Lord for the love of God to act promptly. We have gone on nearly a year in a state of doubtful Authority, ever since I wrote the first Circular letter for the meeting of the Chapter. This cannot be allowed to go on, and it is an absolute necessity to hold the Chapter this summer otherwise ruin or annihilation must ensue.

However gentleness, kindness & great patience may keep us all in peace externally as at present, nevertheless religious discipline must gradually be utterly destroyed, when gentleness is forced into weakness. At present while the Mother House is held responsible for the Branch Houses we are divested of the smallest Authority over those in the north – yet surely where there is no authority there can be no responsibility, and we can not hold ourselves responsible for them in any manner, not do we think our Lord asks this of us unless the elections are duly made & confirmed.

I now enclose a form of the proposed circular for your Lordship's correction & approbation, and I shall act

upon it as soon as I have your Lordship's sanction.

Begging a blessing

I am my dr Lord & Father

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

[All on C.C's hand]

Form of Circular

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

May 15th 1873

+
JMJ

My dear Sisters in J.C.

I hereby inform you that with the permission of our Bishop the R^t Rev^d D^r Danell a General Chapter will be held on the 15th of August 1873 at the Convent St Leonard on Sea for the purpose of electing the future General and the four Assistants to represent the body of the Order of the Holy Child Jesus.

You are advised to hold your Local Chapter on the Whit Sunday or as near this Feast as possible. The Chapter Sisters are to be elected by all the professed Sisters of each Convent where the Community numbers ten The Lay Sisters may be included to make up the number of ten without having any voting power - & the number of one Community ~~that exceeds~~^[sic] if exceeding the number of ten & yet less than twenty may make up the number of another less than ten, thus returning one Sister out of every ten in the Community with elective powers.

[Endorsed in C.C's hand:- Form of Circular]

[May 17th 1873]

[Bishop Danell's hand:- Leave granted for the Clothing]

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & Fth in J.C. [Bishop Danell]

We are watching every post for an answer to my letter of the 15th inst –
But I must write again now to ask your Lordship to give F^r Hogan faculties for the
Clothing of Miss E. Johnson, who has been accepted by the Community & we
wish to have the Ceremony settled for the 22 of May.

Miss Johnson is a Convert – Aged 30 – pension £60 pr: an:

2. I must also ask your Lordship to send an Extraordinary next week as it has
been three months since the visit of the last. It would be a boon to some of the
Sisters to have a change & they would like to have F^r Zanetti (Westminster)

With every expression of devotion from the Sisters & myself

I remain my dr Lord

Ever yr faithful

Ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

May 17th 1873

The Convent St Leonards on Sea
May 20th 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & dear Fr in Xt [Bishop Danell]

Many thanks for your letter and kind permission & promise. It is most important not to lose a day in sending the Circular for the Election on account of the Sisters from America - & we are praying constantly that our Lord may Himself bring the matter to a close.

2. Sister Angela – One can hardly believe that an insane person could have written those letters! – Nevertheless there is no doubt that she ought to have been in the Asylum a year ago, and the Doctor there said we had kept her too long with us. I have written to her twice since she went to the Asylum on the 9th of April, & on the 24th I went with Mother Theresa to see how she was situated & were much pleased with the House & with the kind Rev^d Mother & the Sisters. Sr Angela however began to accuse them also of insinuations against herself! – To hear her speak of the Sisters at Mark X having different accusations against her in the colour of the Stockings brought up to mend, & in the shades of wool to mend them, - The Cups & Saucers all with meanings, - The carving knife put upon the table to accuse her of wanting to marry the Rifle Man at Preston &c &c, is a sufficient ^{proof} of [sic] her insanity. Her accusations against Fr Baron made before the Sisters at Burgess Hill were most scandalous, and might only too quickly be taken up by Protestants & by her own brothers if she went home to her Mother. If her insanity had taken any other form she would do much better with her Mother than at the Asylum. If your Lordship could call at Burgess Hill on your way to the Channel Islands and hear what the Rev^d Mother has to say (& also the Dr of the Place) ab^t her, and also see her yourself you could

- 2 -

then judge of what would be best for her. It will be impossible to receive her in any of our Convents unless she is perfectly cured & Dr Casquet hardly gave me a hope of this.

As she wishes to be a boarder in a Convent perhaps the Doctor may advise her Mother to take her elsewhere – There is a Convent at Dieppe where Mrs Hunt's daughter Margaret was employed as a teacher. – They do not speak English there & there might be a better chance of a total change in the course of Sr Angela's thoughts by a change of language. You know My Lord that we are ready to do anything for her in our power, & if she can make herself happy there rather than at Burgess Hill we shall not mind the expense of her Mother taking her there &c &c.

What a trouble all this is! But our Lord has His rewards ready for your life of labour w^h is a great consolation.

I am ever My dr Lord & Fr

In JC

Yr faithful serv^t

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent St Leonards on Sea
May 22nd 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt

The Fr Provincial SJ. writes by this morning's post to say that Fr Zanetti is occupied daily until 4 Oct & cannot come to us, as this is the case will your Lordship have the kindness to give faculties to the father who is taking Mr Foy's place at St Thomas's?

I enclose a letter just rec^d from the Rev^d Mother at Burgess Hill. I hear they will not keep Sr A. and they fear annoyance also from the Protestant Commissioners. If she repeats to them all her imagined wrongs at Preston, and her invented calumnies abt herself, their ears will be widely open to catch at every suggestion. And still worse at what she says of the Priest at mark X. it seems to me only wise to send her with her Mother to France & if you will send her Mother to us with a line to say so (to Sr Angela) She will take ^{it} from [sic] your Lordship better than from me.

Ever my dr Lord & Father

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent
Mayfield

May 24th [1873 ?]

Aux: Christianorum

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I this moment have rec^d your telegram saying that you leave for Jersey at 5 O'Cl & my only resource now is to write to your Lordship.

This morning I rec^d the few lines I enclose, & came over immediately to Mayfield. The case is this, we find that Mons de T.[hury] is alienating the Novices, and two of them came forward to announce their intention to go! – one yesterday & one the day before.

You will remember my Lord that I told you we should be better without any Priest here than to continue with Mons de T. – The Rev F^r Tunstall has offered to supply Mass occasionally for us, knowing as he does how much we are suffering from the presence of this Priest, and I beg of you for the love of God & for the salvation of the Community to call him away immediately.

Could not your Lordship make use of him for a time to supply for some sick Priest such as F^r A. Guidez or some other you may know of? For the love of God remove this one at once, and for the love of His sorrowful Mother do not delay another day.

Ever your Lordship's
Most faithful serv^t in JC
Cornelia Connelly

[Continued below]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

- 2 -

P.S.

Private

I hear that Mon de Thury was to return to Mayfield yesterday and that Mells was to return in a few months either to stay or to prepare to pack up –

A French Nobleman was here during this last week, who dined twice with the Abbe de Thury ^{in Paris} and [sic] he told us that de Thury's

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Letter Book IV, Letter 67,
page 83]

The Convent St-Leonards-on-Sea
June 4th 1873

My Lord Archbishop

& dr Father in Xt –

I think Your Grace will be glad to hear that at a meeting of the P.S. Committee held on the 30th of May the Training School for the South was voted for & that it should be offered to us. I received an Official notice of what had transpired from the Secretary saying that the Committee is prepared to take the Official position of managers of the School in regard to the P. Council & that the same aid would be given to us as that which is given to the Liverpool T.S. I answered Mr A's letter with thanks saying the Community was willing to hold itself responsible for such excess of expenditure as must necessarily occur beyond the usual Grants. With the approbation of Y.G., I presume the succeeding steps may readily be taken & I have begged Canon W to call upon Y.G. to know your wishes & that we may take such steps as my be in accordance therewith.

With every expression of devotion

I beg to remain my Ld Archbishop –

Your faithfully Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Supr.

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
June 7th 73

+
JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

I rec^d your Lordship's letter dated June 4th only this morning and hasten to thank you for it, & for the good news regarding Mons de Thury, though I fear the Spirit of Nemesis will work mischief :

Poor Sister Angela went to France with her Sister, quietly I believe – And she will there have a chance of seeing what would make her happy. We are not to know where she is, as she imagined that we had prejudiced the good religious at Burgess Hill against her!: I presume she will soon write to your Lordship. She would like to take a situation as Governess, but her Mother & Sister know that we are willing to pay her pension in any Convent that will receive her, so I trust all may end well and quietly, & in the peace of God, & that she may regain her mind.

Your Lordship will be glad to know that the Southern Training School was voted for by the Poor School, and that it should be offered to our Community, on the 30th of Maya, and the following day I received an official ^{letter} from the [sic] Secretary. It now remains with the Archbishop to decide upon what District, and what House may be taken to which we may remove from the Culvers before the end of our lease there, which terminates on the 29th of Sept. next.

I remain by Lord & father with every expression of devotion

Your Lordships
Faithful Ser^{vt} in JC
Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent St L. on Sea
June 17th 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt [Bishop Danel]

I am very sorry to give further trouble with poor S^r A., but we do not know what to advise, now that Margaret cannot get her into a Convent, & that she will not remain in an Asylum! – Mth Theresa has written to Mrs Hunt to tell her to go to your Lordship for advice. Perhaps you could recommend her on trial in some teaching order in France where her pension would be paid – or with the Sisters of Charity? Any thing of this sort w^{ld} be better than her home in her present state of mind. She has not written to me.

I hope my Lord that you are not overfatigued with all the journeys and meetings, and we beg of our Blessed Lord to keep you well & not let your Lordship forget us and the Election!

Ever my Lord & d^r Father

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[June 22nd 1873]

[Bishop Danell's hand:- Sent list to Father Anthony & asked him to Examine. Fixed the 8 of Sept for election.]

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t

Will you have the kindness to name the 29th or 30th of July for the day of our Prizes, if either of these days will suit your Lordship, but if not, then will you name the nearest date before the 29th that may be convenient to your Lordship? We are obliged to choose the beginning of the week on acc^t of the Irish children reaching their homes before Sunday/

I enclose a list of three of our Novices who have been accepted by the Community & will be prepared by their retreat for their Vows when your Lordship comes for the Prizes. Will your Lordship see them & receive their Vows on the day of the Prizes arranging the time to suit your convenience? If your Lordship could come the day before you would ^{have} a cool refreshing [sic] evening and a nice drive by the Sea.

There is only just time now for the letter to go to America for the Election to have the Sisters here before the Prizes – Will your Lordship kindly say whether the circular I sent for your approval will do? And if not, will your Lordship frankly explain to me what you wish to be changed – The Schools in America cannot be left except during the holidays & by deferring the time now we shall be forced to wait another year!

I am my dr Lord & Father

Your faithful ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

June 22nd 1873

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
June 27th 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

I dare not let the children know just yet of our disappointment for the Prizes! If only we had known earlier of the long Synod we might have prepared for the Examinations &c &c to be advanced a fortnight, but now it seems impossible. Many thanks for the appointing of Fr Anthony to see the novices. I will let him know tomorrow when he can see them as he kindly left word for me to do so.

If your Lordship could appoint the date of the election to be within the Octave of the Assumption, if equally convenient to you, the American Sisters could return before the equinoctial gales set in. – The 8th of Sept, leaving a week only after the election to settle matters would bring us into the 21st on mid ocean w^h we should not like at all. Still my Lord if the Octave would not be convenient we must take the 8th and arrange as best we may for the time of the voyage. In fact I am so very thankful for the prospect of proper order in this matter that every thing else seems of minor importance.

I do not like to impose on your Lordship's time but there is another point on which I beg your council & it is this. I find the Old lay Sisters still unhappy at the separation from our recreation! – The Novices are quite ready to be apart never having known the difference. I have consulted the Sisters generally and they are ready to have the old lay Sisters back, as we were before, to keep up what would make them happy & contented, but that all the future Sisters understand that they are to be separated at recreation & Spiritual reading and that the old lay Sisters return to us as a matter of obedience and not of rule.

- 2 -

I am so sorry to trouble your Lordship with this but I shall feel better satisfied if I have y^r approval, before bringing them back, as any change at this time seems of importance to a certain extent – And they are not happy now.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I am ever

Yr most faithful

Ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[27 July 1873]

+
JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

The enclosed letter is from the Sister who came down from Preston when your Lordship was visiting the Convent.

She told me that she wished either to return to her home or to go into another Order. She ^{has} been [sic] in nearly every every [sic] Convent of the Order & has given satisfaction in none. I think it is ab^t three years ago that she wished to leave religion, or thought she had no vocation for the life, & had consultations to this effect with Father Cobb. I think she ought to be allowed to return home and if your Lordship approves of my telling her that she is released from all obligations I will have her wardrobe comfortably provided & send her to her Mother. We could not recommend her to any other order being of a very obstinate character together with a stupid mind.

I hope your Lordship is not suffering from the very warm weather and I remain

My Lord & dear Father

your faithful &

affectionate Serv^t

in JC

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent St Leonards on Sea

July 27th 1873

The Convent
Aug 5th 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

Father Whitty is to come for our retreat on Monday next. Many thanks for the faculties.

I have never had one line from Preston expressive of regret or sorrow for the deception practised upon us, and the letters I have received have been any thing but satisfactory.

I hear that Father Cobb is to be removed & perhaps further light may come by dint of prayer. I feel sure my Lord that you know I am more ready to forgive an injury than to wish to punish it, however base & dishonourable.

Begging your Lordship's blessing & prayers

I remain your faithful

servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
Aug 20th 1873.

+
JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

We are all too much disappointed at the delay in the Election to say any thing more on the subject, though it is impossible for any one to understand why it should be delayed. Will your Lordship have the kindness to send a Jesuit Father for our retreat which ought to be given the first week in September – to end either on the 8th or on the 16th –

I hope your Lordship is quite well after the fatigue of the Synod. I wrote & enclosed a letter from one of the Sisters (Sr Margaret) but I have not heard that your Lordship ever rec^d the letter. She ought to go to her Mother, as the rule provides for such cases & her vows are made under these conditions, either for unfitness or her wishing to leave, & her case comes under both these points. She will do nothing but harm & mischief while she remains in religion.

I remain My Lord

& most d^r Father in X^t

Your faithful servant

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent St Leonards
Oct 6th 1873.

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt. [Bishop Danell]

I have much pleasure in forwarding a cheque for our Rosary contribution hoping your Lordship is quite well & able to enjoy this beautiful Michaelmass weather, after the Synod fatigue.

I hear that Fr Whitty has been installed as Rector at Preston w^h is the best news we could possibly have at this moment.

Fr Tunstall writes that he expects to leave the Orphanage on Thursday week. Fr Baron is still at Hornby Castle and we have heard nothing of his being supplied for when Fr Tunstall leaves.

We shall be very glad if arrangements may be made to have but one Priest between the Convent at Mayfield & the Orphanage at Pennybridge when once it is settled who is to be there. There is really no work at Mayfield beyond the Mass & the Com^{ty} Confessions and it is necessarily a most dangerous post in its solitude, so that we shall be very glad to make arrangements with the Orphanage Priest id your Lordship approves of such a move.

I remain My Lord & d^r Father

Yrs very faithfully in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Oct 20th 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father [Bishop Danell]

I received your message regarding the Lay Sister in question, Mary Parkinson, but she says she will not leave the house until she hears from your Lordship herself. I offered to send her to S^t Anns in London tomorrow morning & to let her go to see your Lordship, but she says she will not go till she hears from you herself that she is to go. She has an old Mother & two Sisters on a farm at Scorton Lancashire, but she wishes to go to her brother, the Singer, who lives in London, but she does not know his address.

Will your Lordship kindly send a telegram or a letter to her immediately as her presence has become most dangerous to others and trying to ourselves. Her wardrobe is prepared and everything ready for her to start, save your Lordship's letter to herself .

I hope my Lord that you are quite well & I am ever

Yr Lordship's faithful

servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

St L. on Sea

Oct 21st / 73

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & Father [Bishop Danell]

I send you a copy of a letter rec^d from Cortenberg regarding Kate Hunt – I have sent the original to her Mother. It will not be possible for us to receive her here as our medical man says it would not be safe for the children -, and we have no Convent without them. I have proposed to Mrs Hunt to take her home – or to send her daughter to bring her to her.

Mary Parkinson will remain here till she hears from her friends. She would not write on Sunday last to them when I proposed she should do so.

In haste to catch this post –

I am ever My Lord

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Oct 23rd 1873

+
JMJ [Bishop Danell's hand:-
faculties sent]

My dear Lord [Bishop Danell]

I wrote to the Superior at Farm S^{tr} for a Father to give the children's retreat to begin on Monday the 27th and F^r Clare writes to say he will send F^r Leslie if I write to Your Lordship for faculties for him. Will your Lordship kindly give them for confessions of the Community as well as the children & others applying, if any, accidentally & also for the Community & children at Mayfield & Mark Cross?

Very likely some other F^r may come at the last moment w^h would give your Lordship the trouble of a second application unless the faculties are given simply to the F^r who is to give the retreat as it happened formerly.

Many thanks my Lord for your letters & the telegram. Sr M. will wait till she hears from her Brother in Law. I did not think it necessary to give the letter your Lordship left so kindly to my judgement. I think I ought to have sent your Lordship a copy of our late venerated Bishops dismissal & if Mary Parkinson will express in writing her wish to leave, it will no doubt be better to have it. I will see that she is not a burden to her family until she has time to get a situation for herself, or till we can get her one. We have provided a nice wardrobe for her, and shall soften her heart as much as possible in all ways – I trust in the end the effect will be of service to others!

I hope Mrs Hunt may be willing to take her daughter to live with her, as it would be quite contrary to the advice of our Doctor to receive her amongst our Com^{ty}

& Children. Of course we must pension her that she may be no burden to her family. Crosses seem to have poured upon ^{us} during [sic] the last two years, but I am quite sure they bring an increase of love and faith & must be gratefully received by us all.

Ever my Lord & dr Father

Yr Lordship [‘s] humble Ser^{vt} in X

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[Bishop Danell's hand:-

The Convent

Telegraphed Oct 29

St Leonard's on Sea

The Sister may leave

Oct 28th 1873

She may call on me if convenient

as she passes through London.

+ Best wishes & blessings]

JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

Sr Margaret's brother writes to me to say that they will give her a cordial welcome & endeavour to make her happy. I beg of you my Lord to let me have a telegram at once not to defer her return home. We cannot keep her here and she has had the trial in all the Convents in England. Your Lordship will not forget that we have lastly tried her here now 18 months. Her presence is most disturbing to other Sisters and injurious.

The Retreat is going on & Father Leslie arrived after all though I had a second letter to say it w^{ld} be F^r Selby! Many thanks for the faculties, & for saying your Lordship would soon be with us. We shall hope nothing may prevent your coming.

I hear that F^r Donovan is anxious to go to Mayfield, and if so I hope he may also apply for the chaplaincy at the Murietta instead of F^r baron taking the three places! I hear he has gone to live at the Boys Orphanage & that the Duchess will not have a second again! Her G. writes from Hornby to say that she will be with us on Saturday next, but I have reminded her that All Saints is a Feast of Obligation! So I presume the journey will be deferred till Monday.

Ever My Lord & d^r FatherYr faithful servant in X^t

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

[Bishop Danell's hand:
Answered No]

The Convent
Mayfield
Nov 9th 1873.

+
JMJ

My dear Lord & F^r in X^t [Bishop Danell]

As you know Mayfield has been without a settled Chaplain since suffering under most uncomfortable & unprofitable inconvenience all this time.

I came over here yesterday and I write to your Lordship on the part of the Community here to nominate the Rev^d F^r Donovan for our Chaplain. He wishes to return to us, and we never wished him to leave the place. I found the Sisters all going over to the Boy's Orphanage to Confession. The Spanish Fathers being unable to understand their confessions. I am quite sure that five minutes conversation with your Lordship w^{ld} induce you to send F^r Donovan to us this week.

Begging your Lordship's blessing,

I remain

My Lord & D^r Father in X^t

Yr faithful Servant

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Nov 21st 1873
Presentation O.L.

+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

The enclosed is a list of Novices & Postulants who have been accepted by the Community for Vows, and for clothing.

Will it be possible for your Lordship to have the Ceremony within the Octave of the Imm: Con: at Mayfield, either on the 9th St Ambrose or on Thursday the 11th, St Damasus. There are two fast days in the week to avoid . . & then there is the Convent to bless, & the Convent bell which cannot be hung till your Lordship blesses it. The Building is solid and beautiful and I trust you will be pleased with it in all respects.

May we not also hope that your Lordship will send us a chaplain before the Imm: Con: ? - Last July you proposed a Belgian and they have been long enough without to be quite unsatisfied with any one who can only say the Mass and hear Confessions.

The Duchess is much the same as usual and seems gratified that your Lordship allows her one mass in the week and we ought to be satisfied to forego it in the Chapel as she is so great a Benefactress to the Diocese.

Begging a blessing I am
ever

My Lord & dr Father

Yr faithful ser^{vt}

In JC

Cornelia Connelly

[List from previous letter]

List of

Postulants for Clothing

Miss Elizabeth Kenworthy
 Age 20 –Pension £150 per an.
 Miss Fanny Bunn N
 Age 22 o F
 Miss Emily Poquet v u
 Age 20 l n
 “ Agnes Morron c d
 Age 20 e £25
 “ Eleanor Balbirnie s
 Age 21

Lay Postulant

Caroline O’Hara
 Age 20

List

Novices for Vows

Sr Mary Angela	Age	Clothed
Monica Healy	23	Dec 9. 1871
Sr Maria del Carmen		
Carmelita Cisneros	23	Dec 9 1871
Lay Sister		
Sister St Cuthbert		
- Hearne	33	My 24 1871

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Dec 2nd 1873

+
JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in Xt

Thanks for the reply received yesterday – I now send a duplicate list for the Novices & Postulants.

If your Lordship can come for the Ceremony & the blessing of the Convent & the Bell would you think it a kind & wise move to invite Mth Lucy to come with Mth Gertrude as a réunion de famille for the occasion? If your Lordship likes the idea I will follow it out as soon as I know whether Thursday 11th will suit.

The poor Duchess is in a constant ^{state} of irritation & [sic] storm – The Doctor finds an immense amount of strength and perfect health of body. But the excitement of her mind is almost madness.

Begging a blessing for all

I am ever

Yr Lordship's

faithful servant

in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

P.S. I ought not to omit saying that I wrote to Mth Lucy in reply to a letter from her that I was always ready to forgive & to put things in the most favourable light according to God. This was on the 26th. She has not written since.

Copy of the list as on page 88

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

+
JMJ

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Dec 4th 73

My dear Lord & Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

Thanks for your letter just rec^d I had proposed the 11th, this day week, but of course your Lordship must choose the most convenient to yourself. Would Monday the 15th & Octave of the Im: Con: suit you better than the 11th? If so we can have a carriage for you at Wadhurst at any morning train and have the Ceremony late with Benediction of the B Sacrament – Pray let me know by return if possible as every thing depends on the day that will suit your Lordship. The Convent & the bell to be blessed can be before or after ^{the ceremony} and if you [sic] cannot stop for the night all can be done easily in one day. It will be a great disappointment if your Lordship does not come.

Ever My Lord

Yr faithful servant in Xt

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Dec 19th / 73+
JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt

It is consoling to know that you have a good Priest in view and as he cannot come for some time there will be a fair chance of making the house comfortable cheerful & more thoroughly dry – It was roofed last year and various repairs done inside, as lathing & plastering & new papering. The walls are immensely thick and dry, but they shall be made impervious to rain by the famous Zopipa, yet I think the only way to make the House really cheerful would be to have double windows, lengthened towards the ground with a balustrade outside for protection. There are three bed rooms in it, a parlour, dining room & kitchen – Nothing can be done to the walls before March or April.

I presume your Lordship will send a Jesuit Father for the present to live with F^r Baron. It is too much for an old man to do the work of the three places on Sunday. We shall make him as comfortable as possible.

Many thanks for the beautiful ceremony of Monday & for all the benefits conferred and for the kind promises.

If you will promise to have the election in the Spring I shall be doubly thankful and if your Lordship w^{ld} decide upon the time, the Sisters could be here from America in May, without waiting for the holidays of August, & also from France.

The deferring of the election is most painful & wearing to health – I am ready at any moment to give up every responsibility but not to shirk it while it still hangs upon me from the beginning!

And again does it not seem very unfair ^{that one} or two [sic] dissenting members should be allowed to hinder the general

good & to spoil the union of the whole! It does seem to us to be an unheard of instance of subversion of any authority. I must write again for Xtmas & I must say no more now except to hope that the Jesuit Father may be at Mayfield before next Sunday.

I am My Lord & dr Father

Yr faithful servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

"St Thomas"The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Dec 29th / 73+
JMJMy Lord & dear Father in x^t

F^r Gallwey had already named F^r Francis Jarrett to serve as Chaplain at Mayfield on the receipt of F^r Baron's letter, and I am very sorry there should be any mistake – No Mass was said on Sunday & part of the Community had to go to the boys Orphanage at 6½ [?] in the morning, and the remainder had to go to Mark Cross! – The Sisters have bad colds & it is no joke to turn out in the dark for a long country walk at 6½, and if it had rained they would have been without Mass. The work people did go without! It is very sad when we could so easily have had a Jesuit F^r:

Many thanks for accepting our humble donation – We had already more than paid the journies of the Franciscan Father and are ready to pay any thing more that our duty demands if it ^{has} not [sic] been already done, but I will enquire, as I only know of £5 sent to the Superior –

I am much grieved at the doubt ab^t your sending F^r Francis Jarrett as he knows all about the Preston affairs, and I could speak to him with the greatest confidence in this respect, and he is also a great friend to your Lordship w^h is a double advantage, being an old religious man himself in whom we should have perfect trust, and one who would help to bring a proper spirit into our lay Sisters.

One line from you to F^rGallwey w^{ld} settle the matter & bring us peace & true happiness, without delay. – Do grant us this favour My d^f Lord at least for the present and believe me to be Ever your Lordship's faithful &

devoted Servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly

For the last two Sundays there has been no Mass at Mayfield and for more than two months there has been no weekday Mass!