

SHCJ

ARCHIVES MAYFIELD

[copied from the original]

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JMJ

[Dec. 4 – 7, 1871]

My dear child

Write at once to your Sister & if Mth Agnes is away you must not wait for her return but shew her this. How could you be so careless as to leave them so long without a letter –

Carmelita & Maria Healy are to be clothed on Saturday & I am hoping to see Mth Agnes here & therefore write direct to you.

It will be a nice little cross for you to offer to our dear Lord by being absent this Xtnas so you will have something to make you pleasing to Him in accepting joyfully loss – In heaven there will be no more partings – Why is a bald head like Heaven? You remember the funny riddle. How good in God to give us such Faith and hope!

With love to all

Yrs aff_ in JC

C.C.

[in another hand:]

Copied

[on the fold:]

s^r M. Anastasia. [O'Connor]

SHCJ ARCHIVES MAYFIELD

[copied from the Original]

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JMJOct 27th 1872My dear S^r M Anastasia [O'Connor]

I wish you a very happy & most rejoicing day on the arrival of Mth M Th: with the two precious élèves! - I hope none of you will speak a word of English to Sabina but force her to speak French only – It is the only chance of your getting her two Sisters that she may be a sample of the good French of Toul. She began to speak at Hyères & has been learning long enough to accomplish some thing –

I hope you will have a rich harvest to offer our Lord this year from all the good resolutions of your retreat and that you know all your verbs perfectly! – And all the Dialogues from Albites Concise rules &c&c!! - and moreover that every study you make is offered as an act of love & obedience. Say your verbs going from one place to another if your memory fails, for there is no certainty without them. I hope you practice well the rules of Modesty – no running or straggling in going to the Cathedral &c&c.
Again much joy to you

Ever yrs aff. In JC

C.C.

May our Lady of the Angels bless & protect you

[addressed on the fold:] S^r M. Anastasia

SHCJ ARCHIVES MAYFIELD

[from Original]

June 15th 1875+
JMJThe Convent
St L. on SeaMy dear S^r <. Anastasia

Perhaps you have thought that I had passes over your letter lightly & that I had not thought of you w^h if you did is very far from true! I had hoped to be with you by this time, but now it is quite impossible – Perhaps the holidays may suit better. I am afraid that your being at recreation together with the children even as an extraordinary circumstance may have done harm – For the children so easily take scandal at the least sign of impatience in a Nun or the least imperfect word from one to another, or still more at any thing between a Superior and the subject that we never know the end of such things. And the impression on the minds of children influence their future immensely, and often may settle the vocation for or against religious life and even influence their faith. This makes one feel a most fearful responsibility and the great necessity of giving edification in all our words and actions.

I hope this warm weather may give you strength & health and if you dread another winter at Toul you ought to tell me so.

May God ever bless you. Yrs Lovingly in J.C.

C[ornelia] C[onnelly]

[On double sheet, folded again in three and endorsed:-]

Sr M. Anastasia O'Connor

[This note is written on a card]

My dear Sr M Theophila [O'Leary]

May God ever bless you. Prepare your Meditation carefully and repeat to yourself the substance of the points several times before you go to sleep Put yourself in His Holy presence when your mind wanders away from the subject love & make acts of love to God, but make good resolution for the practical fruit. "Renounce thyself & take up thy cross & follow me" This is our daily life.

Ever yr loving Mother

C.C.

Oct. [1877]

SHCJ

ARCHIVES MAYFIELD

[copied from Original]

The Convent S^t Leonards on Sea
Nov 23rd 1871

JMJ.

My dear Sister Clare [Ranger]

I think you ought to make yourself quite happy in doing God's holy will, and living so near Him in the Tabernacle, without teasing yourself to know whether others remember you or whether you are sent away for any fault. I sent you away because a change was necessary for you and I told you so at the time – Do not expect letters & answers that are not necessary – We have the work of God to do and we are all very busy – and no one has time for useless letters – This life is very short to gain merit and even the oldest of us find it so – You must learn to judge of yourself and others and of all things as God judges of them, and value them as you will have to do at the moment of death – We shall very soon have to give our acct to God, and this life is only a little dream that will pass away as a shadow! Oh what folly to tease oneself about human affections! We are here today and gone tomorrow – What matters it who is for us or who against us!! Let us only love & serve God & commit our faults to Him – Surely the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the whole world can wipe ours away even were they “red as scarlet” – And for you I am much more sorry for you than displeased You were more silly than sinful in all your troubles & discontent. Try now to make yourself useful and happy

as if you knew you were to remain at Blackpool for the remainder of your life.
We all pray for you & care for you in the love of God & for His sake – so make
yourself happy & get ready for heaven.

Ever yrs lovingly

C.C.

Sup G.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

[April 1873]

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JMJ

 Sr Anastasia Sr Agatha
My dear
 Sr St John & Sr M Gertrude

I hear from Preston that poor Fanny Thomson has returned from Namur seriously ill – Her family very consumptive, and that she has no home. I hope you Sr St John will write and console her & help her as much as possible.

If you hear from her and think she would get well with light work at St Leonards I would take her for one of our classes till she gets stronger & able to take a School, but you must know the real state of her case & all ab^t her. Do not say any thing ab^t Mary Jones to her please.

You must ^{all} pray that we may get a house for the T.S. and that the Committee may settle the question this week. I began my Novena to day that all may be settled AMDG. Let me know which will suit best for the Examination of the Poor Schools, to begin on Monday next 28th April or on the following Monday – I shall not bring Mth Catherine but Sr Xavier & Mth Agnes - I wish to be present myself a part of the time at each school, and I am going first to the Examinations at Mayfield and Mark Cross. So I must settle these to suit London & one journey for all.

Let me know by return if you can

Ever yr affc^{ly} in J C

C.C.

All Easter joy in eternum

Alleluia Al[!]elulia - -

The Convent Whitsunday
1874

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JMJ

My dear Child

I must send you a line for Whitsunday wishing you all the light & wisdom you need to become a Saint.

One of the exercises of virtue you will have to bring in play is attention. Will you write & tell me how you intend to make your acts upon it? And when you have made up your mind upon the points add to them the study of Grammar & Geography (Cortambert) they will form a nice little supplement to your practice & you can mention in your journal what profit you have gained in the week in honour of the Holy Ghost.

I hope you will have a nice Sermon today and that you may love the Holy Ghost more & more. Pray for me & for all.

Ever y^{rs} aff^{clly} in JC.

C.C.

Sup.

I hope the Holy Ghost will inspire you to ask to have Green – black dyed, as you are clothing. [Sister]

[on the fold] S^r M. Anastasia [Riley]

[in another hand] Copied

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from the Original]

51. Rue du Théâtre
Grenelle Paris
Dec 26th 1876

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JMJ

Dear Mother Anastasia [Riley]

You know you are never forgotten on Christmas and this year doubly remembered because of your dear & affectionate letter. However we may crush our feelings they are sure to live very brightly for the affectionate and grateful hearts that are not shut up! – I sent you my hearts affectionate love in the little picture that you choose out of my little Xmas package, and beg our dear little Lord and St Anastasia to protect and to help you in that life to which “He calls you”. – Warm your feet well on the fender when they are cold & take a good rest when you are tired & say, yes Lord you call me to be tired in Thy service with Thy little ones. D.G.

Good bye dear I am sure you are very happy with d^r Mother Catherine & with such dear & nice Sisters all – I could live with them all till death & then for eternity.

Poor Mth M Xavier. R.I.P. our d^r Lord has given her His reward –

Ever yours

[o]ving Mother

C.C.

+
JMJ

My dear Mother Anastasia [Riley]

I thought you knew that the Doctors had forbidden me to write and you also knew that I was not in a fit state to worry or be worried! –

I am very sorry that you dwell upon the change thought you do quite well to write what you feel – what would Rodriguez say to you & how w^{ld} he advise you? - ?

The Spring is coming and then the flowers & the Birds will keep you in paradise & give you the enjoyment of country air w^h I hope you may quite enjoy – The weather here is beautiful but winds from the north & from the East –

I must write a letter to Mth de Britto so good bye

Your ever loving Mother

In JC.

C.C.

The Convent April 25th 1878

St Leonards on Sea

I can only walk across the room with holding a chair.

[There is also an envelope of a different date to the above – De 7 71 addressed to Mother M. Anastasia from Mother Foundress – the Address is] Sr M.

Anastasia The Convnet Culvers, Radham, Herts.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from the original]

May 4th [1873]
The Convent, Mayfield

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JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

I write to say how much I was pleased with the results of the Examination and to hope the Ch^{dren} may enjoy their holiday tomorrow to the extent of their desires. Happy days for them.

You will see by the enclosed that Canon Wenham will be with you on the 15th, Wednesday Week & Father Donnelly. You will enjoy their visits, and make sure of a good Dinner for them with plenty of wine!! Do you know that Fr Baron gets beautiful Muscatel wine at 12/ per dozen !!!

Pray that we may get through our London work safely & quickly.

I recommend you to tell Sr Gonzaga to be very kind & full of charity towards the Lay Sisters – Nothing but real kindness & charity will bring them to the truth; - and to satisfaction & contentment with the great grace of their vocation. Oh how ungrateful is it to higggle with our Lord over the daily crossed [sic] of this short pilgrimage ! Can we ever be grateful enough to being admitted to Vows !!! & to the wearing of His livery !

Ever yrs affc^{ly} in J.C.

C.C.

The Convent Mayfield
Hawkhurst
Tuesday [July or Aug. 1873?]

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JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

I have not had a line from you yet, but I trust you are not suffering still from your bilious sickness. If you take lemonade you ought not to take it when the milk is still undigested nor take milk immediately after the lemonade. I hope you are not taking the latter still, as it is lowering & you need nourishing. Let me have a few lines ab^t yourself please. I shall hope you are as much improved by the change of air as I am myself & that you may return quite well.

We have been to Mark X already three times though I only got out of the Pony trap once & have not yet seen the Church benches.

No doubt the Duchess will also improve rapidly at Hornby & that she will be quite suited with servants before you leave & not want to get the nursing Sisters in Sr Columba's place. I suppose you and Mth M Ignatia have rooms together & that you are not afraid of Ghosts !!!

Nothing new – I suppose you heard of the fearful accident & ten killed on the Wigan railway Station. Much love to the dr Duchess & to M^h M Ig & S^r Columba. Yrs ever lovin [g] ly

C.C.

The Convent Mayfield
Aug 8th [1873]

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JMJ

My dear Mth Catherine [Tracey]

Mother M. Ig. gives me a very poor account of you & of the little nourishment you take. I hope you will remember that Mr Ticehurst said you were to take eggs & milk in abundance. Now if you would ask Mrs Kyle to send you half dozen fresh eggs immediately that you ^{are} up & take one every hour beaten up in your milk or if you have Diarrhoea take a spoo[n]ful of brandy in the egg well beaten up you will find relief & strength. I think if you do not sleep well at Hornby it is a sure sign that the air does not suit you. The Doctor said St Leonards was the best air you could have & there you can be fed up all day on the best milk & eggs – not on bought milk & water ! do not try yourself too long in the hope of the air & change doing you good for if you do not feel the better at the end of a week, how can you hope for better longer !!!

The annual retreat begins at Blackpool on the 15 of August, but I think St Leonards is the place for you to regain your strength & it was only your desire for the north that induced me to let you try it. Do not fail in getting your eggs to take every hour between your meals and do not hesitate in telling Mrs Kyle that the Doctor orders you this. If you wish to return at once you have only to send me a telegram and I will send other Sisters to stop, one to come

(2)

with you & one to stop with M^h M Ig. As we could not leave the Duchess unless she consents to have the Soeurs de la Misericorde to nurse her, even if we had to stop till the Duke & Duchess go to her in Sep^r.

Ever yrs lovingly

C.C.

The Convent St Leonards
Oct 20th 1873

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JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey}

I have asked for the retreat to begin on the 27th you had better saying [sic] nothing abt this to any one as they will want to come here for it - As soon as I know for certain that a father is appointed I will let you know so that you may begin on ~~Friday~~^{Thursday} [sic] to end on All Saints to get the full eight days. I am so thankful to our Good God that you are getting well & the monthly epoch is all right. I hope you kept your bed the first day, and that you will do so throughout the winter as this is the best safety. Do not be in any hurry to drop your boiled milk either for you must keep up your strength in every way, & especially as wine does not agree with your nerves. If your milk had a spoonful of good brandy in it when your bowels are too loose it would do you good – or old rum – Try the latter first – God ever bless you dear & keep you well.

Love to all

Your own in J.C.

C.C.

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Nov 27 [1873]

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

I cannot tell you how much disappointed I am not to see you today. When the letters came & none in your handwriting I said "Oh, we shall see Mth Cath. by the 12 OCI. train" – 12 OCI - & 4 have come & gone so I only conclude that your letter missed the post & that I shall have it to-morrow morning – I hope you are not ill. There is a box of pictures for you from Bull which I can either send or bring next time I go if you do not come over this week.

I sent the note to Sr Josephine & will also bring the Merino at the same time. I do hope you are not ill again.

If Canon Wenham's information is important I think you ought to have written the substance at once.

I had another letter from Mth Lucy which I answered saying what I thought would mend matters & put them into the hands of God.

Love to all

Ever yrs affc^{ly} in J.C.

C.C.

The Convent St. L. on Sea
Dec 18th / 73

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JMJ

My dear Mth Catherine [Tracey]

I think the elation of that Sister is put on, for her own purpose. I should certainly ask Fr B – why he did not tell you that he had written to ask the B. to stop on his way & why he should treat with the lay S. & not with you, if you can do so without betraying any feeling. Do not allow your heart to be wounded, & if [sic] it is wounded in spite of your efforts stitch up the wound with the love of God – A stitch in time saves nine! – I very often have to remember this & then resign myself to endure more. Very often, of late years more than ever, not to allow ones poor heart to drop blood till it withers! For we do not renounce our good sentiments & heart throbbings though we try to supernaturalise them & to unite them with the Heart of Jesus, and oh how much we may console His Heart by our acts of self renouncement in accepting all for His sake, and in remembering that He wishes us to console Him for the ingratitude of mankind! Is it not a wonderful thought that He condescends to be consoled by the acts of His creatures! And that He condescends to shew us the love of His Heart in pointing to it & saying “learn of me for I am meek & humble of heart” ! Oh! what deep humility in condescending to wish for our love! And in allowing us to console & make reparation for the ingratitude of sinners! Who could believe it had He not Himself declared this to us!

Mth Angelica writes to say that they are coming on

[Letter of Dec. 18th, 1873, continued]

Saturday – but if you wait till then we shall have our Council on the midst of distraction and we must hold it. I have just written to say so.

With much love to Mth M Veronica Sr Mechtilda & to those who are humble and good

Yrs lovingly in J. C.

The Bishop did not say anything but that they asked for confession to Fr Hogan & that he gave it – I said more

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

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JMJ

The Convent
St. Leonards of Sea
[Dec. 24 – 29, 1873]

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

Thanks for your letter & its enclosure rec^d. this morning. The return perhaps you will give to one of your children.

I send you also a little cheque toward any sitting room furniture you may want etc. I think you ought to have another little parlour for your yourselves – at the entrance end for I noticed how very awkward it was when Mrs Hunt was there that you had no place but the refectory to take refuge in. –

Would you not like to take the room next to your bed-room for a parlour or for your room to see any one alone? – You ought to have a room independent of the Comty room or of your bedroom to see anyone you like to have alone & this could serve as an extra parlour in need. Think over it first & judge of your own convenience.

I fear the Duchess will never do the cloister. She seems almost mad today – Fr Arnold was here yesterday, I did not see him –

Dec. 29ⁿ I was interrupted here my dear Mth Catherine several days ago & have not had a moment free. The letters are something overwhelming this year – worse than ever.

A very happy New year to you all, and a fervent Epiphany retreat. We are having very joyful holidays and nothing disagree[e]able! Ever yrs lovingly

in JC.

C.C.

Did you receive the game & the sweets of the Comty?

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JMJ

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Feb 18th [1874?]

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

Thanks for the plan &c &c which I return. You had better send it to Mr Arnold & say that you sent it to me to look at. I had rather it should go to him from you with your own observations & mine – The long unbroken line of the Cloister looks to me like a rope walk! Why should it not be broken by an octagon or a gable or something that an Artist ought to be able to introduce that would make it ornamental as well as useful – The cost is high but I do not know the extent proposed – either length height or breadth, so I can form no real judgement As the Church & Tower are externally ugly it will be an immense pity to build a rope walk looking thing Do your best to have good taste in it –

Private

As to the money there is cause for anxiety – Mr A. has a power of Attorney and at present he will have ab^t £6000 in hand from the money due from the Duke & from last year – Besides some thousands from other sources.

The income of the Duchess from what she told me would be ab^t £16,000, and the balance in the Bank last year was between £3000 & £4000 not yet invested in railway shares –God knows what she has done with the immense fortune of her own but no doubt Mr Arnold has prevented any

[Continuation of letter to Mother Catherine Tracey, Feb. 18th 1874?]

Private

being lost by negligence – The Duke of Leeds will be ab^t £10,000 a year richer at her death, but I imagine & hope she may not have left him as residuary legatee ! - Which certainly ought to go to Catholic purposes, I asked if the residuary legatee was named & Mr Arnold said yes The power of Attorney which he now has of course gives him the right to pay all debts & expenses, and there will be no difficulty ab^t /^{the} money for the Cloister.

The poor Duchess is better today & more reasonable – but she assured me that she had not a farthing – This is the old song – She looked at me today when I came in as she was on the night stool – Ah “Connelly Donnelly” Save Lane Fox’s children go quick – quick they will all be murdered. I asked her if she would like to see you, day after day, but she always says Oh no – don’t want to see any body. D^r Adey always says there is something on her mind something that has preyed upon her. The day she went quite mad, he had said to us that she was in perfect health – I hope she has not done anything wrong ab^t the orphanages, or tied them up – I do not think she could change the Deed. She was never able to get Mr Searle out or to take away the Cottage at Ore.

Ever Yrs lovingly in X^t

C.C.

She said to Sister Columba they will want to call those orphanages Mrs Connellys Orphanages, but they shant ! poor Duchess.

I advise you not to lose a post in sending the drawings to Mr. A. & in writing to Goldie ab^t the break in the long line.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

The Convent
 S^t Leonards on Sea
 Feb 20th 1874

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 JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

The D^s goes on as usual, sometimes we think very near her end, & then she shows again the strength of a Lion! Her mind goes & comes for a moment or so - And then runs off wildly upon the treachery of her enemies &c - To day it is on the Russian Conspiracy & the Queen ! She asked the Doctor if the Queen had pardoned her, but she was going to escape by the back stairs!

I see by the Deed of the Orphanage that the Orphans are to be voted for by the Trustees & admitted by the Sanction of the Superior. M^r Stonor told me that the substance of the Deed for Ore was embodied in the one for Mark Cross, but we have never had a copy of the Mark Cross Deed. I will shew M^r Arnold the one we have which is only an Extract of the one at Ore.

The Trustees are

- 1 R.R.D^r Grant
- 2 R^t Hon D^r Clifton
- 3 Rev Joseph Searle
- 4 Lord Petre
- 5 Alfred Stourton
- 6 Sir John Lawson
- 7 Simon Thomas Scrope –

You had better keep These names at hand
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The lease of the Cottage is for Rev J. Searle for "99 years if he lives so long".-

[Continuation of letter to Mother Catherine Tracey, Feb 20th, 1874]

The Printers have not yet sent me the proof sheet yet [sic] for your conditions but I sent word to them today to complain.

I hope Mr Arnold will complain of the "rope walk" Goldie ought to have broken the line if even he made on[e] half higher than the other - *

He really has no taste or eye for drawing.

Ever yours affc. In JC

C.C.

*In the original there is a little pen drawing of a cloister with a "broken line".
[This letter was originally written on two sides of the one piece of paper. In the top right hand corner the date, Nov. 8, 1873, has been crossed through]

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

March 1st [1874]

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JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

I send you Mr Arnolds letter & Enclosure which you can keep – you had better write the names of the Trustees on it which I gave to you.

Sr Annunziata is getting you the Drawing Material to send by Fr Jarrett & she will see to the other things & again she will get Sr Theresa to search for Mh M Veronicas books – She c^{ld} not find them before.

The note books I have told Sr to send of a larger size to meet the representation of B Boardnotes wh is much more advantageous than smaller books. We intending [sic] using them here in future.

It would not be wise to get the chairs etc for the Presbytery just now as I imagine you will have these belonging to Lady Stafford & Ldy Wellesley now here – and you would not want so many. I c^{ld} ask Mr Arnold if one of these could be sent to you and the Piano if you like. We never know whether the D may not recover as the Doctor says still that she might. But Mr Arnold has the power.

Ever yours lovingly in JC.

[Cornelia Connelly]

[This letter has been written on the back of one from George M Arnold, Esq]

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

The Convent St L on Sea
March 5th [174]

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JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

The one I thought of you for as a teaching is Katie Collis – She is quite capable of teaching French Drawing Music Grammar & Literature &c being clever & thoroughly well taught. I do not know that she would like to go but Mth M Veronica knows her & I should feel satisfied that she should be with. [sic] I suspect that she has a religious Voc. At heart but I do not know it. Unless you think she could be made quite happy in teaching at the Orphanage I should not like to propose it to her. She is a very good girl & a child of Mary. I can but sound her on the subject but I wld not do so unless you think yourself that she could be made quite happy as a teacher.

I have sent to London for a few books that I think you ought to have in order to carry out all that you need for the Training Class of 1st & 2^d year, and I sent in one of the return hampers a few other books that we could spare & that you will want.

I will get up what music also is on hand that you may not be tied to the same always The Piano here is all that is really needful & you want books of the right sort far more than a Piano. Have you Hardings elementary Art? and all the Maps

(2)

you need?

Have you Bromby's Grammar for Methods? I will see ab^t the notebooks.

Ever yrs aff in Xt
C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

March 14th [/ 74]

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

I think the sum enormous for the draining.

You ought to have taken the number of pipes (per thousand) – and the number of rods –

I should have said that £25 would have drained the whole I will tell Mother Angelica to look at her book where she will find prices per thousand 2 inch drain pipes & prices pr rod for laying them – This is the only fair way to get the work done – You purchase the pipes and make your contract per rod, and you need not have more than you find necessary – that is a certain number of rows of pipes down each field, three or four only where most necessary to drain the water to a certain point.

Little Chatterton's Mother was represented to me as dying of consumption but if it turns out that she recovers I will take the child off your hands as I promised. I will let Sr. St. D know the state of the case & tell her never to apply for children with one parent living.

Sr Annunziata ordered the mats from London she had some sent up but they were common oil cloth & baize not fit for the Priest

I hope Amy Walpole has gone to a safe home – Has her sister turned out well?

I will try to take those poor children if we can get help for their support from our children of Mary.

(2)

Mr Wiley came down to see the Duchess also Mrs Darley – Today the Duke of Leeds came – and a little later Lord Stafford who did not know that the poor Duchess was ill!

The Duke said he had heard that she might go on as she is for years!

Ever your lovingly in X^t C.C.

[Written in margin}

Did you get Bromby and the American Letter ? Our quarterly meeting must be the day after the Annunciation. I hope you will be well & able to come with Mth Angelica.

March 16th 1874Private

My dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

I had already ordered 500 copies from the printer of the conditions you sent being those of the Duchess herself. These of Mr Arnold are work-house forms wh I am sure the Duchess wld have rejected or will reject if she recovers –

We can have no Magistrates or Managers – There are Trustees for the Property & the funds – But for the sole government of the girls Orphanage the Religious are the ones to carry out the work & no others – Never forget that the Religious work under their Bishop and that Trustees can only see that the Trust is carried out by the Deed.

I hope you will not have approved of this paper and that you will not use it. Examine No 10 alias the admission of Workhouse children.

The two Orphanages are not on the same footing That of the Brothers is not given to any Religious Order – Mark Cross is – and by the Deed we have the government of the place not under Magistrates or Managers. I am quite grieved that you should have this trouble but it requires prompt action against it on your own part, & not on mine, or your trouble will be endless The Duchess has put her power into your hands more that a year since ! Why allow such a Form as this destroying the whole ! It is like

[A second sheet continuing this letter is missing]

The Convent St Leonard on Sea
March 19th 1874

S. Joseph

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JMJ

My dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

I have your letter by this mornings post. Thanks.

The Deed made in 1863 and renewed in every particular, Mr Arnold so assured me, makes the property over to the Community of the Holy Child for an Orphanage the Duchess reserving the right of the Direction of the establishment to herself for her life I do not think the Trustees have any other than the ordinary rights of Trustees of any such Trust.

The directions of the Duchess only exist for her life and we must bear this in mind. Perhaps it may be more wise to say nothing by letter to Mr Arnold, or only to say that you do not think the Duchess would approve of the Workhouse like forms, having given it a second consideration. Do only as you think best to secure yourself.

I think it most important that you should limit your number to a hundred children as this was the number she intended to provide for & not more. I say this lest you might be disposed to increase it which would lead the Trustees to think it would be necessary to enroll the Establishment for Government aid. I believe the income for the support of the Orphanage is but £700 and with the help of the Farm you could certainly barely support one hundred children. It wld allow you only £7 for each child. It is true you will have the wheat, potatoes, turnips & cabbages with plenty of milk but the expenses of the Farm will take up all the Hop money. You can get all Farm information from Mother Angelica & know exactly what the expenses ought ordinarily to amount to -

[Letter of March 19th 1874 cont.]

Then again supposing the actual income is £700 in Money – This sum has to provide £130 for the Priest & £70 for seven Sisters. I would not enter upon these matters with any one out of our own body, but think over it well yourself. If the money is not sufficiently for the support of the one hundred children intended by the Duchess we could easily fall upon other means such as £12 pension to be paid by friends or by Work done – any thing rather than a Workhouse – or Magistrate – work & insubordinate thieves put upon you. The whole character of the work would be changed by such a fall !

If I were you I would ask Mr Arnold to have both Deeds copied for your own possession & if ~~that~~ [sic] you will send him 10/ for the purpose he will be sure to have it done at once. It is worth the money and you ought to have a full copy of both.

Would it not be better for you to have these copes before you say anything ab^t the Workhouse form ?

I would not use any argument ab^t the form until we know what the Deeds say. The Duchess's wishes one way or another cannot change the Deed which gives us the ownership for a specified purpose. So that the writings she may have given for the Trustees if not in accordance with the Deed could not bind our conscience or theirs.

This seems to me the only safe & right course to act upon and we must be careful in all we say or do to the purpose and to keep our conscience clear.

Ever yrs affectly in JC

C.C.

Canon Wenham will cone to us for the Examination on the 27th & 28th April.

D.V. [?]

SHCJ ARCHIVES - ROME

[Copies from Original]

The Convent
St. Leonards on Sea
March 20th / 74+
JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

I have just read the copy I have for the Ore Deed & I find it is not only for her life but "after her decease" etc – and again "After the decease of the said Louisa Catherine Duchess of Leeds every Orphan to be admitted as aforesaid shall be elected by the votes of the said Trustees & the said Superior or the majority of such votes" – (& again) "And in providing a sum not exceeding fifty pounds per annum for the support of the Chaplain or Priest attending the said Orphanage"

It is to be hoped some other provision may be made for the Priest as only £50 can come by deed from the Orphanage funds! I wrote to Mr Arnold ab^t Parks as I was afraid he thought I had confidence in his honesty which I have not. His information & intelligence are alone of use – He is most cunning & will make "a job" wherever he can – and count four or five drains where two or three would perfectly well do, for you do not want the land drained to dust.

The Duchess goes on as usual only very much more restless and more wasted. Do you want the Piano to be sent from her parlour? I think I might as well send it as I know it is for you & bought for you by the D.

Mrs Charlton is here to see Mother M Frances.

I was so glad to see Florence Benson's letter.

It is a good idea ab^t the class of Aspirant P.T. going in only as 1^t class. It gives you an advantage.

Yrs lovingly in JC

C.C.

[Written in margin of first sheet]

Dr Todd's Orphanage has voting tickets sent by post -

SHCJ ARCHIVES - ROME

[Copied from original]

The Convent
 St Leonards on Sea
 April 10th 74

+
 JMJ

Dear Mother Catherine [Tracey]

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

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

[Letter of April 10th 1874 cont.]

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

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

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

[Letter of April 10th 1874 cont.]

The American Trustees are the Bishop of Philadelphia & Mr Hirst – But she has not left a farthing to the Bishop of Philadelphia! I hope she may not have to answer for all the good that might have been done had she left the American lands & Money to the Church instead of to the Duke's children. She has left nothing to her own nieces the McTavishes. I will tell Mth Angelica to go over to see you & will you let her read this * letter please as I cannot go through the same to her again

Yrs lovingly

C.C.

Lady Stafford funeral cost £800 * [Between * written in margin]

[On another sheet]

P.S. I must take another half sheet to say that the Bishop said both orphanages should be represented at the funeral on Friday the 17 – you must have 12 girls, unless you hear from Mr Arnold to the contrary, in new Mourning, black rep will do.

Will you at once say also to the Superior or Fr Baron that ten boys will be required for the Pontifical Mass and two or four of them should be little boys to bear the Bishops trains – I do not know whether the Archbishop may come or not, but Dr Clifford will be sure to come. He is one of the Executors.

Oh that all was over!!

[Written across the margin]

Lady Staffords funeral cost £800! & this is to be the same.

St Leonards on Sea
June 2 1877

Dear Mother [Mother Catherine Tracey]

We never had the least thought of purchasing the whole lease but only the two last years wh we understood you to say was necessary for any future security – We have not the power to purchase or invest Capital on lease hold property Please understand this matter as a legal fact – beyond our Control – and thus we shall avoid all waste of time –

A very happy journey to you with perfect restoration of health – Be watchful as to the right diet –

Ever your loving Mother in JC.

C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Letter Book III
Letter 19, pages 20 – 22]

To Mother M Walburga by the same post [as letter 18]
From our Mother General

Copy

The Convent Feb^y 13. 1876
St Leonards-on-Sea
Sussex

+
JMJ

Dear M. M^y Walburga [White]

I have written to M.M. Xavier enclosing letters that will prove to you what has been done in Rome after the Rule was presented in 1854.

There is no use in deceiving ourselves. You need the information regarding Rome & ourselves as well as that I sent you & M.M.X. in the copies regarding other Orders. You also need the knowledge you will gain in studying "Craisson" which I shall send you next week. If you neglect what I advise you will be victims to your own folly. If you put such matters "on the shelf" you will become SS of S^t Joseph or any thing pro. tem. Matters become now very serious as you will remember that F^r Carter, some years ago aimed, it was said, at your being independent of the Mother House. It is not difficult to understand why he should wish this. But if you become Victims to the wish you will only have yourselves to blame as you were accepted in the Diocese under the Generalate, with the safeguard of the approbation of the Institute, which is quite distinct from the approbation of the Rules & Constitutions. It is most necessary to have every deference & respect for the Bishop and to shew this with great humility & if you could make an appeal to Rome for the revision of the Rule and object to the spirit of the new Rule, and to the way it is tied up so that the Order would be changed, holding on to the union of the Institute at the same time we might hope to be heard & should undoubtedly

- 2 -

receive attention. Dr Danell told me that he had not sent the English Rule to Rome & the Italian is not yet quite finished. The letters of the four Bishops to Rome in 1869 requested the approval of the Rule as it stood, with such additions as the Holy See required. This was done under F^r Anslemo Knapen & rejected by the appeal from Preston - & "put on the shelf" in America

Do not blame me unjustly for the rule now brought upon you! the style of which you witnessed in Chapter. Do not blame me for changing the Rule, for I did what I was commanded to do. The Bishop would never have troubled us but for the insubordination at Preston & our difficulties with the lay Sisters upheld by the Confessor in their unworthy assumption. What I send to M.M. Xavier is for you also – God is all powerful & we must pray fervently for help –

1. S^t Peter 1.6."You must be for a little time made sorrowful" &c &c.
Prayer, thought, confidence in God & a certain amount of knowledge are all necessary for us in this anxious crisis. We are bound to the three years trial of the Rule, but object to many points as destructive to the work, but we are advised to obey for the term & then to claim exemption from the power of the Bishop. I do not feel that we should get it unless by a miracle of God's mercy & the death of all we know who would oppose it!!! I heard that F^r Cobb was heart broken over the Preston rebellion!! Too late when the mischief is done – We shall come to nothing unless we meet & decide unanimously on certain points & a certain mode of procedure. Matters lie with the Community now more than with the Bishops who would make us Diocesan. Now I recommend this –

1. Draw out first your greatest objections to a change of Rule.
2. Then take the details & object with reasons for each

- 3 -

objection – Craisson will help you.

3. Then write out an appeal with which we may agree or not, to send to Rome. You have a perfect right to do it yourselves, but it will be better if we can agree on the same arrangements or as nearly as possible – only remember the objections already made at Rome. You witnessed at the Chapter that the two from Preston tried to tie up everything even to the confirmation of Local Superiors by the Bishop, which is absurd & totally destructive to the power which ought to lie in the Council General – so you know that we cannot trust our own body in some of these matters.

Ever Y^{rs} affect^{ly} in J.C.

C.C.

The Convent

+
JMJ

My very dear Kate [Wilkinson later Mother Maria Dolores]

Your two letters were received but I waited to let matters cool down before telling you that I think you ought to console your dear Mother and to devote yourself to her wishes until you see the Will of God more clearly Surely you must feel that she has many sacrifices to make that you cannot now understand! – In a short time you may see your way more clearly and there is no hurry in the case. I am very glad that you had a conversation with the P^A and hope you are feeling more happy – Pray very fervently for your Mother and ask our Lord to protect her especially and to lead her to desire only His most Holy Will. We shall all pray for you dear Child & perhaps you may soon be able to spend a few months in the Convent if even you [sic] do not quite gain your Mothers leave to enter as a Postulant Give my love to Clare & tell her not to fail on the 18th

Ever yrs affec^{ly} in the heart of our d^r Lord

C.C.

Sup.

Sep 15th 1869

All Saints
St L. on Sea
[Nov 1st / 69]

+
JMJ

Dear Kate [Wilkinson later Mother Maria Dolores]

I have only a moment to thank you for your letter & to say a word of encouragement to you before starting - When you have a great number of little acts of virtue to make in the day and get a big cross at the end of it thank our d^f Lord for the favour which will give you strength to follow the Standard of our blessed Lord and to gain the palm of victory.

Love to Clare – I hope you both remember your chapter of the Imitation daily or nightly & a wee meditation in the morning, if even only at the beginning of Mass

Ever yrs aff^{ly} in the Heart of the Holy Child

C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from the Original]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
March 12 [1872]

JMJ

My dear Child [Sister Maria Dolores Wilkinson]

I have read your letter, and the extracts enclosed, carefully – Your best plan will be to see Mr Banks and to follow his advice. You know that you cannot rely upon your Mother and unless the matter is legally arranged you might be the principal sufferer. –

Can you tell me who had your Will? Was it not sent to Mr Bellew or to your Mother – I have no recollection of it & thought you only renounced some money on w^h you had some immediate claim –

You had better explain the whole to Mr banks I will keep the extracts with your letter that I may quite understand what you decide upon with Mr B. in the course of his immediate advice.

With much love to you

I am ever yrs aff^{ly} in JC.

C.C.

Sup ss.

[Addressed on the outside]

Mother Maria Dolores

The Convent
July 6th 1872

+
JMJ

My dear Child [Sister Maria Dolores Wilkinson]

I recommend you to answer your Mama's letter very respectfully and to say that you will be very happy to pay the debts she has contracted for you when you have possession of the money that will be due to you at your fathers death, but in the meanwhile that you are only receiving £45 for your expenses ~~pa-~~ and [sic] wh she must know is a very low sum and that you must be fed and clothed &c not upon air! It does not weigh in the least upon my mind dear Mama since it is not my debt, though I shall be very happy to pay it if I live to inherit the money – When it comes under the Bishop's consideration I shall explain the matter to him and this before making my last Vows.

I recommend you not to trouble yourself ab^t the amount due to Mr B. you can do nothing at present, and when you get your money, you will very soon know the am^t claimed by Mr Bellew, which you are ready to pay, on your Mothers acct as her debt. No claim could be made upon you as a minor but as soon as it is in your power, in honour and in conscience you ought to pay it for her and of course your former letters have shewn this, and will stand good for it, (with any debt of

- 2 -

honour). I think your Mother only wants to make up a tale to to [sic] shew off Mr Bellews goodness & take the part of his children &c &c

May God bless & guide you to be patient in repeat [sic] the same thing a hundred times!

Ever yrs lovingly in JC

C.C.

The Convent
Dec 8 – 1875

+
JMJ

A very happy Feast

My dear Child, [Sister Maria Dolores Wilkinson]

I hope you may renew your Vows with much fervour until the end of the five years. – You will also renew them at the Epiphany & continue as usual to do so unless you hear to the contrary. I should have answered your letter sooner but that so many things were on hand that I had no time for further details.

I hope you seek all the advice necessary for you from Fr Holden, and that you expose any difficulty in your duties to Mth de Britto who so well knows how to help you. try to be guided more & more by true Christian principles in the perfection of the Commandments of God & in the practice of the Evangelical Counsels We can only thus keep ourselves secured in this double Citadel of God from the snares of the world, the flesh & the devil! Pray for me & for us all.

Yrs lovingly in Xt

C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from the Original]

Toul, Sep 1. 1876
The Convent.

+
JMJ

My dear Sister Maria Dolores [Wilkinson]

Though your d^r letter remains so long unanswered you have very often been in my mind & in my intentions before our Lord, you & poor Sybil!! Oh I trust our dear Lord has rewarded her in her sufferings by purifying her heart from the things of this world! – poor child! She will have help & consolation from the Priests near her & they will help her to resign herself to the cross our dr Lord has permitted to fall upon her or perhaps He has provided [it] especially for her purification that she may turn to Him for that peace “which passeth all understanding”!

I hope you made an excellent retreat & that you made truly practical resolutions, and that you have made notes to refer to & to keep you in the right spirit for the year, at least till you make another that you may grow each year more strong in faith, in zeal, generosity and charity – Ah! we shall never know till we get to heaven what our bountiful Lord & brother has done for us in choosing us out of the world to be nurtured in his pasture and to form in our hearts “a closed garden” where He will dwell with us in secret & condescend to love & be [loved] by His creatures with an intensity far beyond all comprehensible human love! Ah! this is indeed a

little fore taste of heaven which a thousand times repays our little secret acts of the day, which are also a pleasure in themselves; and again, are we not a thousand times repaid for the natural sacrifices of family and friends which will more or less cling to us humanly during our whole life to give us the merit of constant renewal!

Now you must tell me more ab^t poor Sybil & what you are doing for her in prayers & acts of mortification & humility. Without humility we are worth nothing. It is the ground work of all virtues & will help us more to charity & obedience than any other virtue. Do you sometimes say that little litany of Humility in the little Novices Man[ua]l just next to that of the Holy Child. If not take it now & then for the subject of petition at adoration time: - Then is the time to ask for great things, faith, zeal, generosity, humility, charity – But humility is the ground which is to be cultivated to bring forth the flowers of all the other virtues in your “enclosed garden”.

Write and let me know all about your retreat & your progress & indeed of all that interests you, & ever pray for your loving

Mother in JC

C.C.

I hope to return to St Leonards as soon as possible.

[The above letter is a little damaged and the words in brackets are not entirely legible]

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from the Original]

The Convent Dec 10 -77
St Leonards on Sea

+
JMJ

My dear Child [Sister Maria Dolores Wilkinson]

You would have had an answer to your letter long ago, but I have been ill ever since I came from London, just four weeks today, and not able to leave our room even to go to Mass. This will account for my not writing to you – But you renewed your Vows for the year at the Epiphany, and next Epiphany you will do the same as we all do, so you will be at rest. All that you tell me is satisfactory about yourself. – I wish I could go to Blackpool, but my visit must be deferred till the Spring when I can make my Visitations before going to America and take each house en route in turn. This alone will satisfy me for letters never say all one would like.

I am much interested in poor Sybil, but I do not believe in her relig; voc: - Why not go to India & marry again! Do you know why this last engagement was broken off? Do you know where Sybil is? Does she know or see her own Mother? or is she with Mrs Bellew If you can do good you ought still to interest yourself in Sybil and in Mrs Bellew.

I suppose you have no hope of doing any thing for poor Maud still you can pray for them all. What has become of Jack, is he still living?

Now my dear Child I must ask you no more questions but only say, May
God ever bless you and bring you to eternal bliss – Pray for me & for us all

Ever your loving Mother in JC.

C.C. Sup Gen.

[Addressed]

Sr Maria Dolores

C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from the Original]

[These two notes are undated]

Dr Sister, [Maria Dolores Wilkinson]

I will go up at 11 / 2 this morning

Yrs lovingly in JC

C.C.

My d^r Sister [Maria Dolores Wilkinson]

I was glad to have your letter & hope you are not much teased by letters from worldlings w^h only give distraction & can do no good.

Ever yrs aff^c.

C.C.

Sup.

Volume 8

pg 49 (& 50)

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Letter Book I
Letter 3, Pages 6-7]

[C.C.'s hand] [?]

October 6th 1856

Dr Mths Lucy & Alphonsa – [Mths Lucy Woolley & Alphonsa Kay]

I hope you are well through your day by this time and ready for a merry recreation. Let me hear all the particulars you have to mention. I inclose [sic] the good Bishop's letter to me, that you may see that I was not deceived in his good judgment as to the state of things to occupy his attention during the Visitation. I am anxious to hear what Miss Bowles decides upon. I will write for you the four principle causes for dismissal from a Religious Community, which is a good explanation of the Rule "If for any grave reason" etc etc.

Causes of dismissal Soc – Jesu -----

1st If one cannot remain in the Society without compromising the glory of God, and seems without the power of correcting her bad passions, even though these be hidden.

2. If not good for the Society – if grave faults are discovered, not shown at the beginning of probation, and if judged useless, and rather a burden to the Society; - but still worse if the individual were dangerous by her bad example; above all if she scandalized others by her words and actions. To suffer such things would not be charity, but a vice contrary to charity which she is answerable for, who is bound to maintain the peace and good order of the Society.

3. If by not sending a person away, one might injure the Society, and also the individual, considering the soul; if one admitted to simple Vows cannot bend to a life of Obedience, according to the prescriptions of the Society be it through the want of self-denial, or through natural hindrances, and incurable bad habits.

4. If one saw that the individual might hinder or scandalize those who are not in the Society, or had debts to a considerable amount, which she might have concealed in her first trial.

Any of these causes appear sufficient for us to believe it more pleasing to God to dismiss, with every kind consideration, the individual who would come under them, rather than to hold an imprudent charity in retaining her.

I wish you to consider these four Points of Dismission – first with Mth Alphonsa, and then each of you to pray and consider them for three days before God. I have considered them one year & ½. When you have thought well on the subject, give me your opinion firmly one way or another regarding Miss B. I have already the opinion of Mth. Theresa, Sr Mary Ignatia & Sr Maria Joseph, our three eldest Professed. The matter must be settled now, or be repented of too late. In case of my death, how could you act under similar events and similar independence and insolence? – Look on all sides. Either one side or the other is excessively painful to think of, but we must do our duty in true charity to the Community. I cannot palliate her conduct – after another year’s trial too! -- Remember the responsibility devolving upon you and Mother Alphonsus, regarding your decision. When you write, do not communicate the substance of your letter one to another. I wish you not to bias each other. May God bless you and enlighten you.

Ever your own faithfully in J.C.

C[ornelia] C[onnelly]

‘Memorare’

‘Veni Creator’ Do say frequently while thinking.

[1856]

My d^r Mth Lucy [Wooley]

I hope you make your P. Teachers answer the same questions that I send you otherwise you will have double work.

You have not made your P.T. who are in the fifth year write to me yet to ask for admission to the training school when their examination is over.

Do so without delay I wish them to be engaged here before Mr. Stokes put [s] his finger on them for the Nuns of N. Dame.

If you now wish to give any the hood you may do so, keep them with you till you come down here yourself.

I should like Margaret to go home for her vacations, but not Briget. – Mrs Capel is not nice & I do not think she will succeed with her house tho' I have sent her several boarders (Do not tell Sr Gabriel) She will not send Lizzie to the orphanage & I expect the poor child will follow poor little Sarah to the grave unless I let her come to the middle School.

Ever your own faithfully

In .C.

C[ornelia] C[onnelly]

Copy

My dear Mother Lucy [Wooley]

I answer your questions by return of post.

1st I think S^r Gab. Or any other Sister ought not to have cleaned out the furnace for one day, much less a week. It is a man's work. Do not have any words on the subject with anyone, but hire a man to do it, and give him what it may be worth per week. Do not let money be the cause of any differences; God Himself will take up your cause if you suffer injustice for His sake.

2. The money from S^r Martha you may receive as a loan to be paid back for her to the Society, or refunded to her, should she fail in her Vocation. You may pay your Bills with it as soon as received.

3. I think that Joséphine Mills ought to be allowed to take a situation if a good one offers. I have a person in view, but I have not engaged her. Let me know whether Joséphine is provided for.

I think I have answered your questions, and now I will put one to you in return. Why have you left my last letter unanswered? -I think you ought to have answered it. There are sins of omission as well as of commission, and also faults. There is such a thing as trimming in Religion. "He that gathereth not with me – scattereth abroad".

Ever dear Mother Lucy

[Cornelia Connelly]

Dated

Dec^r. 1st 1857

S.C. PROP ARCHIVES
[from Photostat]

Alla della Commissione
per la revisione delle regole
1887 3 – 6

[Extract from a letter from C.C. which forms part of a document probably written by Mother Lucy and forwarded to Propaganda by Bishop Goss]

1870

March 6 “It is the Rules that must be signed by all the Choir Sisters. The lay-sisters need not even hear it read. As they have made their vows simple and under the first vows, they have no need to be uneasy, and it would only wound them to know that Rome does not count them in the Community. While they are good and willing they have nothing to fear. They will be well cared for, but the Cardinal says they are not to sign. -----

I hope there may be no excitement over the Rules, and that all may be thankful, if every thing be approved in Rome and that all things should be properly settled before any more Sisters die. This is my anxiety, and if the Church demands certain changes, I do not see why any of us should demur. I simply say fiat fiat. I quite doubted that they would be willing to take over again all the Summary & the common rules, which have been approved repeatedly for others, but they have! Every Office and every Rule just as we left it and it is a splendid rule – splendid I say, simply splendid & all who keep up to the mark must be saved and sanctified. Glory be to God.

S.C. PROP. ARCHIVES

[Atta della Commissione per la revisione
della regole 1887 3 – 6]

(from Photostat)

[Extract from a letter from C.C. which forms part of a document probably written
by Mother Lucy [Wooley] and forwarded to Propaganda by Bishop Goss?]

March 16 [1870]

I enclose a copy of the Cardinal's letter in which you will see what has to
be done The Constitutions and Rules must be read by all the Choir sisters,
before they are signed. It will not be necessary for all to go through the Offices.
But they must hear all through the Constitutions and the Common Rules. The
former end at Page 28, and the Summary, Common Rules 1st & 2^d. Section begin
at page 60 Before you prepare for the readings, which will take two
good hours you had better read it yourself and get Father Cobb's help. On page
18 No I is added since 1 left Rome.

I left it thus

1. The Houses of this Institute are under the jurisdiction of the Bishop.
added since "Who may exercise over the House"
"and Sisters in the temporal administration and"
" spiritual direction all the authority conceded"
"to him by the Sacred Canons and the Apostolical"
"Constitutions

It is necessary to know before you sign what fresh obligations

[Continued below]

(2)

this brings and not sign in ignorance. I have no doubt myself that it is thought necessary, or it would not have been added, and as far as I see we have the protection of the Rule when once passed and that is binding on the Bishop as well as ourselves in our regard as they cannot go contrary to the Constitutions. But you must ask F^r Cobb or any other experienced Father who will explain to you just how far you will all be bound in any way. When you have a good sound clear answer, and this as soon as possible, send it to me as a clear & certain definition is absolutely necessary ----- I shall be so thankful to have F^r Cobbs opinion of what is actually binding on the Conscience as to obedience to the Ecclesiastical Superior and whether I am right in supposing that nothing contrary to the Rule could be imposed on us in case of any very peculiar circumstances. We want to be certain in difficult cases – The ordinary ones will take care of themselves ----- If all prove like our Saintly Bishop Grant we shall indeed be blessed – but with time, many trials must & will come so we must be prudent in Domino – and at least know what the Canons require and what they do not require.

Do not discuss these or any other points with the Sister. The bad effects of such discussions are abominable. We must venerate the rules and words of the Saints, for by these they became saints and pleasing to God. The only discussion is that which is necessary for our own light, and

(3)

this you will be helped to by F^r Cobb and not by the Sisters. As the Constitutions now printed by Propaganda stand we must regard them as prepared by the Consultore to meet the approbation of the Sacred Congregation. They would not have printed them, had not the Consultore revised them. Therefore there is really nothing to [inserted] discuss; but light and knowledge as to the Sacred Canons is necessary for certainty of conscience on this point

S.C. PROP.

ARCHIVES

[Atta della Commissione per la revisione
della regole 1887 3 – 6]

[Extract from a letter from C.C. which forms part of a document probably written by Mother Lucy [Wooley] and forwarded to Propaganda by Bishop Goss?]

March 24. [1870]

Every day that you keep the Rules is a loss to us. I want them all to send back to Propaganda the soonest possible, as D^r Grant ~~will~~ may leave Rome before long, if the hot weather comes on very suddenly. Cardinal Reisach has gone to heaven and there will be nobody in Rome to care for us or for the Constitutions if we dally over anything, therefore do not lose an hour. If you cannot see F Cobb nor get any answer, I would communicate thro' any one of the Fathers in confidence, simply that you may know what you are doing and then sign in order without delay. I told Mother Gerturde to know by writing from one she has confidence in.

[Extract from a letter from C.C. which forms part of a document probably written by Mother Lucy [Wooley] and forwarded to Propaganda by Bishop Goss?]

March 25. 1870 9to M. Lucy [Wooley] & M. Alphonsa [Kay]

I send you some hastily written notes from Mother Xavier on the change of term of Election. Make your own thoughts and observations, as it is no personal matter to any of us, and a very serious one.

If I could have held out for an election for life I would, (putting all personality aside, of course.) You know why I have always held to this principle, and why you all have. I should not hesitate a moment myself for the real stability of an election putting aside any individual. In naming a six years term I simply submit to higher Ecclesiastical opinions and wishes, added to which I think that we shall not be approved at all if we do not accept the six years' term. And besides this it seems to me that the eleventh article would secure us at least from inexperienced generals, but not from the influence of the Bishop of Southwark, who of course will be the presiding Bishop of the election. But he has no votes! nor could he know who would be likely to be elected, if the Sisters are faithful. You must however make your own remarks – Mother Mary Xavier is loyal to the Society to the back bone,

[Continued below]

(2)

And has shown the most unwavering devotion to it in many difficulties and real trials; so that I am not surprised at her urgent letter. You must think and act for yourselves.

I think I shall be obliged to send her remarks to Rome, following out the Cardinal's letter. Take your time, but do not dally.

I shall not be sorry to send these remarks to Rome, for they may think, that all would not be sorry to have these terms for elections, & that I am the principal mover. I shall be immensely relieved to know what wise, old Father Cobb has to say about the Canons.

S.C. PROP.
(from Photostat)

ARCHIVES

[Atta della Commissione per la revisione
della regole 1887 3 – 6]

[Extract from a letter from C.C. which forms part of a document probably written by Mother Lucy [Wooley] and forwarded to Propaganda by Bishop Goss?]

(In margin of document:) This letter to the Cardinal Barnabo was to enquire how far the extended Episcopal jurisdiction would effect us.

March 30 1870

My letter must have crossed yours, saying that I should write to the Cardinal, and that you were to wait for the answer before signing. I did so immediately, and you shall hear the answer when it comes. It will probably not be here before the middle of April.

You are in a most wonderful puzzle over the Vows!: you have all made your vows conditionally according to the Constitutions, and have promised to live and die in the Society, and only for grave reasons could be dispensed. Those, who did not say 'Perpetual' promised to live and die in it? How upon earth could any opinion change this fact – Only grave reasons approved by a Theologian and by Superiors could release any one. No one has yet made her last Vows, which must be done only by all that the rule requires, and with the permission of the Bishop. How could Propaganda, or any fresh provision in the rule affect Vows already made, I do not see, but I shall be glad to put it before Propaganda – And all must be

[Continued below]

(2)

made certain. The Sisters of Notre Dame name one year in their Vows, but they go on very steadily to the end generally, and we hear no tales about them. The new form is for the safety of the individual, and for our own preservation from unfortunate, shilly-shally people, and ever-changing women, that sometimes get into religion by hook or by crook. But it could never affect Vows already made, without a wonderful perversity of reasoning.

Let each Sister be perfectly free to write anything she likes to me in the way of difficulty. As we shall have to wait for an answer to the letter already sent to Propaganda, there will be plenty of time for anything to be proposed. And now we may as well wait for America to send their copies, and this will give plenty of time to forsee all doubts, and the possibility of any danger to any one.

The time is nothing compared to certainty of conscience in any thing of so serious a nature. _ And perhaps we may meet before the Rules come from America, or that we get our second answer

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Letter Book IV. Letter 5 – page 4]

Registered Letter

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother (dated

The Convent S^t L – on Sea

Dec^r 22nd 1871

+
JMJ

Dear Mother Lucy [Woolley]

I have received your letter of good wishes & also those of the Sisters, which I shall answer in a few days. And in return I wish you all the spiritual blessings you most need, together with the joyful felicitations of the season. I must however return the note for £10 which I do not wish to accept, not could I do so while certain matters remain unexplained. It will require time, patient investigation & much thought, before I could act upon the information already received. I presume the SS will sleep at St Anne's tonight & that we shall see them in the morning. I hope they were well wrapped up & provided with Hot * water for their feet. Again wishing you all Christmas joy I remain

Yrs in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Sup GI

* Hot has been inserted on the copy in C.C's hand.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Letter Book IV. Letter 76 – page 96.]

Copy of Our Mother's letter to M. Lucy. (dated

The Convent St L-on Sea
Nov^r. 26. 1873

+
JMJ

Dear Mother Lucy ^[Wooley]

I am sorry to hear you are anything but well, and in reply to the business part of your letter of the 2nd regarding M. Alphonsus, I suppose you know that when she sent S^r Gonzaga away she was fully aware that I could not supply her place. It would be much better to take a secular mistress than to allow the Sisters to overwork themselves.

Regarding the other part of your letter I am willing to believe that you mean what you say – Let by-gones be by-gones. I am always ready to forgive & to put things in the most favourable light according to God. When matters will not bear discussion the only safeway is to put them in the hands of God. He is the one great & just judge who at the same time is full of mercy & will measure out meat in due portions. I am glad your Examinations are over & wish you every happiness & peace of mind on your coming Feast Day. With love & kind messages to the Sisters

I remain

Affectionately yours in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

[Copy letter from C.C. made on Mother Lucy Wooley's behalf by another Sister, and sent to Bishop Danell by Mother Lucy with other copy correspondence.]

The Convent
S^t Leonards on Sea
Dec 7th 1873

+
JMJ

Dear Mother Lucy

I write a line to let you know that we are to have the opening of the New Convent, Blessing of the Bell, and a profession & clothing on the 15th Octave of the Immaculate Conception. I have invited Mother Gertrude & Mother Eulalia to come down for the occasion, and I shall be happy to see you also if you like to join them.

I hope you are quite recovered from your late indisposition – We are all well with the exception of the colds of the season.

With affectionate messages to the Sisters

I remain your in the
Heart of Jesus.

C.C.

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE ARCHIVES

[Copied from typed copy authenticated by the Rev. L E. Whatmore.]

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Convocation of the General Chapter

June 30th 1874.

My dear Mother Lucy,

I beg to inform you that the R^t Rev^d the Bishop of Southwark has empowered me to convoke the General Chapter to be held at St Leonard's on the 17th of August 1874, and I send you herewith the printed Instructions regarding the Local Chapter received by the last post. You will please to act promptly on the directions of the Bishop of Southwark.

"The General Chapter will consist of nineteen professed Choir Sisters, chosen in proportion to the number of Sisters in each Community.

The Mother House at S^t Leonard's having 41 [In pencil '(42)'] Sisters will choose 5 Deputies

The Novitiate at Mayfield with 3 [In pencil above '(6)'] Sisters will choose one Deputy.

Mark Cross with 7 Sisters will choose 1 Deputy.

Toul (France) " 6 " " " 1 "

Blackpool " 15 " " " 2 "

Hadham " 14 " " " 2 "

Preston

St Wilfrid's " 13 " " " 1 "

S^t Ignatius " 6 " " " 1 "

S^t Walburge " 6 " " " 1 "

The Convents

In America " 40 " " " 3. "

- 2 -

You must pray that all may tend to the good of the Community & the glory of God.

The Veni Creator is to be said daily and the Sub tuum praesidium &c

I remain

My dear Mother Lucy

Yrs affc^{ly} in J C.

Cornelia Connelly

To the Superioress

The Convent

S^t Wilfrids Street Preston

S^r Mary Ignatia

Sec^y

May 5th 1875My dear Mother Lucy ^[Wooley]

I am very glad to hear from you and to know that you feel all your bodily needs are charitable attended to and that anything you ask for is granted, at the same time as you say that you avoid singularity in eating and drinking which certainly is very necessary in Community life. I am sorry that you put “Conscience” (!) on the part of your letter which prevents me from making use of it for your advantage.

I must frankly tell you that I do not think that Mth de Britto acts under any instruction from others. Her own good judgement doubtless directs her in what is necessary for peace & union in her Community, which she is bound to preserve. Perhaps also you may have misunderstood her orders. Certainly she never meant that you were not to speak to any one in hours of recreation or in cases of necessity. Very likely she may have said that you were not to have private conversations (out of order & rule). But why not be frank with her and tell her the substance of what you have mentioned to me? – I think dear M. Lucy you will readily see yourself if you reflect dispassionately that it would not be conducive to peace & union that you should visit Preston under present circumstances, but I shall be very glad if F^r Cobb goes over to Bkpl that you should have the consolation of a visit from him – You know he often goes there & it is better to exercise a little patience.

I am not surprised that while you have no occupation in the duties of the House you should feel isolated as you say, but this would be the case anywhere - And as soon as you are sufficiently rested to take an interest

[Continued below]

- 2 -

in the works of the Community no doubt this will pass off – and you will again feel
happy & have the grace to put all your trust in God

(no end

&c &c -----

[Cornelia Connelly]

Letter to a Sister in Temptation
to discouragement

My dear Sister

I am satisfied that all these trials are temptations that a good God either provides for you or allows to come upon you for your good. We have only to look into the lives of the saints to find that they passed through the same.

Peculiarities of mind are not necessarily "eccentricities". You are certainly not eccentric. I should say on the contrary too centric rather than otherwise. I went to communion this morning & begged St. Ignatius to give you all his own strong zealous spirit. And now I think if you were to offer your self to God saying "Receive O Lord" &c the prayer of St. Ignatius that you may know the ^{holy} will of God as to your vocation to America that you may obtain this great graces (sic). It is a great thing to know God's will & to be ready to do it generously. I will not say what I think about it because I wish to leave you to God's inspirations & to your fidelity to those same.

Ever yours lovingly in J.C.

C.C.

[To the same]

I am quite anxious to hear how many children you will open with. No doubt they miss poor ----- very motherly care & I trust all the Sisters will try to make up her loss to the school as far as in them lies. The children expect to find Mothers in the Sisters & indeed we cannot expect them to be attached to the place unless they do find this motherly care -----

[To the same Duties of Subject]

Dear Mother -----

.....the best news I could hear would be that you are able to help M----- in every way & that you accommodate your mind and desires to that of the Superior wherever you may be. The subjection of the highest part of the soul is sublime obedience – and the contrary is generally the most subtle pride. I am not pointing at any thing so do not think I speak other than I say. You will never really work well with any one unless you think it possible for others to know much better than your self and where there is the will there is the way. Perhaps this is what you are doing and that you have found the way .

I hope the children are made happy with you & that the numbers are on the increase. This will be a consolation to poor M-----

Ever y^r affect

C.C.

Volume 8

pg 72

SHCJ

ARCHIVES ROME

[Copy letters in notebook]

Letter to a Sister in Temptation to discouragement

Aug 30 / 74

Thanks for your dear letter & all the good wishes it brings. I think of you very often & it is possible that you may have to come when ----- returns. It will not do for us to let your health go to ruin by neither sleeping or eating. We cannot afford to lose you just yet & besides you are not ready for heaven & there is much to be done to shorten your purgatory. Pray eat & sleep well & be ready to come with --

Yours lovingly in X^t

C.C.

May God bless & guide you in your pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Leonards Martyrs? living though they be.!

C.C.

[To the Same]

Whitsunday & all are on the Mayfield Picnic

Dear Mother –

I have not thanked you for your letters by taking my pen to do so, but I was very glad that you remembered to write & your letters are always welcome.

I hope ~~that~~ by keeping the advertisement in the Papers that your numbers may be filled after the holidays. Keep up your courage I should have been in - - before this had I been able to make the journey.
post time.

Ever yours lovingly in J.C.

[To the same on her Feast]

Dear Mother,

I wanted to send you a long letter for the feast of today & now only have time to say that we remembered you at Mass & Communion & talked over our dear - - - in the Society – at our talking dinner today & this was next to the pleasure of having you with us to receive our festal wishes. May your Dear Patron obtain a large share of grace & every help to you. Such talking is going on before & behind me that they say I must be writing what they are saying. It is all good & all send you heaps of love & wish you all the graces flowing from the Sacred Heart.

Ever believe me

Your loving Mother in J.C.

C.C.

[To the same]

St Leonards
Dec. 16, 1877

My dear Mother

I am very sure that you do not know how constantly you are in my mind nor how much I feel for the troubles you have had - - - they have no doubt been real troubles & the only way I can accept them [as] such is that our good God has provided them for you and for me. They are mine because I must share in all that falls to others & especially to those whose offices are more or less dependent upon me. You do not know I am sure what I have felt for you & with you because I have never expressed to you the sympathy I have felt in your various difficulties and crosses. They had to come to you for Christ's dear sake & if you are wounded by & with His dear wounds I shall not be sorry for them however hard to ones nature.

Write to me my dear child & tell me how you are progressing & whether you find - - - a relief or whether there are any other difficulties.

Do not think that your welfare & happiness are not at my heart – perhaps this thought may come – if so drive it away – I want very much to know that you are happy & that the change has been a benefit to you which you do not regret. I have heard nothing of you from - - - therefore write yourself & all about yourself.

I have been very ill for the last four weeks & I am now writing to you from our bed The gout has taken to run all over my system & to become very troublesome.

With much love ever your loving Mother in J.C.

C.C.

[To the same]

St Leonards
Dec 27, 1877

Dear Mother

It is sunshine to me to think of you on my sick bed as being again happy and having the chance to do well with the dear children, who are always on my heart though there are very few of them that I know. If I had never seen them it is always the same. That they may learn the joy of loving the God who died for us & of being happy in the Convent where he dwells in His most loving form of Holy Childhood. Stiffness and rigour will not bring forth love and these are not the spirit of the Holy Child. But pains-taking for the eagerness of love will always bring forth delicious fruit - the post closes

Good bye God will bless you

Your loving Mother in J.C.

C.C.

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pg 77

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from the Original]

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
April 10th [1874]

+
JMJ

My dear Sister

I trust the fruition of your retreat may be all that you now desire it to be, and that your good resolutions may be remembered in all your Examens of conscience day & night, to the end. As to judge of things wisely is to view them as God Himself views them so the exercise of Charity proves to Him what we are. A thought word or deed against Charity is truly a condemnation of ourselves in His sight if we consent to such act – but if on the contrary we humble ourselves, interiorly acknowledging ourselves perhaps far worse in His eyes than the one we condemn, we shall gain merit from the evil suggestion of our corrupt nature, with an increase of the virtues of Charity and humility.

May God bless and sanctify you each day more & more

Yrs lovingly in Xt

C.C. Sup.

My d^r Sister –

You are totally in the wrong. And you had no right whatever to refuse M. Lucy's request on the plea that you had referred the matter to me. And to demand "a witness" seems to me an insult. I recommend you to beg pardon without delay & with humility and to do the penance willingly & gratefully. Once within the last few years when you were told that God w^d never bless yr pride, yr answer was a fearful one! I shudder whenever I think of it! Take care now how you stand lest you fall for ever.

2. You did not tell me that M. Alph had told you that you sh^d see yr letter in the carrier's hands. This changes the case quite.

Now my d^r Sister I will tell you what I never before told you & I do not want to pain you too much – Before I took you away fm the Nov at St. L. our saintly & lowly minded B[ishop] told me you were not the person fit for the office I had given you I felt the truth of his judgement & removed you with as little

[copy ends here]

[Extract from a letter quoted in Volume VII of Mother Maria Joseph Buckle's Life (p.98 of typescript).]

I hope if you have anything to do with that Sister you did not want to have in the schools that you will try to laud the great grace of a religious vocation and frequently to produce an occasion to talk on appreciating a religious life, striving to bring forth many of those good things you noted from the retreats given – It is this that is so much needed with certain young people. There is another one you can help often in the same sort of way if only you are humble and do it sweetly and lovingly – Now this sort of help is of more value to me than all the personal kindness that could be lavished – We all have a certain amount to put in the balance of charity and help to our neighbour. Try and do your best in this regard and God will bless you and reward you.

Ever yours lovingly in JC.

C.C.

Volume 8

pg 80 [& 81]

SHCJ ARCHIVES - U.S.A.

[Copied from a copy]

[This letter has been copied from a little brown paper-covered notebook, measuring 3½ x 5¾ inches; on the fly leaf is written in Mother St. John's (McMaster) handwriting 'copies of letters from Mother Foundress.]

Jan. 5, 1851

Dear Children in J.C.

You have begged me to tell you what I most desire to see you grow and excel in. This day being the eve of the Epiphany, our great feast of the year when we renew our Vows, it may perhaps be well for me to comply with your request and give you a little remembrance for the year, but in doing so I need only make use of the Saints and apply their words to you being far above any I could give you of my own. Certainly I most ardently desire to see you closely united to God in prayer and in all your actions, that the example of each in every virtue may assist and encourage the others and above all I would wish to see you excel in the perfection of charity and true humility, and may you be free from all inordinate affections, subdued and mortified by the grace of God, and so composed especially in speaking, that nothing not even a single word may be observed in you that would not tend to the edification of all around you, I

(continued below)

- 2 -

Jan/ 5. 1851

severity (?)

would also wish you to learn how to interchange ~~servile~~ and firmness with mildness and mercy, so as not to allow yourselves to be turned from what has been determined upon to be acceptable to God; and may you have strength of mind to resist the weakness of many, not losing confidence by reason of contradictions nor suffering yourselves to be elevated by prosperity not dejected by adversity, being prepared were it necessary, to submit even to death for the love and in the service of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Finally I would wish to see you most illustrious in all the grace of virtue; but at least do not be wanting in an exemplary piety and probity and a sincere affection for the Community (I mean the Order), together with humility, I repeat it which is the only safe guide of other virtues, humility as being especially the garden of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience. May the practice of this virtue grow and increase in you till it brings you to the perfection of Charity, and to the eternal enjoyment of the Beatific Vision

Most dear in J.C.

yours unworthy.

C.

Volume 8

pg 82 [& 83]

SHCJ ARCHIVES – U.S.A.

[Copied from a copy]

[This letter has been copied from a little brown paper-covered notebook, measuring 3½ x 5¾ inches; on the fly leaf is written in Mother St. John's (McMaster) handwriting 'copies of letters from Mother Foundress.]

J.M.J.

Catholic Schools
14, Gate Street,
London

Dieu Seul.

Thursday, 1850. [1851]

My dear Children,

One word only to say we are 69 steps high, and happy in the love of our poor and lowly Jesus. I am in penance – having been out shopping all day, and am writing this in the middle of our nice little iron 4 posts. You would be quite charmed with our attics – we shall have a Community room, and a reception room with 3 large and one small cellar, a kitchen and refectory below, and a larder or pantry big enough for 20. You will have another parting, for Sr. Stanislaus and Sr. Martha may come on Saturday! But I feel quite sure you have wiped away all naughty tears in the soul – strengthening flame of love, “Loving in strength rather than in too much sweetness.” Be one in the heart of our Divine Spouse, and He will help us and do all things for us. Let us try to be great in

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pg 83

- 2 -

Thursday, 1850

Humility, and little in ourselves.

Laus Deo & Mariae.
Yours in J.C.
C.

Dear Children in Xt.

You have begged me to tell you what I most desire to see you grow and excel in. This day being the feast of the Epiphany, our great feast of the year when we renew our Vows, it may perhaps be well for me to comply with your request and give you a little remembrance for the year, but in doing so I need only make use of the Saints and apply their advice & their words to you being far above any I could give you of my own.

Certainly I most ardently desire to see you closely united to God in prayer and in all your actions, that the example of each in every virtue may assist and encourage the other, and above all I would wish to see you excel in the perfection of Charity and true humility;- & may you be free from all inordinate affections, subdued and mortified by the grace of God, and so composed & circumspect especially in speaking, that nothing, not even a single word may be observed in you that would not tend to the edification of all around you.

I would also wish you to learn how to interchange severity & firmness with mildness and mercy, so as not to allow yourselves to be turned from what has been determined upon to be acceptable to God; & may you have strength of mind to resist the weakness of many, not losing confidence by reason of

contradictions nor suffering yourselves to be drawn by entreaties from that which reason & the Service of God demand, not allowing yourselves to be elevated by prosperity not dejected by adversity, being prepared were it necessary, to submit even to death for the love & in the service of our dear Lord and Saviour J.C.

Finally I would wish to see you most illustrious in all the grace of virtue; but at least do not be wanting in an exemplary piety & probity, and a sincere affection for the Community, (I mean the Order) together with humility, I repeat it, which is the only safeguard of all other virtues, true humility - also being especially the garden of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience. May the constant practice of this virtue grow and increase in you till it brings you to the perfection of Charity - & to the eternal enjoyment of the Beatific Vision

Most dear in Xt

Yrs unworthily.

C.

[This letter has been copied from a little brown paper-covered notebook, measuring 3½ x 5¾ inches; on the fly leaf is written in Mother St. John's (McMaster) handwriting 'copies of letters from Mother Foundress.]

January 6th

My very dear Sisters

What better shall I say to you on Epiphany morning than the old salutation. Arise and trim your lamps and be no longer unfaithful but faithful. St John was asked why he always said the same thing and he repeated again the same, "love one another", and St Francis of Sales "Love God". That is how you will learn how to love Him, so I repeat to you "Be faithful trim your lamps with the oil of fidelity especially by fidelity in little things." This is the co-operation with divine grace. This will insure your perfection, and send you on to all that our Blessed Lord asks of you, and to the fulfilment of His designs upon each of you. Remember the work of each day: "My God to glorify, my Saviour to imitate, my soul to save, eternity to prepare for!" What a soul in hell would give for this one day or hour to make a perfect act of contrition! I thank you all dearly for your nice presents – they are most dear

[Continued below]

January 6th 1854

to me, because of their being the marks and the fruits of diligence. "By their works ye shall know them." Let all be diligent in giving proofs of love this year, and as you step on through the muddy streets, love God with your feet, and when your hands toil, and when you teach the children, love Him with His little ones, and may you be blessed in your actions and in your members with an abundance of Divine love, and purified and prepared in this world, as far as possible, to acquire an eternity of love.

Pray for your unworthy servant in Christ

C.

[Extract of Rev^d Mother's letter, when returning from Rome April 1854]

Go on and accept whatever God sends, whether it be joy or suffering, praise or humiliation; for you know we must consider these as His creatures to lead us to sanctification, and of value to us just as we use them.

Ah my dear Sisters how much depends on your fidelity in little things – how much – Who knows what misfortunes might fall upon us by the infidelity of one only, in some apparently little act? Who knows? Many a time has a whole Community suffered through the infidelity of one only. Be faithful and more and more faithful – and thus more and more united to our divine Spouse. My very dear Sisters let us try day by day to do what He would do: - To speak as He would speak – To think as He would think – To desire what He desires; - To love what He loves and thus make our life one with Him, being in one continued act of love, from night till night, and from year to year, till we find this miserable ungrateful wasteful life, which is more heavy than the heaviest purgatory can ever be.

Convent All Souls – March 28 – [1851 – 55]

Dieu Seul

My dear Sisters in Xt

May the Spirit of God be with you in the perfection of His Charity.

I have written to you all but not so fully as you seem to wish and as I would wish, still quite as much so, as time and many occupations would allow – First I wish to say a word on your practice – perhaps you had better take three more distinct points 1st Acts of poverty, 2nd Suffering 4th [sic] Obedience. Of course you would make your acts suit your office – For instance S^r Stanislaus could make many of the 1st Poverty in attention by cooking well, neither burning up the food nor serving it half cooked, so that no medicine may be required to make the stomach bear it &c &c &c The 2nd Chastity or Suffering, that is mortification by attention to the little details of her duties such as watching ly [sic] to put the salt, mustard, spoons, knives tin for washing up with the little cloth in it – She alone serving till all are served & then beginning to read, (about 7 or 8 minutes after Grace). The Reading sh^{ld} last about 20 minutes and at the last five the hot water served with the little cloth & towel. Let us make a list of acts

- 1 mats
- 2 plates
- 3 Napkins
- 4 Salt cellars
- 5 Mustard
- 6 Vinegar
- 7 Pepper
- 8 Spoons

[continued below]

- 9 Knives & Forks
 - 10 Not to spill
 - 11 to be served hot
 - 12 to be on clean dishes
 - 13 not to be messed such as mixing fish & meat together
 - 14 to be able to say at the end of the meal nothing has [been] half cooked nor burnt
 - 15 to learn these acts so as to repeat them by heart once before the dinner bell & once at the end of her own dinner
-

In all 15 acts at one meal & Sister Alphonsus will please write

The 3rd pt Obedience takes on the general Constitutions, the Common Rules and you office, especially in all by Obedience to the Head in office and in leaving all doubts to be decided by the temporary Superiors and assistants – All are to be obedient to S^r Alphonsa & S^r Alphonsa to her admonitress when necessary & advisable according to the Spirit of God. Be full of joy despising the pettinesses of women seeking and loving the Poverty Suffering and obedience of our Divine Model – Great in H. little in P –

Yr own in Xt

C.[ornelia Connelly]

January 5th 1856

My very dear Sisters & Novices –

You are expecting a few words from me on the Eve of the Epiphany, and tho' I am very much fatigued, I must say three words to you. Which are the three sweetest words I can find? Without much thought let us take those ever present to us in our Religious Life – Poverty – Chastity – Obedience.

These are sweeter than pages of ordinary expressions, since they embrace the whole perfection of the Gospel truths and the Counsels of our Divine Lord, and are the foundation of our supernatural life. Yes, my dear Sisters – you will find food for Meditation every day and every hour throughout the whole year & for the rest of your life in these dear words, so that my letter will be very long in your hearts if you engrave therein Poverty – Chastity – Obedience as the sum of the pages my heart would dictate at this moment.

May these blessed Counsels be fixed in your hearts, so that you may day by day understand them more & more brightly and love them more intensely, and practice them more diligently, not forgetting to cultivate their handmaids and attendant angels, our old friends though ever new, Vigilance, Humility and Fidelity.

These are the ever darling companions of our Religious life, always ready to brighten the clouds of our own natural defects, turning these defects even into some hidden treasure to be stored up for Heaven, and at the same time bringing with them the strength of a hidden life in God; and it is in this obscurity from all human view that the Divine Light shines; and in this hidden life we are clothed with our Coat of mail, that we may be enabled to fight spiritually

[continued below]

in the army of God's Church Militant.

When we are seeking to know more of our dear Sisters, Poverty, Chastity and Obedience in their hidden virtues, let us turn to the great Martyr St John the Baptist and compare our very little sacrifices to his life of penance & prayer, and let us bow down our heads at even the name of sacrifice when we think of ourselves. Whose standard have we chosen my d^r Sisters? – And who are we following? St John went before Him, and after a life of penance, suffered humanly speaking, the most ignoble of deaths! –

Let us never think we have done enough, but more & more try to imitate the faith of the great St. John. If you have Faith, you will learn the value of a suffering & hidden life, and it is to this life you are especially called by the very Name you bear.

Be then like the Holy Child Jesus in your thoughts, in your words, and in your actions, cherishing diligence & fidelity in what is called little by daily occurrence – and be persuaded that nothing is little with God, if it is in the practice of Virtue – God & I – Fidelity.

One word more & I must finish. Remember that you all have three Superiors – God – your Religious Superior - & your own conscience.

Make of your conscience a strict watchful & diligent Superior, and you will be sure of finding in our Lord and in your Religious Superior very gentle loving and forgiving Superiors – a blessing which I sincerely wish in the Name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

I am always faithfully & lovingly

Yours in JC

Cornelia [Connelly]

SHCJ ARCHIVES – US.A.

[Copied from a copy]

[This letter has been copied from a little brown paper-covered notebook, measuring 3½ x 5¾ inches; on the fly leaf is written in Mother St. John's (McMaster) handwriting 'copies of letters from Mother Foundress'.]

January 5th 1857.

Ever Silent, Tranquil, Immutable, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God.

My very dear Sisters in J.C.,

The eve of our dear Epiphany feast warns me that you will expect a letter from me; if it contains but three lines. You have made your dear retreat, and we are just finishing ours, and preparing for the renewal of our vows to-morrow morning. I need not recall to your mind the hidden treasure we are secretly to carry to our lovely Saviour in His lowly manger, nor with what floods of devotion we are willingly to offer ourselves to be possessed by Him in the sweet bonds of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, nor that we are to imitate His littleness by our humility, nor that like the Magi we are to offer the star of salvation by vigilance, humility, and fidelity, encouraging ourselves and one another, in the habit of prayer, recollection, and constancy in the practice of all Christian virtues. These are old and oft repeated

[continued below]

- 2 -

January 5th 1857

themes, and subjects of our daily intercourse – and yet they are ever new! What shall I say? Three sweet words, the first and the last – I should be inclined to say but one – Faith – but I must kiss my ring – and say Faith, Hope and Charity, and wish you all the full possession of the three theological virtues. If you practice these with perfect constancy, you will become saints; you are saints already, but not sealed till death proves your constancy. May your stability prove true till constancy is sealed by death, and by a death which is quickly to introduce you to the Beatific Vision, where you are to be filled with the joy of heavenly light, and encompassed by the ecstatic delight of loving God without interruption. Now we must delight in Him by our homely actions of Charity, and by our passive cooperation, not resisting the love that would fill our poor hearts. – Let us not rest, my dear Sisters, for we are ourselves the only obstacle to the overflowing of His Divine love.

I must not say more than that I am ever your devoted

Servant in J.C.

Cornelia

S.H.C.J.

Convent S.H.C.J.

St Leonards

Jan 5th, 1857

First Week

My very dear Sisters in J.C.

I have promised you a few lines frequently or every week in which you may have a review of our daily Conferences, therefore I shall make it a duty to write to you every Monday Evening. Sometimes it may be in a note of three lines only, & if so, you must take it as it comes.

I shall pass over several Conferences in which we considered St. Thomas's beautiful Exposition of the state of Beatitude, having begun methodically on perfection in general, which occupied us during the two last Conferences.

1st. That it is the desire of God that we should strive to be perfect. "Be ye perfect as &c

2. That perfection consists in Charity.

That is – in a fixed and habitual disposition to do the Will of God in all things, with the desire to please Him, & to treat our neighbour as we should wish to be treated ourselves. To do as you would be done by. The foundation of perfection lies chiefly in three points – Humility, renouncement of all passing (temporal) things: - and the love of Crosses. The edifice we are to build must be according to our model in the life of J.C. and in the practice of His Counsels. Let us then prepare our materials for the building of this beautiful edifice by an ardent desire of perfection, by a noble courage

[continued below]

(2)

in overcoming all difficulties, & by a firm resolution to suffer death itself, rather than to give up our enterprize. Pere Surin gives three helps to us.

- 1st. Our state of Life (as Religious)
2. Good direction (Superiors & Conferences)
- 3 Good & fervent examples.

My dear Sisters are we not all thus assisted, and bound to help each other, as well as look to ourselves? – to flap our wings together on the way to Paradise? – Let us more than ever begin to cultivate the spirit of recollection, & the remembrance of the Holy Presence of God, with a renewed determination to conquer ourselves & all our evil inclinations. Yes – pray, - and practice mortification, that you may accomplish that which is wanting in the Passion of J.C. – your co-operation

Ever yours faithfully

Cornelia.

All Souls

Jan^y 29th 1857

Feb. 25. [1857?]

Convent of the H.C.Jesus –
S^t Leonards.

My very dear Sisters in J.C.

It is not quite a month since my last letter to you, and we have reached Ash Wednesday; therefore I must cast aside our few conferences during the past mo. and take those only of the two days preceeding this solemn day when we are reminded of the little heap of dust that is soon to be [the] only remains of our miserable bodies –

I must cut short these reflections and give you the sum of our conferences & proposals

- 1st That we shall particularly unite ourselves to the Passion of our Lord during Holy Mass, placing ourselves on Mount Calvary, remembering that the past, the present & the future are equally present to our Lord, and that the Sacrifice of the Mass is to us the same as that on Mount Calvary – Oh my dear Sisters how is it that we see so few souls truly united to the passion of our Lord? – So few who are willing to be crucified with Him? – Because of failure in recollection & mortification – Because of forgetfulness of the sufferings of our Model of love – Let us no longer fail but now try our very best saying “I will now begin” yes my Jesus! I will in Spirit follow Thee to Calvary & feel the stripes they laid on Thee; with David in his blest vision of Thee be wounded with Thee & in Thee, that on the Cross I may die with Thee, in all my daily obedience and little sacrifices be one with Thee, and never

[continued below]

- 2 -

to [sic] seek myself in blame or praise, in contempt of honour but in Thee Sweet Victim of Charity –

2^{ndly} Let us as a continuance of the points of our practice encourage ourselves with the remembrance of our high calling, which our Lord has so particularly blessed that He promises, that we shall shine as stars [ne as has been nearly obliterated by a crease in the paper] – Let us ask ourselves whether we trample upon all inferior motives in fulfilling our duty to our children – Have we endeavoured to form them according to our Divine Model – Have we represented Him in our conduct to them? – Have we led them to that union of prayer which must secure their virtuous & pious resolutions? – Such as we are such will be our children –

3^{rdly} [sic] For our last point let us resolve never to say that little “I” unless absolutely necessary – Let us bow our heads, and make an [altered from in] interior act of humility when we have used it without absolute necessity in fulfilling the duties of our office – If our thoughts, words & actions resemble those of our dear Mother none of them will be useless – We shall think for the love of God & speak for Him [most of for Him obliterated by the crease] and act for Him – The more we love God the more perfectly we shall be in the joy and liberty of His children – forgetting ourselves & rejoicing ^{in [sic]} Him – we must [~~we must~~] take the joyful song of the lark soaring high in the heavens as a resemblance of our recreation joy, and his descent into the hollow of the grass to build his nest, as a picture of our silent humility out of recreation – That is what we wish & aim at.

[continued below]

- 3 -

We come to ^{the end of [sic]} our third [rd of third has been altered] and last pt of Examination for Lent I have only to add that you will find the “Penances for Lent” a fruitful help in your practice – Prayer & mortification are the two feet that lead us to perfection. “Be ye perfect as my Father in heaven is perfect”. May the Holy Will of God be done in you & by you as it is in heaven.

I am yours faithfully in Jesus C.

Cornelia -

[1858]

My dear Sisters in JC.

The Eleventh Anniversary of the Epiphany must not pass without a few lines to wish you every blessing with the Manifestation of our dear Lord in your hearts.

One word only. I will write to you, and the definition of this word we shall talk over, as I expect to see you very soon, and this [word] is attention – It is a very simple word, used very often by worldlings in every class of life, perhaps more frequently than by religious, but when we apply it in a religious sense it speaks in volumes & may be carried into every thought word & deed. I beg of you all my dear sisters to apply it now in a religious sense each according to her own devotional attrait, and when I am with you we shall finish our letter, and you will give me your views about this common little word.

May our dear Lord be with[you] on this blessed Feast, and accept the renewal of your Holy Vows by an abundant bestowel of His Grace – So that you may henceforth be so attentive to all the duties they imply that you may be at all times ready, as the wise virgins, to hear His voice, & faithful in corresponding to it.

Ever yrs faithfully in the

Heart of the Holy Child

C.C.

The Convent S^t Leonards on Sea
July 11 – 1867

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JMJ

My dear Sisters (in America)

As we are hoping to see Mth M.X. and one of you with her in a few days I must send you ^{only} a few lines to say that F^r Carter left us yesterday morning to visit Mayfield with two of the Sisters S^r Veronica & S^r F Xavier he wanted very much to take S^r F.X. with him and offered to pay her passage out & back if she was not happy there – Mth M Ig: will tell you how delighted every one was with his visit and with all he had to say about you to-gether in particular, but as I am expecting Mth M X it will be more satisfactory to you to hear all from her – He wants the pick & choice of the Society to be sent out at once!- so we may not think of England and all that is required here if only Sharon may be set up for a model house! I have promised to go out next Spring & take two with me if I can – If I am in this world understood – Ghost do not cross the water they say! We are watching the post as well as the time of arrival of vessels – This being written in the garden under the trees – where we sat & talked with F^r Carter – you must ask him to tell you what he did & said here – The children acted the Xth Minstrels

[continued below]

(2)

with black crape on their faces, old dog tray & a farce, taming a tiger, and we all laughed heartily – F^r Carter sang Old Grimes for us under the trees and we had quite a Jubilee of his visit – No body had time to write (for it is a busy time) except S^r M Veronica – besides as we are expecting Mth M Xavier it would have been useless –

I hope you will enjoy his return and make much of it – He shewed me such a nice letter from Miss Higgs his Schl Mistress of whom he thinks the world and all – She told him all he could want to know in his absence – Have every body to receive him & kneel down to get his first blessing He values gratitude & justly expects to be loved & valued & respected in return for all he has done for us in America We could not make enough of him & he sounded your praises to everyone.

Yours lovingly in J.C.

C.C.

Rome June 2 1869

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JMJ

My dear Sisters

Thanks for your dear little wee letters. They are always very welcome

1st I hope the drawing books have gone to be bound –

2nd No frames need be got unless the parents would not be satisfied without.

It is a joy to think of the possibility of soon being with you all for though we are in the midst of saints on earth we are not under the same enclosure with Our Lord and this is a great trial!

Yesterday we had a delicious drive out on the Via Apia [sic] in the midst of beautiful old tombs & overlooking the ancient aqueducts to the mountains with Frascati & Albano in view just as you pass the magnificent tomb of Cecilia Martellus – You have a book of the views of Rome wh Sr M Joseph can get you to look at. Well all this was our view going out on the apian [sic] way with the sun striking on the objects giving them the hue of reddish gold, then on turning round to come back we had the very beauty of paradise in the setting sun behind Rome and its exquisite mountains in face of us all the way – Our exclamations of delight caught the ear of the coachy “Guddo” and he stopped short to let us gaze around us – Never shall I forget the rapturous beauty of the scene – Tell Mth Teresa that it was

[continued below]

- 2 -

far beyond even "Tarascon" wh she will remember.

Good by all my dr ones

Ever yrs aff^{ly} in JC

C.C.

Sr Annunziata

Sr Xavier

Sr M Angela

The Epiphany. 1870
Hyères Ver. France

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JMJ

My V. dear Sisters

I said good bye to you on the 2nd of the New Year, until today, when I need not assure you that you have been present in our heart & in our thoughts before the Altar of God & in Holy Com: May He, Himself, give you His choicest blessings, and enrich you with a constant flow of the graces-[sic] of charity, of prayer & of mortification to which your correspondence throughout the year may ^{^| trust [sic]} add that portion of "compound interest" which will enrich the treasury of heaven & store up for each one of you an eternity of blessedness. And now for all the other wishes! – I have so many for you that I must condense them into one. – That you you [sic] may renew your fervour every month but more particularly at the Ember days when perhaps you will especially take St Gertrude to assist you – Her beautiful Exercises contain the very Spirit of the Holy Child and the sentiments of the Church in the Divine Office – It seems to me that as David was a man after God's own heart so was Gertrude the Virgin of His especial choice and His heart's sweet love. And a better model of acts of love it would be hard to find! – Those who think her expressions too practical of course will find the poetry of the Psalms too poetical & the Liturgy of the Church quite beyond them or their small hearts. Not so with you my dear Sisters who will find the expressions of your own hearts which have perhaps not found words to suit them any where else – There is another little book that I must recommend you to take at Ember Times in turn

[continued below]

[Letter of the Epiphany 1870, p.2]

with the book, of devotion on the Sacred Heart (Gautrelet &c &c) and this is also by a Jesuit Father The Soul Contemplating God – Every Convent of the Holy Child has it, if I remember aright – It is such a wee book for the pocket, and takes in the attributes of God so beautifully that all would relish it at least once a year Besides this it embraces the great first fundamental exercises of St Ignatius and wonderfully dilates the heart.

This morning we renewed our Vows in our sweet Chapel as usual Mr Fenton standing at the side & the Ciborium uncovered before the tabernacle, just as usual – and then H, Com: It was all very sweet – After Confession I asked M. le Curé whether the renewing of the Vows was a renewing of the innocence of Baptism the same as at the first saying and he said yes he presumed so – and it would stand against all our sins for the last six months. Is it not a delicious thought for all of us after the six months confession? Ah! what a good God we serve and how delicious it is to serve Him and to give him again & again our body & soul and our hearts life!

What do you think has come to welcome the Epiphany of 1870! What -----Why nothing less than a box from America containing 6 copies of the translation of the Martyrology – to be read in the refectory! – Photographs of the Sisters & about 1½ doz vols that our dear ones thought would be valued by us all – Mth Lucy's ten pounds are already most acceptable 100 francs have been appropriated to the good Curé for his bonne Année and the rest shall go for other equally charitable purposes of health &c &c. We all thank her.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Letter Book 111. Letter 1. pages 1-3]

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother dated

The Convent S^t L – on Sea.
Sep. 15. 1870

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JMJ

My dear Sisters

In the various letters that I had sent to you I thought you would fully understand that all vows made, remain exactly as you made them. All the Vows in the Society are Simple Conditional Vows since the year (Sep 9) 1859 no one has been allowed to make them beyond one year with of course the intention to “live & die in the Society”. No one has ever yet been admitted to the last Vows which can only be dispensed by the Pope our most holy Father! – No one would be received for first Vows unless their intention is to live & died in the Society as they declare in the form of the Vow.

Again I repeat all the Vows from the beginning 1846 are Simple Conditional Vows under the Rule 48 “If, for very grave reasons &c Heretofore no dispensation from a Bishop was required; The “ipso facto” shewing that it was understood – The Vows now being specified for three years makes it necessary to have a dispensation from the Bishop if required within the term. I consider this a very great advantage to the Society & to the Subject. It was recommended to me by Canon Morris, now F.M. SJ. After weighing well the subject I found it to be our most prudent course to adopt it, & not subject ourselves for life to untried subjects, who would without this provision, have required the permission of the Bishop to be released, or if unruly, to be expelled under such difficulties as would be detrimental to all parties.

[continued below]

Again I see only great good in many ways both to the subjects and to the Society at large in the examinations & renewal of spiritual life at each term of three years – And if any one having made her vows became so base & degenerate as to wish to get rid of them I think she would be unworthy of being kept in religion. It becomes the duty of every Superior to prepare the subjects under her charge for a fervent renewal of spirit & not to rest too well satisfied with a diligent schoolmistress. We have now worked 24 years & this is our third request from Rome to prepare our Rules for approval. You do not seem to be aware that no Rules are printed by the Propaganda Press without a full revision by the Consultore. These were revised & repeatedly revised, before they were printed in Italian by Prpaganda. – So far they are settled. The Bishops & Propaganda will not have any more Generals for life, though they may continue to be elected with permission even after the second six years if the Holy Father consents. As this is so decided a point with them I think we ought to be ready to accept and try to look on the favourable side of the question – observing at the same time how much is necessary before a person may be offered for the post of General to the Chapter. She must have been well proved first & have passed her Tertianship. She must have been always edifying, &c &c. I beg of you my d^r Sisters to read over the IIIrd part of the Rules on the Government & I think you will find that we are safe & yet not cramped in right power. I think our good God has been very merciful to us in giving us all the help we had in the Rules & the revision of them. Our Directory must be much more full, in order to prevent doubts & mistakes that all may be fully informed of their duties & that uniformity may be preserved throughout.

[continued below]

The last Vows are exactly as at first proposed, only to be released by the Pope & the first Vows are for 3 years instead of for one. S^r M.L. Ignatia was the first of those who were obliged to drop the word “perpetual” & no one since then has been allowed to use it. All Vows have been renewed annually, not saying ‘perpetual’; and even for the old ones who said ‘perpetual’, it was always under the “ipso facto” “if for very grave reasons” &c. The Sisters of Notre Dame are allowed only one year Vows yet they keep true to their vocation & labour as hard as any others in the Church & more so than many. The SS of the S. Heart are not allowed Perpetual Vows for 7 years after their first Novitiate. The SS of Charity make yearly Vows but surely they w^d not be admitted to Vows if it were imagined they would not keep to them for ever. The yearly Vow is simply a safety while the intention before God is for ever to live & die in the Society”. I think this will fully explain away the puzzle over the Vows w^h I confess has rather taken me by surprise. The only conclusion I can come to is that the explanations I sent from Hyères must have been lost or totally misunderstood. Now to give a more short answer to the questions about “two Orders of Lay sisters” I repeat again their Vows are all conditional & it is to be hoped the old ones will try more to edify the young ones who will be as sure of living & dying in the Society as they are if they are good & what they ought to be. They are quite as sure & as safe if they are only humble & pleasing to God. Unfortunately the old ones are not always the most edifying.

2. “What will become of the Perpetual Vows of those School sisters who have not yet” &c &c Answer. They remain as they are & as they made their Vows (under the condition “If for any grace reason &c)

This matter of the Vows was not an “accidental opposition” at Rome but a necessity which had occupied my mind for many years. The only alternative would have been the impossibility

of dismissing an unruly member without the formal consent of the Bishop of each diocese in which the House might be. I could never bring my mind to consent to be tied to a bad member in this degree. We might have been brought to the Saurin (1st letter unclear) extremity before long. The term of 3 y^{rs} saves us, & at the same time the formal intention of the individual to “live & die in the Society” makes her donation of herself quite as perfect as ever.

I hope this will give you a clear light upon the subject & that I shall receive your signatures in good faith by return of post. There will be no chance of sending them this month with any safety but if peace is restored, the Bishops & Priests will no doubt return in a few weeks.

(Remainder regards Toul -) &c &c &c -

April 12th 1871
The Convent S^t L on Sea

My dear Sisters

I wish you all the joys of Easter again & again -

S^r S^t John said you would want a few lines to yourselves and that my pencilled words were not enough so I will say Alleluia to you in ink especially as I am obliged to send a word to S^r S^t Dunstan to say that I have ordered two parcels of books that are intended for Mth M. Xavier to be sent to 58 C. Gardens to my address. Keep them pray & do not undo them as they are packed for America & when I know that Burns can send them I shall ask him to send for them ^{to go} with some from his own shop. I hear he is dying & that they are all in grief. His son is with him – A Scholastic from Manresa, & his daughter as Ursuline nun. Maggie Cates wrote for prayers for him so add yours please.

I hope you are all praying for the Archbishop of Paris & for the Curés. One has been Murdered! & the others imprisoned also 30 Jesuites. God have mercy on us!

Pray hard – Ever

Yr affectionately & with love from each & all

C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV. Page 36]

Copy of the Circular sent by Our Mother to the Local Superiors regarding the Election.

[Before Aug 7th presumably?
See letter to Bp Dannell Aug 7. 1872]

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JMJ My dear Sister in J.C.

I hereby inform you that with the permission of our Bishop the Rt Revd Dr Danell, a General Chapter will be held on the 8th of September 1872. at the Convent – St Leonards-on Sea for the purpose of electing the future General and the Four Assistants to represent the body of the Order of the H.C.J. the Bishop himself presiding. All the Local Superiors are by the arrangement of His Lordship invited to attend the Assembly.

On the 29th of August a Retreat will begin during which all may have time & quiet for prayer & preparation for the coming Elections.

Wishing you my dear sister the blessing of God

I remain

Yours in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Sup GI

For Bridget [Nears] Mary Jane [Tierney] and Lucie [Villiers]

The Convent
St L. on Sea
Nov 16th 1872

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JMJ

My dear Postulants

Your letters were most heartily welcome you may be sure! And I thank God a thousand times that you are safe - Dear Mother M Xavier wrote as soon as she read the telegram from N York so that I was relieved from the anxiety two days before I read your letters. - They are now on their way to Mother Catherine so that all the children may rejoice with us in your safety - May our Lady of the Angles guard & protect you & keep you as her own dr Children. Never forget that every act of humble self denial will make you more pleasing to her & to her Divine son. Be simple & humble & you will be sure of being blest Do not be ashamed at ask wht you do not know. And when you are in doubt as to what you ought to do ask with humility and you will be told. Do not expect to be more than good postulants till you are Novices & then aim at being all that the hints at the end of the Manual advise you to aim at. If you keep these in mind you will only have to be faithful in observing them practically - & may God ever bless you all

Y^{rs} Affec^{ly} in J.C.

C[ornelia] C[onnelly]

P.S. The children had their concert this morning - It is snowing & very cold - All as usual.

The Novices had a grand holiday yesterday & enjoyed themselves immensely. I was with them for reading & work but we talked over the old days the greater part of the time & Mth Theresa & Mth M. Ignatia came and played Bezique in the evening.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Letter Book IV, Letter 63, page 78]

Form of Circular

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
May 15th 1873

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JMJ

My dear Sisters in JC.

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 S^t Leonards on Sea for the purpose of electing the future (here the writing changes from that of Cornelia Connelly to Mother Ignatia Bridges') General & the Four Assistants to represent the body of the Order of the Holy Child Jesus. You are advised to hold your Local Chapter on 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 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.

[Copy ends here]

Circular (dated)

The Convent St L-on Sea
June 9th 1874

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JMJ

Dear

I write to give you official notice that the Rt Rev^d the Bishop of Southwark has settled that the General Chapter for the election of the future General and the Four Assistants shall be held at the Convent at St Leonards-on-Sea on the 17th of August next.

His Lordship has promised to send me official instructions as to the Local Chapter to be held in each Convent, which shall be forwarded according to the directions of His Lordship.

I remain

Yours very faithfully

In J.C.

[Cornelia Connelly]

Volume 8

pg 116

SHCJ ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent
13 Nottingham Place [London]
Nov 12th 75 (1875)

+
JMJ

My dear Novices

We are with you in spirit tomorrow & shall offer all the Masses throughout the world for you all tomorrow!- May you have all the joy & consolation of your holy life & of the example of sweet S^t Stanislaus and become like him full of the spirit of the Exercises of S^t Ignatius upon which he was formed.

May Our Sweet Mother & her Divine Son bless you & be in the midst of you –

Ever yrs lovingly in Xt

C.C.

Sup G.

The Convent
13 Nottingham Place
Nov 12th [1875 or 1876]

JMJ

My dear Novices

I need not tell you that we are with you in spirit preparing for the welcome Festival of St. Stanislas, nor deplore the not being with you for this happy occasion! – We must be “about our Fathers work”, and this alone can satisfy us for the unusual deprivation of this year.

Tomorrow we shall offer all the Masses said throughout the world for blessings on the Noviciate 1st & 2nd year and on each one in it – I hope you have not only all learnt by heart the “methods of attaining perfection” in your little manual but that you may so zealously have practiced them that they may be confirmed in you each & all – and that the “Hints to a Novice” may have been so well studied in the presence of the B. Sacrament that they may all be to you as “a bye word” –

We, some of us, at all times need strength – Let us then say to our Mother “Sweet Mother give us thoughts that may strengthen – and sometimes when we are sad then let us say “Mother send us thoughts which bring joy and peace –

A very joyful day to you each and double that of any preceeding [sic] Festival – You will not forget us in your prayers – Mtr. Theresa Mtr M Ignatia and all here unite with [me] in congratulations and holy wishes. –

Ever yours devotedly

& affectionately in JC.

Mth Cornelia Connelly

Sup G.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from original]

The Convent S^t L. on Sea
Nov 13. 1876

+
JMJ

My dear Novices [in America]

On this dear Feast of S^t Stanislas we are with you in Spirit, for it does not require much time for the spirit to wing its way to our dear ones in America. The Novices at Mayfield will also pray with you, and as we at Mass six hours before you we have the advantage of the Sacrifice of Holy Mass while you are sleeping! - Ah, how much we must all pray for each other that we may prove our gratitude to God for all he has done for us, & for our dear little Society of the Holy Child. - I wish we could pray so fervently as to obtain for all the true spirit of the Holy Child & the love of all that He loved & taught. - Prayer & self denial will obtain this if we persevere in Humility Humility must be dear to us as the apple of our eye, for all true charity lies founded on Humility which is always mistrustful of self & full of confidence in God. How truly ought we to cherish & be grateful for every little cross we have for it is only suffering which brings us to the peace of God which passeth all understanding! - May our dear Lord give you this sweet joy is the best wish of your

Affectionate Mother

In J C.

C.C.

The Convent Mayfield
March 10th 1876.

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JMJ

Dearest Mother de Britto & Sisters,

It seems almost impossible to realize that we shall no more see upon earth d^r Mth Gertrudes bright little face! The whole seems like a dream This day week she was on her way to London, and with leave from her Doctor, but now we must be only too thankful that she arrived on Saturday at S^t Leonards, breaking the journey by a nights rest in London. (if such heavy breathing can be called rest -) It is wonderful that she lasted so long in the state of her heart & lungs. The Doctor said as soon as he saw her on Monday that the heart was cased in fat & the water rising into the Chest! Poor darling! the circulation was so feeble that the blood seemed to congest in her feet and ankle [sic] which caused the excruciating pain and it turned quite black. Her nails also became blue and this was the first sign we had of approaching death added to the laboured breathing. She was quite insensible from 10, O'C till she died but she had been to H. Comm: on Sunday, and F^r Hogan gave her extreme Unction at 2 OC: in the morning, & she had a Plenary Indulgence with the last blessing. R.I.P. She had said not many minutes before she became insensible that S^t Joseph would take her on Wednesday. She was at the Children's Concert on Sunday Evg. and she had said to F^r Hogan afters [sic] Sunday's Benediction that she would die within the week. She edified us all by her gratitude to God for her vocation & for all

[continued below]

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His goodness towards her in her religious life, and affection for us all seemed almost too much for her heart. She talked with Mother Teresa over the old times of her postulate & novitiate & of all she owed her in a thousand kindnesses and to each & all as if she wanted to take a loving farewell of all upon earth by expressing her gratitude to each one as they came to say a loving word to her and to hope she might have a better night. Her gratitude was the striking virtue of her last precious moments, and as we live so we shall die. Her gratitude to God for her religious vocation was throughout her life most striking and her example in this respect told upon the Children of Mary under her charge many of whom became religious themselves in their love for the example of X^t shewn in the life of their little Mother. During our d^r ones agony the Sisters who were not praying by her bed side went to the Chapel to say the Way of the Cross for her and the following day many of the Sisters rec^d the Cord of S^t Francis rich in Indulgences applicable to the Souls in Purgatory from a Franciscan Father who is at present serving as Chaplain to the Orphanage at Markcross. Unfortunately our d^r Mother Gertrude did not receive it though she was most anxious to do so. The F^r came one day too late for her. Mass was said at six OC. the morning our dear one expired in our Chapel & in many other places at 8 OC. as we were fortunate enough to get the telegram off at seven OC! in time for Preston Masses.

Our dear one could not be kept with us as the undertaker said no time could be lost owing [to] the rapid swelling of her poor body. The requiem mass was sung on Thursday at 10 after Matins & lauds and at one the hearse was at the door to carry it up to Mayfield to rest in the beautiful cemetery at the Convent on the brow of the hill just beyond the garden

[continued below]

where we can go to visit her after recreation or at any other free time. She will lie close to our dear Mother Helen, only twelve days later in her funeral Eight of us came up with here [sic] and this morning we had the second requiem Matins Lauds & Vespers. The funeral was as usual with the beautiful antiphon "In Paradisum" [sic] &c sung and we have her dear relics close beside us to remind us that we have again another friend in heaven to plead with us & for us – to obtain many graces that we most need – I might write much more my dear Sisters, but her self sacrifice & her many good works remain behind her to keep alive the love & respect of all who knew her – besides the eight professed & Novices who have followed in her steps.

The dear one prayed to be taken in a sudden & short illness & God in His infinite Mercy granted her prayer. Oh may eternal light shine upon her & may our blessed Lord fold her to His Heart in His most loving embrace

Ever yrs aff in the Wounds of His love.

C.C.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Saturday Evg.

P.S. We have just returned here and I send you further details knowing you will want to hear every little particular. Annie Nagle came down for the funeral, and brought [hole in paper] beautiful bouquet of flowers, but she was too late to see her. The flowers are at S^t Joseph's feet to be placed on the grave later. I shall be with you as soon as I am allowed to take the journey north.

The Doctor said our dear one could only have lived

[continued below]

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a few days longer if even she [hole in paper] not taken the journey. Her heart c^{ld} not work and the lungs were suffused with water. Be happy ab^t her & grateful to God that she was with us.

[The above letter has been sent to several communities in England and America; in each case the letter is the same, but a different postscript was been added. These are given below.]

[England]

P.S. Saturday.

We have just returned to St. Leonards to be with poor Sister Hilda – she is very weak and suffering only from her cough – Poor Sister Stanislas suffers excruciating pain and she is never left day or night. Pray for both and for us also.

Will you forward this to Nottingham Place when you have read it to the Sisters? – It may cross Mother Agnes on her way here therefore I send it to one most likely to be at home.

[America]

Monday March 13th 1876

I must not let this go without telling you that poor S^r Hilda goes on as usual – S^r Stanislas suffering intensely and longing to die – But she must look forward to far more than she has yet gone through –

We are anxious to hear from you not having had a line since I sent you the telegram.

Volume 8

pg 123

SHCJ

ARCHIVES

ROME

[Letter Book IV. Letter 107 –
Page 149]

Copy

The Convent Layton Hill
Blackpool. May 4th 1876

My dear Sisters

As we did not meet for our last Conference I have determined to stop another day with you on our return to London and not only for a couple of hours. I do not remember whether when I mentioned that I had come to you to instal Mth St John in her office as Superior local that Mth Mary St Dunstan had been elected formally as the Assistant for the Winckley Square Convent. When Mth St John returns tomorrow you will then feel more settled. I must also express to you my great satisfaction during the past visit, and thank you for all your kindness and attention and for the most edifying and consoling exhibitions of the dear children of day schools and most particularly for the satisfactory performances of the dearly esteemed Pupil Teachers and beloved children

These few words do not convey to you half the true sentiments of my mind & heart while I am ever your affectionately in Christ

M Cornelia Connelly

Sup G.

[This letter was written to the recently amalgamated Preston Communities]

[This letter has been copied from a little brown paper-covered notebook, measuring 3½ x 5¾ inches; on the fly leaf is written in Mother St. John's (McMaster) handwriting 'copies of letters from Mother Foundress'. The original of this letter is in S.H.C.J. Archives, Rome]

J.M.J.

Dec. 15th, 1876. Paris

For the professed Sisters at Sharon St. Leonards House & spring Garden St.

My dearest Sisters,

Your dear letters deserve my most sincere thanks, and many fervant prayers, in return for the consolation you have given me. This morning's post brought me so large a package that I must content myself by writing to all in one, as it would be impossible to write to each, though my heart says each one must have a letter – So I shall picture to myself each one while writing, and later keep my promise to each. At present we are in Paris, and though we have been very much occupied in looking for a proper house, & I have had many business letters to write, still we have had our time for reading as well as for all our Spiritual duties, and there is so much to be edified by in the French Clergy etc., that our stay here had been full of interest. We have taken Rohrbacher's Histoire de l'Eglise for our Reading and in his life, which is a sort of introduction

[continued below]

- 2 -

J.M.J.

Dec. 15th, 1876. Paris.

to his great work, there is on the first and second page so beautiful a practise, which he wrote out himself, that I can recommend it as a model to all. I think you have the 18 volumes at Sharon, & you will get it on the first page. Tell me what you think of it, or what you can add to it for your own perfection. Ah! what a blessed spirit there is generally amongst the French Clergy, not only in Paris but over the whole of France. The whole Church is so beautifully organized; and not only have they the Great Seminaries for the training of those destined for the ministry, but after they go into the parish duties, each young Priest serves under the Curés for a certain number of years, and passes three or four examinations, I think, during the term of seven years before they take the responsibility of a parish. This training is in some respects like the Jesuits, and they thus secure a life of prayer wherein they gain self-knowledge and self-government before struggling with the world and with temporal responsibilities, which is a great advantage and the very next thing to the advantages and blessings of religious life. We shall never fully understand the value and blessings of our life till we get to Heaven. For every act of religion is an obedience made of inestimable

[continued below]

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J.M.J.

Dec. 15th, 1876. Paris

value by the Vows! In this life we learn to value suffering because we find its reward in the possession of that peace which passeth all understanding, and this brings us a sensible reward, but the acts of religion are of a value beyond our comprehension which God alone estimates. Ah! what grateful hearts must we prove to Our Lord not only for ourselves but for all others whom we know are striving to know love and serve Him more and more daily. This is my duty now for you in whom I see so sweet and gratefully loving a spirit, and this I must again ask you to help me to prove to our good Master and Lord by being faithful to all the graces you ask for me; and through your prayers I hope for blessings on the works of all, & on my humble efforts to serve Him. May He bless you all and give you a holy and merry Xmas, and grant all your requests especially for our dear Father Carter's intentions and for the kind Archbishop. Pray much by dear ones for the Church of Christ and for our Holy Father the Pope and the Cardinals. Ah! may the Holy Child watch over all – and hear your prayers.

Ever my dearest ones,

Your loving Mother and Servant in Xt.

C.C.

Sup. Gen^l.

The Convent
3, Boul^d. de la Saussaye
Neuilly sur Seine
[feb. or Mar. 7 1877]

My dearest Sisters

I am sure you will all be glad to hear the details of the last moments of our dear Sister – This will not be so great a shock as the sudden death of dear Mth M Xavier – and you knew Sister so well but you did not know the long purgatory she was going through in this world with so much patience – Her poor back was literally eaten away and all her anxiety was to suffer with patience. She will have all the Masses due to her & many prayers but I think she went straight to heaven after the long suffering last year.

I should like to write to each one of you separately, but this would be impossible so I hope you will each accept this as to yourself & believe that I have you each in my heart to offer you for the blessing of God in my daily offerings & hope you do the same for me in the abundant love of the Sacred Heart Our Chapel here to [sic] consecrated to the S. H. & we say the litany S.H. every morning after Mass at ¼8 –

May you pass a holy & prudent Lent (obey) only as far as you are ordered

God ever bless you

Your loving Mother

C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from Letter Book III]
Letter 25. page 37

[In C.C.'s hand]

Circular

The Convent May 2nd 1877
S^t Leonards on Sea

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JMJ

Dear Mother x x x x

I write to give you official notice that the General Chapter for the Election of the Mother General & of the Four Assistants will be held at the Convent S^t Leonards on Sea on the 2nd of August 1877.

By advice from the Bishop of Southwark I am also to write to the same effect to the Bishops of each Diocese.

The election of the Deputies to be sent from each Community is to be made according to the revised Rule of 1874.

I remain

Rev & d^r Mother

Yrs faithfully in JC.

M Cornelia Connelly

Sup Gen^l.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from the Original]

[This letter is undated, but has been marked in pencil at top – Dec. 1877. This is correct]

My very dear Sisters [in America]

Probably you will have heard from many of the Sisters at this joyful season and I must confine my few lines to thanking you for all your sweet & most welcome letters hoping you also received the Xtnas greetings which I sent early to each House in order not to be behind the day – Yours all arrived this year in full time & you had my loving thanks, prayers & blessings in return.

Our Church is a picture of beauty and I hear the same of Mayfield – Even more beautiful than ever The cribs also are very fascinating in the beauty of the perspective Mth M Frances has even contrived a lake & a water fall in the one at Mayfield. Of course it will be the wonder of the year to all the poor, who never saw anything of the sort before. Their Noviciate is growing. They have six Choir Postulants & five lay Postulants – (Five Choir postulants aspirants waiting to enter) besides the 7 Novices there and six here. 11 Novices & 11 Postulants – the array of white heads is very promising without counting the five waiting patiently to come. When our dear Lord may please to admit them, & for this they have only to pray very fervently. Our Lord seems to have showered His blessings upon us while we

[continued below]

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have the cross of this suit hanging upon us & bringing us before the public. May God forgive the wickedness of those who brought it on!

A very happy New Year to you each & all, & our little Lords most sweet blessing with all the graces needed to pass the coming year without a single venial wilful sin committed within the Sacred Walls of the Convent – Oh that it may be so every where. Perfect love will make this very easy to all who are in earnest. – For it is possible to live without any wilful sin though the just man may fall seven times a day. Let us all pray fervently for each other, not forgetting that we have a Community in heaven waiting for us to join them there – Ah when shall this be! Before very long for us all

Ever your loving Mother in Xt

C.C.

Sup. Gen.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from original]

The Convent Jan 5th 1878
S^t Leonards of Sea

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JMJ

Very dear Sisters

A happy holy & joyful Epiphany to you each – and may you pass the most holy year of your lives in 1878.-

May you correspond to the advice given by F^r Balthazar in the “Hints to a Novice”, given in the little Manual, especially in the practice of heroic virtue, by the hidden acts of your every day life – with only God to witness the crucifixion of the will & inclinations. –

I am sure that you pray for me – I am on the mend, but still very ill – with hours of great prostration

Ever your loving Mother in Xt.

C.C.

F^r Leslie is giving)
our retreat here)
& F^r Knight at Mayfield)

SHCJ ARCHIVES MAYFIELD

[Postmark 1864]

[On a torn envelope, addressed to Mrs Connelly Convent St Leonards on Sea, in E. Welby Pugin's writing is the following in C.C.'s hand, on the reverse side -]

My d' little Mother
See how carelessly you
gummed this together
tearing the transparent paper
instead of putting a little piece under!

[On the flap of the envelope, in E.W.Pugin's writing is the following -]

With E. Welby Pugin's
respectful comp^{ts}.
Full size to follow.

[This envelope is placed in another, on which is written in pencil]

C.C. Precious

From M.M.Louis – given to her by
M.M.Thecla “40 years ago.”