

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES, ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book IV.

[ Cornelia Connelly's hand ]

Letter 110 – Page 155-156 ]

11 Rev<sup>mo</sup> Padre

Padre Armellini – Via della Valle 41, Roma Italia

Private & Confidential

Very Rev Father in X<sup>t</sup>.

By advice received from the Rev Father Lambert I write to your Reverence for necessary information as to how we ought to proceed in order to obtain the advantage of a Cardinal Protector in our present troubles & anxieties.

I must explain that we are in various complications with our venerated Bishops chiefly originating in our being now under the trial of a New Rule given to us by our Bishop, His Lordship of Southwark, which is not of the same spirit as the one upon which we made our Vows, and which we have practiced [sic] since our foundation in the year 1846.

This new Rule the Bishop of Southwark has given to us to translate into Italian, that His Lordship may present it to Propaganda F. for approbation. It is now printed & nearly ready to be forwarded, and His Lordship has intimated to us that we are free to send any remarks we may wish to make upon it.

Certain complications have already arisen from the Bishop of the Mother House being made in this new Rule the Bishop Superior of the Institute, but there are also other complications, which we fear would greatly impede the work, if not finally ruin it.

May I under these circumstances ask you kindly to suggest to me how we should state our objections regarding these changes and to whom they should be represented?

Also whether it would be advisable to have our notes drawn up and signed only by the Sup: Gen<sup>l</sup> and her four Assistants, or by these and the local Superiors of each House ? We wish as much as possible to avoid any excitement in the minds of the various Communities.

We are under the impression that with a Cardinal Protector we shall be quite safe in complying with any changes that may be made or added to our Rules & Constitutions , and that we may thus securely avoid the threatened schisms in the order, and that this alone can preserve our Communities in America as well as in England & France.

Humbly begging your blessing & prayers

I remain V. Rev. Father yr

Servant in X<sup>t</sup>

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup G<sup>l</sup>

The Convent

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

March 27<sup>th</sup> 1876

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Letter Book 11.Letter 113 – Page 124

The Convent Mayfield

Sepr. 9 1870

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J.M.J.

Very Revd &amp; dear Canon Bamber

The poor Novice had indeed caused us much anxious suffering but I trust she is only affected in mind on the one subject in the fear of being deprived of her Habit. She had not been told that she must leave the Noviceship, but had the conviction herself that it would be so. I had intended keeping her in one of our C [onvents] as a teacher but she did not give me time to tell her either our decision or what I proposed doing for her. She is at present at St. Anne's C.G. , [ Clarence Gardens ? ] having been sent there from Y.P. [York Place ? ] . I fear her excitement may bring on fever that may again tell upon the brain.

Kate Kirby Yes - she is a Sec [ular] Mistress now. She wrote to our dear Bishop [ Grant R.I.P.] last winter for permission to leave Religious life & I trust all is now right with her. It was better to be dispensed from her Vows, than to live in a Religious House without any regard for them. The act was her own & for upwards of 3 years, untiring charity & patience had been exercised towards her without effect. Since her departure the Convent has felt an immense relief & benefit. Many, many thanks for your kind wishes. We are flourishing and have just finished our Annual Retreat, which has been a great help & refreshment to us all. We have felt deeply the loss of our Saintly Bishop. We always remember gratefully your fatherly services.

Ever yours faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 11.

Letter 97- Page 108]

1868

Copy Letter written by Our Mother to the Revd. G. Rampfylde

dated June 18<sup>th</sup> 1868.

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J.M.J.

Revd & d<sup>r</sup> Sir,

I most readily empower you to give a very positive denial to the statement made by Mr. Connelly in my regard- ( marked in pamphlet ). It will be well to exercise prudence in what you say for two reasons:-

1st To avoid bringing Mr.C. into any notice whatever as Protestants always wish to make a Martyr of him-

2ndly. While he lives there is always a hope of his conversion & his own humiliation & acknowledgement of his delusions and misstatements would do a thousand times more good than any representations of ours.

Mr C. was himself the first to propose our separation in order that he might embrace the Priesthood – and as far as I know myself we had no other object than to embrace the holy Will of God & to sacrifice all merely human happiness. Therefore you may readily see that the whole course he has taken is more of an enigma to me than it is even to others.

I remain,

Revd & d<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Yours respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book II

Letter 21, page 26]

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to Dr. Banns( dated)

May 5<sup>th</sup> 1863

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J.M.J.

Revd & d<sup>r</sup> Dr Banns,

I know of several girls who have passed their apprenticeship and shall be most happy for our Sisters & Mother Teresa to engage one as an assistant, making arrangements for her to live at the Convent and to be under the same regulations as their P.Teachers.

We have made similar arrangements elsewhere very successfully, with more advantage to the School than if only P. teachers were employed. It would not be possible to put another Religious in the School, nor do I think it would be desirable to do so in this instance. If this will suit you there will be no difficulty in finding competent subject to take the position offered. I am

Revd & dr Father in J.C.

Yours very respectfully,

C.....C...

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD .

[Copied from Original]

Convent

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

Nov 17<sup>th</sup>

[1858]

J.M.J.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Father in Xt [ Bateman ]

I have referred the subject of your letter to M<sup>th</sup> Lucy, who is much better able to judge of the matter in question than I, being unable to form an opinion upon these very small local details, perhaps in their consequences important.

I shall not write to D<sup>r</sup> Goss until you have settled the written agreement , as I presume your reverence will do so before taking further steps.

I wish you every success in the opening of St Ignatius Church, I hope it may be as brilliant & as profitable as you desire.

I am

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> in JC.

Yrs respectfully in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

[In envelope addressed in Mother Connelly's hand to :]

The Rev<sup>d</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Bateman

S<sup>t</sup> Wilfrid's

Preston.

[ Postmarks on envelope are : Hastings Nov 17 1858; London Nov 18<sup>th</sup> '58;Preston Nov 19<sup>th</sup> '58]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ( ROME)

[Copied from Letter Book 1V]

Letter 20, page 28

Letter from Our Mother to F. Bosio O.S.M. ( dated )

The Convent July 24. 1872.

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J.M.J.

Revd & dr Father in Xt.

[ The rest of this letter is crossed out, incomplete and there is a page missing ]

Many thanks for your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst, received yesterday. As our good Bishop allows me to call the Local Superiors for an Election of the General & her Assistants on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Sepr next, I think it would be more wise to wait for the result of the Election & thus have the opinion of the representatives of the Body rather than any informal one.

2. Rule p.8. line 20 " cannot revoke this act" i.e.

Letter 12, page 15.

Letter to the Vy Revd. Carter of Philadelphia by Our Mother

( dated ) Feby. 22. 1863.

Very Revd. & d Father in Xt.

Many thanks for your kind letter and for the information conveyed respecting my dear child and my other relatives whom I commend to your holy prayers. Thanks also for the kind expressions you use in regard to our dear Sisters at Towanda and for the frank way in which you question me on the subject of our Institute which I truly appreciate and which will at once put our mutual understanding on a clear footing.

I will now try to answer your questions. You ask me what authority the Bishop has over our SS? First – His Lordship has the jurisdiction over all our Houses founded in his diocese – he names the Confessor of the Community ( and as far as possible there is but one Confessor for all ) and he is our Ecclesiastical Superior. He gives leave to receive Novices and either invests them himself with the holy Habit & Veil or delegates another to do so. and he alone receives the Vows of the Sisters or delegates another to receive them.

In regard to property received as donations the matter depends upon the will of the donor. If it is left to the disposition of the Superioress by the [ donor ] the house in which it is received always has the first consideration- And no property belonging to a Convent in America would be paid over to another Country but the disposition of any property of great value would be referred to the Mother General not in order to avert it but to use it for the



advantage of the province to which it belongs. So far from the centre of any pecuniary interest lying in the Mother House , the case is quite the reverse. Our Mother House is rather the Victim of assistance to its branches as the root is to the tree. In no one instance have we received back one fourth of what we have given, nor do we exact this. No Educational Order could ever flourish to any extent in unity of purpose and in effective work unless a certain bond of union exists between the branches & the parent stem nor could there be the freedom of action necessary for an Educational Order were we tied down to the restrictions of cloistered nuns and obliged to seek ~~the restrictions~~ [sic] an external authority for effecting the internal details of our ordinary duties and arrangements. Our whole life is devoted to the service of God & the good of souls in our intercourse with our pupils and with the persons of the world connected with them or with our Sisters – and this life is one of no ordinary sacrifice in which our own perfection and salvation are included.

2ndly Our Sisters may be removed by the Mother General or by one empowered by her to remove them but as few changes are made as possible and then only on account of some greater advantage either for the Individual herself or for some other good object.

These are the clearest answers I can give you dear Revd Father but if you want more than I have made and understood from your letter pray write again with the same frankness and I will be glad to answer more fully if I can – but I think you need not fear that the Sisters would fail in entering into the wishes of your zealous and generous Bishop as far as he thinks desirable and consistent with their Vocation. Still if I may presume to say so it

seems to me better that you should not engage the Bishop in any fresh foundation but rather wait for a year or two until he sees for himself how the SS are likely to work their way at Towanda – whether the general good among the poor and also among the upper classes of children is equal to the Expectation of His Lordship and whether the same work would be likely to effect the same good in Philadelphia. He would thus be able to judge of the probable loss or gain in a future foundation on his own judgement of the probabilities of the one or the other. I hope dear Revd Father you will agree with me in thinking it will be better to let the SS work their own way out of their difficulties at Towanda. I have requested them to dismiss all workmen, and if any future building is to be done by a contract made in writing and approved by the Bishop. Unfortunately they took the kindly expressions of the good Bishop in a larger sense than he evidently intended and have no doubt wasted their money. Poor children! they must purchase their experience before they can quite possess much of it. They thought they were doing right in making the place suitable for future work as the Bishop advised. What I have said about their remaining at Towanda and not going to Philadelphia is not from any thought that the Bishop would not be pleased in the end, but solely not to go in advance of H Lordship's own judgement. On the contrary I think he will be more than pleased with the results at Towanda & that he will be in the end quite satisfied that the spirit of humility charity and zeal of our SS wd be always guided by the director placed over them by the Bishop, and after all this is the safest and best of all kinds of authority.

This is all of the important part of our business and now I want to ask you a little favour.

It is this-

Private Our SS sent us photograph of Dr Wood in a rochet which we do not like. The countenance is good but it is not our American Bishop's best. We want another one ~~taking~~ [sic] taken in the point Lace Rochet & without his beretta [sic] as we saw him here. Can you get this done for us ? Perhaps we are rather proud of his appearance as he is compared with others but not sinfully so, and we want it to frame with the other Carte de V [Visite ? ] Photos thus [small diagram of how it is to be framed]. You see the vanity of those who take after all very little to satisfy them and you will pray in proportion for them. Your precious time has been taken up longer than I expected & I will only add that I am Very Revd & d F in J.C.

Yours very gratefully & respectfully in J.C.

C.C.

Perhaps you will send us your own Photo – Do please for “ auld lang syne”.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Contemporary Copy]

[Draft only – compare with Letter Book II p.15-18]

The Convent H.C.Jesus

St Leonards on Sea

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863

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JMJ.

Very Rev & dr Father in J.C. [ C.I.H. Carter ]

Many thanks for your kind letter & for the information conveyed respecting my dear child and my other relatives whom I commend to your holy prayers.

Thanks also for the kind expressions you use in regard to our dear Sisters at Towanda, and for the frank way in which you question me on the subject of our Institute, which I truly appreciate and which will at once put our mutual understanding on a clear footing.

I will now try to answer your questions – You ask me what authority the Bishop has over our Sisters – First his Lordship has the Jurisdiction over all the houses in his Diocese. He names the Confessor of the Community (as far as possible there is but one confessor for all ) and he is our Ecclesiastical Superior. He gives leave to receive Novices & either invests them himself with the Holy Habit and Veil or delegates another to do so and he alone can receive their Vows or empower another to do so.

In regard to property received as donations the matter depends on the will of the donor. If it is left to the disposition of the Superioress by the donor the house in which

it is received always has the first consideration – and no property belonging to a Convent in America would be paid over to another Convent, but the disposition of any property of great value would be referred to the Mother General, not in order to revert it , but to use it for the province to which it belongs. So far from the Centre of any pecuniary interest lying in the Mother house the case is quite the reverse. Our Mother House is rather the victim of assistance to its Branches as the root is to the tree. In no one instance have we received back one fourth of what we have given, nor do we exact this. No Educational Order could ever flourish to any extent in unity of purpose and in effective work, unless a certain bond of unity exist between the Branches & the parent, nor could there be the freedom of action necessary for an Educational order were we tied down to the restrictions of Cloistered Nuns, and obliged to seek an external authority for effecting the the [sic]internal details of our ordinary duties and arrangements. Our whole life is devoted to the service of God & the good of souls in our intercourse with our pupils & with the persons of the world connected with them or with our Sisters – And this life is one of no ordinary Sacrifice in which our own salvation and perfection are included.

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These are the clearest answers I can give you dear Rev Father, but if you want more than I have made & understood pray

write again with the same frankness & I will be glad to answer more fully if I can – but I think you need not fear that the Sisters would fail in entering into the wishes of your zealous & generous Bishop as far as he thinks desirable and consistent with their vocation – Still if I may presume to say so, it seems to me better that you should not engage the Bishop in any fresh foundation, but rather wait for a year or two until he sees for himself how the Sisters are likely to work their way at Towanda – whether the general good among the poor, and also among the upper classes of children is equal to the expectation of his Lordship, and whether the same work would be likely to effect the desired good in Philadelphia He would thus be able to judge of the probable loss or gain in a future foundation, on his own judgement of the possibilities of the one or the other.

I hope d<sup>r</sup> Rev Father that you will agree with me in thinking it will be better to let the Sisters work their own way out of the difficulties at Towanda. I have requested them to dismiss all workmen, and if any future building is to be done, it can only be done by a Contract made in writing & approved by the Bishop. Unfortunately they took the kindly expressions of the good Bishop in a larger sense than he evidently intended & have no doubt wasted their money. Poor children! They must purchase their experience before they can quite possess much of it. They thought they were doing right in making the place suitable for future work as the Bishop advised.

What I have said about their remaining at.....

[Cornelia Connelly]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES (ROME )

[Copied from Letter Book 11]

Letter 19, page 25Copy of a letter fm Our Mother to Revd. J. Carter of Philadelphia dated

Convent H.C.J. St Leonards.

April 15<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Very Revd &amp; dr F. Carter

I write a few lines not to miss this post that you may not be kept in any unnecessary suspense. Many thanks for your kind proposal which shall have our best consideration as soon as it can be discussed fully in our next Council. In the meanwhile I shall be glad to know whether you will be satisfied with our sending two Sisters for the Academy, two for the parish Schools with one as supply to either. Towanda could very well spare one lay Sister and a couple of postulants wd supply her place there. Then if they could supply the others in Philadelphia by postulants your work would go on very prosperously I shd think. The postulants cd be taught how to teach and they could receive lessons daily from the Sisters for this purpose in the same way as they do here. Pray let me know whether the Bishop wd be pleased with this arrangement. If this is satisfactory I think we cd meet your wishes but I do not think it wd be possible to do more. A thousand thanks for the photographs. I inclose one of M.Mary Xavier in return which may perhaps interest some of your people. Pray give my most respectful ~~com-~~ [sic] remembrances to your excellent Bishop & tell him we are so much pleased with the last photograph I will only add that I am –

Very respectfully and gratefully –

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

C.C.

Wrote

To the V. Rev. Father Carter

Aug 21 – 1863.

not copied

But saying that we could not sell the lands given by the Duchess &c  
but that he had the power to make contracts for timber or Mining on the  
Lycoming Lands with our full consent &c &c - Not to give up Towanda - &c  
&c-

[ Cornelia Connelly]



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[ From contemporary copy ]

The Convent

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

August 21<sup>st</sup> [ / 63 ]

J.M.J.

V Revd and dear Father in Xt [ C.I.H.Carter ]

It is a great pleasure to know that you are pleased in having the Sisters so soon at work in your Schools, and I thank God with all my heart that we have been able to meet your views in sending them. Any arrangement you wish to make for the Boarding School and Noviciate, that can be met by Contracts for timber or mining on the Lycoming Lands we shall be most happy to consent to but we dare not contract any debts, nor can we sell the land as it would give great offence to the Duchess of Leeds.

Any contracts that the Bishop and yourself think desirable to be made, and to be invested in a Noviciate and Boarding School, pray take the power to do with our full consent – What you and the Bishop think right for the Community to take upon themselves in the purchase of a Noviciate we fully consent to, but we cannot make this province answerable for the purchase of any property, nor for any debts or mortgages. It may be that it would be better to exchange Towanda Convent for another more desirable position, but the Duchess would not listen to such a change and for the

perseverance of carrying out what is once begun I had rather keep it up with the hope of one conversion in the year among the protestant children than to exchange it, or to give up what has been begun with the full consent & approbation of Dr. Wood. I have great faith in this, and once a good work is afloat on rightful authority we can go on with spirit and untiring determination – The town is growing and no doubt the Mission there will grow into importance with it, in ten years or less perhaps – There is no doubt they can support themselves in the Schools, the living being low, and for ourselves we had rather send out 3 more Sisters next Summer than to give up Towanda – even with only one conversion in a year – and by their own industry, they might support a chaplain which would at once make them comfortable and happy in their position – We shall pray very much for the prosperity of the first foundation in America and hope never to part with it. Your first Sisters are now with you in Philadelphia, where you will always have a right to the best & most zealous to train others to the same devotion of labour and hard work. How much we all thank you for giving us the chance of working for our dear Lord with you and in your schools! And we pray daily for you & Dr. Wood, our first American Bishop. God bless him ! Would not Germantown or Manayunk be a beautiful locality for a Boarding School and

Noviciate ? – It would have been so in my young days, & when I last visited Phil. There was an excellent country house that belonged to my brother just at the back of Manayunk & about a mile or less from Germantown with 50 acres of land running down to the Wissahiccon Creek which he sold for 12000 or \$ 15000 if my memory serves me right. It would do beautifully if to be purchased now. The place was called “ Shumack Park “ I must only add that I feel sure all will be right that you advise with Mother Xavier to do, and

I am

Yours faithfully in J.C.

C.C.

[ Written during Civil War, before Sharon was begun ]

Decb<sup>r</sup> 10 [1863 ]

Very Rev<sup>nd</sup> & dear F<sup>r</sup> in Xt [Rev C.I.H.Carter ]

How shall I thank you enough for your very kind letter & for the welcome intelligence you give regarding our dear Sisters – You know that I do thank you very very much for every kindness you show them and for your kind invitation to me, which I must only hope to accept later & when there might [be] some hope of usefulness to satisfy my conscience in the proposal of a journey which would give me so much pleasure! And you know I must think of my poor soul first & the innocent pleasure second – Would that I could promise you all you ask for the opening of a Noviciate and we must pray that our dr Lord may enable us to meet your wants at least in some measure if you decide upon getting the proposed country house – I should think the one that is nearest the railway & the best fitted up would be much the best purchase of the two proposed that is the one at Shoemaker Town near German Town - & they would be saved much immediate expense by the fittings being suited to their wants more particularly at a time when labor is increased in value & everything so dear that is bought new – I presume some contract could be made for the timber on the Lycoming lands that could be devoted to the purchase of the furniture if the property is secured. I should have thought

[continued below]

it easy to make some contract also for the coal mines & for an Irish settlement on those lands where at this time there are thousands of suffering poor emigrating to the States from England as well as Ireland. Of course Mth M. Xa will be advised to do her best & she will use the money, from any future contracts for the Novitiate in one way or another as seems best, & she is perfectly free to do so but not to sell the land. If she had begun at first at Phil. the funds spent at Towanda would have been at her disposal now, but God disposed otherwise & we must see His hand in the past as all was done in obedience & for the best.

Will you tell the Bishop I hear of his inventions about mitre bribing & all that sort of thing. Now is it not glorious to give bribes to be allowed to suffer and work! really the idea is worthy of the martyrs – I wonder if the second colony had to give a bribe ! & whether the third must follow on ! Tell his Lordship to let me know what the bribe must be – He is so rich in mitres and vestments of all sorts that nothing can be got up worthy of the name. I read the acct. of the carriage but after all its wheels are too heavy for the road to Heaven, though some are said to take the road in a carriage – His carriage will no doubt help him to many works that will carry him speedily on his way & we all congratulate him on the gifts and on the way it was given.

[continued below]

You say nothing of the war so I suppose you have nothing to fear for the Sisters I should think their expenses must be very heavy & not half paid by the schools if they count the rent due – Miss Christian had written to Margaret and from her letters to me I presume gives her consent conditionally to her proposed marriage - I hope that Mth. M. Xavier may be able to know something certain about Dr Weston – His respectability and means are necessarily to be ascertained before the marriage –

I wrote to Mth M. Xavier about a month ago to say that I hope you will come to England next summer & pay us a visit – we shall count upon this for certain if you want more sisters

Begging a blessing

I am dear Revrd Fr

C.C.

Convent Blackpool

June 22<sup>nd</sup> [1864]

J.M.J.

Very Rev and dear Father in Xt. [Fr Carter ]

Your most kind letter bearing the news of your magnificent purchase of Sharon House reached me on my journey to the Convents in the north of England and I am almost afraid that this will be too late for to morrows mail which must if possible take our best and most grateful acknowledgements to you. I need not say that no effort on my part shall fail in sending you three or four Sisters to assist in carrying on the work in the most efficient way. I have already told M.M.Xavier that she could close the House at Towanda to meet your views if Sharon House should be purchased so that I hope she will be in no doubt herself & that you will be immediately relieved from any anxiety on that point. The Bishop's wish would have been enough even had you not purchased Sharon House. I also told her some time ago that she could appropriate any money received from contracts or rents to any purpose you might require – even for furniture which is very perishable and hardly to be looked upon as an investment. I have not the power myself to sell without the consent of my council and chapter – and as regards the property given by the Duchess of Leeds , we must respect the wishes of the donor and I think I could hardly offend her more than by a proposition to sell her lands – The contracts for timber or mining must therefore be all that can avail us in the present case as regards the land. But your Reverence & the Bishop will best know how to advise regarding the letting or contracting

for the house at Towanda . It will certainly go to ruin if left [t] without a tenant. Perhaps Mrs Weston and the Doctor might like to take it on a lease, or some other tenant may turn up to keep it in order and pay a low rent. I have only time again to thank you and to wish you every return of blessings & gratitude for your most generous efforts for our dear Sisters in all that you are doing for the Holy Child through them – But this conveys nothing of what we really feel for you and the excellent Bishop – God will reward you in the only way you want – and you will have the prayers of the innocent and humble.

Begging your blessing & prayers

I am ever yours faithfully in JC

C.C.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1V. Page 154]

Mayfield

June 29<sup>th</sup> [1876]

Very Revd & dr father in Xt. [Fr Carter ]

I have to thank you most gratefully for your kindness to our dear Sisters and for all you did for them during their visit to Sharon. It is I can assure you dear Father ~~that it is~~ a source of deep regret to me that you have not hitherto had all the consolation in the great benefits & kindnesses you have bestowed upon our religious body & especially upon your foundation at Sharon that you truly merited, but our prayer is that our dear Lord may still give you the hundred fold in this world and an eternal reward far beyond all you have ever wished for.

Our dear Sisters are looking well though they had a rough passage returning as well as going. Mother Mary Xavier will no doubt soon write to you but it will require time for ~~her~~ her to be restored to health.

Sent not quite worded the same.

[ In C.C.'s hand ]

Convent

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on SeaJune 2<sup>nd</sup> / 64Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Clarke

I had promised myself the pleasure of writing to you regarding Mayfield a week ago, but being occupied with many duties I only now find a free moment. What I proposed to the Rev<sup>d</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Gallwey was, that one of your fathers should come from Tunbridge Wells on Friday [sic] Ev<sup>g</sup> & remain at Mayfield until Sunday morning, giving us two Masses a week, Saturday & Sunday, & two Benedictions, also hearing the Confessions. I proposed that the conveyance should be sent from Mayfield there & back, coming & going, & that we should provide board & lodging during the time the Rev<sup>d</sup> F<sup>r</sup> remains with us. The salary offered was £50 per an : until we could make other arrangements for a resident Priest at the Bishop's convenience. I shall be happy to know whether you would be willing to enter into this arrangement for the Summer months, and later we should see whether there are any unforeseen objections on either side. We have permission from the Bishop for Holy Mass, but not yet for having the Blessed Sacrament kept in the Oratory.

I am

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> in Christ

Yours very respectfully in [sic]

Cornelia Connelly

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES , ROME.

[Letter Book III. Letter 9. Page 9.]

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to F<sup>r</sup> Cobb.March 4. 1871.

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JMJ

My dear Rev<sup>d</sup> Father,

I am extremely sorry you should have been pained & displeased by the contents of my letter, nor should I have supposed that the Boarding of 6 children in the Convent could be looked upon as a question seriously affecting the spiritual good of S<sup>t</sup> W's Congregation. It seems to me simply a question of the comfort , convenience & well being of the Convent. I was not induced to look into the subject with any other view than the fulfilment of my duty, first in regard to the health of the Sisters, & 2<sup>ndly</sup> in regard to the Children themselves who could not be properly, or even healthfully lodged nor superintended as they ought to be.

When I thought of & proposed Blackpool, it was for their advantage solely. There need be no competition between the schools, but all parties should work for the general good in cases of necessity & it would have been a favour to the children themselves & not to Blackpool, if they had been accepted there. I am more than amazed that anyone should wish to cramp the Community with Boarders when the dark Convent & narrow passages are already constant subjects of annoyance, added to another daily incommmodity. The large and beautiful Day Schools ought to be kept up with every advantage & not be interfered with by boarders. Surely there are many respectable Catholics who would be glad to take care of such as

have no home, until the Children can be received as pupil-teachers & for such there is suitable accommodation at S<sup>t</sup> Walburga's & St. Ignatius' Convents

I hope my dear Rev<sup>d</sup> Father you will look to the good of the Community in this question, uninfluenced by anyone's wilfulness. I am not aware of either will or determination of any sort, further than duty and justice to all parties concerned, & shall be glad to hear from you simply that I am right. This beautiful weather ought to bring you off the sofa. There is nothing like fresh air to cure rheumatism & gout. I remain my dear Father

Your faithful Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book I

Letter 112, page 127]

London

Copy.

Letter to F. de Magliano dated May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1862 ( Sent to Rome.)

Very Revd & dr Father in JC.

It was a great disappointment to me to have missed seeing you on your way through London. Our Sisters are most anxious to go to Towanda without further delay, and there is nothing to prevent their going with Dr. Wood or any other Bishop who may return through England. Will you have the kindness to see Dr. Wood if his Lordship is still in Rome & say that we should wish our little Colony to go with him if possible ? I am most anxious to see him regarding several matters & if he could arrange to stop a few days with us at St Leonards, it would be a blessing to us, and a rest in the midst of his journey. His Lordship will probably be too much occupied to write to me himself but if Your Revce will let me know when I may expect him we shall be ready for his future steps.

The D. of Leeds and Lady Stafford are still at St L & will probably remain there during the summer. The Duchess has been expecting the two Deeds of the Bradford and Towanda estates property which Mr. Ward was to have sent to Dr. Wood. They are witnessed by the Mayor of Hastings only & ought to have the signature of the American Minister also. Her Grace is very desirous that our Sisters should not delay their journey, and as there is nothing to apprehend regarding the war, it would be a great pity to miss the opportunity of going out with Dr. Wood.

With every expression of respect I remain

Very Revd Father in JX<sup>t</sup>

Yours very faithfully

C..... C...



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book IV.

Letter 15 – Page 16]

The Convent St L – on Sea

June 22 1872.

+

J.M.J.

Revd & dr Dr de Thurey

I beg to thank you for your kind letter received this morning and to express my regret in not having had the advantage of seeing you the day we spent at Mayfield. It has always been a source of astonishment to me & to others that we have been so long favoured by your Services at Mayfield, knowing your power of preaching and the superiority of talent & general acquirements & ability, all having been immensely appreciated by us, still we should be extremely sorry in any way to prevent your choosing a position that may be not only of greater advantage to yourself but of far greater usefulness in the Church of God for the good of souls.

The point of salary is of minor importance but still it is

[This letter is incomplete, the next page being missing ( page 17 and 18 ) but page 19 starts as follows:-]

~~And magnified for ever!~~

S.H.C.J. Archives - Rome. [Copied from Letter Book II  
Letter 104 – Page 115]

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to Revd S. Donnelly.

(dated Saturday eveg Sepr 12. 1868).

+

J.M.J.

Revd & d<sup>r</sup> Mr. Donnelly,

I shall not discuss the contents of your letter which much surprises me. You already have had the full explanation from Monsgr Capel and you know that he had his faculties from the Bishop, therefore the principles proposed in yr letter have no reference either to him or to myself or to my actions.

2ndly. The question I intend to ask is this- whether if a priest known to have faculties from the B. to receive his converts in the Convent Chapel must be sent to the Chaplain before the Sup<sup>r</sup> may consent to his doing so. It never before occurred to me to ask this question, or I might have been less ignorant, or rather more up in my duty, if it is so.

I remain

Very faithfully Yours

In J.C.

C.C.



The Convent

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

June 26<sup>th</sup> /73

+

JMJ

Rev & dr Father Donovan

I write a line to say that the Chaplain at Mayfield has left & to let you know that no one has yet been named in his place. F<sup>t</sup> Tunstall says Mass in turn with the boys Orphanage so that the Community are not actually suffering. If you like to apply to the Bishop to return there I shall be most happy to second your proposal and to make the arrangement you proposed on your return. I hope your health is improved with the warm weather, and with every expression of respect,

I remain

Very faithfully

yrs in JC.

Cornelia Connelly. Supr.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1V

Letter 7 – page 7 ]

Copy from memory

The Convent St Leonards on Sea

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> / 72

Rev & dr Father in Xt [ Fr Fisher V.G.]

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst together with its enclosure & to say that I will immediately communicate with his Lordship the Bishop of Liverpool.

Begging your blessing

I remain your &c &c

Cornelia Connelly

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1

Letter 58, page 58]

Copy.

July. 1858

Written July. 7<sup>th</sup>.

J.M.J.

Very Revd Fr. In Xt.

I am much obliged by your advice regarding the three Communities. The two Communities in Preston may very conveniently meet at St Walburga's and have their Retreat together , but the Community at Blackpool must make it separately and if you cannot provide for this, I shall be equally happy to make other arrangements for them, though I should have preferred having one of your Fathers.

I shall be very happy for your Reverence to make arrangements with Mtr. Lucy ( the Superioress at St. Walburga's Preston ) who will tell you the exact time their holidays end & be ready to meet your convenience during this short period.

I am

Very Revd Fr. In Christ

Yrs. very respectfully

C....C...

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

St Leonards-on-Sea

July 7<sup>th</sup>

The Revd Christopher Fitzsimon

Stonyhurst College

Whalley.

Volume 9

pg 036

ST. LEONARDS PARISH ARCHIVES

[Copied from an Authenticated  
Manuscript Copy.]

The Convent

Sep 13<sup>th</sup>

Rev & d<sup>r</sup> Sir

D<sup>r</sup> Ullathorne has lent me the printed statement of D<sup>r</sup> Duke addressed to the Trustees of the Convent property. I think you have several copies of it, and you will save me the trouble of copying the one lent to me by D<sup>r</sup> Ullathorne if you can let me have your copy, and I shall be obliged by your kindness -

I am

Rev & d<sup>r</sup> Sir

Yrs respectfully

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Rev J Foy

P.S.

The statement is the one dated Oc<sup>t</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1858.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Letter Book 1.

Letter 48, page 48]

April 25<sup>th</sup>. Feast of St. Mark

By the same Post

My dear Father Gallwey

Your letter proves to me that you have taken a one-sided view of the subject in question & a very untrue one. I never heard of any papers signed to protect the Society, but I have heard of a Mortgage signed to involve it most unjustly.

I hope you will pray for us in our many troubles &

I am

Yours respectfully

C [ornelia] C [onnelly]

All Souls. April 25<sup>th</sup> 1858

Letter written by Our Mother to F. Gallwey. April 13<sup>th</sup> [1863]

Very Revd & d F. Gallwey. –

Perhaps you will kindly read the inclosed note –

Surely after being guided by you and having been among other Religious Miss Bowles does not mean to apply to me on any spiritual matter! – and this after seven years wandering ! It is extremely painful to me to have anything to say regarding Miss Bowles' conduct, & I think after being among other religious it is child's play to talk about conscience being “ entirely free “ at this late hour. Pray satisfy Miss Bowles without any reference to me as I am not in the least inclined to enter into any correspondence of this nature or of any other having sufficient to occupy me in my daily duties, as you may readily imagine.

Fugitives are released from their Vows in the Rule of St. Ignatius “ ipso facto.  
Begging a blessing I am

Dr Revd Father

Yrs respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 039

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Letter Book 11. Page 26.]

Convent H.C.J.

St. Leonards on Sea

April 21<sup>st</sup> 1863.

+

J.M.J.

Very Revd & dr Father Gallwey

Of course I was mistaken in regard to your rule, & I am very thankful to have been corrected & rightly informed.

The object of my letter was solely that you might see Miss Bowles' letter & give her the satisfaction she required-

I am

Very Revd & dr Father in Xt –

yrs respectfully

Cornelia Connelly

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES (ROME)

[Copied from Letter Book 11]

Letter 50, page 55.

Letter from Our Mother to Fr. Henry S.J. dated Sepr. 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

+

J.M.J.

Revd & d Fr Henry

I beg to acknowledge & thank you for your letter of the ~~23<sup>th</sup>~~ 22<sup>nd</sup> [sic] inst.

It really is quite true that I was surprised at any question arising with regard to the arrangements for the Sisters in charge at St Walburga's School. With all deference to Your Rev's opinion & wishes, I am forced to say that I do not think it possible to undertake the work of those Schools with any diminution in the numbers of Sisters and and [sic] pupil teachers, nor could I consistently impose any additional burden upon those already fully employed . Nor do I think it possible for the Sisters to meet their annual expenditure with an income less than they now receive.

No doubt M. Lucy can immediately rectify any misapprehension which seems to exist regarding the certified Mistress whose parchment alone stands with the judgement of the Government Officials. These are matters which appear to belong to Fr Porter & Mth Lucy which Your Revce. will no doubt agree to & I am sure she will do all in her power to meet any reasonable wish that he may suggest. Begging your prayers & blessing dr Revd Fr.

I am

Yours Very respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1V]

Letter 32, page 43

The Convent Oct. 19. 1872.

+

J.M.J.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> . Hogan

The Suffrages for the Dead and for Benefactors are not of any obligation. They are copied from the Rules of an approved Order in Rome, under the Papal Sanction, but have no reference to yourself as Chaplain. We use them as a Guide of what our charity ought to do for the Dead & for Benefactors & have never spoken of them to the Bishop. -----Can you tell me whether the Order of our late beloved Bishop D<sup>r</sup> . Grant regarding the obligation of weekly Mass to be offered for the intention of the Community is anything beyond the accustomed duty of a Missionary Priest to offer the Mass for his Congregation one day in the week ? I was told it was precisely the same & I should like to be certain upon this point.

With many kind expressions I am

Yours very gratefully & respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1V]

Letter 33, page 44.

[Corrections and annotation\* in C.C.'s hand ]

Letter written to F. Hogan –

Octr 23. /72.

+

J.M.J.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Hogan

I have requested the Sacristan to remove the “ Suffrages for the Dead” ~~I did not translate them myself.~~ The translation is not mine. – Perhaps the “shall” is an Irish blunder for will ! or perhaps it is intended for the Superior & not for the Chaplain that she shall have them said—The ~~she shall have~~ she shall have them said.

2. I thank you for the information regarding the weekly Masses in general. I suppose the mistake was in using the word “ Obligation “ instead of “ Charity “

3. No doubt D<sup>r</sup> Grant meant by “ other advantages “ ~~than the Salary.~~ The House rent & repairs, the furniture & repairs & renewing it the Taxes on the house the Vegetables from the garden & other kindnesses, ~~but he could not have meant the 52 Masses as we asked for the 52 masses expressly to meet those for the Dead & for Benefactors~~ attentions \*

I am very sorry to hear you have been so unwell & hope this fine weather may be of benefit to you- With

my kind expressions I am

Very respectfully

Yours in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

\*His Lordship could hardly have supposed that we should require more than 52 Masses to supply all our needs or obligations or intentions.

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pg 044

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1V.

Letter 34 – Page 45]

Oct 27. 1872

Revd & dr Fr Hogan

I was not aware that you had said any extra Masses. We did not ask or intend any Masses to be said beyond the number ( 52 ) to which we were entitled. For the other subjects of your letter I beg to refer you to H L the Bishop

I am Very respectfully Yours in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

S.H.C.J.

Reply to Fr Hogans letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1872

from memory –

The Convent

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> [ 1872 ]

Rev & dr Fr Hogan

There must be some little misunderstanding, and as matters are not very clear I have thought it right to refer to the Bishop –

I remain

Yrs very respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

These answers together with Fr Hogans letters were taken up to our Bishop Dr Danell who was not in London Oct 28<sup>th</sup> on the day that Mth Theresa & Mother M Francis arrived & they were obliged to stay two nights at St Ann's till the Bishop arrived from Liverpool. His Lordship advised the above to be sent to Fr Hogan and said that he would write for him to go up to see him.

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pg 046

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1V

Page 47]

From Our Mother to the Rev. Fr Hogan.

Novr. 19<sup>th</sup> [1872 ]

Revd & Dr Fr Hogan,

The Bishop has informed me that you had said the 52 Masses and Extra Masses besides, though we had not intended them to be as Extras. I therefore enclose £5 and

I remain

Yours respectflly in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent S<sup>t</sup> L. on Sea

June 30<sup>th</sup> /73.

+

JMJ

Rev & d<sup>r</sup> Father Hogan

It will save the Bishop the trouble of writing to give you faculties for the profession of the Sisters if you will give His Lordship the enclosed certificate from F<sup>r</sup> Anthony. We should like to have the ceremony on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, if you can make it convenient to you.

You will I am sure take our devoted messages to the Bishop & bring us a blessing.

Wishing you a very delightful journey

I am always

yrs very faithfully in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

1873.

Letter by Our Mother to F<sup>r</sup> Humphreys ( dated Jan<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>

+

J.M.J.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Father in Xt.

Many thanks for your kind notice regarding Miss Johnson. She has written to me & asked to be received as a Postulant & I have answered that she will have a hearty welcome to the trial of our life. The Postulate must last at least three months before the Clothing & I think there is every reason to believe that she will persevere. This can only be proved in the trial , and, like all other things, in the way of God! It is a great favour for me to see your writing, but it would be a still greater one to hope to see yourself should you ever visit our neighbourhood, which some of the great men of the day do- occasionally.

I need not assure you that we shall beg of Our Lady of Angels to watch over you & yours & to be near you at all times

What do you think of F<sup>r</sup> . de Bray ? I send you a notice received this morning. I hope with all my heart that the asserted promises of Our Lady to deliver the Holy Father may not prove a fiction & that Her Confraternity may flourish. Begging in return your prayers & blessings –

I remain d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> in Xt

Yours very respectfully

Cornelia Connelly

Supr.





S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1]

COPY

Letter 10, page 11

To the Revd. Joseph Johnson

Very Revd. Fr. Provincial

I beg to express ~~to you~~ [sic ] the thanks of our Community for the services rendered to us by the Revd. Francis Jarrett in the retreat ended this morning. We trust our dear Lord may long preserve him to labour in His vineyard to His greater honour & glory. I was sorry to see that his reverence did not appear to enjoy good health.

I remain

Very Revd. Fr. Provr –

Yrs ~~obedient~~ [sic ] humble servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

[ 30 ] July 1857

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1

Letter 55, Page 56]

Copy

Written June 15<sup>th</sup>. 1858

J.M.J.

F. J.....n.....o

Very Rev<sup>d</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Provincial

Our Sisters in Preston are looking forward to their Retreat during the Midsummer holidays which I understand are to begin about the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month. Will your Reverence kindly allow one of the Fathers to give the Exercises at St Walburgas ( Wellington Terrace ) towards the end of the holidays ? I wish to beg of your charity to remember us & our wants both at St Leonards and Blackpool, but of these I shall write again as soon as I know how we may best combine with the Sisters from London. If your Reverence sees no objection I should prefer one of the Fathers not living either at Preston or Blackpool for the Sisters who are in those places. Begging your Reverence's blessing & prayers

I am

Very respectfully

Yr. Servt in JC.

C.....C...

Convent

All Souls

St Leonards- on- Sea

June 14<sup>th</sup>.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES , ROME.

[ From Letter Book 1V.

Letter 2 – page 1-2]

From Our Mother to F. Johnson. S.J.

( same date as above

[ Nov<sup>r</sup>. 29. 1871.]

+

JMJ

V<sup>y</sup>. Rev<sup>d</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Johnson

( Strictly Confidential )

It is to my regret that any difficulties should have arisen to induce F<sup>r</sup>. Payne to wish me to remove M<sup>th</sup>. Christina from her present office. I could not act in the matter under present circumstances. M. Christina does not know that I am aware of the secret part she took in writing under F<sup>th</sup> Cobb's advice to Propaganda nor do I intend her perhaps ever to know that I know it. All were at perfect liberty to write to higher authority, but I had a right to expect truth & frankness in all matters, and not the contrary. Your own great charity will, I am sure see & feel how painful it would be to me to change her position when it might affect her health & even her mind, and unless I hear from Your Reverence that as a matter of conscience she must be changed, I cannot act in the matter.

I am extremely sorry d<sup>r</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Father to give you this trouble, but it is unavoidable. I remain with much respect

Your faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

1872.

Copy

From Our Mother to F. Johnson.

( dated Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> 1872 )

+

J.M.J.

V Revd & dr Father Johnson

I hasten to answer your letter just received. Certainly – whatever the doctor considers advisable regarding the visits to our invalid must be followed without doubt. I think that both M. Lucy & Sr Christina understood that the visits were advised to be once a week only unless Sr Frances Xavier grew worse.

I must repeat my thanks to your Reverence and I remain

Very respectfully yrs in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 054

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1V.

Letter 50 – Page 63]

Letter from Our Mother to Fr. Johnson.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1873

[Notice of a letter only – The rest of this page is blank ]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME. [Copied from Letter Book 1V

Page 69]

Copy of a letter written to Fr. Johnson 8. York Place by Our Mother

March 7<sup>th</sup> [ 1873 ]

The Convent St Leonards-on-Sea

Mar. 7. [ 1873 ]

Revd & dr Father in J.C.

According to the wish of His grace the Archbishop as expressed in your kind letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, I wrote to His Grace to say that by the kind assistance of our Friends we should be enabled to pay down for the Dorset Sq House immediately £500 & another 500 6 months hence & immediately to expend £1000 on the property for repairs & buildings required for the work if Mr Sills could raise £2000 to complete the purchase which also should be paid within ten years. I have had no answer to this which was sent on the 25<sup>th</sup> of last month & I do not wish to trouble His Grace with another letter on this subject, but for several reasons it is most important that I should know His Grace's decision without further delay & I shall be very much obliged if you can let me have a line ~~without further delay~~ [sic] to say what it is.

Begging your prayers I am

Revd & dear Father in Xt

Your obedt Servant

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME. [ From original]

[C.C.'s hand ]

Dr. Rev<sup>d</sup> F<sup>r</sup>

His Eminence has given permission for Mass to be said in the Novices Oratory once a month when there may be another Priest to say the public Mass – Do please ask him to write this permission for us –

Y<sup>r</sup> Ob<sup>t</sup> Child

C.C.

[ Below – in Card. Wiseman's hand :- ]

N. Card. Wiseman.

[ The above on a small sheet of notepaper folded & addressed to Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Melia – enclosed in a small envelope endorsed in purple ink in C.C.'s hand :-

The first leave given by Cardinal Wiseman for Exposition of the B. Sacrament was on the Feast of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas 1847, our profession day.

C.C.

[ Found in small green notebook of dates, etc. kept by C.C. ]



ST. LEONARDS PARISH ARCHIVES.

[ Copied from Photostat]

[ Copy in Father Foy's hand]

Copy of M<sup>rs</sup> Conolly's [ sic ] letter to Dr Melia in reference to certain questions ordered to be answered to the Bishop of the Diocese the Right Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Grant.

---

Dear Rev<sup>d</sup> Fr,

What are all these questions for ? and what is doing on the subject – Is it a Clerical, Anti lay Inspection or what ?

Yrs respectfully in X<sup>t</sup>

Cornelia Conolly [sic ]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [Letter Book 11.

Letter 43 – page 48]

Miss Harcourt's Money returned.

Letter to Canon Morris ( dated ) May 18<sup>th</sup> [1864]

J.M.J.

Very Revd. & d Canon Morris

I have written the letter to Mr. Mills to sell Miss Harcourt's shares in the Consols but it just strikes me that she will have nothing to live upon for the next 6 months if she pays the whole for her annuity. Will you kindly arrange this with her & I will mention it also to Mr. Mills. I have also proposed that he should wait for a rise in the funds if they are very low just now as it would be a pity to sacrifice any portion of the very small capital for the purchase of an annuity.

2ndly with regard to the Vows, I consider fugitives as ipso facto excommunicated but " If for any grave reasons anyone should desire to leave the Society before the time of her last Vows, necessarily ( ipso facto ) she will be released from the obligation of her Simple Vows. " Those who judge of the very grave reasons are the Superior and Director & certainly not the Individual. The ipso facto refers only to the fact of the very grave reasons and this is understood in the Community, but if it admits of a doubt the " ipso facto " had better be expunged. It is not in the Italian Rule but the " necessariamente " takes its place & also refers to the " gravi ragioni ". Many grateful thanks for your kind care of this poor Miss Harcourt. As soon as I know what is settled for her annuity, I could write to some of our friends in Paris & try to get a position for her that would be respectable & safe.

Begging your prayers

I am very respectfully Yrs in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Original]

[ Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> 1846]

Reverend &amp; dear Mr Newman

As Miss Bowless tells me you will remain at Alton Towers it will be as well that I should send the letters you were kind enough to say you would take charge of, there, instead of sending them to Maryvale – Besides, in humility, to confess my many wanderings and useless distractions, I went to my table yesterday to try to recollect what letters I had to write without being able to think of any but the one to Mr Sing to tell him we would go to Derby on Wednesday next ( Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> ) to see the Convent. Miss Bowles and myself thought it better we should go as Dr Wiseman had wished we should do so & we had requested the command in the Spirit of obedience – Father Jenkins had referred me entirely to his Lordship – However it is very doubtful whether we ~~are~~ [sic] should accept the Convent or rather be more retired & nearer the Jesuit Fathers. I wish we could talk with your Reverence again on this subject.

I have written two letters to F. Grassi – one is a private one in part on my conscience which if you should not see the Revd Father I would beg you to send it to the post box. I have presumed that you are already acquainted with Mr Ryder & his dear family and if you are not in the Charity of our good God your Reverence must know them – Miss Ryder will have I think, if she has not already, a religious vocation – I have told her that your Reverence will tell her all about the little Congregation it has been proposed we should form – In confidence I wld say to you it would be well perhaps for her future usefulness & happiness that she should not make a second retreat at the “ Trinita “

[ Continuation of letter to Rev. Mr Newman, 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1846]

S. Coeur. There are other Convents where retreats are given that would leave her more free from any undue influence -

I shall offer my prayers and those of our dear little Children for your safe journey Revd Father and your happy return to young England.

Believe me with the most sincere esteem & veneration

Your Reverence's humble Sister in J.C.

C.Connelly.

Monday evening

St Marys Row,

Hans. Bir.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES, ROME.

[ from duplicated original]

[ 1856 ]

Rev<sup>d</sup> & dear Father Nugent

I was very sorry not to have seen you in Liverpool & still more so to hear you were obliged to go to the Isle of Man for your health.

I feel it my painful duty to tell you that I think Miss Worthington ought to be removed from the Convent as soon as possible. Her health is quite delicate and tho' you may have felt perfectly safe in sending her to us I do not feel safe in keeping her. I hope you will quite understand what I mean when you recall to mind the dangerous circumstances of her case before coming to us. Her deportment has been perfectly correct since she has been in the London Convent & everyone is pleased with her.

When Mr Bullen visited Bentinck St our Sisters were much surprised by hearing him speak against the Priests and against Catholic doctrine, in fine rather like an infidel than like a Catholic. – From some remarks made to one of our Sisters I have been led to suspect that he had already married Miss Worthington. I beg of your reverence to relieve me from all anxiety regarding this mysterious affair as soon as possible and immediately – For the sake of her health alone a removal is necessary

[This letter is undated and incomplete. ]

Volume 9

pg 062

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES MAYFIELD.

[ Copied from Training School

Journal, p.246]

Copy of Answer to Rev<sup>d</sup>. Jas O'Neal

[ St Leonards]

[ c. 1862, Oct. 24 – 28 ]

My dear Rev<sup>d</sup> Father in Xt

I do not think there is any chance of your getting leave from the Council Office to present the P. teachers for Examination at Xtmass. We are only allowed to present girls who have been in the Training School one year as private Students. – But if you get leave from the Council Office for an exception in their case of course there will be no difficulty in receiving them here.

I am &c.

[ Cornelia Connelly ]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [ Copied from Letter Book 1V.

Letter 61 – Page 75.]

Letter written by Our Mother to Canon O'Sullivan

April 16. 1873.

+

J.M.J. V<sup>y</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Canon O'Sullivan

I remember your speaking to me about the Southern Training School when you last came to St L in which at the time I did not see any particular advantage to the Catholic body. I find now that the Northern Counties with Scotland supply 50 Q Scholars annually so that there are 100 Students counting 1st & 2<sup>nd</sup> year in training Thus there is a sufficient number for the Liverpool T.S. without counting the Midland & Southern Dts which supply about 40. I write now to ask you to interest yourself at the Meeting of the P.S.C. in Low Week, in the proposal of a London T.S. where the Students could be exercised in teaching in large practising Schools. I am quite sure that we only need a little energy & activity to bring the matter to a close without any question of expense to the P.S.C. beyond the usual aid given to the Livpl T.S. I ought to add that the N.D. SS do not [ only not] object to another T.S ,but they think it would be a special advantage to have 2 Normal Colleges of different teaching Orders – I mean conducted by different Orders. If you agree with this opinion as to a second T.S. will you kindly interest yourself in it & induce others to do so as it is a very important matter. I am Very Revd & d<sup>f</sup> Canon O'Sullivan

Yours very respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Supr.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [ Letter Book 1V .

Letter 1, page 1.]

Our Mother to Fr. Payne. S.J.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 29. 1871.

+ J.M.J. Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Payne

You had not a second letter from me only because I thought it useless to enter upon Community matters; but now I had better say at once that I believe your information regarding Sr de Borgia and Sr Theop<sup>a</sup> to be incorrect. The former had difficulties with M. Lucy, who did not wish to have her for her own reasons. She was suffering physically long before M. Christina took charge of the Community at St. Walburga's, & she was removed because of ill health. Sr. Theophila was also suffering from an affliction of the heart before she went to Preston; her anxiety was to be one with her own sister & to live with her. I think it unfair in the one who informed on these points not to give Mother C. her due. I wish success to your schools with all my heart & regret Sr Angela's failure.

I remain Revd & dr Father

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ copied from Letter Book 1V,  
Letter 69 – Page 85]

Letter from Our Mother to F. Payne

+

J.M.J.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Payne

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst & to say that I think M.M<sup>y</sup> Veronica will be satisfied with the salary of £ 200 pr annum beginning from Jan<sup>y</sup> 1873. It would be impossible for our Sisters to live on less. Your own experience would no doubt prove this to you & I think that on examining the amount of funds received as the fruit of their labours, together with the Grant you receive from Government you will find your balance will prove the justice of their claim

I remain

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Father in Xt

Yours very faithfully

Cornelia Connelly.

( Dated)

Convent H.C.Jesus

St Leonards – on Sea

June 27<sup>th</sup> 1873.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book 1V]

Letter 71, page 87

Letter written by Our Mother to Fr Payne ( dated

Convent Mayfield

Sep<sup>r</sup>. 25<sup>th</sup> . 1873Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Payne

I beg to thank you very much for your kind letter & for the interest you take in S<sup>r</sup> Mary Joseph's welfare. I could not arrange quite as you desired for M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>y</sup> Veronica but I have requested Mother Gertrude to take over a Sister to replace temporarily M. M<sup>y</sup> Veronica who is anxious to be removed. Will you allow me to say Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Father that I do not think any Sister will have success in her Office as head in charge if the Manager of the Schools acts with the Sisters without reference to the one in charge. It appears that this has always been the case at St Walburga's, or at least it has always been so represented to me as the fact. The present failure is simply a following of all the former ~~failures~~ [sic] cases. No one has ever been equal to the position of acting in submission to those she was obliged to govern! Indeed My dear Rev<sup>d</sup> Father I thought it would be impossible to keep the schools under these circumstances & that we should be forced to give them up, rather than encounter a continuance of such disorders in religious discipline. Formerly it was the constant reference by the Sisters to another Superior in the Town, but this has not been the case of late. It seems rather to lie in the Superior not having been sustained or respected in her office. I do not say this to blame anyone , but simply that you may foresee a similar result if the same course is pursued.

~~How~~ [sic] However the Schools at St Walburga's may

have hitherto flourished, it is very certain it has been at the expense of the peace & comfort of the Community.

Begging your prayers

I remain my d<sup>r</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Father

Yours faithfully

&

Very respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly -

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book 11]

Letter 63 – Page 68

Copy of a letter to the Revd. J. W.Reed.

Convent St L.

April 15<sup>th</sup> 1865

+

J.M.J.

Revd & d Sir

It is a pity not to have the sung Mass on Sunday, but we must be content with the Choir Music if you cannot sing. Perhaps you are depreciating your abilities as a preacher. I thought I mentioned that you would be served from the Convent & attended in the house by the wife of the bailiff who is paid by us for her services

There is no direct communication with Reading or London at present. We are five or six miles from the nearest station, but another railway is now about to be laid & will probably be begun next month to open on Mayfield direct to T. Wells & then there will be no need of a cab which may always be had from the Inn. Perhaps you wd rather have our Convent at St Leonards, & if so I would have no objection to mention it to the Bishop. The yearly sum here is £100 & house found

Our Bishop generally likes to change our Confessor every 3 years when serving as Chaplain at Convents but I presume there is no necessity for the change unless the Chaplain gets tired of his work, or that his health fails or because of the many unforeseen events of this life makes a change desirable.

I remain

Always my dear Sir

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ copied from Letter Book 1V.

Letter 36, page 46]

1872

The Convent St Leonards –on- Sea

No 9<sup>th</sup> 1872

+

J.M.J.

Revd &amp; dr Fr Richards –

Many thanks for your kind letter received last evening. I must beg of you to present our most devoted expressions to the Archbishop, and will you say for us that we think that a house accommodating less than from 30 to 50 Students and ten in Community would not be desirable for a Training School. If the accommodation were efficient and a large practising School near the rent would be of minor consequence. Even supposing the Southern District could not supply more than 30 pupil Teachers we might ourselves choose from 6 to 10 private Students, and Government I believe still allows ten per ct on the numbers for which the house is provided that is one extra student on each ten. If it will meet the approbation of the Archbishop, we should much prefer waiting till next autumn to open the Training School in London, as we could very conveniently remove from the Culvers at the end of our Lease there and thus have full time to seek the most advantageous position possible. We should like to know the Archbishop's wishes that we may feel settled & know our course of action for the coming year, and if you do not mind asking, we should like also to know whether the Archbishop would make a public work with a local Committee &

2ndly Whether His Grace would allow us to have subscribers to the School under the supervision of the Committee ?

Begging your prayers I remain Very respectfully.

Yrs in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly







S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD

[ From Journal of Training School,  
St . Leonards on Sea.

1857-1864]

[ Page 247]

Revd & dr Father in Xt.

The Examination for Q Scholarships will commence on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. The usual & necessary mode of proceeding is for the Correspondent of the School to apply to the Privy Council Office for admission to the Examination giving the names of your Pupil Teachers & the name of the School to which they are bound. They will send you a printed form to fill before you will get the necessary leave of admission. When this is done, they can prepare to come to us.

I am

Revd & D<sup>r</sup> Father

Yours respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 1862

To the Revd George Rolfe Fulham

& Thos Crotty Cheltenham.

Volume 9

pg 071

CURIA GENERALIS, S.J. ARCHIVES

[ copied from Photostat]

Borgo S. Spirito, Rome

Angl. 4 – VI. 30

Very Rev<sup>d</sup> Father in X<sup>t</sup> [ Roothaan ]

Not only of the remembrance of the kindness received from your reverence some years ago at Rome, together with the great veneration I have for the Soc. Jesu, induces me to write and solicit your prayers at a moment of trial & affliction to our community and to myself; but other motives still more pressing urge me to do so.

You are aware that the Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Melia has been with us during the last few months, having remained after giving us a retreat; and tho' he had refused to come for the purpose of remaining before that time, yet, the Bishop finding it very necessary for him to do so, we have prevailed upon him to stop.

We can never be sufficiently be thankful to Divine Providence for sending in our urgent necessities a a [sic] Priest of so clear an understanding and of so simple yet strong a manner of acting. He has a laborious charge at present, having two missions connected with this within a circuit of 20 miles; but we pray & hope you may be induced to make arrangements with Bishop Wiseman for his remaining with us at least till our Monastery is quite settled, and a solid foundation of religious virtue secured.

It will be useless for me to do more than give you an idea of the necessity we are in, being a young Community chiefly converts, requiring a truly religious training:

this consideration together with the care of the schools, where there are 123 girls & 40 boys, may, I trust, claim some portion of your notice & of your charity.

The missions too, are not the less worthy of your notice as they promise in future a plentiful harvest. You perhaps may have heard of the conversion of two Puseyite clergymen, Mr Garside and M<sup>r</sup> Cavendish & of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> C<sup>pt</sup> Pakenham of the Queens I<sup>st</sup> Guards, who were received by [sic] into the Church by D<sup>r</sup> Melia. – These and many other conversions of less note give us encouragement in the ways of God & in tending ever towards the practice of virtue, in the true path of perfection.

Having mentioned to D<sup>r</sup> Melia that I intended writing to your reverence, he desires me to say that he hopes you received his last letter, sent just before the receipt of one from you.

Again begging your prayers and a consideration on the matter I have proposed

I remain

Very reverend Father in X<sup>t</sup>

Your obedient & humble Servant

C.Connelly

M.Sup.

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

July 17<sup>th</sup> 1850



ARCHIVES OF THE CURIA GENERALIS, S.J. [ copied from a Photostat]

Borgo S. Spirito, Rome

[ Written in another hand] –

S<sup>t</sup> Leonard's Sea 17 July 1850 – M<sup>de</sup> Connely

[Postmark]

[Postmark]

Affranchie

Al Rev<sup>mo</sup> in [ ? ]t Padre

Il Padre Roothaan

Al Gesu

Roma

Italy

---

[Postmarks]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[ Copied from Photostat]

[ Note in hand of Fr. Styche – Southwark Diocesan Archivist:-

Fr Scratton was collecting for his new Church at Deal. ]

The Convent Sep14<sup>th</sup> 77

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea.

+

JMJ

Rev and d<sup>r</sup> Father Scratton

I am much surprised at the contents of your letter. I had not the pleasure of seeing you when you called at the Convent with the plans of your Church and I am quite certain that I never made you any promise to subscribe to your Church.

I hope sincerely that you may have every help from those who are able to give it , and you have our best congratulations on the Success of the late mission.

Begging your prayers

I remain

Rev & d<sup>r</sup> Sir

Yrs very respectfully

In JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup Gn.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES .

[ Copied from Photostat]

[ Undated, unsigned.

In Cornelia Connelly's hand.

[December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1862 ?]

Rev & d<sup>r</sup> Mr Searle,

1. Will you get the Bishop to say what he wants me to do – and state that if his Lordship thinks I have any wish that is contrary to what is right or what he himself would wish in the end, it is not so.
2. His Lordship consented to an appeal being made – Does he now object ?
3. If he does object to the appeal does he wish me to act against the trust Deed, - I mean does his Lordship think we should do right in putting it aside ?
4. If an appeal is made in which the statement is final, I presume this could in no way affect any decision that the S.C. may make in regard to our building a separate Church, as the Bishop first proposed, & as soon as his Lordship finds that it could be supported – The matter would thus lie between ourselves & the S.C. while in the present instance it lies between the Trustees & the S.C. If his Lordship is unwilling to act himself I am at a loss to know how I can act – The money is ready, & the Architect chosen – and in the meanwhile we are to be punished – and we are told that we shew little disposition to carry out the wishes of the Sacred Congregation ! I really need light to understand our own position.

The Convent

Wednesday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> [ 1862]

+

J.M.J.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & dr Mr Searle,

The door shall be unlocked as usual, but I trust to hear nothing more about the seculars being mingled with our services.

Yrs very respectfully

In J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.



Sunday

Aug. 16. [1863 ]

+

J.M.J.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & dr Mr Searle,

We have not had any correspondence with the Privy Council, nor do I know whether Mr Allies has acted on our wish to withdraw the Training Sch<sup>l</sup> at Christmas.

It is quite certain that we cannot run the risk of supporting the Students – under the new minutes – and what is still worse to admit the Protestant Inspector to audit our accounts, which was requested during the holidays, through Mr Allies. I returned the letter from the Council Office to Mr Allies to whom it was addressed.

I presume the Bishop would be even more averse to such connection with the Gov<sup>t</sup> than ourselves.

I am

Very respectfully

yrs in J.C.

C.C.

The Convent

Sunday.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Letter Book 11

Letter 33 – page 36]

Copy of a letter from Our Mother to Mr Searle –

( dated)

March 6<sup>th</sup>. 1864

+

J.M.J.

Revd. & dr. Mr. Searle.

Will you kindly tell the Bishop Dr. Roskell that if it is necessary to make an offer to secure a site for the Church in order to close the affair finally with Col. Towneley & Rome that we are willing to add £ 500 for the purchase of the Trust land, which cannot be given, but may readily be purchased with the consent of the Charity Commissioners. The lot is 100 ft front by 175 in depth & within a few minutes walk of the S. Leonards railway & I have no doubt it may be purchased at the low value of £ 500. I am Revd. & d Fr in Xt.

Yours very respectfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

[November 1864]

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Mr Searle

I do [not] think it is true that there has been any interference such as represented to you – but I will again question the Sisters in charge – I am afraid that [sabella] Ade is not truthful or grateful and she is the only one I suspect, but I may be wrong.

Poor Sister Theresa [ Laprimaudaye ] waited twice for you yesterday, and was very tired and annoyed that you did not come. She is very ill and cannot fast, and if you could hear her Confession tomorrow morning & give her the Viaticum it would be a great comfort to her. She is not in immediate danger however. –

The Cardinal never made any such charge as you imagine – His E's remark was made on the paragraph in the rule, not on my conduct.

Begging your prayers

I remain

Yrs respectfully in JC

C.C.

Saturday Ev.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [ Copied from Letter Book 11]

Letter 59, page 66

Letter from Our Mother to Revd Searle dated

Mayfield March 10<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Rev & d Mr Searle

Thank you for the edifying example sent by the Bishop.

2. The Duchess did not express to me any annoyance, & as I act openly & freely with Her Grace, I expect the same in return – moreover I think there has been some misunderstanding regarding M. Angela's request, which as far as I know was simple & reasonable without the slightest allusion to right of any kind, or to any benefit.

3. I am greatly amused at your reference to the duty of information from me on a Trust Deed that has never been shewn me !

4. Thanks also for the suggestion regarding the Chaplain- most likely the Bishop may find occupation for two, & in this case we should not run the risk of making an “ appendage “ either of the Orphanages or of ourselves

5. I think Parks is a very honest man, but as he has his heart in making money for himself, it will be better to get another baliff & let him follow his own inclination. We shall certainly try to get another who is a Catholic if we can find one to suit us. We go to Tunbridge Wells tomorrow & I shall speak to Fr Clarke Parkes has not certainly cleared the rent which he ought to have done but this is hardly to be expected the first year I hope your cold is better. I am

Very faithfully Yrs in J.C.

C.C.

P.S. I must not fail to add that I have never refused a personal allowance for the clothing of the Sisters, on the contrary I have several times pointed out to you the necessity of it & also mentioned it to the Duchess. I am annoyed at the idea of any benefit – the Old Palace is the benefit & the Orphanages the charity in our eyes.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book 11]

Letter 61 – Page 67

J.M.J.

March 19<sup>th</sup> [1865]

Rev & d Mr Searle

I have written to the Bishop to accept Mr Reed for Mayfield & Dr Reinaud for the Chaplaincy here requesting H.L. to arrange matters to suit your convenience. We must not expect to find in another so zealous and devoted a friend & father as you have been to us, but while you are attached to the D and her Orphanages, we shall feel you are not far off & that we are all working in the same spirit, A.M.D.G., & to this great end alone. I have sent the Raffle tickets & withdrawn your name. I quite see that it would have been a useless trouble to you to be referred to in the returned duplicates & I hope in future we shall have no more misunderstandings.

I am very faithfully & respectfully

yours in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Letter written by Our Mother to Mr Taylor.

Jany 14. [1873]

+

J.M.J.

Rev & dr Fr Taylor

Thanks for your letter. It would be rather awkward for me to write to a Lawyer to propose purchasing a House when I have no Capital to put forth!

Mr New is our London Lawyer – but if it is necessary to have another will you kindly ask Mr Cuddon to call upon the Archbishop regarding the purchase of the Dorset St House on our account ? I do not know how the money is to be raised unless it be got from the Fire Insurance – but I told the Archbishop that I thought you could suggest the means:

It is not an unusual thing to pay by instalments & this is the only way in our power at present. Will you kindly explain this to Mr Cuddon before he goes to the Archbishop ? If the means can be raised the Deed should be made to

Miss Annie Laprimaudaye

Miss Annie Croft

Miss Coralie Bethell

Of course my name can be given as security for the Community in the annual payment. We ought also to have the right to pay off the whole in a year or two if we find it convenient to do so.

I remain Revd & dr Fr Taylor

Yours respect<sup>y</sup> in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.Supr.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD

[From St. Ignatius Presbytery, Preston ]

[ copied from original]

The Convent

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

April 12. 1875

+

JMJ

Rev & dear Father Walker

I trust you may not suffer any inconvenience in the Schools at S<sup>t</sup> Ignatius from the present arrangements. We have no intention to disturb the usual working of the Sisters unless you wish yourself to give us notice to this effect on our engagement of the three months notice, mutually to be given.

Regarding the Amalgamation of the Communities in Preston notice was sent, that we had decided upon this move, to the Rev<sup>d</sup> Rector & the Rev<sup>d</sup> Provincial as far back as the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, which is nearly three months since, though I do not see that this matter is concerned with our engagement in the charge of the Schools.

I assure you Rev<sup>d</sup> Father that no one regrets more than myself that you should be annoyed by this change. We have done what lies in our power in obedience and under the conviction that it is God's Holy Will that the Communities



should be united at least for the present. We can but leave the future in faith to His All wise Providence and to your holy prayers –

Begging your blessing

I remain d<sup>r</sup> Rev F<sup>r</sup>

Very respectfully

Yrs in JC.

M Cornelia Connelly

Sup G.

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> [ 1862 ]

+

J.M.J.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>f</sup> Mr Wenham,

I have to thank you for your kind letter & for the Certificates for the second year Students. The Medal for J.Ryan I presume was not sent by the same post, as it has not made its appearance .

With regard to the result of the Examination I am convinced that the inferiority is not because of any deficiency on the part of the Students or their course of study . If it is true that three of the Inspectors or Examiners belong to the Diocese of Liverpool and only one to this Diocese, it would not be surprising that Liverpool should carry their prizes - If also it be true that the questions are drawn up by the Liverpool Priests, who are in constant communication with the Students, and still more if the one who draws up the questions teaches or gives lectures to the children there could of course be few chances in favour of St Leonards , or even if the Liverpool Priest draws up the questions he more or less has communication with the School, and draws the questions to suit the lessons they have learnt by heart – which no doubt would cause a great similarity in the writing ( composition) [sic] a fact which would be sharply criticised , if not condemned, in an Examination held by

the Council Office Examiners. I think that justice demands quite as strict a secrecy as to the

Volume 9

-2-

page 085

questions in the one as in the other, and if a Liverpool priest draw up the questions for their School, one equally interested ought to do the same for the St Leonards School. The very fact that the Liverpool papers are so much alike would condemn them at the Council Office, even supposing there was not a possibility of their being particularly prepared for certain questions.

You must not suppose that I intend to cast any imputation upon anyone – I do not – but the facts certainly deserve investigation and I trust they may have it, for the satisfaction of everyone and for justice sake.

With all the felicitations of this holy season

I remain

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Mr Wenham

Yrs most respectfully

In J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME

[ copied from Letter Book 1V,  
Letter 23 – Page 33]

+

J.M.J. Dear Canon Wenham –

Many thanks for your letter. If you think it desirable to speak to the Archbishop, pray do so. As I know nothing about the existing state of things, it would be almost useless for me to write. The only point I know is that N.D.SS do not wish to take the London T.S. We therefore would wish to take it, & by removing from the C to L we could unite with the Staff proposed for the TS. and effect thoroughly the work we should undertake, if the Archbishop approves of this removal. Our lease at the C. terminates Sep. 1873, subject to renewal if desirable. The Training School is a much more important work for the Poor Schools while the position of the C. at the Culvers is not an advantageous one, being too far from the College to be served regularly. If you can see the Archbishop & make this representation the matter could be more advantageously discussed than by letter.

I remain

Revd &amp; dr Father in Xt

Yours very respectfully.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [ copied from Letter Book 1V,  
Letter 39, page 49]

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother ( dated to Canon Wenham.

To Canon Wenham

The Convent St Leonards-on-Sea

Novr 26. 1872

+

J.M.J.

Revd & dr Fr in Xt

I think you will like to know the result of my visit to the A. Bp. who sent for me through Provost Hunt.

1<sup>st</sup>. It seems there is every probability that the house proposed by the A. Bp. would be capable of being made all that we should desire if the Lease can be secured.

2. The number of P.Teachers is still uncertain & this we ought to ascertain, though I do not see how we may do so unless we can get a Diocesan report of each District such as this of the A. Diocese which shews 70 P. Teachers for 1872, giving an average of 14 P.T's of the fifth year, for this one Diocese. It is supposed that Southwark would give about the same number. -? I presume that hitherto the demand for Teachers in the P.S.'s has encouraged the fifth year P.T.'s to take Schools rather than to follow up the advantage offered in the T.S. , as certainly the numbers trained do not amount to much more than one tenth of our supposed average. We may however count upon from 15 to 20 each year. Mr Stokes gives an exact table of the Lancashire P.T's in his report for 1871, but I can find nothing for the Southern & Midland Districts. I notice also a table in Mr Stokes' Report for 1869

showing the whole number of P.T's R. Cath. from 1861 to 1868 to be average upwards of 500 each year. In 1868 the number was 543- Average for 5<sup>th</sup> year 108, & of these 36 only were admitted for Exam<sup>r</sup> for Q.S. & in

1861 on an average of 109, 64 P.T.s were admitted to the Ex Q.S. This is a most wonderful fall ! It seems a great pity that the T.S. was not opened in London in 1863 at the time we gave it up at St Leonards. But there was no co-operative spirit to propose or to second such a move. It might have been done & we could have worked it out ourselves- but up-hill work requires encouragement and cannot resist hostility or prejudice beyond a certain extent - & thus the work of God is lost ! Even now it seems only the A.B.yourself & the S.P. Priests care about it- Mr Allies says he is not opposed to a London T.S. – but no doubt there is, if not an apathy, at least a want of spirit some where for the general good. We must not say every where. We need a living influence & more unity of action among the Managers of P.S's to keep the P.T. & everybody up to the mark! Well we must be humble - & do the best possible, and this at least will be for the honour of God and His Church.

To return to the points in question-

1st The numbers. I suppose we may count upon 15 P.T. each year; this would bring us to 30 students for the 2 years – Is this correct or not?-

2. The A.B. gave me the impression that Fr Rowe and Mr A. are against the move & that you and F. Richards would have a struggle to gain your point. You will see at once that I do not understand the position of Fr Rowe, nor what he had to do with the question but I feel quite sure that Mr A. wd not be against it if no further expense is to be incurred by the P.S. Committee. He is quite a friend as far as we are concerned but the interest ( pecuniary ) of

the C. is an important duty, and besides this two Schools will give more trouble than one I have taken up too much of your time in this long letter & now I will only add that I am dear Father

Yours faithfully & respect<sup>y</sup> in J.C.

C.C.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book 1V ]

Letter 40 , page 52

1872

Letter from Our Mother to Can. Wenham dated –

The Convent St L- on Sea

Decr 2<sup>nd</sup> 1872

+

J.M.J.

Revd &amp; dr Fr. in Xt

I am amazed at the number you mention as certain and it seems impossible that the A.B. could have realized the fact! It is a great pity that so much time has been lost on the question & if it is not too late for arrangements for this year could not your P. Teachers go to the London Training Schools for examination ? If we can have 3 or 4 energetic Managers there is still a possibility of being able to open the T.S. in January. There will be no difficulty on our part whatever. We have an ample staff of Teachers, & could remove at any moment from the Culvers. The point now regards the Lease of the house, also the naming of Managers. I shall write by the next post to the A.B. & if the Managers cannot act with the Educ. Dept. under the A.B., I presume His Grace has only to request a meeting of the P.S. Com. for it to be carried out. If you will tell me when the meeting is to be held I should most willingly write to the members I may know to prevent any opposition. What folly to put off to another year to the loss of those poor Girls who cannot go so far as Lpl for Ex! If they go to Lpl. do they return & wait for the result of the Ex! then return again? St. Leonards was thought to be too long a journey, but a double trip to Liverpool is quite heroic! If you are making any Ex in our neighbourhood I wish you would pay us a visit en route.

I remain dr Fr in Xt.

Yours faithfully

Cornelia Connelly .





S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [ Copied from Letter Book 1V,  
Letter 56, page 70 ]

Letter written to canon Wenham by Our Mother dated

The Convent. March 18<sup>th</sup> 1873.

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J.M.J.

Dear Canon Wenham

I send you a letter received from F. Johnson this morning. If you are willing to act in the matter for us with the Poor School Committee, pray do so. I am quite ready to carry out what Fr Johnson says regarding the purchase of the house provided we can make sure of the £1000 for the repairs and building without which it would be useless as a Training School. If the Education Fund or other assistance can be had for the Building it will be all the same to us to pay down £1000 or to expend it on the necessary repairs & dormitories. I should not like to have Gov<sup>t</sup> aid on the building as we should want to purchase again at the end of this 15 years' lease. And it would be as well to keep on the Mortgage as long as possible till we have the money in hand - Mr New, who is our London lawyer, is the one employed by the R. Nuns, & Mr Sills is away, but if you like to employ any other in whom you have confidence, do so, & we shall be ready to act with him. Believe me to be

Revd & dr Father in Xt

Yours faithfully

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ copied from Letter Book 1V,  
Letter 58- page 72]

Copy

Letter to Can. Wenham from Our Mother

April 1st 1873.

V<sup>y</sup> Revd & d<sup>r</sup> Can. Wenham

The inclosed is most satisfactory – Thanks – I thought I could not do wrong in writing to Mr Allies as you had before advised my writing to him. Besides this I have always looked upon him as a personal friend of ours; & doubly so from having had the education of his two children from their ~~earliest~~ [sic] early childhood. What do you advise now as to my writing again to him to say that in whatever way he may feel himself pledged to the Livp. T.S. that I hope he will second any movement that may be made in the next meeting in favour of a second T.S. in London, since I am quite certain that the Lpl. T.S. Sisters feel that it will be an advantage to all the Schools to have two Normal Colleges & that the north of England & Scotland will supply 100 Students I am quite ready to enlist his favour if you see no objection to my doing so & at the same time to write to Ld Petre & others. I felt I could not do so until we were certain of the views of the N. Dame Sisters.

I am Revd & d<sup>r</sup> Canon Wenham

Yours faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ From Letter Book 1V.

Letter 91 – Page 120-122 ]

To the Rev<sup>d</sup> Father Whitty S.J.

The Convent S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

Jan<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 1875

JMJ

V. Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Whitty.

I have requested M. Angelica to copy the letters I received from the Vicar General regarding the removal of S<sup>r</sup> de Borgia . It was of this Sister the Vicar General spoke to me on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June.

The first time that D<sup>r</sup> Fisher spoke to me of M<sup>th</sup> Eulalia's removal was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1874 in his own room at the College- Everton – Liverpool. Mother Angelica was witness to my astonishment and D<sup>r</sup> Fisher did not allude to having ever spoken to me on this subject before. He certainly never did. When I saw D<sup>r</sup> Fisher on the 27<sup>th</sup> S<sup>r</sup> de Borgia's removal was requested, and I replied that as the Elections were so soon to be made, it would be better to make no changes at present, to which His Reverence assented. ( besides this in S<sup>r</sup> de Borgia's case the V. General refers to the Decree of Visitation in which the removal of Superiors is alone mentioned.

It was with Your Reverence alone that I conversed about M. Eulalia & then not of any removal you will remember, but only of being rather disappointed & -

I only enter upon this for the sake of clearness to put to light the truth – The Bishop of Liverpool has been misinformed on more than one point! But there is no use in trying to clear up matters that are all one-sided & without any just redress.

I do not know that there is any particular use in

writing this to you, but I feel more comfortable to put it in writing under the present circumstances when the evil spirits seem to work triumphantly,

Begging your prayers & blessing.

I remain d<sup>r</sup> R. Father

Your faithful Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ copied from Letter Book 1V,  
Letter 106 – Page 148 ]

Copy

The Convent May 5<sup>th</sup> 1876

Layton Hill Blackpool

Very Rev & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Whitty

I take immediate occasion to express my regret that your Reverence was not informed before our arrival in Preston of the election of M<sup>th</sup> St John Williams as Superior local of the Convent in Winckley Square also of the election of Mother Mary S<sup>t</sup> Dunstan as her Assistant.

I thank you dear Rev F<sup>r</sup> most sincerely for your great kindness to all our sisters in general and for the good and many services you have bestowed upon me as well as upon them for which I desire to express my humble gratitude & Rev & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup> I remain your obedient servant in J.C.

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup. G.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ copied from Letter Book 1

Letter 6. Page 9.]

JM.J. Chance letter Copy of a letter dated Decr. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1856.

Very Revd. Father in J.C.

I owe you many apologies regarding your first letter, which remained unanswered solely from the fact of my losing, or accidentally burning it. It disappeared certainly, and to my greater humiliation, I could not remember the name or the address of the writer. I hope you will forgive the fault, and receive the explanation.

The extract from the Bishop's letter quite grieves me. We are not in the least pledged to accept Mrs. Fox's offer, nor do I know what to propose to our Chapter in order to come to a decision. We shall probably hear from the Bishop & from Mrs Fox and then propose a final decision from our Chapter. You must be aware very Revd. Father that a matter of so much importance requires time and consideration, and certainly as to the means to effect what is proposed. May I beg your prayers Revd. Father for our dear children who are on the eve of a Retreat preparatory to their First Communion ? – and also for our students of the Training School who are to meet the Government Examination during the Octave of the Immaculate Conception B.V.M. ?

-It is a critical moment for these poor Girls, many of whose families are dependent upon them.

Begging your Blessing for myself as for them I remain

Very Rev. Father in Christ

Your humble Servant

C....C....

Supr.

All Souls

St .Leonards Decr. 2<sup>nd</sup>.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES (ROME)

[ copied from Letter Book 1]

Letter 57, page 57

Copy          Written June 18<sup>th</sup>. 1858

Revd & dear Sir

I shall be very happy to receive the proposals contemplated for your new Schools, but I must first state that it would be impossible to send you any of our Sisters until after the Christmas Examination.

Begging your prayers & blessings

I am

Very respectfully yrs in JC.

C.....C.....

Convent H.C.Jesus

All Souls

St Leonards – on – Sea

June 18<sup>th</sup>. 1858

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [ Copied from Letter Book 1.  
Letter 60, pages 59-60 ]  
August 24<sup>th</sup>.

JMJ

Revd & dr Fr in JC –

I beg to thank you for your kind letter of the 21<sup>st</sup>, and to say that any proposals you think proper to make shall ,as far as possible be met by us with every good will to promote your views. As it would be necessary before deciding upon any future move to have an agreement in writing, we think it well to propose for your consideration some certain points that we should require to have formally settled – Thus,

1st That we should have the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel and Mass said from time to time according to your convenience

2nd That the Committee be at the expense of furnishing the Convent –

3<sup>rd</sup>. That the Salaries of the Nuns employed meet the demands of the Govt. Augn. Grants

4<sup>th</sup> That the Convent be given rent free, and on the same terms as the Convent of St Ignatius.

5<sup>th</sup> That certain pews in the Church be appropriated to the Community,

6<sup>th</sup>. That a place in the graveyard be appropriated for the Convent, in case of the death of any of the Community devoted to your work.

I do not remember any other points at present-, but as I hope to visit Preston about the 15<sup>th</sup> or 20th

of September, we may thus maturely discuss the obligations which are of mutual importance.

Begging Your Reverence's blessing and prayers

I am

Revd Fr in Xt

Yours respectfully

C....C..

Convent H C Jesus

St Leonards-on-Sea

August 24<sup>th</sup> 1858

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES .

[ Copied from Photostat]

The Convent S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

March 28. 1873

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JMJ

Very Rev<sup>d</sup> & dear Vicar General

Many thanks for your kind answer to my telegram. The ceremony went off beautifully and the dear Bishop sent a telegram from Rome to give leave which we received not long after your answer arrived.

Private & confidential.

I am very sorry to trouble you again ab<sup>t</sup> Mayfield, but I am informed that things are worse there than ever. If it is impossible to find anyone to exchange it would be better for them to be without a Priest at least for a time & however inconvenient, the Sisters and children could go to one of the Orphanages for Mass & Communion.

I was told that Mons de Th: [ury] had said that if the Bishop asked if Marie was there he would take her up to London with him, so that he could say, No- !! – French intrigue & untruthfulness become extremely scandalous to honest english minds & what it- [sic] becomes of any confidence when added to this there is the double evil of a feminine influence ! It cannot go on – and if y<sup>r</sup> reverence would ask F<sup>r</sup> Baron or Mr Tunstall what they think of the state of things at Mayfield you would very soon know that I have not exaggerated the necessity of a change.

I am very very sorry to trouble you ab<sup>t</sup> these matters but the duty is forced upon me.

Is it true that we may hope the Bishop may return tomorrow ?

I remain Very Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> F<sup>r</sup>

yrs faithfully

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[ Copied from Photostat]

The Convent S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

June 19<sup>th</sup> 1877

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JMJ

V. Rev<sup>d</sup> Vicar General,

As we are in doubt now that the time of the Synod is past, whether our Bishop is returning or not, I send the enclosed letter to your Reverence to be forwarded to the proper address.

If the Bishop is not returning this week I beg to ask permission for the election of Deputies in the Convents of S<sup>t</sup> Leonards Mayfield and Mark cross.

The election of Deputies for the Chapter, General, to be held at S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sun August 2<sup>nd</sup> by order of the Bishop of Southwark, has been held in America , and will be held at Preston on Thursday next, & at the Blackpool Convent on Friday next – If they may be held on the same days at the three convents of this Diocese we shall be very glad if you will delegate F<sup>r</sup> Hogan for S<sup>t</sup> Leonards & F<sup>R</sup> Warner for Mark cross & Mayfield.

I remain

Your humble Ser<sup>vt</sup>

in JC

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup Gen<sup>l</sup> .

[ Bishop Danell's hand:

July 1. Appoints

F Hogan for St Leonards &

F. Warner for Mark Cross & Mayfield ]

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The Convent Mayfield

Hawkhurst

Sussex June 2

1876

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JMJ

Rev & dear F<sup>r</sup> Provincial

After reflecting upon the substance of your kind letter I beg to say that we do not think it possible at present to provide extra Sisters for the Night School- nor would it be possible to do justice to the Schools (Day) by diminishing the number employed there. I most sincerely assure your Reverence , that we decline this proposal as a serious point of conscience perfectly in accordance with your own principles.

The Sisters could not object to the employment either of Seculars or Nuns in the Night Schools and we hope the Rev<sup>d</sup> Managers may be able to make any arrangements they most prefer for the good of their Schools in which we take the most zealous interest.

Begging your Reverences blessing & prayers

I remain Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Father

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup. Gen.





ARCHIVES of the ENGLISH PROVINCE S.J.

[Farm Street, London ]

[copied from photostat]

[ Coincides with a letter from C.C. to Fr. Provincial dated June 2, 1976]

The managers of the Girls Schools having duly weighed the difficulties urged by the Superiors of the Convent have come to the following conclusions.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tho' most willing to consider the reasons and difficulties of the Sisters they cannot relinquish the right of finally deciding for themselves- each for his own School the number of Sisters to be employed in each School as also the most expedient time for commencing the vacations.
- 2<sup>ly</sup> On this last point the managers feel bound to adhere to the decision already come to of beginning the summer holidays on Whitsun Eve.
- 3<sup>ly</sup> With regard to salary they propose to pay the Convent for the services\*/ at the rate of £55. A year for each X 1<sup>st</sup>. or 2<sup>nd</sup> Class certificated Teacher and £30 a year for each non-certificated Teacher.
- 4<sup>th</sup> With reference to the Night Schools it is proposed to make such arrangements as to rest the Sisters engaged in them by absence from the day School ~~for~~ [sic] on the three days of Night School, either for half a day or a whole day according to the needs & circumstances.
- 5<sup>th</sup> It is also proposed to pay the cab expenses for the Night Schools,

\* of the Sisters

