

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from MS copy]

Private

October 3rd [1856]

Copy (but perhaps not word for word)

My Lord Bishop [Goss}

I beg to express to you my very sincere thanks for your having offered the Rupert Lane property to the Faithful Companions; & I shall be most happy to hear of the sale of it, much as I shall regret leaving Liverpool.

I have never interfered with that unfortunate purchase, as it was made without my consent, and the bond for £5000 taken by Miss Bowles and her brother without even the opinion of my Consultors, or myself being asked.

Miss Bowles & her brother are the only responsible persons.

I have sent the Superioress from Preston in my place to take charge of the Community - not of the property, and she will be able to arrange all things so as to leave the town at a fitting time and in a creditable manner ; after paying all their debts.

I think I ought to mention that I have sent to Rupert House upwards of £200 this year. I had promised Miss Bowles £100.

The remaining interest money I shall pay to Mr. Bowles when it is due.

Begging Your Lordship's blessing

I am

Very faithfully your obe^t. Servant in J.C.

C.C.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Letter Book 1]

COPY

Letter 29, page 28

Bishop of Liverpool

My Lord Bishop

Finding it necessary to leave Liverpool, with the understanding that your Lordship was favourable to our opening a School at Blackpool, we did so my Lord upon your verbal approbation.

As we now have a furnished House there, and a school likely to succeed, we beg your lordship's Sanction to our Infant Convent.....

[Cornelia Connelly]

Dated November 17th 1857.

(Written on a sheet of cream fools-cap – inclosed in a large Envelope...)

Bishop of Liverpool

My Lord Bishop [Goss]

I am obliged to trouble you with two questions regarding the affair of Rupert House. I think you are aware my Lord that we are not in conscience bound to take any share in the debt owing to Mr J. Bowles, it being a private debt contracted by Miss B without the knowledge or consent of any member of our Community; - still for the sake of peace, the Cardinal and our Bishop advise our making every sacrifice to prevent further legal proceedings, and it is for this purpose that I beg your Lordship's attention for a few moments to the subject.

The only proposal in our power to make will be to offer to rent the premises on a lease of three years at £250 pr. annum paying it in advance, and at the end of that time either to let the property be sold, or to purchase it in other names.

Before making the offer I beg to ask your Lordship

1st Whether there is any probability of our being able to underlet the place to the Lace Schools, or to any other Congregation in Liverpool ?

2^{ndly} Whether your Lordship would be favourable to our opening a Boarding School there in a manner that would be likely to succeed & prove finally a good & pious work, yet under the possibility of removing to a more favourable position

at the end of the three years.

I am very sorry to add to the many calls upon Your Lordship's time, but your answer will be all important in deciding upon the proposals drawn up by Mr. Byston in order to bring forth some compromise that may satisfy the opponent parties.

I have to thank you my Lord for your paternal kindness to our dear Sisters in Preston, whose humble labours among the Poor I trust may be some consolation among the many more important cares that press upon your Lordship.

Humbly begging a blessing I am

My Lord Bishop

Your obedient Servant in Xt.

C.C.

Convent H.C.J.

All Souls

St. L – on Sea

Novr. 17th. 1857.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [Copied from Letter Book 1
Letter 56. Page 56]

Copy. The same day. – June 15th [1858]
to the Bishop of Liverpool.

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop

Will you kindly give leave for the Retreat of our Sisters in Preston during the month of July, & for those in Blackpool during the month of August? I am writing to the Fr. Provincial by this evening's post to say that we shall be in want of the services of his Fathers at these times.

This weather must be very oppressive to your Lordship, surrounded by so many heavy duties & I hope it may not affect your valuable health. The heat is somewhat mitigated here by the sea-breezes, but it is intensely oppressive out of the breeze.

Humbly begging Your Lordship's Blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful Servt in JC

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

[1858]

Convent HCJ June 15th.

St Leonards – on - Sea

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1]

Letter 70. pages 69-70

/Letter sent August 6th 1859 (Dr Goss

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop

I hope I shall not be troublesome in so soon again writing to your Lordship, but in the present instance we require your advice and direction. Our Sisters at Blackpool have now the opportunity of renting Raikes Hall, which is a much more commodious dwelling and more suitable for a Convent than the house they now occupy, offering abundant accommodation for their Schools at a rent of about £50 pr. annum more than the present rent. The walk from the Church would be about from ten to 20 minutes. We unanimously think the change would be most desirable & even necessary for the success of the Schools, and in fact the difference in the rent wd be more than made up by the advantage of accommodation & position. Mr H. is willing to give us a lease of 7 years. There is a tenant on the farm attached who pays a rent of £21 pr. an - ; we should wish to have possession of this also for the use of the Community. Will your Lordship kindly say whether you approve of this change as soon as ~~you~~ [sic] convenient, as our Sisters are afraid the old gentleman may change his mind & that they may thus be kept back another year. I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful Servant

In JC

C...C...

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1]

Letter 71. page 70.

To Dr Goss.

Copy of a letter sent to B... to be forwarded to the B. of L. [composed by Cornelia Connelly]

August 12th, 1859.

My Lord Bishop.

It is the first time I have had the pleasure of writing to your Lordship & I am very happy that it is on the occasion of expressing our very sincere thanks for the consent which your Lordship so kindly gives for our removal to Raikes Hall. No doubt it will be a great advantage for the Schools, and we hope when Your Lordship visits Blackpool that you may be pleased with the change, & that we may be successful in this little corner of our dr Lord's Vineyard.

Humbly begging Your Lordship's blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop.

Most respectfully yr. faithful Servt in JC.

Sr. Theresa. Supr.

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to Dr Goss

(dated) August 29. 1865

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J.M.J.

My dear Lord,

Our good SS at Bkpl are beginning to feel anxious about their future residence as the lease at R. Hall is drawing to a close. Would Y L approve of their removing to the Knowle which Lord E. Howard has offered for £2500 with 12 acres of land including 200,000 Bricks. The place is thought to be quite worth the sum as an Investment, and our friends are willing to secure it to us permanently. We have had between 30 & 40 children in our School at the Raikes & there is every probability of an increase when sufficient accommodation is offered & secured to the School. We are assured also that £600 would be sufficient to expend on the proposed addition having the Bricks on the premises.

We are anxious my Lord to remain at Bpl – where the children have the advantage of sea air & where we can be served from the Church & this is the only House that would suit us. Mrs H. refuses to grant a renewal of the lease & there is no prospect of her changing her mind. The SS & childn hope Y L will visit them & indeed they are very good – only want Y L's blessing to make them still better.

I sincerely hope my Lord that your health is better & I will only add that we pray daily for Y Lordship & ask in return an occasional blessing –

I am my dear Lord

Your faithful Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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

[Copied from Letter Book 11

Letter 71 – Page 74]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Jan 12th 1866

J.M.J.

My dear Lord [Bishop Goss]

You will I am sure excuse my troubling your Lordship so soon again in regard to the Bpl Convent where the lease expires at the end of this year. We were disappointed in the proposed arrangement for the Knowle, and since then Mrs Wilcox has offered us her house on Esthwaite Water called Lake Bank House. She has promised to make it over to the Community and to assist in Building a School Hall and Dormitories reserving a certain portion of her house for her own use. Would your Lordship approve of the Bpl Community being removed there with the boarding School leaving five Sisters with two day schools at Bpl? There is a pretty good house at the back of the Church in Bpl. in Queens Sqr – where the Sisters are now teaching in a day school within a few yards of the poor School, and we shall be able to judge of the probability of future success in the trial of a few months before we engage ourselves permanently. The chief point I wish to know is whether your Lordship will be pleased to have a removal to Lake Bank House?

I hope your Lordships health is improving, and we

all join in wishing you a very happy New year – We all pray daily for our five Bishops
by name & hope for a blessing in return

I remain

My dear Lord

Your faithful servt in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.A.

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

[Copied from Letter Book 11

Letter 79 – Page 83]

Letter to Dr Goss dated

The Convent

St Leonards – on – Sea

April 27. – 66

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J.M.J.

My dear Lord

I have written to Mrs Wilcock to say that the project of a Convent there must be at an end. And I am sure from your Lordship's letter that you prefer the Sisters remaining at Blackpool. I did not write again after your answer to my letter as I knew that she would write to Y.L. herself on the subject & we should thus know your wish in her regard.

I remain my dear Lord

Yours faithful Servt in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to Dr Goss July 22 [1870]

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J.M.J.

My Lord & most d^r Father in Xt.

In reply to a letter received from Canon Fisher yesterday, I beg to say that I shall be most happy to forward immediately, or in a few days a Copy of the English translation of the Rules as revised by the Consutore in Rome & printed by the Press of Prop. Fide – also the abridged Rule, unrevised, which remains in use until the revised Rule be approved by the Holy See. The revised Rule has not yet been signed by our Communities in America.

Blackpool Property

The Convent at B. may be looked upon as rented property only, being held in the names of four Sisters who have invested their property therein at 5 pr ct interest, each of whom has a personal claim on the building. The sum paid is about £3000, and the sum borrowed on the property as security is about £ 3300 also at 5 pr ct interest. £2000 of this must remain on mortgage, paying the interest only. No donations have been made on the buildings. I hope our SS have always been found to be devoted to their duties with God alone in view & the good of those precious little ones entrusted to their care –

- - - - Our dear late Bishop &c &c &c –

[Cornelia Connelly]

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

[Letter Book 111.

Letter 8, page 8.]

1871.

Copy of a letter written to Dr. Goss June 21. 1871 by Our Mother.

The Convent St. L on Sea.

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J.M.J.

My Lord & most dear Father in Xt.

I hasten to thank y [our] L [ordship] for your kind letter the contents of which I communicated immediately to my Assistants and Council & the undivided opinion regarding the Sister referred to in your letter is that we should by bringing her here increase the present evil fivefold. We feel quite certain that she would not profit by any care that I could bestow upon her. The changes made for her benefit have been numerous and most unusual amongst us. Since the year 1864 or – 65, she has had no less than seven changes. First from St Leonards to the Orphanage at Ore – second to St. Anne's London – third to Mayfield, and after a residence of eight months at Mayfield she begged & insisted on being set to Preston, knowing that I only consented to this change out of pity for the peculiar state of her mind. After about a year's residence with M [other] Lucy at St Wilfrid's she begged again to be removed & indeed I found it necessary to make a change & I sent her to Blackpool. There she annoyed the Community so much that I was requested to remove her. I then sent her to St Ignatius's Convent [Preston] to be employed in the Poor Schools. She was formerly a Pupil Teacher and has a Govt. Certificate, therefore I thought the best change I could make now was to give her charge of the Canal St. Schools. At St. Walburga's I feel sure she will have all the kindness & care necessary for her.

I hope to see her within a fortnight & if a change should still be necessary for her then I see no other alternative than to try a Contemplative Order for her. We only

desire God's holy Will in this matter & I shall hold myself in readiness to do anything for her that your L. may think proper to advise that may be in my power.

Many thanks my Lord for the consoling words you give regarding the zeal & harmony reigning amongst our d [ear] Sisters in their work at Preston & at Blackpool. It is the only consolation we can have in parting from them here.

Begging Y.L. blessing I remain

Your faithful S [ervan]t

C [ornelia] C [onnelly]

P.S. I think I ought to add that the Sister in question was educated & maintained by the C [ommunity], without any assistance from her parents, not have we ever received any assistance from her family, on the contrary we have given assistance.

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

[Letter Book 1V – Page 5]

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to the B. of Liverpool (dated)

The Convent

St Leonards-on-Sea.

Feby 24. 1872

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J.M.J.

My Lord & dr Father in Xt. [Bp Goss]

The decree forwarded by the Revd Fr Taylor must have my prompt acknowledgment & submission.

With all due veneration & respect will Y.L. allow me to explain that as I was not in England at the time the Rules, together with Cardinal Barnabo's letter were sent to each & all of the Houses of the Institute, all that passed on that subject was by letter. Happily I have copies of my letters, & I have also kept the answers received from Preston. They seem to me to be sufficient to prove that perfect freedom of action & expression was advised & intended by me & if any quotations of my letters have been made or used to show the contrary, I do not hesitate to say that either the meaning has been perverted or kept concealed, All out of P. certainly never doubted their liberty of action – It seems an easy matter my Lord for those who wish to cabal or to raise up dissensions and party spirit to attain their end. I say this my Lord without resentment or prejudice to anyone. May God himself make the " crooked ways straight".

No questions have been asked by me My Lord regarding the secret appeal to Rome – but I think I had a right to require an explanation of the false signatures sent to me & of the duplicity of wishing to lead me into the ignoble act of sending such signatures to Rome. But the good God Himself took care of me by sending me a private warning that I might not fall into the snare & they never were sent - I

have them by me at present.

Secondly My Lord with regard to change of “ Superiors”.

– Having been urged by the Sisters to remove the one in charge of St. W's Convent at my annual Visit, & at each annual Visit, and again by letter written before & after Xmas, having letters from the Manager of the School to the same effect, and a notice from the medical man that the Supr and her invalid Sister wd be benefited by being separated, I still took the precaution to advice with the Rector Fr. Johnson before making the change which took place on the 6th February.

I enclose a copy of the first letter received from the Manager of the School on the 16th October, or rather of this date. I have never entertained the idea_of making any of_the branch Houses independent of the Mother House at St. Leonards. If it wd satisfy Y.L. to have further details, I shall be most happy to wait on your L. in L. and I have every confidence that our good God & His Most B. Mother will give Y.L. the light of truth & justice to guide me in the right way if I am wrong & help me to humble myself & to be ever ready to return good in exchange for evil received.

Begging Y.L.'s blessing I remain

My Lord and dear Father

Your obedient & faithful Servt in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Copy

Letter to the Rt Revd Dr Goss

My Lord & dr Fr in Xt.

Not having had an answer to my letter of the 24th of Feby, I felt it necessary to seek the advice of the Bishop of this Diocese on the subject in question, and His L. told me to wait till the month was completed from the date of my letter & then to write again to Y.L. I do so therefore and shall be most happy My Lord if you will allow me to have an interview with Y.L. when you come to London in Low Week, when I will bring a copy of my letters & the answers received.

Begging Y.L.'s Blessing I am

My Lord & Fr inJ.C.

Your faithful Servant

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

St Leonards – on- Sea March 25th. 1872.

VOLUME X
LETTERS TO
RT.REV.MONSIGNOR O'REILLY

There have been preserved in the Archives of the Society of the holy Child Jesus rough notes or copies of nine letters written by the Servant of God to the Rt. Rev. Monsignor O'Reilly, Bishop of Liverpool. These letters cover the period from 19th October 1873 to 17 August 1877.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1V.

Letter 72. page 88.]

Letter from Our Mother to the Bishop of Liverpool / dated Oct. 19th 1873

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My Lord & dr Father in J.C.

The V. Rev^d Vicar General has written to me to complain of a breach of the Decree of Visitation of our late venerated Bishop D^r Goss & also of Y.L.'s own wishes. I am extremely sorry my Lord that there should be even an appearance of any ground for complaint & I must explain to Y.L. the truth of the case.

In the change of S^r Gonzaga M^cNamara who was at S^t Ignatius's Convent, it was the act of Mother Alphonsa the Assistant Superior at that Convent though both parties urgently desired the change & I did not feel authorised to refuse it.

The second case was that of the Sister in charge at S^t Walburga's Convent & this was her own act. She was extremely unhappy in her position there. In both the first & second case the Sister urged the risk of loss of health of mind if they were kept in the places they then were in.

I hope my Lord that in these instances I did not do wrong in acceding to their urgent wishes. Still I must express my sorrow for even the appearance of any act contrary to your wishes, not having the smallest intention to act against Obedience.

Begging Y.L.'s blessing

I am ever my L^d & d^r Father

Your faithful servant in Xt

Cornelia Connelly -

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

[copied from Letter Book 1V

Letter 87, page 114]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Oct 30th 1874

My Lord & dear Father in Xt

I write at the request of the Bishop of Southwark to inform your Lordship of the result of the Elections for Blackpool & Preston. I did not presume to do so until your Lordship had had an interview with the Bishop of Southwark, and it is a pleasure to me at present ~~still more~~ to announce them

[Beginning of a letter only (all of which is struck through with pencil) to Bishop O'Reilly of which there are other loose notes extant]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from a draft copy

in C.C.'s hand]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Oct 30th 1874

JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt [Dr O'Reilly]

I write at the request of the Bishop of Southwark to inform your Lordship of the result of the Elections for Blackpool & Preston. I did not presume to do so until your Lordship had had an interview with the Bishop of Southwark, and it is a pleasure to me at present to announce them, still more if they meet your Lordship's wishes.

They are as follows,

Superior for Blackpool Convent

Mth Mary de Britto Mullens

Assistant Mth Mary St Peter Lansdowne

Sup. St. Wilfrid's Preston

Mother Alphonsa Kay

Assistant

Mth. Gabriel Capel.

Sup. St Walburga's Preston

Mother Gonzaga Snow.

Assistant Mth M. Joseph Loughran

Sup. St. Ignatius Preston

Mth Eulalia Drury

Assistant Mth. M. St. John Willams

Volume 10

-2-

pg 22

Regarding all forming one Com^{ty} Your Lordship is aware that we have no Convent in Preston belonging to us, our Sisters being there simply in connection with the Schools belonging to the various Churches and they are maintained by these schools. [from 'we have no Convent' has been crossed out by C.C.] We shall be most happy to consider how your Lordships resolutions may be carried out & to receive any suggestions that may be in our power to meet.

I fear we shall be forced to give up Fr. Taylors excellent schools as the Sisters, have more work than their health can bear, and we are unable to give them relief owing to the increase of work in the South. I particularly beg your blessing My Lord on the newly elected Superiors & their Assistants and upon all the others humbly including myself and

I remain

My d^f Lord & Father

Your obedient serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly

Sup. G^l

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from pencilled notes

In C.C.'s hand]

Letter to Dr. O'Reilly

[Oct 30th 1874]

1st Point.

Humble & simple Apology for not having communicated to His Lordship the result of the Chapter & the different appointments in His Lordship's Diocese Understood that Dr. Danell would do so.

2nd Point. With regard to the formation of one house out of the 3 in Preston, we are willing if His Lordship insists to do so, but we beg that in this case the Superior may be properly elected by the Governing body to that Post.

3rd. We feel however that if His Lordship would consent to our making a trial for a year of the three houses as they stand now

1st Independent of each other

2nd With the Superiors appointed by the late Election

that things would work satisfactorily both to the Bishop & the Com^{ties}.

By the houses being independent of each other we do not mean to stop any relations of charity & civility between the houses but that each house should depend on its respective Superior.

With regard to Mth Gertrude's remaining in Blackpool we should humbly beg His Lordship to carry out the Elections as they were made but if His Lordship should still consider the reasons sufficiently grave to retain Mth Gertrude in Blackpool we should be willing to make a fresh election of a Superior for St. L's. -

The Convent St. Walburga's

Maudlands Preston

Nov^{ber} 14th 1874

My dear Lord & Father in X^t [Bishop O'Reilly]

I beg to express to your Lordship my extreme regret that the full note of the elections held at St Leonards was not immediately forwarded to your Lordship as it should have been by the Secretary of the Chapter. But I must also explain that the Chaplain of the Convent acted as Secretary to our very long Chapter w^h lasted three weeks and at the end of this time the local elections were made before the Bishop of Southwark left us when His Lordship intended immediately to go to Liverpool with the Revised Rule and to give your Lordship all the results of our Chapter. I now enclose a second note of all the Elections. – First of the Governing body of August 22nd of the minor local appointments. I humbly beg of you my Lord to forgive any apparent fault that might offend your Lordship & to attribute it to a mistake that originated not in any want of obedience on our part but solely from the fact of our having understood that the Bishop of Southwark would treat immediately with y^r Lordship and that it would have been rather assuming on our part to act of ourselves. I am much disappointed not to have seen y^r Lordship before y^r departure for Rome but we went to Liverpool on the 12th & saw D^r Fisher by appointment who promised to write for us to y^r Lordship in respect to the late Elections.

We must if possible remain in Preston until y^r Lordship's return as any state of uncertainty must be more or less very trying to the Sisters. I have seen each Sister in this

[Letter of November 14th 1874 continued]

Convent privately and I am happy to say that each and all bear witness to the Charity, Order regularity and peaceful labours of this Community. I must beg of y^r Lordship to allow me a little later to write more fully regarding the amalgamation into one Community & to repeat our readiness to meet your Lordship's wishes after we have put the working of these missions before you for your consideration

Begging y^r Lordship's blessing

I remain My Lord & d^r Father

Y^r humble servant in J C

M Cornelia Connelly

Sup GI

To the Bishop of Liverpool

*Added later in C.C.'s own hand.

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

[Copied from Letter Book 1V.

Letter 105. Page 147]

[Cornelia Connelly's hand.] [Draft]

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t [Bishop O'Reilly]

~~We come up to Preston~~ [sic] Our Secretary Mother Angelica Croft informed your Lordship that /2 Mother M. S^t John Williams had been elected Superior of the Convent at Preston /1 at our last meeting. We came ~~to Preston~~ [sic] here on Thursday for the purpose of installing her in her office & If it would be agreeable to your Lordship that I should wait upon you at Liverpool & bring Mother M. S^t John with me that we may have the benefit of your Lordship's blessing I shall be happy to do so at any time you may appoint. ~~Or if your Lordship may~~ is likely to be in Preston & ~~should prefer spending our waiting for your we shall be equally happy to do so~~ [sic]

With every grateful expression for all the kindness we have received from your Lordship's protection & paternal care

I remain my Lord & dr Father in X

Your obt & humble Ser^{vt} ~~in X~~ [sic]

.Cornelia Connelly

Sup G^l

April 25th [1876]

22, Winckley Sq

Preston

Volume 10

pg 27

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 111]

Letter 24, page 36

[In C.C.'s hand]

The Convent St Leonards on Sea

May 4th 1877

Rough Circular

~~My Lord Bishop~~ [sic]

My Lord & dear Father in X^t

Over

See next pg –

~~As we are now to send~~ [sic] With the approbation of our Bishop we have sent the circulars convoking ~~the~~ [sic] a General Chapter for the Election of the Mother General and the Four Assistants to be held on the 2nd August 1877, at the Convent S^t Leonards on Sea, I write to your Lordship to ask permission for the Election of the Deputies at the Convents at Blackpool and Preston and that when the Elections are made ~~that~~ [sic] the deputies may with your Lordship's sanction present themselves at the meeting of the Chapter.

I take this occasion to thank your Lordship for the paternal kindnesses shown to our dear Sisters labouring in ~~your~~ [sic] the Diocese of Liverpool and I humbly crave a continuance of your Lordship [sic] protection & blessing.

I remain

My Lord & dear Father

Your humble servant

In J.C.

C.C,

Sup. Gen^l.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from original]

The Convent

June 26th 1877

St. Leonards on Sea.

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J.M.J.

My Lord & d^r Father in Xt [Bishop O'Reilly]

I am grieved that I should very unintentionally have displeased your Lordship by sending Mother Eulalia to Blackpool, and very sorry too that I had not thought of asking your Lordship's permission to do so, but believe me, my Lord, I was under the impression that you only objected to her holding a responsible office in your Diocese & not that her presence was questionable.

Mth Eulalia has been suffering a long time, a very long time, and our Medical Man recommended her native air as the best cure, but your Lordship has only to express the wish for her removal and I shall know my first duty is to obey, and thus I shall not fail in Charity.

Many thanks, my Lord, for the kind answer to my letter & for the paternal visit to our d^r Sisters at Blackpool & Preston, and with every expression of devotion to your Lordship's wishes, I remain

My Lord & d^r Father

Y^r grateful servant in JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup. Gen^l.

My Lord Bishop [O'Reilly]

I beg to enclose the certificates of the Canonical election of the Superioresses for Blackpool and Preston together with those of the Assistants for each Convent.

I am happy to say my Lord that we are ready to vouch for the qualifications of those elected as being eminently fitted for the duties of the office, ~~for which they have been elected~~ [sic] and capable of sustaining religious discipline as well as of carrying out the good works existing with zeal & firmness –

I need not explain the result of the first Elections as the Secretary ~~has already written~~ [sic] of the Chapter wrote by this mornings post to your Lordship to make the [written over “ that effect “ } [sic] necessary announcement

I shall be greatly obliged if your Lordship will kindly send me a line to say that you approve of the Elections for the Diocese * Mth Maria Rita Bethell will call upon your Lordship with Mother S^t John at any time you may appoint to receive your blessing & approval. I thank you my Lord for all your past kindness & humbly begging [sic] your Lordship's blessing for my four Assistants and for myself

I remain my Lord your servant in JC

M. Cornelia Connelly. Sup Gen^l

* As I am anxious to have all the Local arrangements ~~made~~ [sic] completed as soon as possible.

To his Lordship the Bishop of Liverpool

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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

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J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [O.Reilly]

I beg to enclose the Certificates of the Canonical Election of the Superioresses for Blackpool & Preston, together with those of the Assistants for each Convent.

I am happy to say my Lord that we are ready to vouch for the qualifications of those Elected as being eminently fitted for the duties of the office, and capable of sustaining religious discipline, as well as of carrying out the good works existing, with zeal, kindness and firmness.

I need not explain to your Lordship the result of the first Elections as the Secretary of the Chapter wrote by this morning's to your Lordship to make the necessary announcement.

I shall be greatly obliged if your Lordship will kindly send me a line to say that you approve of the elections for your Diocese, as I am anxious to have all the Local arrangements completed as soon as possible.

The Rev Mother Maria Rita Bethell will call upon your Lordship with Mth S^t John at any time you may appoint to receive your blessing and approval.

I most sincerely thank your Lordship for all your past kindness, and humbly beg your blessing for our Four Assistants and for myself unworthy, and

I remain, my Lord & dear Father in Xt

Your obedient & devoted serv^t

M. Cornelia Connelly

Aug 17th 1877.

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

To the R^t Rev The Lord Bishop of Liverpool