

Translation

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University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame, Indiana

Notre Dame St Josephs County,  
Ind., February 17, 1860

Reverend Father;

You will pardon me if I take the liberty of bringing to your attention a subject that is of the greatest importance to Catholic interests, and I do not doubt in the least that it will be given the deserved consideration by your reverence. How much the training of the Catholic youth is suffering for the want of good teachers, is a well known fact; in spite of the earnest efforts made, there has been only partial success in removing this existing evil. Although besieged daily with requests, it is not possible for us to satisfy even the smallest part of the urgent appeals of the reverend fathers for teaching brothers, because only a few candidates present themselves for entrance to the Novitiate for teaching brothers. We have just finished building a new and roomy house for the Novitiate for teaching brothers, and expect to occupy it by the end of this month; there is now question of filling it with good and pious young men who wish to devote themselves to school teaching; and it is our opinion that we could do nothing better than to appeal to the worthy

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fathers that they direct to us able young men who feel that they are called to devote themselves to the training of youth. The fathers would in this way soon put us in the position where we could in a short time turn out a number of efficient teachers. Should your reverence be able to direct a few young men to our house you would gain our everlasting gratitude; and if perhaps it is not asking too much, might we request when an opportunity presents itself, that you bring before your congregation our desire to have a number of young men enter our school teachers-seminar.

Recommending ourselves to your prayers,  
we remain

Devoted to your reverence  
E. Sorin.