

March 18, 1844

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Kenrick

BP

Dear Sir,

Although by some mistake a letter addressed to me from South Bend has no signature, I take it to come from you, as the head of the Institution, and hasten to reply.

I do not think that girls should be received into schools conducted by men. As there are many schools for girls conducted by females, I should think it desirable that all your efforts should be directed to the instruction of boys. In no circumstance would I admit boys and girls, even of tender age, in the same schools.

Gratuitous schools are the most suitable to the charitable genius of our Religion, and the best calculated to promote piety among the people generally. We have colleges already. We need schools for the poor. How

[Bishop Francis Patrick Kenrick of Philadelphia]

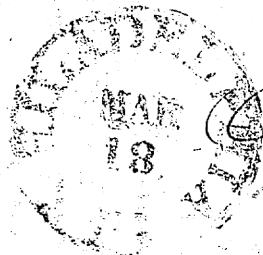
they may be supported is, of course, a serious difficulty: but I should hope that the charity of the faithful would supply means. Schools on low terms, might nearly answer the same end. I should think it advisable to extend the labors of the brothers to as many dioceses as desire them. When proper discipline prevails in an Institute, the more widely it is extended, the greater are the advantages.

I think the schools should be strictly Catholic. By admitting other children, the brothers will be embarrassed in the religious instruction of Catholics, who will be laughed out of their religion by their Protestant schoolmates. This is the sad experience of Catholic colleges which are open to all. The system followed is scarcely to be imitated by a Religious Institute, which should be unreservedly devoted to spread the knowledge of the true faith, and to promote piety. The avowal of this purpose would command the respect of all, and no children would be sent, whose parents were not willing that they should be brought up in the Catholic faith.

I give you my views with great freedom,
as you have desired them. I should be glad
to have some of your brothers in this diocese
as soon as we can make the necessary
arrangements for receiving them. There is in
Kensington, which is a district adjoining this city,
a good large house built by Rev. J. J. Donahoe
for ladies who are now in Dubuque. If you
could negotiate with him, and make it your
own, I would give every encouragement in my
power to your labors in this place. A school
could be opened, and much good done. It is
probable you might have it on easy terms, since
it was built in part by public contributions and
labor. If you choose to communicate with him, you
may address him at Dubuque. Unfortunately I have
no means at my disposal. Wishing you success
in your holy undertakings I remain

Phil. March 18. 1844.

Your Ob. Servant
+ Francis Patrick Bp Phil.



Rev. C. Sorin

Southbend near

Washington
St. Joseph County Indiana

John C. Sorin

