

Richmond April 29<sup>th</sup> 1844  
12151

Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr Sir,

My absence from home when your letter reached my abode will explain my delay in replying to it. Your Institute is one which I think deserving of all encouragement and I shall look forward with interest to the day when we may be enabled to participate in its advantages.

In reply to your first question I must express my decided disapprobation of uniting boys & girls in the same school, because of the constant dangers to the teachers no less than to the pupils, & because generally female teachers of piety are more readily found than male.

In regard to the 2<sup>d</sup> question, I think any general rule would have its inconveniences. There are places where circumstances have collected together large or wealthy or liberal assemblages of people: in these the tuition might & ought to be gratuitous as man in the spirit of your institute. There are many other situations, where perhaps your schools are not less needed, where Catholics are few or poor. I have always thought <sup>it a pity that</sup> neighbourhoods of this kind should be deprived of a thousand advantages resulting from institutions similar to yours, under pretence of preserving the spirit of the Society. That is depriving the poor in such cases of all the benefits anticipated because God has left them not only destitute but cast their lot among others scarcely less destitute or wanting at least in liberality. In such cases where a free school could be supported and afford means to educate in a Christian manner the poor, I should by all means advise it.

In regard to the admission of Protestants I think it very proper where this  
can be done without making any exceptions to their prejudices to the disadvantage  
of Catholic pupils.

In regard to the third question, which I presume to mean whether each diocesis  
should have its own mother house or whether there should be but one for all,  
I think there is no reason why I should not apply to your Society what I  
have long remarked of the Sisters of Charity. Our country is too extensive for  
one single establishment. Distance must prevent surveillance & endearing  
discipline. While your Institute does not extend beyond the neighboring dioceses,  
one house may suffice. New ones should, methinks, be established as it spreads  
abroad. In the mean time I should certainly think it highly proper that  
the wants of the diocesis in which you have first established yourselves should  
draw all others receive your attention. To limit yourselves exclusively to it, would  
probably tend very much to prevent your institute from being known & from  
receiving additional members.

I should be pleased to learn the cooperation you seem to desire in your first  
letter to which I have just replied.

Very resp<sup>ly</sup> Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>  
+ Richard Vincent  
Bp of Rich<sup>mond</sup>

2<sup>d</sup> Bishop of Richmond

[Bishop Richard Vincent Whelan of Richmond]