

Vincennes
November 10, 1847

Respected friend,

Once again I wish to make a request of you. We have, at a distance of three miles from Vincennes, a settlement half French, half German, but all Catholic. This settlement is made up of a large number of families too far away from Vincennes to send their children to school at the Brother's or at the Sisters' (schools). If you could send us a Brother to establish a school there, you would be rendering us a great service. It is not necessary that he be very learned; it (the school) will be principally for beginners. However, the classes will be taught in English.

The Brother could walk to Mass on week-days as long as the pleasant weather lasts, and on Sunday he could come in a carriage with some of the families. One individual is already offering him board and room; all the others will do something for him. He will be obliged to teach little girls under twelve years of age as well as boys. In your own good judgment, will you see if this is possible.

What urges me to make this request of you is the fact that these poor children, living too far away from Vincennes, can attend neither school nor catechism regularly, and, as a consequence, wallow in ignorance.

Kindly favor me with a reply as soon as possible. With every assurance of my respect and devotedness,

Your very humble servant,

John Stephen
Bishop of Vincennes