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1850
June 5

(Van de Velde), James Oliver, Bishop of
Chicago, Illinois)

to. Father E(dward) Sorin, (C.S.C.)
South Bend, Ind(iana)

No. 7, bundle #15, Archives of Notre Dame.

The bishop replies to Father Sorin's letter of Dec. 31st. The congregation served by Father Carius is called New Strasburgh (most of the parishioners are Alsatians) and is located about five miles from Indiana where Father Carius used to have his home. The church is frame but not completed yet. The bishop's faculties for priests are the same as those of St. Louis and Vincennes, except that he is not authorized to grant priests the power to dispense in mixed marriages when the non-Catholic party is not baptized. He reserves this power to himself and feels that the same is so for all bishops in the U. S. He believes an error crept into the faculties accorded ~~by bishops~~ missionary priests of the St. Louis diocese, and that upon being copied, the faculties of Vincennes and Detroit also carried the mistake. The bishop feels he could be wrong, but general faculties accorded by missionary bishops grant the right to dispense from mixed ~~marriage~~ ~~religion~~ only when the non-Catholic party is baptized. The Statutes of his diocese are copied nearly word for word from those of the Dublin, Ireland, diocese, but no practical conclusion concerning mixed marriages can be drawn from them. He sends a pastoral letter, the only he has issued to date. He authorizes Father Sorin to issue necessary faculties for priests rendering service to neighboring parts of his diocese. The bishop is pleased to learn than Father Sorin makes such good use of Father P. Charlevoys.

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A.L.S. (French)

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