

Letter No 2

5883

Private

Richmond Va Jan 4th 1866

Rev. Dear Sir

There are three boys, aged respectively 14, 11, & 9, who have lost their father, having become a Catholic on his death-bed; and their mother, unable to do more than support herself, is anxious to put them in a Catholic institution when they can be educated, and at the same time be taught a Trade. She has applied to me to give her advice and help. She says her oldest son expresses a wish to be a Catholic, and the others no doubt will also be willing. It has occurred to me that your institution, especially "The Manual Labour School," would be precisely the providence to take hold of these children. I may say, "entre nous," that unfortunately the liaison of the parents had not the approbation of matrimony. Yet these boys may make useful members of society, and it will be a charity to take part in preparing them for the future of this world and the next. Please let me know if you

will receive them and upon
what terms? Please give me an
idea of the course of education
given to boys in the manual
labour school and of the trades
there taught. Are the boys receiv-
ed gratuitously, or have they
annually to pay a certain
sum? The mother is, I believe,
not a Catholic. Nor is she in
a condition to pay much for
their education. The father was
a lawyer here, and some of
his friends are solicitous to have
his children educated. I know
him very well, and though yes-
terday I learned, for the first
time, about his children. I
am interested for them. Please
write to me on receipt of this
and let me know what you can
and will do in this matter.
Wishing you health and happiness
I am very truly in Xmas of A
Rev D. Sonin M. C. Gill
Notre Dame du Lac Bp of Richmond
[Bishop John McGill of Richmond]