

St Joseph, Mo: Feb 14, 1873

Very Rev Dear Sir

Another Student for this diocese named Peter Downey left home on the 8th inst for Notre Dame. This young man I now see, and therefore can say nothing about them. The judgment of his, and the other ones, fitness to be admitted as Ecclesiastical students for a missionary diocese, is left altogether to yourself and the Fathers in charge of them. The care of ecclesiastical students is a great responsibility involving directly a responsibility for the morals of the Clergy which as you are more fully aware than I is something overwhelmingly serious and to be shuddered at. Nevertheless since God requires it we must relying upon Him for light and help undertake the work. I need not say how anxious I am to see a Commencement made at St Johns now under charge of Brother Solphus who I am happy to say is well and so conducting himself as to give me no apprehension or trouble. If as you are coming into the diocese, you could take charge also of Maryville the County seat of nodaway County I could now easily and very favorably transfer it to you. The present pastor, a German, who is soon to be transferred to a more German congregation, informs me that the Maryville congregation in the town and surrounding country numbers one hundred and seventy six families, about equally divided German and Irish with some Americans. The Germans for the most part speak English and their children all speak English. There is a small brick Church the commencement of which was made about ten years ago by a Doctor Bickett, a convert, then almost the only Catholic in the place, who laid the foundation and began the work in the hope that a Priest would come some time to his aid. He aided by a good Priest providentially sent there, built the Church and bought five acres of ground eligibly located which they cleared of debt. Lately, a frame addition has been made to the Church, and a small two story pastoral house has been roofed but not completed, with a debt on the property of about fifteen hundred dollars. Maryville is on the Railroad going from there to Chicago by way of Burlington Iowa. A second Railroad, an extension of the Toledo, Wabash & Western from Quincy, is located and (if I am not misinformed) under contract for construction to Maryville; the division from Quincy to a junction with the North Missouri Railway North of Macon, about seventy miles in length, being already completed and in operation. This place needs, besides a Church, good parochial schools for boys and girls, which however needed I have hesitated to commence, preferring to give the management of all from the commencement to a Religious Order all by its system of organization

under one head, such as the Congregation of the Holy Cross providentially is, to meet all the wants. Maryville has already some, and will soon have all necessary railroad facilities, and is situated in the healthiest and best agricultural district in Missouri. The Catholics except about forty families residing in the town are all farmers and with hardly an exception owning the lands they occupy. It must be inferred that as a new settlement they are not yet wealthy nor well organized.

Hoping you are quite well and the
Fathers of the Congregation with whom I have the honor to be
acquainted

Remain very Res. dear Sir
very truly yours

+ John J. Hogan
Ch. of St. Joseph

Very Res. E. Dorin Sup Gen. C.S.B.
Notre Dame