

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 27, 1933

-----

Fragments For a Chapter in the History of the University. I.

1. A Letter from Father Sorin.

The following letter, unsigned, but evidently written by Father Sorin, was found in the archives of Venerable Mother Mary Theresa, Foundress of the Sisters of the Adoration Reparatrice:

University of Notre Dame du Lac  
St. Joseph County, Indiana, U.S.,  
May 22, 1854

Reverend dear Mother:

I sent you a year ago a small check for 110 francs (\$22.00), as part payment of the 160 francs (\$32.00), the price of the picture you were so good as to paint for me.....

During the past two years I have often recalled your Mother House, and you personally, Reverend dear Mother, who received me so kindly on the occasion of my visit, and gave me a packet of pictures of the Holy Face. I have kept these souvenirs carefully.

Within the past three months a society has been formed among the students of the college, and 56 of them have become members of the nocturnal adoration we keep every Thursday. Another society was formed among the young ladies at St. Mary's, Bertrand, 27 of whom became members..... The good effects are already visible, but this is the first time that a like thing has been undertaken on this continent. Won't you please have the Sisters of your community remember these societies in their Communion?

Give me, please, all possible news of your community and your adoration. For the benefit of our youthful adorers, please write, or have one of your spiritual children write me, a summary account of your history. State facts as they are: humility is truth. Give me at least an idea of what Our Lord has done for you, so that I may have our pious adorers here bless Him. In turn, later, I shall give you some details of the beginnings of Notre Dame du Lac, wherein also you will see the Finger of God.

I have had a reply from a letter to M. Dupont, who appears to be pleased to see us bowed in adoration at the feet of Our Saviour the night long. - The New World needs Mary's love and that of her Son in the Blessed Sacrament.

Notes on this Letter.

1. The painting referred to is evidently the "Holy Face" recently discovered at Notre Dame, the original of which was painted by Mother Mary Theresa during a vision.
  2. Three months after this letter was written, Notre Dame was ravaged by cholera, which carried off 10 members of the community and more than that number of postulants. A few months later, however, the property between St. Mary's Lake and the river was acquired at a modest figure (the owner had previously refused a larger sum), and the marshes between the lakes were drained; good health resulted.
  3. St. Mary's was moved from Bertrand to Notre Dame in 1855.
  4. M. Dupont is known as "The Holy Man of Tours." We shall see more of him presently.
- PRAYERS: Deceased - Frank Van Syckle, '28; the mother of John Tuohy, '25; the father of John B. Sullivan, '27; Bob Ward's father (fifth anniversary tomorrow); relatives of Father Clancy, John Lechner, and Francis Collins; a friend (accident). Ill - Victor Waufle (condition very serious); Chas. Ryan's sister (appendectomy); relatives of Art Korzeneski and Francis Collins. Two special intentions.