1819 / Plan du Monastere de la Visitation à Georgetown D.C. [Monastery Plan of the Visitation in Georgetown D.C.]

Occupant au terrain de trois cent peids (anglais) q[uatre] carré [Covering a Land 300 square feet (English)]

La terrain est tres bas ver le milieu—un petit ruisseau courant du nord au sud / dont le canal est couvert per une route à laquelle il y a dest ouvertures pour / recevoir les eaux—toute le jardin est couvert d’arbres fruitiers [The land is very low toward the middle—a small stream runs from north to south / from which the canal is covered with a path from which there are openings to receive the water—the whole garden is covered with fruit trees]

N.B. les chiffres 1, 2, 3, 4…/marquent la destination des / différences étages—/ la couleur Rouge marque de / est bâti en brique [N.B. The numbers 1, 2, 3, 4…represents the designation of different floors / the color red represents brick buildings]

See Sullivan, Georgetown Visitation Since 1799, p. 77.
To the Friends of Religious Female Institutions.

MONASTERY OF THE VISITATION.

GEORGETOWN, D.C.

The profound object of the order of the Visitations of St. Mary, instituted in this town, is, not only to promote the sanctification of its own members, but by fervent supplications in behalf of all, and by a watchful care over the education of its female pensioners, to aid to the sanctification of society at large. Besides this, the young Ladies Academy, and the admission into the house of helpless orphans, some of whom are maintained entirely gratis, others only obliged to defray their necessary expenses, it has opened a day school for the tuition of poor children, and has in contemplation to offer an asylum to such Ladies as would wish to retire from the world, either for the remainder of their lives, or for a limited time.

To compass these great and useful ends of their institute, the Sisters of the Visitations, notwithstanding their utmost endeavours, have been barely able to raise necessary buildings for themselves, for their Academy and for the school, on account of which they are yet in debt. Many things are still desirable, may requisite, for the support and permanence of their establishment; nothing however so much as the erection of a Conventual Church or Chapel, where Divine service may be performed, and to which not only the domestics of the house, but the public at large may have access.

From such an erection, many spiritual advantages would doubtless redound to the Catholics of Georgetown and its vicinity, and to occasional visitors who might desire and receive edification and profit, in hearing the prayers of these devoted Ladies and of their pupils. Their object and profession would not then be mistaken; nor would their usefulness be doubted: God would be glorified by the spectacle of so numerous an assemblage of generous females, who entertain no thoughts but those perfectly compatible with their desires of Heaven, and who live more happy on earth under the restrictions and privations in which they have voluntarily subjected themselves, than if they were passively to spend their days in the midst of those enjoyments which now they have renounced.

But although the Sisters of the Visitations scarcely wish any thing for themselves, they long after being able to render to their God a suitable worship, or such as their rule and mode of life prescribe; and as their scanty means do not suffice to build a Chapel, however simple, they have recourse to the charity and liberality of their friends, and of those whose Religion would inspire to sympathise with the sex, particularly when employed in and devoted to works of so laudable a purpose.

Some persons engaged in the world, and reluctantly distracted by their necessary employments from paying to the Almighty all these homages and adorations which they would wish to pay, may possibly be pleased and find some relief in helping the devotions of others, and participating in their good works. Either the construction of a Conventual Chapel, or the completion of the Monastery, or the support and tuition of many poor girls, or a decent and peaceable retreat to old or infirm Ladies or tired with the world, would assuredly tend to the advantage of the present and of future generations; and those who will contribute to such laudable purposes, besides the interior satisfaction of having done a durable good, will command the perpetual remembrance of this religious community.

Induced by these cogent motives, our reverent Sisters who cannot themselves, as some others do, go abroad and beg assistance, address the present to those who may be pleased to hear of their institution, and disposed to help them in their generous and determined pursuits: they have no doubt that all the Catholic Pastors through the United States will favour them.

Any gifts, bequests and donations for the above purposes, may be addressed to the Reverend Mother Superior, or to any named Individual of the Monastery in Georgetown, D.C.; or to the Reverend J.P. de Curis, vicar, director of the institution; or to its head the most Reverend Ambrose Marechal, Archbishop of Baltimore.