

M. Gerard Moorman

G. T.

M. Gerard Moorman

To the Friends of Religious Female Institutions.

Your favour of the 1st of last month - came to my hand
 whilst we were busily engaged by the opening of our Church - which took place Thursday
 last feast of all saints - The community will feel much gratified by the generosity of
 your proposal giving to your daughters - those Negroes - ^{whom} ~~whom~~ we cannot but accept
~~and~~ give commission to M. G. Neale to receive for us - from you, - by a letter which
 we write to him - this same day - Your daughter - Mary Ann - is in
 very good health - habitually - but S^r Angola - has been a long time in a state of
 debility which has alarmed us very much - They send you their respectful love &c...
 & to

desiring writing after the time - you will come

to town - to testify you in person our gratitude -

I remain
Respectfully
D. P. & & & &

M. G. Neale

G. T.

D. P.

You will find here a copy of the letter we rec^d lately from M. G. B. . .
 and see his intentions in our respect - or his 2 daughters - It seems we cannot refuse so liberal
 an offer - but we are uncertain if it relates to the 4 negroes he mentions - or only the two
 children of Minty - We write to him this day that we give you commission to receive the
 negroes from him - and so we do request you to receive them - but if you discover
 that there be any expectation in M. B. . . to take back ^{in consideration of them} the land he gave for his 2 daughters
 or that these negroes would be to us a charge rather than a profit - you might communicate
 to us your opinion of it, & offer the acceptance of it with explanation - for our intention would
 be to sell these negroes, if they are not saleable they w^d be a charge to us - if they are
 so young that they cannot be separated from the mother - & the mother be given also - then
 we w^d have to request you to get a place for them - free of expense at least -

In fine - You will oblige us - in acting in this as in other things for the best interests of a
 Community so large - & which at this moment particularly must think of making money by
 all lawful means, to pay our just debts - in which - we lay our hope, in your collecting for us as
 speedily as possible - & & &
 M. B. do not mention to M. B. these apprehensions of us - concerning his offer -

To the Friends of Religious Female Institutions.

MONASTERY OF THE VISITATION, GEORGETOWN, D. C.

THE professed object of the order of the Visitation 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 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 Visitation, 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, nay 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 desire of Heaven, and who live more happy on earth under the restrictions and privations to 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 Visitation 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 whom Religion would inspire to sympathise with the sex, particularly when employed in and devoted to works of so laudable purport.

Some persons engaged in the world, and reluctantly distracted by their necessary employments from paying to the Almighty all those 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 recluse 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 Cloriviere, director of the institution; or to its head the most Reverend Ambrose Marechal, Archbishop of Baltimore.

D. I.

Copy of 2 letters, one to G. W. Hooper & Co. Gerard Bowman