

1857
Guelp^h May 28th 1857.

My Lord,

I have been away from Guelp^h for two weeks; I had to go to Montreal to see the Superior on a very important matter concerning our mission, which is the paucity of priests. We are killed one by one, unless the Superiors help us at once. I am happy to say that I succeeded very well. It is fixed, that a father, whom the Superior selected among the best and who will render great service, is to come to Guelp^h in August next. Another Father may likely come afterwards in Fall or winter.

In a short time also the Rev. F. Superior intends to give a Father to assist F. Plettner, who will then reside permanently in Mount Forest.

I told likewise the Superior how necessary it was to provide for Wilnot and to have two Fathers, ^{there} especially if such a case as the absence of a priest from New-Germany or Willesley should happen again for such a long period. During that time I attended sickcalls in New-Germany and Berlin, although I am more than enough occupied at home. The Superior proposed a plan in order to execute this project, he thinks, we will get Fathers from the late Silesia province, which is scattered now through Prussia & Austria, by writing to the F. Provincial for two fathers and offering at the same time 400 \$ to defray the expenses of the journey. These Fathers have to traverse a great part of Europe and travelling is very expensive there. The Superior asked me, whether

I would consent to it, and see that that ~~some~~ sum may be offered to them. Our Fathers are very poor in the old country, they have to struggle with immense difficulties, no house has any income except what our Fathers beg from the people; only the Colleges receive some support through the boarders; but the noviciate and scholasticate is wholly supported by alms of the people. It would be therefore impossible for the Superiors to send any fathers out to us, unless we pay ^{for} the journey. I ~~was~~ ^{felt} very happy to be devoting at once all what may be required, for that purpose. How many souls are lost for the want of priests! You may rely, my Lord, to have towards the fall two Fathers for the German mission of Wilmot, if there is any possibility of getting them.

By the end of June I will send you, my Lord the Dispersation money of the six preceding months.

Notwithstanding the great success of Bazaar at Concert, which realized clear of expenses circa 700 \$, I am still in great difficulty but I hope, with the blessing and assistance of the Almighty, to be able to prepare the house for more fathers and brother, by next fall.

But, as regards our house, we shall not receive any boarders for some time or years to come; unless Mr. Woyler might take some few ^{select} boarders; because we must have every regulation

and order introduced in our own community, which is to be formed first, by obtaining more fathers & brothers, before we could undertake anything else. Moreover there is not the least want for a new college, since the Basilean Fathers have ample accommodation for a 100 boarders more, our Fathers and also the Sulpicians in Montreal might accommodate a 100 students more, either of them, and we desire most sincerely to see the rising St. Michaels College or Cloverhill, increasing in strength and numbers of professors & pupils. Besides it is very difficult to have great discipline, emulation and good spirit in small little colleges.

Now, if you please, my Lord, a little chapter on our Guelsch Convent! The Mother of our Convent communicated to me, after my return from Montreal, some of the little troubles, which are necessarily, as I always thought, arising from not having clearly defined, whether they should have a chief Superior or whether the Bishop of each Diocese should act as their Superior, which is granted according to a Rescript of ^{Pope} Pius VII. The Bishop of Brookleece invited once the Sister to come to his Diocese, but it seems, he did not like that the Sister should be connected with the house of Toronto, and consequently this affair was dropped. Until the division of the Diocese of Toronto (and ever now) the Mother Superior of Toronto and the Bishop, act as Superior the difficulty was less apparent. But after the establishment of the house in Guelsch, and in another Diocese too; they in Toronto, I do not say precisely the Sisters, began to interfere too much entirely against the prosperity

of the little community of the Sisters, by attempting to remove or depose
our Superior in Queph, whilst there is not one like her in the whole
house of Toronto, as I heard stated by seculars and some Nuns in Queph.
And for all as matters may have been arranged at that time, when his Lordship
the Bishop of Toronto returns, our Superior might be charged or
replaced by another, and I would fear very much for the house, as the
community is only beginning to be formed. Everything might be
quite on another footing, if your Lordship could separate them from
the house of Toronto, if, after mature ~~an~~ deliberation your Lordship might
think it expedient to do so. It will have to be ^{done} at last most certainly;
this I can predict, if we do ~~not~~ wish to keep them, and it may cause a
great deal of unnecessary annoyance for all parties; the spirit of charity
of the two communities will be diminished and their religious spirit
impaired. It is only the beginning of troubles. and the good Sisters should
not be left to be longer in that uncertainty and undefined state; they
cannot help themselves as they are now circumstanced, the power of the
Superior in Toronto is not defined, the Superior in Queph does not know
the extent of her power, and neither of them know for certain, who is their
Superior. Such a state of things will not exert a beneficial influence
on the two houses.

This long letter, my Lord, will answer a visit as it were to Hamilton and
make up for the silence of these weeks past. I made also a retreat of 8 days
in the Noviciate near Montreal au Sault.

Soliciting your blessing my Lord, I have the honor to remain
Your humble servant in X^{ist}
John Wolzer S.J.