Richmond April 29 1844

R. B. Dr.

My absence from home when your letter reached my home will explain my delay in replying to it. Your Institute is one which I think deserving of all encouragement and I shall look forward with interest to the day when we may be able to participate in its advantages.

In reply to your first question I think my decided displeasure of sending boys & girls in the same school because of the constant dangers to the teacher as well as to the pupils, is because generally female teachers end of forty are more readily found than males.

In reply to the 2d question I think any general rule would have its inconveniences. There are places where circumstances have collected together large or wealthy or liberal assemblages of people; in these the tuition might be gratuitous, as now in the Spirit of your institute. There are many other situations, where perhaps your schools are not top needed, where Catholics are few or poor. These always thought, neighbours if these kind should be denied of a thousand advantages resulting from institutions similar to yours, under pretence of preserving the spirit of the Society. That is depriving the poor in such cases of all the benefits anticipated because God has left them not only destitute but cast their lot among their nearest help destitute or wanting at times in liberality. In such cases where a pay school could be supported and afford means to educate in a Christian manner the poor, I think by all means deserve it.
In regard to the division of distressed, I think it very proper that this
be done without making any complaint to their prejudice, to the
disadvantage of Catholic projects.

In regard to this third question, which I presume to mean whether each district
should have its own within his town or whether there should be but one fund,
I think there is no reason why it should not apply to your society what I
have long remarked of the Sisters of Charity. One county is too extensive for
one single establishment. Distance must greatly lessen their usefulness.

While your institute does not extend beyond the neighboring circuit,
are sure very sufficient. New men should not be established at itsspread
abroad. In the mean time I should certainly think it highly proper that
the wants of the district in which you have first established yourselves should
above all others receive your attention. So long your grand object only to it, would
judiciously bid my wish to prevent your institute from being known & from
recruiting additional members.

I should be pleased to learn the reasons you seem to derive in your first
letter to which I have just replied.

Yours in great respect,

+ [Signature]

+ Bishop of Richmond

27th Bishop of Richmond

[Bishop Richard Vincent Whelan of Richmond]