Letter No. 2

Private

Richmond, Va. Jan. 4, 1866

Rev. Dear Sir,

There are three boys, aged respectively 14, 11, and 9, who have lost their father, having become a Catholic on his deathbed, and their mother, unable to do more than support herself, is anxious to put them in a Catholic institution, that when they can be educated, and at the same time be taught a trade. She has applied to me to give her advice and help. She says her oldest son expresses a wish to be a Catholic, and the others most willing. It has occurred to me that your instruction, especially "The Manual Labor School," would be precisely the providence to take hold of these children.

I may say, "entirely," that unfortunately the decision of the parents had not the approbation of the mother. Yet these boys may make useful members of society, and it will be a charity to take part in preparing them for the future of this world and the next. Please let me know if you
will receive them and upon
what terms? Please give me an
idea of the course of education
given to boys in the Manual
Labour school and of the trades
there taught. Are the boys receiv-
ed gratuitously, or how they
annually to pay a certain
sum? The Mother is, I believe
not a Catholic. Nor is she in
a condition to pay much for
their education. The father was
a lawyer here, and some of
his friends are solicitors. To have
his children educated, I know
him very well, and thought yes-
terday I had sent for the first
time, about his children. I
am interested for them. Please
write to me an receipt of this
and let me know what you can
and will do in this matter.
Wishing you health and happiness.
I am very truly in yr gr.
Rev B. Sirin McGill
[Note: Dame du Lac
Bishop John McGill of Richmond]