

leave Joliet.

Sincerely
Charlotte M. Johnson
Pres. Loretto Alumnae
of Joliet.

April 11, 1916

202 Herkimer St.
Joliet, Illinois.

Dear Reverend Mother,

Saturday morning
a delegation of four had a
half hour audience with the
Archbishop at which time
we presented the petitions
and the enclosed sentiments
that I am sending.

It was intended
from the beginning to present
these petitions to His Grace
and although we were
told by Mother Felix they

would do no good the signers were anxious they be delivered as intended.

So I felt as the president of the F. M. S. I owed this to the signers. It was this as well as the hope that our small efforts might do good, that prompted me to select the delegation without any knowledge of the Sisters.

We were rather put out when His Grace told us that he was requested to pay no attention to the petitions. He said it was rather unfortunate that a mistake was made. However, papers were signed, but the Sisters could stay forever as far as he was concerned at the Academy.

I hope you will not be peeved with me but trust you will look upon my actions in the spirit in which I carried them out.

I trust that this cloud may have a silver lining and that many years will pass before the Sisters will

The Ladies of Loretto, because of their inability to furnish sufficient teachers to meet the growing demands of the parochial schools, have been directed to leave Joliet where for the past thirty-six years they have been the leading workers in the cause of Catholic education.

During those years, which were years of hardship, ceaseless labor and heroic sacrifice they not only taught in the schools of all the English speaking parishes but also succeeded in building up an academy and boarding school which to-day is in the front-rank of Catholic educational institutions for young ladies. The majority of the younger generation of Catholic men and women of Joliet owe at least a portion of their education to these good sisters. Their convent and academy, which is located in the heart of the down town district is a very valuable property but it will be years before it can be disposed of without great financial loss. But the loss which the Catholic citizens of Joliet will sustain if it be abandoned, can not be measured in money. For then Catholic young girls desirous of a high school education will

either have to forego their ambition or enter the public high school. The only other Catholic academy, because of its location in the extreme northwest portion of the city is not available for the majority of the Catholic young girls. And very few parents in Joliet can afford to send their daughters away to boarding school.

The attendance at St. Mary's Academy is increasing yearly. It fills an important place in the Catholic life of our city and for the sake of the cause of higher religious education the Sisters of Loretto should be permitted and encouraged to remain and continue their good work.

The committee desires simply to present to Your Grace the situation which confronts the Sisters and the people of Joliet. We represent the Alumnae Association of St. Mary's Academy and we are confident that we voice the sentiments not only of

the members of our association
but those of every form,
pupil of the Ladies of Loretto
and of the Catholics of Joliet
in general.

We earnestly
pray that the Sisters be per-
mitted to remain with us and
even though they be withdrawn
from the parochial schools
that they may continue their
academy and boarding school
and that our city may not
be deprived of that wonderful
influence for good which
these refined, cultured, and noble
women have exercised for so
many years.

We come without
the solicitation and even
without the knowledge of the
Sisters. We present the matter
to Your Grace confident that
whatever action you see fit
to take will be for the best
interests of all.

Committee:

Charlotte M. Johnson.
Mrs. Helen Haywood Wilhelmi.
Miss Jennie Halkyard.
Miss Emma Ulm.