

Seventh and Hall Streets
St. Joseph, Mo.

Nov. 25th, 1915

Rev. Mother Isabel

Rev. dear Mother -

I duly received your very kind letter giving me the very painful notice of your prospective departure from Joliet. I was indeed very sorry to hear the news officially, as I had hoped that, - at least, the Ladies of Loretto Academy would remain, whatever would become of the parochial schools. Dear Mother Isabel, I regret beyond expression your departure, as your coming to St. Mary's Joliet was one of the proudest events of the best part of my life. I loved the good and devoted people of Joliet; and I always felt that one of the best things I ever did for them was the establishment there of the Ladies of Loretto. I need not tell you therefore that your departure is a great grief to me. I am sure, too, that you all feel the necessity of leaving there very much and that you would not go, were it possible for you to remain. Well, you have at least the consolation to know that you did your work in Joliet nobly and devotedly and that your work there will ever remain and shall never be forgotten by all the pupils who have had the exceeding blessing of the splendid training and religious education at your hands.

It is really too bad you are going, but I suppose it will be all for the better for the community, and what will be the loss of the people of Joliet will be the gain of others in your future field of labors.

I regret, and trust you will forgive me, that I have put off writing too long; but I really found it hard to write you when I got your letter, and then put it off till this late hour - and not knowing whether you are still in Joliet or not. Dear Mother Isabel, it is hard to put on paper my feelings and regrets at your going, but you may be sure I shall never forget the Ladies of Loretto, and still hope to have the pleasure of seeing you all often and speaking to you face to face.

With all kind regards to Rev. Mother General, to yourself, and all my friends of Loretto, I remain your own grateful and devoted friend.

M. F. Burke

B. of St. Joseph

(Sister Isabella Devlin died July 30, 1916. She is buried in Joliet, Ill.)