

SAINT JOSEPH'S PROVINCIAL HOUSE

WATERVLIET - SHAKER RD.

LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110

June 3, 1978

Dear Margaret,

You've done a great job on organizing the details of the Federation Archives and arranging to gather material.

You may be interested to know that Sister Mary Seraphine Meaney is in Albany Medical Center Hospital in Albany. She is to undergo a series of tests. Prayers are requested but no visitors are allowed. We are concerned but don't know much yet.

Her full time apostolate for 1977-78 probably will end with the closing of the school year at her innercity parochial school. If you don't hear from her, I'll be glad to let you know at some future date what her condition permits. She might not have felt too well before as she requested that I be available for your visit here, which I'd be happy to do.

On your collecting, I hope that you will be able to pick up the Josephite activities that predated the Federation just so that if historical research is done some early leaders will not be neglected. The committee on the Legacy is listed on page X in the introduction. They may even have materials, photographs, etc. It was direction setting. Our Sister Emily Joseph Daly was in this group and would probably be delighted to be asked by you if you haven't already asked her.

Will you be seeking individual photographs of Sisters like Sister Mary Seraphine? I probably could easily get you a copy of one from the time she was president, in black and white, large portrait-type photograph, if you want it. #8" x 10"

Are you thinking of collecting works that might be expressive of our common spirituality? It would be valuable for someone to have these. Sister Emily Joseph Daly has had material published on St. Joseph, also translations on Medaille by Father Nepper, S.J.

No doubt you, too, received a request for material from a seminary at Catholic University who hopes to research the Educational Work of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States. He requested copies of all our histories, most are limited and outdated copies. In the process he will probably turn up much that we never have pulled together or will have time to do so. What ever he publishes would be of great value to the Federation. Even if he never gets that far, at some point he may want to get rid of his very valuable collection. Such a collection would be of great value to anyone who has to write up the collective story of the Sisters of St. Joseph in America. It would probably even surprise us to see what our educational impact have been in this country. It seems that you should be the one to approach him if you have room for it or you should make sure that some of us who do have room would accept it and store it for future use. Most of our corporate ministry has been education. Future records will be harder and harder to locate. If we cooperate with him and others like him, their work will be better and they will form a bond with our Sisters in the U.S. that might facilitate donations of collected data.

Have you questioned the Sisters who went to France to work with Father Nepper before he started coming to us? Our Sister Kathleen Mary Egan, now in Japan was one.

The end of next week I plan on going to Rochester area to attend the N.Y.S. Studies Group Conference with Sister Marie Emilie Cooney of Rochester SSJ. We also hope to take in a Community History Conference in that area. The following weekend is the Lake Ontario Archives Conference at Oswego. Tow Watertown Josephites, Sister Mary Robert Potter and Sister Celeste Williamson will be attending that with me.

Margaret, remember that Sister Evangeline Sheehan who was the foundress of the Superior, Wisconsin Josephites in 1907? With clues from that inter view in LaGrange and the probate of her father's will, I was able to locate her in the Franciscan Sisters at Peekskill, N.Y. from 2/22/1885 to 4/6/1897. I haven't said too much as some of this is a sensitive issue in their congregation but you were there so it will be interesting to see what happen next.

Do let me know when and if you plan to come up Albany way. The end of June looks good for me but I have my doubts about Sister Mary Seraphine.

You may also be interest to know that the new State Archives has opened in the beautiful maul in Albany. We found early bound reports of the Academies to the Board of Regents for all the cities in N.Y.S. from 1884 Sept. to June of 1888. They had been burned in a fire, soaked in water to put it out but lasted because they were bound. Did any of your schools operate under the Regents back that far? That might interest you if you do get upstate later.

Sorry that this typewriter doesn't spell better.

Hope to see you sometime. Keep me posted. I enjoyed your newsy publication to the archivists.

Sincerely in Christ,

Susan

Sister Mary Seraphine was released to go home but doesn't have any results of tests.

Would you have need of a copy of our current Province Directory? Every Convent of Province has them.

Take care! God bless you!