



Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall

This Week in History

March 3, 2015

Archives Working Together

During the month of February 1924, Mother General Mary Clement of the Sisters of Providence in Kingston, wrote to the bishops of all the dioceses in which the congregation sisters had missions. The intent was to garner support for approval of their new constitution.

In a brief note dated March 1, 1924, Bishop Felix Couturier, Bishop of Alexandria, advised Mother General Clement that the Sisters of Providence had his support (letter on the left.)

On March 6, 1924, Mother General Clement penned a thank-you to Bishop Couturier ((letter on the right.)

Attached to the 'card of thanks' was an undated copy of a response from our Bishop. Since the copy was not signed or dated, we wondered if the original note might still exist? We contacted Veronica Steinburg, Archivist for the Sisters of Providence. Her immediate response after a brief check of her files: "We do have the original of Bishop Felix Couturier's letter to Mother Mary Clement. In fact there are two letters...the official letter and an informal letter written in his own hand apologizing for the slow reply."

How about that for a neat little story of the importance and connectedness of various archives.

Dear Mother General

In answer to your letter and your petition asking for approval of you revised constitutions I have carefully read and compared the copy you have forwarded and can find nothing that is not in agreement with the requirements of Canon Law.

I earnestly pray God to bless and give increase to your Community

Faithfully yours

Bishop of Alexandria Ont.

Sisters of Providence,
Kingston, Mar 6/24.
Right Rev. Fr. Couturier S.S.D.
Bishop of Alexandria
Right Rev. and Dear Bishop
I beg to return my
most sincere thanks to you
for your great kindness
in giving your approbation
to that part of our Constitution
which has been recently
revised. I am, also, truly