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Holy Cross
Nov. 23 [1853]

Rev and Dear Fr.

Having recently received a letter from James, I hasten to inform you of his intentions. You remember that I requested you to use your influence to hasten his return. He states in his letter his willingness to return, but begs us to permit him to remain until after Trinity Sunday, upon which day, he is to be promoted to the sacred dignity of priest. He requests your prayers in his behalf on the 17th of December next, as Deacon's order will then be conferred upon him. Hugh's death was a very severe blow to James & Sherwood. He states that he did nothing but cry during the day, constantly repeating "Hugh is dead"__ [p. 2] Sherwood arrived there the evening previous to the reception of my sister; James had just returned from a very happily spent vacation_ We have to grant his request & let him remain until after the regular period appointed for his ordination.

We have as yet no news of our executors proceedings in the south. In Mr. Mannings next letter, I hope to receive at least, some news concerning our Georgian affairs.

I am again at old Holy Cross. There are but 2 y. Boys here at present. I am the only Prefect in fact, Father OFlanagan not being able to attend to any outdoor work. He keeps one studies and teaches 1st Rudiments. I do all the rest, appertaining to the Prefecture. Besides, I teach 2nd and 3^d Hum., French and Algebra. You may have judge that I am busy, though by no means discontented. I feel able to bear even more if necessary.

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Father, I will be candid with you. Placed in a college as I am, near boys who were well acquainted with by sight or hearsay with me & my brothers, remarks are sometimes made (though not in my hearing) which wound my very heart. You know to what I refer. The anxiety of mine caused by these is very intense. I have with me here a young brother Michael. He is obliged to go through the same ordeal. You may judge of my situation at periods _ "at periods" I say, for thanks to you I have felt this affliction but once since my return hither. I trust that all this will wear away; tho I feel, that whilst we live here, with those, who have known us but too well, we shall always be subject to some such degrading misfortune. Providence seems to have decided thus. I will say no more of this now, at a future interview (if we should meet again) I will explain if necessary, why I say so.

The boys are not very bright _ in general they are of good size. Mr. Keyes is the only Rhetoricia; the next class is 2nd Hum; the other lower classes follow in order. Fr. Ciampi is in EastPort making [p. 4] his retreat. He will have been away three of four weeks, at his return. Fr. OFlanagan is in tolerable health. Fr. Ryder arrived here, day before yesterday. He went to

Boston this morning; he will preach at the dedication of Mr. Lyndens Church in S. Boston tomorrow. Our boys will have a concert tomorrow which, by the by, is Thanksgivin' day, alias "TurkeyDay or Turkey-for-dinner day." Br. Taylor has been fattening his poultry in good style_ He is in good health & walks to the cottage several times a day to feed his chickens_ The main building has been raised above the 4th story_ The masonry work is, I believe, finished. We are about to raise the rafters. We are not able to occupy any of it as yet. We all live in the old house. The wing looks quite natural. The Bishop has not been up here, since the conflagration at least, so to say. Fr. Kennedy is now in Maine. He left here shortly after my arrival. He is tired of teaching _ We need recruits but none are forthcoming. Remember me Fr. Paresce. Kate thinks of paying you a visit. Pray for your aff son ex Xt

Pat
Healy