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Letter from Msgr. Field to the Most Reverend John J. Dougherty

New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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The Most Reverend John J. Dougherty
Saint Rose of Lima
Short Hills, New Jersey 07078

Your Excellency:

I have been doing a good deal of thinking on the double project of establishing archives and beginning a project in Oral History. I suppose it is very chauvinistic of me but I would like to see this kept in the hands of the clergy as far as is possible, when we have scholars of the rank of yourself, Monsignor Beck, Father Hinrichsen and Father Keller.

I am beginning to think it might be prudent to widen the base of our Committee as quickly as possible. I think in terms of the retired Archbishop, being named a consultant, and of getting to men like Monsignor Watterson and Monsignor Duffy as quickly as possible. I would call to your Excellency's attention Father Robert Wister who has a Master in History, and who has one of those delightful historical minds that somehow or other always manages to make combinations of facts of true historical worth. Incidentally, we do need some young blood on the Committee. I would also be much concerned to have each of the major religious orders, viz., Sisters of Charity, Dominicans, be invited to have a representative. There are some old ladies in Caldwell and Convent Station who could tell a good tale with a little encouragement. I do think Sister Mary Cecilia would be an invaluable adjunct both because of her natural talent and her background.

You will recall that at our meeting I made it clear that I already had a cataloging system lined up for the Archives.

God bless you,

Monsignor William Noé Field

WNF ag

I have no objection to being Secretary for the Committee.