

March 9, 1930

My dear daughter in the Blessed Sacrament
Mother M. Mercedes:

It is about 4:30 p.m., and we are on our way to Montgomery, which we are, D.V., to reach at 6:10 p.m.

The visit to the Apostolic Delegate has set aside all fear as to the church disapproving of the college because of co-education. He said he sent last year to the Holy Father a big book - his report of the Colored work, - as a result of seven years labor and observation. In this book he mentioned our college and that it is a co-educational institute and the only Catholic college for Colored in the United States. He said that the Colored were much in need of Catholic leaders, and that there was but this one Catholic College, in fact and one other only in mind, the Cardinal Gibbons Institute which, if it ever goes into effect will give one college in the North, and Xavier in the South.

He said, "Go on and build and don't wait." To this I said, "This would cost a great deal." To this he responded something to this effect, that money might hold you back, but don't wait for any other reason. What the Holy Father said in his Encyclical was meant with due consideration to circumstances, time and place. "Where are the men to undertake such a work?" he said. "It is best under the circumstances," I said. "I would build differently, of course, if only for girls, - wherefore I had to know if it were right to continue co-education." He said, "Go ahead and build with separate entrances for boys and girls, and keep them separate in classrooms, but don't stress it too much. With regard to social affairs, it is all right to have them come together, - it promotes Catholic marriages."

M.M.K.