

SCOTUS ACADEMY,

Corstorphine Road,

EDINBURGH. 12.

15th December, 1956.

My dear Parents,

I am very sorry to tell you that we must raise our fees from the beginning of next term. This step has become absolutely unavoidable, as I shall explain.

In founding Scotus Academy over 3 years ago, we believed we were helping to answer a really serious educational problem in Edinburgh and district. When we bought Beechwood House, we thought it would hold comfortably about 100 boys, and that we would slowly build up our numbers to that level over the first two or three years. But how we under-estimated the actual need for a Catholic Boys' School! Our numbers exceeded 100 at the start of the very first term. They rose to 180 for the second year, and 252 at the start of the third. Building work and alterations which we had hoped to delay until there was a little money in the Bank became imperative and urgent right away. Our debts naturally increased, instead of being controlled.

I will not burden you with all the details of our critical financial position, but we want to take you into our confidence as far as we can, in order that you can understand our problems.

- 1) We paid over £15,000 for Scotus Academy in 1950. Upkeep of premises, Bank Charges, and other expenses had increased this sum to £19,392 by September 1953.
- 2) Immediate alterations and outfitting as a school cost £4,000.
- 3) Bank interest on this overdraft is now over £1400 per year.
- 4) Last year we had to construct and equip a laboratory and new classrooms at a cost of £6,000.
- 5) If we are to accept the applications for entry which are arriving every week, we must build 4 new classrooms by next summer. These will cost a further £6000 to construct and furnish.

The choice before us is simply this. Either we stop taking in new boys until we are able to afford them, or we continue to meet the need for Catholic Education and go further into debt. We intend to go ahead. Scotus will not be able to grow indefinitely, but while it does grow, we shall encourage it, because the world has need of properly educated, well disciplined, Catholic, young men.

I have explained our position to you as best I can, and our reasons for having to increase our fees. They will go up £4 per term as from next term. We shall make concessions for brothers, where application is made, and we shall also give careful consideration to those parents who are unable to find the full increased fees.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all Peace and Blessings at this Holy Season, and Good Health and Happiness throughout the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

J.S. RUSSELL,

Rector