My very dear Brother Provincial,

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 28th April.

I am glad that you have had Brother Mercian's attention directed to the matter mentioned. You will find that that particular weakness is difficult to root out. It is remarkable how it tends to break out time after time. It should be a real help to Brother Mercian that he has been exhorted to keep the closest watch possible over himself. One of the greatest troubles with the weakness is the harm that it does to the boys. Boys seem to find it hard to forget anything of the nature, especially on the part of one whose office it is to deplore such conduct, and there is the danger that the same weakness may manifest itself in the boys when they are later placed in somewhat the same circumstances. I believe, also, that Brother Mercian is a very good Brother, and we must pray that Almighty God, through the intercession of His Immaculate Mother, will protect him in the future. At all events you have done your duty to him for the present. Later on you might be able to assist him further. It would probably be a help for him to be out of office, and to be with a vigilant and sympathetic Superior who has a strong spiritual character. Such are not easy to find.

I hope that your earnest efforts to solve all the problems connected with the erection of the Houses...
of Formation will meet with a full measure of success. You have heavy work on your hands, and you can be sure that all here will give you every support. I am looking forward to meeting Father Conquest. He will probably contact me when he is ready to cross over to Ireland, which, I understand, will not be until later in the year. News about Brother Wilfrid is good. Please convey my kind regards to him when you meet him. He may still think that I had not much sympathy for him when I was in Australia, but I had. Also give affectionate regards to Br. Pascal. I hope he is peaceful and happy. Aquinas had hard luck apparently. Still they will come again. I will be delighted to call on the 'clan' when I get over to Ennis. I may be in England soon, and if I get within distance at all of 171 Manor Grove, I'll make my bow there. All Rescripts do need to be signed by both the Ordinary and Religious concerned.

If anything is enclosed, this letter will be sent by ordinary mail.