

**Mother Superior Therese de St. Xavier Farjon
To President Thomas Jefferson
New Orleans, 13 June 1804**

Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States

Sir.

Emboldened by the favorable mention you have been pleased to make of their order, the Nuns of S^t Ursula at New Orleans take the liberty of addressing you on a subject highly interesting to their institution! they believe that without any direct application, the treaty of Cession, and the sence of Justice which marks the character of the United States, would have secured to them the property they now possess, but considering a sacred deposit, they would fail in a duty they deem essential were they to ommit requesting, that it may be formally confirmed to them & their successors, & that you may be pleased to communicate this request to the Congress of the United States in such a manner as you may deem proper

Our request is dictated by no wish of personal gratification or private agrandisement. secluded from the world, its luxuries and vanities, wealth, & the enjoymets it brings would to them have no attraction devoted to religious duties, temporal advantages are not the objects of their pursuits, but bound by a solemn obligation to employ their revenue in charitable uses, & their time in the education of youth, they cannot but be anxious to know that the property which is to enable them to fulfil these duties will be secured to them — it is not therefore their own cause but that of the Public which they plead — it is the cause of the Orphan, of the helpless child of Want, of the many who may be snatched from the paths of vice & infamy under their guidance. & be trained up in the habits of virtue & religion to be happy & useful, — of society which will be spared the burthen of the indigent & the depredations of vice — of their country itself which cannot but acquire honor in fostering & protecting such beneficent purposes.

These considerations, they know Sir, will have weight with you — they anticipate your support, because they are conscious deserve it, — and they conclude with their ardent prayers for your personal happiness & the prosperity of the Country whose affairs you direct. We have the honor to be with the highest respect

Sir

New Orleans 13 June 1804}

Your mo ob^t. Hum Sts

S^r therese de S^t Xavier farjon
Superieure

S^r Françoise de S^{te} Maria Olivier Aflistante
Sr de Françoise de Ste Felicité
Abzas Zelatrice
Sor therese de Mercy —
S^r Christine de S^t Andria Madier
S^r Emelie de S^t Françoise Sourdan
S^r Rosalie de S^{te} Scolastique Broutin
S^r Marie de S^{te} Magdelaine Rittieur
S^r Marguerite de S^{te} charle carierer
S^r Marthe de S^t Antoine Delattrez
S^r Mari Joseph Brause
S^r Felicité de S^r Jean Novice

**Governor W.C.C. Claiborne
To President Thomas Jefferson
New Orleans, 15 June 1804**

New-Orleans 15 June 1804

Sir,

At the particular request of the Superior of the Convent in this city, I have the honor to enclose you a communication from the Ursuline Nuns.

These respectable ladies merit and possess a great share of the public esteem; their conduct is exemplary, and their time is usefully employed in the education of female youth. During my short residence in this city, I have paid the Nuns very great respect and given them every assurances of the protection and friendly regard of the Government of the United States. — I believe I have succeeded in conciliating their affections, and rendering their minds tranquil: it seems however that, they of late entertain some fears that their property cannot be secured to them and their successors without an Act of Congress, and I understand that it is on this subject they have addressed you.

This city continues healthy, and the American Society increases rapidly.

The lady and family of my friend W. Price and several other genteel families from the United States have within ten days past arrived in this city. I have the pleasure to add that M^{rs} Claiborne is now with me she reached this city on the 4th instant after a passage of forty days from Nashville in Tennessee.

With sentiments

the most respectful

I have the honor to subscribe

Myself

Your faithful friend!

William C. C. Claiborne

**President Thomas Jefferson
To Mother Superior Therese de St. Xavier Farjon
Washington, D.C., 13 or 14 July 1804**

To the Soeur Therese de S^t. Xavier farjon Superior, and the Nuns of the order of S^t. Ursula at
New Orleans

I have received, holy sisters, the letter you have written me wherein you express anxiety for the property vested in your institution by the former governments of Louisiana. the principles of the constitution and government of the United states are a sure guarantee to you that it will be preserved to you sacred and inviolate, and that your institution will be permitted to govern itself according to it's own voluntary rules, without interference from the civil authority. whatever diversity of shade may appear in the religious opinions of our fellow citizens, the charitable objects of your institution cannot be indifferent to any; and it's furtherance of the wholesome purposes of society, by training up it's younger members in the way they should go, cannot fail to ensure it the patronage of the government it is under. be assured it will meet all the protection which my office can give it.

I salute you, holy sisters, with friendship & respect.

Th Jefferson