

For Christian Unity and Concern for the Poor



Heavenly Father, bring greater unity in the Body of Christ throughout the Archdiocese of Mobile. May the example of Bishop Michael Portier inspire us to rally together around our love for Jesus Christ. Together, may we link arms to care for the orphans, widows and our other neighbors in need. Together, may we be a powerful witness to all in Alabama that Jesus Christ is Lord. May your Holy Spirit teach us to live, worship and serve in synch with one another that your kingdom may grow here in the southern 28 counties of Alabama as never before! The night before he died, your Son asked you that “they may be one.” May it be so! Here! All throughout our Archdiocese. AMEN.



Bishop Michael Portier
Born Sept. 7, 1795, Montbrison, France
Ordained Sept. 29, 1818, St. Louis, MO
Appointed First Bishop of Mobile 1826
Died May 14, 1859, Mobile, Alabama

Mobile, 17th February, 1830

Sirs

Being on the eve of establishing a permanent Seminary of learning in the vicinity of Mobile, and learning that near that place where I intend to fix my institution there is public land of which your Honorable board can dispose, I have been solicited by many respectable citizens of our community to appeal to your zeal and liberality for a disposal of a part of that land in favor of said Seminary.

Though fully convinced of your willingness and disposition to make any Sacrifice for any establishment which in some measure could promote the political and moral intents of our City, still I would not wish to be a bother to the place to which I came in order to devote myself for the good of my brethren in Christ. I will then ask as a favor from your Honorable Council, either to sell me a quarter of section of the land at the general Government price, or if it suited your views better, I would engage myself and the institution to receive boards and instruct one male orphan child for every half section that could be granted to the institution—and in case that establishment should by unforeseen circumstances be removed hereafter from the Spring Hill Settlement it would be understood that I or my assists could retain any part of the whole of the land granted by paying two dollars an ano.

I [?] observe to your Honorable body that although the Seminary is and will be eminently Catholic, yet it will be open to all denominations and no influence is to be exercised on the minds of the pupils for a change of religious principles.

With sentiments of the highest esteem and consideration, I have the Honor to be

Your H[onora]ble Body's

Most Obed[ient]

Very H[um]ble Ser[van]t,

Mic. J. Portier, bis. of Mobile

To the Honorable Mayor and Aldermen
Of the City of Mobile

Letter from Bishop Portier to city elders in obtaining land for Spring Hill College

