Letters from 1904 and 1905 from J. Russell and P. H. McClean to Mother Mary Augustine Claven. Letters were transcribed on October 31, 2017 by Terry Lawler and Debbie Beauvais. Letters were transcribed from copies. Location of the original documents is unknown.

T. Lawler, acting archivist

November 1, 2017
St. Patrick's Rectory
640 Grand Ave.

New Haven, Conn., Sept. 14, 1892.

Dear Mr. Cushing,

I have just arrived home from Milford where I dined with Mr. McLellan. I return, par,

showered to the one over to the Great House this which I went from Ellington. The large garden is

present very much and the Grange and the house not too much at first. You may

hear it was a great storm but look at some less书面

so I wondered around the

By some great west on one I concluded that it

is a neat well built, well

preserved and well kept home. Let this know when I do

see you. Misty here. Tell

talk about it. Russell
St. Patrick's Rectory  
640 Grand Ave.  
New Haven, Conn.  
Sept. 14, 1904

Rev. Sr. M. Augustine,
I have just arrived home from Milford where I dined with Fa. McClean. Between rain showers he took me over to the Great House thro' which I went from cellar to garret. The lawns + gardens impressed me very much but the house not so much at first. Of course you may hear how a great house to us (Irish) at home has 365 rooms. As I wandered around & thro the house it grew on me, & I concluded that it is a neat – well built – well preserved small 'great house'. Let me know when I can see you at Meriden or here to talk about it.
JRussell
St. Mary's Rectory, Milford, Connecticut
Nov. 9, 1904.

My dear S. M. Augustine:

I hope my delay in writing has not caused you any anxiety. I have been doing my best for you to acquire Lawtellon Hall for your community. They do not care to sell the place without the row of houses. One of them the agent says can be sold to my organist, Mrs. Reynolds. These are the two new ones.
The other three are not of much account.
The agent thinks that $37,500 won't close the deal.
I told him our limit is $35,000 and not a cent more, and he must close the deal at that very price, or another place will be chosen.
I am most certain that $35,000 is enough to offer for the place.
In fact, if we push we might get $36,000.
I told the agent if he did not close the deal at $35,000 in a week, that we will be by next Monday to consider.
my offer $3000 to wait and find something else, but I mean by this, that pending the selection of some of the places you are now considering, you will give them $500 for Larreton Half.

Recollect, I am sorry no higher offer was made the offer of $3000. etc.

I told the Bishop about this the other day. He said not to make any higher offer.

Let me know if this the upper approval. 

Health and best wishes to you and the community.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

P.W.M. Clean
St. Mary’s Rectory
Milford, Connecticut
Nov. 9, 1904

My dear Sr. M. Augustine:

I hope my delay in writing has not caused you any anxiety. I have been doing my best for you to acquire “Laurelton Hall” for your community. They do not care to sell the place without the row of houses. Two of them the Agent says can be sold to my organist, Mrs. Reynolds. These are the two new ones.

The other three are not of much account.

The agent thinks that $37500.00 will close the deal.

I told him our limit is $35000.00 and not a cent more, and he must close the deal at that very soon, or another place will be chosen.

I am more certain than ever that $35000.00 is enough to offer for the place. In fact I am sorry we went above $30000.00.

I told the agent if he did not close the deal at $35000.00 in a week, that will be next Monday, to consider my offer $30000.00 until we found something that suits. I mean by this, that pending the selection of some of the places you are now considering, you will give him $30000.00 for “Laurelton Hall.”

I repeat, I am sorry we made the offer of $35000.00.

I told the Bishop about this, the other day. He said not to make any higher offer. Let me know if this has your approval. Health and best wishes to you and the community.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

P.H. McClean
St. Mary's Hospital,  
Milford, Connecticut.  
Dec. 28, 1904.

My dear Mother Augusta, —

No doubt your think I have forgotten you and your little piece of business down here in New York. I am still looking after your desired interest very. There was a meeting of the heirs of the Laurelton Hall estate — this is the fancy name by which the Taylor place is known through the United States and Europe — and at it they agreed to let the place go for $5,000.
This they pay is their rock bottom figure. Enough of the property if
they can be sold to�� Kuala Lumpur at least 20,000 $, I mean can be
sold right away to bring it to this figure.
I intended to go to Merdeka to-morn
and also to Charford to talk over this
matter, but one of my sisters in
law died to-day, so I must go to
Charford instead. Please to remember
her in your prayers.
If you ask me any opinion of
the purchase, I would say wait a
little longer unless you must have
the place right away. I think
can see they are anxious to sell. I know the agent considers it a great bargain. It is
in some ways.

Well go to McHenry some day next week, either Monday or Tuesday and I will see
what you think. In the meantime consider the matter and consult about it. Ask what the
Right Rev. Bishop and Father Russell think about
the figure. They know much more about such
things than I do. I will do my best to get the plans
of the lowest figure. Now it remains with you to
find out whether it is worth that much to your
Community. You must assume this responsibility
as I am incapable of advising in that.
I wish you and all the people of your community a most happy and prosperous New Year.

Certainly will ask our Lord to direct you in what is for the best in the purchase of Laurelton Hall. True, I have had anything to do, I wish to see it an eminent success.

Pray for the success of my work this coming year. There are not many missions in yet.

With best wishes, love,

Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ,

[Signature]

P.H. M. Chan
St. Mary's Rectory  
Milford, CT  
Dec. 28, 1904

My dear Mother Augustine:

No doubt you think I have forgotten you and your little piece of business down here in Milford. I am still looking after your desired interest here. There was a meeting of the Heirs of the Laurelton Hall estate – this is the fancy name by which the Taylor place is known through the United States and Europe – and at it they decided to let the place go for $35000.00.

This they say is their rock bottom figure. Enough of the property I think can be sold to make the price at least $30000.00. I mean can be sold right away to bring it to this figure.

I intended to go to Meriden to-morrow and also to Hartford to talk over the matter, but one of my sisters in-law died to-day, so I must go to Stamford instead. Please to remember her in your prayers.

If you ask me my opinion of the purchase, I would say wait a little longer unless you must have the place right away. I think I can see they are anxious to sell. I know the agent considers it a great bargain. It is in some ways.

I will go to Meriden some day next week, either Monday or Tuesday and I will see what you think. In the meantime, consider the matter and consult about it. See what the Right Rev. Bishop and Father Russell think about the figure. They know much more about such things than I do. I will do my best to get the place at the lowest figure. Now it remains with you to find out whether it is worth that much to your community. You must assume this responsibility as I am incapable of advising in that.

I wish you and all the sisters of your community a most happy and prosperous New Year.

I will certainly ask our Lord to direct you in what is for the best in the purchase of Laurelton Hall.

Since I have had anything to do with I wish to see it an eminent success.

Pray for the success of my work the coming year. There are not enough missions in yet.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ.

P.H. McClean
St. Mary's Rectory  
Milford, Connecticut  
Jan 3, 1903

$5000.00

Received from St. Bridget Convent Corporation for funds collected by Augustus P. Peirce amounting to $5000. to be employed in the purchase of the Vailor property.  
Milford, Connecticut.

Rev. A. M. Cleary
St. Mary's Rectory
Milford, Connecticut
Jan. 3, 1905

$5000.00
Received from "St. Bridget Convent Corporation" per Sister M. M. Augustine Five Thousand Dollars
$5000.00 to be employed in the purchase of the Taylor Property Milford, Connecticut
Rev. P. H. McClean
My dear mother, 

I just wanted to write you a few lines to let you know how much I am enjoying the new job at the bank. The hours are flexible, and I have plenty of time to work on personal projects. I am also learning a lot from my colleagues, and I feel like I am growing professionally.

I hope you are doing well and enjoying your time off. Please take care of yourself and keep in touch. 

With love,

Mary

February 15th, 1926
I am delighted that the deal has been closed, and I pray it will be an
eminent success for all parties con-
cerned.

Be sure and pray for my intention.

Yours most sincerely in Christ,

R.T. McCann
My dear Mother Augustine:

I saw the real estate agt. yesterday, and he thinks the quicker we close the bargain now the better. Please then to send me the check for the amount you have, anything from $2000.00 to $5000.00 and I will get a bond for a deed to be delivered within 30 or 60 days just as you see fit.

Please to forward the check at once.

I am delighted that the deal has been closed and I pray it will be an eminent success for all parties’ concerned.

Be sure and pray for my intention.

Yours most sincerely in Christ,

P.H. McClean