

their funds would be most needed by them. I would not hesitate, after so many delays and warnings, to take away a power of attorney which he does not employ. The difficulty is to get some one on the spot who could perform the duty, and be Willing to undertake it. Monsieur the Curé of Mesle would seem to me more worthy of Your confidence than any other, Especially If he be known to Monsieur de Villars.

If you charge me with the mission of getting your masses said in part, I will perform it with the greatest faithfulness. If they could be put at 12 sols or 15 sols, which is the rate for country priests, it would be easier; but I hope that I shall find some who, in default of others, will willingly undertake it. I have already made arrangements for 600, and can answer for 2,400 at least. Should you persist in this intention, I will indicate to you a gentleman in Paris who will receive your money and pay it to me here. I take 300 for my share, which I shall endeavor to say during the year. Some of my Colleagues will not need much urging, and it will give them pleasure. As it appears that the same commission will be given you every year, we beg you not to forget us. Here, on a separate piece of paper, is my acquittance for the 2,400 masses which I accept in advance; but I will negotiate the amount only when I have received the same. I beg you to be assured of my prayers for your preservation, and for the flourishing condition of your Holy Community at the beginning of the new year. Will Mademoiselle de Givry, if she be still with you, allow me to congratulate her upon the winning of his suit by Monsieur her father, whose attentions and kindness