

*For Perseverance  
in Building Up  
the Kingdom of God*



Spare us from discouragement Lord, as we seek to carry the Cross with you and for you here in our Archdiocese. Grant us the same perseverance that you gave to Bishop Portier so that we too may rise again to preach your Word every time that we fall. In the face of obstacles, sickness, dire circumstances and seemingly futile efforts, give us the grace to continue laboring in the vineyard for your glory and the salvation of souls. May our guardian angels keep us always close to your will. May our Blessed Mother teach us to accept Jesus more and more as the Lord of our lives. And may St. Michael the Archangel, patron of our Archdiocese, protect us against every evil attack that seeks to limit how you desire to use us for your kingdom here in Alabama. AMEN.

*I was quite recovered from the pains caused by my last fall, when last Thursday a second fall more serious and more dangerous put my life in danger of death. I was coming back from the convent at six o'clock in the evening which was quite dark and my buggy struck the post of the tollgate on the Shell Road. The buggy fell in pieces and I was flung straight as an arrow five or six feet on the road. Imagine, my dear friend, a mass of 190 pounds falling like a bundle of clothes on a road of shells. To try to get to my feet was an impossible thing as the body was so bruised although there were no fractures. I dragged myself in the mud to the gate and after great efforts I was able to get up. This is the second time in five years that a like accident has happened to me, and I believe that God alone through the intercession of our good mother and my guardian angel preserved me from a sudden death. I must not forget in my gratitude my worthy patron St. Michael and my own good mother who gave me a constitution of iron.*

Bishop Michael Portier writing to Bishop Blanc of New Orleans on December 1, 1858 after a buggy crash and in declining health.



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