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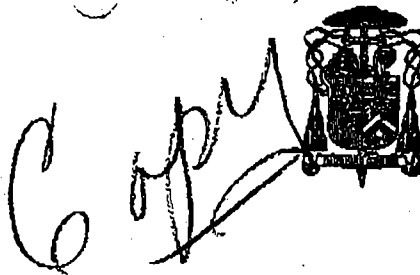
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1939

BISHOP'S HOUSE  
 100 ANTELOPE STREET  
 CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



September 23, 1939

Venerable Brother Gerard, C.F.A.,  
 Rector, Alexian Brothers Hospital,  
 531 Jackson Drive,  
 Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

"dismissed"

My dear Brother Gerard:

I am in receipt of a letter from Rev. C. A. Hageman, written at your institution, in which he informs me that he made application for entrance in your institution, to do penance and to give proof of the sincerity of his repentance for a career that obliged me to dismiss him from the diocese. He writes that you have expressed readiness to accept him, if I approve of his going to your institution.

At the outset, I wish to state that I absolutely will not be responsible for any financial obligations in his case, for the reason that I have felt obligated and justified to refuse absolutely to have this struggling diocese assume any financial obligations for this man. My last letter to him was that he was out of the diocese and would stay out.

I will not go into the details of his conduct. On the face of his letter, he seems to feel very sorry that he fell and promises to reform. While I have no right to predict that he will not reform, I honestly have my justified apprehensions. He is a man who can put up a good front, and will apparently show signs of repentance and reform; but, as was proven by his past record he forgets his resolutions and falls into his old habits, when he seems to think that he is no longer suspected, and cleverly hides his gradual fall into his old transgressions. Therefore, I have no confidence in his promises; and, while I would not want to deprive him of a chance to possibly and finally prove himself worthy of confidence, I frankly regret to state that I would not trust him, unless he would unmistakably offer proofs of his sincerity continuously for at least three to five years.

Now, if he can secure the necessary means to pay you for his board and lodging, I would have no objection to your receiving him on probation; but I would not want it understood that I have any responsibility towards him. If he can pay you for his board and lodging, and if he proves, to your satisfaction, for the period of time mentioned above, that he is honest and sincere in his resolutions and efforts, a chance would at least be given him

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to prove himself trustworthy or not.

As for saying Mass, I will approve of that only in your institution, and until such time as you feel satisfied that he really is sincere. So, I have now given you the information that I felt in conscience bound to give you; and I leave it to your good judgement what to do.

Father Chrzanowski has been accepted by the Bishop of El Paso, Texas, on trial; and he located in a mountain mission center of New Mexico, the name of which is Hanover. Time will tell whether he is worthy of trust. Under no circumstance will he be allowed to return here. That is the same situation with regard to Rev. Hageman.

It pains me to have you Brothers witness such sad experiences with priests of God. But, on the other hand, you Brothers deserve great credit for the efforts you are putting forth to try to help fallen men return to their former good habits of life, if there is any chance at all for such a reform. God will, no doubt bless you and your institution for this good Samaritan act. In the case of Rev. Hageman, I hope that your reverence for the sacred Priesthood and the reform of a fallen priest will merit for you the great reward that God alone can give, if this man reliably proves the sincerity and perseverance of his repentance and reform.

I will send Rev. Hageman a copy of this letter so that he can see exactly what I wrote you; and he will be in a position to receive your decision.

Thanking you for past kindness for unfortunates of this diocese, and assuring you of a constant memento in my Masses for such charity, I beg to remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Corpus Christi

(copy)  
 Saint Aedan's Rectory  
 112 Fountain Street  
 New Haven, Conn.

The Most Reverend E. B. Ledvina, D.D., LL.D.,  
 Corpus Christi, Texas.

Most Reverend Bishop:

(exemplary) Father Hageman has been living with his brother here in New Haven. It is imperative that something be done for him. Although his conduct here has been in every way exemplary, it gives serious scandal to many to have him living as he is.

I very respectfully request that you make it possible for him to find some place of refuge. He is willing to accept whatever you may decide so long as he may live as a priest. Should he come under the influence of enemies of the Church, it might do great harm.

He is leaving here in a day or two for Santa Fe, and will apply to the Bishop there. He desires me to notify you, and also to write to Bishop Gerken in hopes that he will give him an audience.

Father Hageman has stated his case to me candidly. It is most serious beyond a doubt, and your letter to him is, also beyond a doubt, just. Yet the burden of remedy rests with you. He simply must be protected before he loses his mind.

I am holding your letter to him with a view of appealing to his Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate, should you find yourself unable to help him. I cannot bring the matter before Bishop McAuliffe as he is in no way responsible for the unfortunate young priest.

Father Hageman says he cannot go to you directly as he fears you exceedingly. Of course he has reason to do so. He will make application to the Archbishop in about a week. Can you possibly clear his way a little?

Very respectfully in Christ,

(Signed) M. Ernest Wilson,  
 Pastor of St. Aedan's,  
 New Haven, Conn.

Sept. 14, 1940

(This copy made in Chancery Office, Corpus Christi, Texas.)

April 26, 1959

Very Reverend D. A. Laning, Dean,  
Saint Peter's Rectory,  
1520 Matamoros Street,  
Laredo,  
Texas.

Dear Father Dan:

I am returning to you the note renewing loan for the balance of the debt on the parish. Indeed, thank God, that you were able to make a substantial payment on the loan! I compliment yourself and the people on the efforts to reduce and finally wipe out that incubus which has been hanging over the parish for so long a time. I am glad to note that the men are determined now to try to make up the final balance and clean up by the next interest-paying date. More power to you and to them!

Anent Father Hageman; I think, too, that he better, either go into some monastery for the rest of his life and keep on at least saying Mass, or to apply to the Holy See for laization. In the latter case he would have to make formal application and send it to me to forward it to the Holy See through the Apostolic Delegation. I am glad that Father McCoy knows the case, and therefore I will not need to have pangs of conscience about the Celebret. I am glad that you wrote to Father Hageman, as you did; and I fully agree with your opinion that he will have the greatest difficulty to overcome his weakness. Accordingly, you can write him along the line that I state above.

I can tell you now that I will positively send you one of the newly ordained, as assistant. So, you can quietly count upon it.

I am glad that you are still getting contributions for the Cathedral Fund. You will see considerable progress made on the building, when you come.

I am dictating this to Father Basso just before our Conference, which was deferred to this date. Will be glad to see you when you come.

Sending my blessing, I am,

Yours faithfully in Christ.-DOG.00278

ST. PETER'S RECTORY  
1520 Matamoros St.  
Laredo, Texas

April 24, 1939.

Most Rev. E. B. Ledvina, D.D.,  
Bishop of Corpus Christi.

Dear Bishop:

Enclosed is the renewal note on the parish debt. Thank God, again we are able to make a substantial payment on it. In fact are cutting it in half this time, as you will realize if you remember the last note of \$1600.00. I must surely give credit to these people, for they are doing their best to make thing go here.

On top of this I have the consoling news that the men of the parish are going to make a special effort to clean off the balance at once, by a collection among themselves. This is of their own suggestion, and I am more than glad to see them take the initiative. There is also a movement on foot to collect enough to re-finish the inside of the Church and put a roof on the tower. ( I dont know if you are aware of the fact that the tower roof was never replaced after the storm took off the steeple.) If these things materialize I will write you later, explaining the extent of the repairs, the cost, and askt he necessary permissions.

Enclosed are the letters about Frs. Gruber and Hageman. As to Fr. Hageman, Bishop Garriga told me that he had given you the sad facts in his case. Believe me, if I could have spared you this added worry I would have done so. I did my best, and feel, even now, that you were spared the shock.

There was no public knowledge of the affair at all. The physical break-down idea was used very effectively. In fact at this time there is hardly a mention of him at all. I am keeping the boys concerned as close to me as possible and even there there seems to be no permanent harm. However, time alone will tell on this point.

As to the Celebret, Fr. McCoy knows the case, and so I felt that you were safe on that score. Also, I had advices Fr. Hageman to do one of two things: either ask admission to a Monastery for the balance of his life, or, ask for secularization. The latter idea is the one I urged him to follow and I sincerely hope that he does, though I have my doubts. I am writing

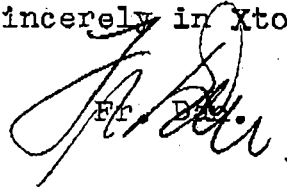
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to Fr. Hageman again this week, again counseling him to do one of the two things, stressing secularization. I am sorry to say that I do not feel that he will overcome his weakness. I hope that this explains my actions in the matter.

Everything else here is moving along as well as it can be expected. under the circumstances. It sure is good to learn of the possibility of getting help, and particularly one of the Ordinands. I feel that we would get along better.

Pledges and contributions are still coming in for the Cathedral Fund, and I will bring them all down to Corpus Christi either the end of this week or the first of next week. Until then, my regards to all at the Bishop's House.

Sincerely in Xto

  
Fr. Dan.

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1936



ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL  
1520 WILLOWWOODS ST.  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

December, 1936

Most Rev. E. B. Sedwina,  
804 Antelope St.,  
Corpus Christi, Texas.

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

My Christmas wish for you would be poor and inadequate if it did not include a note of appreciation and gratitude to you for the great kindness and patience you have shown to me within the past year. You have done a favor for me which I shall never forget to my dying day. My prayer is that the lesson you were instrumental in bringing home to me will be a lasting one.

Never a morning passes that you have not a special memento in my Holy Sacrifice. May the Almighty spare you to us for many years and may the new year be a happy one for you.

My feelings toward you, Bishop, can be simply expressed. Thank you and may God bless and keep you.

Gratefully yours in Christ

Clement A. Hageman

St. Peter's Church,  
Laredo, Texas,  
June 30, 1936.

Most Rev. E. B. Ledvina, D.D.,  
Bishop of Corpus Christi,

Dear Bishop;

Everything seems to be going along very nicely here. The Parish received me most cordially and at a reception Sunday evening renewed their promises of cooperation. And I believe they mean it. The numbers attending services have increased considerably already, and, the men and women have volunteered to contact all of their acquaintances who have not as yet shown up here in their home parish.

The Priests of the city have all been very fine. They gave me a welcome dinner at St. Augustine's on Monday of last week.

I have had one meeting with the new counsellors. They are very flattered by the appointment and show great rediness to do all in their power to help make things move along.

The books all seem to be in first class order. Fr. Kaiser certainly has been most careful in this respect. He has made himself not only most useful, but most agreeable. I regret that he will be leaving but then, there are others, as you say.

Of the two men available to fill his place, I feel that Fr. Hageman would be the better adapted to be of real service. I am afraid that Fr. Corbin would not fit in very well. So if your Lordship sees fit to send Fr. Hageman down to me I shall be glad to give him a real chance. May I suggest that if you send him that you do so some weeks before Fr. Kaiser leaves, as that will give both of us a better chance to become familiar with the city, parish and location of our people.

I figure on taking up a census at once. There is no complete record of parishioners, which of course is a serious handicap. You dont know who belongs and who does not, and with many of these Mexican names, many a mistake can occur. Hageman would be a real help in this job.

As to the news of the new Bishop, I couldn't believe my eyes. But since it is what you wanted, we must, with regret, accept. Since it is a fact I am glad it is Fr. Garriga. He is a fine man, and I am sure will make a successful and agreeable co-adjutor. I will see him at his jubilee celebration Thursday.

July 9, 1936

Rev. Daniel Laning,  
St. Peter's Church,  
Box 26,  
Laredo, Texas

Dear Father Dan;

I just received a letter from Father Hageman who expressed his deep gratitude for the opportunity offered him to prove that he will make good in every way I expect him to do. He is at St. John Place, conducted by the Benedictine Sisters, Hot Springs, Arkansas. He writes that the doctor has operated on his ears. One ear is still closed, but by burning his throat with silver, the doctor expects the other to open soon. He said that within ten days he ought to notice a big improvement. By the beginning of August he should be ready to start for Laredo. Quoting from his letter, he writes that at any cost he will be ready to leave for Laredo at the time I have suggested. I do not recall what time I set; but I mentioned you would like to have him at Laredo a few weeks before Father Kaiser leaves.

He concludes his letter with the words; "I will do my best with the help of Father Laning to merit that confidence." Thus, unless something entirely unexpected should develop, Father Hageman will report to you for duty in Laredo by the 1st of August. If you want to drop him a line you are free to do so. It may help to give him some courage.

From a letter received from Bishop Ritter, I learned that Father K asked to be allowed to return to the North several months ago. Yea, that he had expressed his wish to return North last year.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

---

Bishop of Corpus Christi.

July 2, 1936

Very Reverend Daniel A. Laning, Dean,  
Saint Peter's Rectory,  
Laredo,  
Texas.

My dear Father Laning:

Thank you for your letter of June 30th. It gives me the information I was anxious to get. I appreciate your willingness to take Father Hageman and give him a chance. I, too, think he would be the better man of the two for you. The other man will be certainly a problem on my hands. He can't sing, he can't talk, and what the old Irish lady said one time, what can he do? Well, that is a matter that I have to handle in my position the best I can.

Glad you handled Mr. P. Loyendecker, as you stated. It proves that you are adopting the right tactics. More power to you!

I am glad you were going to Bishop Elect Garriga's Silver Jubilee; as I purposely stayed away. He understood my reasons, which I explained to him orally. It would be embarrassing for me, as well as for him, to hear the usual meaningless lamentations about losing their pastor, on the part of the people and of losing a man of the Diocese. Usually, people don't seem to realize that a promotion of that kind ought to make everybody happy for the promoted one's own sake.

I will write to Father Hageman, and have him report at Laredo within the next three weeks, if he can come then; as he was getting some treatments from some Doctor at Little Rock. I don't think it was anything serious. I will have him let me know at once.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

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Bishop of Corpus Christi.

St. Peter's Church,  
Laredo, Texas,  
June 30, 1936.

Most Rev. E. B. Ledvina, D.D.,  
Bishop of Corpus Christi,

Dear Bishop;

Everything seems to be going along very nicely here. The Parish received me most cordially and at a reception Sunday evening renewed their promises of cooperation. And I believe they mean it. The numbers attending services have increased considerably already, and, the men and women have volunteered to contact all of their acquaintances who have not as yet shown up here in their home parish.

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Of the two men available to fill his place, I feel that Fr. Hageman would be the better adapted to be of real service. I am afraid that Fr. Corbin would not fit in very well. So if your Lordship sees fit to send Fr. Hageman down to me I shall be glad to give him a real chance. May I suggest that if you send him that you do so some weeks before Fr. Kaiser leaves; as that will give both of us a better chance to become familiar with the city; parish and location of our people.

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There is little coment at all about John. The idea of ill health is the most prevalent one one hears, and so that situation is greatly relieved. Old Peter Leyendecker has been by to impress me as to what a great man he himself is, "The out-standing citizen of South Texas" and to try to rehash the case, I let him talk and then got a check from him to buy a new Missal. The one here is so old that it is practicalll useless. No one else has shown any inclination to want to gossip and I am relieved.

I will inform the Sisters at the Hospital of my appointment as Confessor.

It has been terribly hot down here, and I have thought of the boat many a night. Of course everybody says the heat is most unusual. I'll get used to it.

Hope that you are well. and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Xto

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "G. D. ...". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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1930

St. Ann's Church,  
Galveston, Texas  
October 11, 1930.

Rt. Rev. E. B. Seligman, D.D.,  
804 Antelope St.,  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Rt. Rev. and dear Bishop:

I am returning the copy of the letter that you sent to Mr. Ryan of the Grant Lumber Co. I paid Mr. Ryan a visit after having received this letter. Mr. Ryan expressed himself as most willing to let the bill run until the parish found it possible to pay. I assured him that in the future a small monthly payment would be paid on the note and thus the debt would gradually be paid. He said that he would be perfectly satisfied with this arrangement and that he never doubted but that the bill would be paid. The reason he gave for writing that letter to your Lordship was that Father Kasper had promised him that before he left Galveston he would bring the new pastor to see him and talk over the affair. Shortly after he read in the paper of Father Kasper leaving the town and as he had to report to headquarters on outstanding bills, he thought of writing to your Lordship. He expressed himself as very sorry for having hurt your feelings and hoped that he had not lost



I am gradually becoming acquainted with my work. I had a few repairs done on the Sisters house. The roof leaked and the floor of the porch was so rotten that one of the children went through it. With the help of some of the men of the parish, I had that repaired.

In regards to the Encinas mission I say mass there every Saturday but many of the Mexicans working on the ranches cannot come. I say mass at Premont every Sunday. If you think it advisable I could say mass at Encinas every other Sunday and thus every other week give Premont a Saturday mass. With this arrangement the men of Encinas would be able to hear mass at least twice a month. I leave the matter in your Lordship's hands.

Within the next week or so I hope to have affairs so straightened out that I will be able to come to Corpus Christi. Begging your Lordship's blessing on my work,

I remain,

yours gratefully,

Elemer A. Hageman.

DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

St. Anthony's

Toledo, Ohio

July 11, 1930.

Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Sabina, D.D.,  
804 Antelope Street,  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Rt. Rev. and dear Bishop:

As directed by your  
lordship's letter of June 4th, I am leaving today  
for Phoenix, Arizona to visit my sick sister  
there. After a few weeks rest I feel much  
better and have regained a few of the pounds  
of the weight that I lost. I hope to be in Phoenix  
by July 14th, where after two days visit with  
my sister, I will be ready to start for Corpus  
Christi. If your lordship wishes to communicate  
with me, my address in Phoenix will be  
75 Sisters' convent, 4th & Monroe Sts., Phoenix, Ariz.

I am very sorry that I  
missed your lordship in Indianapolis. I was in  
that city on the 8th and there learned that you had  
already left for the South.

I can assure you, Bishop,  
that I feel much better and am very anxious  
to start work whenever your lordship may deem  
fit.

Again thanking you, Bishop,  
for all your past kindnesses and begging your  
in my brief, I remain

yours gratefully in Xto,  
L. A. Hagaman.

F. Hageman

ST. ANTHONY'S ORPHANAGE  
2327 CHERRY ST.  
TOLEDO, OHIO

June 16, 1930.

Rev. Emmanuel Ledvina, D. D.  
802 Antelope Street  
Corpus Christi, Texas.

Rev. Rev. and dear Bishop:

I received your Lordship's letter on Ordination day and this is the first opportunity I have of answering it. I wish to thank you, Bishop, for your good wishes, kind prayers and also for your thoughtful gift of fifty dollars. Words fail me when I wish to express my gratitude and all that I can say is that my Bishop had a very special memento in my first Holy Mass on the 15th.

I wish also to take this occasion to express my sorrow and pain at having grieved your Lordship by my impudent letter. I realize and acknowledge my mistake and I humbly beg your pardon. I never realized at the time just in what sense my request could be taken, though I never wished my words to imply what they seemed to imply. As your Lordship stated: *Experientia docet*.

I am sorry also that others have deemed it their duty to bother about my health

St. Meinrad Seminary  
St. Meinrad, Ind.

June 1, 1930.

Rev. Wm Oberste, Chancellor,  
804 Antelope Street,  
Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dear Father Oberste:

His Lordship has requested me to send to the Chancery Office my home address. As I am staying at the Orphanage in Toledo, my mail will all go there. Here it is -

Clement A. Hageman,  
St. Anthony's Orphanage,  
2327 Cherry St.,  
Toledo, Ohio.

We go on retreat tomorrow. I know that you will pardon these few lines as you must know how busy we are.

Hoping to see you in the near future, I remain,

Yours in Xto,  
Clement A. Hageman.

Alexian Bros. Hospital,  
531 Jackson Drive,  
Oshkosh, Wis.

Most Rev. E. B. Ladrine, D.D.  
Corpus Christi, Texas.

Most Reverend and Dear Bishop:

Upon the  
advice of my Confessor I have come to  
Oshkosh, Wis. and made application to  
enter the Alexian Brothers Institution. I  
know and have long realized that entrance  
in such an institution in a spirit of penance  
would be the only way to give concrete  
proof of my repentance and reform.  
My bitter experiences of the last seven  
months, even though most of that time was  
spent in the hospital at Memphis, have  
taught me a lesson never to be forgotten.

Upon my arrival here the Brother  
Superior informed me that he could not  
accept me except with written permission  
of my Bishop. Even though I do not

- 2 -

deserve it, that throws me back on your mercy. I feel confident that I can raise three or four hundred dollars towards defraying the expense. Only I must beg your Excellency for the one more chance to prove that I have learnt my lesson. All my trouble started when I started to drink and the last six months have proven that with the giving up of drink, the other trouble also ceased. Thanks to a wise, sympathetic old confessor he helped to put me on the right course. Now all I beg of you is the opportunity to prove that I am sincere.

I told Brother Superior that I was writing this appeal to you. He has promised to wait any application till he heard from your Excellency. In your mercy I beg you to please grant my plea. I remain -

Humbly yours,

Blasent A. Hageman

St Meinrad Seminary  
St. Meinrad, Ind.

February 11, 1930.

Rt. Rev. and dear Bishop:

We have just completed our mid-term examinations and also our annual Retreat. I was fairly well satisfied with the results of the examinations. Our Retreat this year was preached by Father Seander, a Franciscan. He certainly was fine and I enjoyed every one of his sermons. They sure were practical and to the point.

All the Corpus Christi Seminary students are well. Mr. McKee is still working hard as President of the General Board. Rev. Stocker and myself are kept busy preparing for Ordination. We began today to practice the mass.

We all were sorry to hear of the accident that befell Father George. I hope that he soon will be able to resume his duties.

If you would visit St. Meinrad now, you would find our beautiful new Gymnasium gracing the Seminary grounds.

St. Meinrad Seminary  
St. Meinrad, Ind.

We will soon be able to use it. Two bowling alleys will be installed this week. The seminarians themselves did all the excavating for the building, put down the drainage pipes, and just recently put in the boiler and heating system. They are now working on the electric lights and will finish this week. Thus you see the seminarians can justly be proud of their new gymnasium.

With these few lines written to let you know that I have not forgotten my Bishop, I will close hoping that this finds you in the best of health. I remain,

yours respectfully,

Clement A. Hageman.