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1965

St. Frances Cabrini Church

Camp Verde, Ariz.

Dec. 7th, 1965.

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Chancery Office,
Gallup, New Mex.

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

I purposely held up this letter until I had my meeting at Black Canyon last night, so that I could make a report to you.

First of all I received your letter last Saturday appointing me to Madre de Dios in Winslow. Needless to say that it came as a shock to me. Though I hate to leave my little missions and I feel that there is so much yet to do, I do have the consolation of knowing that a very zealous priest is taking over the work here. I will do my best at Madre de Dios and hope that my health will enable me to meet the challenges there.


Father Burns will be here on Thursday and I will take him to the three missions and show him around and explain the work and the problems here. He will find everything in order here and all three places completely furnished both in the Church and domestic departments.

I will go to Winslow next Wednesday. Father Wilson was in Camp Verde last Saturday for the wedding. As he told me that he had absolutely made no plans for the future as to where he would go or when he would leave Winslow, I told him that my understanding was that he was to leave on the 15th, he mentioned the idea of staying there till January 1st. I bluntly told him that I was sure that you would not approve of this and besides it would not be for the good of either one of us. I told him that I would visit Madre de Dios next Monday.

As for our meeting at Black Canyon, it was a most pleasant surprise. Eighteen adults showed up, representing twelve Catholic families. The names of thirteen other Catholic families were turned in, some of whom sent regrets at not being able to attend the meeting because of illness or previous engagements. Those present felt that there were at least ten other families who were Catholic. This district represents Black Canyon City, Squaw Valley and Rock Springs. We can use the Public School Hall on Monday evening at \$2.00 per night with water, light and heat included. I told them that Father Burns would call another meeting after consulting you and make the final arrangements.

I have to prepare now for tomorrow's Feast, the 8th. Will try to visit you after I get settled at Madre de Dios and beg for a special prayer that I meet the challenge.

Sincerely,


Rev. Clement A. Hageman.

December 1, 1965

Rev. Clement Hageman,
Box 396,
Camp Verde, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

Many thanks for your recent encouraging letter.

Fr. Wilson on his own initiative has requested a temporary leave of absence from the diocese, which I am granting him for his own good.

This will necessitate changes in the personnel in the diocese.

I am hereby appointing you as Administrator of Madre de Dios in Winslow. This appointment is to take effect on Wednesday, December 15th.

I am appointing Fr. Burns as your successor at Camp Verde. I am advising Fr. Burns to visit you soon so that you can tell him about the work at Camp Verde, Mayer and Humboldt. I am also telling him that you have begun a very constructive work and program in your missions and have told him to follow up the good work that started. He must be very diligent and exact in following work that you began, with regular Masses etc in each place so that there will be no lack of interest in the work and especially the Mass attendance. Try to make it clear to him that he must be punctual and regular in serving each place. Perhaps this change might be good for you since as it will not mean so much travelling.

You will get the blanks for the report up to December 1st.

Praying God to bless you in your new work, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1964

July 27, 1961.

Rev. Clement A. Hageman,
415 E. Green,
Gallup, New Mexico.

Dear Rev. Father:-

This is to advise you that I am appointing you
as Administrator of Humboldt and Missions.

This appointment is to take effect on Tuesday,
August 11th.

At the same time I am advising you that you will
take up your residence at Coctonwood with Fr. Brackett. These missions
are small and you will find it more convenient and congenial to
live at Coctonwood. The work at these missions would be principally
over the week end.

Fr. Wilson is in the process of putting up a building
on the property we have at Camp Verde. This may not be completed when
you get there and I am sure that you are most capable to complete
this work. At present we are renting a place at Camp Verde at \$55.00
per month. We can save this amount when we will have our own place of
worship.

You might arrange some convenient time to meet with
Fr. Wilson who can give you all the details of this construction as
well as the operation of the missions of Humboldt.

Wishing you every success in your new appointment
and praying God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ ,

Bishop of Gallup.

July 27, 1964.

Rev. Joseph Brackett,
Box 995,
Cottonwood, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

I am writing you to advise you that I am sending Fr. Hageman to be in residence at Cottonwood and to be in charge of Mayer and Camp Verde. The people at Humboldt now attend Mass at Myer, since there are so few of them. As there are so few people at these places and his work there would mostly be on week ends I felt that it would be best for him if he lived with you at Cottonwood. He can be of help to you in many ways, catechetical instructions etc.

I am asking you to welcome him kindly. I feel confident that he has entirely overcome his difficulty. For the past several months that he has been in Gallup there has been no sign of it. He has gone through a difficult ordeal and he is in need of kindness and encouragement. So try to be kind to him and help him wherever you can. I know that with all your priestly zeal you will do all you can to help a brother priest.

He will arrive in Cottonwood on August 11th.

With every good wish and praying God to bless you in your work, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

Hurricane, Utah
March 4, 1964

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Clericery Office,
Gallup, New Mexico

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

I was snow-bound by recent snow and consequently just got your kind letter. Will answer immediately by air mail.

Will try to leave early Friday and take the highway across the Navajo Reservation. It is the shortest way and with care ought to make it to Gallup Friday evening unless another storm comes up and I get tied up.

We had quite a storm here Monday and Tuesday that had the highways around here pretty dangerous. I can imagine what you had in Gallup.

I am leaving most of my belongings with the Smiths here and will only bring along my clothes and a few personal belongings. Will stay at the Indian Center if they have room for me.

I remain

With all best wishes

arrived 7:30pm 3/6/64

+ B J E.

Sincerely,

(Rev) Clement A. Hageman

American, Utah

Feb. 24, 1964

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Monastery Office,
Gallup, New Mexico

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

I received your kind letter this Monday morning and will answer it immediately. Needless to say that I felt that it was an answer to my own personal prayers and the prayers of many others that have been offered for me.

Since last November 9th not a drop of any kind whether wine, liquor or beer has passed my lips. There have been many occasions when I was offered a drink, I received liquor for Christmas which I gave away and in fact one of my confreres told me that a good drink would help me forget my troubles and worries. I have had no craving or desire to break my resolution and with the grace of God have not found it difficult to keep my resolve. I was so afraid that the pains in my chest were caused by cancer that this fear alone helped me to overcome any desire for drink if I had one. Yes, the opportunities were there but the desire was gone.

At the present I am alone here at the Smith farm. Mr. Smith was rushed to Phoenix where they found out that he had a terminal case of cancer of the lungs. He will be home in a week as he is begging to finish his days at home. So I am taking care of the stock - feeding the lambs, chickens, turkeys, geese, etc. Rather an interesting experience.

On my last visit to the doctor he gave me a pretty good report. I do not feel the pains around my heart anymore and he said that the medicine he was giving me ought to bring my blood pressure down. Not knowing of my status - he could easily say to stop worrying. He allows me to take hikes but no high altitudes or heavy lifting. I am beginning to regain lost weight and feel much better.

The winds here have been terrible and we have heavy frost every morning - but so far no snow or moisture of any kind.

With a hearty "may God bless you" for all your kindness to me, I remain,

Sincerely,

(Rev) Clement A. Hageman.

Rev. John M. Sibon

Saint Andrew's Church

712 Wyoming Street

Boulder City, Nevada

Very Rev. Dunstan Schmiedlin, O.F.M., C.L.,
Feb. 8, 1964
Chancellor, Diocese of Gallup
Gallup, N.M.

Dear Father Schmiedlin:

I received your letter of Feb. 6, and I assure you that I will keep this correspondence strictly confidential, and that I will say absolutely nothing about it to Fr. Hapeman.

I firmly believe that Fr. Hapeman is sincerely striving to overcome his difficulty in fact I think that he has overcome it by now.

From his conversation I concluded that life for him in that remote and desolate section of Utah is quite difficult and therefore he is spending from time to time some days in Las Vegas, Nevada. He celebrates Mass here on Sundays, and also on weekdays when ever he can find. (The distance Las Vegas-Boulder City is 50 miles roundtrip.)

By now I have known Fr. Hapeman since I came to Boulder City over 6 years ago, and he always impressed me as a sincere and very zealous priest, when he came to see me or when I visited him and Fr. Hartsman in Kingman. I believe that he can do so very much good, if he were again in active ministry, and if I would be permitted to do so, I sincerely ask you to help him and give him an appointment again. I believe that a prolonged status quo will not do any good.

Sincerely, your friend
John M. Sibon

February 6, 1964

Rt. Rev. John M. Sibon,
712 Wyoming St.,
Boulder City, Nevada

Dear Monsignor Sibon:

First of all, I wish to thank you for your interest in the welfare of Father Hageman of this Diocese. Father has mentioned that you have been very good to him during his leave and we certainly appreciate your goodness.

Please say nothing to Father about the fact that I have written. However, I would like your opinion as to how seriously Father is striving to overcome his difficulty. There might be a chance of putting Father back to work if you think that he is sincerely striving to improve. If you tell him about my inquiry, it might build up false hopes or lead him to think that he need not keep up his efforts.

Thanking you for your goodness, and with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dunstan Schmidlin, O.F.M.
Chancellor

Box 6,
Hurricane, Utah
Feb. 3 - 1964

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Chancery Office
Gallup, New Mexico

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

The weather here is so bad today that one has to stay inside. It is hard to realize that it will be three months soon since I left Kingman. Father Tachias wrote about his operation: He was very fortunate that it was not more serious. It seems like years instead of months since I left Kingman. All I have been doing is waiting and praying. I am going to be with Monsignor Sibou of Boulder City for a few days. Want to get a check up in Las Vegas. The Monsignor has been a wonderful, loyal friend to me and a good understanding confessor especially during these three last months.

Mr. Smith finally was forced to go to his doctors in Phoenix. So far we have not heard of the results of the tests and examinations. He is 76 yrs. old.

praying that brighter days lie ahead. I remain,

Sincerely yours.

(Rev.) Clement A. Hageman

Turricane, Utah.

Jan. 6 - 1964

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Chancery Office,
Salluf, New Mexico

most Rev. and dear Bishop:

Mr. Smith, the man who owns
the Springs, had a stroke on New Year's Day. I have
been at his bed side quite a bit since and so have
been slow to write.

My Christmas would have been
a rather sad one if it were not for Monsignor Sibon
of Boulder City, Nevada to spend Christmas with
him and say my Christmas Masses in his Church.
St. George Father Byrne had only two Masses and
not much Christmas. As it was it was one of the
saddest Christmases I ever spent as a priest.

The weather has been rather
cold here - a little colder than Kingman. Fortunately
the altitude is the same as at Kingman and so my
heart is not acting up too much. I had the doctor
check me over - he thinks pressure felt in chest is
from a nervous condition.

I was not even tempted to
celebrate Christmas in any way except with my
Christmas Masses. I certainly had plenty of
opportunities but no desire to take advantage of
them.

Pegging your continued
progress that I persevere in my resolutions
and remain content, I remain,

Sincerely,

(Rev) Clement B. Hageman

P. O. Box 6
Hurricane, Utah.

Most Reverend Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Chancery Office,
Gallup, New Mexico

Most Reverend and dear Bishop:

I have been staying here at the Hurricane Hot Mineral Springs, a few miles outside of Hurricane, Utah, as the guest of Mr. + Mrs. Al Smith, old friends of mine. When I left Kingman I did not know at first where to turn. Then I remembered my old friends here often urging me to try the baths here at Hurricane. I got in touch with them and they urged me to come as their guest. I have a little cabin here at the Springs and am alone here. The Springs are closed for the winter and for renovation. The closest church is at St. George - eighteen miles away - where I say Mass whenever possible. Father Boyne, an elderly priest, is pastor there and has been very kind to me. He is the only contact that I have with the outside world besides the Smiths.

I think that I now know what it means to be a "man without a country." Perhaps, during the first weeks, there was a temptation to give up. But since then after much serious thought, prayer and meditation, I am ready to look to the future whatever that may be. I had always had a secret prayer that the good Lord would take me before your Excellency. I realize that during the last twenty-one years I have caused you many a heart-ache and worry. But I also realized that I would never find a Bishop as kind and understanding as you have been. Perhaps that is all the more reason that I have felt so miserable since my departure.

your Excellency has

made it clear that there will be no more chances.
So I can only humbly beg your pardon for all
the pain and disappointment I have caused you.
You may rest assured that I will never forget you.

As of the present moment I have no
definite plans for the future. I am going to
try to build up my health and test myself
just how sincere my resolutions are. I am
sure that with all the prayers that are being
offered for me that an answer as to my future
will come up.

At this time of the year all that I can
offer you my humble prayers and beg you in
return to again pardon me which I do not deserve.

Sincerely,

(Rev.) Clement A. Hageman

To Mrs. Al Smith
P. O. Box 6,
Hurricane, Utah.

December 16, 1963.

Rev. Clement A. Haysman,
Box 6,
Hurricane, Utah.

Dear Rev. Father:-

Your letter of the 10th has been received, I wish to thank you very much for telling me where you are. I do hope and pray that your stay there with your friends and taking the baths will help you very much and be very beneficial to your health.

I regret very much and hesitated before taking the action that I did. But there seemed no other way for me to take under the circumstances. I did not do this out of resentment but for your own good. You had given me so many promises that you would do better and control yourself but you ~~still~~ failed to keep any of these promises. I thought that the last one you made to me in my office, that you would come to see me every month to report you would keep. But even this promise you did not keep, although you know that this was your last chance.

I do pray and wish you every good fortune for your future. I do not want to raise any hopes for you, but, if sometime in the future you can assure me, with proof and with testimony of others who are reliable, that you are completely cured and well I may give you another chance. In that capacity I do not know. Remember I am only saying PERHAPS. This might encourage you to make every effort to do all you can to help you overcome your difficulty, May the good Lord help and strengthen you in this resolve.

I pray the Christ Child to grant you every grace and blessing for Christmas and also a Very Happy Year, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

and is many times larger.
(Please Turn to Page 8)

Father Hageman Leaves St. Mary's

Due to poor health which has just worsened in the past year, Reverend Clement A. Hageman has given up his duties at St. Mary's Catholic Church here.

Rev. Hageman has been in Kingman since January 20, 1953. He came here from Holbrook.

Father Hageman expresses his thanks and appreciation for the many courtesies extended him by the people of Kingman and Mohave County.

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

P. O. BOX 1311
KINGMAN, ARIZONA

November 21, 1963

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, OFM
P.O. Box 1338
Gallup, New Mexico

Most Reverend and Dear Bishop,

This letter is to inform you and assure you that I took over the parish without any difficulty, and that all is going well.

Your letter of November 12 was certainly to the point, and I still say that was the best thing for Father Hageman. More and more the stress was getting the best of him, and he never relied on anyone for help. Even I was at a loss because, although he trusted me and was good to me, he still wished to remain, as he said, independent. It was really very sad, but nothing that he couldn't see coming.

Father left sad, of course. I hope he left only sad, though much was on his mind as he drove away. He said he would contact me as soon as he settled down; this will be necessary if he is to get his mail forwarded to him. He also plans to break the news slowly to his family, and will send the letters to be mailed from here.

The first thing I did after I took over was call a meeting of the financial committee for the new school. The purpose is to open the letters returned to us by the parishioners, and in which they express their desires to support the new school and to what extent financially. When this is tabulated, I shall let the people know the results, and I hope to be able to inform them this coming Sunday. Next week we hope to start bringing in the money.

Also I changed the time of the Sunday masses to what they were before I came to Kingman. With this regard and everything else thus far, the parish has cooperated well and they have expressed their determination to assist me in every way possible.

I shall write you when we get the results on the letters for the school; in the meantime you can rest assured that all is going well.

Yours respectfully in Christ,

Rev. Alfred Tachias

DOG.00192

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

P. O. BOX 1311
KINGMAN, ARIZONA

November 23, 1963

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, OFM
P.O. Box 1338
Gallup, New Mexico

Most Reverend and Dear Bishop,

Last Thursday morning I wrote to you concerning the departure of Father Hageman. I am very sorry that the letter might not have reached you.

I did not write the letter before Thursday morning because of various reasons. Father did not leave until Tuesday afternoon, and I did not want to write until I was sure he had left. That afternoon I spent preparing for Father Yarno's arrival and talk on vocations. We didn't get finished until rather late. Next morning I had to prepare an entire day for him: to speak to our school children, the public school children, and the high school at night. This left me little time to write, and so I waited until Thursday morning.

Father Hageman tried his best to talk me into going to see you about changing your mind. I absolutely refused, and still he kept after me. My arguments were too strong and too well known. So he asked Father McCarthy to go instead.

Father McCarthy called Friday morning and said that Father Hageman was to be out of the parish by Monday. Father Hageman was somewhat offended at what he called a lack of consideration, and told me in no uncertain terms that he couldn't possibly be out of here by Monday and would no doubt stay until Tuesday.

Father Hageman realized that to tell the people that he had been changed would cause a lot of questions; instead he told the people about the fact that the doctor had commanded him to go away and get medical treatment. He even spoke to them about a very serious operation, and even now the people think he is in some hospital preparing for the operation. I couldn't very contradict him then nor now. People are calling continually asking about Father's whereabouts or his operation.

Also, Father gave the people the impression that he might return; the way he put it, it was definite that the chances of his returning were very slight, but still he provided for it.

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

P. O. BOX 1311
KINGMAN, ARIZONA

Father Hageman told them besides that he had known for a long time that he was going to have to leave; again he brought up the matter of the doctors, and how insistent they've been that he go away for treatment.

Some of the parishioners told me even before he left that this was so sudden, and that they suspected that there was more to it. Father on the other hand said that it was best not to tell them that he had been moved, for that would tear the parish apart.

But it was sudden and the people knew it. There was no going away party of any sort; this too caused wonderment. At this time I can hardly say anything that would make a liar out of him.

The clipping from the newspaper is from a story that I gave our local paper. This too was devised before Father left, and again it leaves me in a position where I can't say too much.

From here Father was supposed to go to Hurricane, Utah; a former parishioner of St. Mary's lives up there, and she and her husband gladly took Father in. He said he would write to me and let him know where to forward his mail. The letters to his brothers and sisters concerning the alleged operation and illness, of course, will be mailed here to be sent postmarked "Kingman" to them.

All is going well. The people have been very kind, as they always have been, and they've indicated their willingness to cooperate in every way possible. As soon as something more develops, I shall write to you again.

Yours respectfully in Our Lord,

Rev. Alfred Tachias

Rev. Alfred Tachias

November 25, 1963.

Rev. Alfred Tachias,
Kingman, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

All of your letters have been received for whci I thank you very much.

When I did not hear anything I began to wonder just what was going and that was the reason for my recent letter to you.

I am more than happy that all went off so nicely and that Fr. Hageman is now gone and you are in complete charge. That the reason was gi given for the change does not matter. Since time and time again he was under the care of the Doctor, the reason of health was about as good as any. If some people want to think otherwise that is their privilege. You might as well go along with this and you are telling the truth somewhat. I believe that his difficulty is an illness, but you need not say what kind of illness was the cause of his change.

I am glad that you remained firm in not interceding for him. When Fr. McCarthy was here I was just as firm. Let us hope and pray now that he will have to realize that he will have to do something to help him overcome his trouble. I do hope that the Family in Utah, since at one time they lived in the parish, will not write to any one in the parish, that is, if he is with them for some time. Thanks to God this worry is over now for all time.

I am glad that the film that you have for the vocation work is so good and what you are pleased with it. We will now send the check in payment for it.

From time to time you can let us know how things are in the parish. I am more than happy that the people have pitched in so well and are cooperating so nicely with you.

With every good wish and praying God to bless you and your work, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

November 12, 1963

Rev. Clement A. Hingeman,
St. Mary Church,
Kingman, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

It is with deep regret that I feel compelled to write you this letter. Because of a relapse yesterday I am hereby removing you from the parish of St. Mary's, Kingman to take effect on next Monday, November 18th.

I feel that it is useless to call you in to talk this over. It would be a waste of time for you and me. The last time you came in it was my intention to do what I am doing now. But you came with a proposition which I thought was worth giving a try. This did not work as you have been unfaithful to your word, so the only thing I can do now is to take the action I have taken above. This will eliminate any further worry for me as well as for others and at the same time prevent any further scandal.

After you have received this letter you will turn over to Fr. Tadias and the monies of the parish as well as what it is the bank and all of the books. You might brief him as to what has been done so far in regard to the proposed school.

You will leave the parish on next Monday. Where you will go and what you will do is up to you. I believe that I have been more than patient with you and have given you every opportunity to help you overcome your difficulty so the only one to blame for the action I have taken is yours elf. This is final.

Wishing you God's blessing on your future, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

Mail Folder

June 14, 1963.

Rev. Alfred Tachias,
St. Mary Church,
Kingman, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

Father Hageman was here and we had a very serious talk about his future. He seems to be very determined to overcome his trouble. We arrived at a temporary conclusion. I told him that I was now entirely fed up with his relapses and that I could take no more of it.

He then proposed to he come to Gallup about every month and report personally on how he his keeping his resolve. I went along with this and hope and pray that this will be the solution.

I told him that you have been loyal to him and want to help him. So I would appreciate it if you will have a little more patience with him and see how he does. I would suggest that, if, at any time you notice that he is tense or worried about something, that you not wait for him to begin but that you immediately talk to him and see if you can help avoiding his having another relapse. This may help.

I also told him that he should get away from Kingman for about a month and relax and forget everything about Kingman and take a rest and easy. He said that he would do this sometime in July. I told him that perhaps you could take care of the parish during his absence. He thought he might get some help from Phoenix. This is agreeable with me. He is to report to me during the first week in July.

Now let us hope that we have this settled once and for all. Only time will tell. But with God's help and grace and his own will power he may be able to lick his trouble.

With every good wish and praying God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

St. Mary's Church

KINGMAN, ARIZONA

January 16, 1963

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Chancery Office,
Gallup, New Mexico

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

I did not answer your letter of last Friday because I had hoped to see you personally at the Retreat. I now take this opportunity to express my sorrow at my slip. I yielded to the invitation of some friends after such a long abstinence. I can sincerely assure your Excellency that I have no desire or craving to go back to my former habit. It was a momentary slip and assure you that it will not happen again. I sincerely regret the disappointment and pain that I have caused you and pray not to be the cause of such pain again.

After the Retreat I will write about several matters that I wish to speak to you about.

Again begging your forgiveness, I remain,

Sincerely,

(Rev) Clement A. Hageman

January 18, 1963.

Rev. Clement A. Hagemma,
St. Mary Church,
Kingman, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

Your letter of the 15th has been received. I am glad that you realize what you have done and I sincerely hope that it will not happen again. Merely saying that you are sorry is not enough. You will have to make a firm resolution, and mean it, not to let it happen again. In this regard it may be well to warn you that you should never take the first drink. No matter how often and insistent any of your friends invite you to take a drink, you will have to remain firm and refuse it. The first drink is your downfall and then the same old story. In order to keep your resolution you will have to be faithful in your prayers, especially the Divine office and the devout celebration of Holy Mass. Of yourself you are not able to overcome this, you need the grace and help of God. These are the means to help you receive these graces and helps. I will appreciate a letter in which you tell me that you are willing to make this firm resolution. As you see, my patience is coming to an end and I do hope that I will never receive such a report again.

I also hope and pray that because Fr. Tachias reported to me what happened that you will not let this interfere with the good relations that have existed between you and him. He has and is very loyal to you. He only did his duty. I had commanded him to let me know, as soon as possible, if you had lapsed. Several times during the year he wrote to me saying that you were keeping your resolution and that all was well. I would not like to see him suffer in any way at your hands because of this. I would also like to have this assurance in writing.

Hoping that this will have to be my final warning to you and praying God and His Blessed Mother may give you the strength and courage to keep your new resolution, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

January 10, 1963.

Rev. Clement Hageman,
St. Mary Church,
Kingman, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

Last night Fr. Tachias called me and told me that you had lapsed and came home from Las Vegas in a very sorry condition. Needless to say, I was very much surprised to hear this. Last week I got a letter from Fr. Tachias saying that all was well in Kingman. Several times during the year he has written the same and I felt that you had conquered your failing of drink.

So you can well imagine how this came as a big surprise. I can't tell you how hurt I was when he told me about you last night. Now, Father, I am telling you that this must stop right now or else drastic action will be taken, namely that I will release you from work in the diocese and you can return to your home diocese of Corpus Christi, since I would be unable to recommend you anywhere else. I think that I have been patient with you long enough. So you will have to make up your mind one way or another. I would like to hear from you by return mail, before you go to the retreat.

When I told Fr. Tachias I would write you today, he became alarmed and thought you might think him disloyal to you. I reminded him that I had commanded him to let me know as soon as you had lapsed, and obedience comes before loyalty. So do not blame him, all he did was what he was told to do by me. Only blame yourself for not keeping your solemn pledge to me.

I hope that this is the last time that I will have to write you in the above strain. In fact it will be the last time as if it happens again I will take the drastic action as stated above. What were you doing in Las Vegas anyway? I do hope that you will have some valid explanation and that it will come by return mail. I am sending a carbon copy of this letter to Fr. Tachias so that he will know just what I am writing to you.

Hoping to hear from you by return mail,
I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

DOG.00200

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1961

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

309 NORTH BEAVER
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

September 7, 1961

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage,
Bishop of Gallup,
P.O. Box 110,
Gallup, New Mexico.

Your Excellency;

Since I have had no response to my letter of August 30th, to which I refer you, and while I certainly do not wish to belabor the matter, I think that you should know that the situation mentioned has lessened, I would say, in hope of correcting itself.

This past Tuesday Father Tachias phoned me distraught over what he could do. At that very moment the Pastor was passed out in his car in front of the Rectory - broad daylight - subject to the stares of passers-by. The Sisters were also distraught over the opening of school next day and no response from the Rectory. In these bouts the Assistant is heaped with abuse. I think that you will concede that this is a little difficult to take for more than two years.

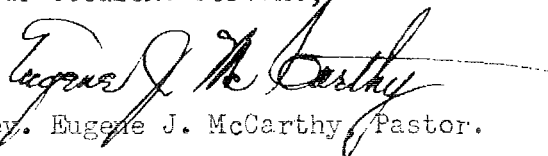
I cautioned Father Tachias to do nothing rash and advised him that he might hear from you since I had presented the matter to you. I also asked him to get Father into the house by some means so as to preserve him from the public gaze.

I might mention that I am reading this new novel by Edwin O'Connor, "The Edge of Sadness" - quite apropos to the present situation - which you may already have read yourself.

I do not feel that I should make any further unacknowledged recommendations. I felt that it was my duty as the Dean to bring this to your attention. The matter lies entirely in Your Excellency's hands to dispose of it as you may wish.

Praying God to bless you and your Diocese, I am

Your obedient servant,


Rev. Eugene J. McCarthy, Pastor.

September 2, 1961.

Very Rev. Joseph Hootsmanns, V.G.,
Queen of Angels Hospital,
2321 Bellevue Ave.,
Los Angeles 26, California

Very Rev. and dear Father:-

This letter is somewhat of a confidential nature. There have been some rumblings coming to me about Father Hageman. It seems that at times he may take a little too much to drink. I have had no complaints about him for a very long time. You recall the incident in Phoenix, when you wrote me and told me that you did not believe the account in the paper. When I got a complaint I wrote him. I also had him write to me every month to let me know if everything was alright. In his letters to me he always says that everything was going along nicely and that he is busy with the work there. I am wondering, since you live at Kingman at times, whether or not you had noticed anything. I would appreciate it if you will let me know if everything is as he says it is.

Thanking you for any information you are able to give me, and with every good wish and praying God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

[REDACTED]

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1960

St. Mary's Church

KINGMAN, ARIZONA

Dec. 16 - 1960

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Chancery Office,
Hallup, New Mexico.

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

Was very sorry to hear of your illness. Have been having the school children pray for your speedy and complete recovery.

Everything personally has been fine in every way. In fact we have been so busy preparing for Christmas that there is little time left to think of anything else.

I don't know if we are hitting another depression or not. The local Ford Proving Grounds has laid off half of its men, the stores are all complaining of no business and our front door bell is rung ten to fifteen times or more a day by transients seeking help. The church collections also are dropping way low. It seems as if we are in for a bad winter.

I appreciate your prayers very much and I pray that with the help of God I will continue as I am now doing.

Wishing you every blessing during the coming year, I remain

Sincerely,

(Rev) Clement A. Hagerman

DOG.00205

December 13, 1960.

Rev. Clement A. Hageman,
St. Mary Church,
Kingman, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

Your letter of the 28th received. I am replying from the Hospital where I have been for over the past two weeks recovering from a very bad cold and possibly pneumonia. I am feeling much better by now.

I do not want you to think that I am indifferent to your difficulty, The above will explain why I am so late in answering your letter.

Many thanks for the checks for the Catholic Univeristy Collection and payment on debt.

I am very glad to hear that you have been so faithful in your promise to me not to take anything alcoholic. You will have keep up your good will power, to keep off of it. You say un spite of opportunities and invitations you have overcome any desire for it. Besides your own good will you will also need spiritual strength. Pray every day that God may give you the strength and courage to overcome this difficulty. You can be assured that I will also keep you in prayers, asking God to help you. Pray also to Our Bl. Mother, the mother of priests and I feel sure that she willshe will help you.

Also it would be well if you would write me ate least every two weeks to let me know how you are coming along. Be especially careful during the holiday season. There may be many temptations during this time. With God's help and your own good will I am sure that you will be allright.

If you feel that Jim Glancy is not doing the job and the men of the parish want to take over the work why not let tham go ahead.

With every good wish and praying God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

St. Mary's Church

KINGMAN, ARIZONA

11-28-60

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, S.F.M.
Chancery Office
Socorro, New Mexico

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

I am inclosing checks for
monthly payment on debt and for Catholic University under
separate cover.

It has been exactly one month
ago today (25th) that I told you that I touched my last
drop of anything alcoholic. I have had numerous opportunities
and invitations to a drink and did not ever feel a desire
to break my promises to you.

We have been busy pouring side-
walks around the school and rectory and I am personally
going to step in and try finish the housekeeper's quarters
in rear of rectory. Jim Glaney had begged to do the job
and there it stands for over a year half completed.
The men of the parish are becoming disgusted with him
and want to do the job themselves without Mr. Glaney.
He is too busy with politics.

I hope to have the new organ paid
for in another two weeks. Then I will concentrate on
my debt to the Chancery. Not too much of a balance left.
With all best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

(Rev.) Clement A. Hagerman

St. Mary's Church

KINGMAN, ARIZONA

Nov. 14 - 1960

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Chancery Office,
Gallup, New Mexico.

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

I was in Phoenix last week for a check up and have my glasses repaired and for this reason I did not receive your letter until my return Friday and did not answer immediately.

While in Phoenix I had every opportunity, especially on election night to break my solemn promise to you and I must say that I was not even tempted to do so. If I was not sincere in my promise to you, all the watching of others would do no good as I could easily avoid detection and thus make a hypocrite of myself. I would rather battle this out alone. With special prayer and the encouragement and kindness that you have given me I know that I can and must lick this thing. Anyway my health demands that I watch my steps especially at my age in life.

Thanking you for all past kindnesses and asking for your continued prayers, I remain

Sincerely,

(Rev.) Clement A. Hageman

November 8, 1960.

Rev. C;ement A. Hageman
St. Mary Church,
Box 1311,
Kingman, Arizona.

Dear Rev Father:-

I have received your reply to my recent letter which I appreciate very much.

I am glad to know that you are making a solemn promise that you will not touch even a bottle of beer. I hope this also includes liquor and wine. You know that taking these things can be a source of real scandal in the parish besides not being at all good for your health. As the Bishop it is my duty in conscience to see to it that this does not happen at any time. For this reason I mentioned in my letter that perhaps your usefulness in the parish of Kingman and in the diocese is at an end. If this occurs again we may have to take some definite action.

I am grateful to you for your solemn promise as stated above, but I must have some real assurance that you will keep this promise. You say "if the same charge is made again I ask that you call in the assistant and Fr. Hootsmanns and find out the truth of the Matter". Why wait until the charges are made? Why not let me ask them to watch you (I do not mean to spy on you) and as soon as they notice anything wrong to notify me immediately. In this way the laity will not have to make any charges against you and there would be no possibility of an scandal in the parish. In this way I would have some real assurance that you will keep your promise which you have made often before.

Father, I think you must realize that this is a very serious matter and we must do everything to avoid any scandal and also any serious charges against you, in the future. You have done very good work in Kingman and I am sure that you would not like to have all this good ruined by giving in to this failing. So, please watch yourself and be faithful to your prayers, especially your Holy Mass and divine Office, and ask the good Lord and His Blessed Mother, the mother of priests, to give you the grace and strength to overcome this difficulty. If you feel that it would be helpful why not talk this matter over with your assistant and tell him your trouble and ask his help to overcome it.

I would very much appreciate you letting me know just how you feel about the propositions I have made in this letter.

With every good wish and praying God to bless you,

I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

DOG.00209

St. Mary's Church

KINGMAN, ARIZONA

Nov. 4, 1960.

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.,
Chancery Office,
Gallup, New Mexico.

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

I am sorry that you found it necessary to write again about a subject which I know has given you worry in the past. In order to settle all doubts and to be able to answer any charges of this nature in the future I unreservedly will give you my solemn promise to not even touch a bottle of beer in the future. I will write several times a month as to how I am keeping this solemn promise and if the same charges are made again I ask that you call in the assistant and Fr. Hootsmans and find out the truth of the matter. Now I admit that I occasionally took a drink, the last one on my birthday, Oct. 28th. This will be the last of that and I sincerely hope and pray that I will not cause you any worry on this score in the future.

Thanking you for your utmost patience with me in the past and begging your prayers for the future. I remain

Sincerely,

(Rev.) Clement A. Hageman

November 2, 1960.

Rev. Clement A. Hageman,
St. Mary Church,
Kingman, Arizona.

Dear Rev. Father:-

I have just received another complaint about your excessive drinking. The complaint states that this drinking of yours occurs often and is known among the people in the parish so that it is a real scandal. The party writing says that it is a surprise that the people have put up with so long. Perhaps your usefulness in Kingman and in the diocese is at an end. I hardly know just what to do with you. I have been kind with you and borne with you for quite a while.

The last time I wrote to you about this complaint I had received about you you assured me that this problem of your would be solved and that you would not let it happen again. I have been most kind with you and beleived you when you write and tell me that all is fine and that you no longer were having any difficulty. You know a person can be fed up with promises. You also fully well that that this drining is not at all good for your health. Furthermore, it is not good by any means for the parish. Soon the people of the parish will demand your removal.

All that I can say now is that you will have to give me your solemn promise that you will not touch any hard liquor, or even wine or beer at any time or at any place. At the same time you must give me some proof that you will keep this promise. It might be well, if sometime soon, you could come to Gallup and we could talk this matter over. If we have another complaint along this line we will be compelled to do something about it.

In the meantime send me your solemn promise that you will do as I state above. I must also insist that you write me every two weeks telling me that you are keeping this promise and also that you have not taken a drop of any kind of alcohol.

Hoping and praying that this will be the last that we will hear as to the above matter and praying God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup.

St. Mary's Church

KINGMAN, ARIZONA

October 31, 1960

Most Reverend and Dear Bishop,

It is no secret that at St. Mary's in Kingman we have a pastor who suffers from drinking to excess. Please bear with me for recalling this problem to your mind.

This is a wonderful parish, as I told you shortly after I came here. Father too has been most kind, when sober. He has proved himself a perfect gentleman and a real priest, when sober. But the problem recurs so often that its magnitude just as often overwhelms me. I realize I am not as understanding as I should be, either because of lack of proper education on the matter or because of lack of charity. I, too, am only human.

This is a sad situation, and a scandalous one at that. Does this surprise you? Excuse me if I don't go into details to describe the situation. It is not because details are lacking.

No doubt you will wonder why I did not write before. My main reason was that I did not want to be too quick to judge. I have tried from the beginning to be a capable assistant, to be obedient and not irresponsible or insubordinate. Also I did not write for fear that it might be thought that a newly-ordained priest was suffering from something purely emotional.

Having now lived with the problem for almost sixteen months, I have as clear a picture of it as I could possibly hope for. Still I am not as patient as I should be. Now I am writing to you, not on the spur of the moment nor without much thought. I feel that it would be greatly wrong for me to keep silent on the matter any longer. Both clergy and laity often discuss the matter, and at times they have tried to get me into the conversations. I have preferred, however, to reserve my opinions for you, since you are the only one who can do anything about the matter.

St. Mary's Church

KINGMAN, ARIZONA

I do not judge Father's moral life nor his conscience, for that is between him and God. But this involves an entire parish, and especially for their sake, I feel it necessary to consult you.

The problem is not mine, and for me to get moved would not solve anything. That is why I am not asking for a transfer. I wish to stay here for as long as you will let me stay, but I want to adopt the right attitude toward my pastor when the delicate situation arises.

It is easy to speak of charity — it is just as easy to speak of alcoholism as a disease. But it is not as easy to be subject to one thus influenced, and who is thereby unreasonable. I can take a lot, but much of this seems unalloyed joy.

Father made it clear from the beginning that the moment I were to show any signs of dissatisfaction he would write to you and have me removed. Last June, for example, when I really showed my disgust at his prolonged drinking, he threatened to call you. For this reason I have never openly discussed the problem with him. He wouldn't listen to an inferior. In fact he won't admit the (evident) fact that he drinks.

Dear bishop, you are my spiritual father, and I am turning to you with this realization. You have been a priest and bishop many years, and in that course of time, you have dealt with a variety of priests and their problems. Can you please counsel me at this time.

Asking God to bless you and your endeavors, I remain

Respectfully yours in Christ,
Father Alfred Jackson