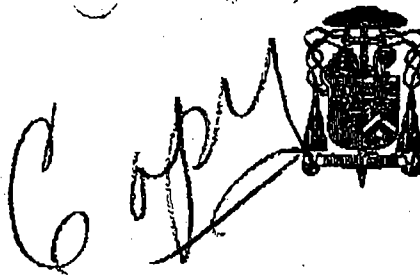


BISHOP'S HOUSE
200 ANTELOPE STREET
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



September 23, 1939

"dismissed"

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

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

-2-

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 Chrzanewski 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