

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 ask the 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. D. H.