

SAINT MARY of the ANGELS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 819
Pinetop, Arizona 85935

January 14, 1981

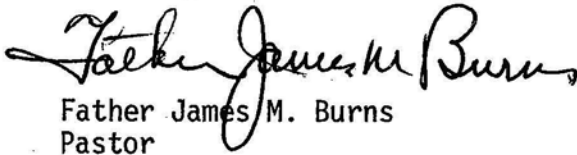
PERSONNEL BOARD
DIOCESE OF GALLUP
P. O. Box 1338
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Dear Sirs:

In reply to the Chancery Bulletin of January 12, 1981, I would like to submit my name for the available Pastorate of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Page, Arizona.

I feel that it is important because of my health and other considerations, to move to a lower climate.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,


Father James M. Burns
Pastor

81-11-18

January 12, 1980

Reverend James M. Burns
St. Mary of the Angels Church
P. O. Box 819
Pinetop, AZ 85935

Dear Father Burns:

In reply to your letter of January 4, permit me to say that I am pleased, tho, that you have decided not to study at this time. It would be a little difficult to take care of the people at this late hour.

I shall keep in mind that you want to go later, and if there is an opportunity for someone to substitute for you, we can discuss it further.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Personnel Meeting on Tuesday, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup

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1-11-08

SAINT MARY of the ANGELS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 819
Pinetop, Arizona 85935

January 4, 1980

Most Reverend Jerome J. Hastrich, D.D.
Bishop of Gallup
Chancery
P. O. Box 1338
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Dear Bishop Hastrich:

Following our telephone conversation last night, and realizing that at this late date we still have been unable to find a man to fill in for me while I attend school in Mexico, and realizing the importance of our programs during the Year of the Family, and the Lenten and Holy Week and Easter Services, I do here-by withdraw my request to attend school in Mexico at this time. I feel, also, that the priest who would come down here should be in residence a week or two before, to understand the programs and running of a one man parish, and to acquaint himself with the plant and the wood stove, etc.

While I feel that I still wish to attend school, and perhaps I can be more prepared next year, I nevertheless feel that my obligation to St. Mary of the Angels over-rides my desire to go to school.

Thanking you for your kind consideration for my request, and hoping that with better preparation on my part in acquiring a priest for next year, I wish you a very good pilgrimage.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,



Father James M. Burns
Pastor

December 10, 1979

██████████
Rt. 1, Box 2854A
Lakeside, AZ 95829

Dear ██████████

Thank you very much for keeping me informed about some of the things are are going on. Regretfully, I had heard about some of them, but was not able to do anything about them.

As you know, there are very few priests available these days. We are just happy if we can have one in every parish to be able to fill the essential needs of the people. Would that they would be more interested in being truly pastoral as our Holy Father Pope John Paul II.

You may be sure I will be praying about the situation, and I ask you to do the same.

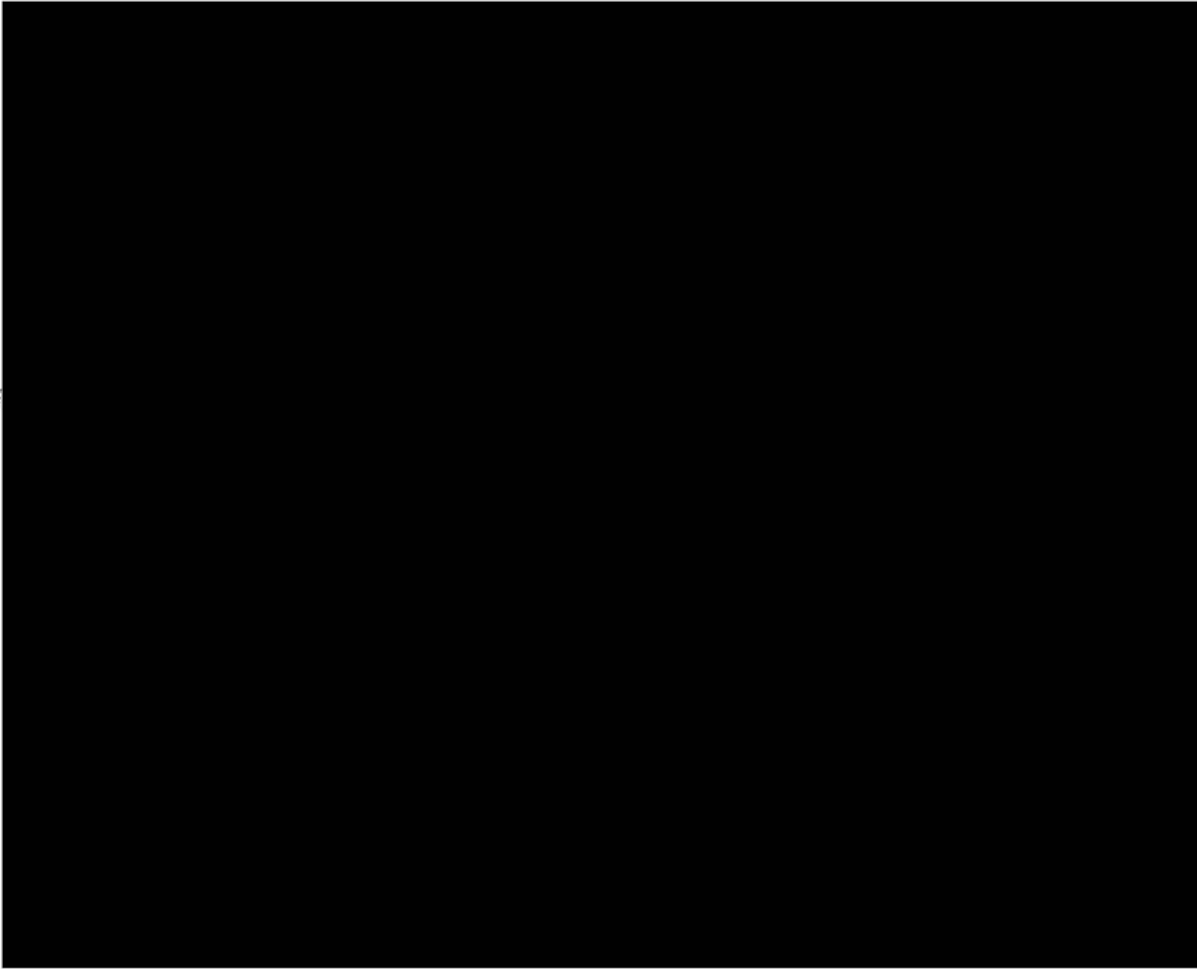
With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup

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Dr. Burns
C
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1-11-11

June 22, 1978

Reverend James M. Burns
St. Mary of the Angels Church
P. O. Box 819
Pinetop, AZ 85935

Dear Father Burns:

For the purpose of your signature being recognized on the checks, you are herewith named temporary Administrator of St. Anthony Parish, McNary.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

C
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June 6, 1978

The Reverend James M. Burns
Saint Mary of the Angels Church
Post Office Box 819
Pinetop, Apache County, Arizona 85935

Dear Father Burns,

This is to inform you that Father Michael Aten, your Assistant, has been transferred and will be leaving for his new assignment on July 1, 1978. Father David Wollersheim will be reporting to you on the same day as your new Assistant.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup

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May 22, 1975

Reverend James M. Burns
St. Mary of the Angels Church
P. O. Box 819
Pinetop, Arizona 85935

Dear Father Burns:

For the good of religion and welfare of souls, you are herewith appointed Administrator Protem of St. Anthony Parish, McNary, while retaining the Pastorate of St. Mary of the Angels, Pinetop, Arizona.

Your assistant is likewise appointed to you as your assistant for both Pinetop and McNary.

This assignment will be effective as of Friday, May 30, 1975.

May God grant you His blessings in the new work you are about to undertake.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Gallup

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4/9/75
~~4/10/75~~

MEMORANDUM TO FILE

Talked to Father Burns today and agreed that I would send a priest at least temporarily and at least for Saturday and Sunday beginning with Memorial Day, and that he would get one of the newly ordained priests eventually. He also agreed to take two seminarians.

Bishop Hastrich

Thursday,
June 24, 1971

Most Reverend Jerome J. Hastrich,
Bishop of Gallup

Your Excellency,

The following information was obtained from three teenaged boys of the Parish of St. Peters Catholic Church, in Springerville, yesterday morning, while I was waiting for [REDACTED]

In summary, these Spanish boys related that the Pastor had been absent since this past Sunday and was due to return as of yesterday. The Pastor had made a trip with a teenage boy, to Albuquerque, in a truck with the two motorcycles belonging to the Pastor, to have these repaired.

The Pastor had supposedly gone off before, from his Parish, for two weeks, and not letting anyone know where he was.

One of the boys had had a fight with the Pastor because the Pastor did not want this boy to go steady with a girl. This boy and his brother, are constantly with the Pastor, and ride motorcycles of the Pastor, with the Pastor, all the time. One of the brothers had claimed that one of the Pastor's motorcycles belonged to him, and another clash ensued and the Priest had to go in person to retrieve the vehicle.

The three teenagers who related the above information, stated that they are on a Federal work program (N.Y.C.), and they are supposed to be getting supervision from the Pastor, and they seldom see him--and as a consequence, they just hang around the grounds of the Church. These boys complained also about their time card not being up to date by the Priest and that they were concerned about being paid on time.

Your Excellency, this Pastor is the one you asked me to call on for Mass and Confessions, for the people in Glennwood, New Mexico, after I am located in Glennwood.

Asking Your Excellency's blessing, I am,

Yours respectfully,

[REDACTED]

File - Dr. Burns

November 30, 1970

Very Reverend James Burns, V.F.
Box 103
Springerville, Arizona 85938

Dear Father:

You are herewith appointed Vicar (Dean)
of the LOWER ARIZONA VICARIATE with all the privileges
and duties accompanying this office.

May God Bless you in your new
undertaking.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Jerome J. Hastrich, D.D.
Bishop of Gallup

February 9, 1970

Reverend James Burns,
P.O. Box 103,
Springerville, Arizona 85938

Dear Father Burns,

Knowing your interest in the preservation and promotion of healthy Family Life, I promote you to the office, by this letter, of Director of the Family Life Bureau of the Diocese of Gallup.

May God assist you in your important task of promoting the sanctity of marriage and the Christian family as the basic unit of society.

Your task is a most difficult one when family life is being attacked on every side.

Assuring you of a prayer for success in your difficult office, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

January 16, 1970

Reverend James Burns,
Springerville, Arizona 85938

Dear Father Burns,

Just a note to tell you that you are herewith relieved of your duties as Ordinary Confessor of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of St. Johns.

I want to thank you for your faithful fulfillment of this onerous task in the past. The change, I think, will make you more free in your contact with them in parochial work.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Burns, James (1989)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ^{said} father w. be a brother
to [REDACTED] Father:

[REDACTED] was in contact
w. me.

[REDACTED] was attached to
[REDACTED] / St. John's + /

Didn't want an explosion
to hit me as I take over.

??
Fall 9
1973
steak
in go
acc. to
L. O'Keefe

Burns left Sprungerville →
went to prison work.
while in prison he told
L. O'Keefe, that inmate
was accurate
Burns he was moved

out of Pentap to Page
for the same reasons
Winklow in 1982.

Went to Florence for 9
yr. before Pentap.
Pentap 74-75 → 1981

10 yrs ago - [redacted] brought
it up to O'Keefe 2 or
3 times - last time
10 yrs ago until
phone call when
Larry came to see me.
I saw him in
August. "Gang to
do something."

He has no idea what a "hot potato" this is for church.

Middle exec. level is not well off financially.
\$50,000 - 60,000 salary

Originally, thinking of going public & bringing it out in the open. L. O'Keefe → Before go public need to bring it to church authorities.

Has Leo any knowledge of Jim actually. Leo followed Jim in Springfield in Dec 82-83

Tuesday Sept 12, 1989

Mrs. Gomez - Chancery 10:30
Had heard of problems at Pinedge.
I had spoken to him about
this. Model - young boy of
particular family.
Respects Mr. V. much. Got
honest, young man.

Bp Hartiel - Chancery 11:30
Dealt w. it as best he
could. Sought help from
spiritual director - & transferred
him. Not allowed to be
in one parish alone. Always
with an associate. Willing
to meet w. him. If he wants.
A. suggests I not speak to B.
about this.

Phoned [redacted] at 7:30 PM.
Cordell, courteous. Could
do it by phone, but meeting
would be better. One
up-coming Saturday.
Does not want to do anything
eg. IB. Wants to be
assured that he is ~~no~~
longer up to "no good".
I probably could have
assured him ^{of this} over the
phone - Would meet
w. H. but prefer me.
Heard I liked. It is about
to go out of office

"Accusation
is pretty
serious
Not a hint"

Phoned [REDACTED] 8:45-9:45 PM

Sept 13, 1989

He had heard from +H
Satisfied with the conversa-
tion. him +H & myself.
No need to visit all in
Gallup. This is now behind
him. Closed chapter in
his book. Needed to be
assured that in the future
we take care of the victims
as much as the present.
Provide counseling &
therapy.

September 4, 1989

"PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL"

The Most Reverend Donald E. Pelotte
P.O. Box 1338
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Dear Bishop Pelotte:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am 31 years of age. During the years 1970-1976, I was a member of St. Peter's parish in Springerville, Arizona. Bishop, this letter is of a most serious nature and for reasons I am sure you understand, this letter will be kept as brief as possible and will avoid specific details. We will want to talk further in person or by phone.

In the spring of 1971 (I was 12 years old) I was a victim of child molestation by Fr. James Burns, then pastor of St. Peter's parish. The reasons for wanting to inform you and discuss this matter 19 years after the abuse, are as follows:

1. I had assumed the matter was properly taken care of in 1971 after briefly discussing it with my parents. It was a few months later that Burns was transferred to another parish.
2. During my first "SEARCH" in 1974 in Aztec, New Mexico, I again briefly discussed the matter with another priest during confession. I assumed that the matter would be further looked into by talking to this priest. At the time I did not understand the "seal of confession".
3. Over the years, I had a strong feeling that the matter had never been properly taken care of. I began to also feel guilty that I had not done enough to prevent this from happening to another child, and that responsibility was still on my shoulders. I know what this type of abuse can do to a person's life. The recent attention this subject has been given by the media, has also prompted new found knowledge in pedophilic behavior and the realization that the victims suffer lifelong consequences, and many times are stripped of a "normal" life.

4. I am not after money and have not sought legal counsel. For the reasons above, I feel God is directing me to do what I can to prevent any additional abuse and for the Diocese to seek out any past victims and offer proper therapy and counseling.

Bishop, I can offer the following references as to my character and credibility:

1. Fr. Larry O'Keefe - Fr. Larry is the priest I first discussed this matter with during the 1974 Search.
2. Monsignor Leo Gomez
3. Served on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for Diocese of Gallup, [REDACTED]

Bishop, I look for your immediate response by calling me at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to set up a phone conference or face-to-face meeting. Working together we can do our best to put an end to child molestation by priests that may exist today in the Diocese of Gallup.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]



THE MOST REV. DONALD E. PELOTTE
DIOCESE OF GALLUP
P.O. BOX 1338
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

87301

Received Sept. 11,
1989

"PERSONAL
AND
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