



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

P.O. Box 1338 • Gallup, New Mexico 87305 • Telephone (505) 863-4406

November 19, 1990

COPY

Rev. Peter Lechner, s.P.
Director: Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Father Lechner:

Thank you for your letter of November 9, along with the material relating to Father Burns' discharge. I am returning the therapy summaries as requested.

Yesterday, I had occasion to speak to Father Vigil, the new pastor at Winslow. He indicates that Father Burns will be staying there until he is due in Blanco. This is unfortunate, as I had thought he was planning to take some time away with his family. In addition, Father Vigil said that Jim was in a rather negative frame of mind. I can see that this might be the case, since he is there to pack up and to move on but I hope this won't be his on-going attitude. We'll have to monitor this very carefully.

Thank you again for all you have done to facilitate the growth that we have seen in Jim. This is indeed, a generous gift from you to our diocese and for this I am deeply grateful.

During this time of Thanksgiving, I offer thanks to the Lord for generous and committed people like yourself, who spend their time and energy helping those who are broken and in need of strength.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup



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Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup



Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 (505) 829-3586

November 9, 1990

Most Reverend Donald E. Pelotte, S.S.S., Ph.D.
Bishop of Gallup
P.O. Box 1317
Gallup, NM 87305

Dear Bishop Pelotte,

Enclosed are a final treatment summary, aftercare recommendations, and a planning/discharge summary for the Reverend James Burns, who completed his program here at Villa Louis Martin on the 9th of November. I would suggest that the aftercare recommendations and the final treatment summary be kept in a confidential file. When you have read the summary of the discharge meeting I would suggest that, as the case with therapy summaries, it be sent back to us.

On behalf of the staff I would like to express a word of gratitude to you for coming to Jemez Springs for the discharge conference and for all the support you have given to Fr. Jim during the time of his program here.

Respectfully yours,

(rev.) Peter Lechner, s.P.
Director: Villa Louis Martin



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Fr. James Burns



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November 7, 1990

COPY

Rev. Peter Lechner, s.P.
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Father Lechner:

Find enclosed the documentation you passed me yesterday. I reviewed these carefully prior to our afternoon meeting and again this morning. I believe the report represents a good assessment of Jim's present situation with realistic advice on how to deal with his future.

While yesterday's discharge meeting was not an easy one, I believe we covered the bases and were able to express to Jim some of our serious concerns. Please thank all who participated, especially for the marvelous way in which all of you have assisted Jim in his growth over the last six months.

Needless to say, I cannot adequately thank you and your community for this generous gift of the scholarship for Jim. With the little money we have available, Jim could never have participated in such a therapeutic program. I am sure he is deeply grateful and so am I.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup



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COPY

October 16, 1990

Rev. Peter Lechner, s.P.
Director: Villa Louis Martin
Servants of the Paraclete
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Father Peter:

Thank you for your letter of October 8, 1990 and the progress report of Father James Burns prepared by [REDACTED]. The report is being returned as requested.

Needless to say, I am pleased with his progress and happy to see that he is almost ready to be reassigned. I believe the challenge at Blanco would be very good for him. I have consulted with some of his priest-friends and they all feel strongly that he should look upon this assignment in a positive light.

I continue to be concerned about Jim's always reading so negatively into everything. Your report provided good examples of ways in which this occurs.

I shall continue to do all I can to affirm and support Jim. I hope he will continue to be open and willing to receive positive and negative in-put. This seems to me to be so important for his on-going growth.

Thank you, once again, for being so generous in helping us help Jim. I shall always be grateful to you and the Paracletes for this generous gift which you are giving the Diocese of Gallup.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup



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COPY

October 9, 1990

Rev. James Burns
% Foundation House
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Jim:

Thank you for phoning me this afternoon. I hope we'll be able to settle things by the end of the week.

Find enclosed a cheque of Three Hundred Dollars from Extension, to cover your salary for the month of October. Should you agree to become pastor in Blanco, we can continue to subsidize your salary there. The lack of communication in this case was on the part of Father Curran.

I'm pleased to see that you are doing so well. I am proud of what you have been able and willing to do.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup

xc: File
Encl. (2)

90-PF-10



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October 9, 1990

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Bishop of Gallup

xc: File
Encl. (2)

Rev. James Burns



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August 10, 1990

COPY

Rev. Peter Lechner
% Foundation House
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Father Lechner:

I returned here on Wednesday from Board meetings in Tucson and San Antonio. The enclosed audited report was waiting for me. It speaks for itself.

On August 28, I shall be meeting with the Parish Council and the Finance Committee of St. Joseph's Parish. The auditor will be present with me to review this report with the people concerned.

It would be good if I had the opportunity to discuss this matter with you prior to my meeting in Winslow. While there were improprieties on Jim's part it is not as serious as people were surmising. But there are other matters to be considered, and so I do not intend to reassign Jim back to St. Joseph's. I hope to be able to appoint a new pastor by September 1. This should come as no surprise to Jim. Myself and others had indicated to him that it would probably end up this way. Jim should not become overly anxious. I am sure we will be able to integrate him into a new assignment without much difficulty.

I hope he was not too devastated by **BA**'s tragic death. Jim is uppermost in my daily prayers. Blessings!

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup

Encl. (1)
xc: file copy



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

P. O. Box 1338 • Gallup, New Mexico 87301 • Telephone (505) 863-4406

COPY

16 February, 1990

Rev. James Burns
St. Joseph Parish
300 West Hillview
Winslow, AZ 86047

Dear Jim:

I am enclosing the material I promised you and have informed Father Peter Lechner that you have agreed to go there for evaluation during the week of March 5. You may want to call him at (505) 829-3586 and get the details on when you are to be there. I think they expect you on Sunday night, March 4.

I hope you are not worrying too much about the "financial matters" we discussed. I am satisfied with your presentation and feel certain you and [REDACTED] exemplify the honesty and trustworthiness that is expected of us in our stewardship. Don't let the criticisms get to you and when necessary, provide the clarifications that are needed.

I respect you for your courage in dealing with the other matter. Rest assured you have my solid support and fraternal backing. Keep your chin up.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Coadjutor Bishop of Gallup

Confidential

1990

Parachute Reports

BURNS, JAMES (CONFIDENTIAL)

Fr. Peter Lechner
505/829-3586

Make a retreat in Weston,
VT. to be convinced
to go for treatment.

Archdiocese of Santa Fe -
405 Montros Sabbath -

- Next week = Workshop
week Algor/Bugis
- Do evaluation in 2 wks
- Wait until after Conf

19 & 26 February.

Week of March 5th - 5 days
Evaluation -
Would stay for program
with 2

2014 - Average = 5-6 months
At Jemz - Can leave on weekends -

This is the way it usually happens - Man goes for treatment - usually drops it.

Group Therapy -

Big concern is confidentiality & it's maintained there.

Just a very few (just 2 with pedophilic issues relating to sexuality -

- Depression
- Burn out in ministry
- Stand-back & look at ministry -

Who's the Program - Look at psych & spiritual

Foundation House Program.

→ Villa Louis Martin Program
Come in at any time & leave at any time

Msgr. Barker St Luke's Institute
301/967-3700

Could Vakelien immediately
for the evaluation -
Will send brochure express
mail -

Hard to set a time - Depends
on co-operation of patient.
Whether he tells truth. No
memory. Vans will take
them into town - for
measures -

[REDACTED]
Came on Sunday.
Finished on Friday ->
Complete evaluation -
Patient called in - &
Recommendations &
then they call me & tell

Feb 19 for evaluation -
"Twenty years later -"