

Jim Burns Summary
Report

~~9/9/10~~
Bridgeford - September

Therapeutic work in his
self-image & response style.

Low self-esteem. Lack of trust
Tendency to interpret motivations
& actions for others in the
most negative light.

Resentments -

Chronic self-devaluation

Experiencing mercy toward self -

Unappreciative. Minimize
accomplishments - Focus
on his imperfections.

- Negative rumination
- Isolation
- Looks at worst possibility.

More clarity with regard to
his sexual orientation

Lack of emotional support
Habit of isolation & denial
Recreational options
More balanced lifestyle.

Reaction at priests re Open
Forum -

Too soon - for pastoral
right out of treatment.

Should have been assigned
as associate for a year - to
see if he had integrated
treatment.

It is a challenge. Rally
people - get them to
co-operate.
Too dictatorial -

Discharge Meeting: Nov. 6 1990
2:00 - 3:45

Jim's report: Spirituality - for parishioners
Spiritually bankrupt.

Time for "Jim Burns"

Relationship to women

Future → Blues - remote -

"Self-esteem"

"My responsibility is our response."

T.V. Dish!

Plans: Work with men in the area -

Support group.

Exercise & diet.

Aftercare: Richard will ^{remain} be spiritual
director - Once a month

Therapist in Jamestown.
Hobbies

Needs a Balanced life - style.
When nothing comes in -
Nothing goes out "watch

out for resentment. Setting up
right support system. Need
for regular therapy.

Uncomfortable with
assignment to Blanes.
Danzon "wakahesterin & Crepe
hungry." Covered from
well excuse therapy & spi
dis. as incidental. Need
for therapist weekly - in family.

V. demanding on those who
will share responsibility with you.
Danzon: "Danzon adoring IV
rather than S."

Done well in psycho-drama.
Wonderful at playing "abusive
parent." Uncomfortable with
being disloyal to his parents.
Was to be afraid. Should
pursue this in future therapy.
Reasoning problems w. authority



"Concerns" about assignment.
Needs to identify behaviors
which will tell him whether
he's doing ok or not.

Assignment
that was
"respectable"

Assignment not "good work"
This is what I want to
what I have been given to do.
This was a shift last week.



Integrated well w. community.
Is a "community man." Pleasant
and to deal with.



Well work w. him for 2
yrs. "You are highly
respected by community."
Impressed with commitment
to Disease.

Dec 5th -
will arrive in Blanes

Burns -

6 month - a year.

If not going well →
want to be assured
he'll be replaced.

Monthly contact
by phone - ^(Jemey) 4 months
he goes to Jemey for
a week -

Periodic visit with
priests in area -

Possible visit on

Nov. 1 -

Would stay a wk after
Nov 9th



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

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

November 5, 1990

Dear Bishop Pelotte,

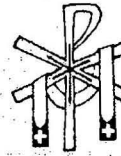
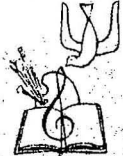
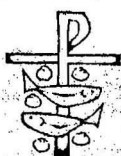
Enclosed is a therapy summary for the Reverend James Burns for the period from September 10 to October 4. The staff see Father Burns as having made much progress here and recommend his return to active ministry, provided he continue in therapy, spiritual direction, and his own program of taking balanced care of his needs as a person.

After the time period covered by the enclosed summary, Father Burns was offered the pastorship at Bianco and has accepted this assignment. In view of his past history as a pastor, as well as the gains he has made in therapy, it seems likely he will do well as pastor in Bianco. The staff at VLM feel that two things will be important in Fr. Burns' maintaining the positive, productive attitude he is evidencing at this time. First of all, he should not take "personal" responsibility for the indebtedness of the parish at Bianco. This does not mean to imply that he will not work with his parishioners to reduce the debt, but rather, this is meant as an encouragement to him to avoid the anxiety and resentment that is likely to oppress him if he feels the debt is now totally his responsibility. The second thing that will be helpful to him is the realization that at six and twelve months there will be an evaluation of the situation and his general well-being, with the possibility of resigning the parish, without in any way impugning his capabilities and good will.

Father Burns has signed the necessary release form for the enclosed summary to be sent to you, on condition that it is not given to another person without his express permission. When you have finished reading the summary please send it back to us. This procedure has been recommended by our legal counsel and also reflects our concern for the priests who come to us and their dioceses

Respectfully yours,

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



PROGRESS REPORT: REV. JAMES BURNS

SEPTEMBER \ OCTOBER 1990

SUBMITTED BY: 

Please find below summaries of Rev. James Burn's participation in the various program components from September 10 through October 4, 1990.

This has been a decisive month for Jim. He was able to work through much of his anger and disappointment over not being able to return to his parish. This allowed him to explore alternative possibilities in a much more open and flexible manner. He also worked on integrating an appropriate regard for his health and emotional well-being.

Jim's **Spiritual Director** observed a "greater peace, less anxiety and an openness to whatever direction will unfold." His **Art Therapist** noted "a considerable change in Jim's attitude." He appeared "positive, optimistic and enthusiastic about his future options, even though they are not entirely settled." She also noted that his artwork "conveyed an inner peace." In **Individual Therapy**, Jim showed a greater willingness to accept things more at face value without looking constantly for the negative side. Jim is becoming increasingly aware of his tendency to ruminate over the worst-case scenario. Jim refers to this habit as "crepe hanging," and acknowledges that it is very entrenched and tends to spoil whatever enjoyment and sense of peace he might have. He is particularly vulnerable to this attitude when dealing with authority. His group therapist observed that Jim takes a rather extreme position towards persons in authority. On the one hand, they are idealized and placed on a pedestal; when they fail to live up to his unrealistic standards of perfection, Jim feels betrayed and very angry. Jim would benefit from continued work in this area.

Nevertheless, his gains have been substantial enough to allow him to consider, in an open-minded fashion, the possibility of accepting an assignment. Staff had been concerned that a future appointment would coincide with Jim's needs for continued therapeutic support, spiritual direction, and a more health-conscious lifestyle. (Note: this paragraph was written before Jim was assigned to and accepted pastorship at Blanco.) Jim may be tempted to accept whatever is offered, even though he may see a given assignment as involving him in a physically and emotionally detrimental lifestyle. Jim has become more aware of his tendency to discount his needs, wishes, or aspirations by fantasizing a negative response from authority. Nevertheless, he will need therapeutic support in this area, otherwise he is at risk to sabotage himself and find himself once again in a situation where he feels overworked or unappreciated.

PAGE TWO

Jim appears ready and eager to return to active ministry. Maintaining the gains he has made will depend, on a large measure, on his compliance with aftercare planning. Jim has expressed his sincere desire to cooperate with staff recommendations. Jim has asked to be discharged as soon as a suitable assignment can be found either in the Gallup Diocese, or temporarily in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by Federal Law. Federal Regulation (42 CFR, Part 2) prohibits you from making any further disclosure of it without the specific written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by such regulations. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose.



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

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

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



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

FINAL THERAPY SUMMARY

Reverend James Burns
Villa Louis Martin
November 9, 1990

The Reverend James Burns began his therapy/renewal program at Villa Louis Martin on May 6 of this year and completed it on the 9th of November. Father Burns came to VLM to work on issues related to stress, celibacy and rumors regarding management of funds in the parish at Winslow. A parish audit subsequently cleared Fr. Burns of any suspicion.

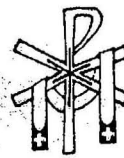
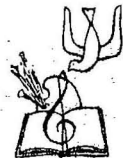
During the course of his program Father Burns underwent significant changes in terms of his understanding of God's forgiveness, his own self worth, his sexuality and the integrated nature of his humanness and priesthood. He worked well with others in the program and developed deep friendships of a nature that will be helpful and sustaining toward future ministry, both his own and that of others. He also developed a better understanding of how stress affects him, i.e., moving him toward isolation and resentment, and he has been able to develop more efficient ways of coping with stress: taking time for himself and activities that help to restore his energy, and avoiding the assumption of excessive responsibility. At the same time, the staff at VLM feel that Father Burns would be helped by further therapeutic work in the area of authority, both his and that of others. Because of this concern and the importance of integrating what he has done at VLM with his life as pastor, the staff at VLM recommend that he continue in individual therapy and spiritual direction.

The staff recommend at this time that Father Burns return to active ministry in the Diocese and believe that he will function well in his work as pastor. It has been a pleasure to have Father Burns in the program and to witness the commitment he has shown both to his own personal growth and to ministry.

Peter Lechner, s.P., Ph.D.
Director: Villa Louis Martin




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AFTERCARE RECOMMENDATIONS

Reverend James Burns
Villa Louis Martin
November 9, 1990

1. Father Burns continue in individual therapy and spiritual direction. During the initial phase of his return to diocesan life he should be in weekly contact with his therapist and/or spiritual director.
2. The privilege of confidentiality should be maintained during the course of therapy. The therapist should, however, let the Bishop know that Fr. Burns is initially in therapy and should inform the Bishop of any changes in the frequency of therapy. If a question of serious concern to Fr. Burns' or the Church's welfare should arise, the therapist should contact either the Bishop or the Aftercare Director of VLM, after prior consultation with Father Burns.
3. Father Burns is encouraged to join a priests' support group, and to maintain regular contact with fellow clergy.
4. After six and twelve months as pastor at Blanco, it will be possible for Fr. Burns to leave the parish if the situation is not favorable to his ongoing growth and renewal.
5. Fr. Burns and the Aftercare Director at VLM will keep in monthly contact, or as often as seems helpful. Sometime after Fr. Burns has entered the parish in Blanco, the Aftercare Director will pay him a visit.
6. In six months Father Burns will return for an aftercare workshop week at VLM.


Peter Lechner, s.P.
Director: Villa Louis Martin