

To Br. Duane URGENT

Date 1-16-97 Time 9:45 A.M. P.M.

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

From Fr. John Vogt
of St. Anthony's in Wickenburg

Phone 520-684-2096
Area Code Number Ext.

Fax _____
Area Code Number

Telephoned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please call	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Came to see you	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wants to see you	<input type="checkbox"/>
Returned your call	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will call again	<input type="checkbox"/>

Message Call back
Tuesday, 1-21-97
Re: Father James
Burns.

Signed _____

Quill Corporation • Re-order Number 7-92001

MEMO

from
BROTHER DUANE
O.F.M.

To: File

Called to clarify the status of Fr. James Burns.

It seems that Burns' sister who also lives in Wickenburg is periodically on Vogt's case about not letting her brother say Mass.

I explained to Fr. Vogt that Fr. Burns has not been in active priestly ministry for the past several years and that if he wishes to celebrate a public liturgy, he must seek permission each and every instance.

This is all the info that Vogt wanted or needed. Said he didn't need any of the details and that he would now be able to deal with Burns' sister more readily.

bd
02.06.97
8:10 AM



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

church of phoenix

IF YOU HAVE RISEN WITH CHRIST SEEK THE SPIRIT OF GOD WHO LEADS YOU INTO ALL TRUTH

400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-2376

TELEPHONE (602) 257-0030
FAX (602) 258-3425

FAX COVER SHEET

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Date: 5/23/97

To: Bro. Duane Torisky, OFM

Fax #: [REDACTED]

Company: Diocese of Gallup

NOTE: Letter will follow in the Mail.

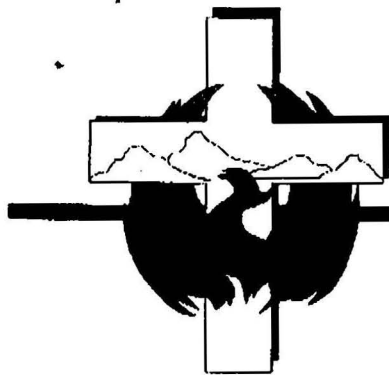
From: Rev. Michael L. Diskin

Fax #: [REDACTED]

Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

Phone: [REDACTED] or direct line [REDACTED] 93

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
church of phoenix

400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-2376
TELEPHONE (602) 257-0030 • FAX (602) 957-5645

May 23, 1997

Bro. Duane A Torisky, O.F.M.
Diocese of Gallup
P. O. Box 1338
Gallup, NM 87305

Dear Bro. Duane:

After speaking with you this morning about Msgr. James Burns, a retired priest of the Diocese of Gallup who resides in Wickenburg, Arizona, I had a follow-up conversation with Rev. John "Ted" Faustina, who is the administrator of the mission of St. Mary's in Yarnell with responsibility for Good Shepherd of the Desert in Congress Junction.

In my first conversation with Fr. Faustina he had indicated that Msgr. Burns had been helping him over the past year. He now tells me that it was only four, or five times. I didn't press the accuracy of that report.

As I mentioned to you, what brought this to light was the desire of Fr. Faustina to have Msgr. Burns cover the two missions while Fr. Faustina is away for the summer. Fr. Faustina does not do well in the heat and cannot be in Yarnell from early June into September. We had recently sent a letter to Msgr. Burns, along with other priests who we know are living in the Diocese of Phoenix, asking them to fill out personnel forms and provide a letter from their diocese, or religious superior to clarify their status here. I believe that it was this letter that led to a conversation between Msgr. Burns and Fr. Faustina which resulted in Fr. Faustina calling me to get permission for Msgr. Burns to provide coverage during the summer.

While I have no proof, and don't want to jump to a false conclusion, I suspect that if Msgr. Burns had not received the letter from us, he and Fr. Faustina would have gone ahead with their informal arrangement.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael L. Diskin
Assistant Chancellor

MLD/slr

Building † Blessing † Becoming the Body of Christ



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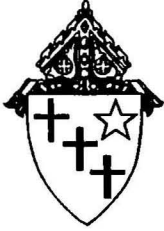
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Yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael L. Diskin
Assistant Chancellor

MLD/slr



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

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

COPY

May 29, 1997

**Rev. Michael L. Diskin
Asst. Chancellor
Diocese of Phoenix
400 East Monroe
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2376**

Dear Father Michael:

Just a brief response to your fax of last week and the follow up letter which arrived in today's mail. Following the presbyteral council meeting several days ago, the personnel committee had a short meeting afterwards at which time Bishop Pelotte shared your letter and his concerns regarding Father Burns. At some point the bishop will write or call Father Burns and reiterate the agreement they came to several years ago when Father Burns moved back to Arizona.

Let me use the opportunity to thank you for your picking up on the matter. Otherwise we would not have known of the arrangements Father Burns had hoped to secure.

If there is any way that we can be of further assistance to you or if you should happen upon any other pertinent facts in this regard, don't hesitate to call, write or fax our office.

Sincerely,

**Bro. Duane, O.F.M.
for the Diocese of Gallup**



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

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

COPY

June 4, 1997

Rev. James Burns
PO Box 2155
Wickenburg, AZ 85378-2155

1997

Dear Jim:

I trust you are well and surviving the now very hot weather of Wickenburg.

I'm sorry about having to write this letter. However, on May 23, 1997 Brother Duane received a phone call and a faxed letter from Father Michael Diskin, assistant chancellor of the Diocese of Phoenix. He was informing us that he had been in contact with Father Faustina and that Father John had admitted that you had been helping with the ministry in his two missions over the past year. In a later conversation with Father Diskin, Father Faustina said it happened only "four or five times." At the urging of Bishop O'Brien Father Diskin was contacting us to inquire, once again about your current status as a priest in the Diocese of Gallup.

Needless to say, I was very disappointed to learn that you have been deliberately acting contrary to the decision we had to make about your priestly faculties, following the very strong recommendation from Father Peter Lechner and the Servants of the Paracletes. You are personally and fully aware of what prompted this recommendation. And so, for you to act contrary to that decision is to put yourself, the Diocese of Phoenix and the Diocese of Gallup at a very great risk. I am very disappointed.

I believe I need to remind you once again that one of the individuals who accused you of sexual abuse and who is himself an attorney has continued to warn us that should he hear that you are ministering as a priest anywhere in the State of Arizona he would turn you in to the state officials. You have been aware of this over the years and yet you deliberately act contrary to what we agreed.

Over the last few days, I have had occasion to discuss this matter with with Bishop O'Brien. He too is very unhappy about this and insists that you

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cannot do priestly ministry in his diocese. I have also discussed this matter with our personnel board and they too concur.

I plead with you to abide by the decision we had to make when you left Blanco, New Mexico. Should you continue to disregard our decision this will have serious implications for you and probably Father Faustina.

Jim, I am sorry that I have had to write this difficult letter. You served many, many years as a good, hard-working priest of the Diocese and we are grateful for that. You know how I admired you and your ministry from the moment of my arrival in Gallup in 1986. Unfortunately, some very sad and tragic things occurred in the early years of your ministry and now you are being held accountable for these actions. I wish it was otherwise. But because of the very serious implications involved I have to insist once again that you live up to the agreement we made when you left Blanco.

I know how painful this will be for you and so I sincerely assure you of a regular remembrance in my prayer and at my Eucharist.

Fraternally in Christ,

**Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS, Ph.D.
Bishop of Gallup**