

25 December, 1979

To [REDACTED]

To err is human; to forgive is divine.

Since everything that I will write here is the truth, please feel free to show this to anyone you please. One should not hide the truth, nor be afraid of it. After all, the Lord said that "the truth will make you free."

I know that slowly, but surely the truth will be known at I.H.M. parish and in the Diocese of Orange. I already know that the truth is at work there, thanks be to God.

Originally I had planned to tell you all of this in person, but circumstances and an earlier than expected departure, prevented my being able to do so. You will have to excuse my having to use this less personal method of communication.

During my entire priesthood I have given myself totally to the service of God and of His People. Whatever I have done, good and bad, I have done out in the open. I have never hidden any of my mistakes and weaknesses. And, to date, I have nothing to hide. I have been open to all and with all.

When Bishop Johnson assigned me to I.H.M., I arrived and gave myself totally to the service of all my parishioners. I know that with the great cooperation of a lot of the I.H.M. people I have been able to accomplish great things for my parish.

However, because I am an alcoholic I have made very serious mistakes. In the pulpit I have admitted to and apologized for my errors, sins, bad example, and scandal I have caused. I realize that this has made me very vulnerable.

50600049

In my moment of weakness, in my illness, when I was down and needed help, you turned

against me. I am fully aware—as the people of the parish and of the diocese are finding out—that you mounted a campaign against me.

Through phone calls and other activities you tried to get the members of the Religious Education Board, and the parents and faculty of S. H. M. School to testify against me to Bishop Johnson's office and the school department's office. I am also aware of the unchristian roles played by your cohorts, especially [redacted], and some others.

Fortunately, you misjudged some persons whom you thought would be receptive to your unchristian behavior. As you well know, not everyone cooperated with you. Instead, they came to me to inform me of your plot.

Jesus said that, if you are offering your gift at the altar and find that you have anything against your brother, you should first go and be reconciled. None of you were Christian enough to do this!

The scriptures offer another solution to any Christian community problems. First, you go to your brother alone. If you convince him and he repents, you've won a friend. Secondly, if he doesn't listen to you, take others with you and try to win him over. If he listens to you, you have saved him. Only, when all these efforts have failed, are you to report him to the authorities. None of you followed this scriptural solution. And, to this date—Christmas 1979—none of you has had the Christian decency to come to me and talk about any of my problems personally.

In addition to the wrongs I am responsible for and to which I admit, you accused me of many half-truths, exaggerations, and outright lies. Some of the S. H. M. school children and parents and other parishioners should know

[redacted] for the liar that she is. And, now, the people of the parish and of the diocese are knowing you for the lying and self-righteous hypocrites that you are along with all your cohorts. Jesus described the likes of you so well - "brood of vipers" and "whitened sepulchers".

In his wisdom Bishop Johnson was able to detect your scheme. He has had the Christian and fatherly concern for me that you did not have. He has lovingly and generously offered me a chance for healing. I willingly accepted Bishop Johnson's kind offer.

God always brings some good out of every wrong. And, as a result of all your unchristian activity, I have come to realize many good and wonderful things. In these days I have come to know the love and support of Bishop Johnson and Archbishop Clavel, of so many of my fellow priests and religious, and of the vast majority of the people of the diocese and of St. M. parish. But, most gratifying has been the great love and support I have received from so many of the school children, teenagers, altar servers, and elderly. They have overwhelmed me with so many expressions and manifestations of love, support, and prayers.

I have undergone tremendous hurt, pain, sorrow, and tears. I myself am responsible for a lot of this because I am an alcoholic. But, I know that you and the other two-faced "christians" like you have caused a lot of it, too.

In my heart and in my conscience I know that I have never done anything to purposely harm you, [redacted], faculty members, parents, or students of the school or parish. Even while I was intoxicated, I never did anything to hurt any one of you - the way you have hurt me.

50600051

I personally told [redacted] and the rest of the [redacted] what I know to be the truth about them, about you and about others. I told the sisters that I hold no grudge against them and that I forgive their unchristian actions and all the hurt they have caused me. And, I want you to know that I feel the same way about you. With the love of Jesus - which you did not have for me - I forgive you and those who cooperated with you to hurt me. I hold no grudge against you.

It is my desire that this be a time of healing not just for me, but for my parish as well. Along with me, many children, teenagers, adults, and elderly in I.N.M. parish have been hurt by your actions. May the Lord grant us all the power of His love to forgive, to forget, to heal, to help, and to grow.

As I wrote in the beginning, feel free to show this to anyone you want. It is difficult to accept the truth about yourself. The truth hurts, but the truth will make you free!

Through death we come to life. When the old self dies, the new self comes alive. I have no problem admitting my alcoholism and its related faults to you, to others, and to God. I am on the road of healing and recovery - my old self is dying. I look forward to my new self being born again in body and in spirit to serve God and His People more faithfully and wholeheartedly than before.

There must be a Good Friday of passion and suffering and death before there can be an Easter Sunday of triumph, joy, and new life.

God bless you!

J. L. M. P.

50600052

Sept. 21

*Very please  
have app. during  
office hrs & ask that  
the school principal  
accompany here  
Thanks - WJ*

[Redacted]

September 13, 1979

Personal - Confidential

The Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
Bishop of Orange  
440 South Batavia Street  
Orange, CA 92668

*file*

Your Excellency:

I respectfully request an appointment with you to discuss a confidential matter of great concern to our Parish and our School.

I have discussed this matter with our Sister Principal and she has had this same matter brought to her attention by a number of our school families. She is deeply troubled by it but hesitates to discuss the matter with you as she does not have first-hand knowledge. She urged me to seek an appointment with you and to express her willingness to tell you of her concern.

My husband would like to be with me at the appointment but because he is not home from his work until 7 in the evenings, the only opportunity for him would be on a Saturday. If this is not possible, I would be available at your convenience. If you wished, our Principal would accompany me or if you desired, would be available for further discussion.

I can be reached by phone during school hours at 545-8185, or after 3 p.m. at [Redacted]

My own brother is a Priest, a chancellor of another Archdiocese, and has a similar problem, which intensifies our concern. I say this to indicate we have no desire to create a problem, but rather are seeking a solution.

Respectfully,

[Redacted signature]

*Sr. Mary Albert  
Immac. Heart of Mary*

January 2, 1980

Rev. Al Ramos  
Marsalin - St. Luke's Institute  
120 Goulding St.  
Holliston, Mass 01746

Dear Al,

This is just a note to let you know that I received your card of December 19 and your kind Christmas greetings. I am delighted to know that things have gotten off to a good start at St. Luke's. I do know that the whole experience while full of hope and promise can also be a difficult journey. We who are your Brothers here in Orange will be walking in your company in our prayers and I am sure that the same is true for the many dear friends whom you have at Immaculate Heart of Mary and who look forward to your return. If there is anything that we can do to be of assistance you have only to ask. May God bless you always.

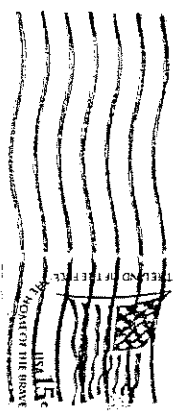
Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
Bishop of Orange

WRJ:k

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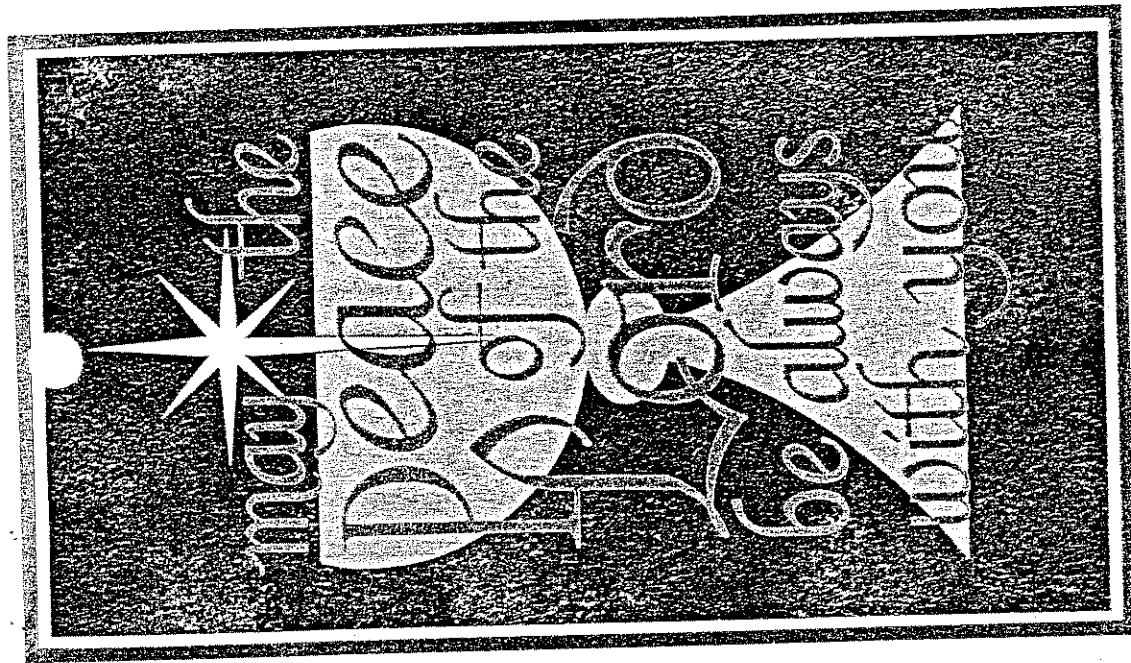
Dr. Al Ramo  
Marvlin - St. Luke  
130 Haveling St.  
Kellerton, Mass. 01746



Bishop William D. Johnson  
440 So. Batavia St.  
Orange, CA 92668

50600055

Personal



50600056

*The Peace of the Lord*  
WILLIAM GREENWALT

BOSTON  
COTTON  
MADE IN THE U.S.A.

19 Dec. 1979

Dear Bishop Johnson,

I just want to thank you for your love and concern for me expressed in the chance to renew my person and priesthood. St. Gilbert is just great and everyone here is a great loving community.

Deaving J. H. R. was most difficult for the people and for me. I knew I was loved by the people. I just

at 2.14 hours annual

and know deeply. Their love and support are most comforting.

May God's Blessing descend upon you

at Christmas

and remain

with you always.

You'll remember

you in a very

special way at Mass

on Christmas Day.

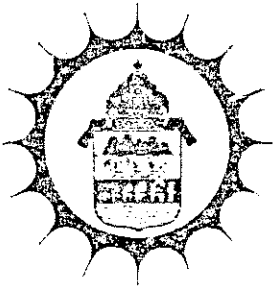
and in the New Year.

Again, thank you and love you.

Love, Joy, and Peace

P.S. - Special Hello for Mrs. J

FRANKLIN



DIOCESE OF ORANGE  
440 SOUTH BATAVIA ST.  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92668  
714—639-8010 • 639-8011

February 6, 1980

# 1-617-429-4307

Reverend Al Ramos  
Marsalin-St. Luke  
120 Goulding  
Holliston, MA 01746

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter which I received today. It was good hearing from you and I am happy that all seems to be going well for you.

Regarding Confirmation at Immaculate Heart of Mary , I will contact Frank Moran and work out the dates with him. That way you can be relieved from worrying any more about the scheduling.

Regarding materials, etc. needed for your program, the best way would be to continue charging it to Bishop Johnson, Diocese of Orange as you have been doing. In this way, the Diocese will take care of these matters which are directly related to your treatment program.

All is going well here. The weather has been really pretty nice. We have had several days of pretty good rain, but that has made everything very green. Outside of that we've also had many days of warm sunshine which hardly makes you believe that it is winter time. I imagine that the weather is a little bit different where you are, but I hope that it is not too cold.

Please be assured of my continued prayers and Masses and thank you for yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

jr

50600058

Marsalin-St. Luke  
31 January, 1980

Dear Mike,

Peace!

I have been really busy here at Marsalin. This has been a great experience for me, in some ways very painful and in others most joyful.

There are a few matters that cause me some concern which I want to bring to your attention.

✓ First, I had called you about the I.H.M. parish Confirmation date but never followed up the call with the letter you requested. So, here goes. I had said to cancel the 26 April date and requested the Confirmations either on Saturday, 15 November, at 2:00 P.M. or Sunday, 16 November, at 5:00 P.M. It is a matter that can best be decided by Frank Moran and you. At least for now I won't have to worry about this scheduling - I hope.

Secondly, my alcoholic life-style left me with quite a few debts. While in the parish I was able to manage my bills fairly well because of very generous stipends and Mass requests. I don't have that source of income now and am finding it a bit hectic with some of my expenses. I am receiving some Mass stipends now, but not to the extent that I used to. Some of the things that I've needed so far, such as emergency dental work, literature in connection with the program of A.A., I have charged to Bishop Johnson/Diocese of Orange. Bishop Johnson's last letter to me said if I needed something to ask. So, I am asking if it's OK to continue doing this? Is there a different way to do it?

Your help with this will be greatly appreciated. I assure you of my prayers and best wishes.

In Christ,

Al

P.S. The enclosed is a form letter I've sent out. Please share it with Msgr. Sammon, Fr. Art Holguin, Fr. Ken Krause, Bro. Dominic and anyone else who will pray for me. Thanks.

50600059

January 1980

Dear Mike,

Greetings! Please feel free to share this message with anyone. Just ask them to pray for me.

I enjoy receiving but I don't like having to send form letters. But, because of all my work here at MAKALIN-ST. LUKE and because of the many, many cards and letters I am receiving, I must make use of a form letter to speed up my replies to all of you.

I am presently undergoing treatment here at Marsalin-St. Luke Institute in Holliston. Marsalin stands for Maria, Salus Infirmorum, Mary, health of the sick. St. Luke was a physician who authored some sections of the New Testament. Our Lady and St. Luke are our special patrons.

Our client (patient) population changes from time to time. Departures mean new arrivals. At present we are ~~some~~ <sup>eleven</sup> priests, seven sisters, ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> brother, and one non-Catholic minister. We come from various states and provinces in the USA and Canada, <sup>and elsewhere.</sup> We all have one common illness—alcoholism. The numerous tests that we undergo also show many other related illnesses including my own lunacy.....no comments! *and you don't have to agree.*

Father Doctor Michael Peterson, a mormon convert, is the founder and director of the Institute. Presently he is assisted by a professional staff of one priest, one brother, one sister, and several lay persons. They provide us with a program of healing and renewal that touches the physical, mental, and spiritual.

We attend a minimum of four AA meetings a week. Therapy is the IN word: we get individual, structured group, small group, intercommunication group, community living group, all in the name of therapy. At clinic we get our daily dose of shots and/or pills—I'm getting seven pills daily! We are also learning relaxation therapy, bibliotherapy, lecture-discussions, audio-visual discussions, and theology workshop discussions. (If you saw the movie "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", you'll have an idea of what I'm talking about: I landed in the Cuckoo's nest!) We must also participate in daily weekday exercise, walking, running, and the YMCA on Fridays in addition to dieting and daily weigh-ins. (Have you heard of the Good News? Well, this is the BAD NEWS. But, believe it or not, I have lost weight—I had the "runs" last weekend.) The first 30 days of the program we have to pretty much stay "on campus." After that time we can leave campus for free time ("G" movies, Shirley Temples on-the-rocks, and sober driving).

Our daily prayer and liturgies bring the whole program together to our Higher Power to whom we surrender our life and illness and turn to for help.

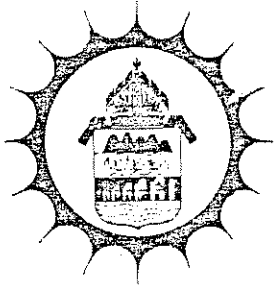
I also turn to you for help. I am an alcoholic and have other illnesses and faults, too. I know and accept that healing and recovery is a life-long cross for me to bear. I need you to be my "Simon of Cyrene" and to help me carry my cross. Please help me with your prayers, support, and understanding.

I take this opportunity to publicly thank Bishop William R. Johnson for generously offering me this chance for healing. My pastor and many of my fellow priests, my family and relatives, many religious and dear friends, all have been most gracious, generous and supportive. I want you to know that I am most grateful to all of you. May God love you and reward you for your prayers, kindness, generosity, phone calls, and so many cards and letters.

*I assure you of a daily remembrance at Mass and prayers. As I undergo my struggles, and face the painful memories, and relive fears, anger, resentments, anxieties, I am glad for the liberation that the Lord offers me. Through the darkness I can see light. My illness of alcoholism has been a blessing to bring me to see the light and love of God for me. After Good Friday comes Easter Sunday. Each new day I celebrate the Lord's and my own resurrection.*

Peace,

Al Ramos 50600060



DIOCESE OF ORANGE  
440 SOUTH BATAVIA ST.  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92668  
714—639-8010 • 639-8011

February 22, 1980

Reverend Michael Peterson, M.D.  
Marsalin-St. Luke  
120 Goulding  
Holliston, MA 01746

Dear Dr. Peterson:

As per our recent telephone conversation, I am forwarding to you the enclosed letter. If possible, the family would prefer that no names be used.

I am in the process of making arrangements to go to Boston on March 22 or 23. As soon as my plans are confirmed I will be in contact with you by phone.

Praying for God's blessings upon you, I remain

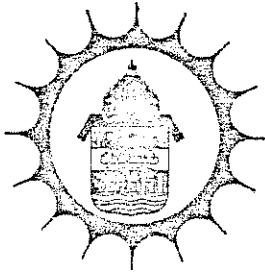
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

jr

encl.

50600061



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**

440 SOUTH BATAVIA ST.  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92668  
714 - 639-8010 - 639-8011

March 31, 1980

Reverend Frank Moran, Pastor  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
1100 South Center Street  
Santa Ana, California 92704

Dear Father Moran:

We recently received a petition here in this office signed by a large number of people from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish requesting the continued assignment of Father Eleuterio Ramos to Immaculate Heart upon his return from the East.


Msgr. Driscoll, our Chancellor, has visited with Fr. Ramos and with the medical staff at St. Luke's Institute at Marsalin where Fr. Ramos is being treated. Through these discussions it has become clear to us and to Father Ramos that a return to the parish would be seriously detrimental to the recovery process which has been started. Fr. Ramos and his doctor have indicated that it is very necessary to give him an assignment in a new environment and less taxing.

This will be a serious disappointment to his many friends at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. At the same time I feel that they will be able to understand that his health and welfare are important to him and to all of us who know and love him. I know that he shares with me the view that the best help they can offer at this time is their fervent prayers for his complete recuperation.

You should feel free to share this information with members of the parish community. While we cannot provide a carbon copy of Fr. Ramos to serve the people of the parish, we are aware of the need and will do our best to provide a zealous and generous hearted associate in July when the clergy transfers are made.

With good wishes and appreciation for your kindness, I am

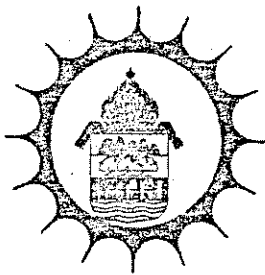
Fraternally in Christ,

  
Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
Bishop of Orange

WRJ:tk

cc: Rev. Michael Peterson, M.D.  
Rev. Eleuterio Ramos

50600064



DIOCESE OF ORANGE

440 SOUTH BATAVIA ST.  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92668  
714 - 639-8010 - 639-8011

April 15, 1980

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 30, 1980 in reference to Father Ramos. I am very grateful for your kindness in writing to us and expressing your admiration and zeal for Fr. Al. He truly is a fine priest, zealous and generous hearted.

He has appreciated very much the opportunity for treatment and time to reflect on his current situation. He will be returning to the Diocese early next month and we look forward to having him back with us.

With good wishes and appreciation for your kindness, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

*William R. Johnson*

Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
Bishop of Orange

WRJ:tk

50600065

[REDACTED]

March 30, 1980

Bishop William Johnson  
440 So. Batavia  
Orange, California 92668

Dear Bishop Johnson,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have given Father Eleuterio V. Ramos to gain control of his allergy to alcohol. Fortunately there is no longer the stigma connected with alcohol that there was in the past. This is because people of your high caliber have recognized this problem and have met it intelligently.

I have known Fr. Ramos since he was transferred to St. Josephs in Placentia and have always held him in the highest esteem. It was my privilege to be the lector at the 6:30 daily mass and the 7:30 Sunday mass until we moved from the parish in 1977, and consequently had the opportunity to know and to love him. He has acknowledged his problem, and I am sure that took great courage.

I am confident he will gain control of his problem because he has admitted to God and to himself that he is an alcoholic. With God's help, he will recover. As time goes on, because of the understanding you have shown him, he will better be able to help others. He has always been a wonderfully fine Priest and respected by all who know him. The Church needs more like him.

May God bless you,  
[REDACTED]

50600066