

Cerritos, CA 90701

Cerritos, Ca. 90701

March 31, 1977

Dear Most Reverend Bishop Johnson:

Not too long ago you visited St. Vincent parish and asked us to place our concerns before you. At that time you graciously permitted me to voice my deep conviction that our Catholic Church was in need of Christian renewal. It was stated that a part of the renewal movement could revolve around a renewed evangelical effort with attention focused on the youth of our diocese and reinforced with intensive instruction of our adults in The Holy Bible.

I have just learned that Father Widora is being transferred from our parish to St. Justus. I feel that the decision for shifting priests is carefully researched and planned, however, may I please call to your attention certain circumstances that would cause this move to work a hardship on our parish.

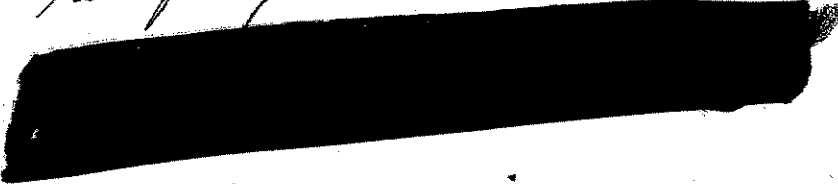
Since his arrival, Fr. Widora has been working with the parish youth groups, marriage encounter and the parish prayer group. In addition, he has organized and effectively conducted an adult bible study class. Fr. Widora has earned the respect of the parish through his faithful and diligent effort in

50900182

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lack of above cases. He fills a
vital need in our parish and the
parishioners are deeply grateful.

I am thankful for the opportunity to bring
this matter to your personal attention. May
God continue to bless you.

Faithfully in Christ,


50900183

April 5, 1977

[REDACTED]
Principal, St. Pius V School
7681 Orangethorpe Avenue
Buena Park, California 90621

Dear [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge receipt of several letters from students of St. Pius V School in reference to the transfer of Father Widera.

The transfer of any priest is always a source of difficulty to the people of a parish since it breaks relationships which are important to the success of the work of the Church. It is particularly difficult because Father Widera has been with you so short a time. Unfortunately, we have over 40 parishes in the Diocese, which like your own are understaffed and we are not in the position to revoke the decision which has been made in reference to his transfer. I am sure that Father Widera will be happy to know of the students' gratitude for his service.

With good wishes and appreciation for the students' kindness in writing to me, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William R. Johnson
Bishop of Orange

WRJ:tt

cc: Rev. James Pierse, Pastor

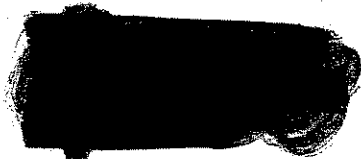
50900184

Dear Bishop Johnson,

I'm a student attending St. Pius V school and I am writing to you regarding about Father Jeffrey's transfer to St. Boniface. Well I'd really hate to see him leave and I as many others think he is a great asset to the school. He is so warm with everyone and is open with his feelings. I really admire this in a priest because I can feel I have someone to talk to when I'm in trouble. Please reconsider his transfer.

yours truly,

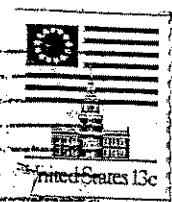




La Palma, Ca.
90623



ALWAYS USE
ZIP CODE



Bishop William Johnson
440 S Botwinia
Orange, Calif.
92668

Dear Bishop Johnson,
Since Father Kidera
has come into our parish
he has brought so much
love, warmth and spiritual
happiness. We would like
to keep him in our parish
with your consent and
blessings, so that he will
continue to spread the love
of God to all of our fam-
ilies, and anyone who comes
in contact with him.

Recently we were con-
firmed, and Father Kidera
gave us a most inspiring
talk, which helped us
to realize the importance
and joy of the Holy Spirit.
Hoping that you will hear
our plea, I thank you.

Sincerely,




Bishop St. Johnson

88 440 S Batavia

Orange Calif

92668

50900188

Dear Father Sir,

We the 8th grade dont
want you to leave because of the
great talks you gave us to prepare
for confirmation You should stay
so the next years 8th grade class
will have the same preparation.

We all love you and want you
to stay.

God Bless

Love,



Bishop W. Johnson

440 S. Batavia

Orange, California

92668

50900190

April 5, 1977

[REDACTED]
Buena Park, California 90621

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 27 in reference to the transfer of Father Widera.

The transfer of any priest is always a source of difficulty to the people of a parish since it breaks relationships which are important to the success of the work of the Church. It is particularly difficult because Father Widera has been with you so short a time. Unfortunately, we have over 40 parishes in the Diocese, which like your own are understaffed and we are not in the position to revoke the decision which has been made in reference to his transfer. I am sure that Father Widera will be happy to know of your gratitude for his service.

With good wishes and appreciation for your kindness in writing to me, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William R. Johnson
Bishop of Orange

WRJ:tt

50900191


March 27, 1977

Most Reverend William R. Johnson
Dioces of Orange
140 South Batavia Street
Orange, California, 92668

Dear Bishop Johnson


This is my first letter to a Bishop; however, you already know the love and respect I have for you, and I know I am writing to a friend.

I have been ask by fellow Christian Service members to write you regarding the transfer of Father Widera. In our type of work it is very important to have someone special to whom we can all relate---Father Sieg in his short 2½ months proved to be just what we needed.

Please take a close look at the size of our Parish and the assignments of our other Priests, and see if you can possibly leave this wonderful man of God here where he is need so much.

I recall your visitation to St. Pius V, and you asking us to meditate on what we would do as Bishop of Orange; so, I can honestly say I would leave Father Widera at St. Pius V.

See you soon,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


509 00192

April 5, 1977

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cerritos, California 90701

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 28 in reference to the transfer of Father Widera.

The transfer of any priest is always a source of difficulty to the people of a parish since it breaks relationships which are important to the success of the work of the Church. It is particularly difficult because Father Widera has been with you so short a time. Unfortunately, we have over 40 parishes in the Diocese, which like your own are understaffed and we are not in the position to revoke the decision which has been made in reference to his transfer. I am sure that Father Widera will be happy to know of your gratitude for his service.

With good wishes and appreciation for your kindness in writing to me, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William R. Johnson
Bishop of Orange

WRJ:tt

50900193

March 28, 1977

Dear Bishop Johnson

It is with a sad heart we write to you. As members of St Pius V we have really grown to love Fr. Sieg despite his short time in our parish. From the Sunday we first met him we knew there was something special about him and we were most thankful to Jesus for sending him to us. Sharing in his celebration of the mass is truly a joy. His openness & eagerness to be among the people truly reflect the love Jesus had for His followers.

We have belonged to St Pius for 4 1/2 yrs and have seen priests come & go but never has one been like Fr. Sieg. It seems no matter what you are as a Catholic - conservative, "old fashioned", charismatic, youth or adult - he offers something to each & is accepted by all. At last we had a priest who was there for us close. Fr. Pierce is kept very busy with his pastoral duties, Fr. Lyons has the school & Fr. Hopkins is with the marriage tribunal so when Fr. Sieg came along and because he is the man he is, it was as if he opened his arms & said "take me I'm yours" & everyone embraced him.

We are involved with Marriage Encounter, the charismatic renewal, R.C.D., R.S.P., St. Vincent's and my husband is a lay minister, we love our parish & the beautiful Christian community we have found here. As you can see by our address we go to Pius out of choice.


50900194

and not convenience. We need Fr. Sieg
and love him. He has awakened our parish
and brought it closer together.

We realize dear Bishop how difficult
your duties are and how sometimes we may
not understand why something has to be
done. So we only write this letter to show
our love for Fr. Sieg and to tell you we
will continue to pray for you. May Jesus
continue to strengthen you & keep you
wrapped in His loving arms.

God bless

Love



Cynthia

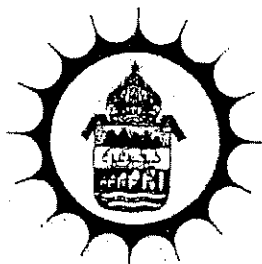
~~Father~~
F. W. ...
No response

We need Father Sig.
I would just die if
he left. If he leaves
I'll never go to church
again. Everytime we
get a super Priest like
Father Sig & Father
Patrick Walsh they
get transferred. Why?
Why?! Why?!

Father Pierce is so old
fashioned & stubborn
about our new ideas

we can't relate to him
At confession I asked
forgiveness for going to
visit another church
he started yelling and
said he couldn't forgive
me for such a thing
But my dad can commit
adultery and he gets
forgiven.

Signed
Depressed



DIOCESE OF ORANGE

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

March 28, 1977

Form letter

[REDACTED]

Buena Park, Ca. 90620

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March ~~signed by yourself and your associates to the Legion of Mary~~ in reference to the transfer of Father Widera. ~~The~~ transfer of any priest is always a source of difficulty to the people of a parish since it breaks relationships which are important to the success of the work of the Church. It is particularly difficult because ~~the individual concerned~~ *the Father Widera* has been with you so short a time. Unfortunately, we have over 40 parishes in the Diocese ~~but most of~~ which like your own are understaffed and we are not in the position to revoke the decision which has been made in reference to his transfer. I am sure that Father Widera will be happy to know of your gratitude for his service.

With good wishes and appreciation for your kindness in writing to me, I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William R. Johnson
Bishop of Orange

SP

50900198

Buena Park, California
March 22, 1977

Bishop William Johnson
Chancery Office, Diocese of Orange
140 South Batavia St.
Orange, California 92668

Your Excellency:

We, the members of the Legion of Mary, Our Lady Queen of Peace Praesidium, St. Pius V Parish, Buena Park, unite in requesting that the proposed transfer of Father Siegfried Widera be cancelled. In support of this request we cite the following for your consideration.

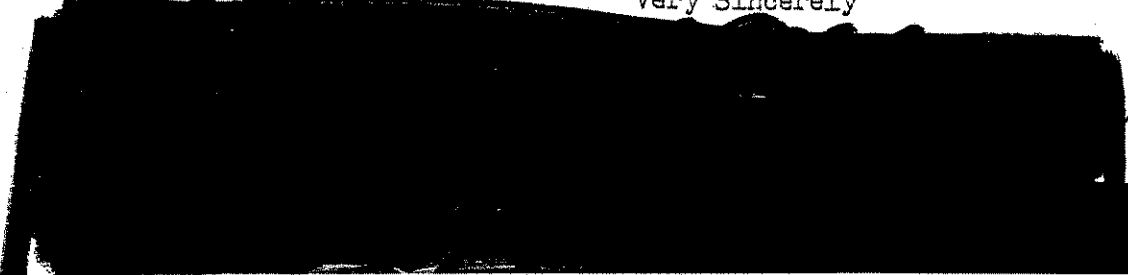
Father Widera has been in our parish approximately two and one-half months. In this short period he has endeared himself to all of us in St. Pius V, giving freely of himself and of his time acquainting himself with the various parish organizations and activities and becoming involved in our parish. He has started an adult study program which was badly needed but which could not be undertaken previously due to lack of the necessary guidance of a priest. As parishioners we need the services of Father Widera.

St. Pius V is one of the largest parishes in the Orange Diocese both in number of families and in area. We have two hospitals and three major convalescent homes in the parish area. Our parish family is composed of varied peoples culturally and financially though we are mainly of the working class with a high percentage of minorities. Father Widera has related to all sectors of our parish family.


We now have five priests all of whom we dearly love and respect. Unfortunately one of our parish priests has been in ill health and thus has been limited in his priestly activities while a second is technically only able to devote part of his time to parish duties as a considerable part of his time is consumed by his position on the Marriage Tribunal and his assignments to the Priest Personnel Board and as a consultant. St. Pius V priests readily give of themselves to parish activities but even so our parish is badly understaffed. Prior to Father Widera's coming to St. Pius we had the weekend services of Father Haigli whom we also love and whom we appreciated but we need a full-time parish priest.

As members of the Legion of Mary we are privileged to work closely with our parish priests and we therefore have a close and personal knowledge of some of the work of our priests. We have first-hand knowledge of the need for Father Widera's services in our parish and how he has related to our need. We ask, your Excellency, that you cancel the proposed transfer of Father Widera.

Very Sincerely



509 00199


Buena Park, CA 90620

Bishop William Johnson
Chancery Office, Diocese
440 South Batavia St.
Orange, CA 92668

50900200