

October 20, 1965

His Eminence
Ildebrando Cardinal Antoniutti, Prefect
S. Congregation of Religious
Piazza Pio XII, 3
Città del Vaticano

Your Eminence:

Once again we present to Your Eminence evidence that His Excellency Archbishop Davis of Santa Fe is actively engaged with the assistance of Father Joseph McNamara in changing the program and set-up of the Servants of the Holy Paraclete in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Your Eminence will kindly note that the General of the Paracletes now learns mostly by indirection and post-factum of the continued drive to substitute the AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) program under lay direction and utilizing the Paraclete Fathers under lay guidance according to AA practice.

Desiring to save whatever may be saved from this invasion of the rights of our Paraclete Apostolate and realizing Mother Church must support her Apostolic College - in the spirit of Pope Paul's United Nations plea - no more war - may we the Servants of the Holy Paraclete wishing to prevent further damage to our work offer through Your Eminence, provided His Holiness to whom we have appealed, approves the following:

Agreement offered to His Excellency Archbishop James Peter Davis of Santa Fe, New Mexico, by Father Founder Gerald of the Holy Spirit with the consent of at least four of the members of the General Council as a proposed solution in re Archbishop Davis and the Servants of the Holy Paraclete.

1) Whereas serious differences of opinion have arisen between Father Founder backed by a majority of his General Council and His Excellency Archbishop James Peter Davis of Santa Fe involving the Paraclete houses in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe -

2) and whereas this unhappy situation follows on eighteen years of very amicable relations with the Archbishops of Santa Fe during which time the Congregation spread rapidly to Minnesota, Ohio, Vermont, Missouri (St. Louis and Springfield-Girardeau), South Dakota in the USA and to England, Italy, British West Indies, Bolivia, Argentina and East Africa.

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3) It seems most desirable that we, the Servants of the Holy Paraclete, without abandoning our policies which have been approved at Rome and proven in practice should do whatever we can to help His Excellency carry out his ideas which would seem to coincide with the popular AA program.

4) We, therefore, offer through the mediation of Your Eminence a proposition, namely - His Excellency to take over without prejudice all the properties of the Servants of the Holy Paraclete in his Archdiocese for whatever purpose he may see fit provided, of course, these properties which have an appraised value of one million six hundred thousand dollars be compensated for in such a legal manner as to satisfy the financial house of Bosworth & Sullivan of Denver who financed by bond issue the paying off of all mortgages and the building of the new rest house facilities now nearing completion at James Springs. This was a re-financing problem successfully complete with amortization at 50,000 dollars annually. Moreover, if His Excellency can so finance the immediate elimination of this obligation then, provided the Holy See consents and in gratitude to the memory of Archbishop Edwin V. Byrne of Santa Fe our beloved Co-Founder, the Paraclete Fathers will ask nothing more than their financial obligations within the Archdiocese being concluded - including obligations now contracted by Father Joseph McNamara with Archbishop Davis' counsel and authorization - the Paracletes will ask nothing more than the privilege of withdrawing from the Archdiocese all members of the Paracletes, professed or otherwise - provided that any Paraclete priest, professed or otherwise who may wish to transfer to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe may do - but on the basis of final separation from the Congregation of the Paraclete Fathers. They shall not wear the Paraclete habit or insignia but may be freely organized by His Excellency in such manner as may seem best.

As this involves a gift, provided the Holy See approves, of close to one million dollars to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe it would seem a reasonable proposition from the viewpoint of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and to Archbishop Davis.

We favor strongly this plan especially because it will be extremely difficult for the Paracletes to carry on in the Santa Fe Archdiocese now that the Ordinary has committed himself to the AA Programming. His plan must go through and we, like Abraham of old, would prefer to start again elsewhere and distributing, as their Ordinaries and Religious superiors may so direct, in our houses outside New Mexico those guest-priests who may be in need of or desire services under the Paraclets formula - the "old deal" rather than the "new".

REGIO PIO XII
DI DEL S. PARACLITO
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Finally such a solution while leaving the Archbishop of Santa Fe *suprema lex* in his jurisdiction offers peace and survival to the Paraclete Fathers, the majority of whom will welcome the opportunity to carry on in the program of and under the authority of the Founder.

May the Spirit of Peace implement our olive branch.

With all sentiments of esteem and respect, I remain
Your Eminence

Most cordially in Spiritu Christi,

(Very Rev.) Gerald M.C. Fitzgerald, S.P.
Superior General

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