

Benson, Gustavo

**3rd Party Privacy
Redactions**

PERSONAL RECORD OF REV. Gustavo Luis Benson
NAME IN FULL

Father's and Mother's (maiden) name Gustavo Benson Analia Sotomayor

Birth Date and Place 3/18/46 NOGALES, ARIZONA

Baptism Date and Place 1946 Sacred Heart Church Nogales, ARIZ.

Present Citizenship U.S.A.

If Naturalized, Date and Place

Elementary School—Dates and Places Hoffman Elementary 1-2; Rockwood Elementary 3-5;
Upper Grade School 6-8; ⁽¹⁹⁵²⁻⁴⁾ ~~Coleman Univ~~ ⁽¹⁹⁶⁴⁻⁵⁴⁾ (all in Calexico)

High School—Dates and Places Calexico Union High 1960-1964

College—Dates and Places UNIVERSITY OF San Francisco, San Francisco
1964-1968

Seminary—Dates and Places St. PATRICK'S Seminary 1968-1972

Post-Graduate Work—Dates and Places

Degrees—Dates and Places Bachelor's Degree 1968 Master's Degree 1972

Ordination Date and Place May 6, 1972 Calexico, Calif Our Lady of Guadalupe

Ordaining Prelate [REDACTED] + [REDACTED]

Ordained for what Diocese San Diego, Cal.

If incardinated in San Diego, Date May 8, 1972

If not incardinated, Date of Arrival

What foreign languages can you speak? Spanish, French, English

Name and address of nearest relative or friend [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

State where last will and testament is filed

(The Clergy are obliged to deposit at the Chancery the original or a copy of their last will. Dioc. Stat. No. 231)

List of ecclesiastical dignities and date of reception

State any special work or assignment and give dates Findlay Catechetical Project, Summer 1971,
Findlay, Ohio.

PERSONAL RECORD OF REV. Gustavo Luis Benson

NAME IN FULL

000002

In re FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

Have you contracted any funded debts such as bank loans?

If so, in what amount?

Do you owe any current accounts?

If so, in what amount?

List of Appointments since Ordination

| TOWN | PARISH | CAPACITY | DATES |
|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| SAN DIEGO <i>Encinitas</i> | O.L. of Sac.Heart <i>St. John's Church</i> | Deacon <i>Associate Pastor</i> | 9/1/71 6/ 1/72 6/ 1/72 - 7/1/75 |
| OCEANSIDE | Mary Star of Sea | Associate | 7/1/75 - 9/15/77 |
| SAN BERNARDINO | O.L. of Guadalupe | Secy. to Bishop Chavez, Auxiliary | 9/15/77 - 7/17/78 |
| COLTON | San Salvador | Bishop, Diocese of San Diego Pastor | 7/17/78 |
| | Appointed Episcopal | Vicar for Rialto Deanery | 9-1-81 (3 years) |
| Colton | Immaculate Conception (in-addition to San Salvador) | Pastor | 10-7-83 - 1-15-85 |
| Barstow | St. Joseph Church | Pastor | 1-15-85 - 3/87 |
| Mexico - 1987 to | | | |
| <i>Excommunicated Aug. 1, 1991</i> | | | |
| <i>Recommunicated Diocese of Tijuana Aug. 1, 1991</i> | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

November 19, 1991

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Post Office Box 120045
Chula Vista CA 91912

Dear Gus:

Thank you for your note dated November 8, 1991 and I was pleased to note that you are doing well. Thanks too for your comment on my recent pastoral statement regarding Hispanic Ministry in the diocese.

I noted according to your letter of November 8, 1991 that you have been accepted for medical insurance with Blue Cross. As of the date of this letter, we will remove your name from our diocesan insurance plan. I am glad that things have worked out for you in the Diocese of Tijuana.

Be assured of my prayers and Masses as you continue your ministry and work to God's people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Redacted Signature]

Most Reverend [Redacted Name]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

[Redacted Address]

Benson-TC00003



Parroquia de San José Obispo

AVE. JIMENEZ Y 6 DE NOVIEMBRE

TEL 6-12-45 ENSENADA, B. C.

November 8, 1997

Dear Bishop [REDACTED],

I hope you are well. I wanted to congratulate you on your forceful position regarding Spanish Masses and language requirements. It has been long time coming. I read it in the *Chalend Catholic*.

I also wanted to let you know that I have finally been accepted for medical insurance with Blue Cross. I truly appreciated the gestures of continuing me on the diocesan insurance until I could be covered. It was most thoughtful - Thank you.

I have been well. I am still in Ensenada and enjoying my work. I have met some seminarians from S. B. who have been studying Spanish.

My regards to my fellow priests and prayers for you.

Sincerely,

Justino Luis Benson

NOVIEMBRE 10 1997
12:40 PM

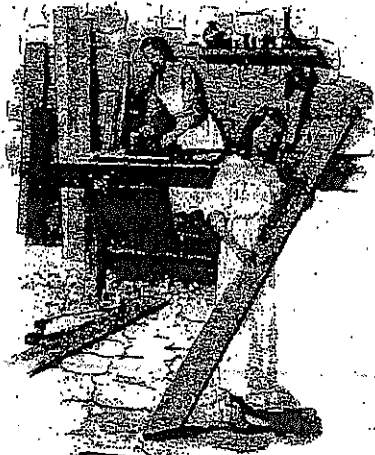
Benson-TC00004

Parroquia de San José Obrero

AVE. JIMENEZ Y 6 DE NOVIEMBRE

TEL 6-12-45 ENSENADA, B. C.

Aug 30, 1991



Dear [redacted]

Congratulations on your new responsibility.

Thanks for your letter and for allowing me a

"grace" period regarding health insurance. I have made several applications, was turned down by Kaiser and am waiting for news from another. As soon as it get accepted it will notify you.

Please give my regards to Bishop [redacted]

Best wishes for you. Sincerely,

Gustavo Benson

RECEIVED
SEP 06 1991

THE DIOCESE OF
SAN BERNARDINO

Gustavo Benson

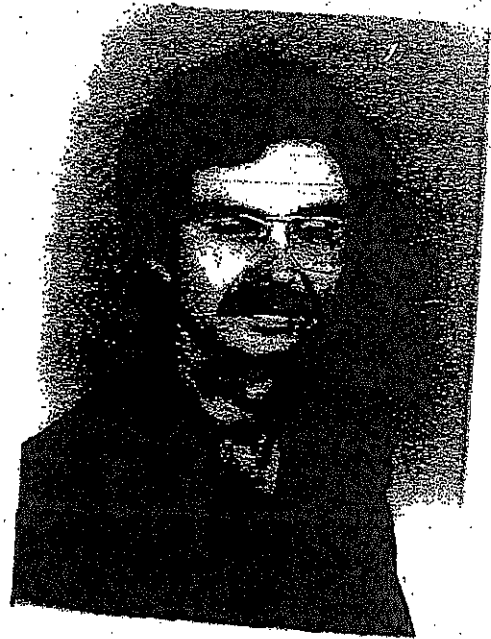
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Tijuana

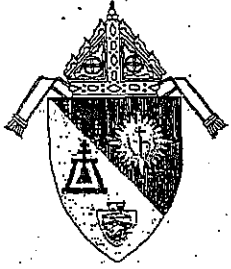
[redacted]



GUSTAVO BENSON

1991

Benson-TC00005



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

August 9, 1991

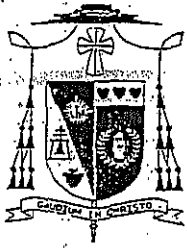
TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: Reverend [REDACTED]
RE: Reverend Gustavo Benson - Cancellation of Medical Insurance

As of August 1, 1991, we have received the official letter of Father Benson's incardination as a priest of the Diocese of Tijuana.

Monsignor [REDACTED] said to notify you so that Father Benson's name be removed from our medical plan. Do we need to officially notify Father Benson?

[REDACTED]
cc: Deacon [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00006



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

November 26, 1990

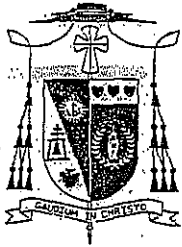
TO: Monsignor [REDACTED]
FROM: Bishop [REDACTED]
RE: Update on Priests

Have we heard anything from Epler Company regarding a pension for Father Gus Benson? From what was said at the last Presbyteral Council, they seemed to indicate that a pension could be transferred.

Where do we stand with [REDACTED]? I have not heard anything recently on this matter of laicization.

GAUDIUM IN CHRISTO
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00038



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

November 26, 1990

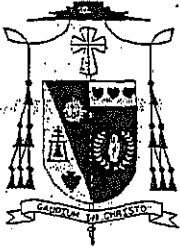
TO: Monsignor [REDACTED]
FROM: Bishop [REDACTED]
RE: Update on Priests

Have we heard anything from Epler Company regarding a pension for Father Gus Benson? From what was said at the last Presbyteral Council, they seemed to indicate that a pension could be transferred.

Where do we stand with [REDACTED]? I have not heard anything recently on this matter of laicization.

GAUDIUM IN CHRISTO
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00039



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

October 4, 1989

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Post Office Box 120045
Chula Vista CA 92012

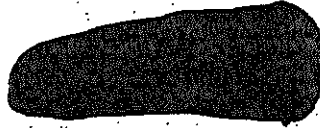
Dear Gus:

Many thanks for your note of September 16, 1989 and the enclosed article, which was most interesting.

I was pleased we had a chance to get-together and learn of your Pastoral Ministry and, also, meet with some of your people.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Benson-TC00040

Sept. 16

Dear Bishop -

Thanks for your visit and concern for me. As you can see I am doing well. Please thank [redacted] for the medical reimbursement. It came in very handy as I had had to pay income taxes.

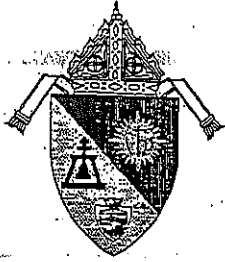
If you should know of any priest wanting to sell his car, if it is in good condition, and at a good price, please let him drop me a line.

Enclosed is a clipping from the Jackson newspaper. Thought you'd enjoy it.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

Justin Leo Benson



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

May 10, 1989

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Parroquia de San Jose Obrero
Col. Independencia, C.P. 22840
Ensenada, B.C., Mexico 92011

Dear Gus,

The Bishop has been trying to reach you, by way of your parents, regarding Father [REDACTED]. He would like you to check on Father [REDACTED].

These are the directions he gave me in a recent letter:

[REDACTED]

Gus, I hope everything is going well with you. If I get to Ensenada during the summer, I will drop by and maybe we can have lunch together.

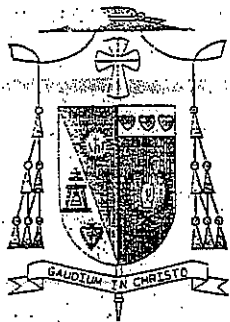
Fraternally yours,

[REDACTED]

Reverend [REDACTED]
Vicar General

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00042



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 26, 1989

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Servant General
Servants of the Paraclete
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

My sincere thanks and appreciation for your letter of January 16, 1989 concerning Father Gustavo Benson.

I particularly appreciated the report which will hopefully quell any rumors that may have been generated regarding Father Benson not being faithful to his commitment.

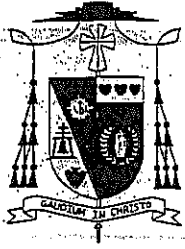
Again, many thanks for your assistance with this matter, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00043

000043



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

June 12, 1989

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Post Office Box 120045
Chula Vista, California 92012

Dear Father Gus:

Many thanks for your recent letter and for stopping to see [REDACTED]. I appreciate your keeping an eye on him, as we want to provide whatever is necessary for his health and well being.

It was also good to hear from you and to know you are keeping up with your on-going care program. It is comforting to know that things are going well for you, and that you are planning to get away for a little vacation in August.

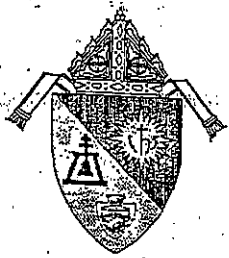
During the week you were gone after Easter, I spent some time looking over the institute where I would like to further my Spanish. I plan to take four weeks this summer - one during the week of July 10-14, and again from August 14 to September 1. This is all tentative, of course, since Monsignor [REDACTED] is out of the office during the months of June and July, due to his course in Canon Law at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Hoping to have the opportunity to see you this summer and with prayers and best wishes, I am

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00045



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

March 8, 1988

Reverend [REDACTED]
Executive Director
United States Catholic Mission Assoc.
1233 Lawrence Street, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20017-4040

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

In answer to your letter of March 1988 regarding personnel from the Diocese of San Bernardino serving in the missions.

The only priest serving in the mission field from the Diocese of San Bernardino is Father Gustavo Benson, whose address is: [REDACTED]

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Vicar General
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00046



UNITED STATES CATHOLIC MISSION ASSOCIATION

1233 LAWRENCE STREET, N.E. - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017-4040

Telephone (202) 832-3112

March 1988

TO: DIOCESAN MISSION OFFICES, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES, LAY ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: MISSIONARY PERSONNEL INVENTORY UPDATING

We have not yet heard from you in response to our letter of January 1988 requesting your cooperation in updating our inventory of U.S. missionaries serving abroad. Enclosed in the January letter were computer printouts giving names and addresses of personnel in your congregation/province/diocese/organization who are recorded in our files as serving in overseas missions, with a request that the printout be reviewed, updated, and returned to the Mission Association office.

This is the only way we have of gathering up-to-date information on U.S. missionary personnel serving abroad, not only for publication in our annual Mission Handbook, but in supplying current data for many other uses, such as to the Official Catholic Directory, the Catholic Almanac, and to the respective (Arch)dioceses for use in connection with Mission Sunday, as well as other mission activities.

While the response to our January request has been overwhelming, there are still a few of you out there from whom we have not heard, and we do wish to close the books this year with the knowledge that we have done justice to every diocese/agency/congregation and province in the mission field. We therefore respectfully urge you to send us your updating as soon as possible.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Rev. [REDACTED]
Executive Director

N.B. Printouts for review by Diocesan Mission Offices pertain only to secular priests and lay persons sponsored by the diocese.

PLEASE NOTE:

We are moving to a new location. As of April 1, 1988, our address will be:

U.S. Catholic Mission Association
3029 Fourth Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017

Benson-TC00047

SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMUNITY

November 24, 1987

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, Ca. 92405

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

I have heard of the possibility that Father [REDACTED] will be assigned full-time as Vicar for Hispanics. I am inquiring about the position of pastor for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Bernardino when it becomes vacant in July, 1987. As you will find in my personnel file, I have always expressed an interest in that parish since I served there under Bishop [REDACTED] in 1977. I have always loved that parish and seen the possibilities that this parish could develop. I recognize that by July, 1987 I would have been at St. Joseph's for only two and one-half years. I am not unhappy at this parish, as it has been a very positive location at this time of my life. Yet a Hispanic pastor is not required at Barstow, and finding a replacement for me here would be easier for the Personnel Board than to find a Hispanic pastor who would be full-time and pastoral experience for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

I request that you consider me for this position when and if it becomes vacant. If I am considered for Our Lady of Guadalupe I request that you also consider giving me a new team of priests to help me develop Our Lady of Guadalupe into a model Hispanic parish.

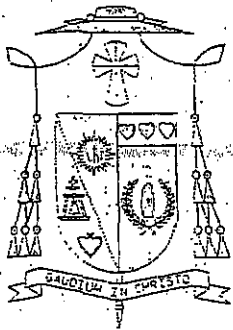
Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson

c.c.: Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00048



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

August 24, 1986

Reverend Gustavo Benson
St. Joseph Church
505 E. Mountain View
Barstow, California 92311

Dear Father Benson:

After consultation with the members of the Hispanic Vicariate, I am happy to appoint you as one of the Priests' Representatives on the Diocesan Hispanic Ministry Board. This appointment is effective immediately.

At your first meeting, I ask the members of the board to stagger the terms of office for all members for a one, two to three year maximum period. This staggering of the terms of office can be done by the drawing of lots, so that the total committee will be renewed every three years.

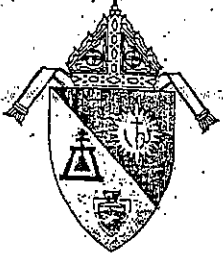
I am grateful that you have accepted this position of serving the Diocese in this very crucial capacity and am asking [REDACTED], Vicar for Hispanic Affairs, to work with you as the board who will handle all matters relating to our Hispanic Community in the Diocese. I look forward to meeting with you and receiving your advice and counsel on how to best minister with our brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00049



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General, Chancellor

Diocese of San Bernardino

November 30, 1984

MEMO TO: ALL PRIESTS
FROM: FATHER [redacted]
RE: ASSIGNMENT PREFERENCE FORM

In planning for next year's assignments the Diocesan Personnel Board needs the help of each priest in reaching decisions. To help us, we ask that you please complete this form and return it to me by December 13, 1984.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. I have been in my present assignment since 1979
2. I wish to be considered for a new assignment Yes No

3. I wish to have the following taken into consideration:

a) My areas and places in order of preference:

- City parish Mountain Desert Any of above
Vicariates: Hemet Ontario Palm Springs Redlands Rialto Riverside San Bernardino Victorville

b) List several parishes or ministries that you would be interested in accepting, if they were open:

St. Joseph's - Baistow
Our Lady of Guadalupe - San Bernardino
Our Lady of Guadalupe - Ontario
St. Edwards - Corona

Benson-TC00050

c) Type of pastoral assignment I would prefer:

| <u>Parish</u> | | <u>Institutional</u> |
|---------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1) Large (3+) | <u>X</u> | 1) Prison _____ |
| 2) Small - 1 priest | <u>X</u> | 2) Hospital _____ |
| 2 priest | <u>X</u> | 3) High School _____ |
| 3) Ethnic | <u>X</u> | a) Admin. _____ |
| 4) Mission | _____ | b) Teacher _____ |
| | | c) Campus Min. _____ |

OTHER:

- 1) Catholic Charities _____
- 2) Catechetics _____
- 3) Charismatics _____
- 4) Marriage Encounter _____
- 5) Cursillo X
- 6) Vocations _____
- 7) Priest to Priest _____
- 8) Hispanic Ministry X
- 9) Ministry to
 Alcoholic Priests _____
- 10) Marriage Tribunal _____

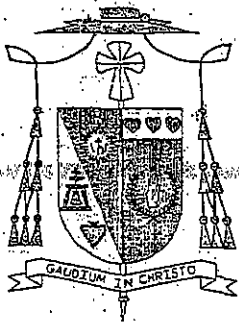
d) Position I would prefer:

- 1) Pastor X
- 2) Pastoral Assignment without administration X
- 3) Associate Pastor X
- 4) Team Ministry X
- 5) Administrative Associate Pastor _____

e) Comments

I would be open for re-assignment by June, 1985 if my efforts at San Salvador - Immaculate Conception do not have more results. I have committed myself to six more months of effort, otherwise I will recommend separate pastors for each parish, sharing a common residence and hopefully co-operating in programs.

Fr. Gustavo Benson



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

February 28, 1986

Reverend Gustavo Luis Benson
Saint Joseph's Parish Community
505 East Mountain View
Barstow, California 92311

Dear Father Gus:

I appreciated receiving your letter of February 15, 1986, regarding some of your dreams and hopes.

Let me just make a few comments and then, hopefully at some future date, we can get together and discuss this matter in greater detail.

In regard to your request to work in the missions, I have made a commitment that we would try to supply one priest for missionary work in the St. James Society. Father [REDACTED], of course, is presently filling this position and will not be returning to the diocese for three years. At that time, I would be happy to consider your request. I believe this is not only a great experience for us, as priests, and a service to the poor, but upon the return to the diocese, it serves as a tremendous service to our own people.

We could certainly discuss your ideas in the area of further studies, as we take into consideration the various priests who we will be sending to school in the future. This year, Father [REDACTED] will be studying [REDACTED] and Father [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. Also, several men are attending the Renewal Program at Menlo Park.

I appreciate your outlining various parishes that you might be interested in. Since the Presbyteral Council changed the term of office to six years, with an option of an additional six years, Father [REDACTED] would still have several years at Our Lady of Guadalupe in San

Reverend Gustavo Luis Benson
February 28, 1986

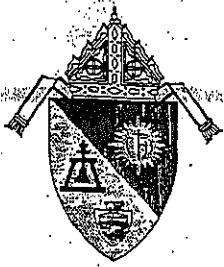
Bernardino, and Father [REDACTED], of course, has just begun his ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Ontario. This does not mean that things cannot suddenly change, but at present, this is the situation.

I would also like to see some continuity for several years at Barstow. They have gone through a very difficult time and I think you are giving them the leadership and stability that is needed. I sincerely appreciate your ministry there as the people of Barstow have been very dedicated and faithful to the church.

These are just a few of my thoughts. As I mentioned above, I would really like to talk with you in greater detail. Be assured of my willingness to work with you, and with prayers and best wishes, I am

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General, Chancellor

Diocese of San Bernardino

May 15, 1986

Reverend Gustavo Benson
St. Joseph Church
505 E. Mt. View Avenue
Barstow, California 92311

Dear Father Benson:

Father [REDACTED] has asked me to attend to your request of May 1, 1986, regarding diocesan funds for a course you hope to take in July.

I regret that the Diocese does not have funds budgeted for summer programs such as this. The funds we budget for are Sabbaticals, such as at Vatican II at Menlo Park and Santa Barbara.

I am sorry that I can not help you with this program.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00054

SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMUNITY

May 1, 1986

Rev. [REDACTED]
Director of Seminarians
1450 North D St.
San Bernardino, Ca. 92405

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

You may have noticed that I cancelled out of our annual priests' retreat. Father [REDACTED] also had to go and we could not find someone to tend the parish. I am enclosing a brochure of a month's internship I will be taking in July. I feel this could possibly comply as a retreat as well as part of on-going education. I am also enclosing a letter regarding the R.C.I.A. Revisited Institute (one week) in Phoenix. I would also like some credit for my on-going education. The parish will cover part of my expenses for both the Institute and the Internship programs from the Priest's On-going Education, but I am wondering if the diocese would supplement part of the remaining costs for the Internship. The tuition and room and board for the Internship will be \$1,000.00. This will be quite a drain for me. Any assistance would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Luis Benson

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

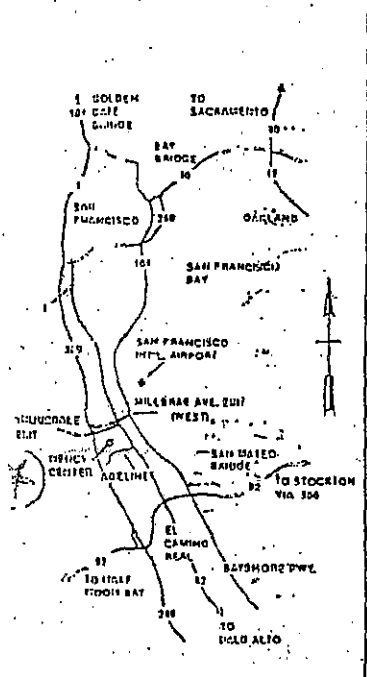
Area Code _____ Phone _____

Tuition \$440.
 Residence and meals \$640.
 (Rates for non-residents available upon request)

Mercy Center is located five miles south of the San Francisco International Airport. If you would like to receive an application for the Internship Program, complete the following form and return it immediately to:

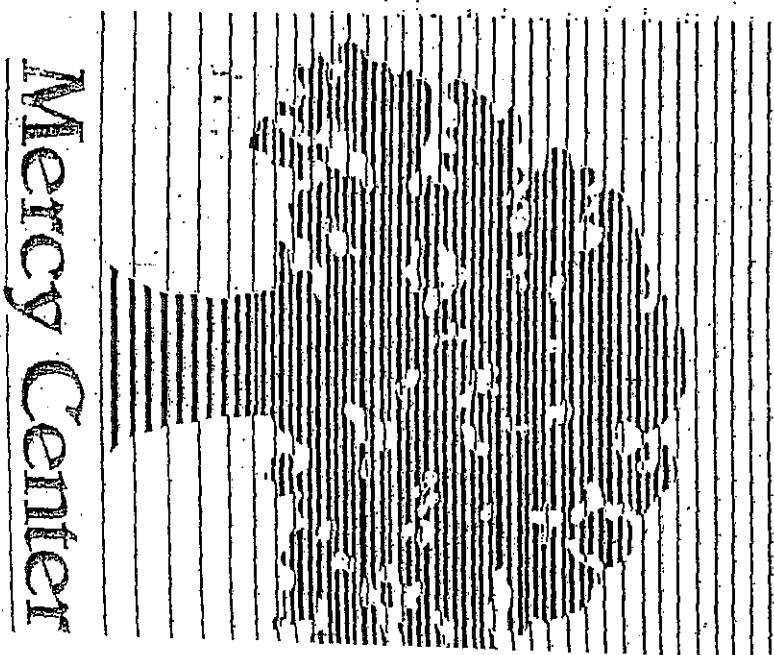
Sister [REDACTED]
 Mercy Center
 2300 Adeline Drive
 Burlingame, CA 94010

Limited to 40 participants



MERCY CENTER
 2300 Adeline Drive
 Burlingame, CA. 94010
 (415) 340-7474

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Burlingame, CA
 Permit No. 156



An Internship Program
 in the
 Art of Spiritual Directorship
 July 1 — 29, 1986

Benson-TC00056

An Internship Program in the _____ _____ Art of Spiritual Direction

This four-week program, conducted in a contemplative atmosphere, is intended for:

- those who are discerning in themselves a call to the ministry of spiritual direction, a call which normally manifests itself through people spontaneously turning to you for this kind of help.
- those who wish to refine their skills under competent supervision. This program is suitable for both experienced directors and for those who are just beginning this ministry.

The program will include both instructional lectures and a variety of practical experiences in different kinds of small groups. The lectures will deal with the nature of spiritual direction, the process of graced human development rooted in a theology of spirituality, and an understanding of the wholeness of the human person. There will be a close coordination of theory and practice, with an emphasis on guided practice.

Participation in the program will assume a willingness to engage in a variety of group processes and to be open to self-disclosure in small practice groups.

Since effectiveness as a spiritual director is closely linked to one's own personal growth, each participant will have the opportunity for receiving spiritual direction during the course of the program. Previous experience of receiving spiritual direction is highly desirable.

Each participant will be given a staff person as a personal supervisor and will have the opportunity of giving spiritual direction under supervision during a five-day "Home Retreat" in which retreatants come daily to Mercy Center.

Staff

Full-time resident faculty: Each faculty member is an experienced director who has worked with a variety of people: lay, clergy, religious.

MARGUERITE BUCHANAN, S.M., recently completed the year-long Program for the Development of Spiritual Directors at the Center for Religious Development, Cambridge, Massachusetts. She holds a M.T.S. from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and an M.A. in Educational Administration from San Francisco State University. She is presently a retreat and spiritual director on the staff at Mercy Center, Burlingame. She is a spiritual director for the School of Applied Theology at Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, California.

HELEN BUNJE, M.A., Applied Theology, Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, lay minister and Coordinator of the Training in Pastoral Care at Stanford University Hospital. She is lecturer at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park where she teaches a class in Pastoral Ministry. She is the mother of five children and the wife of a permanent deacon.

BARBARA MADISON, B.A. in Religious Studies from San Jose State University; M.A. in Counseling from Santa Clara University. She is presently a Marriage and Family Counseling intern. She has had extensive experience as a spiritual director and retreat leader. Barbara is married and the mother of five children.

JOHN MOSSI, S.J., Doctor of Ministry in the Spirituality of Pastoral Care of the Sick, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Editor of *Bread Blessed and Broken* and *Modern Liturgical Handbook*. Pastoral experience at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Santa Barbara.

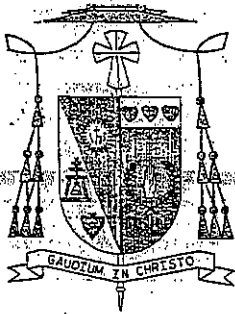
Presently on the staff of Jesuit Retreat House, Los Altos, California as a retreat and spiritual director and involved in women's programming.

JOHN MOSTYN, C.F.C., M.A. Religious Education, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; M.A., Spiritual Direction, Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Presently on staff of Westcourt Home of Prayer, New Rochelle, N.Y.; adjunct professor Iona College, Post-graduate Certificate Program in Spiritual Direction; staff member Center for Spirituality and Justice, Bronx, N.Y.; supervisor of the Pastoral Care Staff, Calvary Hospital, Bronx, New York; worked with Maryknoll Center for Mission Studies in a program for Cross-cultural Ministries.

DANIEL O'HANLON, S.J., PhD, Theology, Gregorian University in Rome, Professor of Fundamental and Systematic Theology at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, former visiting Professor of Religion at Stanford University, student in Asia Hindu and Buddhist forms of prayer and humanistic and transpersonal psychology.

MARY ANN SCOFIELD, S.M., PhD, Theology, M.A., Spiritual Direction, Weston School of Theology, on the staff at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, in the area of spiritual theology and on the spiritual direction staff of the Jesuit School of Theology's Institute of Spirituality and Worship program in Berkeley. Currently President of the Western Association of Spiritual Directors.

SUZANNE TOOLAN, S.M., Composer and Director of Mercy Center, coordinator of music and liturgy for the Internship Program.



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

February 28, 1986

TO: Father [REDACTED]
FROM: Bishop [REDACTED]
RE: Father Gustavo Benson

Please find attached a letter from Father Gustavo Benson, that should be brought to the attention of the Personnel Board, in which he outlines his areas of interest for future consideration.

Benson-TC00058

1450 North "D" Street, San Bernardino, California 92405 (714) 889-8351

000058

SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMUNITY

February 15, 1986

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]

Belated St. Valentine's Day! I would like to take this time to thank you for having been a good bishop and pastor for me all these years. It has been a long time since I have told you that I appreciate all your efforts. At times I have complained about some of your decisions, but I also confess that you are fair and caring. I have you to thank for the fact that my priestly ministry has been blessed with challenging and loving parish communities. Even Immaculate Conception Church in Colton, while seeming to have been a disasterous experience, was at least of my own choosing. Your constant support was very much appreciated. I am now very happy here at St. Joseph's in Barstow as the people are loving, supportive, and responsive.

As I approach my fortieth birthday I sense a need to evaluate my life, my dreams and my hopes. Not to worry, I am not planning to leave the priesthood! What I am examining is what I would like to do with the next phase of my life, hopefully 5-10 productive years before I start to slow down. Here are some challenges and dreams I would like you to know and to keep in mind as assignments and positions are vacated in the future. I am asking your discernment and advise as my pastor.

1. All of my life I have been attracted to the missions. At one time I even applied to the Maryknollers. Now I am considering the Saint James Society or Associate Maryknollers' Program as an opportunity not just to serve in Latin America, but also to witness to our diocese. I realize that Father [REDACTED] should be back in about three years, so I am requesting you consider me for the next opening. I would not like to wait too long to use to best advantage my age and health.

2. I will have been a priest for fourteen years and have not had an opportunity for further studies. I had excellent grade in college (G.P.A. 3.2) and seminary. Although I am not

Benson-TC00059

attracted to the academic life, I would like to go for studies for six months or one year. I have even considered a Masters in Scripture. At least I would like to go for some updating in theology.

3. Finally, there are two parishes that attract me and challenge me. I have always loved and desired to be pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe at San Bernardino. I consider it to be a parish that could become the center for Hispanic Catholics. It have the potential for great growth, but needs a full-time pastor to begin to meet its potential. Another parish which I would consider is Our Lady of Guadalupe at Ontario, since it is a poor, small, Hispanic parish. I assume that I could apply in three or four years if the Latin America assignment does not come through.

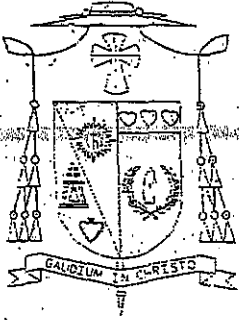
Please assist me in my discernment process as I truly want to do God's will and be of best service to you in your work in the Diocese. I welcome your advise and comments.

Again, thank you for all your kindnesses towards me.

Sincerely,

Justavo Luis Benson

Benson-TC00060



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

December 9, 1985

Reverend Gustavo Benson
St. Joseph Church
505 East Mountain View
Barstow, California 92311

Dear Father Benson:

I am very pleased to appoint you Pastor of St. Philip Neri Catholic Community, Lenwood, effective November 17, 1985.

In conformity with Canon 517 # 2, I am naming Mrs. [REDACTED] as Pastoral Associate and Business Manager of this community. She will thus "participate in the exercise of the pastoral care of this parish" and will be entrusted with its day-to-day pastoral ministry and business needs. She will be in consultation with you on an ongoing basis and you will supervise the pastoral care being given there. You are endowed with full pastoral powers and faculties to conduct the affairs of the parish, as prescribed by Canon 530, 532. Mrs. [REDACTED] will ensure that a priest is available to celebrate the Eucharist and administer the other Sacraments, as well as ensuring that a priest is available in emergency situations.

This decision ensures continued pastoral care for the St. Philip Neri Community and recognizes the role we all must play in pastoral ministry as we endeavor to be shaped by Gospel values and concerns.

I sincerely appreciate your assuming this position in addition to an already busy Pastorate at St. Joseph Parish in Barstow.

With prayers and best wishes for a very blessed and holy Christmas Season, I am

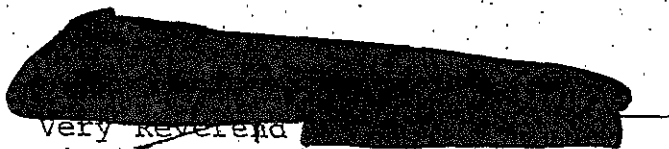
Benson-TC00061

Reverend Gustavo Benson
December 9, 1985

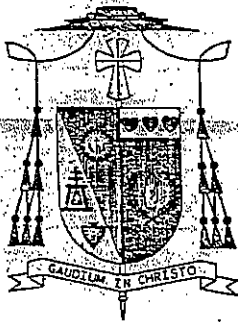
Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino



Very Reverend
Vicar General/Chancellor



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

October 9, 1985

Reverend Gustavo Luis Benson
Saint Joseph's Parish Community
505 East Mountain View
Barstow, California 92311

Dear Father Benson:

This is to acknowledge your letter of October 3, 1985 regarding your recommendation of Ms. [REDACTED] who is applying for the position of Administrator/Pastoral Associate for St. Philip Neri in Lenwood.

We are still in the process of evaluating this situation and we will certainly keep your recommendation in mind.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00063

SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMUNITY

October 3, 1985

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, Ca 92405

Dear Bishop [REDACTED],

This week you will receive a letter from Ms. [REDACTED] applying as administrator/pastoral associate for St. Philip Neri in Lenwood. I believe this is an excellent option for you to consider as she is well experienced, a resident of Lenwood, and a good Catholic leader. You can read about her qualifications in her application. Considering the scarce income at Lenwood, as well as the debt to be paid, a full-time priest or religious woman might be too heavy a financial burden for the parish. You will still have to deal with the supply problem, but at least we could assure a continuity of pastoral approach and close co-operation with St. Joseph's.

I would recommend you seriously consider Ms. [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Gustavo Luis Benson
Pastor

Benson-TC00064



SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMUNITY

August 20, 1985

Priest's Personnel Board
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Dear Members of the Personnel Board,

As pastor of St. Joseph's in Barstow I am concerned about the future assignment of a priest at St. Phillip Neri in Lenwood. Father [REDACTED]'s pastoral approach was one that was very open towards working jointly with St. Joseph's programs regarding sacramental preparations (Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, First Eucharist) census, parish information booklet, youth program, supply, etc. I would like to ask that you consider sending a priest who would desire to continue such cooperation between the two parishes.

After being at Barstow for almost a year I have wondered why Lenwood was ever started as a separate parish, being that to this day many of its parishioners continue to have close ties with St. Joseph's Church and distance is minimal between both parishes. As a long term plan I wonder if any consideration was made to the future scarcity of priests in our diocese and whether a deacon/administrator from St. Joseph's might not be more appropriate in the long run. I suggest that in placing a priest at Lenwood you consider this continuous decline of priestly vocations, the obvious priority of placing priests in booming population areas. (West End, Sunnymead, Riverside). Possibly the priest assigned to Lenwood could prepare that parish for eventual re-merging with St. Joseph's and that a deacon candidate such as Mr. [REDACTED] be considered for Lenwood as administrator. I see the same possibility for Newberry Springs.

With the continuous demand for Spanish-speaking priests in our diocese, I also feel that the placement of two Hispanic priests in Barstow should be re-considered as being redundant. If Father [REDACTED] should be transferred to an area of greater Hispanic population, I would like to request Deacon [REDACTED] be assigned to Barstow upon his priestly

Benson-TC00065

assignment in January. He would have the experience of working in a bilingual parish, receive good pastoral supervision from myself, and begin with a parish that is starting a pastoral plan.

Thank you for your considerations for the High Desert, especially St. Joseph's, Barstow, which in it's past has been one of the leading parishes in pastoral innovations.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Reverend Gustavo Luis Benson
Pastor

cc: Father [REDACTED], St. Catherine, Rialto
Deacon [REDACTED], San Bernardino

[REDACTED]

catholic trends

a publication of the national catholic news service

Vol. 15: No. 26

July 27, 1985

Dear Reader:

Bishop Roger M. Mahony has been named archbishop of Los Angeles. Pope John Paul II accepted the resignation of Cardinal Timothy Manning of Los Angeles and named Mahony, bishop of Stockton, Calif., to succeed him. Mahony, a native Californian, is known as a social activist and for his work in farm-related issues. At 49 he becomes the nation's youngest archbishop and head of the most populous diocese in the United States, with 2.5 million Catholics.

"There is a farm crisis. There is real stress," said James Plaxico, professor of agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University. In an interview with the Sooner Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Plaxico quoted a recent survey which found that one in every five farmers and ranchers questioned was in some stage of financial distress. Plaxico said a number of unforeseen factors have led to the farm crisis, including the emergence of a "one-economy world." He added that U.S. domestic farm programs are not as effective as they used to be and that the United States is not doing a good enough job negotiating international trade agreements.

Jewish-Catholic relations. Eleven Catholic and Jewish leaders issued a joint statement July 23 calling for continued dialogue in the aftermath of a Vatican document issued in June that was sharply criticized by some Jewish groups. The Vatican document, "Notes on the Correct Way to Present Jews and Judaism in Preaching and Catechesis in the Roman Catholic Church," was labeled "totally inadequate" in its treatment of the Holocaust and the modern state of Israel by the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations. The July 23 statement said the earlier document should be read in the context of previous papal and Vatican pronouncements. It also said that progress in Catholic-Jewish relations in the past 20 years has shown that the two religions "can face genuine differences and still retain a spirit of trust and mutual respect." Signers of the July 23 statement included Dr. Eugene Fisher, executive secretary of the U.S. Bishops' Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations.

How are U.S. bishops responding to the declining number of priests? Many are walking a thin line, trying to balance concern for the average Catholic in the pew with concern for the health of remaining priests.

The worst way to deal with the shortage is to close parishes, said Bishop Cletus F. O'Donnell of Madison, Wis. "The emotional trauma (of closing parishes) is very great," O'Donnell said. "We've been trying to avoid that.... People have been baptized, married and buried there. (They) have become attached to these places." In June, three parishes in the Madison Diocese were reduced to mission status and are served by priests from neighboring parishes.

O'Donnell recently issued planning guidelines for the eventual redistribution of priests in his diocese. The guidelines state that, in future planning, efforts will be made to "maintain and enhance all parishes and other ministries," "support the spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of the priests," "employ principles of consultation" and "evaluate existing parishes in light of schools, school districts, shopping areas, population trends, median family age, etc."

Parishes could be kept open with a reduction of services, including fewer Masses, O'Donnell said. "This crisis demands a new way of looking at priests' work," said the bishop. He called for increased participation of the laity, who "share in the priesthood."

In the Nashville, Tenn., Diocese, priests routinely saying three Masses each Sunday will have to limit themselves to two, Bishop James D. Niedergeses said in a decree. The bishop ordered his priests not to say more than one Mass on weekdays and two Masses on Saturdays, Sundays and holy days. Because of the decree, parishes with only one priest but three Sunday Masses must drop one of the Masses.

"It promotes more responsible use of our priests," said Father J. Patrick Connor, vicar general of the diocese. "We had been trying to make up for our shortage of priests by stretching them more thinly. We've been trying to act as if it's business as usual without realistically facing the question."

TAKE NOTE:

Increasing numbers of college students are enrolling in optional religion courses all over the United States, according to two New York professors. "The chief religions of the West, Christianity and Judaism, are the focus of the new religious revival," said James B. Wiggins, chairman of the religion department at Syracuse University and executive director of the American Academy of Religion. James Cuse, professor of religious studies at New York University, said there were five students enrolled in religion courses when he came to the university 18 years ago. Today there are 60. "It would not be off the mark to say that young American college students are in the midst of a powerful religious revival that may very well have lifelong meaning for them," Cuse said.

A second draft of a proposed pastoral letter on campus ministry will be ready for the U.S. bishops to discuss in November, but the vote on the letter has been postponed until November 1986. When the first draft of the pastoral was discussed at the bishops' June meeting in Collegeville, Minn., a number of bishops asked for substantial revisions. Bishop William B. Friend of Alexandria-Shreveport, La., chairman of the drafting committee, said the letter is being revised to present "a better integration of the concerns of campus ministers and education with the church's teaching on ministry."

Abortion and the law. The U.S. Justice Department July 15 asked the Supreme Court to reverse its landmark 1973 ruling legalizing abortion. In a friend-of-the-court brief filed in connection with cases from Pennsylvania and Illinois, the Reagan administration argued that the Constitution itself contains no language specifically approving abortion rights. While praising the administration's action, most pro-life groups said they did not think it would lead the Supreme Court to scrap its *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

Newspapers running the "Doodlesbury" comic strip may pick up the series which lampooned the anti-abortion film "The Silent Scream," Universal Press Syndicate announced. In May, cartoonist Garry Trudeau agreed to withdraw the series due to the "exceptionally controversial" nature of the subject. The strips were later published in The New Republic magazine. But after several "Doodlesbury" subscribers expressed an interest in running the strips, UPS agreed to release them as "extras," said a UPS spokesman.

A new peace and justice course for junior high school students has been developed by

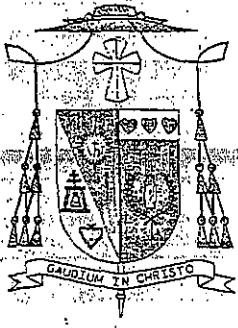
In other developments related to the priest shortage:

—Bishop Timothy J. Harrington of Worcester, Mass., this spring followed the lead of Hartford, Conn., and Providence, R.I., asking parishes to study Sunday Mass schedules to see if the number of Masses could be reduced. One key reason he gave was to "lighten the stress on priests."

—In the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, more than one of four parishes is without a resident pastor. Bishop Maurice Dingman recently announced formation of a new diocesan office for lay ministry.

—Samuel Taub, a permanent deacon who is director of the U.S. bishops' national office on the permanent diaconate, said 41 permanent deacons now administer U.S. parishes or missions which have no resident priest.

A statistical report on the number of priests worldwide was issued by the Vatican in July. It showed that the number of priests in the world fell by more than 6 percent in the decade 1973—1983. The analysis accompanying the report said that the sharpest reduction in priests was in Europe while North America experienced a modest drop. The number of clergy increased in Africa, South America and Asia. The report showed an increase in the number of ordinations to the priesthood since the low point of the decade was reached in 1979, although figures for 1983 were still less than those for 1973. Likewise, seminary enrollment showed an increase. But the report cited a shift in the percentage of seminarians coming from various parts of the world. In 1983, 10.7 percent of seminarians came from Africa, compared with 6.7 percent in 1973. The percentage from North America dropped to 10.9 percent from 19.2 percent. In Europe, the percentage dropped to 34.4 percent from 41.1 percent.



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

August 20, 1985

TO: ~~Father Gustavo Benson~~

FROM: Bishop [REDACTED]

RE: Eucharistic Bread Recipe

Mr. [REDACTED], a seminarian studying for a Religious Community in Rome submitted to me a recipe for Eucharistic Bread that he said had been used at St. Joseph's in Barstow. This might be something you inherited when you took over the parish, but if it is true that this formula was being used, it is quite contrary to Diocesan Policy. Father [REDACTED] can provide a recipe that is acceptable using just whole wheat flour and water.

I am aware of the [REDACTED] family and their difficulty. I know that Father [REDACTED] tried to work with them and found it impossible. In spite of the difficulty, I am hopeful that someone might be able to reach them and perhaps bring them back into the mainline of the church and Vatican II.

GAUDIUM IN CHRISTO

Benson-TC00069

EUCCHARISTIC BREAD RECIPE

2 cups whole wheat flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt

1- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. white sugar

6 tbsp. brown sugar (soft & not packed)

$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. baking soda

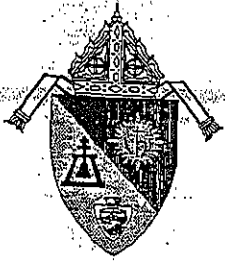
Mix above ingredients together. Cut 2 level tbsp. of Wesson oil into dry mix. Gradually add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup boiling water and 1 egg to the above mixture until it rolls itself into a ball.

Put in mixer and mix for 5 minutes at medium speed.

Pat out into 6 patties, each $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick and bake on greased cookie sheet at 425° for 10 minutes.

(taken from

Religious Educator's Handbook
Diocese of Madison, Wis.



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General, Chancellor

Diocese of San Bernardino

August 1, 1985

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter to Bishop [REDACTED]. I would like your permission to bring it to Father Gustavo Benson's attention. Only by open communication can resolution be achieved.

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Very Reverend
Vicar General, Chancellor
[REDACTED]

cc: Reverend Gustavo Benson

Benson-TC00071

July 15, 1900



To whom it may concern:

I sincerely regret having to write to you, but I've given it many weeks of my attention. First I want to cancel the remainder of my Stewardship pledge. For years I have heard about the ministerial councils in St. Joseph and believe the parish is too active in all these services, especially since they have taken over the rectory and the priests have to rent apartments. The people of the parish didn't build the rectory for that purpose. Most of this started when Father [redacted] was here and in the end, the result was a failure. Now that Father Benson is here, it is becoming more outreaching, especially with the Spanish people.

I know they have a charismatic mass here once a month, so I object to being subjected to this charismatization at a regular mass. There are many of us who feel this - many aren't writing to you to give their opinion but are most disturbed. Maybe Father Benson could notify us in advance in the church bulletin when he will be saying these masses so that we can avoid that particular kind of mass or go elsewhere.

We know that Vatican Council II update


the church with more participation in the mass — I can go along with that, but no charisma! I do not go to church to be entertained and I was taught that religion is a serious obligation. To cater to the younger people has not proven successful. Statistics show that they are the ones who go to mass most infrequently (about 40% or more) and they probably donate the least. There have been times when the music in church was deafening, and with all the clapping and waving of arms, that one thought you were at a rock concert.

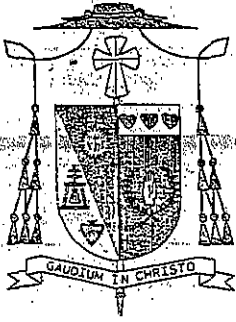
I think Pope John made a grave mistake in trying to change the Roman Catholic Church. It surely has brought about more criticism from members and non-members alike.

Father Benson has made a habit of roping off pews in the back of the church. He says that those of us sitting in the back rows are like being in a cocoon and that it is a sin. In all my 12 years of catholic education, I had never been taught that to sit in the back of the church was a sin. Sometimes there are reasons for preferring a back seat, unbeknown to Father Benson. I think that using this type of persuasion is very immature.

One good thought in closing - we now have the crucifix up in the back of the altar again, after on and off again of various banners displayed in its place. The display of the crucifix is a good sign of not being in another denominational church. We're all hoping the crucifix is up there permanently now.

Don't ask me to speak to Father Benson about all of this - I have a feeling it wouldn't do any good, and since St. Joseph's is in your diocese, he is under your direction.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) 



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

April 12, 1985

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Saint Joseph's Parish Community
505 East Mountain View
Barstow, California 92311

Dear Father Benson:

This is to acknowledge your letter of March 9, 1985 regarding the situation at San Salvador in Colton.

I read your letter some weeks ago, prior to the appointment of Father Michael [redacted] as Pastor of Immaculate Conception and Father [redacted] as Administrator of San Salvador. Your observations were helpful to the Personnel Board and me in making our decision.

I know that Father [redacted] and Father [redacted] will continue to bring a greater unity of these two parish communities, while at the same time allow for their own individuality.

Thanking you for your help in this matter, I am

Yours in Christ,

[redacted]
Most Reverend [redacted]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[redacted]

Benson-TC00075

SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMUNITY

March 9, 1985

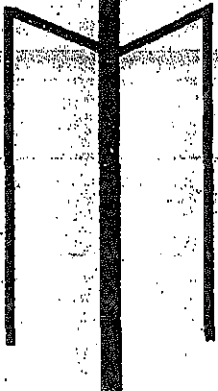
Dear Bishop [REDACTED]

I hope you are doing well. I am extremely satisfied and happy here at St. Joseph's.

I am writing to you to give you another perspective of the situation at San Salvador Church in Colton. Being that I have many friends and contacts there, I have been kept up to date with all the reactions and activities. I am writing this letter of my own volition as I know you have met with Fr. [REDACTED] and later with some elected representatives of the parish. I do not know the results of that meeting, but I felt it important you receive as many other views as possible.

I am very disappointed with the reactions of some of the people at San Salvador. They truly have not given Fr. [REDACTED] any opportunity to minister to the parish. Those opposed are not a majority group, but rather a small and vocal representation, not the true leadership of the parish. They are on the whole reacting to a meeting with Fr. [REDACTED] where he "lost his cool", and since then they have considered him a little Hitler, when in reality he has not made any major decision. He only made the mistake of being honest and sharing his dream of someday building a new church to accommodate the full communities of Colton. From there on began the rumor that he planned to close San Salvador. It was with this rumor that these leaders invited people to come to the Town Hall meetings and this small group "infiltrated" each discussion group and managed to have themselves elected as the community representatives, of which

Benson-TC00076



most have never been leaders before. The old advisory board that I had had was more representative than this group. Many good and open parishioners did not attend these Town Hall meetings because they were upset with the theatrics and did not want to participate in the protests. While I respect Fr. [REDACTED]'s ideal of having these Town Hall meetings choose the new leaders, democracy does sometimes have its shortcomings and weaknesses.....

Another area of complaint this group has brought is finances. A full report of the state of the Church was given in November by the Finance Council. Beint that so much of my administration's efforts had been directed to placate complaints at Immaculate Conception, I recognize that a report to the parish was overdue. This same group was already united and were surprised at the deficit budget we had been working with as well as with the size and salaries of the staff (they were surprised church employees got paid normal salaries, the highest paid was the Business Manager at \$7.00 per hour.) I fully realized that last year we would be operating on a deficit, but I felt it appropriate not to decrease staff and programs, but to expand them and ride through the uncertainty of the transition during the unification of both churches. Actually, the finances at San Salvador have been low for over three years! You can check our withdrawals from our diocesan savings account.

Some of these leaders are protesting not have now a Hispanic pastor. I chuckle at their concern since all these people are English-speaking and their children are monolingual (English). Their concern is supposedly for the monolingual (Spanish), yet it was these same people who were upset with me these last three years

Benson-TC00077

because I challenged them to identify more and stand more with the Mexican nationals in our parish. While I agree that the Spanish-speaking do need a Spanish-speaking priest, they are not the ones complaining about Fr. [REDACTED]. They like him, his simplicity and openness to them. Also, Fr. [REDACTED] is doing beautifully in his preaching in Spanish. I hear only positive remarks, although his spontaneous conversations still need much improvement. If need be, I offer Fr. [REDACTED] to meet the critical need there.

Another area of contention are these leaders' demand that "their" priest must live in the old residence or if need be, they are willing to build a new house for their priest. With what finances? I believe you agreed that the housing conditions at San Salvador were poor, and that Immaculate's residence (less than eight blocks away) was advantageous for both parishes and the priests.

I believe your choice of Fr. [REDACTED] for Colton was a good choice. I fear any other candidates might prove very bad for Colton. I still believe your decision to move towards unifying both parishes is good, Christian, and catholic. While these leaders see it as a form of punishment or lack of appreciation of their good work, it was truly a positive challenge and opportunity for San Salvador to bring new life to Immaculate Conception.

I sincerely hope these reactions will be weathered and that constructive steps will soon begin. I think Fr. [REDACTED] has sent out, intentionally or not, double messages to these leaders and his position of supporting you and Fr. [REDACTED] can bring peace.

SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMUNITY

4

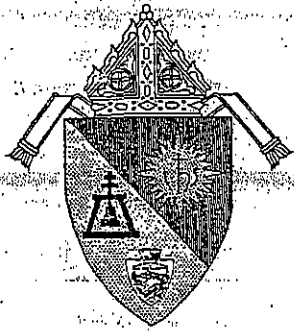
Forgive me for rambling on for so long, but I felt
I had a valid perspective to offer you in your decisions.
If I can be of any further help please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Gustavo Luis Benson

c.c. Fr, [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00079



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

March 13, 1985

MEMO TO: FR. GUS BENSON AND CONFIRMATION COORDINATORS

FROM: FATHER [REDACTED]

RE: CONFIRMATION LITURGY, APRIL 18, 1985, 6:00 PM

Bishop [REDACTED] will soon be visiting your parish to celebrate the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your parish is the host for this celebration and, therefore, would be responsible for the music and liturgical preparations.

Please find enclosed the liturgy preparation sheet that should be filled out by the music minister for your Confirmation Mass. I would ask that this be returned to me no later than one week prior to the celebration.

To facilitate a prayerful celebration, I would also ask that the following items be noted:

- 1) Communicate to the families and friends that no flash photography is appropriate during the Mass. The Bishop is available for pictures afterwards.
- 2) Please assign two extra altar servers to the liturgy.
- 3) Have a large bowl, water pitcher, and small towel with three sliced lemons available for washing the Bishop's hands. (Bread is not needed)
- 4) Have adequate seating available for concelebrating priests.

MUSIC PLAN

Parish _____ City _____ Phone _____

Number of Candidates _____ Grade Level (s) _____

Please write song chosen and its author or any other options chosen, e.g., recited, omitted, silence, organ, instrumental, choir.

| | <u>Singable Parts</u> | <u>Time & Date</u> |
|-----|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 | Entrance | _____ |
| 0 | Sprinkling | _____ |
| 4 | Lord have Mercy | _____ |
| 4c | Glory to God | _____ |
| 3 | Responsorial Psalm | _____ |
| 1 | Gospel Acclamation | _____ |
| 0 | After Gospel | _____ |
| 0 | After Baptismal Promises | _____ |
| 0 | Anointing | _____ |
| 5 | Intersessions | _____ |
| 5ci | Preparation | _____ |
| 1 | Holy Holy | _____ |
| 1 | Memorial Acclamation | _____ |
| 1 | Great Amen | _____ |
| 4 | Our Father | _____ |
| 1 | Doxology | _____ |
| 4c | Lamb of God | _____ |
| 2 | Communion | _____ |
| 5ci | Praise | _____ |
| 5ci | Recessional | _____ |

N.B. The numbers on the left indicate the song category and importance. 0 means for special occasions; c, where choir may play a fuller role; i where instrumental pieces may be played. It is considered poor liturgy to disregard the priority principle. For example, it makes no sense to sing the Our Father (4th category) and recite the Holy Holy (1st category). Emphasis must be given the first three categories. One or more may be sung from the 4th category, the others recited. The choir may play a fuller role in the 5th category. (Music in Catholic Worship, NCCB, 1972).

Forward with much eagerness to
serve in my next assignment
I appreciate the kind words
of your letter of assignment
and thank you for your
continued support especially at
times of crisis (it seems so
long ago and so unnecessary now)

Thank you for your trust.

Gustavo Luis Benson

A Montag NOTE

© The Mead Corporation—1983

Painting by Kee Hee Lee Butterworth



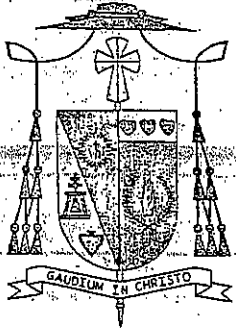
January 3

Dear Bishop,

I have just gotten back from interviewing staff and reviewing the plant at St. Joseph's in Barlow.

Not wanting to acknowledge it, in the back of my mind these last two weeks I thought of the possibility of my being quietly "banished".

Today I return with the thought that if this is banishment, I'll take it anyway! I am very impressed by the staff and the physical plant and am looking



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

December 21, 1984

Reverend Gustavo L. Benson
Immaculate Conception Church
1090 North La Cadena Drive
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Benson:

It pleases me to appoint you Pastor of St. Joseph's
Parish Community, Barstow, effective January 15, 1985.

I sincerely appreciate your willingness to serve the
diocese and the people of Barstow in this capacity. I
also, deeply appreciate all of your dedicated and
devoted ministry to those whom you have served since
your ordination to the priesthood.

With prayers and best wishes for a happy and successful
pastorate at St. Joseph's.

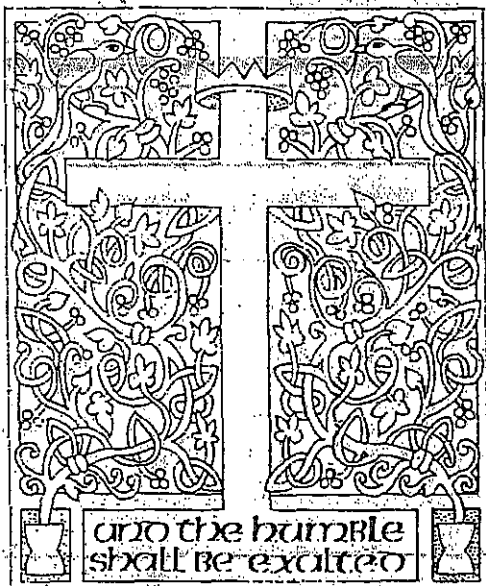
Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Redacted Signature]
Most Reverend [Redacted]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

[Redacted Signature]
Very Reverend [Redacted]
Vicar General, Chancellor

[Redacted]
cc: Very Reverend [Redacted]
Inland Catholic

Benson-TC00084



31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

ALTAR SERVERS

7:30 Felice/Blueann/Jesse
 9:30 Brandi/Joann/Ralph
 11:30 Armando/Joaquin/Kristin

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

7:30 Dora/Tony/Rosie
 9:30 April/Anita/Vangie
 Freddie/Paul/Joann
 11:30 Margaret/Teresa/Danny

LECTORS

7:30 Carlos/Alma
 9:30 Tony & Sylvia Lopez
 11:30 Mike & Irene Coyazo

FOOD **NEEDY**
 for the

CANNED FOOD SUNDAY TODAY! Second collection this first Sunday of the month will go to supply our food bin for the poor. La segunda colecta este primer domingo del mes sera para comprar provisiones para nuestro almaco.

Parish Registration
 Change of Address

If you have moved to a new address in the parish, or if you are planning to move, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection box.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

Circle one: Moving out of parish
 Change of address

**Contribution Envelopes
 Will Be Available Today After
 All Masses!**

THIS WEEK AT SAN SALVADOR

SUNDAY (Today) CANNED FOOD SUNDAY TODAY
 TAMALE BREAKFAST Sponsored By Spanish Youth Group After All Masses
MONDAY ENGLISH YOUTH SPORTS DAY At Elizabeth Davis Park
 1:30-4:30 PM
 CORO ESPAÑOL
 6 PM Room A
 YOUTH TEAM MEETING
 7 PM Room C
 GRUPO DE ORACION
 7 PM Church
TUESDAY DINNER HOUR Immaculate Conception Hall 5 PM
 ENGLISH CLASS
 7-9 PM Room B
 ADULT EDUCATION CLASS
 7 PM Church (Catholicism)
WEDNESDAY RECONCILIATION
 7 PM Church
THURSDAY FOLK GROUP
 6:30 PM Gloria Brown's House
 ADULT CHOIR
 7:30 PM Church
 ENGLISH CLASSES
 7-9 PM Room A
SATURDAY SPANISH CLASS
 9-11 AM Room B
SUNDAY (Next) SUNDAY SOCIAL Sponsored By Sunshine Summer After 7:30 & 9:30 AM Masses Only
 BAKE SALE Sponsored By Cub Scouts After All Masses
 CAR WASH Sponsored By English Youth Group Parking Lot

NEEDED! Mens clothing are needed for the transients again. We need pants, shirts, socks, shoes, blankets etc. Anyone having any of the above items that you do not need please bring them to the rectory office Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

LETTER OF EXPLANATION FROM

THE PASTOR

To dispel any rumors misunderstandings and erroneous comments regarding the sudden transfer of Father Bill Gavin, I would like to clearly state that it was not due to any inappropriate behavior on his part as a priest. The difficulty was due to our inability to deal with the deterioration of our personal friendship. To continue working and living together would have been more harmful to both of us. After much agony we mutually agreed that a transfer would be best for each of us, and in the long run, for the parishes. Speaking for myself, I am truly sorry for the failure to resolve these personal problems and for the damage it might have caused both Father Gavin and the parishes.

Sincerely
 Rev. Gustavo Benson

WHAT DO CATHOLICS BELIEVE - PART II:

Have you ever wondered why Protestants believe in certain things which seem to be different from what the Catholic Church teaches? Like their teaching on divorce? Or their view of the sacraments? Why don't you join us next Tuesday, November 6 at 7 PM in San Salvador Church when we will discuss these questions?

DAY OF RETREAT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - TUESDAY, Nov. 13th, 10 AM til 3:00 PM at Divine Word seminary Retreat Center, 11316 Cypress Ave., Riverside. Hot lunch will be served. Celebration of Eucharist. Suggested donation \$8-10. Call 689-4858 to make reservations.



YOUTH NEWS

Sports activities today at Elizabeth Davis Park from 1:30 - 4:30 PM. Open to all Jr. High and High School age youth. So come and join us for an afternoon of fun and games. The park is located on Laurel Ave. west of Rancho, next to Paul J. Rogers School.

Also coming up Nov. 11th the Youth Group will be having a Car Wash from 9 AM to 1 PM at the new parking lot.

We ask parents and the parish community for their support in this planned activities of our youth. **THANK YOU.**

ROMANS 8: We are interested in starting Romans 8 in our parish community. Romans 8 is a multi-media program which enables the person to become more mature and reflective in his faith. We invite all those parishioners who have experienced Romans 8 in the past to consider the possibility of becoming team members for our next Romans 8 retreat. Please contact Deacon Gerry at 825-8058.



Dear Parishioners,

We are in great need of singers for the 11:30 AM choir. It is my obligation to report to you that we have the leadership necessary to build a strong Choral group to sing for Sunday Mass, and other holy days. However, it will continue to be a difficult task if we do not recruit more singers, especially male voices.

I have been at San Salvador long enough to know that there are many good voices among you. The choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM in the church. Even if you can sing only a few notes, come anyway; and we'll put those few notes to good use.

Sincerely, Richard Melendres, Director.

III. ENCUENTRO

Se les recuerda a los grupos que están Reflexionando su asistencia a trabajo en la reunión del jueves 8 en el salón de la Inmaculada a las 7 PM.

RICOS TAMALES

El grupo juvenil Hispano Siloe les invita a saborear ricos Tamales, hampurrado y Limonada después de las misas.

La noche de alegría el próximo domingo en Barstow. La conferencia será a las 2:30 y la Misa a las 4:00 PM. Hable con los líderes del grupo de oración si desean asistir y tiene carro o necesitan transporte.

**Do Not Forget To Vote
November 6
No Se Olvide Votar El Dia
6 De noviembre**

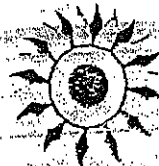


TABLE GRAPES - We have just received information to refrain from purchasing table grapes. The reason is that the men and women who are largely Hispanic and who are harvesting these crops are being mistreated, abused, harrassed, intimidated. Their basic human rights for drinking water, toilets, piece-meal pay are being violated. "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me." **YOU CAN HELP THEM** by not purchasing and eating table grapes until further notice. The Bishops and the Pope have spoken out publicly against such ill treatment of people.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

You are cordially invited to attend an orientation of students and family members, in the Journey With Jesus Group of Developmentally Disabled. We hope that you can attend and make them part of our christian community.

DATE: November 7, 1984

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Immaculate Conception Church

ROOM: 6

WILLS AWARENESS SUNDAY

This Sunday, Nov. 4th, 1984, the Diocese of San Bernardino is sponsoring a Wills Awareness Sunday. Please take home and read the brochure inserted in your bulletin. A properly drawn Will is one of the most important papers you will ever sign. It will speak your mind and insure that your wishes with respect to your family, loved ones, and favorite charities are carried out. God has remembered you with gifts of life, talent, and treasure; have you remembered God in your Will?

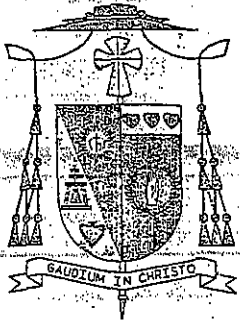


CATHOLIC PARENTS! Be aware that the "Release Time" being used in the elementary grades of the public schools for "Christian education is for Protestant children's instruction. Be sure your child participates in the religious education offered by our parish. Padres Catolicos! Precausion con el programa "release time" empleado en los grados de primaria de las escuelas publicas para educacion "cristiana". Este programa es para ninos protestantes. Nuestro hijos deben participar en los programas religiosos que ofrecen la parroquia.

CRAZY BOWLING

Don't miss out on this fun filled evening. We will be bowling on November 17, 6-9 PM at Arrowhead Lanes in San Bernardino. For reservations call Terry Alaniz in advance at 783-2916. Deadline: November 10th. Cost: \$5.00 per person **COME JOIN US!**

**Reconciliation Wednesday
November 7th 7 PM**



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

March 5, 1985

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

Many thanks for your letter of February 21, 1985 regarding the pastoral ministry of Father Gustavo Benson.

It is always refreshing to hear some good news at the Bishop's Office.

Again, thanking you and [REDACTED] for all of your work and ministry at St. Joseph's and for the diocese.

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00087

[REDACTED]

February 21, 1985

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Diocese of San Bernardino
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

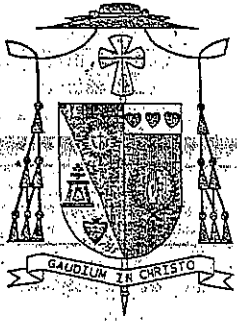
Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

Since it is traditional to write the Bishop when one takes exception to a sermon delivered within the Diocese, I felt that for the sake of balance, I would offer a few comments on the homily given last week by our pastor, Fr. Gustavo Benson, and add a few personal observations.

Last Sunday, February 17th, at the 9:30 mass, Fr. Benson spoke on the Gospel of Jesus healing the leper, and used this to develop society's attitude to our modern 'lepers', those who are outcasts for whatever reason, such as those on welfare, afflicted with marital problems, etc. From this, he went on to explain our obligations as modern Christians to the disenfranchised people among us. This homily, used to teach the Christian message, was one of the finest homilies I have ever heard. It dealt with the message of the Gospel, and related it to our duties as modern Christians. His sermon was, in my opinion, a classic example of the true purpose of the homily in the liturgy.

As you are undoubtedly aware, St. Josephs' is probably not the easiest pastoral assignment in the Diocese. Yet, in the short time Fr. Benson has been at St. Josephs', he has impressed us with his enthusiasm and concern for people. He has been a receptive listener, and has done some very creative things to get a 'sense' of the parish. I would like to thank you and the personnel commission for the effort you expended on our behalf to provide us with a Pastor that can provide us the type of leadership we need here in the High Desert.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 18, 1985

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

I received your recent letter regarding some of your thoughts and concerns on the transfer of Father Benson.

Father [REDACTED] will be a temporary Administrator until we have a chance to review the needs of Immaculate Conception and San Salvador Parishes, and to assign a new pastor.

You referred to some of the financial matters that pertain to the parish. First, you mentioned the savings that belonged to Immaculate Conception Church have been depleted. Quite to the contrary, there is almost \$ [REDACTED] presently on account with the diocese for the use and needs of Immaculate Conception. Also, I have had a Professional Auditing Firm do a complete audit of all financial accounts of Immaculate Conception and all matters were found to be in proper order. Many of the complaints of the misuse of funds that were made, are completely erroneous and close to being liable. Not everyone may have agreed with some of the improvements that Father Benson has made, but certainly, he has not squandered the parish funds. The complete audit has been given to the Parish Council.

It is my hope that Father [REDACTED] will be warmly welcomed, as we in the process of determining the future pastor for Immaculate Conception and San Salvador Parishes.

Thank you for writing, and with prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00089

[REDACTED]

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

Here I go again writing to let you know that is on my mind.

I have read in our Bulletin that Fr. Benson is being transferred to Barstow. I am not in the least bit surprised of this event. I have had a premonition that this would happen sooner or later.

I want to say that Fr. Benson could have had a wonderful marriage with the people in this parish because he is a lovable and personable person and I, for one, liked him very much. However, he got started on the wrong foot with the old parishoners. Instead of coming in and feeling them out, he came in a cocky banty rooster and together with his business manager ruled the roost. I doubt whether his first love is the priesthood. He was never around when you needed him. He never went to visit the shut-ins to introduce himself as the new pastor. He never went to visit the CCD classes and he never wore his white color. I saw a FIRST, and that was the evening that Fr. [REDACTED] and Fr. [REDACTED] were ordained and because you were there and about 60 other priests then he had no alternative but to wear it - which I called his attention to it.

One thing he and his business manager did well and that was to spend money. When Fr. [REDACTED] passed away there was [REDACTED] in the bank account. That has long since been gone and in the past year that Fr. Benson was here he didn't save anything, and not much to show for it. In order to buy a Christmas Tree the girls from the Altar Society had to sell chances - which has never happened before. Our church is in need of repair and that has not been done which should have been a first priority. Even after the Annual Fund Raising Dinner this past Fall with several thousand dollars raised for the purpose of fixing the church, it has not been done.

I believe that the people of Immaculate deserve a full financial report from the time he has been here. Our Sunday bulletin reflects that our Sunday take has been from [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] each week and that come to approximately \$[REDACTED] a year. Where has all the money gone?

I also believe that since the people are the backbone of the church that they should have more of a say-so in the expenditures before they are made and not after, because the parishoners are here a lot longer than the pastor since their stay is limoted.

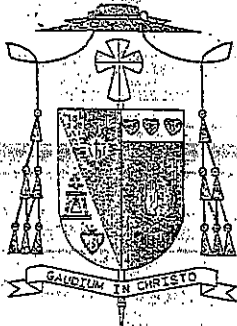
Last, and certainly not the least, (and that is why this letter is being written) we feel that since Fr. Benson brought in the business manager we so hotly protest, that he take her along with him when he leaves or that she return just to San Salvador where she came from. We were satisfied with [REDACTED] who did the book work and was replaced when [REDACTED] came in. It seems that Fr. Benson wanted to replace all of the workers from Immaculate with his won kind from San Salvador. He replace [REDACTED], also, who did the lawn work, as a volunteer, and he got a man, [REDACTED] from San Salvador at \$5.00 an hour. Even the housekeep was in danger of being replaced until we put a stop to that. Also, in a smooth, easy way he was trying to replace me who headed the Prayer Group with people from San Salvador. He just didn't want anyone who was close to Fr. [REDACTED] to be reminded of him.

I know that the reason why [REDACTED] had to quit was because she could only work half a day, but that was enough for her to do the work she had to do on the books. And since [REDACTED] worked for both Immaculate and San Salvador that means she was a part time worker for Immaculate and that [REDACTED] should get her job back.

If the business manager is not replaced and the job given to [REDACTED] we shall take a petition to get her out.

I hope that we have better luck with Fr. [REDACTED].

Sincerely in Christ,
[REDACTED]



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

October 2, 1984

Very Reverend Gustavo Benson
Immaculate Conception Church
1090 North La Cadena Drive
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Benson:

Many thanks for your letter of September 20, 1984 and the enclosed information regarding your recent parish audit. I, too, am pleased that a favorable report has been received as a result of this audit.

Channels of good communication are essential and hopefully, these can be established so that your people are aware of money on hand and how it is being used. In particular, the parish council should be informed and involved as to how money is being spent. The development of these channels of communication would also greatly help to dispel the critics of the past several months.

I commend you and your parish team for the work that is being done. I know that it is not an easy task, assuming the pastorate of two parishes, but I want to let you know that you have my support in every way possible.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend 
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00092

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1090 North La Cadena Dr.
Colton, Ca. 92324

Phone: Office (714) 825-2104
(714) 825-3004

September 20, 1984

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Your Excellency:

Enclosed is a copy of a report of an audit recently conducted by Mr. [REDACTED] CPA. Mr. [REDACTED], as you may recall, is the auditor currently working with the diocese regarding church audits.

This particular audit covers the period July 1, 1983 to June 31, 1984 and was conducted in answer to questions parishioners and pastoral council had in regards to the financial accountability of the parish by either myself or the business manager. Mr. [REDACTED] has given a very favorable report. The recommendations made are being acted upon, and one of them, that of establishing a budget, has been in progress since June when the finance council was named and a budget was presented to the pastoral council on September 18th.

I trust this audit and budget will relieve any questions created by previous letters to you from parishioners and pastoral council.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Very Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson, Pastor
Vicar Forane, Rialto Vicariate
Diocese of San Bernardino

Encl. (2)

[REDACTED]
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
[REDACTED]
PHONE [REDACTED]

August 31, 1984

Rev. Gustavo Benson
Immaculate Conception Church
1090 N. La Cadena Dr.
Colton, California 92324

I have examined the financial statement of Immaculate Conception Church for the year ending June 30, 1984 and have issued my report thereon dated August 31, 1984. As part of my examination, I made a study and evaluation of the Church's system of internal accounting control to the extent I considered necessary to evaluate the system as required by generally accepted auditing standards. The purpose of my study and evaluation was to determine the nature, timing and extent of the auditing procedures necessary for expressing an opinion on the Church's financial statements. My study and evaluation was more limited than would be necessary to express an opinion on the system of internal accounting control taken as a whole.

The management of Immaculate Conception Church is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal accounting control. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgements by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of control procedures. The objectives of a system are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Because of inherent limitations in any system of internal accounting control, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the system to future periods is subject to

Benson-TC00094

Rev. Gustavo Benson

Immaculate Conception Church

August 31, 1984

Page Two

the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with the procedures may deteriorate.

My study and evaluation made for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph would not necessarily disclose all material weaknesses in the system. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the system of internal accounting control taken as a whole. However, my study and evaluation disclosed the following conditions that I believe result in more than a relatively low risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements of Immaculate Conception Church may occur and not be detected within a timely period.

1. Segregation of Duties

The business manager performs a majority of the functions pertaining to the disbursement of funds including preparation and recording of checks and preparation of the bank reconciliations. The business manager is also an authorized check signer. This leads to a situation where there is a potential for one individual to control an entire cash disbursement transaction without the knowledge of another member of management. Although this situation is not uncommon in organizations with limited personnel, it is still not a recommended procedure. Therefore, in order to ensure adequate internal control over cash disbursements, I recommend that the business manager should be replaced as an authorized check signer by someone who has no other accounting functions. This person could be another employee or a member of the parish finance council who could be readily available to sign checks.

It should also be noted that even though this is an internal control weakness, my detailed tests of cash disbursements disclosed no instances of unauthorized or unreasonable disbursements.

Rev. Gustavo Benson
Immaculate Conception Church

August 31, 1984

Page Three

2. Beginning Cash Balances Misstated

The ending cash balances per the Parish Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1983 were misstated. There were two errors which caused the discrepancy; first, cash in bank was reported as the amount per the bank statement instead of the book balance thereby overstating cash by the amount of outstanding checks, and second, the accountant failed to report two bank accounts which had a combined balance of \$ [REDACTED] thereby understating cash. This has an effect on the current year financial report since beginning cash balances on the June 30, 1984 report must agree with the ending cash balances per the prior year report.

3. Equipment Inventory

As of the date of my report, an equipment inventory listing was not available. It is my recommendation that a listing be prepared of all equipment items with a minimum cost of \$300 which should include the following information: description, cost, location and disposition (if any).

4. Budget

During my examination I noted that the parish had operated during the fiscal year without a budget and apparently had not had a budget during prior fiscal years.

An operating budget is an essential management planning tool which should be developed annually on a timely basis and compared with actual data at least on a quarterly basis. Therefore, I recommend that an annual operating budget be prepared.

5. Interim Financial Reports

During my examination I noted that interim (monthly or quarterly) financial

Rev. Gustavo Benson
Immaculate Conception Church
August 31, 1984
Page Four

reports are not prepared or are prepared only when requested. It is my recommendation that interim reports be prepared, preferably monthly, which would contain the following information: Current months receipts and disbursements, annual budget including budget variances, and itemized beginning and ending cash balances. The reports should be prepared in a timely manner in order to ensure timely review and discussion by the Pastor and parish finance council.

6. Other Weaknesses

The following are weaknesses that were noted during my examination that were either corrected during the fiscal year or subsequent to June 30, 1984.

A.) Disbursements of cash were made for church related expenses from collections before deposits were made. Records were maintained for disbursements, however it is standard procedure for cash receipts to be deposited intact. The practice of disbursing cash from collections was terminated at the beginning of May 1984 and a petty cash fund was implemented which is controlled through reimbursements from the checking account.

B.) The allocation of living expenses for the Pastor and living expenses and salaries for associate priests were discussed by the finance councils of Immaculate Conception Church and San Salvador Church and an agreement was reached as to a reasonable allocation of expenses from October 10, 1983 through June 30, 1984. Subsequent to June 30, 1984 an acceptable method was developed to allocate such expenses on a monthly basis during the current fiscal year.

* * * * *

These conditions were considered in determining the nature, timing and extent of the audit tests applied in my examination of the 1984 financial statement, and this report does not affect my report on this financial statement dated August 31, 1984.

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1984

[REDACTED]
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
[REDACTED]
PHONE [REDACTED]

August 31, 1984

Rev. Gustavo Benson
Immaculate Conception Church
1090 N. La Cadena Dr.
Colton, California 92324

I have examined the statement of changes in cash balances of Immaculate Conception Church for the year ended June 30, 1984. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

As discussed in Note 1, the Church's policy is to prepare its financial statement on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements; consequently, certain revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statement is not intended to present results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 1, the above mentioned church is a division of The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino, a corporation sole and has no separate legal status or existence.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly the changes in cash balances of Immaculate Conception Church for the year ended June 30, 1984 on the basis of accounting described in Note 1, which basis has been applied in a manner consistent with that of the preceding year.

[REDACTED]
Benson-TC00099

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1984

Beginning cash balance July 1, 1983

\$ 

Cash receipts:

Plate collection
Envelope collection
Easter collection
Christmas collection
Marriages, baptisms, funerals
Bequests - donations
Interest - dividends
Parish events
Religious articles
Rents - trust deeds
Designated gifts
Property - securities
Funds withdrawn
Loans from Diocese
Stewardship rebates
C.C.D. fees & other ministries &
missions
Other - clearing
Parish assist. program
Special collections
Other - school reimbursements



Net cash receipts



Cash disbursements:

Clergy salaries - Parish
Supply
Salaries - other
Parish education
Church expense
Parish events
Religious articles
Rental expense
Insurance premium
Office expense
Household expense
Repairs - maintenance
Taxes - licenses
Utilities
Assessment
C.C.D. subsidy & other ministries
Kitchen equipment



Cash disbursements continued

Donations - charity
Equipment - furnishings
Funds on deposit
Major repairs
Parish debt
New prop/construction
School subsidy & grants
Parish loan
Parish assist. program
Special collections
Clearing

\$ [REDACTED]

Net disbursements

[REDACTED]

Ending cash balance June 30, 1984

[REDACTED]

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
NOTES TO STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES

JUNE 30, 1984

NOTE 1. ACCOUNTING POLICY AND BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Immaculate Conception Church is a division of The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino, a corporation sole and has no separate legal status or existence.

The Church's policy is to prepare its financial statement on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements; consequently, certain revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when obligation is incurred.

NOTE 2. CASH BALANCE

The following shows the composition of the beginning and ending cash balances:

| | <u>Beginning Cash</u> | <u>Ending Cash</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Checking account (s) | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] |
| Petty cash | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Funds on deposit at Diocese Office | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] |

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1090 North La Cadena Dr.
Colton, Ca. 92324

Phone: Office (714) 825-2104
(714) 825-3004

May 18, 1984

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

I received a copy of the "Religious Education Attitudinal Opinionaire for Catechetical Leadership Program" and wonder "where's the beef?". Why are we having or allowing a "witchhunt"? I would think that a pastor would be delighted to clearly know where a catechist is coming from, what premises underlay her approach, and that this opinionaire would be of great assistance to the pastor to determine which catechist would be most appropriate under his administration. (Personally I would like to know if the applicant is anti-clerical or is against a diocesan policy before I hire him/her). I have experienced too many questionnaires that do not truly reveal the applicant's position and the result is a wasted or difficult year for all the parties involved.

I hope you will see the true intent of the opinionaire and not be misled in reacting inappropriately.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

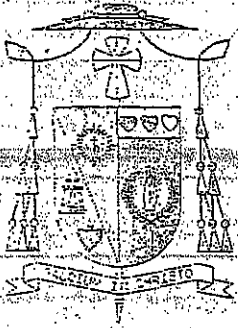
Very Rev. Gustavo L. Benson

cc: Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Sister [REDACTED]

RECEIVED

MAY 21 1984

THE DIOCESE OF
SAN BERNARDINO



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

May 11, 1984

TO: Very Reverend Gustavo Benson
FROM: Bishop [REDACTED]
RE: St. Mary Church, Fontana

Some weeks ago, a memo was sent to you and Father [REDACTED] regarding the need to relocate St. Mary's Church. In my memo I asked that there be a meeting of yourself, Father [REDACTED] and other neighboring pastors who might be effected by a relocation. I would include the parish in Glen Avon, even though it is in the Riverside Vicariate.

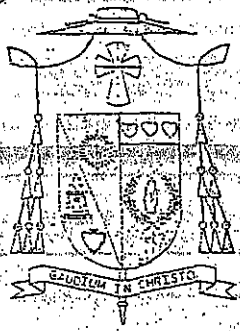
The Real Estate Department has been doing some work on this matter, as well as Father [REDACTED]. I would like to have the opinions of the priests involved regarding the relocation. This should include a review of parish boundaries, not only for St. Mary's, but other neighboring parishes. The parish boundaries were drawn up a number of years ago and in some cases may be obsolete.

Since Father [REDACTED] is starting to feel the pressure of the growth in his area and his facility being inadequate, he feels the need to begin pressing for the relocation. I would appreciate your calling this meeting as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your help in this matter.

cc: Reverend [REDACTED]
Very Reverend [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00104



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

May 18, 1984

Reverend Gustavo Benson
San Salvador Church
P.O. Box 1013
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Benson:

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the fine Confirmation group that you presented to me the other evening. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the generous gift that you sent to me.

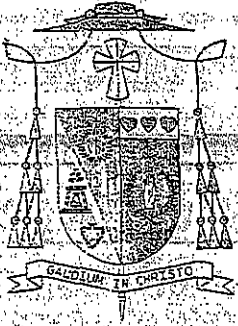
The commitment to serve Christ and His church, made by these young people, was truly evident during the celebration of Confirmation. I commend you and your staff for doing such a fine job in their training.

Again, with thanks and gratitude not only for the fine Confirmation, but also for your excellent pastoral ministry to the people at San Salvador.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Redacted]
Most Reverend [Redacted]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[Redacted]

Benson-TC00105



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

April 25, 1984

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of April 12, 1984 concerning Immaculate Conception Church and Father Gus Benson.

It is always a welcome change to receive a letter that is supportive of a parish priest and all that he is doing to assist the people in the parish.

Again, with thanks and appreciation for your kind letter and with every best wish, I am

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00106

April 12, 1984

Bishop [REDACTED]
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, Ca 92404

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

As a Catholic-Christian and part of the Body of Christ, I am very concerned at the attitudes some of us have taken concerning the recent changes made at the San Salvador and Immaculate Conception Church.

I myself, for many years was a very religious person, but it wasn't until I joined San Salvador Church that I started gradually to grow as a Catholic Christian. Father Benson was very instrumental in my growth. He does make changes, makes you feel very uncomfortable at times, and he is constantly challenging you to become a better person by reaching out to the "least of our brothers." I thank God for bringing Father Benson into my life. He has certainly brought love into our community. As you well know, we are all far from perfect and need to grow.

I can't help but think that there are a few very religious Catholics who from the very start decided that they were not going to accept Father Benson as their priest, have been very negative and would like to crucify him. Just like St Paul before his conversion, believe they are doing God's work and persecuting Father Benson. Disagreements of any type, should be handled in a Christian manner. We are called to be Peacemakers, not trouble makers. The Word tells us that our tongues are like fire and many ablaze has been started by our tongues.

It is very important that we constantly pray for our Spiritual Leaders for wisdom, Knowledge, strength and that the Spirit may guide them in all their decisions. We have to lift each other up and minister to each other.

I am but a small grain in the sand, but the Spirit compelled me to write to you. Thank you for your time. We love you, and may God Bless You always.

Yours in Christ,
[REDACTED]


San Salvador Catholic Church

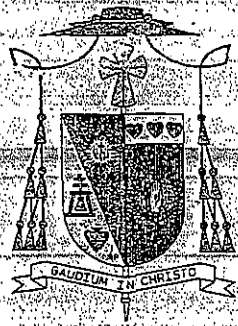
P.O. BOX 1013
178 WEST "K" STREET
COLTON, CA 92324

Dear 

I'm interested in The Santa Barbara
Institute for Fall, 1983. If you
can put me on the list and
if there is some information on
it I would appreciate it.

A great deal might depend
on future parish assignments, but
at least am interested in
possibility.

Sincerely,




Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

December 14, 1983

Very Reverend Gustavo Benson
Immaculate Conception Church
1090 North La Cadena Drive
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Gus,

Many thanks for your note of December 9th and the generous enclosed gift.

It was a great joy for me to be with you and your community. I particularly appreciated the Feastday, the Patron of the Parish, in that Father [redacted] had a great devotion to Our Blessed Lady under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

I also appreciated the home-cooked meal and the conversation.

Wishing you and your people a very blessed and holy Christmas, I am

Yours in Christ,

[redacted]

Benson-TC00109

RECEIVED

Immaculate Conception Church

DEC 13 1983

1090 North La Cadena Drive
Colton, California 92324
Telephone 825-2104

THE DIOCESE OF
SAN BERNARDINO

December 9, 1983

Dear Bishop [REDACTED],

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and sensitivity to the parishioners of Immaculate Conception by offering a Memorial Mass in remembrance of Fr. [REDACTED]. I personally enjoyed your company with us at dinner. I hope you will feel free to invite yourself over for dinner sometime at your convenience!

Enclosed is a donation in appreciation for you and one for Deacon [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Very Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson
Pastor, Immaculate Conception

Benson-TC00110

Immaculate Conception Church

1090 North La Cadena Drive
Colton, California 92324
Telephone 825-2104

November 17, 1983

RECEIVED

NOV 21 1983

THE DIOCESE OF
SAN BERNARDINO

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Episcopal Vicar
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 North "D" St.
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Dear [REDACTED]:

In reference to our last phone conversation I would like to express my appreciation to the Bishop, yourself, and the Personnel Board for being so considerate of my request for placement of a Spanish speaking associate.

After our conversation I am sorry I did not react as positively as I now feel— I guess I was somewhat shocked! My preference would be for Deacon [REDACTED] to be assigned here following his ordination, but, yes, I would be very open to having Fr. [REDACTED] come for a six month period until the summer assignments are made. I hope he will be open to being assigned here. I know him to be a hardworking, creative, and sensitive priest.

I am most open to having Fr. [REDACTED] assigned at both San Salvador/Immaculate this summer. I consider such a placement a compliment to the endeavors we are attempting and know that he will be a blessing to both parishes and a challenge to me. If Fr. [REDACTED] should not accept or if he be assigned elsewhere because of other considerations, I am also very open to Fr. [REDACTED] coming here as I know his term will be coming to a close at Our Lady of Soledad in Coachella.

Thank you for your considerations on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Very Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson
Pastor, Immaculate Conception Church
Vicar Forane, Rialto Vicariate
Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00111



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

November 8, 1983

Very Reverend Gustavo Luis Benson
Immaculate Conception Church
1090 North La Cadena Drive
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Benson:

This is to acknowledge your letter of November 3, 1983 regarding the old convent located behind the rectory at Immaculate Conception.

Some time ago, we made an agreement with Father [REDACTED] that this facility would be available to the Sacred Heart Priests and Brothers. It was my understanding that the lease would be ongoing and that we would review it on an annual basis. The priests and brothers therefore, would have use of the facility until the end of the school year.

I have spoken to Father [REDACTED] and Brother [REDACTED], as they had heard rumors that the parish was going to be seeking the use of their residence. According to my understanding, they would have the use of the facility until June, 1984.

In view that they may be asked to vacate, they have been looking at the Culligan House which is owned by the diocese. If some arrangement could be worked out beneficial to them and the diocese, they may find it possible to move before the summer of 1984. However, if we have to help them find a new residence, plus the problem of moving, it does not seem like it could be done before the summer of 1984.

I recommend that you and the Sacred Heart Priests and Brothers discuss this issue. The diocesan office of Real Estate will be working with them as to the possible use of the Culligan House.

Benson-TC00112

L

Immaculate Conception Church

1090 North La Cadena Drive
Colton, California 92324
Telephone 825-2104

November 3, 1983

RECEIVED

Bishop [REDACTED]
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 N. "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

NOV 4 1983

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO
BISHOP'S OFFICE

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

After having spoken to Deacon [REDACTED] I have received and reviewed the Memorandum Agreement made between the Diocese and the Priests of the Sacred Heart for the convent facility formerly used by the parish of the Immaculate Conception.

The agreement is a lease which is open ended, that is, with no time limit. Since having been appointed pastor of this parish I can see an urgent need for the establishment of a parish center. The convent would be the ideal facility for this purpose, thereby leaving the rectory as a home for the parish priests.

Deacon [REDACTED] has led me to believe that you would have no objection to handing jurisdiction of this facility back to this parish.

My request is that this transfer of jurisdiction, if it be your will, be done formally via a letter so that if and when negotiations begin with the Priests of the Sacred Heart there will be no question as to our position.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Very Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson
Pastor

Benson-TC00114

San Salvador Catholic Church

178 WEST "K" STREET

P.O. BOX 1013

COLTON, CA 92324

VERY REV. GUSTAVO LUIS BENSON, PASTOR

PHONE: OFFICE (714) 825-8058

EPISCOPAL VICAR, RIALTO VICARIATE

RECTORY (714) 825-3481

October 25, 1983

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Vicar General
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Dear [REDACTED]:

In reference to my phone call yesterday I would like to formally request that the Personnel Board consider, preferably for this January or at the latest July, the appointment of a young Spanish-speaking priest to assist me with both San Salvador and Immaculate Conception churches in Colton. Presently, I am caring for the Spanish-speaking community of St. Joseph in Fontana and can realistically see a future opportunity to also service the Spanish-speaking community at St. Catherine in Rialto. Because of Fr. [REDACTED]'s delicate health I feel the need for immediate assistance in finding him a less active parish and for a younger man to be assigned here, such as [REDACTED] who is presently in Corona or [REDACTED] in Coachella.

The Bishop and I have spoken previously and he has assured me that as soon as there is such a possibility he would assist in relieving the present heavy responsibility.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Very Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson, Pastor
San Salvador & Immaculate Conception Churches
Vicar Forane, Rialto Vicariate

San Salvador Catholic Church

178 WEST K STREET

P.O. BOX 1013

COLTON, CA 92324

VERY REV. GUSTAVO LUIS BENSON, PASTOR
EPISCOPAL VICAR, RIALTO VICARIATE

PHONE: OFFICE (714) 825-8058
RECTORY (714) 825-3481

October 9, 1983

Dear Parishioners:

On Wednesday, October 6th, Bishop [REDACTED] announced my appointment, effective this date, as pastor of both Immaculate Conception and San Salvador Catholic Churches.

The reasons for this decision by the Diocesan Personnel Board and which was approved by the bishop is the realistic situation of the lack of priests in our diocese. There is now a diocesan direction of trying to consolidate neighboring parishes and thus pool resources and facilities. Keeping this in mind both parishes are not to be merged into one, rather each is to retain its distinct identity and personality, although programs and facilities will be coordinated so as to demonstrate common requirements for sacraments and other services to parishioners of both parishes.

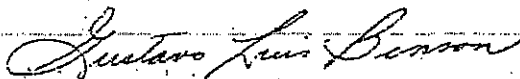
Fr. [REDACTED] and Fr. [REDACTED] will continue as associates and will assist me in providing service to both communities. Their assistance to me will be invaluable because of their experience as priests, as men who know the Immaculate parish community and who can assist me in future decisions. I am most thankful in knowing of their full cooperation and support.

I ask both parishioners of Immaculate and San Salvador to pray for me, that God give me wisdom and a sensitivity to the particular needs of our parishes and that you be patient with me. I know I will probably make mistakes and even though it might embarrass me to admit my errors, you will do me a Christian favor by being open and direct with me so that I might thus have a chance to explain or correct myself. I will try to be as open as possible to all suggestions. Please keep the lines of communication open, otherwise you might remain unhappy and critical and without dialogue there can never be a true reconciliation and unified Church.

I hope to be present at some of the Masses at Immaculate on both October 16th and 23rd so that we might meet each other.

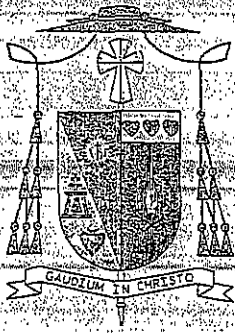
I am very excited about the challenge that God and Bishop [REDACTED] have offered us and pray it will be a blessing for all and that Fr. [REDACTED] would be pleased in our common efforts to continue his work of building up the Body of Christ, His Church.

Sincerely,



Very Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson
Pastor and Vicar

Benson-TC00116



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

October 7, 1983

Reverend Gustavo Benson
San Salvador Church
178 West "K" Street
P.O. Box 1013
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Benson:

I am pleased to appoint you Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Colton, effective immediately. You will also continue to be Pastor of San Salvador Parish in Colton.

I know you will be sensitive to the needs and feelings of this new community entrusted to your care and that you will work with them with your now customary apostolic zeal and dedication. Father [redacted] and Father [redacted] will continue as parochial vicars at Immaculate Conception Parish.

With prayers and best wishes for a very successful pastorate, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[redacted signature]

Most Reverend
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

[redacted signature]

Very Reverend
Vicar General, Chancellor

Benson-TC00117

San Salvador Catholic Church

178 WEST "K" STREET

P.O. BOX 1013

COLTON, CA 92324

VERY REV. GUSTAVO LUIS BENSON, PASTOR
EPISCOPAL VICAR, RIALTO VICARIATE

PHONE: OFFICE (714) 825-8058

RECTORY (714) 825-3481

September 26, 1983

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Diocesan Personnel Board
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, Ca. 92405

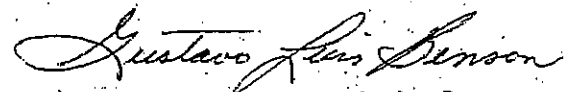
Dear Fr. [REDACTED]:

I have spoken to Bishop [REDACTED] as well as yourself in reference to "clustering" Immaculate Conception Church with San Salvador. Since we are dealing with basically the same populace, and our parish is in dire need for classrooms and parish hall, while Immaculate needs new parish programs to revitalize the parish, I am open to the possibility of "pastoring" both parishes.

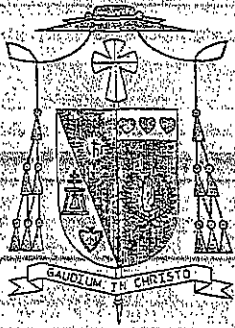
If this would be acceptable, I would hope the present priests would temporarily be kept to serve as a continuation from the past until a younger priest be ordained and given the opportunity to work with me. There is a stipulation I would like you to consider seriously, and that is that this "cluster" not be seen only as a temporary step to be changed when I am eventually transferred, but rather that my replacement be a person open to continue this precedent.

Believing this will be the eventual procedure in servicing our parishes in the near future, I hope that you will consider this option and its conditions.

Sincerely,



Very Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson
Pastor, San Salvador Catholic
Church
Vicar Forane, Rialto Vicariate
Diocese of San Bernardino



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

July 5, 1983

Very Reverend Gustavo L. Benson
San Salvador Church
178 West "K" Street
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Benson:

I note with great joy that [REDACTED] from San Salvador Parish has made application to become a seminarian at St. John's Seminary at Camarillo, California.

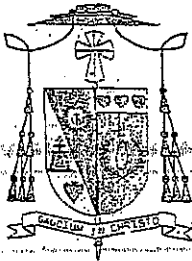
It is God who gives the vocation, but there are many people who help to foster these vocations. I wish to thank you and others of San Salvador Parish who continue to encourage our young men to seek a ministry in the priesthood.

Join with me in praying for this young man's continuence and perseverance in the seminary and that God may continue to bless our diocese.

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00119



May 19, 1983


Dear Father Benson,

It was a pleasure to be with you to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation upon the Confirmation Class the other evening. It was a special joy since the class was so well prepared for its reception.

I am also very grateful to you for the very generous gift you gave me upon the occasion of my visit.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Yours in Christ,



Reverend Gustavo Benson
San Salvador Church
P. O. Box 1013
Colton, CA 92324

Benson-TC00120

Office Memo

Diocesan Pastoral Center

CONFIDENTIAL

To Father [REDACTED] Date April 21, 1983

From Bishop [REDACTED] Subject San Salvador Church

I met with Father Gus Benson and he would like to put in his bid for an associate. He feels that there are many things going on and he needs additional help. He would have liked to have had [REDACTED] and was very disappointed when he did not get him.

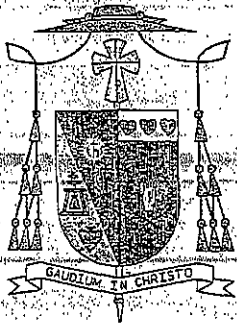
He might be willing to consider [REDACTED] on a trial condition. He agreed that it would have to be for a limited time and that there would have to be a very clear job description written as to what was expected of [REDACTED].

He would be willing to take an English Speaking Priest too. He said that Spanish is good, but it would not be essential.

Would you kindly put this on our agenda for the Personnel Board.

Many thanks..

Benson-TC00121



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson

March 30, 1983

Dear Father Gus,

Many thanks for the rich expression of love in your letter of March 12th. It was very heartwarming for me to receive such words and expressions of our brotherhood in Jesus Christ.

I wish to express my own faults and failures, as Bishop, in administering to you and to all brother priests of our diocese. I tried to express some of these feelings at the Chrism Mass and hope I was able to adequately convey them.

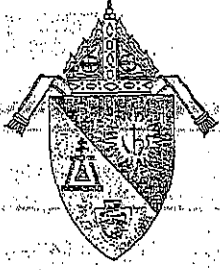
Be assured that if we begin to live the Gospel that Jesus has given us, being proud that we are Catholics, as well as priests, we will find greater joy and fraternity in our priesthood and gain satisfaction in our priestly ministry.

I appreciate the invitation to join your support group on May 4th and 5th. As you know, I have a Confirmation at your church on the 5th, but I also have one on the preceeding night in Coachella. I am sorry, but due to this schedule, I will be unable to join you.

In Our Lord Jesus Christ, I am



Benson-TC00122



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Chancellor of Pastoral Affairs

Diocese of San Bernardino

March 3, 1983

Brother [REDACTED]
Old Mission
2201 Laguna
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Dear Brother [REDACTED]:

I wish to submit Father Gustavo Benson's name as a candidate for the Fall Session at Santa Barbara.

He is stationed at:

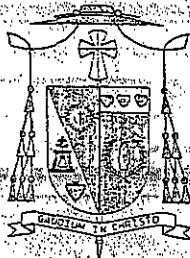
San Salvador Church
178 West "K" Street
Colton, CA 92324

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Chancellor, Pastoral Affairs
[REDACTED]

cc: Reverend Gustavo Benson

Benson-TC00123



November 5, 1982

Dear Father Gus,

Many thanks for your note of October 26th and your very generous gift.

It was truly a pleasure to visit your parish and your parishioners. There are some great things happening there, which genuinely makes the Gospel live in these troubled times.

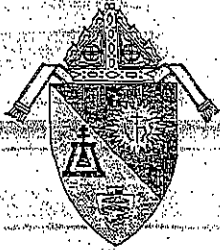
With thanks and appreciation, I am

Yours in Christ,



Reverend Gustavo Benson
San Salvador Church
178 West "K" Street
Colton, CA 92324

Benson-TC00124



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Chancellor of Pastoral Affairs

Diocese of San Bernardino

July 7, 1982

Very Reverend Gustavo Benson
San Salvador Church
178 West "K" Street
Colton, CA 92234

Dear Father Benson:

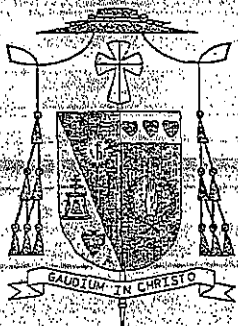
The Vatican II Institute for Clergy Education is now in the process of planning its seventeenth session at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. They have reserved places for members of the San Bernardino Diocese.

If you would like to participate in this Renewal Course to be held January 26th to April 26th, 1983, please let me know by August 15, 1982.

Yours in Christ,

[Redacted]
Reverend [Redacted]
Chancellor, Pastoral Affairs
[Redacted]

Benson-TC00125



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

September 1, 1981

Reverend Gustavo Benson
San Salvador Church
178 West "K" Street
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Benson:

I am pleased to appoint you as Episcopal Vicar for the Rialto Deanery, effective September 1, 1981. This appointment is for a period of three years.

You are hereby granted all the faculties and the right to grant dispensations, as listed in the Diocesan Policy on Episcopal Vicars. (copy enclosed)

I would like to meet with all the Episcopal Vicars at El Carmelo Retreat House, in Redlands, on September 21, 1981, at 10:00 a.m. to explore the role of Episcopal Vicar, as well as plan for the deanery meetings. The first Consultors' Meeting will be held on the same day, starting at 4:00 p.m. and concluding Tuesday, September 22nd at 3:00 p.m. This first meeting will be one of prayer, reflection and discernment for the diocese. The two meetings have been combined for the purpose of saving time and travel. Overnight accommodations will be provided for you at El Carmelo.

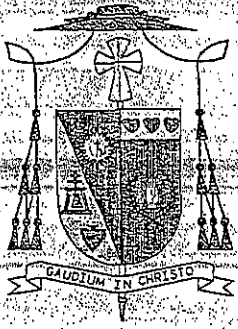
I appreciate your accepting the position of Episcopal Vicar and I am looking forward to working with you during the coming years.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00126



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

May 19, 1980

Reverend Gustavo Benson
San Salvador Church
178 West "K" Street
Colton, California 92324

Dear Father Benson:

I am pleased to appoint you Pastor to:



San Salvador Church
178 West "K" Street
Colton, California 92324

This will be effective May 19, 1980

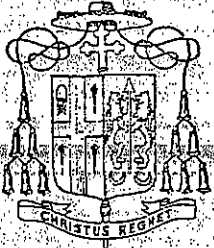
With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend 
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino


cc: Very Reverend 
Diocesan Parish Files

Benson-TC00127



Diocesan Office
for Apostolic Ministry/Alcala Park

July 11, 1978

Reverend Gustavo L. Benson
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
1430 West Fifth Street
San Bernardino, California 92411

Dear Father Benson:

I am pleased to appoint you Administrator to:

San Salvador Church
178 West K Street
Colton, California 92324

effective July 17, 1978.

With best wishes in this appointment,

I am,

Sincerely in Christ,



Bishop of San Diego

cc: Most Rev. 
Rev. 

U U P Y

May 12, 1978

Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
1430 West Fifth Street
San Bernardino, Calif. 92411

Dear Father Benson:

Thank you for your letter of May 7, 1978 requesting information regarding your seminary debt.

The Diocesan Consultors at their meeting on January 7, 1977 resolved that a maximum debt of any seminarian or priest who was already ordained for the Diocese of San Diego be limited to \$ [REDACTED]; and that any amount under this be repaid as soon as reasonably possible through monthly payments or by obtaining an annuity in the name of the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Diego.

Our records indicate your total was \$ [REDACTED] and \$ [REDACTED] has already been paid, leaving a balance of \$ [REDACTED].

Please do not hesitate to write or call me if you have any further questions.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Chancellor

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Phone (714) 888-0044

1430 West Fifth Street

San Bernardino, California 92411

May 2, 1978

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Diocesan Office
Alcala Park
San Diego, CA. 92110

Dear Msgr. [REDACTED]:

Greetings from the North!

About a year ago I recall reading a letter or report announcing that a certain percentage of the personal debt accrued from seminary studies would be "forgiven" after a certain period of service in the ministry. Keeping this in mind, I would like to know how much money do I owe the diocese from my studies in Menlo Park? Also, if my recollection of the information as to the "credit" begin given to seminary debts apply to me? I would appreciate this information as I would like to begin to reduce my debt.

Sincerely,

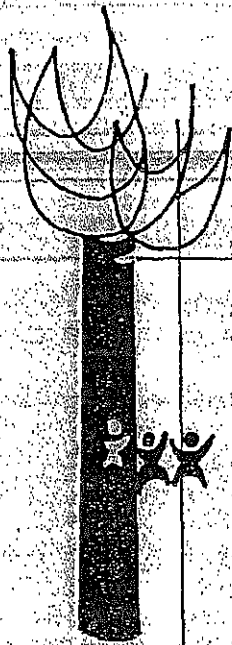
Gustavo Luis Benson
Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson

glb

Total balance was [REDACTED] 00

Paid [REDACTED] 00

Present Bal. [REDACTED] 00



COPY

Diocese of San Diego
Department of Educational Ministry

May 23, 1977

Rev. Gustavo Benson
St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church
609 3rd Street
Oceanside, California 92054

Dear Father Gus:

I am forwarding your letter of resignation to both Bishop [redacted] and Bishop [redacted] as your appointment to the Board was a joint appointment.

I personally appreciated the sensitivity with which you wrote your letter, especially the parenthetical statement that you do not mean any connotations about bureaucratic structures and procedures. The truth is that bureaucratic work gets very tiring and the progress is so very slow.

It is very difficult to get twenty-four people from different backgrounds to agree at a Board meeting but when you engage in cross-cultural communications, the whole process of both listening and speaking is extremely compounded. Therefore, I think it is inevitable that the Apostolate with the Spanish-speaking must proceed on two levels -- one independent of normal structures and the second through institutional structures. Even though independent, I feel too much would be lost by pursuing one approach and disregarding the other. It seems to me that a two-fold approach is being worked on right now and I think this is good for the entire Church.

Thank you again for your letter of courtesy. I hope we can get to know each other personally in some other fashion.

Very sincerely,

[redacted]
[redacted]
Director of Education

[redacted]
cc/ Most Rev. [redacted]
Most Rev. [redacted]

Benson-TC00131

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

609 THIRD STREET

OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92054

COPY

April 27, 1977

Dr. [REDACTED]
Diocese of San Diego
Department of Educational Ministry
P.O. Box 11277
San Diego, CA. 92111

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]:

After much reflection I have decided to submit my resignation from the Education Board. My responsibilities with the Spanish-speaking are much too demanding at a pastoral level for me to give adequate attention to the duties expected by the Board. I am sorry to say that I am not adept with bureaucratic structures and procedures (I do not mean any connotation) and feel I can be of more service to the Church at a local level where ultimately "that's where it counts". Personally I feel that any diocesan services for the Spanish-speaking should be independent of the normal structures for services to be adaptable, relevant and fruitful.

Sincerely,

Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson

c.c.: Mr. [REDACTED]



Diocesan Office
for Apostolic Ministry/Alcala Park

September 6, 1977

Rev. Gustavo L. Benson
St. Mary, Star of Sea Church
609 Third Street
Oceanside, California 92054

Dear Father Benson:

I am pleased to appoint you Secretary to
the Most Reverend [REDACTED], Auxiliary Bishop
of the Diocese of San Diego, effective September 15,
1977.

You will have residence at Our Lady of
Guadalupe rectory, San Bernardino,

With best wishes in this appointment, I

am

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego

cc: Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00133

*St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church*609 THIRD STREET
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92054

May 17, 1977

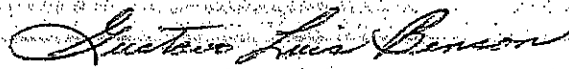
Rev. [REDACTED]
Clergy Personnel Board
Diocese of San Diego
P.O. Box 80428
San Diego, California 92138

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I am interested in being a pastor. I feel secure that my Chicano background, my experience, and maturity will compensate for my age in asking for a pastorate. I am requesting a Spanish-speaking, low-economic-level parish, preferably in the Imperial or San Diego counties. Specifically I am very interested in Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Calexico, my hometown, if it should be declared open.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely in Christ,


Gustavo Luis Behson

c.c.: Bishop [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00134

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

609 THIRD STREET
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92054

September 15, 1976

Rev. [REDACTED], Director
Diocesan Personnel Board
San Diego Diocesan Office for
Apostolic Ministry
P.O. Box 80428
San Diego, Calif. 92138

Gentlemen:

Unofficially I have been responsible in supervising religious services for the Spanish speaking in North County for three years. During this time priests and lay people from the six parishes with high concentrations of Spanish speaking have been co-ordinating activities and providing religious programs to assist the various parishes. For over a year Father [REDACTED] and I have been trying to meet at least the minimal spiritual needs of the Spanish speaking community in San Marcos and have seen this community grow in number and maturity. With the death of our brother priest, Father [REDACTED], I sincerely request you to be sensitive to the fact that San Marcos has a large percentage of Spanish speaking (over 30% of the Catholic population) who need a bi-lingual pastor who will be a full-time resident of that community. The Spanish speaking community of San Marcos cannot continue to grow spiritually with priests who simply supply their services for a Mass once a week. Trusting that you will do everything possible to help, and offering my assistance to answer any questions, I remain,

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson

CC: Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Concilio de la Comunidad Hispana del Condado del Norte de San Diego
Comunidad cristiana de San Marcos

Benson-TC00135



St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

609 THIRD STREET
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92054

October 22, 1976

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego
Diocesan Office, Alcalá Park
P.O. Box 80428
San Diego, Cal. 92138

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

Yesterday I was informed that Father [REDACTED] was soon to be transferred. As is usual when there is a spirit of unity, it was most disheartening to hear that our parish team was not just going to be terminated soon, but worse, that it was to be almost immediate in effect. Of my own accord I have decided to write this letter to you and the Personnel Board to request your reconsideration. I offer the following reasons:

1. St. Mary's has had a long history of short-lived associates, and this is one of the reasons for the slow response of our parishioners. This was changing under the leadership and commitment of Father [REDACTED]. A transfer so soon I fear will again disappoint the people.
2. Father [REDACTED] has done much to change Msgr. [REDACTED]. He has lightened Msgr. [REDACTED]'s load and assisted him in the leadership of the parish, thus making Msgr. [REDACTED]'s last years in the active ministry more enjoyable and pleasant. This is also reflected by Monsignor's openness in allowing me freedom to work freely with the Spanish speaking not only in the parish, but throughout the county. I fear that, even though Father [REDACTED] is a good friend and a hard worker, he will not be able to work as amicably with Monsignor.
3. Father [REDACTED] is an educator by profession and as such has been an integral supervisor of all aspects of our religious education. A transfer, without adequate preparation, at the initiation of the school year, will cause disorientation and possible collapse of our programs. If Father [REDACTED]'s transfer could be delayed until at least the end of the school year it would be more realistic for everyone.
4. Personally I am disappointed that after years of policy-making for the Personnel Board to respect the rights of the priests and the laypeople, Father [REDACTED] was transferred with such short notice and without any consideration to his feelings. I realize he is not incardinated within our parish, but he was in no hurry to work under another pastor to begin the process for incardination.

Please review your decision.

Sincerely in Christ,

Gustavo Luis Benson
Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson

c.c.: Rev. [REDACTED]
Personnel Board

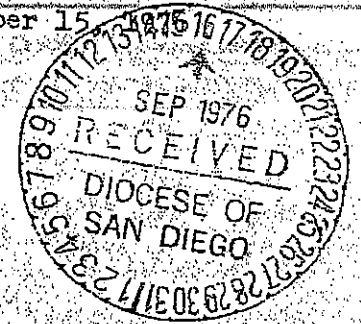
St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

609 THIRD STREET

OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92054

September 15

Rev. [REDACTED], Director
 Diocesan Personnel Board
 San Diego Diocesan Office for
 Apostolic Ministry
 P.O. Box 80/28
 San Diego, Calif. 92138



Gentlemen:

Unofficially I have been responsible in supervising religious services for the Spanish speaking in North County for three years. During this time priests and lay people from the six parishes with high concentrations of Spanish speaking have been co-ordinating activities and providing religious programs to assist the various parishes. For over a year Father [REDACTED] and I have been trying to meet at least the minimal spiritual needs of the Spanish speaking community in San Marcos and have seen this community grow in number and maturity. With the death of our brother priest, Father [REDACTED], I sincerely request you to be sensitive to the fact that San Marcos has a large percentage of Spanish speaking (over 30% of the Catholic population) who need a bi-lingual pastor who will be a full-time resident of that community. The Spanish speaking community of San Marcos cannot continue to grow spiritually with priests who simply supply their services for a Mass once a week. Trusting that you will do everything possible to help, and offering my assistance to answer any questions, I remain;

Sincerely,

Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson

CC: Most Rev. [REDACTED]
 Most Rev. [REDACTED]

Concilio de la Comunidad Hispana del Condado del Norte de San Diego
 Comunidad cristiana de San Marcos

Benson-TC00137

September 20, 1976

Rev. Guatavo L. Benson
St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church
609 Third Street
Oceanside, California 92054

Dear Father Benson:

I have your letter of September 15 concerning
a need for a bilingual pastor at San Marcos.

It is very doubtful that we can obtain a bi-
lingual pastor but we shall keep in mind the fact of the
needs of the Mexican-American population.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,


Bishop of San Diego

C
O
P
Y

Benson-TC00138

May 23, 1975

Rev. Gustavo Benson
St. John Church
P. O. Box 437
Encinitas, Calif. 92024

Dear Father Benson:

I am pleased to appoint you Associate
Pastor to:

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Mary Star of the Sea Church
689 Third Street
Oceanside, California 92054

effective July 1, 1975.

The duration of this appointment is
subject to the present study of tenure.

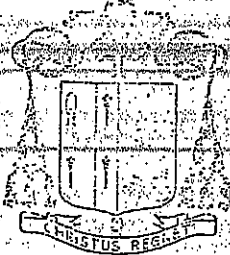
With best wishes in your new appointment,

I am

sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego

cc: Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO

DECLARES THAT

REV. GUSTAVO BENSON

Our Lady of Sacred Heart, San Diego 92105

WHO SHARES HIS PASTORAL MINISTRY

TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

MAY EXERCISE THE FOLLOWING FACULTIES

WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

THESE FACULTIES ARE VALID FOR THE DURATION
OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT IN THIS DIOCESE

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego

Given at the Diocesan Office for Apostolic Ministry
San Diego, California

This 8th day of May, 19 72

[REDACTED]
Chancellor

Benson-TC00140

April 27 1972

Rev. Mr. Gustavo Benson
Our Lady of The Sacred Heart Church
San Diego, Ca.

Dear Gus:

I thank you for your letter of April 24 in regard to your first assignment.

Please be assured that much thought and consideration was given by the members of the Personnel Board, particularly in regard to the assignment of the newly ordained priests.

The Board is very sensitive to the needs of the Mexican American people particularly in the light of the shortage of Mexican American priests.

However the Board feels that in the case of a newly ordained priest, the first consideration must be the priest himself and his formation. For the same reason, newly ordained priests who wish to teach are not allowed to do so without at least two years in a compatible Rectory situation.

There is no question that none could be better than an assignment to Father [REDACTED]. But then we run into the problem of fair distribution. He was assigned Father [REDACTED] last year and had you as Deacon this year. Regretfully we do not have sufficient young and active men for every Parish.

There is one more factor which I would prefer discuss with you privately to obviate misunderstanding. Please call me at your convenience.

Assuring you of my prayers and a special Mass for you on the occasion of your ordination, that Christ may give you many fruitful years in the service of His people,

Fraternally,

Benson-TC00141

April 24, 1972

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
St. Therese of the Child Jesus
5185 Navajo Road
San Diego, California 92120

Dear Monseignor [REDACTED]:

I am writing to you concerning my tentative placement for my first year as priest. I was informed that my next assignment is to be at Encinitas with Reverend [REDACTED] and that I am to report there on May 20. I had greatly hoped to remain at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for another year as I felt my effectiveness with the Mexican American community was just beginning. I realize that having two young priests, Father [REDACTED] and myself, in the same parish is rare, but I had hoped that the Personnel Board would have understood that our apostolates completely different, he with the youth, and myself with the Mexican American community which now comprises about 40% of our parish population.

Upon much reflection on my tentative assignment, and after having spoken with priest friends, especially my pastor, Father [REDACTED], and the pastor of Encinitas, Father [REDACTED], we all agreed that the demand for a Mexican American priest in Encinitas is definitely not as critical as compared to other areas in San Diego county or in San Bernardino county, e. g. Colton. In Encinitas the pastor already speaks Spanish fluently, and the Mexican American population is less than 20% of the total parish population. Keeping this in mind, I request that the Personnel Board re-assign me to a parish where I feel my talents can best serve the Church. Surely there are other parishes where my Spanish language fluency and my Mexican American background will meet the critical need of our Spanish-speaking faithful.

Hoping to hear good news from you soon, I remain,

Yours truly,

Gustavo Luis Benson
Rev. Mr. Gustavo Luis Benson
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
San Diego, California 92105

cc.: Most Rev. Bishop [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED]

April 24, 1972

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
St. Therese of the Child Jesus
5185 Navajo Road
San Diego, California 92120

Dear Monsignor [REDACTED]

I am writing to you concerning my tentative placement for my first year as priest. I was informed that my next assignment is to be at Encinitas with Reverend [REDACTED] and that I am to report there on May 20. I had greatly hoped to remain at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for another year as I felt my effectiveness with the Mexican American community was just beginning. I realize that having two young priests, Father [REDACTED] and myself, in the same parish is rare, but I had hoped that the Personnel Board would have understood that our apostolates completely different, he with the youth, and myself with the Mexican American community which now comprises about 40% of our parish population.

Upon much reflection on my tentative assignment, and after having spoken with priest friends, especially my pastor, Father [REDACTED], and the pastor of Encinitas, Father [REDACTED], we all agreed that the demand for a Mexican American priest in Encinitas is definitely not as critical as compared to other areas in San Diego county or in San Bernardino county, e.g. Colton. In Encinitas the pastor already speaks Spanish fluently, and the Mexican American population is less than 20% of the total parish population. Keeping this in mind, I request that the Personnel Board re-assign me to a parish where I feel my talents can best serve the Church. Surely there are other parishes where my Spanish language fluency and my Mexican American background will meet the critical need of our Spanish-speaking faithful.

Hoping to hear good news from you soon, I remain,

Yours truly,

Gustavo Luis Benson
Rev. Mr. Gustavo Luis Benson
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
San Diego, California 92105

cc.: Most Rev. Bishop [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]

April 25, 1972

Rev. Mr. Gustavo Benson
Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church
4177 Marlborough Avenue
San Diego, California 92105

Dear Rev. Mr. Benson:

I am pleased to appoint you Associate

Pastor to:

Rev. [REDACTED]
St. John Church
300 Malrose Avenue
Encinitas, California 92024

effective June 1, 1972.

Your cooperation and participation in
the apostolic ministry are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego

cc: Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00144

April 6, 1972

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

I have your letter of March 27 together with the signatories expressing their interest in having Rev. Mr. Benson continue to serve in his present assignment.

As you are aware, the personnel Committee studies each appointment and must consider the overall needs of the Diocese. While they do give every consideration to the individual requests, it is after serious study that the appointments are made. The final judgment must be made for the good of the Church and all the people concerned. Please continue to pray and work that the Church will prosper in our wonderful Diocese.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego

March 27th., 1972.

HIS EXCELLENCY

MOST REV. [REDACTED]

Bishop of San Diego Diocese.
Alcala Park,
San Diego, Calif.

Re: DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.
San Diego, Calif: 92105

Your Excellency:

I am a member of the Mexican-American Leadership Program, and as such, I want to thank you for the opportunity of becoming more aware of the special problems that the Church encounters within the Spanish Speaking Community. One of the facts that impress me greatly was that the present day Church is striving to be closer to the people that compose its structure.

Base on this point, which is very important to me personally, and with all the due respect to Your Excellency, I want to request that you come to our assistance now by allowing Deacon Gustavo Benson to remain with us; I want to emphasize that the granting of this request would further demonstrate to the Spanish Speaking community that the present Church establishment is responsive, and shall not ignore the parishioners' wishes. (See enclosed letter and addendums).

I, and all the people that sign the enclosed petition, feel confident that Your Excellency shall respond to our plea with the understanding that we expect. Please allow us to be a part of the Church.

Respectfully yours in Christ.

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

phone: [REDACTED]

c.c. Monsignor [REDACTED] - Saint Michael's Church.
Monsignor [REDACTED]
Father [REDACTED] - Ethnic Affairs.
Club Palma
Monsignor [REDACTED] - Alcala Park.

M. REV. [REDACTED]
BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO.
Diocesan Office for Apostolic Ministry,
Alcala Park
San Diego, Calif. 92110.

Your Excellency:

The undersigned would like to respectfully request your intervention on behalf of the Spanish Speaking Community of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, by allowing Deacon Gustavo Benson to remain with us, where he is desperately needed.

We want to direct our appeal to Your Excellency's proven sensitivity and concern for the Mexican-American parishioners, which has distinguished this administration; and we know that this plea shall be met by Your Excellency's approval.

Qualifying our petition, we want to ask you to consider mainly the great spiritual achievements this Parish can account for through Deacon Benson's Apostolate among the Latin Community particularly, even though his presence among us has been of only a few months; we cannot overlook the fact that an enormous increase of parishioners of Latin extraction has been observed, these are persons that, prior to Mr. Benson's arrival, would have attended services in Tijuana, or, what is worse, did not go to Church at all.

Consequently, Your Excellency, we want to stress our principle, that is: to take away our Priest, when these people's return to Christ's Church is so recent, would greatly endanger the foundations upon which we want to continue building our Christian community, which are: United through God by bonds of: Love, Brotherhood and Trust.

For this purpose, Your Excellency, and at this time, we need your help and support.

Respectfully your in Christ.

PARISHIONERS OF
OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHURCH.
4177 Marlborough st.
San Diego, Calif. 92105.

Addendums enclosed.
[REDACTED]

PETITION TO THE M. REV. [REDACTED], BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO B
TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMB
OUR COMMUNITY.

PETICION AL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED], OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DI
SR. GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS CONTINUANDO SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBRO
ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPANOLA.

NAME AND ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO

NAME AND ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ADDENDUM

PETITION TO THE M. REV. [REDACTED] BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY.

PETICIONAL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED] OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIACONO GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS, PARA QUE PUEDA CONTINUAR SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPANOLA.

NAME - NOMBRE

DIRECCION-ADDRESS

NAME/ NOMBRE

DIRECCION/ADDRESS

[REDACTED]

PETITION TO THE MOST REV. [REDACTED] BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

PETICION AL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED] OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIACONO SR. GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS CONTINUANDO SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPANOLA.

NAME & ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO

NAME & ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00150

000150

PETITION TO THE R. REV. [REDACTED] BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

PETICION AL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED] OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIACON SR. GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS CONTINUANDO SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPANOLA.

NAME AND ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y Domicilio

NAME AND ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y Domicilio

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00151

000151

PETITION TO THE M. REV. [REDACTED] BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY.

PETICIONAL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED], OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIACONO SR. GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS, PARA QUE PUEDA CONTINUAR SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPANOLA.

NAME - NOMBRE DIRECCION-ADDRESS NAME / NOMBRE DIRECCION / ADDRESS

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00152

000152

ADDENDUM

PETITION TO THE M. REV. [REDACTED], BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY.

PETICIONAL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED] OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIACONO SR. GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS, PARA QUE PUEDA CONTINUAR SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPANOLA.

NAME - NOMBRE

DIRECCION-ADDRESS

NAME/ NOMBRE

DIRECCION/ADDRESS

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00153

000153

March 27th., 1972.

HIS EXCELLENCY
MOST REV. [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego Diocese.
Alcala Park,
San Diego, Calif.

Re: DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.
San Diego, Calif. 92105

Your Excellency:

I am a member of the Mexican-American Leadership Program, and as such, I want to thank you for the opportunity of becoming more aware of the special problems that the Church encounters within the Spanish Speaking Community. One of the facts that impress me greatly was that the present day Church is striving to be closer to the people that compose its structure.

Base on this point, which is very important to me personally, and with all the due respect to Your Excellency, I want to request that you come to our assistance now by allowing Deacon Gustavo Benson to remain with us; I want to emphasize that the granting of this request would further demonstrate to the Spanish Speaking community that the present Church establishment is responsive, and shall not ignore the parishioners' wishes. (See enclosed letter and addendums).

I, and all the people that sign the enclosed petition, feel confident that Your Excellency shall respond to our plea with the understanding that we expect. Please allow us to be a part of the Church.

Respectfully yours in Christ.

[REDACTED]
phone: [REDACTED]

c.c. Monsignor [REDACTED] - Saint Michael's Church.
Monsignor [REDACTED]
Father [REDACTED] - Ethnic Affairs.
Club Palma
Monsignor [REDACTED] - Alcala Park.

Benson-TC00154

March 21, 1972

Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Personnel Board of the Priest's Senate
St. Michael's Catholic Church
2615 Holmdale Avenue
San Diego, California

RE: Deacon Gustavo L. Benson
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
San Diego, California

The Right Reverend Monsignor:

I, as member of the Mexican-American Leadership Program wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the contribution you have made to the Mexican-American community these past six months with allowing us to have in our parish, Deacon Benson. I would like to emphasize that the major population of this parish is Spanish speaking and prior to the Deacon's arrival a significant number of this population was not practicing their religion basically because of cultural and language deficiencies. Many do not speak English and felt alienated from the Anglo clergy. In order to provide continuity and conversance with the problems existing in our community we need someone with cultural heritage and Spanish speaking ability.

In addition, I have found Deacon Benson to be a caring person who understands our problems and very interested in responding to them. His intelligence and serious concern for human beings are abundantly evident. He has shown some concern over human problems in the past and has been personally involved with our Spanish speaking people and we are in dire need of his services at this time.

Your help will be most appreciated in retaining Deacon Gustavo Benson in our parish at least for one year, so that he may continue working with our Spanish speaking community which is of great importance at this time. If you would remove Deacon Benson at this time you will be depriving us of our rights and needs to be good practicing catholics.

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
Mrs. [REDACTED]

cc: Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Club Palma

Benson-TC00155

M. REV. [REDACTED]
BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO.
Diocesan Office for Apostolic Ministry,
Alcala Park
San Diego, Calif. 92110.

Your Excellency:

The undersigned would like to respectfully request your intervention on behalf of the Spanish Speaking Community of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, by allowing Deacon Gustavo Benson to remain with us, where he is desperately needed.

We want to direct our appeal to Your Excellency's proven sensitivity and concern for the Mexican-American parishioners, which has distinguished this administration; and we know that this plea shall be met by Your Excellency's approval.

Qualifying our petition, we want to ask you to consider mainly the great spiritual achievements this Parish can account for through Deacon Benson's Apostolate among the Latin Community particularly, even though his presence among us has been of only a few months; we cannot overlook the fact that an enormous increase of parishioners of Latin extraction has been observed, these are persons that, prior to Mr. Benson's arrival, would have attended services in Tijuana, or, what is worse, did not go to Church at all.

Consequently, Your Excellency, we want to stress our principle, that is: to take away our Priest, when these people's return to Christ's Church is so recent, would greatly endanger the foundations upon which we want to continue building our Christian community, which are: United through God by bonds of: Love, Brotherhood and Trust.

For this purpose, Your Excellency, and at this time, we need your help and support.

Respectfully your in Christ.

PARISHIONERS OF
OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHURCH.
4177 Marlborough st.
San Diego, Calif. 92105.

Addendums enclosed.
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00156

PETITION TO THE M.REV. ██████████, BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBER OF COMMUNITY.

PETICIONAL REVERENDISIMOSR. ██████████, OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIACONO GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS, PARA QUE PUEDA CONTINUAR SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPAÑOLA.

NAME - NOMBRE

DIRECCION-ADDRESS

NAME / NOMBRE

DIRECCION/ADDRESS

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00157

000157

... [REDACTED] ... TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON
... MEMBERS AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS OF
OUR COMMUNITY.

... [REDACTED] ... OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, REZA QUE PERMITA AL DIACONO
FR. GUSTAVO BENSON PERSEGUIER EN LA LINEA DE SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBROS DE
ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLANTES ESPAÑOL.

NAME AND ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y DIRECCION

RELEASANT ADDRESS / DIRECCION Y COMUNIDAD

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00158

000158

PETITION TO THE MOST REV. [REDACTED], BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

PETICION AL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED], OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIACONO SR. GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS CONTINUANDO SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPANOLA.

NAME & ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO

NAME & ADDRESS / NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00159

000159

TO REMAIN AMONG US, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBE
OUR COMMUNITY.

PETICION AL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED], OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIA
SR. GUSTAVO BENSON PERMANECER ENTRE NOSOTROS CONTINUANDO SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS MIEMBRO.
ESTA COMUNIDAD DE HABLA ESPAÑOLA.

NAME AND ADDRESS/ NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO

NAME AND ADDRESS/ NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

284
7284
284

PETITION TO THE [REDACTED] BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, TO ALLOW DEL CON GUSTAVO BENSON 9
BE IN. NOW US, IN ORDER TO SERVE THE APOSTOLATE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS OF
COMMUNITY.

PETICION AL REVERENDISIMO SR. [REDACTED] OBISPO DE SAN DIEGO, PARA QUE PERMITA AL DIACONO
GUSTAVO BENSON SERVICIAR ENTRE LOS HABLANTES DE ESPAÑOL, PARA QUE PUEDA CONTINUAR SU APOSTOLADO ENTRE LOS
MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD QUE HABLAN EN ESPAÑOL.

NAME - NOMBRE DIRECCION - ADDRESS NAME, NOMBRE DIRECCION/ADDRESS

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00161

000161

March 27th., 1972.

HIS EXCELLENCY
MOST REV. [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego Diocese.
Alcala Park,
San Diego, Calif.

Re: DEACON GUSTAVO BENSON.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.
San Diego, Calif. 92105

Your Excellency:

I am a member of the Mexican-American Leadership Program, and as such, I want to thank you for the opportunity of becoming more aware of the special problems that the Church encounters within the Spanish Speaking Community. One of the facts that impress me greatly was that the present day Church is striving to be closer to the people that compose its structure.

Base on this point, which is very important to me personally, and with all the due respect to Your Excellency, I want to request that you come to our assistance now by allowing Deacon Gustavo Benson to remain with us; I want to emphasize that the granting of this request would further demonstrate to the Spanish Speaking community that the present Church establishment is responsive, and shall not ignore the parishioners' wishes. (See enclosed letter and addendums).

I, and all the people that sign the enclosed petition, feel confident that Your Excellency shall respond to our plea with the understanding that we expect. Please allow us to be a part of the Church.

Respectfully yours in Christ.

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
phone: [REDACTED]

c.c. Monsignor [REDACTED] - Saint Michael's Church.
Monsignor [REDACTED]
Father [REDACTED] - Ethnic Affairs.
Club Palma
Monsignor [REDACTED] - Alcala Park.

April 4, 1972

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

I appreciated the recent meeting I had with you and your husband in reference to the request and petitions you wanted Bishop [REDACTED] to have concerning Rev. Mr. Gustave Benson, and the request that he stay at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart parish.

His Excellency, Bishop [REDACTED], has received the petitions and letters and has asked me to thank you for them, at the same time, wanting you to know the decision of the Personnel Board has not been made yet, but will be made in the future. He will abide by their decision.

At this time, he wishes to thank you again for your interest, and knows that you will want to cooperate with the spiritual work of the Church, and pray for all priests in the work they must do.

Sincerely yours,

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Vice Chancellor - Secretary

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
4177 Marlborough Avenue
San Diego 5, California

May 10, 1972

Dear Bishop

This is a very short, simple, but most sincere note to thank you for ordaining me last Saturday night in Calexico. I especially appreciated the fact that you followed the ritual I had prepared so that the ceremony could be as bilingual as possible. As it was everything worked out beautifully, I only wished I hadn't been so nervous.

I feel Calexico felt extremely honored having the ordination down there and I know that it was an event which will challenge many young people to consider a religious vocation, which is one of my special interests.

Please pray for me that I channel my youthful energies to create a community which loves the Lord and serves him in others, and that I be

P. A. L. M. A.
Por la Amistad Latino, Mexico-Americana
4177 Marlborough
San Diego, Calif. 92105

March 17, 1972

PERSONNEL BOARD OF THE PRIESTS SENATE

San Michael's Church
2615 Homedale
San Diego, Calif. 92139

ATTN: Monsignor [REDACTED]

Gentlemen:

The Mexican American community of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, want to solicit your good office to help us in keeping Mr. Gustavo Benson in our parish.

Deacon Benson's presence in our parish has been instrumental in bringing back approximately 400 Spanish speaking persons, that, due to the language barrier, would not have come to church or confession. Recently, we initiated a Mass in Spanish, which is successful as far as attendance and, more important, our people feel that there is someone that they may confide their problems to in their native language.

Our Mexican American Community has begin to appreciate and feel inspired by Mr. Benson's concern for the need of better health and education programs; and we feel that the spiritual assistance that he provides is essential if we are to remain a Unit within the Church.

Trusting that our request will receive your support, we remain,

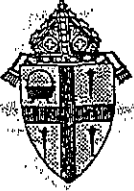
Respectfully submitted

P. A. L. M. A.

By [REDACTED]

President

c.c. Bishop [REDACTED]
Father [REDACTED] - Pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church



Telephone: (714) 291-3360
(714) 298-8277

DIACONATE PROGRAM
Diocese of San Diego
5961 Linda Vista Road
San Diego, California 92110

May 3, 1972

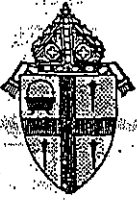
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego
The Diocesan Office for Apostolic Ministry
Alcala Park
San Diego, California 92110

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

This letter is to inform you that Rev. Mr. Gustavo L. Benson has completed all the requirements of the Deacon Program including his retreat in preparation for the Priesthood and has passed the required examination "de ordine suscipiendo" (Canon 996). The Deacon Committee recommends his ordination to the Sacred Priesthood.

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]
Director



DIACONATE PROGRAM

Diocese of San Diego
5961 Linda Vista Road
San Diego, California 92110

Telephone: (714) 291-3360

(714) 298-8277

Rev. Mr. Gustavo Luis Benson ---

Field Work Evaluation
San Diego

I. Preaching:

a) Positive:

Good...real enthusiasm,, possesses ability to communicate in terms applicable to their lives... willing to accept criticism and make necessary adjustments to build striking rapport with people in congregation...outgoing aspect in pulpit... sermons particularly good when he takes time to prepare...uses microphone well...with time and practice he shows great potential in becoming an effective preacher...seems to have learned his theology well... understands the position of the layman...possesses an excellent command of the English and Spanish languages.

b) Negative:

Not very good as an extemporaneous speaker.... tends to forget the mentality of the congregation at times, e.g., talks to the quiet Sunday Mass in the same manner one would talk to a college crowd... seems a bit diffident and seem to need practice and confidence in himself.

II. Organizational Ability

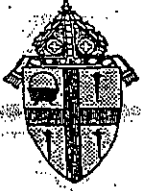
a) Positive:

Seems to be advancing well in this area...priorities... sorted out well...doing well in the Spanish speaking Leadership Program...he is conducting a class for Spanish speaking so they may become more conversant in English...strong potential for organizational work... He has taken tasks on himself that have long been overlooked and has implemented action...helped the parish clubs to become more self-sufficient and absorb more tasks that meet the needs of different age groups.

b) Negative:

No negative comments received.

Benson-TC00167

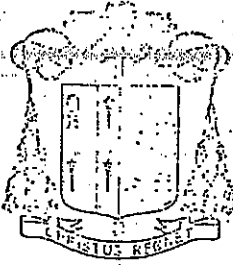


Telephone: (714) 291-3360
(714) 298-8277

DIACONATE PROGRAM
Diocese of San Diego
5961 Linda Vista Road
San Diego, California 92110

III. Relational Ability

- a) Positive: Works well with all age groups...relationship with co-workers and professional staff is excellent... he is reverent and efficient in the ministering of the Sacraments
- b) Negative: Weakness noted in meetings especially with teenagers.... seems very ill at ease.



[REDACTED]

BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO

DECLARES THAT

REV. GUSTAVO BENSON

Our Lady of Sacred Heart, San Diego 92105

WHO SHARES HIS PASTORAL MINISTRY

TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

MAY EXERCISE THE FOLLOWING FACULTIES

WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

THESE FACULTIES ARE VALID FOR THE DURATION
OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT IN THIS DIOCESE

[REDACTED]

Most Reverend
Bishop of San Diego

Given at the Diocesan Office for Apostolic Ministry
San Diego, California


This 8th day of May, 19 72

[REDACTED]

Chancellor

EVALUATION: DEACON WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

Deacon's Name: Benson, G. Month: Sept.

Workshop Professors: 


Attendance and Participation: good

Exam: shows some good thought on the matters in the book.

General: Gus did an adequate job on the first workshop.

EVALUATION: DEACON WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

Deacon's Name Benson, Gustavo Month October

Workshop Professors: 

In his written paper, Gus showed an understanding of the material assigned to be read. He participated well in the discussions, and made contributions. He received a pass grade.

EVALUATION: DEACON WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

Deacon's Name: Gus Benson Month: November

Workshop Professors: [REDACTED]

Gus participated very well in all the sessions of this workshop. He contributed positively to the discussions, and his papers showed a great deal of thought and insight. It is rather obvious that Gus tries very hard to understand what is being said, and is most effective participant in most discussions. He receives a passing grade for the workshop.

EVALUATION: DEACON WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

Deacon's Name: Gus Benson

Month: December

Workshop Professors: [REDACTED]

Critique:

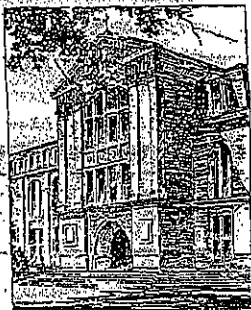
1) Preparation Paper:

- a) Your preparation was not fully described in your introductory paper.
- b) You noted the requirements on the pastoral scene, but further reading and reflection particularly in the area of Christology should have been achieved.

2) Reflective evaluation:

- a) You apparently received adequate benefits from the week.
- b) You ~~##~~ used resources before and during the week, but it is difficult for us to pin-point these resources.
- c) Your great energy and vigor was a welcome addition to your members of the group project. Again, this seems to have been a concretization of your learning experience.

We agree that a passing grade be awarded for your work.



Office of the Rector

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

320 Middlefield Road

Menlo Park, California 94025



April 1972

The Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego
Administration Building - Alcala Park
San Diego, California 92110

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

Enclosed please find document required for the call to priestly ordination of Rev. Mr. Gustave Benson.

Since deacons are not residents of the seminary, the only evaluative data which can be added to previous reports is a Field Work evaluation for the current year, which is enclosed.

In fulfilment of #3 of the Rector's testimonial, the faculty concurs in a judgment that the candidate exhibits the necessary qualities for priestly ordination:

- a. A knowledge of, and a fidelity to the Word of God and the authentic teaching of Christ's Church;
- b. charity, zeal for souls, and lifelong dedication signified by celibacy according to the tradition of the Western Church;
- c. competence in pastoral skills, especially in the proclamation of God's Word and in leading divine worship;
- d. a sense of responsibility and commitment to the people entrusted to him and an ability to communicate with them;
- e. personal initiative and capacity for courageous leadership together with prudence and decision in action;
- f. willingness to subordinate personal preferences in the interest of cooperative effort.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Rector

[REDACTED]
Encl.

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025

RECTOR'S TESTIMONIAL

To the Most Reverend [REDACTED], BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

I, the undersigned, Rector of Saint Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, California, do hereby testify to the following points necessary for the promotion of Gustave Benson to the Priesthood, namely:

1. that I, as your delegate, have received the petition of the candidate (previously sent);
2. that the candidate has or will have completed successfully the studies required by Canon 976;
3. that the candidate has been approved by the Rector and Faculty of the Seminary (Faculty opinion enclosed);
4. that the candidate has obtained the necessary testimonial letters;
5. that he has secured proper dispensation from any irregularity which may have been discovered (Canon 984-988);
6. that he has secured all other dispensations;
7. that the candidate has or will have passed the required examination "de ordine suscipiendo" (Canon 996);
8. that the candidate has or will have made the required retreat (Canon 1001);
9. that the candidate has taken the required oath of freedom and knowledge of the obligations assumed (Quam Ingens - Dec. 27, 1930); (Enclosed)
10. that the candidate has made the required Profession of Faith and taken the oath against Modernism (Canon 1406 #7); (Enclosed)
11. that the candidate was ordained to the Diaconate on June 20, 1971 at San Diego by Most Reverend Leo T. Maher;
12. that he leaves this Archdiocese bound by no ecclesiastical censure.

Nos. 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 have been or will be taken care of in San Diego.

The attestations in Nos. 11 and 12 are presented with the mandate of the Archbishop of San Francisco.

[REDACTED]
Rector, St. Patrick's Seminary
Menlo Park, California

Benson-TC00175

SEAL

QUARTERLY EVALUATION FORM

Field Work Evaluation

Students Name GUSTAVO BENSON

by

Evaluator [REDACTED]

Director of Field Work

Quarter _____ Year 1971-72

DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

Gus Benson has spent 4 full years in the pastoral program of St. Patrick's Seminary and has received credit in each quarter during those years. He has been involved in several different parishes, generally in the context of using his ability with Spanish and Spanish speaking people. He seems to have gained confidence over the 4 years, and has shown increasing promise pastorally, indicating an ability and willingness to get involved with the people, understanding of them, and an ability to assess their needs. He has also indicated the skills to communicate with them and put together those kinds of programs that are needed in each situation. He is a person with a good deal of pastoral initiative and is quite able to function in an independent and a consistent fashion.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church

4177 Marlborough Avenue

San Diego, California 92105

April 12, 1972

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

A Letter of Recommendation for Rev. Mr. Gustavo Benson is one of the easiest things I have ever done. This young man has talent and ability so valuable to the Church in this modern age, that we must thank God for his vocation to the Priesthood.

Everyone here in our parish has been impressed by his zeal and dedication, and we feel very fortunate that we have had him with us for these eight months. It is the hope and prayer of all people in the parish that he be allowed to remain with us as he begins his priesthood.

As you so well know, he has a special interest and facility in working with Spanish-speaking people. However he is not limited to this work alone, for he reaches out to all people both young and old who make up this particular parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00177

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church

4177 Marlborough Avenue

San Diego, California 92105

The Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego
San Diego, California 92110

Your Excellency:

I, the undersigned, Gustavo Luis Benson, a Deacon
of the Diocese of San Diego do now present my petition
for the advancement to the Sacred Order of Priesthood.
I do this wholly of my free and spontaneous will,
being fully aware of the specific obligations attached
to these Sacred Orders. I am moved to this by
no consideration other than the promotion of the
glory of God in the service of the Church, and the
salvation of my own soul.

Gustavo Luis Benson
February 23, 1972
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
4177 Marlborough Avenue
San Diego, California 92105

Witnessed by the Delegate
of the Ordinary:
[REDACTED]

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church

4177 Marlborough Avenue
San Diego, California 92105

I, the undersigned, Gustavo Luis Benson, having presented to the Most Reverend Bishop the petition for the reception of the Order of Priesthood, now at the approach of Sacred Ordination, and upon serious consideration of the matter in the presence of God, do testify under oath that I am not compelled by any coercion, force, or fear to receive this Sacred Order, but that I desire it of my own accord, and that I desire to receive it with full and free deliberation, as I know and feel that I am really called by God.

I testify that I fully know all the obligations and everything else connected with this Sacred Order which I want and propose to receive of my own free will, and I am resolved to observe them all most conscientiously during the whole course of my life.

In particular, I declare that I clearly know the full meaning of the law of celibacy, and I firmly declare that, with God's help, I will gladly keep it and completely observe it.

Finally, I promise with sincere faith that, according to the Sacred Canons, I will most obediently observe all that my superiors command me and ecclesiastical discipline requires of me, and that I am prepared to set a good example both in deed and word, that I may earn my reward from God for the reception of such a great office.

So I promise, vow, and swear; so may God help me and these Corporals of God which I touch with my hand.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

Gustavo Luis Benson

March 29, 1972

Witnessed by the Delegates of the Ordinary:

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND OATH

With a firm faith I Justin Luis Benson believe and profess each and all the truths that are contained in the Profession of Faith, that is:

I believe in one God. The Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. By whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And he became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: and was made man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And on the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of his kingdom there will be no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and who spoke through the prophets. And one holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

I also firmly embrace and hold, in each and every part, what by the Church has either been defined by a solemn judgement, or affirmed and declared by ordinary teaching, on the doctrine of faith and morals, and as proposed by her, in a special manner what concerns the mystery of the holy Church of Christ, her Sacraments and the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Primacy of the Roman Pontiff.

I promise and swear, so help me God and these Holy Gospels which I touch with my hand.

Justin Luis Benson

Rev. 

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

March 29, 1972

April 24, 1972

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
St. Therese of the Child Jesus
5185 Navajo Road
San Diego, California 92120

Dear Monsignor [REDACTED]

I am writing to you concerning my tentative placement for my first year as priest. I was informed that my next assignment is to be at Encinitas with Reverend [REDACTED] and that I am to report there on May 20. I had greatly hoped to remain at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for another year as I felt my effectiveness with the Mexican American community was just beginning. I realize that having two young priests, Father [REDACTED] and myself, in the same parish is rare, but I had hoped that the Personnel Board would have understood that our apostolates completely different, he with the youth, and myself with the Mexican American community which now comprises about 40% of our parish population.

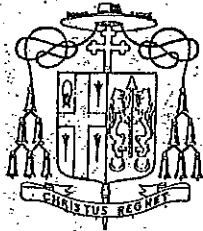
Upon much reflection on my tentative assignment, and after having spoken with priest friends, especially my pastor, Father [REDACTED], and the pastor of Encinitas, Father [REDACTED], we all agreed that the demand for a Mexican American priest in Encinitas is definitely not as critical as compared to other areas in San Diego county or in San Bernardino county, e.g. Colton. In Encinitas the pastor already speaks Spanish fluently, and the Mexican American population is less than 20% of the total parish population. Keeping this in mind, I request that the Personnel Board re-assign me to a parish where I feel my talents can best serve the Church. Surely there are other parishes where my Spanish language fluency and my Mexican American background will meet the critical need of our Spanish-speaking faithful.

Hoping to hear good news from you soon, I remain,

Yours truly,

Gustavo Luis Benson
Rev. Mr. Gustavo Luis Benson
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
San Diego, California 92105

cc.: Most Rev. Bishop [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
DEI ATQUE SEDIS APOSTOLICÆ GRACIA
EPISCOPUS SANCTI DIDACI

UNIVERSIS et singulis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint testamur Nos
in Ecclesia *Sancti Joseph* die *XX* mensis *Junii*
anno *1971* dilectum Nobis in Christo *Gustavo Benson*
præviis spiritualibus exercitiis ac prævio examine idoneum repertum, cum caeremoniis et solemnita-
tibus juxta Sanctæ Romanæ Ecclesiæ ritum ad *Diaconatum*
in Domino promovisse.

In quorum fidem has litteras nomine sigilloque Nostro munitas expediri jussimus.
Datum *Sancti Didaci* *XX* die *Decembris* mensis *1971* A.D.

[REDACTED]
CANCELLARIUS

[REDACTED]
EPISCOPUS SANCTI DIDACI

June 24, 1971

Rev. Mr. Gustavo Benson
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
4177 Marlborough Avenue
San Diego, California 92105

Dear Rev. Mr. Benson:

I am pleased to appoint you Deacon to:

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
4177 Marlborough Avenue
San Diego, California 92105

effective September 1, 1971.

Your cooperation and participation in
the apostolic ministry are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego

cc: Very Rev. [REDACTED]

July 12, 1971

Reverend Mr. Gustave Benson
St. Michael Church
617 West Main Cross Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840

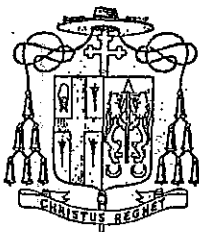
Dear Rev. Mr. Benson:

Enclosed you will find a certificate indicating your ordination to the diaconate on June 21 of 1971, at Saint Joseph's Cathedral in San Diego. In addition I am including an English translation of the document for the convenience of those officials who might have to see it in connection with your license to perform marriages in the State of Ohio.

I hope that you may have a most happy and profitable apostolate.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend [REDACTED]
Assistant Chancellor



[Redacted]
Dei atque Sedis Apostolicæ Gratia
Episcopus Sancti Didaci

UNIVERSIS et singulis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint testamur Nos

in Ecclesia

Sanctæ Josephæ

die 27 mensis Junii, 1971

anno 1971

dilectum Nobis in Christo

prædiis spiritualibus exercitiis ac prævio examine idoneum repertum, cum caeremoniis et solemnita-
tibus juxta Sanctæ Romanæ Ecclesiæ ritum ad Gustavo Luis Benson
in Domino promovisse.

In quorum fidem has litteras nomine sigilloque Nostro munitas expediri jussimus.

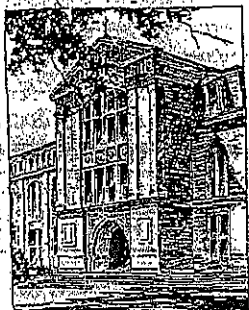
Datum

12

die Julio mensis 1971 A.D.

CANCELLARIUS

Episcopus Sancti Didaci



Office of the Rector

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

320 Middlefield Road Menlo Park, California 94025



June 7, 1971

The Most Reverend Leo T. Maher, D.D.
Bishop of San Diego
Administration Building, Alcala Park
San Diego, California 92110

Your Excellency:

Enclosed is the Certificate of Ordination to the Sub-
diaconate received by Gustavo Louis Benson on June 5, 1971 in St.
Patrick's Seminary Chapel. This is for your chancery records.

With all good wishes, I am


Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend
Rector

Encl.

T R A N S L A T I O N


By the Grace of God and
of the Apostolic See
Bishop of San Diego

To each and everyone to whom these letters are
presented we testify that in St. Joseph's Cathedral
in the city of San Diego on June 21, 1971, our
beloved son in Christ, Gustavo Luis Benson, having
been duly trained in the required spiritual exercises
was in a solemn ceremony according to the Rite of the
Roman Catholic Church ordained a Deacon.

In testimony of the foregoing we place our
hand and seal this 12th day of July, 1971

LITTERAE ORDINATIONIS

NOS [REDACTED]

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA

ARCHIEPISCOPUS SANCTI FRANCISCI IN CALIFORNIA

Universis et singulis praesentes Litteras inspecturis notum facimus

die 5a mensis Junii anno

Domini 1971 in Sacello Seminarii Sancti Patritii apud Menlo Park, Cal.

ab Illmo. ac Revmo. [REDACTED]

sacras Ordinationes celebrantes, dilectum nobis in Christo

GUSTAVUM LUDOVICUM BENSON

in scientia examinatum, et approbatum, atque in moribus caeterisque

requisitis iuxta praescriptum in Codice Iuris Canonici, Lib. III, Titulo

VI, idoneum repertum, itemque in spiritualibus exercitatum, ad

Sacrum SUBDIACONATUS Ordinem

rite canoniceque in Domino promotum fuisse. In cuius rei testimonium

has Litteras nomine sigilloque nostro munitas expediri iussimus.

Datis ex aedibus Seminarii Sancti Patritii, Menlo Park, California,

die 5a mensis Junii anno 1971

[REDACTED]

De Mandato Excmi. ac Revmi. Archiepiscopi.

[REDACTED]

Reffor Seminarii Sancti Patritii
Menlo Park, California

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
617 WEST MAIN CROSS ST.
FINDLAY, OHIO 45840

May 19, 1971

Gustavo Luis Benson
Saint Patrick's Seminary
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Gus,

I'm very sorry to have been this delayed in getting a written notice to you about the summer, but the workshop last week in Milwaukee and getting caught up after that have kept me busy. I hope your end-of-year schedule isn't too hectic out in sunny Cal.

Please consider this an official request to work with the summer project in Findlay. To spell out the details:

Our work will be the examination of present materials in catechetics and the development of further materials specifically designed for use with the spanish-speaking community.

As the requirements of the project allow, I hope that you will also be able to do direct pastoral work in the parish with both the permanent-resident community of spanish-speaking families and the migrant families here for the summer.

Our work begins on July 5th and runs through the 13th of August.

Because of budget problems, the finances will be as follows:

Round-trip transportation to and from San Diego will be covered;

Room and board while in Findlay (probably here at the rectory);

Stipend of \$65 per week or \$390.00 for the six-week term of the project, part from the project and part from the parish.

The team at present consists of four persons other than yourself; all are bi-lingual and three are bi-cultural. There will be two or three additional people with us on a part-time basis.

I hope that arrangements can be satisfactorily made with your bishop for you to join us. The people at the Division for the Spanish-speaking conference in Milwaukee were quite enthusiastic about this venture, and I really feel we have an area of critical need here. (Incidentally, Fr. [redacted] was there and was delighted to hear you might be working with us).

Please let me know as soon as possible the decision you and the bishop reach about this. I'm looking forward to working with you.

Yours in the Lord,
[redacted]

P.S. You might plan on flying east on Saturday (7/3) if possible.

0001

Benson-TC00189

June 15, 1971

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Rector, St. Patrick's Seminary
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter of June 7
and the inclosed certificate of Ordination to
the Sub-diaconate of Gustavo Louis Benson on
June 5, 1971.

I am happy to have this information
and record for our files.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego

A PROJECT
TO DEVELOP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATERIALS
FOR WORK WITH THE SPANISH-SPEAKING

PURPOSE: To develop religious education materials suitable for catechetical programs with Spanish-speaking adults and children.

DATES AND LOCATION: July 5th through August 13th (1971)
Findlay, Ohio - located in the Toledo Diocese

PERSONNEL NEEDED: (men or women)

Two religious education specialists - these will be the team's resource people in modern catechetical theory and methods.

QUALIFICATIONS: Recent graduate studies in religious education;
Some experience (if possible) in planning religious education programs and materials;
Interest in religious education for both adults and children;
Spanish language facility for at least one of the two persons; bi-cultural if possible

Two cultural specialists - these will be the resource persons in matters pertaining to the culture of Spanish-speaking peoples, especially Mexican-American culture.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bi-lingual facility, and at least one of the two persons from a bi-cultural background;
Specific interest in religious education;
Recent experience in working with the Spanish-speaking

One communications specialist - to work with the team to integrate audio-visual materials in the program and advise on arrangement of material, format, illustration, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bi-lingual if possible;
Some experience in working with the Spanish-speaking;
Interest in religious education materials;
Some familiarity with modern catechetical theory and methods;
Experience and training in audio-visual materials, and use of the communications media in general

STIPEND, LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: Stipend can be discussed based on qualifications and particular needs. The parish convent is available for summer use, or private housing arrangements may be made.

CREDIT: We will be happy to work with colleges and institutes in arranging for credit for this work. Please inform us of your needs on an individual basis.

CONTACT: Address all applications and/or inquiries to:

Rev. [REDACTED]
St. Michael Church
617 W. Main Cross
Findlay, Ohio 45840

Phone: 1-419-422-2646

May 22, 1971

His Excellency
Bishop [REDACTED]
Chancery Office
Alcala Park,
San Diego, Calif. 92110



Dear Bishop [REDACTED],

Greetings and best wishes from Saint Patrick's Seminary!

I am enclosing a copy of a possible summer job opportunity which I am considering during my vacation. I am very interested in it as this job will offer me a completely novel experience (please do not mention this to my employer...) which I believe will broaden my background. I find it an ideal opportunity for it will allow me to travel east for the first time as well as provide a source of limited income to sustain me during the summer as my resources are nearly depleted. I would appreciate your approval to this summer venture. I will not commit myself definitely until I hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you soon and am anticipating with great joy serving the Church in San Diego.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Gustavo Luis Benson
Saint Patrick's Seminary
Menlo Park, Calif. 94025

cc: Father [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00192

May 25, 1971

Mr. Gustavo Luis Benson
St. Patrick's Seminary
Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Mr. Benson:

In your letter of May 22 you outline a proposal submitted by Father [REDACTED]. I can well understand your interest in such a program and the opportunity to travel east.

I am very happy indeed to grant you permission to follow through on this request and to enjoy the visit to the East.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Bishop of San Diego

cc: Rev. [REDACTED]

LITTERAE TESTIMONIALES

_____ DEI ET APOSTOLICAE
SEDIS GRATIA ARCHIEPISCOPUS SANCTI FRANCISCI IN CALIFORNIA

Per praesentes litteras cunctis fidem facimus atque testamur dilectum
Nobis in Christo _____ GUSTAVUM L. BENSON _____ qui, ratione commorationis
per _____ septennium _____
in _____ civitate Sancti Francisci et in Seminario Sancti Patritii _____ Nostrae
Diocesis loco, litteris testimonialibus Nostris indiget ut ad ordines vocari
possit, per totum illud tempus ita vitam et mores instituisse, ut, quantum
sciamus, liber ab omni censura et ab omni ordinationis impedimento, e
dioecesi Nostra discesserit, adeoque ex hac parte nihil obstare, quominus ab
Episcopo suo ad Tonsuram aut Minores Majoresve Ordines rite promo-
veatur.

In quorum fidem has testimoniales litteras, manu Nostra subscriptas,
expediri iussimus.

Datum _____ apud Menlo Park, Calif. _____ sub signo sigilloque Nostro,
die _____ 1a _____ mensis Maii _____ anni 19 71

De Mandato Excmi. ac Revmi. Archiepiscopi

Rector Sem. Sti. Patritii

May 11, 1971

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Rector
Saint Patrick's Seminary
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Father [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed a dismissal letter for Gustavo Louis

Benson. You will note that this letter is for the subdiaconate
only. It is my understanding that he will be receiving the

Diaconate here in San Diego.

My prayers for your work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Vice Chancellor - Secretary

Encl.

July 15, 1970

Rt. Rev. [REDACTED]
Confaternity of Christian Doctrine
Chancery Office, Alcalá Park
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Father [REDACTED],

I am a seminarian working in Calexico as Director of a Teen Center. This Center is being sponsored during the summer by the Consortium of Social Services of the Diocese. One of our projects during the summer is to take small groups of teenagers out of the Imperial Valley heat and go up to the mountains for the week-end. Although we have not yet been able to acquire use of a cabin, we still go either for the day or we camp out for an over-nighter. Our problem now is to have enough reliable transportation.

Last week I was at the rectory of Our Lady of Guadalupe talking with Father [REDACTED], and I asked him about the availability of the C.C.D. car which is parked behind the rectory. He told me you were planning soon to drive down for it and that besides, he thought it had no insurance. It would be a great service for us if some arrangements could be made whereby we might be able to use the car during the summer for our trips and at the end of summer I could drive it over to San Diego and leave it with you. You might like to speak with Father [REDACTED] to see what arrangements might be made.

I hope to hear good news from you soon.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Gustavo Luis Benson
827 Heber Avenue
Calexico, Calif. 92231

c/c Father [REDACTED], Director
Catholic Family Services

Benson-TC00196

July 24, 1970

Rt. Rev. [REDACTED]
Chancery Office
Alcala Park
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Father [REDACTED],

Many thanks for making the G.C.D. car available for our week-end trips during the summer. It will relieve us from many headaches. The information you requested is the following:

Ford sedan, 1966 8 cyls.
Engine number 6j54c147780
License number SQP 007

Thanks again, and have a good summer!

Peace,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Gustavo Luis Benson
Callexico Cultural Teen Center
Callexico, Calif. 92231
tel. 357-4414

Memorandum

From the desk of ...

Mrs. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

11/7/69

[redacted]

1/7/10/69

[redacted]

6/13/70

[redacted]

[redacted]



Patrick's Seminary

March 3, 1970

Dear Bishops [redacted]

Thank you for calling me last week and for the promptness in correcting my financial situation. It has been a great relief for me.

I hope you will be able to come up to see us soon as we would all like to get to know you better.

Sincerely,
Gustavo Luis Berse

February 25, 1970

Mr. Gustavo Luis Benson
St. Patrick Seminary
Menlo Park, Calif. 94025

Dear Mr. Benson:

You will find enclosed a check for \$ [REDACTED]

which had been credited to your account by
your parents.

Please be assured of my prayerful good wishes
for you and all of the San Diegans at St.
Patrick's.

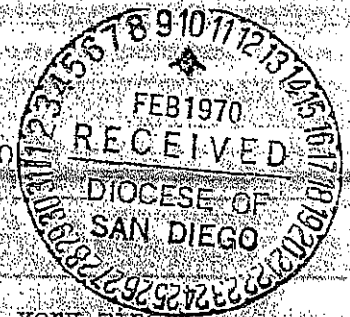
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Chancellor

cc: Mrs. [REDACTED]

bc: Acctg. Dept.

115
~~123-1961~~
125-5621



February 8, 1970

Dear Bishop [redacted]

Excuse me for taking up your time on what may seem a very minor problem for the diocese, but one which is crucial for me. May I begin by giving you some background information. Last year my parents willingly met all the seminary expenses, and began to do likewise this year until about two months ago when I decided that my pastoral activities could no longer be limited by my not having a car. So I informed my parents that I was requesting a diocesan loan for this year, with the hopes that the \$ [redacted] I had as credit could be employed as a down payment for a car, with my parents continuing the bank payments for the car until my ordination, at which time I would hope to begin to pay them back. Thinking that this could easily be arranged, I wrote to Father [redacted] over a month ago requesting that my credit be sent to my parents or to me. In the meantime I bought a 1968 Valiant, and needing an immediate down-payment I offered the last of my savings, \$ [redacted], believing they would soon be replaced by my diocesan credit. Yesterday I was informed by Father [redacted] that Monsignor [redacted] has rejected my request as it goes against some Chancery policy.

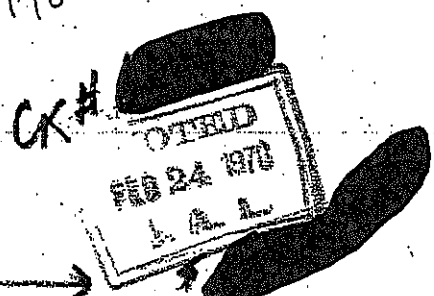
Bishop, may I be so bold as to say that I find that decision unjust and is causing me much hardship. The Chancery should remember that this is the first year they are funding my expenses, and considering that my parents are by no means even in the middle class financial bracket, they have covered my tuition with some personal hardship. The Chancery should also remember that it was my parents and myself who financed my college education at the University of San Francisco, a great savings for the Chancery. If the Chancery needs collateral to stand against the diocesan loan, they should consider that I am already a second theologian in excellent standing, and that, I believe, should be enough for anyone.

As my situation now stands, I have no savings to meet my daily expenses, and since I have not wanted to burden my family beyond their meeting my car payments, I have had to resort to part-time employment. I earnestly petition that you correct the Chancery's decision, and that my funds be sent immediately either to me or my parents. Thank you for your attention. With best wishes to you, I am,

Yours truly,

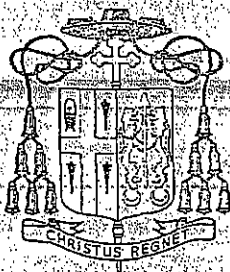
Gustavo Luis Benson
Gustavo Luis Benson
St. Patrick's Seminary
Menlo Park, Calif. 94025

OK 2/19/70



3x 135

Benson-TC00200



LITT. DIMISSORIALES

SAN DIEGO DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR APOSTOLIC MINISTRY
ALCALA PARK SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92110

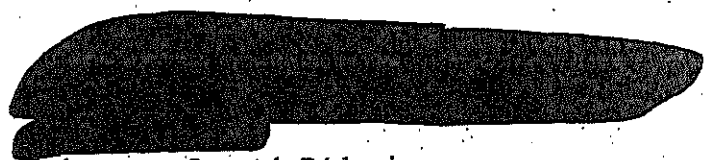
Dilecto Nobis in Christo, Domino Gustavo Louis Benson
subdito Nostro, Salutem et benedictionem in Domino.

Cum plene Nobis constet te ex legitimis, catholicis, honestisque
parentibus progenitum, rite baptizatum et confirmatum, bonis moribus
debitisque qualitatibus ad normam Sacrorum Canonum praeditum esse, neque
ulla irregularitate aliove impedimento detentum nullaque censura, quod
sciamus, innodatum esse, et canonico de annis cursu theologiae, ad tramitem
iuris, documento Nobis exhibito, per praesentes tibi licentiam et faculta-
tem largimur et libenter concedimus, ut ad subdiaconatum.
a quocumque Catholico Antistite gratiam et communionem Sedis Apostolicae
habente, valide ac licite promoveri possis et valeas.

Volumus tamen ut praedictae litterae Nostrae nonnisi accedente
Superiorum Seminarii consensu atque testimonio effectum sortiantur.

Servatis in reliquo de iure servandis. Contrarii quibuscumque non
obstantibus.

Datum ex aedibus cancellariae Nostrae, subsigno sigilloque
Nostro, ac Cancellarii Nostri subscriptione, anno Domini 1971,
die vero 11 mensis Maii.

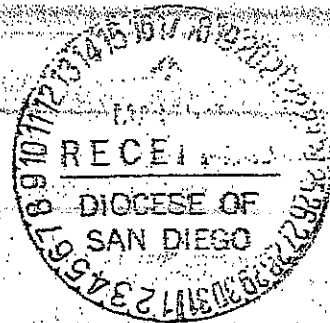

Episcopus Sancti Didaci

De Mandato Excmi, ac Revmi Episcopi


Cancellarius

Benson-TC00201

March 15, 1971



Very Rev. [REDACTED]
St. Patrick's Seminary
Menlo Park, California

Dear Very Rev. [REDACTED]:

I am writing a letter of recommendation in favor of Gustavo Benson, a seminarian and candidate for Orders in your Seminary.

I have known Gustavo Benson for about a year. As the Director of Ethnic Affairs for the Diocese of San Diego, we became quite interested in trying to reach the Mexican American and alienated youth in the Imperial Valley. Since these young people would be the future leaders in the Church, we naturally felt that somehow, someone within the Church should reach out to them. It was at this point that Gus Benson brought out the idea of a Cultural Teen Center in Calexico. It was a great idea, a reachout program for the Mexican American youth, the poor, the disadvantaged. Gus Benson was put in charge of this program for the summer, with the idea that someone else would continue when school began. From the very beginning this job of reaching the youth would not be an easy one, but a patient and trying role. However, Gus Benson was able to reach them and gained their confidence and trust.

Gus Benson has proven more than once his leadership abilities. His personality, his warmth, concern and special "touch" and understanding of youth make him a tremendous asset as a future priest. Gus Benson is the type of man, people in the modern world, would want as a priest. His intellectual abilities were brought to my attention more than once. I was impressed by his written proposal petitioning funds for the continuation of the Teen Center. Gus Benson is not only a knowledgeable and thinking young man, but with the added gift of putting it on paper.

From personal observance and private conversations I think that Gus Benson possesses the adequate spiritual foundation and resource to keep him abreast with the good Lord in his ministry. Gus Benson has the evident moral qualities for the priesthood, honesty, integrity, social awareness, love for God and neighbor. Added to this, a special and unique insight to the needy and disadvantaged Mexican American. Gus Benson will be a fine priest, involved and concern for the social and spiritual betterment of his people. As a former Rector of a Seminary, I wholeheartedly recommend that Gus Benson be promoted to the Minor Orders, Subdeaconate, Deacon and eventually, the priesthood.

With all kind wishes and prayers, I do remain,

Sincerely in the Lord,


Rev. , Director
Ethnic Affairs, San Diego


cc: Most Rev. 
Rev. 

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY


MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025

Your Excellency:

I, the undersigned, Gustavo Luis Benson, layman of the Diocese of San Diego, do now present my petition for advancement to receive the Four Minor Orders, and the Sacred Orders of Subdeaconship and Diaconate. I do this wholly of my free and spontaneous will, being fully aware of the specific obligations attached to these Sacred Orders. I am moved to this by no consideration other than the promotion of the glory of God in the service of the Church, and the salvation of my own soul.

St. Patrick's Seminary
Menlo Park, California

Gustavo Luis Benson
February 3, 1971

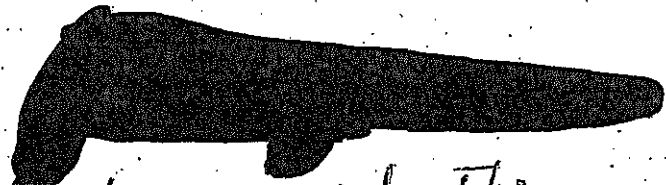

Witnessed by the Delegate of the Ordinary

OATH ACCORDING TO THE NORM OF CANON 981

I, Gustavo Luis Benson, a candidate for the Order of Subdiaconate, having full knowledge of the prescription of Canon 981 of the Code of Canon Law by which it is determined that those who are ordained to the title of service of a diocese, must, after having taken an oath, devote themselves perpetually to the service of the same diocese. I promise and swear that I will perpetually serve the diocese of San Diego, under the authority of the Ordinary of the diocese of San Diego, so help me God and these Holy Gospels which I touch with my hand.

Gustavo Luis Benson
February 14, 1971

I, the undersigned, testify before God that the above-mentioned student of St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, California, who is a candidate for the Order of Subdiaconate, has in my presence taken the above-mentioned oath according to the norm of law.



Witnessed by the
Delegate of the Ordinary.

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025

RECTOR'S TESTIMONIAL

To the Most Reverend . [REDACTED] . BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

I hereby declare and certify that GUSTAVO L. BENSON..... who has received the recommendation of the Faculty for promotion to first Tonsure has complied with all the requirements of Canon Law, namely:

1. as your delegate, I have received the petition of the candidate (previously sent);
2. he has complied with the prescription concerning theological studies as stated in Canon 976;
3. he has passed the required examinations including that on the Orders to which he is to be promoted-
4. he has made or will make the retreat prescribed by Canon 1001;
5. he has produced testimonials of baptism, confirmation, of parents' marriage and of good conduct from every diocese in which he has resided for a consecutive period of six months or longer (Canon 993);
6. he has taken, if necessary, the oath mentioned in Canon 956;
7. he has secured the proper dispensation from any irregularity which may have been discovered (Canon 984-988);
8. he has secured all other dispensations;
9. we have on file satisfactory Vacation Letters from his pastor;
10. the prescriptions of the Instruction Quam Ingens (Dec. 27, 1930) concerning the investigations of the candidate's fitness have been made.

[REDACTED]
Rector, St. Patrick's Seminary
Menlo Park, California

SEAL

Benson-TC00206

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025

RECTOR'S TESTIMONIAL

To the Most Reverend  BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO

I, the undersigned, Rector of Saint Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, California, do hereby testify to the following points necessary for the promotion of Gustavo I. Benson..... to Subdiaconate and Diaconate, namely:

1. that I, as your delegate, have received the petition of the candidate;
2. that the candidate has or will have completed successfully the studies required by Canon 976;
3. that the candidate has been approved by the Rector and the Faculty of the Seminary;
4. that the candidate has obtained the necessary testimonial letters;
5. that he has secured proper dispensation from any irregularity which may have been discovered (Canon 984-988);
6. that he has secured all other dispensations;
7. that the candidate has or will have passed the required examination "de ordine suscipiendo" (Canon 996);
8. that the candidate has taken, if necessary, the oath mentioned in Canon 981;
9. that the candidate has or will have made the required retreat (Canon 1001);
10. that the candidate has taken the required oath of freedom and knowledge of the obligations assumed (Quam Ingens - Dec. 27, 1930);
11. that the candidate has made the required Profession of Faith and taken the oath against Modernism (Canon 1406 #7);
12. that I have had with the candidate the personal interview required by the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments (Quam Ingens - Dec. 27, 1930); that I am satisfied that he understands the obligations attaching to the Sacred Orders he is about to receive and that he is ready to assume them freely and from the proper motives.


Rector, St. Patrick's Seminary
Menlo Park, California

SEAL

Benson-TC00207

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND OATH

With a firm faith I Guillermo Luis Benson believe and profess each and all the truths that are contained in the Profession of Faith, that is:

I believe in one God: The Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. By whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And he became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: and was made man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And on the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of his kingdom there will be no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and who spoke through the prophets. And one holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

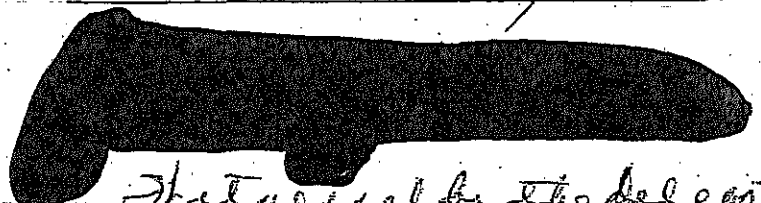
I also firmly embrace and hold, in each and every part, what by the Church has either been defined by a solemn judgement, or affirmed and declared by ordinary teaching, on the doctrine of faith and morals, and as proposed by her, in a special manner what concerns the mystery of the holy Church of Christ, her Sacraments and the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Primacy of the Roman Pontiff.

I promise and swear, so help me God and these Holy Gospels which I touch with my hand.

Guillermo Luis Benson

February 16, 1971

St. Patrick's Seminary Menlo Park



Witnessed by the delegate
of the Ordinary

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025

I, the undersigned, Gustavo Luis Benson, having presented to the Most Reverend Bishop the petition for the reception of the Orders of Subdiaconship and Diaconship, ^{at the} now approach of Sacred Ordination, and upon serious consideration of the matter in the presence of God, do testify under oath that I am not compelled by any coercion, force, or fear to receive these sacred Orders; but that I desire them of my own accord, and that I desire to receive them with full and free deliberation, and I know and feel that I am really called by God.

I attest that I fully know all the obligations and everything else connected with these sacred Orders which I want and propose to receive of my free will, and I am resolved to observe them all most conscientiously during the whole course of my life.

In particular, I declare that I clearly know the full meaning of the law of celibacy, and I firmly declare that, with God's help, I will gladly keep it and completely observe it.

Finally, I promise with sincere faith that, according to the sacred Canons, I will most obediently observe all that my superiors command me and ecclesiastical discipline requires of me, and that I am prepared to set a good example both in deed and word; that I may earn my reward from God for the reception of such a great office.

So I promise, vow, and swear, so may God help me and these Gospels of God which I touch with my hand.

Saint Patrick's Seminary

Gustavo Luis Benson

February 16, 1971

Witnessed by the delegate of the Ordinary

[Redacted signature]

Benson-TC00209

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION BEFORE MAJOR ORDERS

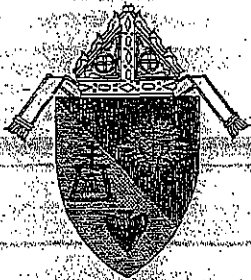
NAME: Gustavo L. Benson

FACULTY RECOMMENDATION: After reviewing all the evaluations given in by the faculty and peers, the faculty recommends Gustavo Benson for the Major Orders of Subdiaconate and Diaconate. He was previously recommended for Tonsure and Minor Orders; by his own decision delayed receiving them.

SCRUTINIUM: The Scrutinium with the Rector was held on January twenty-eighth for one hour. His attitudes, convictions concerning priesthood, Church, Ministry, Holiness, Personal Maturity, Celibacy, Obedience were discussed with the Rector and the Rector is very well satisfied that his ideas and convictions and his motivation are sound, integrated and truly Christian and Priestly. In this interview we talked a bit about his impatience with people who do not share with the same intensity his concerns for people. He is conscious of this and will be very aware to take into consideration other peoples positions.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE: Mr. Benson has been very satisfied with his courses at St. Patrick's and has grown consistently in his academic learning and success. He takes his studies seriously and has a sober awareness of their importance for today. He is a good student and is capable of good intellectual work and clear expression of his knowledge.

PERSONAL CHARACTER: He is a truthful, sincere, honest young man, always a gentleman, clean-cut and decent in appearance; he is industrious and creative and works well with a good sense of duty and responsibility. He is generous with his time and talents; he is sensitive in his feelings for the needs of people and for brotherly friendship. With most everyone he is able to have good personal relations; only at times does he project somewhat a father-confessor attitude in the seminary context and makes some a bit uncomfortable with him. He has adjusted well to the directives and programs of his priestly formation here; prayer and liturgical life have real significance in his life. We have noted that he has improved greatly in his ability to assess situations and deal with them realistically, in particular, he has the ability to listen even in situations of disagreement and to assess the meaning of the positions of others and try to respond to them. At times in these situations he has to control some impatience, but generally speaking he has done this and we have every hope that he will continue to be very prudently zealous.



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL

March 18, 2003

Reverend Gustavo Benson

CONFIDENTIAL



RE: ~~David Land and Troy Hay - Diocese of San Bernardino~~
San Bernardino Superior Court Case Number SCV 49270

Dear Father Benson,

I am writing with regards to a very sensitive matter that affects you as a priest who has served here in the Diocese of San Bernardino. On January 28, 2003, the Honorable Judge Bob N. Krug issued an Order ("Order") requiring the Diocese of San Bernardino ("Diocese") to respond to certain questions and produce files for "in-camera" review by Referee Judge Kenneth Ziebarth. The Order was made and to be complied with prior to March 10, 2003.

An in-camera inspection simply means that Judge Ziebarth (a retired judge from San Bernardino County) will be reviewing the files to determine whether they must be produced to the plaintiffs.

The Order provides, among other things, that the Diocese produce files which reflect inappropriate contact between minors and priests that allegedly may have occurred or been reported from the period 1960 through 1988.

The Diocese has agreed to turn over the files through the 1988 date. The files will include dates of alleged acts of misconduct, the sources of information and the maintenance of files regarding alleged accusations of misconduct. It is incumbent upon me to inform you that materials from your priest file are among those materials which will be turned over by the Diocese in complying with this Order by Judge Krug.

Judge Ziebarth will review the files and make his report to Judge Krug regarding whether or not those files are discoverable, which means whether they should be turned over to plaintiff's counsel.

Benson-TC00211



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

September 21, 1990

Reverend Gustavo Benson

[REDACTED]

Dear Gus:

I enjoyed the dinner we shared together in Ensenada and appreciated the opportunity to discuss your present status and future plans.

It was good that we had some clarification regarding our past communications. I know you are pleased you have finished your basic counseling and also your probation has been completed. However, you and I are in agreement that there must be a life-time follow-up program, as noted in your discharge agreement from Foundation House, Jemez Springs. Within the next month, I ask that you present to me a precise plan for a program. I foresee that this plan will include ongoing meetings with a Psychologist and your Spiritual Director. I also recommend ongoing attendance at a sex anonymous group and you mentioned that you checked into this, but had not yet joined a group. I encourage your participation, in this type of a program, so you will have the additional support.

Now that you have completed your formal care with a therapist, she should send a professional report to Dr. [REDACTED], the diocesan psychologist. His address is [REDACTED]. This will be for his information, so he may properly advise me.

I ask that your Spiritual Director drop me a note suggesting ways I can assist you. As for your therapist and Spiritual Director, they will need your consent for any information to be released.

You are a priest in good standing in the Diocese of San Bernardino, presently having permission to be outside the diocese on special assignment for work and ministry in the Diocese of Tijuana, Mexico.

Benson-TC00212

Reverend Gustavo Benson
September 21, 1990

Bishop [REDACTED], of the Diocese of Tijuana, is aware of your situation and has a copy of the recommendations that you are following.

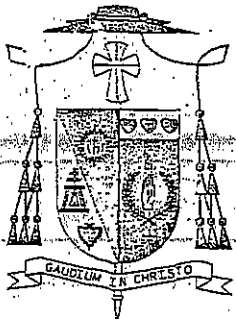
It is difficult to foresee your returning to the Diocese of San Bernardino. You raised the question as to the possibility of your being incardinated in the Diocese of Tijuana. Bishop [REDACTED] has expressed some interest in pursuing this possibility. One obstacle seems to be the matter of your pension benefits. After discussing various options, you concurred that if your pension benefits could be given by granting you early retirement for health reasons that this would be acceptable to you. I will be in contact with the Pension Board regarding this matter. It will be necessary to obtain a letter from you and one from your medical/psychological people stating a request for early retirement due to health reasons. The pension plan asks for evidence that the applicant cannot continue to function as a priest, even though ministry can be subsequently undertaken. I will keep you informed on this matter.

I have tried to briefly state the content of our conversation, but, perhaps, clarification of certain issues is needed. I welcome your comments.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
[REDACTED]

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

June 18, 1987

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Obispo De Tijuana
Apartado Postal 226
Tijuana, B.C., Mexico

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

I appreciated talking with you concerning the possibility of Father Gustavo Benson, of the Diocese of San Bernardino, working in pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Tijuana. A few days later, I was pleased to receive a call from your secretary stating that you would be willing to give Father Benson this opportunity. I was then able to reach Father Benson and asked him to contact you and I presume that by this time, he has done so.

Father Benson can explain to you, the circumstances for which we was undergoing special medical care at the Foundation House in Jemez Springs, New Mexico, staffed by the Paraclete Fathers. I believe that he has made good progress in working on his problems and he has agreed to continued care and supervision by Affirmation House for another year and a half. It is with the recommendation of the staff at the Foundation House that he return to pastoral ministry. Having received their reports and, knowing Father Benson, personally for a number of years, I agree with their decision.

There are some very important recommendations that have been made by the House of Affirmation with which I concur and these are to be strictly followed by Father Benson. I am enclosing a copy of these recommendations for your information and file. I note, in particular, recommendation number 4 to which he must strictly adhere.

Benson-TC00214

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
June 18, 1987

To assist with Father Benson's financial situation, the Diocese of San Bernardino will continue to pay and provide his Health Care Insurance, as well as his Priests' Pension Plan. Will the parish where he would be assigned be able to provide for his room, board and stipend?

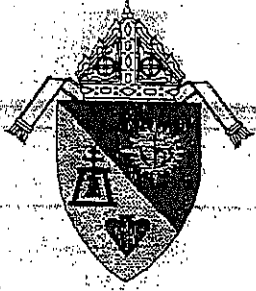
If you need any further clarification regarding this particular situation or the background of Father Benson, I would be most happy to provide it. Father has had a good pastoral record here in the Diocese of San Bernardino and has been pastor of several large parishes for which he provided excellent pastoral ministry. His most recent assignment was Pastor of St. Joseph Church in Barstow, California. He is well respected as a priest among his brother priests and by the people. I am sure that if he will abide by the recommendations that have been made by the Foundation House, he can once again resume his pastoral ministry.

I sincerely appreciate your willingness to accept Father Benson and am hopeful that he can be of great assistance to you and to the church of Tijuana.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

[REDACTED]
cc: Reverend [REDACTED]



Diocese of San Bernardino

CHANCELLOR ♦ MODERATOR OF CURIA

CONFIDENTIAL

January 29, 1996

Reverend Gustavo Benson

P.O. Box 120045

Chula Vista CA 91912

Dear Gus,

Thank you for your letter concerning Father [REDACTED]. I have discussed the matter with Bishop [REDACTED]. For your own knowledge, you would realize that the Church is held to a higher standard than any other organization or individual in the integrity of its priests servants. The last several years have only emphasized that value.

His present unsanctioned priestly functioning in the diocese, continue to cause conflicts for the local pastors and Catholics. There are several issues that need to be addressed before any further discussion or resolution. Be assured that both Bishop [REDACTED] and I have spoken to [REDACTED] about these conditions in the past.

The three areas are:

1. Completion of a proper psychological evaluation at the New Life Center in Virginia. I had arranged this for [REDACTED] and he was prepared to go. He reversed his decision. This is an unconditional first step in the process. The evaluation by his own therapist is unacceptable to the Bishop.
2. [REDACTED] needs to make a full disclosure to you and a bishop about his personal history prior to his arrival in the Diocese of San Bernardino.
3. [REDACTED] has been canonically suspended. The process to reverse this must be followed.

There may be other legal or personal issues that need to be addressed. The Diocese of San Bernardino is liable for the actions of any of its incardinated priests.

Benson-TC00216

Reverend Gustavo Benson
January 29, 1996

When you share this information with [REDACTED] please tell him of our desire to assist in resolving these matters for his own peace of soul. With appreciation for your concern for our brother priest, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Chancellor/Moderator of Curia

[REDACTED]
cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00217

UUU217

Jan 23, 1956

Dear Father [redacted]

I am sending you this letter remembering the high esteem I had for you many years ago while it was still in the diocese of San Bernardino. You of course know of my difficulties, of my going to the Paraclete Fathers in Jersey Springs N.M., and through the kindness of Bishop [redacted], was allowed to apply to the Diocese of Tijuana. I have been down here almost ten years I feel with great gratitude that God gave me a second chance. I have a good reputation here and Bishop [redacted] was always a good pastor and friend for me.

A year and a half ago Bishop [redacted] asked me to receive in the parish another American priest whom I did not know, but come with the recommendations of Bishop [redacted]. Feeling I had little choice to deny the Bishop and needing help in the parish I met Father [redacted] (I had not known him previously). From the very beginning we

3

and confuses people. I realize [redacted] does not
fit a normal mold for a priest - he is very free
(that can be a benefit or a fault). He will not
disappear or fade away and he does not want to
leave the priesthood or leave the Church. All of
us have made mistakes and yet Bishop [redacted]
and the dioceses were very pastoral with me and
I believe it was a good decision. PLEASE
help another fellow priest relocate and begin a
new life. I realize that in the eyes of the dioceses
[redacted] had not been docile, but from another
perspective maybe the dioceses has been most
protective considering the legal/economic realities.
[redacted] has no legal case pending, all he needs
is for the Diocese of San Bernardino/Bishop
[redacted] to release him to Tijuana and let
Tijuana determine what psychological treatment
he might need (I went for two years, twice a
week to a psychologist). Get him out of your
hair. Give him another chance. Let the past
and all the enmity on both sides be forgotten.
Release yourselves from legal bindings however to
write his release from the dioceses.

I count on you as a man whom I
know to have a tender heart and pastorally

4

orientated to speak to Bishop [redacted],
 suggest and even beg him in the name of
 priestly solidarity to give [redacted] this opportunity.

I do not have faculties in San Bernardino
 and I have respected that even painfully. You
 can impose the same limitations on [redacted] and
 I will see that he respects them, otherwise you
 will continue to have a "wild horse" within
 the stable. It would be a shame to have
 him start a separate church as Fr. [redacted] did,
 something Fr. [redacted] would never do for love
 towards the Church.

Please consider my request, counsel
 Bishop [redacted], and God willing I ask you
 to send me and/or [redacted] a letter of release
 with God's blessings.

Thanking you as I trust in your
 good will,

Sincerely,

Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson

[redacted]

Al Benson

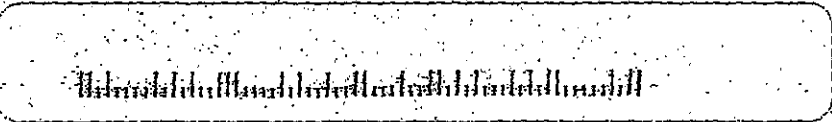
[Redacted]

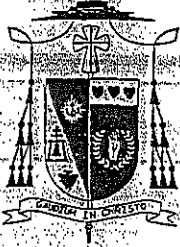


CONFIDENTIAL

Most Rev. [Redacted]
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 North "D" St.
San Bernardino, Ca. 92405

PLEASE





Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

COPY

June 1, 1994

Reverend Gus Benson
Post Office Box 120045
Chula Vista, California 91912

Dear Father Gus,

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated, May 14, 1994 regarding a number of concerns regarding your own faculties, here in this diocese, and in San Diego, as well as concerns about Father [REDACTED] working in Mexico.

Regarding your faculties, now that you are a priest incardinated in the Diocese of Tijuana, your faculties are of that diocese and you do not automatically hold faculties in the Diocese of San Bernardino. I think you realize that things have drastically changed from the time that you underwent treatment with the Paracletes in Jemez Springs and your acceptance in the Diocese of Tijuana.

The Diocese of Tijuana knowing of your treatment and aftercare program, as well as the conditions that you were willing to abide by, accepted you for service and ministry in their diocese. It is impossible for you to serve as a priest in the Diocese of San Bernardino, today. At the present time, I can not grant you faculties nor approve of your preaching for mission appeals, here in this diocese.

In regard to the Diocese of San Diego this is entirely their decision, knowing that you are an incardinated priest in the Diocese of Tijuana. However, I must honestly say that in light of present events, here in the United States, any diocese which is aware of your past difficulties, even though you participated in a treatment program, would not grant you faculties. If we are asked for references, we would not be able to provide a favorable recommendation for you.

You also wrote in regard to Father [REDACTED], who has been assisting you in Ensenada. I was totally unaware of this situation until just recently, when I received a call from

Benson-TC00222

Reverend Gus Benson
June 1, 1994

Bishop [REDACTED] in San Diego. Having confirmed that Bishop [REDACTED] was allowing Father [REDACTED] to work in Mexico, I felt it my obligation to inform Bishop [REDACTED] of Father [REDACTED] situation in the Diocese of San Bernardino and that he was under suspension.

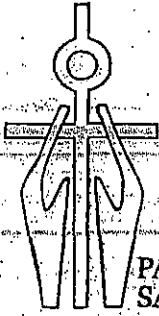
Although Father [REDACTED] has received some therapy, while here in the diocese, he has not gone through a program such as the one you attended in Jimenez Springs. Nor has he received any certification that he has completed a recovery program or an aftercare program that he would follow, such as the one you received. Father [REDACTED] has been given instructions to what he is to do in the Diocese of San Bernardino, but has opted to go his own way. I have informed Bishop [REDACTED] of the situation. If Bishop [REDACTED] wishes, under Canon Law, to lift the suspension and take the responsibility, that is his decision. I would disagree with this decision and would not assume any of the responsibility for Father [REDACTED] actions.

You speak favorable of the ministry and work of [REDACTED]. I, too, commend him for the great priestly work that he did, here in the Diocese of San Bernardino. But, I believe there are some personal problems that Father [REDACTED] needs to face.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]



PARROQUIA de
SAN JUDAS TADEO

May 14, 1994

FILE

Dear Bishop [REDACTED],

It has been over a year since I last saw you down here in Ensenada. Last summer I tried to contact you but you were away on a much needed sabbatical.

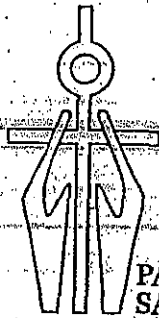
The last time your Bishop [REDACTED] has included me in a team of English speaking priests assigned to go preach for the Missions on a weekend, something I have found to be challenging and rewarding. Last summer I was assigned to go to S.L.G. in Ontario. Since I felt some hesitancy on my part I called two months before and spoke to the pastor, identifying myself and confirming the assignment. I waited for a negative reaction, but none came. Two weeks before my assignment in Ontario I was to go preach in Chula Vista with Msgr. [REDACTED]. As he had doubts about my status he called the S.D. Pastoral Center which in turn called the S.B. Pastoral Center. San Bernardino notified San Diego that I did not have faculties and faked the letter from my psychiatrist friend in Mexico City which had been used to facilitate getting the medical pension. Bishop [REDACTED] then called me two days before my assignment to Ontario to reaffirm that I was not welcomed. I was greatly embarrassed and pained as I had never been informed orally or written of any withdrawal of faculties. I did not argue my case as I realized that you were not available and that Bishop [REDACTED] had only the psychiatrist letter as a reference.* While I am well

BLV. LAGO VICTORIA 553 FRACC. VALLE DORADO C.P. 22890 ENSENADA, B.C. TEL. 7-65-50

* P.D. Due to the facts received from Bishop [REDACTED] San Diego also denied me faculties.

00022

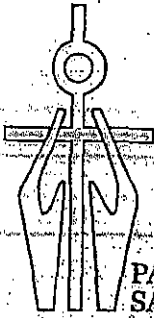
Benson-TC00224



PARROQUIA de
SAN JUDAS TADEO

aware of the difficulties many dioceses are facing I had not felt any problems on previous occasions when I accepted invitations to celebrate Mass at San Salvador in Colton (two different summers and to Saratow (where I was not able to attend ^[previous commitments] their anniversary). Honestly I had not written to you sooner as I feared a possible rejection. If you feel that my presence in S.B. Diocese is unwise even occasionally I can understand, but not to have faculties in the San Diego area seems extreme as I would only be going for the Missions. While I do not want to embarrass you or myself I would like a clarification. I am already most grateful for your support and the opportunity to start a new life in the Tijuana Diocese where I feel I have been an asset.

There is another reason for this letter - a petition on behalf of another priest from the Diocese of San Bernardino. Last December Bishop [redacted] assigned an associate for me, a Mexican American priest who had had some difficulty in the U.S.A. When Fr. [redacted] arrived I did not know him as I believe he had just arrived in the diocese when I left. We spoke very frankly during our first meeting and I considered this an opportunity to help a brother priest, much like I had received help from you. A few months later Bishop [redacted] called a bit annoyed as he had assumed that [redacted] had come from San Diego as he had been referred and recommended by Bishop [redacted] and now discovered that [redacted] was under suspension from San Bernardino.



PARROQUIA de
SAN JUDAS TADEO

(Bishop [redacted])

3

He spoke to [redacted] and insisted he speak to a Father [redacted], pastor of the cathedral, who is English speaking so that he might serve as an advocate on behalf of [redacted] and have you release [redacted] from the suspension and allow Bishop [redacted] to assume the responsibility and condition for counselling as needed. [redacted] completed with several interviews with Father [redacted] and we waited. Last week Bishop [redacted] informed me that Fr. [redacted] had to leave the diocese as he was under pressure to respect the suspension. Since [redacted] has lived and worked with me for 5 months I see that he is a good priest, hard working and well liked by the parishioners, I made a special appeal to Bishop [redacted] to allow me to write and beg you to release him. Give him an opportunity to save and live his priestly ministry. Until Bishop [redacted] or I receive word from you he will remain under my suspension. I ask that you reconsider - there is no civil action against him and he has been going for counselling with a psychologist from the Riverside area. I have always been grateful for your pastoral concern for me and believe you have not made a mistake. Please give Fr. [redacted] another opportunity here in Mexico.

I await your response on my issue and on Fr. [redacted]. At no time did Fr. [redacted] or Bishop [redacted] try to mislead you. Sometime in the next week I assume Fr. [redacted] will be making an appointment with you.

Sincerely,
Guillermo Luis Benson

March 14, 1941

Dear Bishop,

I accidently left out these
two receipts for psychoanalysis
although they were included in the
total sum for the insurance.
Sorry for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,
Lester F. Benson

P.S. Would all the diocesan mailings
in the future be sent to my P.O. Box?

[Redacted]
[Redacted] (Redacted)

February 10, 1997

Dear Bishop [redacted],

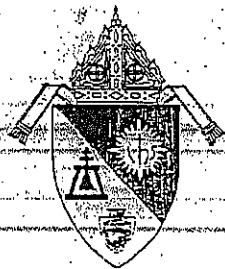
May you be well and the mission
growing in faith.

This is just a short line wondering
on the status of my request for medical
retirement. A psychiatrist sent a formal
letter recommending medical retirement but
as of yet I have not heard any response
from the diocese or the insurance company.

I am well. Continuing with analgesics
periodically and following your guidelines.

Awaiting your response,

Sincerely yours in Christ
Pastor Luis Benson



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

November 9, 1990

Reverend Gustavo Benson
[REDACTED]

Dear Gus:

I have been in touch with Epler again regarding your situation.

A possible solution, if you incardinate in Tijuana you would continue to be a member of the retirement plan and benefits would be payable to you for your years in this Diocese when you reach age 65. Before that, the plan as presently constituted, does not allow for immediate benefits if the priest does not retire from active ministry completely.

Let me know what you think of this.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Vicar General
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00230



Parroquia de San José Obrero

AVE. JIMENEZ Y 6 DE NOVIEMBRE

TEL 6-12-45 ENSENADA, B. C.

October 31, 1990

Dear [redacted]

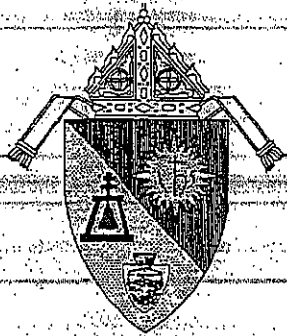
Thanks for your letter. I am contacting a psychiatrist for the necessary letter. As regards ministry, after talking with Bishop [redacted] it was agreed that he would support a medical retirement with the understanding that thereafter I would leave the diocese of San Bernardino and be incardinated into Tijuana diocese. I would depend on the pension to help pay for medical insurance for myself. I would not want to seek retirement and then find out I could not continue ministry in Mexico. Would you clarify that for me?

[redacted signature]



Monsignor [redacted]
D. T. [redacted]

Benson-TC00231



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

October 18, 1990

Rev. Gustavo L. Benson
[REDACTED]

Dear Gus:

Bishop [REDACTED] has talked to me regarding your proposal to retire and seek retirement benefits from the Diocesan Plan. I would like to begin work on this immediately. To institute the proceedings we will need a doctor's letter stating that you are unable to carry on ministry as a priest, in whatever way the doctor would want to word such a statement.

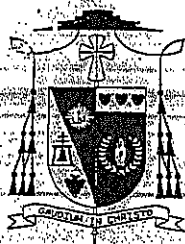
Perhaps also, Dr. [REDACTED] could give us an opinion, so as to support your petition. One of the statutes of the retirement program is that a priest once retired for health reasons with the permission of the Diocesan Bishop, cannot pursue ministry after that. I know that you would continue to minister. So we need to look at that issue also.

I ask that you be in contact with your doctor down there regarding the possibility of a letter and also perhaps with Dr. [REDACTED] if such would assist your case. I await your reply so that we can proceed with this matter.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Vicar General
[REDACTED]

Benson: TC00232



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

January 10, 1991

Ms. [REDACTED]
Epler Insurance Co.
450 "B" Street, Suite 750
San Diego CA 92101

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

Father Gustavo Luis Benson, a priest of this diocese, has approached me concerning retirement from active ministry and being provided with the pension benefits, which he has accrued during his eighteen years of service. He was born March 18, 1946 and ordained May 6, 1972 for the Diocese of San Diego.

I am enclosing a letter from Dr. [REDACTED], his psychotherapist. He states that Father Benson participated enthusiastically and positively in therapy, but in his expert opinion Father Benson is not in optimal conditions to exercise priestly ministry in the United States. I concur with his diagnosis not only on a psychological basis, but also on the basis of allegations made in 1987, which caused Father Benson to undergo a civil trial and be placed on probation. Given the present condition, this makes it impossible for him to pursue ministry anywhere in the United States. I foresee no change in these circumstances in the immediate future and my counsellors concur with this opinion.

Given the antecedents, his willingness to continue with therapy and having received the opinion of the doctor I am willing to allow him to retire for medical reasons. Therefore, in light of my obligations as his Diocesan Bishop and in keeping with Canons 281, 2-384 and Canon 1274, 2, I request that Father Benson be provided with benefits from his vestment in our pension plan in order to meet his obligations.

Benson-TC00233

Ms. [REDACTED]
January 10, 1991

With every best wish and thanking you for your continued assistance and for expediting this matter, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

[REDACTED]
cc: Reverend [REDACTED]
Reverend [REDACTED]

Enclosure

July 7, 1987

To whom it may concern:

Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson has been accepted to minister as a priest in the diocese of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, by Bishop [REDACTED]. He was assigned by Bishop [REDACTED] to begin work at San Jose Obrero Church in Ensenada, B.C. on July 1, 1987. I, Rev. [REDACTED], as his pastor, will supervise Father Benson's work. He will be living with five other priests in the priests' residence. I have read and am aware of Fr. Benson's conditions for his probation by both the County of San Bernardino and the Church.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED]
 San José Obrero Church
 Apartado Postal 66
 Ensenada, B.C. c.p. 29000
 Mexico



cc.: Bishop [REDACTED], Diocese of San Bernardino
 Mr. [REDACTED], Probation Office, San Bernardino County
 Rev. [REDACTED], Director of Foundation House

1-70667-6-12-45

Parroquia de San José Obrero

3 Jiménez y 6 de Nov.
 3 CP 22840

Tel. 6-12-45

3 Col. Independencia
 3 Ensenada, B. C., México

Benson-TC00245

January 25, 1959

Dear [redacted]

First I want to apologize. When I saw you walk in during the funeral service I was pleased to see you. After the service I waited for you until 10:15⁰⁰ p.m. and then I went to a luncheon meeting. I came back to my room and picked up my luggage and headed for San Diego where I was to meet some friends. It wasn't until I came back on Sat. A.M. did I find your note to call the hotel where you were. Please forgive me for not making the contact.

I have been very well. I am happy here in the parish (I love parish work!) and feel very much loved by the parishioners. I have learned a great deal of myself through the psychoanalysis which is now going into its second year. I was using what I have learned to practice good life habits.

Today I am home in bed with the flu. It has been good to catch up on my correspondence.

Congratulations on your Monsignor title. I know it is well deserved. I saw Bishop [redacted]

000247

2

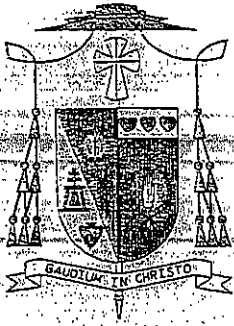
at the business anniversary in Tijuana. We
didn't get a chance to talk as he was surrounded
a lot of people and I didn't see him at the dinner
afterwards.

May your new year be blessed.

Sincerely,

Justin Luis Benson

Benson-TC00247



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

December 29, 1988

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Post Office Box 120045
Chula Vista, CA 92012

Dear Father Gus:




I was pleased to receive your Christmas greetings and note and to hear that all is going well with you.

It is understandable that you are reluctant to come to San Bernardino, so I would be happy to meet with you in the San Diego area. The only problem is trying to find a time that is convenient for both of us. I visited the priests at Nazareth House in San Diego over the Christmas holidays, but did not know how to get in touch with you at the parish in Ensenada.

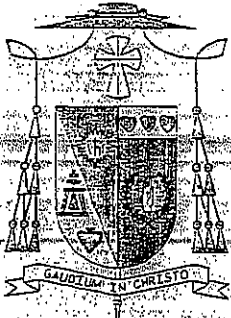
The first time I will be in your area will be for the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Diocese of Tijuana on January 24, 1989 at 5:00 P.M. Unfortunately, that morning I have a meeting here in San Bernardino and will not get away very early, so we would not have much time for a get together then. The next morning I will leave for the ordination of two new Auxiliary Bishops in San Francisco. The next occasion would be when the Alta Baja Bishops meet in Tijuana on March 8th. These meetings usually start 10:00 A.M. and finish around 4:00 P.M. Perhaps, we could get together that evening for dinner in Tijuana.

With prayers and asking God's blessings upon you and your ministry for the coming new year, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend 
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino


Benson-TC00250



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

December 1, 1988

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Parroquia de San José Obrero
Jimenez y 6 de Nov., CP 22840
Col. Independencia
Ensenada, B.C.
Mexico

Dear Gus:

Just a short note to say "Hi" and let you know how things are going here in the diocese. I know that some of the priests have been down to see you and have reported that you are doing well.

Father [REDACTED] has officially retired from the diocese and is living at the beach close to Ensenada. He has not given me an exact address, but asked that his mail be sent to his Post Office Box in San Ysidro. Perhaps, you have met him down there.

I would like to keep up on your progress, as a result of your treatment at Jemez Springs. I received the report of the last visitation and think it would be good if we could have the opportunity to review what has happened, as well as your present progress. I think it is important that we remain committed to the agreement that was worked out when you left Jemez Springs, as this will allow you to continue to minister and work as a priest. Let me know when you can come up or where we might possibly meet.

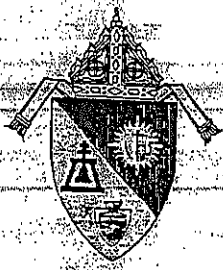
All is going well here in the diocese. The 10th Anniversary celebration at the Redlands Bowl was a success, and now...it is on to the next 10 years!

If I do not see you before the Christmas Holiday, I pray that it will be a very blessed and peaceful season for you.

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00251



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

April 28, 1988

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Servant General
Director of Foundation House
Servants of the Paraclete
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

Bishop [REDACTED] received your recent letter regarding Father Gustavo Benson's attendance at the Follow-up Workshop on June 5, 1988. He wishes to assure you that you have his complete support and cooperation in this matter and that it is his desire to have Father Gustavo participate in this follow-up program to consolidate the progress that he has already made.

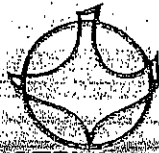
With gratitude for the assistance that you have given Father Gustavo, as well as the wonderful help the Servants of the Paraclete provide here in our Diocese of San Bernardino, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Vicar General
[REDACTED]

cc: Reverend Gustavo Benson

Benson-TC00252



SERVANTS
of the
PARACLETE

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

April 11, 1988

THE MOST REVEREND [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Bernardino
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 90015

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]

We were very grateful to be of assistance to FR. GUSTAVO BENSON through our Foundation House Program, and certainly appreciate your confidence in our Ministry in this regard. This letter is meant as a reminder that our concern and care are not finished. As indicated in my Director's Comments in the Final Report, there is a FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP which is a mandatory and most essential part of the Program. This Follow-up Workshop will be held here at Foundation House the week of June 5, 1988. I trust that I will have your support and cooperation in this matter.

The Follow-Up Workshop is intended to allow the individual not only time to share with their fellow Module Program members their experiences and concerns, but also an opportunity for the Staff who worked so closely with them in the Program to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the therapy and reinforce it if necessary. Furthermore, if there might be difficulties or anxieties, this affords early access to professional assistance. Care is only as effective as the concern which inspires it, and this is the thrust behind this request.

My sincerest thanks for your support in this very important effort, and I trust that you and GUSTAVO will reap the benefits of this special week. If we can ever be of any other service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us. With prayerful best wishes in this Easter Season and kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely for Christ and His priests,

[REDACTED]
(Very Rev.) [REDACTED]
Servant General
Director of Foundation House

Benson-TC00253

**ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP
CHECK REQUEST FORM**

DATE: 12-11-87

DEPARTMENT: Priests' Relief

AMOUNT OF CHECK: \$ [REDACTED]

PURPOSE OF CHECK: Expenses for aftercare of Father G. Benson

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Reverend [REDACTED]

MAIL CHECK TO: " " "

Servants of the Paraclete

Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

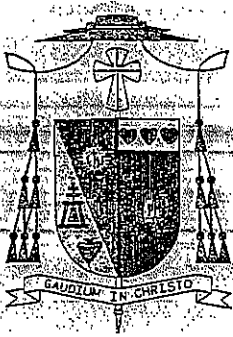
REQUESTED BY: Father [REDACTED]

APPROVED BY: _____

EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION

| FUND | ENTITY | ACCOUNT NUMBER | DOLLAR AMOUNT |
|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | \$ [REDACTED] |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

MAIL RETURN INTEROFFICE



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

November 10, 1987

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Parroquia de San Jose Obrero
Jimenez y 6 de Nov., CP 22840
Col. Independencia,
Ensenada, B.C., Mexico

Dear Gus:

I received a note from the Director of Foundation House that you will be going back for your follow up workshop in December. I was very pleased to receive the very positive reports from your counselors as to how things are working out for you in Ensenada.

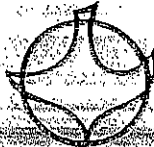
I just wanted to drop you this note to say that we are thinking of you and that we pledge our continued support.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Redacted Signature]
Most Reverend [Redacted Name]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[Redacted Address]

Benson-TC00256



SERVANTS
of the
PARACLETE

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

October 26, 1987.

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Bernardino
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, California 90015

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

The Follow-up Workshop for Reverend Gustavo Benson will take place here at Foundation House the week of December 7, 1987. The Workshop will run from Sunday, December 6 through Friday, December 11.

As outlined in our letter of recommendations when Gustavo left the program at Foundation House, this Follow-up Workshop is an integral and very important part of the program. During the week Gustavo will be able to meet with our therapists and review his life and ministry since he finished the program. You will receive a report on this Workshop within two weeks after it is completed.

I have also written to Gustavo informing him of these dates for the Follow-up Workshop.

Thank you for your continued support of Gustavo. If there is ever anything more that we can do to be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Rev. [REDACTED]

(Very Rev.) [REDACTED]
Director: Foundation House

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00257



Priest gets probation in molest case

CHUCK MUELLER
Staff Writer

BARSTOW — A Roman Catholic priest who pleaded no contest March 13 to a misdemeanor charge of molesting a 13-year-old boy was placed on three years' probation Monday.

Municipal Court Judge James Dorr also ordered the Rev. Gustavo Benson, 41, former pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church here, to continue to receive counseling and psychological care, and not to associate with the victim.

The priest also was ordered to register as a sex offender.

Benson, who appeared in court with Victorville attorney Larry Freeman, made no comment when Dorr imposed the sentence.

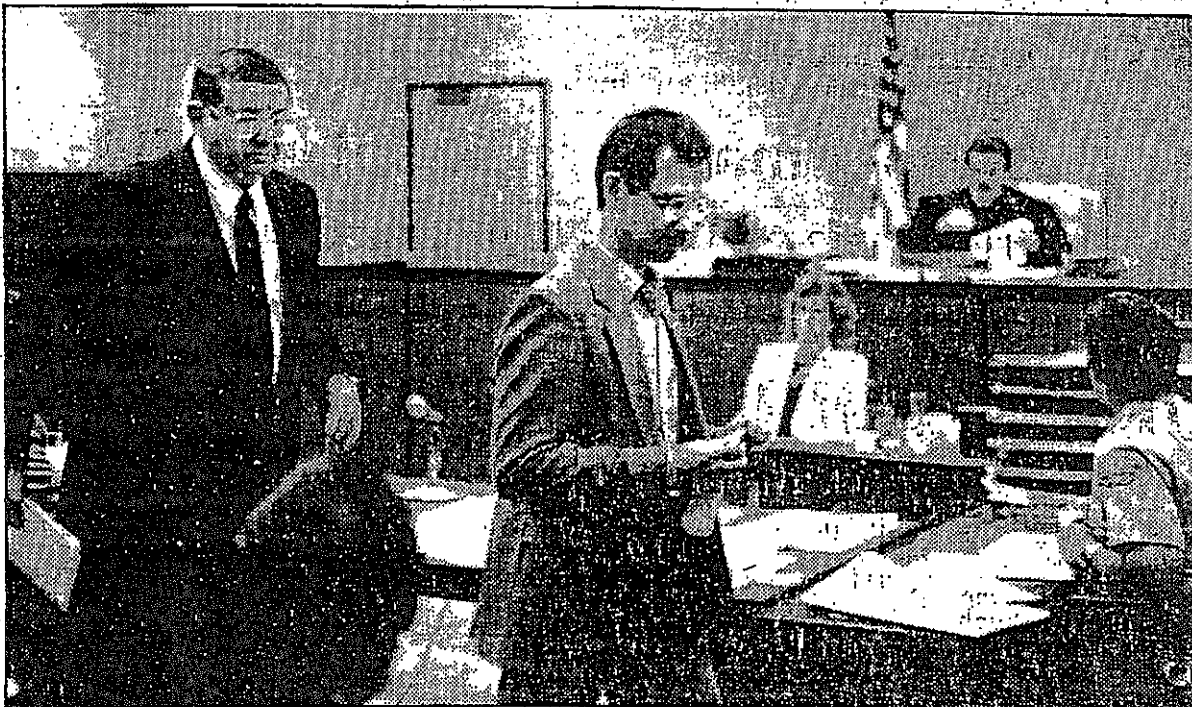
The priest has been in a church-sponsored rehabilitation and counseling program in New Mexico since shortly after his arrest here last Jan. 15. He will continue to undergo counseling, possibly until January.

As part of a plea bargain, Dorr dismissed a second count of child molestation and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of minors. All were misdemeanors.

The district attorney's office did not recommend a jail sentence.

Calling for leniency, Deputy District Attorney Kay Neshat said Benson had assumed responsibility for his actions and entered a contest plea "to put the proceedings to a close and to spare youngsters the ordeal of a trial."

She added, "On behalf of the victims and their families, I urge you to put Father Benson on pro-



CHUCK MUELLER/The

AFTER SENTENCING: The Rev. Gustavo Benson, center, walks from a Barstow courtroom Monday with his attorney, Larry Freeman. At rear is Municipal Court Judge James Dorr. The priest received three years' probation after pleading no contest to a molestation charge.

bation. The families bear no ill feelings but recognize that Father Benson has serious problems."

Neshat told the court, "The've asked ... he receive counseling to avoid future problems ... and to avoid additional trauma. The victims don't want him to spend time in custody. They want him to get help."

Freeman said Benson had cooperated with investigators from the start.

"He would never allow the case to go to trial," the attorney said. "He wouldn't allow the children to go through a trial."

Freeman said Benson, who was ordained in 1972 and had been assigned as St. Joseph's parish priest since January 1985, will no longer continue as a parish priest and will not work with young children.

A part of the judge's order requires Benson not to associate with persons under age 18 unless another adult is present.

Benson came to Barstow from Colton, where he was a pastor for six years.

Before sentencing Benson, Dorr told the priest his conduct normally would require a jail term.

But the judge added, "The program you now are in (in New Mexico) is in a great sense confinement. You cannot leave there until the church determines you are ready to return to society."

Dorr said the interests of society also are being served by Benson's participation in the 18-month intensive rehabilitation and therapeutic program that Neshat said is being conducted by a Roman Catholic order, the Servants of the

Paraclete.

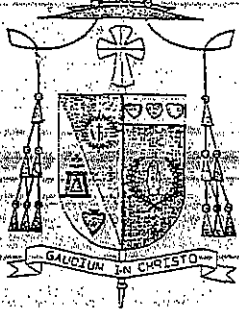
"I expect you to complete program," Dorr told Benson.

Justifying probation, the judge said he also was considering interests and desires of the victims and their families.

"The victims ask that you be placed in jail and don't let you to be punished directly," Dorr said. "They don't want to heighten the trauma of the children."

After his arrest Jan. 15, Benson pleaded innocent to two counts of child molestation and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of minors.

The priest was charged with molesting two 13-year-old boys at his Barstow home and his Forest Falls cabin. He also was accused of giving beer and coolers to two boys, 14 and 15, at his Barstow home and the cab-



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

August 25, 1987

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Parroquia de San Jose Obrero
Jimenez y 6 de Nov., CP 22840
Col. Independencia
Ensenada, B.C., Mexico

Dear Father Gus:

Many thanks for your letter, written on the beautiful Feast of the Assumption of Mary, regarding your visit with Father [REDACTED] and your progress at San Jose Obrero Parish.

It was a pleasure to hear you are doing well, that things are beginning to come together in your new assignment and you are following through with the agreements that you made while at Jemez Springs. You have had a very rough road these past few months, and I am glad to hear things are beginning to smooth out and that you are resuming your priestly ministry.

I had the opportunity to talk with a few of the priests who have been down to see you and have been in communication with you since you arrived in Ensenada. It is good that you are keeping in contact with your brother priests for the friendship and support we can give to one another.

In your letter to Father [REDACTED] you mentioned a medical insurance bill of \$ [REDACTED]. I recommend that you send Father [REDACTED] the information, so he can look into the source of this billing and determine whether it is your personal expense or whether it should be paid by medical insurance. There is a portion that each priest needs to pay for medical coverage, so if this is the portion that you owe, I am sure he can work something out to assist you in meeting these expenses. In any




Benson-TC00264

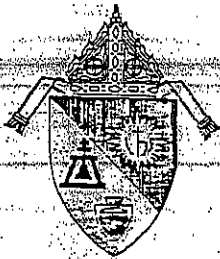
Reverend Gustavo Benson
August 25, 1987

case, just send him all the information and he can be in contact with you regarding this matter.

Again, I am pleased that things are working out well and that you are remaining faithful to your program. May God continue to bless and keep you in your priestly ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend 
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino




Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

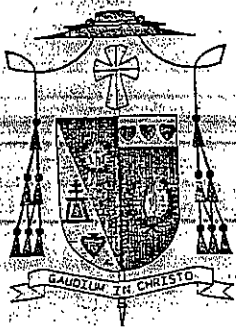
June 22, 1987

TO: Deacon [REDACTED]
FROM: Father [REDACTED]
RE: Payments

All payments to Father Gustavo Benson, Sister [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and Deacon [REDACTED] cease this month -
June 1987.

Please total all of Father Benson's legal and medical
bills that the diocese has covered for him. We need to
present these bills to him.

Benson-TC00270



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

March 18, 1987

Reverend [REDACTED]
Foundation House
Servants of the Paracletes
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

Many thanks for your letter of March 5, 1987, along with the enclosed report regarding Father Gustavo Benson. I appreciate the report, the evaluation of the problems and the assistance that you are giving him.

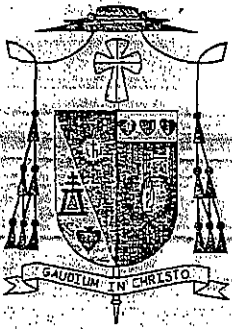
If you feel there is any way that I can personally assist Father Benson, please call upon me.

Again, with thanks and appreciation, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00274



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

June 12, 1987

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Our Lady of Lourdes Novitiate
Foundation House
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Father [REDACTED]

I was pleased that I had the chance to say hello when I was recently in Jemez Springs to visit Father Gus Benson. I was hoping to have the chance to sit down with you the next day for a little visit. However, I understand you had an assignment in Albuquerque and had left early that morning.

First, I would like to say thank you for your ministry and service to the priests of our diocese. Father Benson has made great progress and I am hopeful that through what he has learned at your facility in Jemez Springs, along with the after care to which he is committed, it will continue to be most helpful to him.

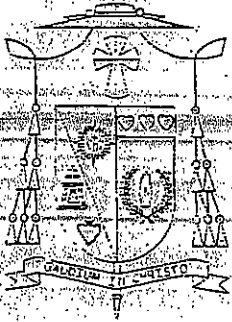
Also, I would like to say thanks for the outstanding cooperation and work that is being provided for priests through your Foundation House in Cherry Valley. It has been a joy to work with the priests of your community at Cherry Valley. I know the priests of the diocese have called upon the priests in Cherry Valley for assistance many times.

Again, with thanks and appreciation, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00275



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

April 13, 1987

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Foundation House
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Father Gus:

Sorry to be so late in responding to your letter of March 17th, but thought I could get a few words off to you before Easter. I not only wanted to respond to some of your questions, but also to extend my prayers and best wishes to you as we celebrate this special time of year.

I have received the evaluation reports from the Foundation House and was pleased to note the progress that you have made. I was also glad to learn of your own positive good feelings about Foundation House. This is most important in working through these matters.

I, too, was upset with the newspaper articles. We tried to do what we could to keep the coverage low-keyed or out of the press all together. It also seems that your attorney, Mr. [REDACTED], did as much as he could to keep the charges minimal. It is my prayer that we are at the end of all of this, and as you stated, "past history."

In regard to the legal fees, those that are for your own personal attorney, would be your expense. The payment for the diocesan attorney, will be picked up by the diocese. The diocese will have a considerable bill due, as the diocesan attorneys were very involved. If you do not have the necessary money to pay your attorney, you might check with him to see if he would extend the payments over a period of time. Another option would be that the portion that you are unable to pay at the present time, you could borrow against your property at Forest Falls or the diocese could lend you that amount, at the current rate, and you could repay over

Benson-TC00282

Reverend Gustavo Benson
March 13, 1987

the coming months. Let me know your decision concerning this matter.

I spoke to Bishop [REDACTED] a few days ago when I was in San Diego for the 50th Anniversary of the Diocese. He mentioned that you had written to him regarding a possible assignment in Mexico. I would be open to this as a possibility. Another option might be your working for the St. James Society. I think once there is a final diagnosis of your treatment, that Father [REDACTED] of the St. James Society could be approached to see if something could be worked out with this society. I mention this as sometime ago you said you would like to join the St. James Society.

Although it is good to begin to think of possible options, I think we need to wait until we have the final evaluation of your treatment at Foundation House before we can make any final plans.

This is the Easter Season and as I celebrate the Easter Mysteries this coming week, I will keep you in my prayers and Masses. I know that you will be doing the same for me.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

its molesting 13-year-old altar boy

Municipal Court Judge James Dorn dismissed a second count of child molestation and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of minors in misdemeanor.

But Dorn may consider all four counts in determining the sentence, he added.

We are not recommending a jail sentence but are awaiting the probation report, Velling said. We agree with the court's recommendation program, which is an alternative to confinement.

The five-month term commitment through which he is receiving psychiatric counseling through the Catholic church.

He's not behind bars but he's not free to come and go.

Velling said the district attorney's office will recommend that Benson register as a sex offender as part of a plea court agreement. The county probation office will submit its recommendation to Dorn before sentencing.

Benson's wife was ordained in 1972 and had been parish priest here since January 1983. He was arrested last year on two counts of child molestation and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of minors.

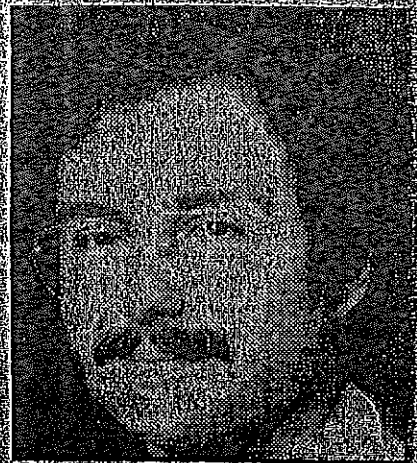
The priest was accused of molesting two

13-year-old altar boys at his home here. Police also charged Benson gave beer and wine orders to two boys, 14 and 15, at his Barstow home and in his Forest Hills home.

At the time he pleaded innocent to the charges of child molesters.

The pastor was well known outside the church through his leadership in starting a shelter here for the homeless. Church Business Manager, Mango, said the entire parish was praying for him.

Benson was assigned to St. Joseph's after serving six years as pastor in Colton.



Rev. Gustav Benson
Now in treatment program

Priest entered plea of no contest in Barstow child molestation case

BARSTOW — A plea of no contest to a misdemeanor charge of child molestation was entered by the Rev. Gustav Benson through his attorney, court records show, contrary to a report Sunday in The Sun that he pleaded guilty.

Municipal Court records checked by The Sun on Saturday show that Benson's attorney, Larry Freeman, entered the no-contest plea. Benson will be sentenced May 4.

Deputy District Attorney Dan Velling said Friday that the priest, former pastor of St. Joseph's Cath-

olic church, which was sent to Benson in New Mexico, where he is undergoing a church-sponsored rehabilitation and counseling program.

The attorney said Benson waived the no-contest plea, but not a guilty verdict, to Freeman. The attorney said he entered the plea in Benson's behalf Friday.

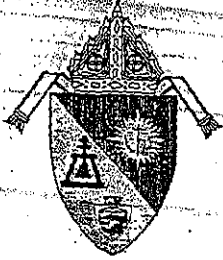
Either Benson entered a plea of no contest because he didn't want to put the boys through a trial, Freeman said. He feels terrible about the children.

said Freeman. He (Benson) is saying, I will not put the people to the burden of proof because that would require putting the child on under cross-examination. He would not do that or condone such action.

I don't know what his future will be, the attorney said. He is so distraught it's difficult to know what his future will be.

It feels as if a disservice has been done to a fine man. He's a tortured individual who has been going through a hell and cannot blame himself to cause the evil.

Benson-TC00290



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

February 10, 1987

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Bishop [REDACTED] received your recent letter and has asked me to acknowledge it.

I was saddened to see that you had already judged and condemned Father Benson. The civil courts show more charity and love than that, allowing for a fair trial for allegations that have been made.

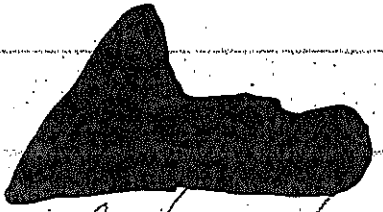
The absolute value that Jesus teaches is one of love and acceptance of all, despite class, race, or any other distinguishing mark. He reached out continually to the rejected and marginated, the despised of His day. Can we follow another Gospel?? I ask that you take up His words and meditate on them deeply.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
[REDACTED]

Very Reverend
Vicar General
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00294

Dear Bishop



This is by no means a
Crock letter only a few lines
about the fact that he has no regularity that
he is in any church day. I
mean of Trickett ^{St. Mary's} Man another
one in Barstow when one
becomes a priest. I would assume
the back ground is checked & know
of instances of one denied to
be a priest & his parents were
divorced or not married in
the Church, he would not be
accepted.

I am sure you are aware
of the story of Gay priest in
San Diego that is no secret
there is even talk about Fr
Troxler who also drinks & did
(Carol Hart) have a lover.

It seems practical that priests
should marry, weed out the
Gyps don't send them away
thinking they will be cured
no child molester has ever
been cured.

As far back as the Church
gals, there have been Gay
Bishops, Priests & even Popes
this is in Church history, but
at least they didn't flaunt it

At Mass about 3 yrs ago there
was a priest filling in from
Birmingham he was as gay
as pink ink most were
appalled as it was so apparent

So the Pope is against marriage ^{& Priests}
(Better to marry than to burn)

let them marry he better price
happy families he married

All the gay priest probably
should they are not practical
... that like ...

A normal married man
has no time to entertain
a cause if they do.

If gay is normal to
them, these pick another
preference and Dr. Sauer
don't degrade the Holy Mother
Church.

I am a decent Catholic
but some times I wonder
why? I don't care about what
they do in other regions
only mine.

Birth Control is something but,
that may not be accepted ~~by~~
Gays are.

Suppose the Russians are
right when they said we will
get the church & country
gone with us.

As far ^{as} Child Molesters
in Boston in Boston and all the
rest like those perked of ~~them~~
in need. ~~Them~~

January 20, 1987.

The Rev. Gustavo Benson
c/o Servants of the Paraclete.
39100 Orchard Avenue
Cherry Valley, CA 92223

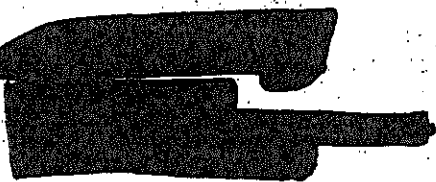
Dear Father Gustavo,


Please accept my prayers and support for you during these days which must be very difficult for you. And know that many people are lifting up prayers to our Father on your behalf.

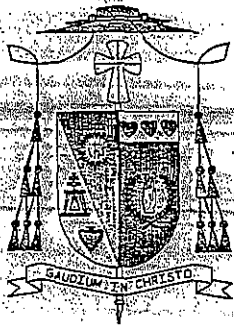
A friend in Colton told me this past weekend how you had helped to change her life and the life of her daughter. It is because of you that both continue good, Christian lives in the Church. Others wanted to know what they could do to help you. I suggested that they tell you how they feel. I hope that is acceptable to you, Father.

May our loving Father, in whose eyes you are a precious son, be very present to you in Christ Jesus and in his gentle Spirit of peace.

Sincerely in peace and hope,

A large, solid black rectangular redaction covers the signature area of the letter.

cc: The Most Rev. 



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 28, 1987

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Servants of the Paraclete
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Father Gus,

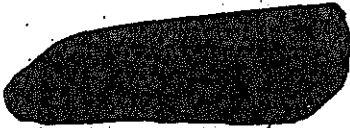
Just a note to let you know of my continued support and prayers. During my retreat, be assured that you were also in my prayers and Masses at that time. This was about the time that you went before the court in Barstow and then left for New Mexico. I am sorry that I did not get the chance to see you before your left.

I know that the next few days will be very trying for you, as the case again comes before the court. Be assured that we will do everything possible from here to assist you. I know this is a difficult time, but I know that our support will be given to you through the Paraclete Fathers.

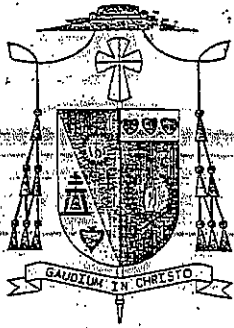
Support letters are being received here at the office and I have responded by asking them to continue to keep you in their prayers.

Again, assuring you of my love and support, I am

Yours in Christ,



Benson-TC00299



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 23, 1987

Ms. [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

Many thanks for your letter of January 10, 1987 regarding Father Gus Benson. By this time, I am sure you have read in the newspaper of the allegations that have been made against him.

As these matter are being worked out, I know Father would welcome your prayers for his intentions. He has served the church well and I know that you and many others have been blessed by his ministry and service at St. Joseph's.

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00300

[REDACTED]
Jan. 10, 1987

Diocese of San Bernardino
1450 North D. Street
San Bernardino, Calif.

The Most Reverend [REDACTED]

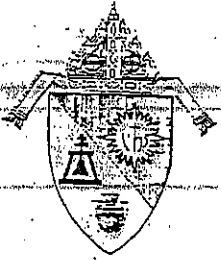
My Dear Bishop,

I have lived in Birstow, for the last seven years. My husband and I retired here. We have been practicing Catholics all our lives. We have always volunteered our services in small ways when the church has needed them. I have been a volunteer for Desert Manna for the last three years.

In all my Catholic upbringing I have yet to see a priest that has giving so much of himself, so involved with the problems of his parishioners as, Father Gustavo Benson. He has brought us closer with joy to the Christ, we are all seeking to love and serve. His sermons were always so beautiful so down to earth, comparing our own daily lives with the teaching of Christ, or his life.

We sure miss him! If he really is sick, like we've been told. I do hope will get him back when he gets well.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

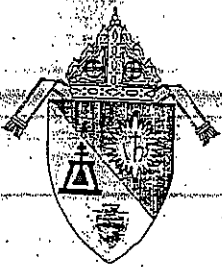
January 16, 1987

TO: Finance Department
FROM: Father [REDACTED]
RE: Father Gustavo Benson

Please issue a monthly check to Father Gustavo Benson,
~~from the Priest Relief Fund in the amount of \$ [REDACTED],~~
to cover his stipend. Please hand deliver the check to
me for forwarding to Father.

Many thanks....

Benson-TC00302



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 16, 1987

TO: Fr. Gustavo Benson

FROM: Fr. [REDACTED]

RE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wants you to know that she is praying
for you and loves you. Her telephone number is:

[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00303

SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMUNITY

November 24, 1987

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, Ca. 92405

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

I have heard of the possibility that Father [REDACTED] will be assigned full-time as Vicar for Hispanics. I am inquiring about the position of pastor for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Bernardino when it becomes vacant in July, 1987. As you will find in my personnel file, I have always expressed an interest in that parish since I served there under Bishop [REDACTED] in 1977. I have always loved that parish and seen the possibilities that this parish could develop. I recognize that by July, 1987 I would have been at St. Joseph's for only two and one-half years. I am not unhappy at this parish, as it has been a very positive location at this time of my life. Yet a Hispanic pastor is not required at Barstow, and finding a replacement for me here would be easier for the Personnel Board than to find a Hispanic pastor who would be full-time and pastoral experience for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

I request that you consider me for this position when and if it becomes vacant. If I am considered for Our Lady of Guadalupe I request that you also consider giving me a new team of priests to help me develop Our Lady of Guadalupe into a model Hispanic parish.

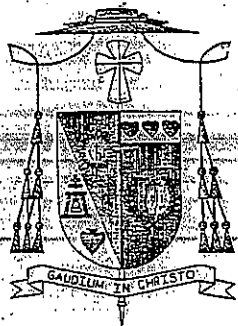
Sincerely,

Gustavo Luis Benson

Rev. Gustavo Luis Benson

c.c.: Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00304



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 26, 1987

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Many thanks for your letter of January 10, 1987 regarding Father Gus Benson. By this time, I am sure you have read in the newspaper of the allegations that have been made against him.

As these matter are being worked out, I know Father would welcome your prayers for his intentions. He has served the church well and I know that you and many others have been blessed by his ministry and service at St. Joseph's.

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Benson-TC00305

Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

January 16, 1987

Your Excellency
Bishop [REDACTED]
San Bernardino Diocese
1450 N. "D" Street
San Bernardino, California

Your Excellency
Dear Bishop [REDACTED]

We just wanted you to know what a valuable person you had in our St. Joseph parish in Barstow, California.

Personally, Father Gustavo Benson was one of the best pastor's Barstow has had in a very long time. He inspired several members who had left the church to return. His efforts to establish a shelter for the homeless was very effective. Of the twenty-one different churches in Barstow, Father Benson was the only pastor who did anything to help the poor. There is a dramatically change in the way people in Barstow feel about the homeless - thanks to Father Benson.

~~The political people in the City of Barstow don't know what a fine person we lost when Father Benson left. Some of us do not believe Father Benson left for medical reasons. We feel there was political pressure of some sort.~~

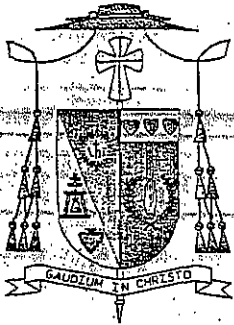
Many people in Barstow feel they got rid of the problem. But most of us are more determine to follow through what Father Benson started with the shelter. The poor don't contribute to political action committees and other issues; they do not vote, so the politicians in Barstow don't want the shelter.

We want to wish Father Benson a speedy recovery. The fact that Mr. [REDACTED] indicated Father Benson would not be returning to Barstow after his recovery almost confirms the fact that the reason for his leaving Barstow was not what was indicated. At any rate if we can do anything to establish his credit-ability or can assist on his problems, let us know.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
/Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

Benson-TC00306



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

December 19, 1986

Reverend Gustavo Benson
Servants of the Paraclete
39100 Orchard Avenue
Cherry Valley, California 92223

Dear Father Benson:

This is to confirm my decision, made at our meeting of Tuesday, December 16, 1986, that as of that date you will leave St. Joseph Parish in Barstow and begin a leave of absence for health reasons. At the present time, you will be in residence with the Paraclete Fathers in Cherry Valley.

In working with Doctor [REDACTED] and Father [REDACTED], you will arrange a program and other particulars for your living accommodations while you are addressing issues that necessitated your leaving St. Joseph's.

Your official status is a priest on sick leave, which means that you still have faculties in the diocese. However, in exercising these faculties you are not to be in any programs or ministries which involve children.

As I mentioned to you in our meeting on Tuesday, I am deeply saddened that I must take the above action, but the circumstances which made this move necessary are extremely serious. Be assured that I will do everything possible to assist you in dealing with these issues and your future ministry as a priest.

Asking God's blessings and graces upon you in this most difficult time, I am

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Benson-TC00307