



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
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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]