



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

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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 Jimez 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]