

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.

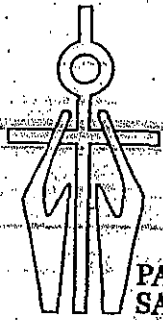
The last time your Bishop [REDACTED] has included me in a team of English speaking priests assigned to go preach for the Missions on a weekend, something I have found to be challenging and rewarding. Last summer I was assigned to go to S.L.G. in Ontario. Since I felt some hesitancy on my part I called 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

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

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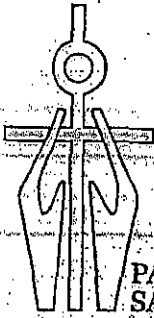
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aware of the difficulties many dioceses are facing I had not felt any problems on previous occasions when I accepted invitations to celebrate Mass at San Salvador in Colton (two different summers and to Saratov (where I was not able to attend ^[previous 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.



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(Bishop [redacted])

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 conditions 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. Sr. [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 accidentally 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)