

Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 23, 1987

Mr. Fred Simon
Simon Motors
78611 Highway 111
La Quinta, California 92253

Dear Mr. Simon:

I want you to know that I sincerely appreciated the talk we had during my Parish Visitation at St. Francis, as well as the delicious luncheon we shared.

It was good to note that there has been some reconciliation between you and Father Brennan and that he will be working with you and other members of the Building and Finance Council.

During the visit, I talked with Father Brennan about the altar, as well as the plaques, that will be installed in the church to commemorate the various gift donors. He advised me that the cost would be approximately \$25,000.

As Father and I discussed, when this project is completed, there is to be a freeze imposed on all non-essential parish expenses and no dividers are to be installed in the parish hall, until there is a marked reduction in the parish debt. We must continue to reduce this debt, so that the interest does not consume all of the parish resources.

The plan to invite parish visitors to help the parish by contributing, sounds like an excellent one. Perhaps, if one of the parishioners could say a few words about this debt to the congregation before each Mass, this could bring in additional revenue.

It was good to hear that another major fund-raiser is being planned. This should encourage participation for those who have not contributed or have not followed through on their pledges to the parish.

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Mr. Fred Simon
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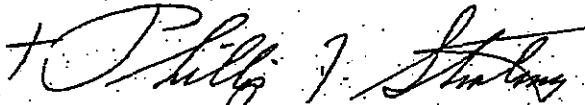
I wish to express my appreciation to you for all that you have done for Father Brennan by helping him through some very difficult times. I realize that he has not always appreciated what you have done for him, but with time, he may see how much you have really done to help him. I believe Father has taken the necessary steps to sever the past relationship, as well as making the effort to keep this particular person away from St. Francis. Unfortunately, we cannot close the doors to her, but we have, at least, discouraged her attendance and involvement.

As I left the valley that day after the visitation, I felt a sense of deep appreciation for all you and your wife have done for the church. You have continued to serve, when many others would have given up. To me, this is a sign of deep faith and a real love for Almighty God.

During my annual retreat, I remembered your sister in my Masses and asked the Lord to give us, who are still here on earth, the comfort of knowing our loved ones are with Him.

May God's choice blessings and graces be upon you, your wife and family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Phillip F. Straling
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

PFS/rs