

DEPOSITION
Exhibit 118
Deborah O'Bine, N.P.



CHANCERY OFFICE

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

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FILE NO. 102/65
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PHONE 982-3249

August 23, 1965

Very Reverend Father Gerald Fitzgerald, s.P.
Servant General
Via Coeli Monastery
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Very Reverend dear Father:

Thank you very much for your many and varied communications by letter, telephone etc. received since my letter to you of August 9.

Perhaps I should take up one by one the significant and important matters which have helped so much lately to give me a better understanding of your love of priests and of the glorious possibilities of what the Servants of the Paraclete and the Handmaids of the Precious Blood can accomplish on behalf of our weak and wounded brother priests.

The visit of Father William Tobin, s.P.; the temporary disappearance of Father Joseph Englert, s.P.; the visit of Father John Murphy; and finally the visit of Fathers Urban Gerhart, s.P., and Claude Buchanan, s.P., have been most helpful to me. Of course you above all have helped me by taking to heart my warnings with respect to the dissipation of the man-power and money of the Paracletes.

Believe me dear Father Gerald when I tell you that I think I understand the holy compulsion under which you have labored these many years since first you dreamed of giving yourself to this glorious task. You must have felt quite alone at times in the beginning but thank God many have joined you in your dreams. What is so clear to me now is that you have so many solid dedicated Servants of the Paraclete to help you make your dreams come true.

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Very Reverend Father Gerald Fitzgerald, s.P. -2- August 23, 1965

All that I ask of you dear Father is to let me help them to help you. I regret that I was not able to receive the visit of Fathers William Swanson, s.P., and Joseph Moylan, s.P., last Thursday. I met them some time ago and remember them with esteem and affection. I am sure that they would have encouraged and enlightened me as have all the others.

And now dear Father let me share with you the decisions arrived at by me and your devoted men in gray by giving you the following directives:

1. Please dismiss as promptly as charity will allow Dr. Evilsizer. He is no help as I told you but rather a hindrance and a cause of financial loss to the Paracletes.
2. Sell that island which you recently purchased for \$28,000.00 in connection with the proposed foundation in the Diocese of Grenada. You did not get permission to borrow money for this purchase and it is not a good buy. Better to take a loss now than to lose more later. Entrust this matter to a reputable real estate man and it will be done. No doubt good Bishop Field, O.P., knows the man to do it for you. You have helped the good Bishop, so let him help you.
3. Close definitely the New Brunswick project and withdraw. This one is premature. Later on it may be feasible. Your letter of August 12 to Archbishop Johnston, of which you kindly sent a copy to me, shows that you can change your mind when you want to.
4. Appoint Father Claude Buchanan, s.P., as Treasurer General and give him Father John Vincent, s.P., as assistant. Turn over to Father Claude the accounts and the administration of temporalities. Father John Vincent knows what to do, how to do it. Father Claude will not be obliged to reside at Via Coeli but Father John Vincent will. Father Mooney will continue to help in the office.
5. Appoint Father William Tobin, s.P., superior of the Via Coeli community with residence at Via Coeli. He will transform the place slowly but surely in all departments and operations with the help of all those who can and who want to help.

Very Reverend Father Gerald Fitzgerald, s.P. -3- August 23, 1965

6. Appoint Father Joseph McNamara, s.P., Superior of the new operation in Scotland to replace Father Tobin.
7. Appoint Father Patrick Mulcahy, s.P., Consultant to the Superior General. His devotion to the Father General and the Congregation is well known to all of us.
8. Get ready to go with me to the fourth and last session of Vatican Council II. I shall secure a seat for you on the charter flight leaving New York September 9. In Rome you and I can put to good use the opportunity to study the problems of the Paracletes and seek solutions in the light of the Council.

And now let me clarify what I have said above to leave no doubt in our minds that we mean what we say and say what we mean:

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 8 are direct orders from me to you and should be executed with all due dispatch. Nos. 4 through 7 are direct orders from me to you but their execution must await the reactions of your council. You will please send a copy of this letter to them with the request for an immediate reply in writing and let me know their answers.

I shall return home from Chicago on August 25. I am dictating this in Kansas City and sending it to Santa Fe today August 22 - Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It will be signed for me by Monsignor Rodriguez and should reach you in a few days.

On Saturday August 28th at 5:15 p.m. I shall offer a Mass in the Cathedral of Santa Fe to commemorate the anniversary of Fray Junipero Serra. You are invited to take part as one of the concelebrants and following the Mass join me, our Papal honorees and the other concelebrating clergy at dinner. The enclosed letter tells the story. I do want to have you with us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

James P. Davis,

James P. Davis per M.J.
ARCHBISHOP OF SANTA FE

Enclosures

P. S. Thank you so much for the beautiful lighter. Ironically enough the day it arrived happened to coincide with the "umpteenth" time I have given up smoking. I am saving it for when I start puffing again, God bless!

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