

November 10, 1960

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend Edward Happer, C.S.S.R. , D.D.  
Bishop of the Virgin Islands  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
5th Ave. and 59th St.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Most Reverend and dear Bishop:

I am sorry that I have not been able to see Your Excellency in person at the time of your consecration or since. But I took advantage of Father Dupuis' trip to Notre Dame to give Your Excellency a break-down of the situation in re our foundation in your Diocese in the Virgin Islands.

I had readied a priest and two brothers to take over from Father Moylan, who desires to return. If I can help it, I never keep a priest on a mission where he wishes not to be. Father Martin McCarthy, S.P. volunteered to go down and the request for his passport is already in process.

However, before going to the expense of sending this new contingent, I thought it prudent to consult His Excellency, Archbishop Byrne. Father Dupuis called upon His Excellency this morning and reported to me over the phone. His Excellency is writing me and expressing his decision that we give up Tortola. This leaves me nothing else to do but to carry out the desires of my ecclesiastical superior and to ask Your Excellency to let me know how you would wish this withdrawal to be made and when.

If Your Excellency were to have someone available within thirty days, I would plan on authorizing Father Moylan to complete the transfer of real estate etc. together with anything which we own on Tortola which would be useful for the work of the mission. It

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would be my intention to give anything practical which we have to those taking over.

If, however, it is going to take some time before Your Excellency would wish us to give up, I think that it might be better to replace Father Moylan and send Father McCarthy as an interim agent.

I know that Your Excellency will believe me when I say that carrying out the request of my ecclesiastical superior in this matter is possibly one of the hardest obediences which I have ever been called upon to execute. In doing so I can find consolation only by echoing the words of our Divine Master: "Father, not my will but Thine be done".

I would appreciate hearing from Your Excellency at your earliest convenience.

Most cordially in Spiritu,

Servant General

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