

September 17, 1960  
Stigmata of St. Francis  
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Reverend Joseph Moylan, S.P.  
St. William's Church  
Box 66  
Roadtown  
Tortola  
British West Indies

Dear Father Joe:

Gratias agamus that the Paraclete took care of you and the missions. A hurricane is a terrifying thing. I have been on the edge of one - Miami Beach - during the war, and that is near enough. It veered off and missed us.

I am intensely interested in a report of your findings in British Honduras, and for a rather urgent reason. Archbishop B. is pressing and pressing hard to have me withdraw the Paracletes from Tortola. I have tried to stall him within the field of proper docility --- pointed out you are taking care of souls who have been without a pastor --- that you were happy and the Parish happy. But though he acquiesced (we were on the plane at the time, going to Cardinal O'Hara's funeral together), I agreed with him that Tortola would not do the problems and of course we do want to find an answer to that. And the up in tourist interest would seem to have lessened the desirability both by the up in prices of real estate and the influx of tourists.

He, the Archbishop, feels we pressurized him in going to Tortola, that is, pressurized his permission. And, speaking with simplicity, because we are permanently indebted to His Excellency, under the Providence of God and Our Lady, for the wonderful start of our Apostolate, yet I think you realize he can be stubborn. And while at Philadelphia, he met Bishop-elect Harper and he told me afterwards he spoke to Bishop Harper about the non-suitability of Tortola "as a place for homos." So I will be interested in learning what you have found out about British Honduras, as I feel that in our fixed policy of meekness and obedience to ecclesiastical authority we will have to yield eventually to the Archbishop's, to me now, evident intention to make us withdraw from the Islands.

In a letter of congratulations to Bishop Harper, written shortly after his appointment, I assured His Excellency of our happiness in the missions, but of our willingness, in case the status of the new diocese made it in his opinion desirable, to withdraw. Bishop Harper has not answered me; and I did not see him. Nor do I know whether or not it will be possible

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for his consecration early next month. But it all adds up to this, Joe: that Archbishop Byrne regrets having permitted us to go to Tortola --- and since we cannot project our own special field of work in that area in the foreseeable future, I have not much of an argument. That is the status at this moment.

Kindly send me, at your earliest convenience, what you think of the prospects in Central America --- and especially whether or not you feel the ecclesiastical authorities would be friendly to our undertaking our particular work in that area.

I am enclosing our monthly donation to keep you in bread and butter. I am grateful to Our Lady that you were not seriously hurt when thrown from the pbrise. Like St. Theresa when clapped on the hand by an irate peasant who thought Theresa had stolen her purse, you might well have said: "I have troubles enough without this!"

Very cordially in Spiritu,

Servant General.

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