



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

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COPY

June 29, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is to inform you that Fr. Jim Burns has resigned as pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, in Blanco, New Mexico and has asked for early retirement effective June 15, 1993. This was primarily prompted by his present health situation. But most surely the allegations you directed towards him provided an additional factor for his decision.

His resignation is not to be interpreted as an admission of guilt. In fact, Father Burns refuses to admit to the accusations you have made against him and his therapists concur. Nonetheless, rather than put everyone through a painful investigation of all the facts, I think we should be content with his withdrawal from the ministry where he will no longer be placed in a situation of trust. I hope this will meet the expectations you expressed to me and my attorney.

For the future, I offer once again to do anything I can to assist you in your recovery including the payment for your counseling. You should know that not a day passes without my remembering you in prayer. Your entire story is extremely painful and I ask that the Lord will continue to bless you with renewed life and strength.

Fraternally in Christ,

**Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup**