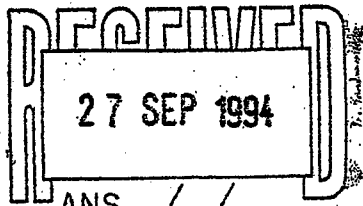


Cathedral Residence, 20
 San Pablo City,
 Philippines 4000



Most Rev. Leo Clarke D.D.
 Bishop of Maitland.

13th Sept. '94

Dear Bishop,
 As you can see from the above, I'm in the Philippines, —
 same here for a couple of reasons: my doctor regards the climate in
 Ireland much too cold in view of my hip-injury and even moreso
 now since I had multiple (4) Bypass operation last October. It
 seems to go from a warmer to a colder climate can be very
 mental. For the operation in '93 I had to return to W.A., as
 I had no medical cover in Ireland (and no hope of getting it), which
 would have meant an initial cost of £1,500 merely for the tests
 (i.e. in excess of \$3,500), then anything from £5,000 to £8,000
 depending on the number of Bypasses required. Medicine also is a
 phenomenal cost there — my \$4 monthly in Australia would run
 into the equivalent of in excess of \$50 in Ireland. Likewise, while
 in Ireland I had renewed acquaintances with some of my
 old Redemptist college-mates who had been in the Philippines,
 and who urged me to visit others still in the P.I..

Through the good graces of a Somasco Father and some
 Philippine friends in Manila we visited Laguna Bay, where I met
 Fr. Pedro Bautique of San Pablo Diocese, and with whom I was
 invited to dine on 3 occasions. During my last visit (12 Sept.), I
 had a long talk with him and gave him my unfortunate
 background. He was very understanding and sympathetic and
 suggested that instead of just being "retired" and spending the rest
 of my days praying in atonement for my past mistakes, it would
 be more profitable to become involved also in some active work
 in a place and manner that would be remote from the outside
 world — this he would be happy to arrange.

There is a tremendous shortage of Priests here, with
 enormous populations, not only in the cities, but in remote
 Baryos. It would seem an ideal opportunity to continue
 — something in I've

Diocese. Accordingly, the Bishop has asked me to write to you, suggesting either of 2 options: - (a) that I be excardinated from Maitland to be incardinated in San Pablo Diocese immediately (the preferred option) or (b) to be permitted to work in San Pablo Diocese, with a view to future incardination there.

It doesn't seem that I've got too many more years of active life (or indeed any life) left to me, so, I'm really begging you to allow me to accept this opportunity of spending them in the service of God and souls. Not even my own sister or her family need know where I am or what I'm doing; as far as they are concerned, I have "retired" to a warmer climate.

It appears you didn't receive my 2 letters I wrote from Maitland last year, so I'm making this one "Personal & Confidential" and would request that you regard it likewise. I hope your health is continuing to improve to enable you also to be active during those remaining years prior to retirement.

With every best wish,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Signed

PS: Apparently the Bishop in the P.I. is addressed as "Monsignor" so his address is: —

Most Rev. Msgr. Pedro Bantigue, D.D.

Bishop's Residence

Calauan,

Laguna,

Philippines.

UR48

Address Redacted

U.K