

DIOCESE OF ORANGE
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September 24, 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

Most Reverend Emilio Berlie
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Post Office Box 226
Tijuana, Baja California 22300
MEXICO

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

RE: REVEREND ELEUTERIO V. RAMOS

Your Excellency:

His Excellency, the Most Reverend William R. Johnson, has asked me to write to you regarding Reverend Eleuterio V. Ramos sharing his activities and assignments in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, as well as the Diocese of Orange, and some of the problems which Father Al has had, along with the actions taken.

Father Al was born March 23, 1940, in Los Angeles and is a citizen of the United States of America. He attended school in the city of Los Angeles - entering the high school seminary in 1954. He completed his studies in 1966 and was ordained in the Cathedral of Saint Vibiana by His Eminence, James Francis Cardinal McIntyre on April 30, 1966.

Father Ramos was assigned as an associate pastor on May 14, 1966, to Saint Thomas Apostle Parish in Los Angeles. He served there in this capacity until June 14, 1971, when he was assigned as associate pastor to Saint Marianne Parish in Pico Rivera. August 1, 1972, he was assigned as associate pastor to Resurrection Parish in Los Angeles. On March 5, 1975, he was assigned as associate pastor in Placentia to Saint Joseph Parish.

The Diocese of Orange was created from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on June 18, 1976. On this date Father Ramos became a member of the Diocese of Orange as all priests living in the boundaries of Orange County were officially made priests of the new diocese. On July 1, 1978, Father Ramos was assigned as associate pastor to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Santa Ana where he served until September 21, 1979. On this date Father Ramos was granted sick leave and entered an alcoholism treatment program at Saint Luke Institute at Marsalin, Massachusetts. He was at Saint Lukes until May 6, 1980, when he was assigned as associate pastor to Saint Angela Merici Parish in Brea, continuing his therapy. July, 1983, he was appointed as associate pastor in Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in La Habra, and pastor of Saint Anthony Claret in Anaheim, July, 1984, where he served until September 1, 1985.

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In going through the personnel file on Father Ramos, I have found the following notations and memoranda regarding problems and actions taken:

3/27/75 - a memo from Monsignor John Rawden, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, to Monsignor Benjamin G. Hawkes, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, informing him that as director of the Priests' Relief Association, Father Ramos would be in contact with him. The memo continues that Father Ramos would be in psychological care with Dr. Klaus Hoppe. This care was suggested by the District Attorney as a result of a recent incident. This was the entirety of the memo and the incident was not clarified.

4/1/75 - a letter from Father Ramos to Monsignor Hawkes stating that Dr. Klaus Hoppe had become his psychotherapist and requesting funding for payment of the therapy.

9/13/79 - letter from [REDACTED] and Sr. Mary Albert, principal at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Santa Ana, to Bishop William Johnson. This letter expresses concern for Father Ramos and a desire to meet with Bishop Johnson. Their concern was over a suspected alcohol problem as well as a feeling that Father Al was taking young people to inappropriate movies.

In December, 1979, Father Al entered alcoholism therapy at St. Luke's Institute, Marsalin, Massachusetts. Following his treatment there, which concluded May, 1980, he continued therapy with Dr. Klaus Hoppe, as well as attending weekly AA groups.

9/21/82 - a meeting with myself and the parents of a boy named [REDACTED] age 16. Feelings expressed by parents that Father Al needed help. Once again it was over inappropriate movies as well as the showing of "girlie" magazines. Father Al continued therapy with Dr. Hoppe.

August, 1985, - incident with a 17 year old boy from St. Anthony Claret Parish, in Anaheim, resulting in Father Al's resignation from the parish and his application to Your Excellency for work.

Bishop Johnson has provided Father Ramos with an automobile. The registration of the car has been changed to the name of Father Al Ramos. Bishop Johnson will continue to carry the insurance for the automobile whenever it is in the United States. He has requested Father Ramos to purchase insurance in Mexico for the car while it is there.

Bishop Johnson has agreed to pay Father Ramos a monthly honorarium to help him in his support. This honorarium amounts to \$332.00 per month.

Bishop Johnson has asked Father Ramos to meet with Dr. Hoppe on a monthly basis which Father Ramos has agreed to do. Father Ramos will pay the cost of this therapy which amount to \$100.00 per visit.

Bishop Johnson has told Father Ramos that if there should be any further incidences of his problem that he, as his bishop, would have no hesitation in suspending him from his priestly duties and make an application to Rome for his reduction to the lay state.

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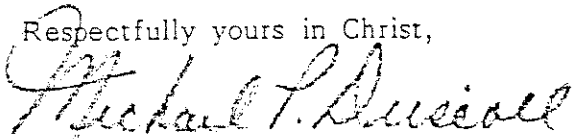
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Bishop Johnson feels that it is very important that the pastor where Father Ramos is staying be made aware of the nature of his problems. He would hope that this pastor would be open to help and assist Father Al, if tempted, so that there be no reoccurrence.

Bishop Johnson is most grateful to Your Excellency for your openness to Father Ramos. Father Ramos is a beloved member of our clergy and a friend. We deeply regret the problems he has and hope that he may now completely come to grips with facing these problems and overcoming them.

Praying God's continued blessings on you and your ministry, I remain

Respectfully yours in Christ,



Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll
Chancellor

MPD:ds

Enclosure

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