

April 26, 1959

Very Reverend D. A. Laning, Dean,  
Saint Peter's Rectory,  
1520 Matamoros Street,  
Laredo,  
Texas.

Dear Father Dan:

I am returning to you the note renewing loan for the balance of the debt on the parish. Indeed, thank God, that you were able to make a substantial payment on the loan! I compliment yourself and the people on the efforts to reduce and finally wipe out that incubus which has been hanging over the parish for so long a time. I am glad to note that the men are determined now to try to make up the final balance and clean up by the next interest-paying date. More power to you and to them!

Asent Father Hageman; I think, too, that he better, either go into some monastery for the rest of his life and keep on at least saying Mass, or to apply to the Holy See for laization. In the latter case he would have to make formal application and send it to me to forward it to the Holy See through the Apostolic Delegation. I am glad that Father McCoy knows the case, and therefore I will not need to have pangs of conscience about the Celebret. I am glad that you wrote to Father Hageman, as you did; and I fully agree with your opinion that he will have the greatest difficulty to overcome his weakness. Accordingly, you can write him along the line that I state above.

I can tell you now that I will positively send you one of the newly ordained, as assistant. So, you can quietly count upon it.

I am glad that you are still getting contributions for the Cathedral Fund. You will see considerable progress made on the building, when you come.

I am dictating this to Father Basso just before our Conference, which was deferred to this date. Will be glad to see you when you come.

Sending my blessing, I am,

Yours faithfully in Christ.-DOG.00278