

Father Ed
Chaplain, New Mexico Boys' School
P.O. Box 655
Springer, New Mexico

SSS.000768

July 12, 1961

Archbishop Edwin V. Byrne, D.D.
Archbishop of Santa Fe
213 Cathedral Place
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Your Excellency:

Sometime ago I wrote to you and mentioned about seeing you sometime in June concerning the possibility of establishing a Boys' Ranch under Catholic supervision. Several people whom I had hoped to see in the meantime have not been available, but those that have been contacted have been most encouraging. I expect to be in Santa Fe on the eighteenth of this month. If convenient for you, I would like to visit with you at that time.

The secretary here is just now typing my monthly report. I have never sent you a copy and so am enclosing one. If you wish, I would be glad to send you one each month.

There has been some talk here about receiving mail and whether or not it should be opened by the administration. The last comment on my monthly report refers to this situation. A memo in this regard was put out here at the school and a copy of this is also enclosed. Certain parts have been underlined by me. I called Father Jerry at the State Penn and he said that they did not open or read his mail.

The stationery on which this letter is being written was not printed in disregard of this memo, but was printed about a month ago.

In spite of the apparent pressures being aimed at the Chaplains' Department, the boys are cooperating with my program in a degree unknown since my advent. I have to increase my order for altar breads by 100 a month -- a boy who would not study his religion to make his first Holy Communion began to study on his own and made it last Sunday.

The boy who is afraid may be checked,
but never corrected.

Fear checks, Love corrects.

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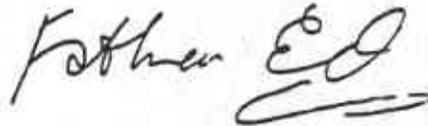
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Another boy will be received into the church on the 12th of August and will make his first Holy Communion the same day. (In cases like this I move slow in order to be sure - I only hope it is not too slow.) It looks to me like the petty pressures and annoyances in my direction are the price God wants for the improvement of my boys. If this is so, please pray for me that I may have the courage and strength to continue working with my boys, if that be God's Holy will.

Asking your excellency's blessing, I remain

Respectfully and humbly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father ED". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed closing of the letter.

P.S. I want to thank your excellency for your letter of July 1, 1961 - Proto. No. 302-18/61.