

Office of the Catholic Chaplain
New Mexico Boys' School
SPRINGER, NEW MEXICO

March 28, 1961

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

Your Excellency:

You will no doubt recall that sometime ago I spoke to you in regard to a Boys Ranch: 1) that it was felt that such an institution was needed; 2) that I would like to work toward that end; 3) that your excellency was being requested to grant me permission to discuss the situation with other people. Your excellency agreed with the first, made comment on the second and gave me your blessing for the third. At this time, your excellency was surprised that I had not as yet visited the Boys' Ranch near Belen. Since that talk, a visit was made.

The capacity of the Boys' Ranch in Belen is thirty-five boys. Some five years ago the Ranch was deep in the red, and the Southern Baptist Church loaned the money so they could pay their bills. The attitude of the staff that I spoke to was either indifferent to and/or anti-Catholic. (The boys with me, mentioned this after we left.)

Talking to a few boys here who have been there, they said that a Catholic is encouraged to go to non-Catholic services, and his own religion is downgraded. This follows what I was told there about the boys going to a summer "Bible Camp". (The boys with me mentioned that it would be better to be here at the New Mexico Boys' School than at the Ranch.

About my starting a Boys' Ranch: most of the people contacted have been in the northeastern part of the state - this is so because of the time element. The people have included doctors, ranchers, business men, ordinary people, etc. All were of the opinion that such a project was very necessary, that they would be willing to support it when it materialized, or began to materialize. Many non-Catholics were very much in favor

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

Fear checks, Love corrects.

SERVANTS -6163

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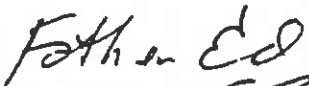
in regard to both the project and to supporting it. They mentioned that it was particularly necessary because the greater part of our juveniles who get in trouble and need help are Catholics. Two of the priests that I discussed this with said: "It's about time someone got on the ball to begin such a thing."

All in all, I would say the moral support that has been received so far has been most encouraging. Many people have been kind enough to point out sore points, and difficulties that would be encountered etc. It is true that such a project cannot be built nor maintained on "moral support", but at present that is all that was being sought.

If it is in accord with your excellency's wishes, I will continue in the same vein that I have been going, and would like to discuss this project further with you in June - God willing.

Humbly asking your excellency's continued blessing on this work, I am

Your humble servant in Christ,



Fr. Ed
Catholic Chaplain

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