

November 26, 1957

Very Reverend Gerald Fitzgerald, s.P.
Via Coeli
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Very Reverend dear Father,

A priest of our diocese, Gregory Manning, 39 years of age, is afflicted with an unfortunate ailment although physically well as far as we know.

Up to the recent disclosure of his ailment, nothing was known about it. As a matter of fact, he has been very successful in the fulfilment of his pastoral duties.

At present he is at the Seton Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, but Dr. Bartemeier informs me that they are not qualified to look after him there.

In speaking with Dr. Bartemeier by long-distance telephone, he suggested that Father Manning be advised to place himself under your charge at Via Coeli.

I have written to Father Manning today, advising him to report to you. I hope I have not been presumptuous in doing this, but I am at a loss to know what else to do for him. At the same time I do this not with any thought that you should work a miracle in his case.

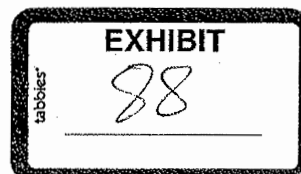
I have always felt that you have been doing a great work at Via Coeli for unfortunate priests.

I will be thankful for a note from you.

With every best wish.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

Bishop of Duluth



DOD30_0001429
CONFIDENTIAL

C
O
P
Y

Via Coeli

MONASTERY OF THE SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

OFFICE OF THE SERVANT GENERAL

Jemez Springs, New Mexico
January 24, 1958

Most Rev. Thomas A. Welsch, D.D.
Bishop of Duluth
2215 East Second Street,
Duluth 5, Minnesota.



Most Rev. and dear Bishop:-

You asked me to comment on G.M.'s note as also on G.M. himself. I think the double request can be treated as one, because G.M.'s note reveals himself. The immaturity that we laugh off in a child but which is so distressing in a man, becomes very embarrassing when it involves in a priest the sense of responsibility. We sanctioned G.M.'s going to California only after asking him to check with Your Excellency as it was Your Excellency who had directed him here. We deliberately left his return indefinite because we are convinced that the best possible solution that is available for this particular dangerous type is parental proximity as long as one ~~of~~ both parents are living.

aberration
We are fully convinced from our wide experience that this type of aberration is not curable whether the individual is already insane or becomes insane as a penalty for his ~~activation~~ *activation* as regards to the innocents. (He violates the temple of God) God destroys, effectively a rational entity, when ~~he~~ *he* takes from that entity the power of self-control. I believe that is the basic reason why Doctor B. at Seton Institute was not disposed to keep him there. He knows in his heart that this condition is incurable. An article written by him in "Jubilee", last year, indicates his opinion that men of this class are not morally responsible and naturally no Institute wants to get loaded with the incurable. One of the startling characteristics of this class is that they themselves do not take the situation seriously. One I questioned a year or so ago, believe it or not, was in boy work and intended to return to boy work. He said his victims had been to confession and had ~~agreed~~ *agreed* that this ended the responsibility!

unwell
I feel so keenly about the terrible devastation these men accomplish in starting innocent boys towards a life career of abnormality that I personally wish that the Holy Father would make a penalty for them that would "ipso facto" bar them for life from the care of souls. They are dangerous, always dangerous and whenever we have gone against conviction and approved their activation, we have had uniformly cause to regret. "The dog returns to his vomit". That is why I was happy to find G.M. set upon returning home to his parents. In the proximity of his parents, his brothers and sisters, there should be a maximum sanction psychologically for him to obey the laws of God and a minimum of expense for the diocese.

Via Coeli

MONASTERY OF THE SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

OFFICE OF THE SERVANT GENERAL

Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Cont'd.

I am enclosing a letter of G.M. sent to me from Washington. I have drawn a red line around a paragraph which indicates how little G.M. realizes the serious incapacity his affliction involves. In my opinion, Your Excellency will regret it if G.M. is again activated either in Duluth or elsewhere. The affliction will show up again and the adopting Bishop will have hard feelings to those who cleared him for activation. The volcano will irrupt again. I only wish the Hierarchy would provide me with what I have wanted for years, i.e. an Island whereon these most contagious lepers could be cared for with a maximum of charity including all of legitimate psychiatric treatments and yet a minimum of contact with innocent souls.

Cordially in Spiritu

F. Gerald of the Holy Spirit

Servant General

*P.S. Pardon the errors in transcription
My print-secretary has far to go - as a typist.
F.*



February 5, 1958

Very Reverend Gerald M. Fitzgerald, s.P.
Via Coeli
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Very Reverend and dear Father,

I have appreciated the letter which you sent me recently with regard to Father Manning, and I find it very helpful to me in understanding this case better.

I have heard nothing from him since he left Jemez Springs, and I presume he may be able to get along with his parents at least for some time.

I hope that I may not have to bother you further with his case; but, of course, it seems that there is no telling how these individuals will act, and I may have to communicate with you again.

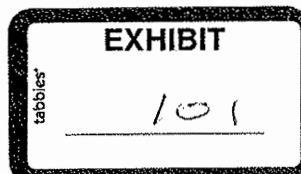
You are doing excellent work in helping so many clergy solve their problems. The Manning case is apparently one of the most difficult.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Duluth

C
O
P
Y



DOD30_0001414
CONFIDENTIAL