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Cath. Church Extension Society
180 N. Wabash Avenue
Chicago Ill.

Rt Rev. and dear Monsignor:

Allow me this time to plead not so much for the San Antonio diocese but for the many refugee-priests who have landed in our midst, the victims of the Calles persecution in our neighboring Republic.

All over Mexico there seems but one diocese existing in the United States and that one is San Antonio. I guess it is all in the name. Anyhow we are feeling the fury of the storm in Mexico more than any other diocese: we have at present 17 Religious (Carmelites, Dominicans, Claretians, Redemptorists) and 7 secular priests within our jurisdiction. They have suffered for the Name of Jesus, are confessors of the Faith. Many have been ill-treated, some have been grossly insulted and their very lives were threatened. We must receive them and do for them what we possibly can. Somehow I have harbored them all till now and tried to find work for them. The least I could do to help them materially after they had lost their all in Mexico was to offer them a daily Mass stipend depriving our own priests of these to help the strangers within our gates.

The present situation is a strong reminder of the days during the Carranza regime when so many priests and even 13 bishops took refuge in San Antonio. Extension then proved a Godsend and helped effectually. Could we not in view of our many refugees ask for an extra supply of monthly Mass intentions? I expect more refugees to arrive; only this morning one came from Mexico City. Many have been writing to me asking to be helped in case they would come over the border to us. You will understand what a help it is to these poor harrassed priests to find a welcome in this land of Freedom and to receive some little financial help in the shape of a daily stipend. Not a week passes but letters arrive from bishops and religious communities asking that we find some opening in this diocese for the Sisters who find life unbearable and dangerous to the South of the Rio Grande. Of course we cannot help all; we have done what was humanly possible; and we are forced to give a discouraging answer to the poor victims who stretch out their hands out to us. Wishing you the richest blessings of the Risen Saviour I am with cordial greetings

Yours truly in Xto,

John P. Rossme

Fr. S. Antonio