



Diocese of San Antonio

230 Dwyer Avenue

Property of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio Archives

San Antonio, Texas, 11/19/1926

Apostolic Delegation
Biltmore street # 1811 N.W.
Washington D.C.

Answer to # 4650-g

Your Excellency:

Rev. Saverio Vecchio has thus far received the utmost kindness in our midst and I am surprised that he repays this by complaints to the Apostolic Delegation.

His past history is doubtless a little clouded and were it not for the circumstances that brought him here (the religious persecution in Mexico) We certainly would not have accepted him to labor amongst our people. He set out from Calabria to Cuba where for a number of years he was in charge of a parish. For reasons of health he went to New York, staid there a few months and then found employment in Mexico City. Calles drove him out and so he landed here with a number of other victims of Calles' fury. After a few months of trial I gave him charge over our Italian population. I must say that he displayed extraordinary zeal (even going so far as to tell all our Italians that they MUST belong to the new church he was going to erect) and he met with unexpected success.

Meanwhile I received a warning from a reliable source in Mexico telling me of some serious financial difficulties in which Father Vecchio had been involved in Cuba. A sum of \$ 100.000 was involved in the bankruptcy that connected the Rev. Vecchio's name. Naturally this information put me on my guard and I became wary of the man's financial transactions here. It was therefore well understood between us that if he did build the church he contemplated he was to be without the diocese becoming responsible for any debts he would contract for this national parish (to be created as soon as the Indult would come from Rome). To my utter surprise Father Vecchio came a few weeks ago with an entirely new plan: the building of a school and I was to endorse a loan of \$ 20.000! My answer was: "festina lente"; finish the church first; organize your parish and then it will be time enough to discuss the school building. I think it would be the height of imprudence under the circumstances to make the diocese responsible for such an amount as he requested. Besides the man does not belong to us and nothing would prevent his leaving us and let the bishop take care of the debts he would leave behind.

With the highest esteem I am
Of Your Excellency

the devoted servant in Xto,

Archbishop of San Antonio