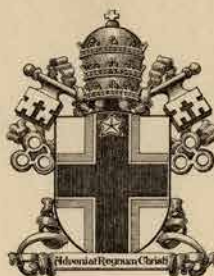


THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
OF THE UNITED STATES



EXTENSION SOCIETY
OF AMERICA · * * * · * * * ·

180 NORTH

WABASH AVE.

CHICAGO

September
Third,
Nineteen
Twenty

The Rt. Rev. Arthur Drossaerts, D.D.,
Bishop of San Antonio,
230 Dwyer Avenue,
San Antonio,
Texas.

My dear Bishop Drossaerts:

Thank you for the return of Father Planchet's letter, and your communication. If he means "Honararia" to help pay for his book, it is entirely out of the question for us to help him in a matter of that kind, as you can well surmise. These good men get so self-centered in their projects that they get blind to everything else. No need of my emphasizing this, as you have plenty of opportunities to witness the verification of that fact. I thought myself, that if he needed Mass Intentions, he ought to first apply to the Chancery office, and I see now that he has been receiving Intentions. So I will simply have to write him a diplomatic letter. Every time I see the word "diplomatic" I get nauseated. You can guess why. Today, especially, that word gives me the creeps; for I had more things happen to me than for many a day, all within a few hours. Nothing new to you, I am sure.

I have before me, also, the translation of a Spanish letter, by good Father Constantineau, received from Bishop Herrera, of Tulancingo, Mexico. Father Constantineau could do nothing else but simply forward it to us for whatever attention we might be able to give to it, or whatever advice we might see



fit to send to the Bishop. His letter is an appeal to help offset the machinations of the Methodists in Mexico, and especially in his diocese. They seem to be particularly busy in his diocese, working to create as much disturbance as possible. He feels that the Americans of the United States ought to help the Mexicans to thwart this Methodist project and Methodist activities. He refers to the poverty of the Mexican Bishops and Mexican people, and their consequent inability to counteract these religious deprivations committed by them. I won't bother you with any further details of that letter, but let me state that I have written him a letter, suggesting that if the bishops of Mexico want to get a hearing in this country, the best thing to do is to get up a joint letter addressed to the senior Cardinal of this country, the Archbishop of Baltimore. In my opinion, I think that that is the only feasible course for them to take. The Extension Society can't carry all the load, especially as it never pledged itself, in its Constitution, to carry such. We have to be careful not to get top-heavy. If we try to do everything that is to be done in this world, we will soon go to pieces. We would simply be actual fools to try to undertake anything of that kind. However, it is but natural that anyone who is in distress will grab for a straw; and Extension has been standing out plainly as a helper of the poor missions, and all persecuted Churchmen; so that it is but natural that people in distress look up to us. When a man is drowning, or when he is in deep distress, he naturally does not think of proprieties in a composed manner. Thus, it is for us to quietly, (but that is sometimes hard to do, I confess), give peaceful advice and consolation, if nothing else can be done. I think I can see you smile, for you are placed in that kind of a position, undoubtedly, many a time. Every bishop is, without doubt. Some more than others, but none escape it thoroughly, I am sure.

Very well, we will direct the Stations of the Cross that we wrote you about, to be sent to your address at San Antonio, and you



can then have them carted to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Antonio, I suppose that that is what you expect us to do. I could have had them addressed direct to an address that would save you that trouble; but once they are in the city, it will be easy to direct them to their final place of delivery. Perhaps you can instruct someone to stop the delivery to your residence, and have them taken direct from the freight depot to the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

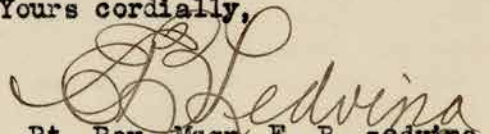
We will write to the priest, and give him instructions to ship the Stations of the Cross to you.

Monsignor Kelley is still in Rome; for we received a Cablegram from there today, which leads us to believe that he is still there. His traveling companion came back last week, and he had a very harrowing story to tell about the conditions in Austria and Hungary, and other sections of starving Europe.

With all our mission troubles in this country, we can consider ourselves blessed, in comparison with the terrible experiences the prelates and priests, the Sisters and the people are having in the starving part of Europe. The most unfortunate situation in connection with that condition is the low standard of morality to which this condition has driven people, and even others, too, as our informant tells us. It is sad, very sad!

With every good wish,

Yours cordially,


Rt. Rev. Msgr. E. B. Ledvina,
Vice-Pres. & Gen'l Sec'y.

EBL-FE

