



Property of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio Archives


San Antonio, Texas,
December 5, 1916.

Honorable Reverend W. W. Hume, Chancellor
Diocesan Chancery,
745 W. Houston St.
City.

Dear Sir of all my respect and consideration:

I have the honor to answer your favor of even date, with reference to letter addressed to Rev. Shaw by Rev. W. J. Russell.

After the attack of 1914 at Aguascalientes (my Diocese) that involves the closing of all the churches and making use of two of them for profane purposes; the exiling of the priests; the burning of confessionals and images of Saints; the outrageous speeches and publication of infamous papers full of indecency; the seizure of all the buildings which were Orphans Homes and Hospitals; the turning of the Seminary and the parsonages into army quarters; the destruction of libraries, the transforming of the Episcopal Palace first into a house of vice and then into soldiers quarters, and after all that under the pretext of opening a school the seizing of the magnificent building of the Seminary that was erected with a cost of over forty thousand dollars. We succeeded at last, after all the infamous ultrajes, in recovering possession of the church buildings they had taken



Property of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio Archives

from us and to open same for services and we also succeeded in bringing back the priests (except the foreing priests) and the Bishop, but although I have tried by all means to appear publicly in my Diocesi, as I could not hide from them, I have failed, and since I could not govern them from there I do it from this place.

With the exception of the two churches I have mentioned nothing has been returned to us; and they sold the furniture, carriages etc., of the Bishopric, destroyed everything in the oratory, attacking in every possible way the religious teachings, having left only 125 centers of Catechism and some religious institutions under management of priests and nuns, but without their appearing as such in public.

With all this information I think to comply with the wishes of the Reverend Mr. Russell.

I am respectfully yours,

Signed: - Ignacio Valdespino, Bishop
of Aguascalientes.