HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL MARTINELLI, CARDINAL PROTECTOR
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO, CHANCELLOR

VERY REV FRANCIS C KELLEY, D.D., PRESIDENT
REV E B LEDVINA, VICE PRES & GENERAL SECRETARY
REV W D O'BRIEN, VICE PRES & DIR CHILD APOSTLES
Mr JOSEPH D DALY, VICE PRES & GENERAL COUNSEL

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Mr WARREN A CARTIER, REC SECRETARY OF THE BOARD
Mr GEORGE C HENNESSEY, SUPERINTENDENT OF CHAPEL CARS

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
McCORMICK BUILDING
CHICAGO

CABLE ADDRESS:
EXTENSION, CHICAGO

FEB 25 1915

CONFIDENTIAL.

TO THE AMERICAN HIERARCHY:

Following the plan of The Most Rev. Chancellor to keep the Hierarchy of the United States posted on the Mexican situation, this second letter is sent.

Seminary. The Mexican Seminary is now open and classes have been organized. A change was made, and the Seminary is in Castroville instead of San Antonio. Some difficulty has been found in getting the students through the lines and only some eighteen are now in the classes. But the others are coming through as fast as they can. Bishop Herrera has two professors with him; two more will be added as soon as the other students arrive. The change from San Antonio to Castroville was made because the Sisters of Divine Providence in San Antonio offered their former Mother House in Castroville free of charge for two years, including all the furniture in it. Though we had rented the Garden Academy, it was found much cheaper to build the addition of a dining-hall and kitchen to the Castroville House, than to undertake the furnishing of the academy building for a temporary arrangement. The Castroville House is also very well adapted for the purpose of the Seminary. In the meantime, arrangements are now being made by Bishop Shaw to have the Marists of Mexico transfer their Scholasticate to San Antonio and occupy the Garden Academy, the rent of which will be paid by the Society out of the Mexican Relief Fund. We had a problem regarding these Brothers, as they have practically gotten out all their young students, who later will have to be used for the schools of Mexico. They were temporarily located in the summer house of the Oblates at Port Lavaca. They could not remain there, of course, any longer than the winter. The kind offer of the Sisters of Divine Providence gave us a chance to take care of both the Seminarians and the Teachers at the same time with very little extra expense. At present the Marists will pay the expense of food, clothing, etc., so they will not be a burden upon the fund for any more than the rent of the building.

Support of Refugees. As mentioned in the first confidential letter, care is being taken of the priests through the alms given with Intentions. The supply of Mass Intentions is very limited at the present time, and we are a little afraid of embarrassment if we cannot supply them regularly, for a number of the refugees are in Cuba and their position is more difficult there. The Bishops of Texas have been kind enough to turn over to the refugees all the extra Intentions they receive themselves from outside, but still the supply is inadequate. Any Intentions that could be directed here would be very gratefully received. We always transmit the Intentions to the Bishops, in accordance with the Decree of the Holy See on that subject. The greatest problem we have now is to find enough.

Thanks. We have received several personal donations from the Hierarchy for the Mexican Relief Fund since our last letter, for which we return thanks. All three of Their Eminences', the Cardinals, have shown their practical sympathy.

General Situation. Recently a number of interesting things have happened,

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which should be communicated to you, as follows: First, the Peace Conference held in San Antonio, was not entirely a failure, as was suggested by the secular press. It is too early to predict a failure for it. The meeting held on February 6th was only preliminary. Other meetings will be held, and our representatives are in close touch with the situation. Later on, proper resolutions will come from the Mexicans themselves, which will be of assistance to us in our fight to secure religious liberty for that country. The man who seems to be the leading spirit in the Peace Conference is Ferderico Gamboa. Mr. Gamboa is one of the best types of Mexican statesmen we have on this side of the Rio Grande. It seems to be the business of the papers to ignore the Conference, as they have ignored the fact of the outrages; but there are great possibilities for good still in these meetings.

Second, through private sources, we have learned that Carranza is sending an envoy to Washington, instructed to grant all the demands of the United States in return for recognition. Men close to General Villa have been in Chicago and informed me that he is prepared to do the same thing. The factions on this side have all come to the same view; so there is little doubt but that the scruples of the President are unfounded. Mr. Wilson's position, as outlined to the President of the Society, is not at all unfavorable. We believe that he would issue a declaration, committing the Administration to the policy of non-recognition of any Mexican government refusing liberty of conscience, if he did not fear that it would tie him up very badly in case, later on, he was forced by other nations to recognize somebody, and could not make good on his promise. Our efforts have not only been to convince the President that he can make the promise safely, but also to convince the different factions in Mexico that they must reckon with Catholic sentiment in the United States and need not hope for recognition after the American Catholics are aroused to the injustices perpetrated on their co-religionists in Mexico. Our representative in Washington found that both Mr. Garrison and Mr. Lane looked very favorably upon this policy. Mr. Bryan seems still in doubt about the possible effect of it upon the Mexican factions. Mr. Bryan seems to be the hardest man to convince, but we could not say that there was any manifestation of bigotry in his position. The radical trouble in Washington seems to be that some one has dinned it into the ears of the Administration that the people of Mexico would be opposed to the liberty of the Church. Every possible influence has been brought to bear to give Washington the impression that the Church in Mexico is to blame for the trouble. The people in authority in Washington would be more than human if they had not been influenced to some extent; but our representative found them all in a rather receptive mood and willing to listen, but fearful of taking a step that might entangle matters still worse. We still believe that it would be a mistake to follow any other policy than the one of sympathetic helpfulness to the Administration. Antagonism will do very little good now.

However, a bad situation is resulting from letters which Mr. Bryan is sending out in answer to Senators and Congressmen, who forwarded resolutions from Catholic parishes. This is a copy of the letter sent to one, and all are about the same:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 12th, 1915, in which you state that you are in receipt of communications in reference to the shooting of priests and the ravishing of nuns by the Mexican soldiers, and you request to be informed of the facts.

"In reply I have the honor to inform you that on January 14th, 1915, a telegram was sent by the Department to all its Consular Representatives in Mexico, requesting them to make report of outrages upon nuns and priests and the desecrations of church property in their respective districts since January 1st, 1914. Up to date, the Department has received replies from the Consuls at Nogales, Ensenada, and Hermosillo, and they all state that no such crimes have occurred within their districts.

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"During the month of last August the Department's special representative at Zacatecas reported that five priests were executed at the time of the capture of that city by the Constitutionalist forces. This is the only evidence on file in the Department which shows that any priests have been executed in Mexico. While it has been frequently reported to the Department that nuns have been outraged in Mexico, the Department has been unable to have any of these reports substantiated upon investigation.

"The Department is just in receipt of a telegram from Mr. John R. Silliman, its special representative in Mexico City, in which he states that, in a very friendly interview with the Vicar General of Mexico, who is perhaps the best posted authority in the Mexican Republic on matters pertaining to the Catholic Church, he surprised him by saying that, after careful investigation, he did not believe that any outrages on the persons of nuns had been committed."

"I have the honor to be, Sir, etc." "W. J. Bryan."

Mr. Dudley Field Malone of New York City, who is a personal friend of President Wilson, is the intermediary between the Society and the President himself. We took this matter up through Mr. Malone and embody a letter to him for your confidential information. We feel that by giving it in full, you will get a better understanding of the situation than if we tried to compress the facts into a resume:

My Dear Dudley:

"I have been very much worried for the last few days over the letter which Mr. Bryan is sending to Congressmen who make inquiries regarding the Mexican situation, with special reference to the outrages. He takes the position that the Consular Representatives of the United States are reporting that no outrages occurred in their territory, and speaks of a telegram from Silliman, informing him that the Vicar-General of Mexico, who, Mr. Bryan says, "is perhaps the best posted authority in the Mexican Republic on matters pertaining to the Catholic Church," made an investigation and stated that he believed no outrages on the persons of Sisters had been committed.

"If this letter indicates that the policy to be followed by the Administration is that of denying the outrages, you know yourself that it will mean putting the whole business back where it was two months ago. We have the positive proof of these outrages. Mr. Bryan has a copy of my book. Father Tierney furnished him with copies of some of the actual documents. He knows as well as I do that the outrages took place. The Catholic public have a full knowledge of the situation, and the word of a few Consular Representatives is not going to be taken before the actual affidavits of Clergy and Sisters. If Mr. Bryan believes that it would, he certainly does not know the Catholic people of this country. Such a policy would only make for more antagonism, more trouble and, in the end, disaster for those who are so anxious to bring about peace in Mexico of a permanent kind.

"To show you how easy it is to answer such a letter, I need only mention that the Vicar-General of Mexico, whose title is a very high-sounding one, is a Carranzista priest who was made Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Mexico City (but not of all Mexico) by Carranza himself, who ousted the regularly appointed Vicar-General to make way for his friend. The Archbishop of Mexico City, in order to avoid the greater trouble which would result from confusion, and in order even to save the life of his own Vicar-General, had to agree to the appointment. This fact is not generally known. We do not care to have it known for the obvious reasons stated above; but of course, if necessary, we would make it public.

"I wish that the President and Mr. Bryan would give more serious consideration to my suggestion. Matters are getting worse instead of better. I am doing all I can to keep the canal between Washington and Chicago clear of slides; but letters such as those Mr. Bryan has been sending out will cause regular Culebra Cut troubles, and it may be a hard job to clear the way of them.

"I do not agree with your idea that the matter should be passed by until the shipping bill becomes a law. There is no time to be lost in getting this Mexican matter straightened out; and it is so easy to do it, with credit to the President and with thorough satisfaction to the Catholics of the United States, and in such a statesman-like form as to win the applause of all our citizens,

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that I do not quite understand why it is postponed. Of course, I know the President feels that if he came out with a strong declaration in favor of religious liberty in Mexico as it exists in the United States, that it might have the effect of putting him up against a hard proposition if all the parties of Mexico would refuse. But I know that they will not refuse; in fact, we have information of a private nature that leads me to believe there would be no risk so far as Mexico is concerned. For example, I know that Carranza has sent a new representative to Washington. I know even his name. This man was instructed by Carranza to grant everything, even a general amnesty and religious liberty. Both the Zapata and Villa factions sent representatives to Chicago. They are all willing to make the promises that are required. All that is necessary is for the President to take advantage of the situation for his party's sake and for our country's sake and for humanity's sake; and come out with a strong statement. If we get it without him, he will lose the chance. We are going to get religious liberty for Mexico. This is one time where the Catholics of the country mean business, and it is the first time. They have never been so united on anything before, and they are going to be more united before we get through. We are not fighting for anything for ourselves. We are fighting for our down-trodden brethren. We are fighting for common rights that any democracy ought to be willing to grant. We will have the best elements of the country with us. I have no hesitancy in saying that the President is losing an opportunity, and a big opportunity, to say the right thing at the right time and to say it in such a way that it will be good for Mexico and good for the United States and good for the Democratic party and good for himself.

"I have no objection to your telling the President these things, or showing him my letter. It is, of course, confidential, but after my chat with the President, I came away with the idea that he was not only sincere, but very honorable; so that I have not the slightest hesitancy about letting you send the letter on to him, with understanding that it is not a public document."

"Faithfully," "Francis C. Kelley."

On the whole, the situation now looks better than at any former time. A new representative of the Administration is going into Mexico. We found out who he was before he even left for Washington at all, and we know that, while he is not a Catholic, he has the reputation of being a straight, honest man. All factions seem to understand now that they have to reckon with American Catholics and are beginning to open negotiations. There is no reason to despair of Washington yet. The only serious danger has come from newspaper attacks, which have been taken as a division within the Catholic ranks. Special harm has been done by the suggestion made in one of the Catholic papers that the Mexican Bishops were obliged to issue a pastoral to defend themselves against their "friends" in the United States, who were demanding some form of intervention. It is scarcely necessary for us to say that we are not working without constant consultation with all interested. We have a Spanish Secretary now, sent us by the Mexican Bishops, who is in constant communication with them. At no time have we advocated intervention. It would be a tremendous mistake to do this. The pastoral letter of the Mexican Bishops was written and issued even before the publication to which the Catholic paper referred. What we need more than anything else, is a united front, firm but kind; not working with the idea of getting "square" for the outrages, but with the idea of forgetting the past and looking ahead to the future. We still believe that resolutions are valuable and that personal letters from American Bishops to representatives in Congress and in the Senate, will help decidedly.

This letter was read and approved by The Most Reverend Chancellor.

Faithfully your Servants in Christ,

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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