



The Church of Jesus
 Manuel Ferrando
 Bishop

Box 4.
 Mountain Lakes, N. J.
 Sept. 16, 1923

My dear Bishop Colmore -

As I told you in my last letter written from New York I was fortunate enough to have a conference with Dr. Wood and was happy to see that in him we have a very good friend, much interested in the welfare of the Church in Porto Rico. He said, however, that owing to the recent catastrophe in Japan the Board would be unable to do as much for us as they wish. Still he was hopeful that we should not have many months to wait.

It seemed to me best to state clearly to Dr. Wood what was in my mind and what I thought would be the best for the Church in Porto Rico, - avoid complicated procedure, and yet be in conformity with canon law and sanctioned by practice. This is: That the Church of Jesus with its full ministry should become a part of the Episcopal Church, and therefore necessarily within your jurisdiction: that the Board of Missions accept the responsibility at once with the approval of the Presiding Bishop which can be confirmed by the concurrence of both houses.

My ecclesiastical status would become automatically that of Bishop Coadjutor, unless the Church assigns me jurisdiction somewhere else.

I can see, my dear Bishop, how clear the matter is if you accept the Church of Jesus with its clergy, you accept both priests and Bishop. The Bishop cannot be deprived of his office except by ecclesiastical process, and cannot exercise his office in the jurisdiction of another unless so authorized by the Bishop of said diocese - A Bishop attached canonically to another diocese becomes necessarily Coadjutor of the Diocesan.

This arrangement could continue permanently or could be changed later on if the Church so desires.

It seemed to me that Dr. Wood was very favorably impressed with this suggestion, as he immediately authorized me to write you as I did, advising that I should delay my going to Porto Rico until you should come North - so that we might arrange to get the transfer of the property and all other details in time for them to be presented at the meeting of the National Council, which takes place, I believe, Oct. 10th.

With regard to Modesto and any other arrangements, be free to do what you think best. I will take care of the Church of Ponce if you so desire, and transfer there my residence, but if you prefer otherwise, we could arrange everything here, and when we return hold a special Convocation to communicate what has been decided to the clergy and organize the parishes and the work.

In other words your plan of putting Modesto temporarily in Ponce and Victor in Quebrada Limón meets my approval. It only depends on whether

in view of coming changes you think best to do it now, or leave it for afterwards -

We expect to take Edith to the Connecticut College to-morrow, and return here -

Mrs. Ferrando joins me in inviting you to come to us when you come North, and if Mrs. Colmore is coming with you, we shall be delighted to have her as our guest -

We have just received word from Mrs. Ferrando's brother that his Father is rapidly failing, and the end may come at any moment.

We are all very glad to know that your health is not suffering as much as we had feared - and all join in good wishes and greetings to you and Mrs. Colmore and the family -

As ever, cordially and faithfully -

Mannel Ferrando