

MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF PORTO RICO

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P. O. BOX 1115

SAN JUAN, P. R.

July 26, 1923.

Rt. Rev. Manuel Ferrando,
Mountain Lakes,
New Jersey.

My dear Bishop:

Thank you for letter of July 13th, and I wonder if it is possible that I have not written before to acknowledge receipt of the Eight Hundred Dollars for the purpose of a lighting system. I cannot remember just now having acknowledged it and will not stop to look the matter up, as I want to get as much off on this mail as possible. I did receive the check and deposited it at once in the bank here without any difficulty.

I have not ordered the Delco System as yet, because of the fact that I do not know what we should do about the water. It seems to me that the spring from which you used to get the water is rather far away to be worked successfully with this system. I remember you spoke of the possibility of digging a well at the mission. There would also be the possibility of building cisterns and using rain water for the supply. I am waiting, therefore, to get more definite counsel from you on the subject.

There is another difficulty just at the present moment, in the shape of necessary furnishings in the house Primitivo is to live in at Magueyez. You will remember that I gave him some Twenty-five Dollars to buy necessary cooking utensils, etc., but he writes me that he has no tables or chairs or other furnishings for his house; so I am taking the liberty given me in your former letter of June 28th, to use part of this money for some furnishings for this house. This will probably not take very much of the money but will destroy the integrity of the full amount. What I use for these furnishings, I think could easily be replaced, probably some Fifty dollars. I am inclined to believe that a rectory should be the very first thing that we should attempt, as that would give you undisturbed control of the central building, as before, without any hard feelings.

As to your coming to Porto Rico, my dear Bishop, I hope you will not feel hurried by what I have said. Both your people and ours in Ponce are greatly in need of your services. I do not think, however, that it would be well for you to come in August. I hope very much to be doing over the rectory in Ponce at that time, and would like to have that all finished before you come down. I hope to get to work at that as early as I possibly can. By all means see to it that Mrs. Ferrando gets Edith settled in college before she comes.

At the present time we have a clergyman in Ponce temporarily; Fr. Schwacke, from Freehold, New Jersey, is there for a month,

and I hope that the people will be encouraged by his sojourn there and be able to keep up for a month or so longer, until you can come.

I am delighted to hear that everything seems to be so satisfactory as regards your friends and that your prayers in the matter are being answered.

I expect to have Primitivo at Magueyez from the first of August, as the house is now in our possession. This will take Seventy dollars out of the Two Hundred, and we will be just that much shorter than we have been before of the full amount for the months expenses.

When I go next time, I will try to make such a list as you speak of, of things necessary for the furnishing of the central mission, in order that you may buy them in New York before you come.

Please give my warmest regards to Mrs. Ferrando and Edith, and assuring you of my ever increasing interest in the work at Quebrada Limon and hoping soon to have you with us, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

CBC/MAW*

Charles B. DeWitt