

March 13, 1928.

J. C. M. Valentine, Esq.,  
Deland,  
Florida.

My dear Mr. Valentine:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 1st and I want to assure you that it is a very great pleasure to contemplate your coming to Porto Rico to take charge of the agricultural work at Quebrada Limon. I am to be in New York soon, arriving there on March 26th, and will certainly see to it that everything is in proper shape so that there may be no difficulty about the appointment at the Board's meeting in April.

In all our appointments my first desire is to know that a man is interested in and loyal to the Church. For my part I cannot see how any one can make a success in the Church's mission unless he is primarily and vitally interested in the Church. This I am sure is your situation because you would not occupy the positions of honor in Southern Florida except that be the case.

As to the work you will do in Porto Rico. I would say first that you will be directly under Bishop Ferrando, who is in charge of all the work at Quebrada Limon. The Bishop has been in Porto Rico for many years and knows the people very well and I am sure will be able to give you good advice and guidance upon the beginning of your work. He has asked for your appointment and is most enthusiastic about your coming. He can, and will I know, make your arrival the occasion of a great welcome and will see to it that you get the right orientation and that the people receive you and accept you in the proper spirit.

The work at Quebrada Limon you will find to be rather primitive and it has been Bishop Ferrando's and my idea that we could serve the people of the community best by largely making use of the means which they have at their disposal and we have not, therefore, sought as yet to provide very much modern machinery for the work. You will find a great deal to be done to the farm but I cannot imagine a more joyous task than getting all that property straightened out and under cultivation. The detail of it, of course, you will decide upon after consultation with Bishop Ferrando. I myself make frequent trips to Quebrada Limon, not only on account of my interest in the Mission but because of my inborn love of the mountains and of that particular location.

We are the only Christian body doing any active work among a large rural population, which means that there is abundant opportunity for the Church to work in evangelization, social service education and agriculture. I even believe that under your care this farm will in a few years be sufficiently productive to provide the necessary expense for a considerable extension of our work without

further appropriations from the Department of Missions. That is, of course, for the future.

As to roads. I cannot say that the road from the main carretera to Quebrada Limon, a distance of about five miles, is exactly suitable, but possible and passable, for automobiles. Bishop Ferrando has his car there and uses it for trips to town. I take my car there on all occasions except when the road is very muddy. As to the advisability of shipping a car. My experience is that it pays to bring a good car from New York. The expense from New York to San Juan on a car, unboxed, is \$59.00, brought as excess baggage by a passenger. I do not know if it would pay to ship a car from Deland to New York. If you drove it North I should think it would pay. Good second-hand cars can be procured here and you might feel that it would be wiser if you can get a fair price for your cars in Deland to sell them there and buy in San Juan. There is an Internal Revenue tax of about seven per cent for bringing a car into the island.

My advice would be to ship no furniture to Porto Rico. Freight is very expensive and nice things get badly broken. Furthermore we have the pollilla, or white ant, here which eats any soft wood. I would, therefore, recommend that you make, or have made here, gradually your furniture out of hard native wood. You should of course inquire as to freight rates by water from Florida to New York and on to Porto Rico and if these are reasonable you might ship such things as iron beds and mattresses, or any other furniture that you may be particularly attached to for sentimental reasons. I would not bring any heavy stuff but don't let anybody persuade you that you don't need mattresses in the Tropics. Mattresses here are quite expensive. The Department of Missions gives an outfit allowance but pays no freight charges. Any thing that you decide to bring would have to be paid for from the outfit allowance. Traveling expenses for yourself and family and personal baggage are paid for by the Board.

I presume that Bishop Ferrando will also write to you about the work and will probably be able to make many more practical suggestions. I think you have the right spirit and the right idea about beginning your work. I should imagine that your first job would be to build your own house for which we have an appropriation ready.

It is going to be particularly pleasant for me to have you here because of Mrs. Valentine's connection with Sewanee and the Quintards. I am sure that I remember all the Kings at Sewanee. Am glad that your daughter Ruth has met my sister Eva.

Assuring you of my great joy at your probable appointment and looking forward to the pleasure of having you with us in Porto Rico, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

C.B.C.

MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF PORTO RICO  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P. O. BOX 1115

SAN JUAN, P. R.

March 13, 1936.

The Rt. Rev. Manuel Ferrando,  
Box 776,  
Ponce, P. R.

Dear Bishop Ferrando:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Valentine and a copy of my answer. I expect to see you on Saturday morning of this week. I will be going over from Bayaguez and will stop in at Quebrada Limon. Miss Cushman, a friend of Miss Robinson, will be with me. I must go on to Ponce and spend the afternoon there in preparation for my Confirmation Service on Sunday.

I think it would be well, if you are willing, to write to Mr. Valentine and give him any impressions or instructions which I have not touched upon. I certainly do feel that he is going to be the right man for our work at Quebrada Limon and you are certainly to be congratulated as it seems to me it is by Divine leading that he has volunteered for the work.

With all best wishes and looking forward to seeing you on Saturday morning, believe me always

Very sincerely yours,

+Chas B. Clever.

CBG:ML