

JAN 22 1918

MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF PORTO RICO.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP.

P. O. BOX 1115.

SAN JUAN, P. R.

No 1.

January 16th 1918.

My dear Dr. Gray:

It has been most pleasant having Mr Upjohn with us and at the same time it has been most helpful in many ways. Not least in helpfulness has been the fact that his visit and having to lay plans for the buildings etc. has called on us for a very definite study of the policy we are to pursue in the next few years, as our buildings must depend entirely upon that.

We find, as we had intended that the very first thing to be done is a decent school building for Mayaguez. According to the plan we have in mind and which Mr Upjohn proposes, we can build also along the Salud St. line a good building of two rooms for school purposes on each floor, the lower floor being arranged so as to be available for the Church services until the Chapel can be built, and the upper floor being used for the school until the other building is erected, when the two upper floors on the two buildings will be used for apartments for the Rector and for the teachers. The probable cost of this building as I imagine at the present time will be about \$10,000. I am counting upon the Board giving us at least \$5000. from the undesignated legacies, and as much more as we can squeeze out will be helpful. \$7,500. would assure us the first building without worry.

The next thing for us to undertake we think is the nurses' home in Ponce. I have great hopes of being able to finance this project in Ponce itself. The people are well disposed toward the work and see the great value of it to the Native girls, and the people generally. I hope to take this matter up upon my return from Haiti, which will be just about the end of the sugar crop when the people have the money at hand.

The third thing we have in mind is the construction of two or three temporary Chapels which can be bolted together and moved at will, when the place has grown or the work attained the proportions which justify a permanent building. The Chapel could then be moved on to another place. It would be built so as to serve both as Chapel and school and even for a Parish House.

Mr Upjohn will explain more fully these plans when he has the opportunity to talk with you. It has been very helpful and encouraging to have him here. We will now be able to have the sketch and description of each building that we start out to appeal for, which will be of immense value in seeking funds.

With warm regards and best wishes, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Chas B. Colman

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No 2.

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My dear Dr. Gray:

In your letter of Dec. 26th you do not look with favor upon our plan, you call it a naïve scheme, for the use of the Episcopal Residence at Rio Piedras as a Postulant school for the training of the native men for the Ministry of the Church. I confess that this is something new in my mind, but a development which cannot be lightly overlooked. The development has been brought squarely before us by two incidents; first Mr Whittle being called to military service, and our having to supply his place, and ~~secondly by Mr Dickey's utter inability to cope with the situation in San Juan.~~ I have been forced to the conclusion that our bringing Americans down here in the way we have been doing, changing from one to another without accomplishing anything has been and will continue to be the ruination of our hopes and opportunities. In the long run we have to depend upon the native men for the work of reaching the people. We need a certain number of American Clergy for the purpose of training the Postulants, and doing the work while they are training. But it is hopeless to look forward to our men doing the work for ever. To adequately train men they must be either sent to the States or trained here under careful supervision, where they will live under the care of a Clergyman. The plan of the Bishop of Bethlehem is what we have in mind. Ask him about it. We have the University of Porto Rico which will give our men the education in classical studies that will be necessary. We will have to give them the theology ourselves. You know how desultory and unsatisfactory our work has been in the past. After fifty years in one case and since the American occupation in all the other cases, we have been seeking to care for the American work and today when we realize what has been going on in the Church, we stand at the point as regards the native work where we are only beginning, except in the Coto work. Other Christian bodies here in the Island who paid no attention to the English speaking work from the beginning, have gone steadily ahead training native workers and that is the reason for the success of the Presbyterian work. They have a large number of well trained native men and they are getting the results, while we are still at the beginning and have today not one single native worker who is able to present the Church in an adequate way. We have now four young men, who are most promising, three of them teaching in the Sunday School with good effect, the fourth having just recently come over to us from the Methodists and said to be the best of their native workers. We are going to train these men for the Church. But we need help. To my mind this is much more valuable from the standpoint of missionary work than a dozen English speaking congregations in Porto Rico, for the opportunity for the development of the Church among the Porto Ricans is unlimited. Why should we who have the Church, admittedly the best for the Latin people,

renewed, but an element in discouragement in depending on Americans.

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Dr Gray 2.

SAN JUAN, P. R.

lag behind our sectarian brethren, who have none of the traditions of Catholicity? It is a disgrace and the Porto Rican people understand something about our Church and cannot see why we should be accomplishing less than the Methodists and Congregationalists and even the Baptists. We have seen a vision here at last and intend to carry it out to the best of our ability. We will go as far as we can. The Board can however be of great assistance to us, without the expenditure of another cent above the present appropriation. Two things must be done at once;

1. Give us authority to retain the episcopal residence in Rio Piedras, making the increased allowance for my rent available in accordance with the action of the Board, and allowing us to use the rent allowance at present appropriated for Mr Walter's ~~rent~~ rent, viz: \$600.

2. Give us authority to use Mr Whittle's salary after March 31st for the support of our Postulants, and such other small amounts as are at present appropriated for the work which will be carried on by them.

The advantage of using the Rio Piedras property is manifest. It is near the University. It is a building which will furnish living quarters for the Rev. Mr Walter and the young men. If the place is sold we will have no house which can be used for the purpose. Having our young men there they will serve the work in San Juan in our three native missions, they will have daily services under Mr Walter's supervision in order to become thoroughly conversant with the services and conduct of them, and they will go out to Fajardo and hold services there and in the outlying districts where the people are begging us to come. We can accomplish this with ease from there, but unless we have the time of the young men at our disposal and have them in a convenient centre, that work will have to await Mr Whittle's return or until some one else can be trained in the language.

I am aware that there are several difficulties in the way of our plan. First is the question of good faith in the promise to use the first available assets for the payment of the loan on the Condado property. But between the parties concerned there need be no question of lack of confidence. All will be assured there has been no trick to deceive in order to persuade the Board to purchase the condado lot. The Postulant school is a new development since the purchase of that property. I wanted to sell the Rio Piedras property because it was not being used for anything by the Church. Now that we have a definite and useful purpose for it why not think of the service to the Church, rather than the fulfilment of the former purpose? Look at it in this way. Given the authority asked for above, the District will buy the residence from the Board and will pay four percent interest on \$8500, so that we may use it for the upbuilding of the Church in Porto Rico and save us from the ignominy of failure with the native people.

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Dr Gray 3.

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I am almost tempted to put the question up to the Board, to take the Condado property and do with it as they see fit. Retain it if they will for the development of the Church in San Juan, or if necessary to have the money they have expended on it, or in order to carry out the terms of the business contract, sell it and do away with the development. I do not propose this as I consider it would be a backward step, and would regret the move exceedingly. But the sale of the other property would also work against the development of the work as we see now see.

Dont think I am crazy or vascillating. This is a firm conviction in my mind now and I feel sure we can do a greater work for the Church in Porto Rico in this way than in any other.

Mr Upjohn went with me and examined the building, finding it in very much better repair than we expected. Probably one hundred dollars will make the necessary repairs and alterations. I have asked him to speak with you about the proposition.

I know the business men will say it is bad business to arrange to sell in order to pay the loan, and then change and keep the first available asset. But I say also it will be bad business to throw away an opportunity to develop the Church' mission to Porto Rico, and I am convinced that we have it here. I am sorry to cause inconvenience by my change of mind, but I remember the saying that only a fool will not change his mind.

Please get interested in the matter, and try to get it through for me, for the work's sake. Pardon such a long dissertation but its importance seems to me to justify it. Dont think of it as "a nice scheme", but as a plan of great importance and possibility.

Very sincerely yours,

Chas B. Colver