

## MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF PORTO RICO

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P. O. BOX 1115

SAN JUAN, P. R.

August 21st 1923.

My dear Bishop:

Thank you very much for your letter of Aug. 8th with check for \$80. enclosed. This comes in very nicely as I have just authorized Modesto to expend \$50. on work of cleaning the coffee and in planting some platanos etc. I was struck the other day when I was there by the fact that he was buying in Ponce and carrying to Quebrada Limon plantains and yautia for their food. I at once planned with him to have some planted there to provide food for the people living at the central.

Modesto has been assisting Fr Schwacke who has been holding a mission in Ponce. He has done the work very acceptably and we used the occasion to find out the many people of the Church of Jesus living in the city, and who were very much interested in the teaching and who came regularly to the services. The thought has therefore come to my mind since that time, of the possibility of transferring Modesto to Ponce to work as the assistant to the rector when we may be able to secure one. Of course I would do nothing of this kind without consulting you first, and I do not know that anything serious will ever come of my idea. The work in Ponce has been without a rector since the first of this year, and is in great danger of disintegrating badly if nothing is done in a definite way in the near future. This would affect both the membership of the Church of Jesus and of the Episcopal Church, and my thought has in it the possibility of helping both bodies.

If anything of this kind were done, what would you suggest should be done at the Central? Should Hermenjildo or Victor be sent there to live? I have a promising letter from Dr Gray, which gives me hope that I will soon be permitted to increase the appropriation for Quebrada Limon by \$100. making it \$300. per month instead of \$200. With that amount it would be possible to give all the workers some degree of independence, i.e. give each one a salary so that they could provide their own living and to that extent be independent of the central. I would of course much prefer to have you here when that is done and have you explain to them about it all, and help me with the details of the arrangement. I wish however that you would write me fully of the proposition and give me your candid and frank expression of opinion about it. I have made no suggestions to the men as yet, and have compromised myself in no way in the matter. I have put down on paper for my own suggestion the following salaries: Primitivo salary \$50. rent \$20. Total \$70. Modesto \$80. Victor \$50. Hermenjildo \$30. Deaconesses (4) \$60. making a total of \$290. If this were done, each one would have to be responsible for his or her own living expenses and arrangements. There are some people living at the central, and are dependent upon the Church for support. I have not taken this detail into consideration and do not just know how that would be arranged. Please let me know what you think of the salaries I have fixed upon and how the arrangement would work out. I want to have all the benefit I can of your experience with the people and the advice that you will be able to give me,

I am intensely interested and want it all to go well. Please give my regards to Mrs Errando and Edith, and with best wishes, believe me,  
 Very Sincerely + affectionately yrs, *Chas. Colman*