

MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF PORTO RICO

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P. O. BOX 1115.

13, May, 1925.

SAN JUAN P. R.

Rt. Rev. Manuel Ferrando,
Box 177,
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey.

Dear Bishop Ferrando.

I am very glad to have your letter of May 6th just at this moment. I was in Ponce on Monday of this week to arrange in regard to the adjustment of the work done on Holy Trinity Church by Mr. Hatch. Mr. Hatch died on Thursday of last week, and we had to come to some agreement in order to find out whether we owed anything to his estate or whether they were indebted to us. I think we are just about even, with possibly a little bit due us on account of materials which were taken away under attachment.

I took the occasion of my expected visit, to make an appointment with Father Locke, and Alejo, to have a talk regarding our differences. I am very much delighted to be able to tell you that I had a very satisfactory conversation with Alejo, in which we came to an understanding and parted as good friends. The upshot of the whole matter was that Alejo seemed to be hurt that neither Father Saylor nor I had said anything to him about the whole matter of our change of mind in regard to building the Church by contract instead of by administration. Father Locke and I were able to remind him of an appointment which we had made with him for one afternoon at the rectory at two o'clock, in order to tell him of the situation, but he did not come to the appointment and I left Ponce at half past two for home, and he turned up about ten minutes after I had left. He remembered the circumstance, and I told him that I would have gladly told him our whole position at that time had I seen him. I also explained to him that you advised that it would be far better for you to deal with him entirely and that Father Saylor and I should leave the whole matter entirely in your hands, as that seemed the best thing to be done, and for that reason, we had not sought another opportunity to see him until after you had had your last conference with him and had left Porto Rico. He seems to understand now that everything is past and forgotten. The Building Committee took advice from Mr. Poventud and after your departure, wrote Alejo an official letter stating that we had received his communication with bill for \$1000; that we were not willing to consider the payment of such a claim, inasmuch as we were not legally obliged. We did ~~not~~ consider that we owed him something for the time he had spent in connection with the preliminary work, and had agreed to send him the amount for seven days work at \$7.00 per day. He seems to have accepted this check, but tells me he is going to spend it on Church work at Quebrada Limon. You may therefore rest easily with the assurance that the matter has been dropped and an understanding reached. I regret that the incident was so annoying.

Bishop Ferrando,
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In talking with Miss Lovett and Alejo regarding the requirements of the Sanitation Department, and in view of the fact that no one concerned had been able to find any trace of a septic tank on the property, I gave orders to Alejo to proceed with the construction of one, in accordance with the requirements of the Department. I am today telegraphing Father Locke to suspend that order until further investigation, and am sending him your letter in order that they may investigate again and see if they can find the tank to which you refer. It has not been possible for me to go and make a personal investigation, and have necessarily left it to those in charge. I will ask Father Locke to go out and give the matter his personal attention.

Thank you for your promise of sending me the translation of the Woman's Auxiliary leaflet. I shall look forward to it with great interest.

I wrote Doctor Gray some time since in answer to a request from Bishop Hulse making application to the Department of Missions, for the appropriation of a sum of money for the publication of a modified book of Common Prayer, and asked that you be requested to act on any committee from Porto Rico. The idea is to publish a better translation of the Prayerbook and have a very small book to include Morning and Evening Prayer, Litany, the Communion Office without Epistles and Gospels, some Psalms, and a few hymns.

If you are called to any such Committee meeting, I think it might be well to mention the fact that in any hymns that may be printed, Porto Rico would request that hymns be selected from our local hymnal. I believe that Cuba has no hymnal at all, and the Porto Rican collection would be a great deal better to chose from than the Evangelical hymnal.

I shall hope to see you some time in July, possibly about the 1st, but will let you hear from ~~you~~ more definitely, later. Please give our warmest regards to Mrs. Ferrando and Edit, and with all best wishes, believe me,

CBC/AWT.

Very sincerely yours,

Chas. B. Brewer.