
To the Most Rev. Henry K. Sherrill, D.D.
281 Fourth Ave. New York 10 N.Y.

Most Rev. and dear Sir:

This will be the last time I shall have the pleasure of making my report as Bishop of Puerto Rico, since my retirement becomes effective on March 31st of this year. I wish to express my deep gratitude to Almighty God for the privilege of serving in this District for the past thirty three years and especially for the close contact during that time with the Board of Missions and the National Council. Many courtesies have been extended to me personally and to the missionary work which I have unworthily represented, and which has been my one thought and interest during these years. The gradual increase of appropriations for this work, except in the years of depression, has indicated a confidence in this District which has gladdened our hearts.

I feel that the plan to secure a good man, qualified to eventually take over the work of the Episcopate, and my work for five years toward that end has been both wise and successful. Bishop Boynton has been working at my side as Coadjutor for more than three years and is now administering practically the whole District. He has shown himself thoroughly qualified for the position of Diocesan and I am happy to feel that the work will be in his hands. He is young, intelligent and vigorous and I feel sure will render good account of his stewardship.

I can readily remember the great difficulties of working here with a very small discretionary allowance and am happy that there are today certain legacies which have been left for the benefit of the District which form an endowment, the income from which can be used for the extension of the Church in Puerto Rico.

It has been a source of great satisfaction to many of us that during the past few years there has grown up a much closer bond of union between the different units of the Anglican Communion in the Caribbean
area. At the invitation of two successive Archbishops of the Church of England in the Province of the West Indies, American Bishops have met with those of the Province. There has been no proposal of organic union but all has been limited to friendly discussions of common problems and a better understanding of each other through closer ties of friendship, prayer and social intercourse. A direct outcome of this closer association has been the revival of the question of a more equitable distribution of jurisdiction in Central America, resulting in the offer of cession of certain territory by the Province of the West Indies and the acceptance of the same by the American Church at the last General Convention. The continuance of this association is greatly to be desired.

During the past two years I have been giving much of my time to the preparation of the Book of Common Prayer in Spanish, in accordance with the findings of a conference of representatives of the Spanish-speaking Districts. The book is almost ready for publication but there is as yet no certainty of a date for this due to the difficulties in the manufacture of paper.

All the Bishops in the Dioceses and Districts in which there is any Spanish work desire that the next publication undertaken should be that of a Church Hymnal in Spanish, and work on that will be undertaken as soon as the Prayer Book has been finished.

There has been a notable advance in some of the Missions in Puerto Rico toward the goal of self-support. We have every reason to hope that the Spanish Congregation at the Cathedral will be entirely self-supporting within the next five years. This example will, we hope, speed the efforts in other missions, and thus effect a wider extension of the Church.

It has been unfortunate that certain Clergy appointed to serve in this District have elected not to remain. Added to this, the continued illness of the Rev. John Levo has made it difficult to keep our Missions manned. We have today one Candidate for Holy Orders and eight
Postulants. In the course of time at least some of these men will be available for vacancies.

It has been considered necessary to construct two buildings in connection with St Luke's Hospital, Ponce. These have been carried through to completion, even though the cost of construction has been high. There was not enough room for living quarters for the Graduate Nurses nor for lecture rooms and library for the School of Nurses. In the Hospital there was need for more space for patients so that we might fulfill our contract with the Veterans Bureau. Both projects were required at once even if at greater cost than usual. Both are now in use and amply justify the decision to proceed with their construction. Money for the purpose was borrowed from the District on a long time loan, and will be gradually repaid by the earnings of the Hospital. There is money in hand for several other smaller projects, but the need for them was not so urgent that they could not be deferred until building costs are nearer normal.

It is a great personal satisfaction to me that the salaries of the National Clergy in Puerto Rico have been increased to a point at least approximating those of the Continental Clergy. For many years I have advocated this but unfortunately without much success. In the past three years, with the aid of the energy and forcefulness of the Coadjutor a great advance has been made in this particular, and I rejoice at this accomplishment. We feel sure that a more satisfied Clergy will show greater results in the work and growth of the Church.

In bidding farewell officially to the Presiding Bishop and National Council, I first wish to express my thanks for all the consideration you have shown me and the Missionary District under my care. The work could not have been done without your great assistance. Secondly I desire to offer my services in my retirement in any way the Presiding Bishop may feel that I can be useful to Christ and His Church. You only have to

May God bless His Church everywhere and may the missionary work grow in accordance with His wishes.

Ever affectionately and obediently,