

J. E. McKey, S.J.
Spanish, Ontario
July 2nd, 1947

Dear Reverend Father

P. C. The last few visitors we have had seemed to take it for granted that I was going to Garden River. Being used to rumours of all shapes and sizes I paid no attention to news from sources which knew nothing^{of} and for the most part cared absolutely nothing for the subject under consideration. However, when Mr. MacKenzie acts on the rumour and sends me a parcel destined for Garden River, I began to shoot off sparks and wrote to the man to shout down any word of such a move, for the sake of the mission.

But now Fr. J. Dwyer happens along in the company of Fr. McGivern and leaves the very definite impression both with me and especially with Fr. Oliver that not only am I going to Garden River but Fr. Flaherty is coming here. I cannot allow a threat of such a twofold calamity to pass without at least a protest from me, supposing there is any foundation.

As for Garden River, my going there would imply that I will be alone. In other words Fr. Sullivan will continue to sabotage any work for sould that anyone else may try to do. In the first place if he is taking charge of the parish here, how can he go two Sundays out of every month to Garden River? And if he is a pathological case and cannot be given any responsibility in the parish here, by what stretch of the imagination can he be given the responsibility of two Sundays a month at Garden River? In the second place when he goes to Garden River he persists in giving silent sermons and hiding instead of hearing confessions. Moreover he antagonizes the people by refusing to eat in their houses and then going off to buy canned goods to make his own meals and they know that is what he does.

On the other hand I could not look after the mission line and at the same time look after Garden River as it should be, any more than could Fr. Tim. I don't mean that I would fizz out, but I do mean that the work would not be done. There must be an older man there to look after the building and organize the parish on a full scale. There are tons of work that can and should be done but never will be done as long as the same man has both the parish and the line. Moreover there is a resident Protestant minister to be counteracted and a very sincere Protestant Agent living close by to be watched and kept impartial. Otherwise the whole reserve will be organized entirely under Protestant auspices and it will be nobody's fault but our own.

As for the line here at Spanish, I don't mind leaving if I am needed soeplace else. But when not I but two other men are needed and when the one to take my place is a nationally known agitator and disorganizer - where is the advantage? Garden River does not benefit. This line is thrown into absolute bedlam - the ladies insulted into withdrawing from Sagamok,

Cutler split into three hostile camps, and the whole stench of two years ago stirred up and blown around again. You know as I do that this is not exaggeration. Fr. Flaherty has not been able to stay in any place more than a year and a half. And for a practical example of his indiscretion read over the brief of the Manitoulin Indians read before the committee in Ottawa on May 22nd, and compare it to the briefs in the appendix which he was simply asked to combine. His indiscretion in other lines is also well known. It reached my ears that not long ago Fr. Dwyer had to take extreme measures to stave off what could have developed into a scandal. Here there will be no one to rap knuckles and there are far greater opportunities for giving unsavoury impressions.

Fr. Dwyere has my sympathies but at the same time he is the first man who has shown himself capable of handling Fr. Flaherty and I certainly hope he will not be relieved of that office.

If Fr. Mayhew is to go to Wikwemikong to learn Indian that is excellent but if that is so he should be sent as an extra man, not to take charge of the missions. If he is sent as an extra, there are still enough men to go around. Fr. McGivern is making no secret of the fact that he wants Waubashene. He has no classes next year, just his thesis. Fr. Costello could be spared for one year until Fr. Mayhew is ready to take over either here or the Soo line. The scholastics could easily handle the Darjeeling Diary and there are certainly priests at the Seminary who could look after the retreat work.

This may all seem very forward and out of turn but I saw only two courses open to me: either to put down clearly and plainly what was in my mind or to keep silent altogether. I did not see how I could keep silent.

Your Reverence's servant in Christ

J. E. McKelvey

Wikwemikong Ont July 11.1947

Dear Father Provincial,

Pax Christi

Father Desjardins is terribly upset over the prospect of having a jubilee celebration; he claims he cannot make his retreat now he is so upset; remarked that it is the worst status he has received in fifty years; he has been most unpleasant to live with as he will scarcely speak to me. So I think in view of the above situation it would be advisable to drop the affair altogether. If you come up we could have a solemn High Mass and something extra for dinner, maybe invite them from Spanish and Sudbury. He was all right before I asked him what cards he would like for his jubilee, have been in the dog house ever since with him. Unless you advise me to the contrary, will arrange just for the mass and dinner for yourself and a few from Spanish and Sudbury.

Fr. Flaherty returned today from his retreat, he left on June 24, spent several days at Spanish and then went on to Toronto. He had a bazaar scheduled at Wikwemikong for June 25, and went off the day before, he had told them he would order several things for the bazaar and when the day came they found out he had not mentioned them, as is his regular method of procedure. I hope you will see fit to replace him here this year by Father Mayhew; however it would be a grave injustice to any line of missions to put him in charge of them. He was very disloyal when the man from the Indian Department was here looking over the school situation; his arguments were not founded in fact and will have repercussions on the school at Spanish as it is from here that the school draws most of its subjects. He will cause much trouble with the school should you place him over there. He has had three appointments on the missions up here in this part of the country and has not been a success on any of them so I honestly judge that the man is not fit for this kind of work.

As for myself I have not been able to stay in my office any more than before your visit; that may be a sore point with Fr. Desjardins too, but I have many things to attend to which necessitates me moving around; had two funerals and wedding the last week in June plus three sick calls, Fr. Desjardins was in Little Current and Killarney supplying for the Secular priests who were on retreat that week, so got a bit run down, however Dr. Simpson gave me a tonic and am feeling all right again.

There was a suggestion of utilizing this big building for class rooms, which would mean necessity of building a house for us, The Bishop may take the matter up with you.

Fr. McGivern went over the documents and took a trunk full of stuff with him, in view of the fact that he might leave it scattered around the seminary I strongly advised that it be shipped direct to you and you could dispose of the material as you judge fit.

With best of wishes and hoping to see you on the 31st.

Servus tuus in Christo

Joseph Dwyer S.J.

St James Residential
Spanish, Ont
July 22nd 1940

Reverend Dear Father Provincial

P.S. Am enclosing a report on
Fr Hannin. Seems to be nothing serious but he will be
able to get further check ups in Toronto.

Fr Rushman arrived last week and is going
over the ground with Fr Hannin. Fr Costello was
here for a day less than two weeks. Fr Sullivan
is at the Island now.

Heard from Fr Nunan regarding Fr Epoch and
was glad to hear he had had successful operation, he
will be many weeks inactive I presume.

Hope the status is not proving too much. A good
place to hide here afterwards. Frs MacPhee, Desjardins
and Bro Beretson in retreat here

Sincerely & obediently in Our Lord

Raymond O'Leary

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario
Sept.4th 1947

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;

P.C.

Father Sullivan has been to the dentist in Blind River. The latter told him that he would have to have his upper teeth extracted since the last bridge was now gone! Now there is apparently no tremendous rush about this but it has given Fr Sullivan no end of scope for ideas. He could get the work done at Blind River as I intend to have mine done there. He could get the work done at the Sault where there are several dentists, or at Sudbury where there are even more to choose from. He has five extractions to get done and the usual fitting. To him of course, since he is not well, the whole thing is a very great undertaking. His proposal was that he go to Toronto, spend from now till Christmas getting these five teeth out and the plate in. He would then make his retreat in January and return! I told him that for such a permission or for any that would involve Toronto he would have to write to you. As far as the Sunday ministry is concerned it would not make a terrific difference since we would binate as last year, Fr Minister and I taking week about. It would be difficult on week days since we must have three masses all told. He argued that I should ask for a priest to take his place for the four months! I did not try to persuade him to take one of the dozen dentists available, Blind River Espanola Sudbury Sault..as all the community must do, since he had always got the permission to get the work done in Toronto and now considers it an inalienable right. There has been no unpleasantness about it at all. I thought it best though to write and let you know the set up. All are well except that a few have had the flu. We have made a good start. The two schols are doing very well. We have one thirty three boys and twenty more listed to return or come as new boys. Your blessing on us and our prayers for you, we are very grateful for everything.

Servus in Xto.

Father Oliver 007

St Peter Claver School
Spanish, Ont.
Sept 5th 19

Reverend Dear Father Provincial - P.C.

Your letter received. Fr Pallwan
has had no word yet but will go
as soon as we hear news from Father
Comier.

Relayed the message to Fr Costello
re passport. He is a great help to Fr.
Tom. Fr Costello will go over for the
fifteenth to Fr. Joe. Dwyer at Wick
weekend since he needs help on
account of it being a 'mission'
Sunday. Fr. Joe would have wished
for help during the week but I
refused since we are really
more pressed and one man is
sufficient during the week for
such calls at Wick weekend. I am
afraid Fr Joe was disappointed

But that's life. He is nervous and tired.

Mr Penfold had a very bad heart attack yesterday, we had the doctor here almost immediately. The latter claims it must have been building up for some time. After a few days (to gather strength for the trip) Mr Penfold will go to the General Hospital at the Point to get the right care. The doctor urged this very strongly. Mr Penfold is willing and it will be the easier for Bro Seflemme who has his hands full.

Miss Sarvoque is hindered pro tem but the possibilities of getting a teacher before Christmas are remote. We have been strongly advised before to get a lady teacher for the better kids 7-10 years old at least part time. We believe it should make a big difference. But

this is an emergency measure. Later the ideal solution would be a grade one at the convent for boys and girls.

His Excellency has kindly exempted us from the "Divine" meetings which take place with fair frequency and demand the full day what with train and bus travel. It would be absolutely impossible for Mr Hammer or for me since we have a busy time here.

The three veterans are well enough and able to say mass more or less regularly but at no fixed time for boys girls or parish since the responsibility upsets them and fatigues them in advance of the mass.

Mr Cormier has written for the status of the house. I had planned to ask you to have Mr Penfold named administrator since Mr Dupresne is naturally non-functioning. If he does come it is with such suggestions as the following - that grape all be used at collation and be varied with tea coffee, cocoa! That the boys be

severely punished for almost any thing.
 It is too fantastic. He is very old. I also
 would like to Perford as consultant since
 I understood that Dr Horvitt would not
 be consultant this year. Dr Richard tires
 anyone who goes to see him and uses the
 office of spiritual father for the boys to have
 one or two read Indian during the year.
 We could still send the boys for the reading
 and have Dr Perford spiritual father when
 he comes back. I think it seems only
 fair to put the men on val. who are
 so. I am sending you a status of the
 house and sending me to Dr Coomer who
 asked for it along with a letter explain-
 -ing the whole situation. I presume Dr
 Belanger is to be carried on our status.

Brother Vandermeer is mending
 slowly and is able to get around
 and supervise a little work. He is
 very cheerful and a grand example
 of patience.

Dr Nash is to come here for his
 retreat and will be here over the
 Sunday which counts while I am

away for my retreat. I am writing
Guelph immediately to make arrange-
-ments. I shall leave Sunday 15th and
return for the fourth Sunday - unless
something else turns up.

Fr Penfold was very interested
in the parish and when he recovers
will be able to take that on without
any difficulties since the main thing is
having the man named definitely. He is
very happy here and though he could
do limited work would also be an
excellent director for communists and
boys since he radiates sympathy
and is so perfectly a gentleman.
The going will be a little difficult
with the parish while he is away
but we shall manage.

As regards the surveying on
Oyud Island we shall most probably
have to wait until next spring. We
did try to get a surveyor but had
no success.

I realize that your Reverence has many more important things to deal with at the moment but wish to explain to some extent our financial status here. We have as revenue four thousand dollars yearly from the Department Grant, we receive a certain number of mass stipends but not very many - we have practically no ministry, our collections from chapel & village church are quite fair - we also get a small amount from the bakery here. Now we shall proceed to eliminate the revenue according to sources - the four thousand is directly written off to the Province, the mass stipends of course must go to the Area too. Ministry has at times been "under" since we have more mission calls from the Fathers Bryer etc and there is no stipend. The bakery revenue is just a few dollars a month - and

now the parish! The Banking account particular to the community has as its source all the above named.... When the grant money has been turned over to the area plus the mass stipend money we find ourselves using the parish funds! I arranged with Sr Brennan to have the parish fund banked separately and the whole matter arranged in a business like way. He was very agreeable but - I can not possibly send in the full four thousand a year - so shall limit it to the amount for taxation levied this year. If it is possible then we shall send more. Of course the mass stipends will be sent in as usual. It seems to me also that there is some arrangement whereby the area deducts a certain amount for the old and infirm. If this is a privilege we should like to avail ourselves of it and have every thing done in a business like way. It would be a

legitimate way of lessening our debt
 or debt to the Province and give us a
 chance to have our true community
 balance so that some chance necessary
 voyage would not find us using what
 really is the parish balance. Now as
 regards the collections in our own church
 the best solution might be to write \$1000
 at year end as part of pastoral
 support — it must show in the parish
 report and could thus show and
 still have been deducted logically and
 legitimately. I explain all this business
 because for this quarter just passed I
 am sending in only 500.⁰⁰ I hope to be
 able to send the full cheque for one thousand
 in the Sept. Nov. quarter.

Thanks you for your kindness
 and give us all your blessing, we
 shall not be forgetting your Reverence

Sincerely

servous in Christo

Raymond Oliver