

Garnier Residential School  
Spanish Ontario  
October 25, 1947

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial,  
Pax Xti.

Poor Father Belanger! I am sure that he would be the first to regret being moved and yet would feel that he must stick to his guns. He is not so much trouble as might be thought. We got a bath room fixed up off his room when the plumber was working here with sink and toilet bowl for his convenience. Before that he had us up at all hours of the night with false alarms. This we could not blame him for since he, poor man, did not wish to take any risks that would embarrass him and the infirmarian afterwards. Once the new place was set up with hand bars and ~~stret~~<sup>stret</sup> car fixtures to enable to help him cope with whatever situation might arise, then we slept soundly and Brother LaFlamme did not have restless nights. It seemed that everything was rosy. Brother Westaway has kept up the diet just as Father Belanger wanted it, shifting graciously this way and that. I need not tell you that Fr. Rushman is the soul of charity. Of course it is very lonesome some parts of the day. Still, Fr. Belanger sleeps hours every day and reads a fair amount..still an hour or so a day aloud to Fr. Richard. He is able to get out on the gallery these last weeks again and The Dear Lord has given us marvellous weather. He has a call bell and can get service in very short order, his meals are carried to his room and I make at least two or three visits each day, often more. He became very confused and worried about confessions and I thought it better to tell him not to hear them since he said. 1) He could not hear half of what was said 2) He did not understand what he did hear. 3) He could not read all the formula half the time! Upon which he asked me if I thought he should continue! Then the poor man began to tell someone that he was so relieved that I



I had stopped (sic) him from hearing confessions but that he did not mind. He gets very confused and I firmly believe that the root of the whole matter is that he thinks that he is a burden which he emphatically is not. He asks for impossible service at times and can be very difficult in insisting on something and then simply changing his mind, but generally we have to put him off. He is perfectly happy ten minutes after. I think this is what happened. He would be very miserable in Guelph. Here Father Richard can spin away in French with him, and the latter is quite ready to be bounced out when Fr. Belanger says he is tired! There he would have little or no company and no compatriots. At the hospital he would not have the company at all, he would be made to take whatever came on his tray since the Doctor says that there is no special diet for him, and he would be treated very definitely and no more. They have no time for anything else. It is a small hospital and extremely noisy.

When he has read your letter, I shall see him and tell you what he says. I do not think he could be better elsewhere, above all not in the hospital or Guelph. He still gets his visitors from Wikwemikong who come to see their children here. He is a worrier and lonesome and weak and so must be expected to be dissatisfied in spots. On the whole he is quite cheerful and again, not nearly as much of a burden as one might think.

All the rest goes well. Fr. Rushman was quite tired out and went to see Father MacDonald for a few days thus filling Fr. Mayhew's place while the latter is away. He will be home (Fr. R.) today. He is most devoted and a hard worker but cannot keep up the pace that Fr. Hannin hit. Mr. Johnston is doing a good job and Mr. Shretlen astounds us with his fund of patience among his ninety odd small boys. He seems to have hit his vocation! The brothers are well and we don't want you to shy about sending any more spare ones that may happen along. We have excellent teachers and the going seems to be much easier than last year.

There must always be something... but it is a common affliction, the awful rise in prices. We took a bad beating these last two months on our grocery bills and have had to cut down on such things as bacon and extra kitchen stuffs to get ourselves balanced in December. Our grant was delayed by weeks. As soon as it is straightened out we shall forward Fr. Brennan a cheque. We are drawing straight monthly salaries from the grant and this will net us much more in the community account



...help to pay off the insurance and taxes, wipe out the parish debt, and leave us a decent though modest balance in the community fund. The total staff salaries will be six hundred and ten per month, I have not included Bro. MacLaren who runs the bakery nor the two Brothers Vandermoor and LaFlamme who were drawing the Vocational School grant for their teaching. The Department has made all sorts of new regulations as regards this latter grant. If they do not pay it, I shall assign a salary to each of these and thus raise the salary for the staff (Our) still higher. The auditor was surprised that we should be transferring so small an amount for salaries. In reality the transferring of this money across does not give the house any more money but the grant will go up and the cost of living down and the school will be doing just what every other Residential School is doing, drawing its stated salaries per man per job. We could thus meet the Province bills on time and could meet medical emergencies etc without difficulty.

Fr. Joe Dwyer is here and seems very enthusiastic about the Cape and speaks well of the people there. He looks well too.

Fr. McKey is well and doing his usual steady job on the missions. Fr. Sullivan is well, off and on, just now he is eating fairly well and is cheerful. He is a life saver for masses since we are just three to say them. We always welcome retreatants since they take one of the masses. Fr. Deguire made his retreat here just before Fr. Dwyer came.

May we have your blessing on our community, be assured of our prayers,

Servus in Xto.

*Raymond Oliver*



Garnier Residential School  
Spanish Ontario  
Nov. 27th 1947

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;  
P.C.

All goes well at Spanish. Fr Belanger settled and happy and Fr Richard trotting around in search of Indian words. We get one of the boys from study at 5.30 and 7.00 to read Indian to him, he manages to get a couple of hours out of Fr Belanger, and he picks up people here and there all day long in the corridor and snares them.

Father Hannin wrote and would very much like to come to Spanish for Lent. It seems a lot to ask for but he would of course be a very great help here. Fr Sullivan is planning on going to Toronto in February for three weeks...retreat, some complicated dental work before the retreat..the retreat itself. a few days to rest the gums and then the second attack. He definitely needs the dental situation cleared up. He does not suffer but there is a certain amount of bridge work which apparently is just resting on a very precarious point on one side and there are complications on the other point of suspension which could develop into a major catastrophe. Undoubtedly it will take him three weeks for everything anyway. We have three masses daily to say at the least point and with him gone we would be strapped. Now Father Mayhew would very much like to have a mission at Patchewana and one at Goulais Bay..Fr MacD nald would like to have a forty hours during Lent. I presume they have written about this. With Fr. Hannin here we could have help at least for part of the time Fr Sullivan is away. Of course it would be somewhat more than a replacement but we could also stand that! It is a very bad month to bring all the girls from the convent and the ladies too, since our chapel is not warm, and it is difficult for us too with such numbers to have any kind of decent time schedule for the morning.



Secondly there is a permission which I have intended several times to ask of you. Our family was broken up when we were very young due to mother's death. The people to whom I owe most are a brother and sister Dan Maclean..and Catherine (Mrs Jack Fraser) of Bailey's Brook in Nova Scotia. They helped me at college, both Bathurst and St Mary's, did everything they possibly could for me. There never was any official guardianship of course, they were friends of Dad's. I could never really repay what they did for me. This year Dan has not been well at all and had a difficult operation, it was not dangerous but it has occurred to me that both are growing old and one of these months I will get a telegram that they are very ill. I really feel that in such a case I should ask permission to go to them. If you decide otherwise Father I shall not be put out at all, but my mind will be more at rest. They are not the type of people who would call without necessity.

It looks as if we are going to be able to get Mechanics papers for Brother Vandermoor. His visit to the Sault did a great deal for him and he wrote to the Director of Apprenticeships Director in Toronto. In view of the need of mechanics the organization is giving papers to anyone who can prove five years work in a garage under a certificated (sorry) mechanic ... Two garage men one here and one in Massey who have known and admired Brother for a long time have signed the applications and now the last form goes in. Bro V is in league with Brother O'Keefe to whom I really believe our Lady never refuses anything. When a letter goes out Bro O'K lights two vigil lights at Our Lady's altar and keeps an eye on them all day from time to time to see that they are burning brightly. Both of them join in prayer and I really do not see what chance Our Lady has. We are fighting to keep the manual training grant which we wangled last year, and we can keep it only if someone has some sort of papers for the teaching of mechanics or any trade.

I took four whole days off and went to Garden River. I enjoyed it immensely, it was a change but it is rather difficult for them there without a cook. Father Mayhew is very interested in his missions and is doing a grand job. Fr McDonald finds G.R. rather unorganized but his health is good and he is ideal for a quiet place. I still think he has a good set-up.

Our boys and girls are going home for Christmas and you can imagine the relief it is going to be.



We shall probably have fifty or so left, but that is a handfull compared to the number now, and it will mean so much less work for everyone and some rest during the holiday. They leave on the nineteenth and return on the third.

Our grade tens are doing splendidly and we shall make arrangements with the Department after Christmas to have them placed in colleges for third high. I think about six of them will continue next year. As far as capabilities are concerned they could all go on but three of them would certainly find it hard to keep an interest beyond the second.

Things are more difficult at the Convent. They are very inadequately staffed. No recruits, lay teachers in the class rooms, almost half the community are of retired age and sick, no one to handle the first prefect's job competently, and the resultant difficulty with the girls. It is becoming pretty hopeless.

We are ahving our own time to keep rolling with ceelings gone and the prices sailing but thank God for our own farm produce and for the fewness of labourers we must pay.

We ask your blessing on our house, the community and boys.

Sincerely and respectfully

Servus in Christo,

Raymond Oliver O'N



Indian Residential School  
Spanish Ontario  
December 8th 1947

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;  
P.C.

We would like the two scholastics to get a bit of a break during the Christmas Holidays. They have worked very well and during the regular year it is difficult for them to get away for a day. I thought that it would be nice for them to go to Sudbury College for a day returning next day. The train connections are impossible since the train goes down only at night and again the buses do not click. They would have just three or four hours there. If You think this is exaggerated then we shall give them just the day's trip. We are anxiously waiting for the twentieth of December and the most beautiful sight in the world.. the bus turning the corner on the hill..loaded with little Manitoulin turkeys.

All are well and things are shaping up for the winter.

Servus in Xto..

*Raymond Oliver*



Indian Residential School  
Spanish Ontario  
Dec. 18th 1947

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;

I am enclosing a list of what seems to be the ministry for Father Hannin according to the hopes of Father Mayhew. If it seems too strenuous Father Mayhew would be quite willing to make the missions shorter. If Father Hannin is in good trim I would think that he might rather enjoy giving the missions full time and following the whole series of sermons. At any rate it could be adjusted even after he came up. This way he has something definite to work on.

Mr Brown and his swimming pool! He will one day be berled in erl. I received a copy of the article before it went to "Jesuit Missions" and deleted the tosh about the gymnasium, but he adds a swimming pool! I thought the article had too much of the personal and cut out the parts which paint us as living examples of something between financial wizards and beaming father-mother-and family to the boys. But for the foundation for either swimming pool or gymnasium, except for Father Hannin's fond dreaming of the latter... it was news. Father Hannin loved to cannily figure out how so many boys working with so many bags of cement over so many years could build enough blocks for a gymnasium.. the prices would go down, the grant would go up.. all very simple. But he was too much of a realist to consider it as being possible. I had just written to Mr Neary (Supt of Welfare and Training) who does try to get better help for us.. told him of the difficulties due to such high prices and of our parlous situation! Then I get a letter from Fr. Brown telling me he has just sent copies of the Jesuit Missions to Mr Neary at the Office, the staff will be somewhat confused.

Last year the Dept tried out the Christmas Vacation business in the west in three schools



Staffs and pupils were so enthusiastic that all Residential Schools were notified to send them home for Christmas this year.

I am grateful for the reassurance regarding the MacLeans.

Miss Walsh died yesterday after being ill quite some time. For years she had been suffering from cancer.

Everybody is well and it looks as if we shall have a nice Christmas with a program that will allow us time to relax. We shall have about fifty boys left. The scholastics are looking forward to the exodus. They are both in splendid health and doing very well. Mr Shretlen is still serene despite the thousands of demands of his million midgets. Mr Johnston turned out a good play last month and is preparing one of Father Lord's plays for tomorrow evening. He seems very much at home now.

Father Sullivan was getting along better than he had been for years, eating regularly and looking quite happy but he is off food now. These states may become less frequent, certainly they have been less frequent this last year. He was very much taken up with bingos, which for some reason appeal to him, but has lost interest in that. Probably something else will come up since he still has the parish as his main interest.

Asking your blessing on the community  
Servus in Xto.

Raymond O'Brien



Spanish, Ontario  
Dec. 26th 1947

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;

P.C.

This is just to let you know that Mr Johnston was taken to hospital in Blind River with a bad case of appendicitis. He was operated on last night and is in no danger. The last two or three days he had continual pains and Brother LaFlamme diagnosed perfectly. We had a call from the hospital this morning to tell us he was progressing favourably, that it was necessary to put in a drain and thus of course he will be some time in the hospital.

God has been very good to us this year in letting us have it much easier with all our staff well, and we always expect a bit of a set back through sickness here and there. It will bring very special blessings on the house and we shall manage for the few weeks to replace Mr Johnston.

It has been a Heaven sent gift to have so many boys away...only forty three left! The house is quiet and everyone is enjoying a real respite.. ..from the patter of LITTLE?? feet.

Send a blessing to all of us,  
Servus in Xto..

Raymond Oliver O'G



Father MacPhee had not seen the "mother" of the missions and began to plan immediately as to what use the house could be put. It is always a game we enjoy there.

I have not heard from Father Tim or Father Rushman these few days but the work progresses on the church and evidently Father Rushman must have stayed since he had promised to stop off if he were called back immediately by Father Wilson.

Fathers Costello and MacHardy are making their retreats and are both very edifying. We hope very much that you will be able to get here. We promise not to discuss any business or ask any permissions etc on that visit.

I am not sure if I told you that we had everything arranged for the high school. We begin with eight boys this year, some others may possibly come. A grant for tuition, \$125.00 a year has been promised for each one taking the high school course. This is to be added to the usual per capita grant and will pay for the teacher. We have been fortunate in securing a first class teacher for this year. The extra class room is finished and Brother Laflamme has done a very fine job of re-wiring all the class rooms and the study hall, the lighting was very poor.

There is nothing else which comes to mind except to express again the hope that you can come for the receiving of the last vows.

Sincerely, servus in Christo

*Raymond Oliver*

P.S.. Regarding Father Primeau, one of the girls from the school, discharged some time ago, saw him in Ottawa last week. Last year he spent much time at the Sault (I speak of the month of July) with this Indian teacher and was seen very often with her then. On his trip with Father Rolland he spent a half day here and was in the Sault from Saturday night till Monday morning with Fr. Rolland's car. I presumed that he would have straightened everything out with your meeting. I also presumed that Fr. Rolland would have explained that Fr. Primeau suggested coming this way to see me, and on arriving here did not feel up to



coming in, asked for the car to go to the Sault to see Father Tim. The latter was in the Sault and at the hospital and did not get any call from Fr. Primeau. On Monday he came with the intention of staying for an hour or two and we prevailed on him to have dinner, he came at eight twenty or so and left at half past two.

Our sincere hope is that he will not cause much talk and practically force ordinary people to draw what they consider obvious conclusions. Since his trips to the Sault last year were very definitely for the purpose of meeting this person, and such was the report given to Father Provincial at his visit here last year, we are very much afraid the same business might be drawing him there again. Again we have no proof of anything untoward. We certainly during the past year have all avoided any listening to what people said and have silenced them effectively by the argument that he was, for us, in Toronto. Cutler Indians work at the Sault as do Indians from the Island and they generally hang around the same street, if there is anything to carry back they are very prompt. And even if there is nothing, the very fact of a man in clerical garb still a Jesuit for them, yet not saying mass and of course they would know if he did not, the effect is very bad. He has certainly not stayed at any priest's house without our knowing it. It is very painful to put yet another burden on a heavy load, but Father McKey asked me as did Father Joe when I saw him over there to write and let you know the set-up in so far as can know it. Possibly a talk with them would be very good. Whether it is just something psychological, a reflection of their own fears.. I do not know but they claim that there is an evident knowing look among their Indians and each one claim d this separately. Having dealt with the people around here last year I realize what they mean. I know this all appears very nebulous but I have done my best to present the case, and in it all there is the only fact of appearances that are bad.

In Christo servus,

*J. Blum*



Canadian Residential School  
Saskatoon, Ontario

Dec. 15th 1954  
P. 20 24

Very Rev. & Dear Father,

Brother

LETTER ARRIVED TODAY

FURTHER HELP UNAVAILABLE

FROM HERE. ~~PLEASE HAVE~~ <sup>SWP</sup> ~~PL~~

KNOW I <sup>WILL</sup> INFORM MCHUGH. LATER

SUPPLY FOR MCHUGH LEFT TO

YOUR DECISION.

25 Wm 99

Very sincerely,  
Your servant in the same  
Rev. Father from S.S. 8. 2. 1954  
Merry Christmas!  
P.S.