

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario
January 12th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;

P.Xti.

We have had to send Father Sullivan to the hospital. For a long time he carried a bad cold. He was x-rayed in November and everything was all right except that the doctor diagnosed bronchitis. Lately he was continually choked up, and last week could not make the stairs. The doctor says that he has an asthmatic condition but that he is at the same time terribly run down, which is understandable since he goes on the strangest diets. They are having difficulty with him at the hospital as regards food but the doctor is strict and I hope he wins, although I would not put too much money on it.

Now Mr Johnston is to return home in a couple of days but is not to work for some time. With Father Sullivan here to help for masses etc. we could get along. Father Rushman and I divided Mr Johnston's work, not equally since Fr Rushman must take the larger share. We are going to be in difficulties in February, with Lent coming. Fr Mayhew had already suggested that if we needed Fr Hannin badly here he could cut his missions to forty hours. This would give Fr Hannin more time here and still we would have hard going. If Fr. Mayhew and Fr Barker agreed on having Fr Desjardins give the missions for Fr Mayhew would it be all right? I cannot think of any other way to cope with the situation and I feel sure both would agree, thus leaving Fr Hannin for us. Dr. Pigeon is not communicative but the Sister says that Fr Johnston had to be kept several days extra on account of adhesions and will have to go very easy. No stairs etc.. for a while, which I would take to mean a couple of weeks anyway. I hate to be always bringing problems but both Fr Rushman and Mr Shretlen are doing far more than should normally be expected. At any rate it seemed urgent to write.

Servus in Xto..

Raymond Oliver

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario..
Jan. 17th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;

P.C.

The arrangements for the Easter Retreat had completely slipped my mind. We certainly need a man to give that. So I am saying the word quickly!

I saw Fr Sullivan and he is picking up. He put up a very definite fight against food but they threatened to use a tube and he saw that Dr Hamill and Sister Melanie (head nurse) were very determined people. They were shocked at his condition. weight one hundred and ten pounds. *They expect to hold him there at least two weeks more.*

Mr Johnston is back at work. not full time but almost. They told me at the hospital that he should step right back into most of the work or he would begin to develop a definite tendency to worrying about his health. He was quite taken up with what he should and should not do ... I had occasion to go to Blind River and got the news that he not only could but should get right back on the job supervising. He is happy and feels fine now except of course for the stiffness. There were no adhesions nor signs of any. he was kept over to see if they could not put some fat on him... an ambition of nursing sisters everywhere.

The opening of Parliament will see the rewriting of the Indian Act. It looks as if they will give the schools a break. All well here and ask your blessing.

Servus in Christo..

Raymond Olver

Jamies Residential
Spanish, Ontario
Jan 24th / 48

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial -
P. C.

Fr Mayhew was here for a day and we got the matter settled re - Fr Desjardins. Fr Mayhew is the best judge, being in charge of the missions. He says that an Indian mission at Batchewana would have little value - of course it would be of no value in the Settlement. It would be difficult for Fr Desjardins to preach a mission in English - Fr Mayhew will come one or two week-ends and give us a hand our boys confessing forms a difficulty since neither Fr Rushman nor I can hear them. A help on a Sunday or two will ease the burden. We shall need the man for the Brothers Retreat.

Pow Fr Sullivan has not made much progress. He is not able as yet to say mass. He is taking nourishment to a fair extent and undoubtedly it is very difficult for him. I saw him three times - the last time on Tuesday of this week. He suffers from his chest, a continual congestion, but he was wonderfully cheerful. His mental attitude makes his taking of food a torture. They hope to have him built up in about three weeks, he will have to take it very easy then. That will not be difficult since we depended on him chiefly for a mass and confessions. He is in no danger.

As Fr Hammen will carry on as scheduled. He has mapped out a program of advance publicity which shows his interest and we can now expect something in the line of a small tornado through the missions! Shows in Christ

Raymond Oliver

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario
Feb. 11th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;
P.Xti.

I understand from Fr Hannin that you would agree to Father Hourigan coming to give us a hand. We would be very grateful indeed. I am enclosing a list of some of the jobs in which he could help. Many of these added together make a lot of work and unfortunately we have had to let a lot of the work slide. I assure you that no one of us (two) is going to find himself lost for work!....because of the turning over of this ministry to Fr Hourigan.

Fr Rushman's eyes are still sore. He cannot do any reading but will be able to tackle his breviary in a week or so. He will not suffer any after effects. He is going full swing now, his job does not call for reading.

We are most grateful for the offer of Father Hourigan's help and hope that on his leaving Providence will find us someone, it is very difficult for masses and for the village.

Servus in Xto.

Raymond Oliver

Garnier, Spanish.
April 10th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial..

P.Xti..

I am very grateful for your letter. I shall be there on Thursday morning, will go to the seminary first and say Mass.

Fortunately there were not too many feathers flying around up this way or we should have all been bowled over. Now, of course, when all the rosy plans of the missionaries are not being realized right off the bat..the cry will go up.. "What is (Fr) Oliver doing down there?!"

It ~~will~~^{will} certainly be an honour for Spanish to have the Consultation here and will also give a boost to the missionaries.

There has not been much time to go over the custom book but I shall have a couple of hours tomorrow and get it done..the chapters to be discussed, I mean. We have one of the copies that was sent out and I had gone over it before because certain things came up which interested us here. Father Cormier sent the agenda and I can only promise to try to look intelligent!

Father Sullivan sent a telegram from Loyola yesterday that he was staying there a few days to rest up before continuing on his return journey here from the Island. I take it he can not be too well. We are grateful to have Fathers O'Callaghan and Toner for the masses. All the others are well in the community and are working zealously and happily, your blessing on us,

In Xto servus..

Raymond Oliver

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario
April 26th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;
P.Xti..

I shall get a telegram off since I fear this letter will not reach you until the consultation is over and feel that you wanted me to give an indication of "life" at least. Your letter just got here this morning or afternoon rather since we get the mail after dinner..

About the land for the scholasticate...I think it is an ideal location, an excellent buy and that another occasion may be very far off for such a buy. It has the advantage of being near the city and yet out of it and the size of the grounds is an excellent guarantee of the privacy that the scholasticate could have later. The thing that struck me too is that at the back and on the sides (if one may speak in such terms) of the property there is a natural guard..roads and ravine so that no one will be tempted to buy up against it.

About the second matter...Campion. I know so little of what is a good debt or a bad one..that I would have to refrain from voicing any opinion. God is to be praised though that we are so poor in our place here that we fear small debts, it really means we are fairly well off, doesn't it?

All are well and the beautiful spring days are here. Father Richard said mass Saturday and Sunday and intends to say it again in a day or so. Your blessings on us all,

Servus in Xto...

Raymond Oliver O.J.

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario
May 13th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father;
P.C.

We have a chance to get a marine motor for our small boat at two hundred and twenty five dollars. We have been using automobile engines in the past.. both dangerous and expensive from the point of view of repairs. This was to wait till your arrival but we have a chance to get one from a man who has had one for a year or so without even unpacking it. He will sell at the price he bought, so that we save forty five dollars. We had decided to let the Garnier go without repairs since the cost would be too high and the boat is rarely used now that we have the camp. All this was well threshed out in two consultants' meetings some time ago and everybody agreed that the buying of a reliable decent motor for the small boat would settle our needs, save endless work for Bro Vandermoor and danger for the children, not to mention hours wasted on the lake trying to make a second hand piecemeal automobile engine give. We are all well and ask your blessing.

In Xto servus,

Raymond Oliver

Farmer Residential
Spanish, Ont.
May 17th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial
P.C.

Thank you for the permission regarding the
motor.

Fr Monaghan is quite well and I wrote for
facilities for him today. His only worry is that he
is going to be classed as an Indian missionary. I
have taken the liberty of telling him that he is
just here till status time and that there is
no question at all of his being sent to a mission.
We shall have him meet people in the parish
and get an interest in the sports there for the
young people. He likes the idea just fairly well
but it will be better when he gets interested. He
has been completely calm and very pleasant
and as far as I can see, more at ease than he
was when he came to visit here during his
fourth year Theology. I thought you might like
to know how he was. He is doing splendidly
shows a lot of Ray and shows

I thought
this necessary
for his peace
of mind, when
he is apparently
rested he
will naturally
see that the
statement was
rather not
mine to make
W.C.

Garnier Residential School
June 30th /48

very Reverend Dear Father Provincial.

P.C.

Father Sullivan is back and looks frightfully thin and of course hasn't eaten a bite as far as we can see since his return. I suppose it just a matter of time till he will be in hospital again. I do not see that there is anything we can do about it except to let nature take its course. He seems to figure that he could not pass another winter here. He is glad to be back and tells me that the climate is against him, but that he has always liked the "work" here. I refuse to get into that vicious circle again. He cannot work, but is happy here, the little odds and ends that he will do are a small help, the real work still falls on the two of us. He states patetically that he can eat little or nothing and that he sees no hope of improvement in that line. This is just to let you know how things are. At least he is very happy.

Poor Fr Monaghan was in to discuss all his difficulties which are numerous and endless. Outwardly he seemed to me to be doing well. From Fr Rushman (who from Fr M's first years in the Society has been his guide and counsellor and help) I found that things had only looked well and that Fr M has been under a very heavy strain and is afraid of cracking up. Fr Rushman has been very sympathetic and listened over and over again to Fr Monaghan but cannot help him very much. These people always have a further argument that floors one. He would like very much to go to Tertianship and feels that a couple of weeks at home before hand would be the perfect set up for relaxation that is so badly needed. In view of the fact that it was from home that he was taken to the hospital it is strange that he asks for it. Fr Rushman has been carrying a far greater burden than I thought in helping Fr Monaghan. I would also say that he knows Fr M better than anyone in the province, yet he sees no solution for Fr M's difficulty and he (Fr. R) is very sympathetic and sound in judgement. I wish we could offer your Reverence some helpful suggestion

in his case. Fr Sullivan's is simple in comparison. At least for the milder months which are ahead of us he will be quite settled and he either will get some strength to pass another winter here or elsewhere, all depending on himself, or he won't; but Fr Monaghan has no plan nor hope.

The others in the community are well. Fr Howitt surprised us by coming and staying for two whole days with us. He was in fine spirits.

Servus in Xto.

Raymond Oliver OJ

Garnier Residential
July 19th 1948

Very Reverend Our Father Provincial - P.Xi.

Bro Leflammis' niece, who is to enter with the Grey nuns of the Sacred Heart in Philadelphia, will be at the shrine at Midland during the week beginning July 25th. He asked me to write you for permission for his going there for a couple of days at that time. He does not wish to go but feels he should and will be happy of course with a decision either way. Except for his time of sickness he has not been out for several years as a matter of fact not off the property! If he does go we shall make him travel gently - by day stay one night at Padbury + a night in Toronto. Fr Sullivan is gaining a little. All the others are well.

Yours in X's

Raymond Oliver O'G

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario
Aug. 31st /48

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial; P.Xti.

Father Richard will be having his celebration (we hope) on the 26th of September. As I feel sure I told you, the 14th would be too near the school opening and many will have just arrived. Fr. Richard has been unwell this last three weeks, able to get around but very slowly and he may one of these days take to his bed for good. He has tremendous will power and right now is carrying on chiefly on sticktoitiveness.

We would very much like to have someone up for the celebration to speak at the dinner and since it is Sunday at the Mass in honor of Fr Richard We would also like to have the same man give our senior retreat. Now Fr Hourigan would like both jobs I am sure and he knows the ropes here and Fr Richard would appreciate it more from him than a stranger. It would mean that Fr Hourigan or whoever comes, would come on the 25th for the to-do on the 26th. The following day is of course grand congé so the senior retreat would be on 28th 29th and 30th closing with mass on the 1st of October. We shall do the junior retreats ourselves. Fr Barry will take the separate school one himself I presume. He is not ready for a senior one and has his hands full with the parish in which he is very interested and will do grand work. The people like him very much and he has managed to get to see nearly all the families already. We are very fortunate to have him. With Fr Richard sick, Fr Barry is a great blessing for the boys confessions.

Fr Sullivan is fairly well. He rests most of the time but has gone around with Fr Barry a great deal to get the latter acquainted with the people. He eats

some days, other days doesn't. He does not mention going away. As far as we are concerned he is helpful for confessions and masses and since we do not have to depend on him definitely we are all happy. He looks better anyway and comes to recreation since he came back.

Everyone else is well. We heard disheartening rumours of Fr. Flaherty's being in the hospital in Toronto with possibly cancer? We have had no word from Wikwemikong these weeks.

We are having the invitations printed for Fr. Richard's celebration and hoping he will be well enough to take part. We shall be glad to have news as to whether Fr. Hourigan can come or not so as to make other plans in the advent of his not being available.

Servus in Xto..

Raymond Oliver

Gardier Residential
Spanish Ontario
Sept 10th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial,

P.C.

We shall be very glad to welcome Fr. Cormier for the feast. Fr. Richard is about the same. I shall go to Blind River tomorrow to see him and hope the doctor will tell me to bring him home. He is still under observation but Fr. McKey tells me that it amounts to very little and that there is not much they can do. I shall let you know.

We shall be glad to have Fr. Bourigan for the High School retreat and shall expect him for the 27th or whatever time he is free.

I hope the 27th is still a very tentative date since it is directly after Fr. Richard's celebration, we shall be having visitors here and both Reverend Makomij and I would have to take the train in the evening from here, get off at a very early hour and drive to the shrine. I am afraid that we might not be too sharp-witted for the day. However, I am sure that whatever the arrangements made, they will be the most convenient for the group as a whole and so will be ready for any date.

Fr. Sullivan was back on Thursday, looks well enough if rather worn. Everyone else is well.

In corde Jesu, servus,

Raymond Allison

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario
Sept 20th 1948

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;

Pax Xti.

We shall be on hand for the 30th and the following day. Our enrolment is not too high. We have to date about one hundred and thirty ~~five~~ of whom we shall lose several in November when the Murray Hill Day School opens. Fr Jos Dwyer sent us an unexpected group from Cape Croker about six boys..otherwise we should be under the ordinary quota. There are few admissions likely now and for the junior admissions next year.....there will be, we think, very few. We got two high school boys from outside this year..one from Le Pas who is doing well, another from St. Regis stayed just a few days. He found boarding school a wee bit too exacting. We have thirty six in the three grades in high school. Unfortunately a few of the grade nine pupils persuaded the parents that they had now completed such a grade in education as to justify their staying home. The school's existence may well depend on the High School within two or three years. The opening of a school for South Bay which would be a very logical thing and may come to pass this year, would take ten or twelve more boys out of the junior grades and thus the school goes down in number to a point where the grades nine to twelve will be vital. We are glad however that schools are being provided near the homes since the children will profit from being in their homes and the parents will learn more responsibility. From today's mail we figure we will be at about one twenty five in November.

We would like your Reverence's permission to buy a tractor. The farm is very much in need of one. The land is just not being worked and of course it is not possible for Brother Vandermeer to plough like he

used to. The boys being in regular school make it difficult too since they cannot put day after day on the farm. For years now the complaint has been that the ground is not worked. Our potatoes were a loss this year, our hay was poor. Our land has been used over and over again with just rough ploughing. With a tractor the farm could easily pick up .. the same story is told every year of the too short season for planting. All the farmers in this district have turned to the use of the tractor to get their seed in quickly. Fr Howitt did get an old one year⁵ ago I think but it has been out of use since 1942 and was given up then as not repairable. This matter has been thoroughly discussed with the consultants and they are convinced of the necessity. The cost of the tractor needed would be around sixteen hundred and fifty dollars. We could finance it by paying off half on the October grant, the balance to be paid in two parts on the January and the April grants. We have no big bills to meet except for the buying of hay and that is calculated in with the budgeting for the tractor. One definite help has been this year that we asked the boys coming back to High School to get as much of clothing and equipment as they could, even to blankets and towels. They cooperated very well and the result is that our tailor shop bills should be much smaller than other years. Fr Hannin and Bro Manseau have worked miracles of preserving .. made up jams from impossible things like tomatoes and cucumbers and that is a far bigger help in saving money than one might imagine. The tractor business has been discussed over and over again and we never saw our way clear before, but we can do it this year, if it meets your approval. We are hoping to get it for the fall plowing.

Father Richard is somewhat better but still very shaky and he has misgivings about his being able to be present at the Mass and dinner but we are hoping he will be able to make it.

Father Sullivan is fairly well and seems happy. He has his new radio and is quite pleased with it. He explained that he had permission for it till the visitation. It will be a distraction for him. Fr Barry asked to have one in his room and I refused it since there is one available at any time in the library. It is not used much since we have little time nor interest that way but is a good radio and should fill the bill. Naturally Fr Sullivan's case is quite different from Fr Barry's. However Fr Barry knows he may write

Pleasant ←

for the permission since it is not mine to grant. He is a very ~~kind~~ religious and so did not make any fuss about it. He is doing a grand job in the parish and will have everything well organized by Christmas. It is ~~grand~~ for us to be able to look after our own jobs here and not to have the worry of the people and a half done job at that. I mention the radio simply because it seems to be taken for granted now that it is the ordinary thing.

Everyone is well and happy and the boys are settled in for a good year's work. We ask your blessing on our house,

Sincerely servus in Xto.

Raymond Oliver

P.S. I repeat the "grand" and the correction
' you have had several interventions

In code, Jsu.
R Oliver

Supervisor

Sister M Celeste
St Joseph's Hospital
Blind River, Ontario

Spanish, Ont.
Jan 26th /48?

Very Reverend Dear Father
P.B.

Mr McKey & Ruskman visited Dr. Puelven at the end of last week - separately - they thought I should write you immediately. When I saw him Tuesday he seemed bright enough and the sisters had hopes he would eat. After that he stopped and is losing weight running a temperature and is going down hill. Apparently it all hinges on this mental state in which he has so sealed himself over the years that he is suspicious of anything in the line of food and consequently his whole system revolts at eating. What to do? It would be beyond our power to make him eat here I am sure - and Bro. La Flamme has his hands full right now with twenty five or thirty sick boys - not to mention the old fathers. Besides I do not believe he could be forced to eat here. - Both Dr. Ruskman

and Dr McKey insist something should be done — what — they cannot suggest.

W Rushman goes today to Sudbury. He has a very bad infection in his right eye. They wanted to hospitalize him Saturday in Blind River but we had to have three masses Sunday (the minimum) if he is forced to the hospital in Sudbury for a few days I shall call on Sacri' Coeur for a mass next Sunday. I hope he will be back for the week end. He will see a specialist and since Dr McKey is going down with him I hope to have news tomorrow. W Rushman has suffered much pain especially the last two days. It is too risky to turn over to the medical practitioners.

As regards Dr Sullivan I think a report from Sister Melanie based on the Dr's report might be helpful. Unfortunately Dr Hamill who had charge is gone for a week Dr Pigeon is handling the case. If you write directly to Sister Superior you would get much quicker action than through our medium — they are rather

non-commercial with us.

Mr Johnson fine and the rest of the community well. The January epidemics of chicken pox mumps & common colds going through the schools, but they are a yearly trial and we do not lose stride.

Sincerely
Raymond Oliver

P.S. - Since I am the sole practitioner here now there is little hope of my getting to see Dr Sullivan these days. Shall relay news of Dr Rushman as soon as I have it. Yes, contagio very much in demand here - but we could all develop mumps so it could be worse

In cordial
 JRO

JRO

Garnier Residential School
Spanish Ontario
January 30th, 1948?

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial;

P.Xti.

Regarding Father Rushman..I had a phone call from him and a note followed.He is hospitalized in Sudbury since the treatment called for change of hot applications to his eyes..and the easiest way to do it was in hospital.He does not seem to think it will be for more than a week or so.Dr Hawke who is a specialist has charge of the case.He did not tell him the nature of the infection but took over and promised to have him all set in a short time..so it cannot be anything very serious. We were worried when the infection began in the right eye after it had already gone so far in the other. Father Rushman was to call Sacred Heart College for a priest for us in case he would not be able to return for the Sunday.Somebody will be up on Saturday morning's train.Father Hyman will relieve us of the convent masses,we shall be well set after the week end.

Father Sullivan about the same.Fr McKey will be up that way this week end and will give us news of him.I tseems that he is eating a little more. Everyone else is well thank God and we ask your blessing on our house..

Servus in Xto....

Raymond Oliver