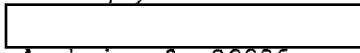


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RECEIVED  
JAN 11 1985  
Ans'd



Anaheim, Ca 92806  
January 6, 1985

✓ Father Al Ramos  
Pastor  
St. Anthony Claret Church  
1450 E. LaPalma  
Anaheim, Ca 92805

Dear Father:

It is with the utmost concern, sorrow, some anger and hopefulness that I write this letter to you and I appreciate the time you will take to read my words.

Whenever a parish receives a new pastor, some changes are expected, and for the most part, even though none of us likes change, we all eventually accept them and fall into a new pattern. However, the many changes occurring in our parish in the past few months seem to have led to nothing but tension, discontent and a mass exodus of parishioners to other parishes. And I am certain no one is more aware of this than you, our pastor.

For what it is worth, and for your consideration, I wish to express my thoughts. I believe that, first of all, we must go back to the basics. Our United States was founded so that everyone would have equal rights in this great land. Not special rights, but equal rights. When our ancestors came to this country to lead a better life, they adapted to the American way of life. No one gave them special privileges. My own grandparents came from Germany - they learned and spoke only English because that was the American way of life. However, in recent years, our government, our schools, our Diocese, and now our parish have seen fit to bestow upon many people emigrating to our country, special privileges. Consequently all of these events have managed to make a good share of us prejudiced in our feelings towards these people. Not the Christian way, but definitely the human way that people react.

When Spanish masses were first installed in our parish, I accidentally went to the Spanish Mass one Sunday. I was appalled at what I saw in God's house. Noise, confusion, children running up and down the aisles, small children eating, drinking and spilling on the newly refinished pews and new carpeting - my thought was - we give them special privileges and this is how they thank us.

I have read and reread your explanation of the Mexican flag in the sanctuary and although you did follow protocol, you insulted the majority of your parishioners by allowing this to happen. Father, you explained in church one Sunday that Our Lady of Guadalupe was the patroness of all the Americas -- she was not the patroness of Mexico only. When our hispanic friends left Mexico, they did so for a better life in the United States. By so doing, they left their country and their flag behind. Whether they are citizens or not, they must now conform to our way of life and live the life of an American. By so doing, they must and should speak the language of the United States - which is English. Our masses are in English be-

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cause our Holy Father decreed this to all Catholics - the Mass is to be in the tongue of the country. Consequently, there is no need to have masses in Spanish, or Vietnamese or bi-lingual masses, or any such thing as that. We do not have Masses in German, nor do we have special celebrations in German, or Italian, or French or whatever. Perhaps if our country is to swing the pendulum and once again give equal rights to everyone, then perhaps we could start here in our own parish. I'm certain it would create more harmony, build a strong parish once again and make your life much easier.

When you announced many of the changes taking place in our parish, one of them was receiving communion coming from the back of the church. You gave your reason that by so doing, it would not pressure those who were not ready for communion to receive simply because the person in front of them was. I feel, and so do many others, that by having to continually turn around to see when it is your turn, this creates more pressure. And while we are on the pressure, I personally feel that during the offertory when everyone must sit, including the priest while the ushers are taking up the collection is one of the greatest pressures I have ever felt. It shows me nothing but the fact that the priest is sitting there watching us and we must give or feel chastised for not doing so.

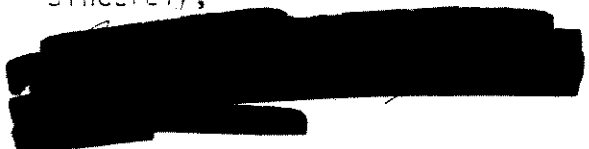
In today's bulletin, you announced that if we wish a statement of our donation to the church for 1984 we must call at the rectory for it. Again, I feel you have your reasons for this, but for the life of me I do not understand why. This would have to be an extreme burden on the office staff and totally unnecessary --- I would appreciate you mailing mine to me.

Sneaking of our donation, ours is very small compared to what a good share of the parishioners give. However, through the years we have contributed to other charitable causes and try to even it out. I know that you will not miss our small donation, but I feel I have to tell you why I have not opened our new box of envelopes. Perhaps if the donations coming into St. Anthony's become less and less you and our Bishop will realize the discontent in the parish. I will not stop giving - what has gone to St. Anthony will now go to the Maryknoll Fathers until such time as I feel it is right and proper to again support my own parish, and my own diocese.

Father, I am watching parishioners who literally built St. Anthony's with their bare hands leaving this parish and going to others. It is a sad thing to see. I have only been here for 15 years, but during those years I have come to know it as home. Therefore, I will continue to attend Mass and I will most sincerely look forward to corrective changes where we can all live in peace and harmony and once again live together as Americans with equal rights for all.

Thank you for your time, Father, and may God guide you in your pastoral duties.

Sincerely,

  
cc: Most Reverend William P. Johnson  
Bishop of Orange

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