

December 9, 1982

Rev. Aldo Orso-Manzonetta
424 S.W. Mill St.
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Father Aldo:

On November 12 I sent a memorandum to all priests of the Archdiocese announcing that I had accepted in principle the two resolutions (Nos. 12 and 13) passed by their Convention in August referring to limited tenure of pastors.

Now I am writing to all pastors who will have been in their present assignment for ten years or more on July 1, 1983, even those over 65 years of age, in order to learn what course the individual pastors have decided to take with respect to the newly announced policy.

Father Aldo, you have been pastor of St. Michael Parish in Portland since September of 1956. Since you will have served as pastor of St. Michael Parish for a period of ten years as of July 1, 1983, you are affected by the limited tenure policy. I would very much appreciate your letting me know what your wishes are regarding a transfer to another parish as of July 1, 1983.

During your twenty-six years at St. Michael Parish you certainly can point to many specific and outstanding accomplishments, not the least of which has been the improvements to the parish church. You can look with justifiable pride on your impressive record. Your talents, gifts and experience can certainly be put to good use in another parish of the Archdiocese.

In my November 12 memorandum I stated that "I am...convinced that there is merit to a limited tenure policy for pastors." I added, however, that "I cannot say that tenure is or should be the last word, or the only criterion."

I fully believe that there would be no justice in my asking all pastors to accept a transfer regardless of how they might feel about their present or a future assignment. I am therefore writing to each pastor individually and asking him to let me know how he feels about a transfer to another parish in accordance with the Convention resolutions. Each pastor should seriously reflect on the fact that the resolutions were passed by a majority of priests in the Archdiocese, and therefore they represent the desire of most of our priests to have a limited tenure policy.

I might say that in dealing with transfers we will, of course, follow the procedure of consulting with all pastors prior to any change of assignment.

CONFIDENTIAL

PD 1741

Rev. Aldo Orso-Manzonetta
December 9, 1983.

I would appreciate having your written response to this inquiry as soon as conveniently possible, preferably within two weeks. Many thanks.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+Cornelius M. Power
Archbishop of Portland

CONFIDENTIAL

424 SOUTHWEST MILL STREET
PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

church of
st. michael
the archangel

December 18, 1982

DEC. 20 1982

Archbishop Cornelius M. Power
The Chancery Office
2838 East Burnside Street
P.O. Box 351
Portland, Oregon. 97207

Dear Archbishop Power,

I regret that, in accordance with your wish, a written response to your letter was requested. I would have preferred a more personal encounter but perhaps times does not permit it.

As to my preference of what I expect of the future, it is, of course, to remain where I am at least for a few more years.

In 1959, the Jesuits informed the Archbishop that they would no longer administer this parish. Since it was (and is) a National Italian Church and because of my background I was assigned as pastor.

In the course of the twenty-three plus years that I have been here, we have become in addition a parish church taking over the boundaries of the former St. Lawrence which fell victim to the urban renewal. In a rescript from the Vatican, dated July 9, 1960, St. Michael was designated to temporarily "assume the pastoral care of the faithful living within the parish limits of St. Lawrence." And it further stipulated that the designated status of St. Michael's would continue until such a time as other arrangements could be made.

This has worked out well for both Italians and non-Italians since both English and Italian are used for the liturgical functions (Mass, Weddings, etc.) And on frequent occasions, especially with confessions, there is a need for use of Spanish and French as well.

I have found that the size of the parish suits me well. If it were any larger I would find it a bit overwhelming. I know my limitations and capabilities and try to work within that framework, as I have been doing at St. Michael's.

If it is in accordance with your wishes, I would ask to remain in my present position, continuing in the role of Italian Pastor and Parish Priest.

Wishing you the best of the Blessed Season, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

Father Aldo

CONFIDENTIAL

PD 1743

424 SOUTHWEST MILL STREET
PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

December 18, 1982

church of
st. michael
the archangel

Archbishop Cornelius M. Power
The Chancery Office
2838 East Burnside Street
P.O. Box 351
Portland, Oregon. 97207

Dear Archbishop Power,

I regret that, in accordance with your wish, a written response to your letter was requested. I would have preferred a more personal encounter but perhaps times does not permit it.

As to my preference of what I expect of the future, it is, of course, to remain where I am at least for a few more years.

In 1959, the Jesuits informed the Archbishop that they would no longer administer this parish. Since it was (and is) a National Italian Church and because of my background I was assigned as pastor.

In the course of the twenty-three plus years that I have been here, we have become in addition a parish church taking over the boundaries of the former St. Lawrence which fell victim to the urban renewal. In a rescript from the Vatican, dated July 9, 1960, St. Michael was designated to temporarily "assume the pastoral care of the faithful living within the parish limits of St. Lawrence." And it further stipulated that the designated status of St. Michael's would continue until such a time as other arrangements could be made.

This has worked out well for both Italians and non-Italians since both English and Italian are used for the liturgical functions (Mass, Weddings, etc.) And on frequent occasions, especially with confessions, there is a need for use of Spanish and French as well.

I have found that the size of the parish suits me well. If it were any larger I would find it a bit overwhelming. I know my limitations and capabilities and try to work within that framework, as I have been doing at St. Michael's.

If it is in accordance with your wishes, I would ask to remain in my present position, continuing in the role of Italian Pastor and Parish Priest.

Wishing you the best of the Blessed Season, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

Father Aldo

CONFIDENTIAL

Vicar General
Most Rev Paul E Waldschmidt C.S.C.
2838 E Burnside St
Portland, Or 97214

Re: Tenure question - Fr Aldo Manzonetta St Michael the Archangel Church

Your Grace -

We asked for this audience so as to clarify our great concern regarding the move of Fr Aldo Orso Manzonetta from St Michael Church under the new tenure rule. We simply want to ask what we can do to make certain that the case for retaining Fr Aldo as an exception to the ten year rule is considered by the Diocese.

For several reasons this case is special -- (a) The Parish composition (b) The Italian heritage (c) Father Aldo's relation to the Parish. We should make clear we are aware of much Parish consternation and we speak as concerned individuals. The Parish Council is not in a position to oppose Diocesan decisions. Fr Aldo has furthermore asked that no agitation be undertaken in his behalf. However we feel strongly that this case should be fully understood by Diocesan authorities. Who will make a final decision and we ask that you advise us what action we should take to insure our thoughts are reviewed.

(a) Parish Composition

- 1 Large proportion of people in apartments and condominium in area mostly older people
- 2 Considerable number of older people in modest or poverty line circumstances dwelling in apartments and dwellings from Vista ave to Willamette river and from Morrison St to Johns Landing.
- 3 Italians in Parish area and all over city.
- 4 Office people attending week day masses.
- 5 College Students.

To serve this disparate group without the binding force of a Parish school is a serious challenge which Fr Aldo is meeting with remarkable success. A single Priest with no housekeeper.

(b) Italian Church

Church was built with hands and hard earned dollars of Italians four generations ago and is still supported vigorously by their heirs. In past eight years church front was rebuilt and interior was renovated with great support from Italians. The St Michael Alumni Association remains an active and important function in helping Fr Aldo with a variety of contributions and with their moral support. The church has a special Vatican designation of "Chiesa Italiana". We feel the Papal delegate should be considered and advised in the assignment of this Parish Priest. Because we are aware of Italians being upset by (1) Removal of Fr Aldo and (2) prospects of diversion of church to other purposes. We believe this dismay should be relayed to the Diocese.

CONFIDENTIAL

- (c) Fr Aldo Orso Manzonetta
Father Aldo was appointed Pastor in 1959 as we can testify the Parish was in very poor financial condition. His devoted care has enabled it to thrive. From a starting point where Parish could not afford to pay him a modest salary. The Church has progressed to a sound position, spiritually and financially. After completing a major structural uplift in 1977 and another interior renovation last year, the church has approximately \$70,000.00 in the bank and no debt. St Michael Church averages 500 or more at Sunday masses and has good attendance at daily mass. Including cost of assistance from Holy Cross Fathers and part time secretary, administrative expense averages less than \$2000. per month. We believe this is remarkable and difficult to replace. He is almost a one man staff. To reward these endeavors by removing him may very well have dire consequences because his health is frail as the record shows. This new rule comes to him without warning or precedent.

Conclusion

This Parish holds together with its Italian heritage and its older generation support led pastorally by Fr Aldo. His removal and replacement promises serious havoc. We ask whether this prospect is truly in the interest of Arch Diocese?

Respectfully,

REDACTED

CENSUS - 1983

Each year we try to take a census of the people who attend Mass here and who live in the area or attend this Church and consider it their parish. Even though you may have signed up in years passed, in order to try for an accurate account, may we ask that you sign up again, listing your new address, if any and phone (if unlisted, please indicate same.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY Portlauer ZIP CODE 47225 PHONE 292-9323

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF FAMILY _____

COMMENTS Will continue to attend and consider
this our Parish only. is Father Aldo
Remains AS PARISH PRIEST!

REDACTED

CONFIDENTIAL

CENSUS - 1983

Each year we try to take a census of the people who attend Mass here and who live in the area or attend this Church and consider it their parish. Even though you may have signed up in years passed, in order to try for an accurate account, may we ask that you sign up again, listing your new address, if any and phone (if updated please indicate same.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY Portland ZIP CODE 97232 PHONE 232-2356

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF FAMILY _____

COMMENTS _____

are Stoban. He will continue to attend & support this parish if we can maintain Father's add. I feel this parish can not grow without him because ~~of~~ the many people who are willing to drive many miles to attend mass at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Let's keep the Stoban culture & heritage as it was meant to be.

CONFIDENTIAL

REDACTED

February 23, 1983

Rev. Aldo Orso-Manzonetta
24 S.W. Mill St.
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Father Aldo:

The Personnel Board has studied the letters of all of the pastors who have been in their present assignment ten years or more, and who were notified last December that they were involved in the limited tenure Resolution (#12) passed by the majority of the priests attending the 1982 Clergy Convention. Each pastor/parish situation was given individual attention. The Board has recommended that you should be asked to accept a transfer to another parish. While I know that you would very much like to remain where you are, I feel that you should consider a transfer as of July 1, 1983, in accordance with Resolution #12.

Twenty-two priests are affected by the new policy. The five who are between 65 and 70 years of age have indicated their desire to remain in their present assignments and have been exempted by Resolution #13. They will not be moving to another parish in July. Three others will not be transferred because of ill health or a building project under way.

All of the remaining pastors are being asked to consider another parish.

In the very near future I will be writing to all of the priests of the Archdiocese to let them know of the results of the process thus far, and to inquire whether any of them might also be considered for a transfer in July. This will give us some idea of what parishes might be considered open - more or less.

I say "more or less" because it is possible that we may not be able to match up a priest and parish in every case, because there will be the usual consultative process outlined in Chapter IV of the Clergy Personnel Manual, "Pastors," and because of the large number of transfers we will be trying to arrange.

In the twenty-three years you have been at St. Michael's in Portland you can point to any number of accomplishments. What you have learned in your present assignment will, along with your native talents, enable you to make an invaluable contribution to your next parish.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+Cornelius M. Power
Archbishop of Portland

CONFIDENTIAL

PD 1749

PARISH COUNCIL, NOTICE!

There will be a meeting of ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL tomorrow evening (Monday) at 7:30 p.m. This will be held in the parish hall.



My dear parishioners and friends of the parish,

As you may or may not know, there are changes coming about in many parishes. Many pastors will be ~~assigned~~ to new parishes. I am among those who will be reassigned to work in another place. As to where it will be, that has yet to be determined. As to when I leave Saint Michael's, that will be towards the end of June. I have asked for some time off before assuming my new duties.

We become so accustomed to wanting everything to remain the same, however, we realize that in all of our lives changes come about whether we want them or not. For a pastor, who has served the people in the parish for twenty-four years, the change is difficult not only for him, but for the congregation as well. To say that I leave without regrets would be a lie, since I feel I had my beginnings here (my parents were married in this Church in 1922). However, the time comes when we all must go on in order to fulfil whatever work God has ahead of us.

I could say much more but at times like this, it is easier just to say thank you for your cooperation in all those twenty-four years. May God bless all of you and your families. I would ask a remembrance in your prayers, as you will all be in mine, wherever I may be. And remember - I do love you, my very dear people!

Very Sincerely Yours,

P.S. Hey! How about me? MAXIME von Caesar

Fr. Aldo

CONFIDENTIAL

PD 1750