

St. Michael Church

P. O. BOX 422  
OAKRIDGE, OR 97463  
PHONE (503) 782-3262

4/11/1983

Fr. Joseph Wood OSB  
Director of Ministries & Personnell  
Chancery Office  
Portland, Or.

DEAR FATHER JOE, thanks for contacting me. Though Seaside is not too close to Portland (but not too far either) and though there is a mission there, I would ~~be~~ ready to accept that parish. Concerning St. Michael in Portland, that would call for a long discussion, so to make <sup>it</sup> more similar to other Italian Churches, like St. Peter & Paul in S. Francisco or St. Peter's in Los Angeles or Sur Lady of Rosary in San Diego. I know very closely their working way and organization. Portland <sup>ITALIAN</sup> is rather nominally an Italian Church. For a real apostolate among the Italians <sup>it</sup> should be given back to the Holy See and <sup>to</sup> a Religious Community. Best regards, n D. no

*Fr. Joseph Wood OSB*

*Fr. Aldo  
file 1*

April 11, 1983

The Most Reverend Cornelius M. Power  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon  
2838 East Burnside  
Portland, Oregon 97214

APR. 12 1983

Your Excellency:

As a member of the parish of St. Michael the Archangel, I am taking the liberty of writing to you about Father Aldo.

One hears a rumor that some time toward the end of this month a number of pastors will be transferred from their parishes to other parishes, and that Father Aldo may be one of those selected for transfer.

Father Aldo is due to celebrate his 25th Jubilee in this parish in the summer of 1984, and I feel it would be a great pity indeed if the people of our parish were deprived of the opportunity to celebrate the service he has given for all these years.

There is, next, the personal consideration that one would want to see shown to Fr. Aldo. He will be 60 this summer. He has, as of course you know, been ill in the past. I am quite sure that what he must deeply dread is beginning all over in a new parish when he does not have the health and buoyancy he once had. He is quite capable of functioning very effectively in the parish with which he is familiar. But if I may speak quite frankly, the current thought about cancer is that one of the factors that can precipitate it is stress. One would surely not wish to run such a terrifying risk.

There is of course the matter of St. Michael's having had an Italian pastor who has served the Italian people attending this church (as well as those who were not Italian). Even if you should feel this is no longer as important as it has seemed to be, in charity to that portion of this congregation that would be most affected, it would be my feeling that no transfer should be made (if transfer there

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must be) for at least a year, so that they could assimilate the idea of not having an Italian pastor, and would be able to seek churches elsewhere. If they were given time, it would surely make the transition easier.

Finally, there is my own, quite personal feeling. I find Fr. Aldo truly extraordinary in his devotion to the Liturgy -- by which I mean that he follows the rubrics exactly, speaks the words as they are given to us, and does not set himself above them by, as it were, writing his own Mass. If a priest is that faithful and humble in the presence of the Eucharist, it must surely say something about his essential spirituality. I find the experience of attending Fr. Aldo's masses deeply meaningful, and though, if you did decide to make the transfer one hears rumored, I would of course in holy obedience accept your decision, I would be very sorry indeed.

Most respectfully,

I am sending a copy of this letter to Father Wood.

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