

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Name of Priest Fr. Aldo Orso-Manzonetta Age 56

Present Assignment(s) St. Michael Church, Portland, Oregon
Since 1959

Interviewing Bishop P. E. Waldschmidt

Date of Interview April 18, 1979

Personal Profile Completed Is in process; also a parish profile

Further Data to be Obtained _____

Specific Recommendations Fr. Aldo likes his present assignment; is not seeking a change. Would see himself continuing at St. Michael until he is no longer able to function. However, he did indicate that if the Archdiocese needed him elsewhere, he would certainly be willing to go.

The parish is somewhat unique. Because of the location, people are afraid to come out at night -- so there are very few evening programs. He has a parish council which meets only 3 to 4 times a year. There is an alumni group from the old St. Michael's school that meets monthly -- also an altar society. He has no Eucharistic ministers. His servers are usually college age students and over -- they do the readings. There are no official lectors. Fr. Aldo visits the aged and sick in his parish "2-3 times each month, bringing them communion". He has individuals located in the various residences who keep track of the sick and notify him.

He has completed the remodeling of the parish and was able to pay for the entire project -- so no debt.

He has "good music" in his parish -- some from live singers, others from tapes. He has one Latin Mass each Sunday. He feels he has a good working relationship with the people of the parish.

He indicated that his health was good, although he has not been too regular about getting an annual check-up. I urged him to get this on a regular basis. He hasn't had a full vacation in 7 years -- but takes off afternoons. He has ~~Mass~~ daily Mass and confessions at noon so cannot participate in many of the archdiocesan activities. He does get week-end help from Fr. Vincent OSB.

We discussed the possibility of his going on for some continuing education. He would love to go to Rome -- as he has never been to Italy to see his relatives. I think we should consider him as having a high priority among the priests for such a continuing education experience. I think it could help his ministry. After 30 years of priesthood, he would profit from the experience.

Perhaps we should look to 1981 as the year for his sabbatical leave. We might also consider at that time whether or not he could serve the Archdiocese better in another parish

He indicated satisfaction with being in a one-man parish. However, he did speak of the desirability of obtaining the motel next to the parish and making it a center -- where the Catholic Chaplain at PSU might reside, along with the Chaplain at other portland area community colleges. I did not pursue with him the idea of making the parish the College campus parish -- but I think we should explore this with Fr. Frison and others and once we have some positive ideas, get together with Fr. Aldo to consider them. I think he may be open to the idea.

Fr. Aldo also spoke of his past interest in radio, film and TV work. But he feels that time has passed him by on this interest. He also indicated that he has some ideas for writing and would like sometime to pursue this goal -- after he is retired, but in the next statement he indicated that he never really wanted to be "retired"; he wants to keep busy. I told him of the great service "retired" priests like Fr. Schaefer, Fr. Stipe et al are doing. He concurred and indicated that's what he would like to do.

Along with the interview -- I was served a marvelous dinner:

1. Antepasto
2. Salad
3. Pasta -- ravioli
4. Crepes -- filled with lobster thermidor and mushrooms
5. Asparagus
6. Ice cream with marsalla wine.
7. I forgot the name of the wine served with the dinner. but it was excellent.

Fr. Offered to cook a dinner for all the priests of the Archdiocese any time we wanted to get them together for a social or other event. I could recommend him without hesitation.