

April 22, 1983

Dear Ms.

I appreciate very much your very beautiful letter expressing your evident appreciation and support of Father Aldo Orso-Manzonetta at St. Michael's in Portland. The priests of the Archdiocese voted last August in their annual convention to make it the policy of the Archdiocese that pastors not serve indefinitely in one parish. They were convinced, as I have long been, that a limited tenure policy would be beneficial not only to the majority of parishes, but to the majority of priests as well, as hard as it might be on certain individuals.

Father Aldo has done great things at St. Michael's, and it is heartening to see that many of his parishioners recognize and appreciate this.

I assure you that we are most grateful to you for your evaluation and support of Father Aldo's pastoral ministry at St. Michael Parish.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

+Cornelius M. Power  
Archbishop of Portland

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REDACTED

PD 1757

April 29, 1983  
Portland, Oregon

Father Joseph Wood  
Director of Personnel Board  
P. O. Box 351  
Portland, Oregon 97207

Dear Father Wood:

I write this as a matter of great concern to all of us. It affects a church, its pastor, the parishoners, the community at large, and the very integrity of the Archdiocese. It is the proposed removal of Father Aldo Orso Manzonetti of the Church of St. Michael the Archangel.

As you must realize, St. Michael's is a very unusual and unique parish. The supportive bulk of members do not live within the assigned geographical confines of the church's boundaries. Many of us live miles away. For years we have very willingly helped our church and pastor in every way, in spite of travel and time difference. Through God's grace I feel we have been greatly rewarded. As the designated Italian National Church of Portland, St. Michael's is also a registered National Historical Landmark. Extensive rebuilding and improvements of the frontage area, the hall, a new heating/air conditioning system, new lighting, restored stained glass windows, new pews, carpets and interior decorations are all completed and nearly paid for. The Alter Society, Parish Council and Alumni Society are all very healthy and active organizations. Their generous personal sacrifices are evident in the results of their efforts. All of this and much more than space permits, is primarily because of one man's dedication and tireless devotion to God's will. It is because of Father Aldo's inspiration and guidance that St. Michael's exists today. It is why we eagerly attend mass regularly and support freely. To the older and aged members, St. Michael's with Father Aldo is a mountain of peace, a sanctuary from our turbulent and destructive times.

And now the very structure of our parish is seriously threatened by his departure. Already this news has caused great anxiety, bewilderment and fears among all those I have spoken with. I understand that some parishoners with a petition of many names have asked for a hearing to withdraw your's and the Personnel Board's decision regarding this case. Also that an individual was granted a good hearing before the board. In spite of these efforts the present decision leaves me confused.

To a man of 59 years old, with the best 24 of those at his devoted duty, this change may be incalculating bad. Father is not the healthiest of us. Over the years he has mentioned "St. Michael's is my first love, my home. I wish to remain as long as I am able to serve." Considering his age, his rather limited remaining productive years, and all the above, I, too, ask: why must Father leave?

The Catholic Sentinel of March 18, 1983, tells of "Three More Pastors Exempt," from reassignments. I respectfully ask for no more than that for Father Aldo. I feel that any less will lead to the eventual destruction of our parish. Even now, many say they will leave and not even support this Diocese.

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PD 1758

In all matters of rule, extenuating circumstances and exceptions overrule.  
This case of St. Michael's and Father Aldo is surely such a one.

I pray God be with you in your final decision.

Very truly yours,

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424 SOUTHWEST MILL STREET

PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

church of  
st. michael  
the archangel

April 29, 1983

Dear Father Wood,

Am enclosing the Parish Profile. Anything more on the financial situation while I am away? Can you also procure the necessary papers to take with me when on leave? Meanwhile am proceeding on schedule in moving out. (What a mess - after twenty-four years!)

Best Wishes,

*Aldo*

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PD 1760

May 6, 1983

Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

I received your letter concerning the term of office policy and how it applies to Father Aldo.

This policy was voted in by the majority of the priests at last year's clergy convention. The policy was also favorably received and approved by the Archbishop.

We know that in individual parishes and in the case of individual pastors there is some consternation over the reassignment of the priests in their particular place. We are sorry about that.

In some cases, as you alluded to in your letter, some exceptions have been made at the discretion of the Archbishop and his advisors. However, we can't really make too many exemptions; otherwise, the policy loses all force of effectiveness.

We are still considering what assignments will be made and the process is not yet complete.

I appreciate your letter, and I appreciate your loyalty to Father Aldo and your personal support of St. Michael's. I will report your letter to the Personnel Board and the Archbishop. Thanking you for your interest and support of the Church, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Joseph Wood, O.S.B.  
Director of Clergy Personnel

JW:gg

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PD 1761

June 7, 1983

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

Dear Father Aldo:

Enclosed you will find your formal appointment as Administrator of St. Peter Parish, Newberg. It would have been my wish to have appointed you Pastor of that parish, but Father Joseph Wood, Personnel Director, informed me that you preferred to be named Administrator, leaving you freer to accept an alternate appointment sometime in the future should you desire to do so.

I fully realize that you would have preferred to remain at St. Michael's until your twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of that parish. However, I do appreciate your setting your personal preference aside in view of the needs of the Archdiocese. It will be difficult for your parishioners and your many friends, whose respect and love you have earned during your years at St. Michael's, to see you leave. You have served them well and they truly appreciate the personal dedication and loyalty you showed them at Portland's uptown parish.

The long uncertainties connected with your transfer have been hard on you and your parishioners, and I sincerely regret that the process could not be speeded up. I assure you, however, that the delay was not intended, but was unavoidable under the circumstances of having to consider so many changes at one time, and the personal feelings of the priests and people involved in the transfers.

I deeply appreciate the fine spirit that you had with regard to your accepting a new appointment. I feel every confidence that you will be happy in your assignment to St. Peter's, and that the people of that parish will appreciate the style of ministry that you will bring to your work in that parish.

May the Great High Priest shower His blessings and His graces upon you as you make the transition from St. Michael's to Newberg. I thank you for your many fruitful

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PD 1762

Rev. Aldo Orso-Manzonetta  
June 7, 1983.

years at St. Michael's Parish, and pledge my prayers for equal success at St. Peter's in Newberg.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+Cornelius M. Power  
Archbishop of Portland

P.S.: The letter you published to "My dear parishioners and friends of the parish" in your May 8 bulletin was a beautiful one, and, while I know it must have been hard to write, showed a very priestly spirit in connection with your transfer.

+CMP

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