

Fr. Joseph Hoopice
Jeuneville Springs, N.M.
August 25, 1963 87025

Your Excellency
Edward A Fitzgerald D.D.
Bishop Of Winona
Winona, Minnesota

Dear Bishop:

It has been four weeks now since I arrived at Via Ceoli so I thought I would take this opportunity to drop you a line. All things considered, everything is working out fine. It is true that the hours here drag by rather slowly, but with the spiritual exercises and work schedule, they are not too bad. One does get an opportunity to read and the library here is vast and contains many of the latest editions. I therefore have taken the opportunity to catch up on some my reading, especially in regard to the newest editions. There is one particular publication which I found most interesting, "Letters from the Vatican," this book is indeed a most revealing synopsis of the first session of VaticanII.

I have been going to regular discussion sessions with _____, the acting superior. We have discussed many things concerning myself and my relationship with past difficulties. I found out many things concerning myself and am indeed enlightened concerning some of my personal characteristics. One can indeed find a deep insight into his soul, if he but stops and gives himself time to consider God's plan for his well-being.

RH000046

Thinking things out, I realize I must have been a real nuisance to your brotherly, but I assure you with no real malice or forethought. It is true the past cannot be changed, one can only pray the same will not happen in the future. Therefore I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere apologies for any hardship I may have caused and also to thank you for your considerable kindnesses to me. I know that some scandal must have been caused by my imprudent actions and I hope to God that I will be forgiven these mistakes, as He sees me guilty. I also sincerely hope no-one else follows this foolishness of imprudence, for from experience I can tell such a one, that his conscience will haunt him forever.

The Vatican council session being close at hand, I suppose you are preparing for your journey to Rome. I hope that God smiles favorably on your trip.

I will write more at a later date, especially concerning the disposition of myself and my future in the priesthood.

Having this letter finds you in good health, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ

Father Richard Hatch
Father Richard Hatch