



Irene Gomez-Bethke Papers.

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ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

226 Summit Avenue

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-2197

Office of the Archbishop

February 3, 1986

Irene Gomez-Bethke
4649 Decatur Avenue N.
New Hope, MN 55428

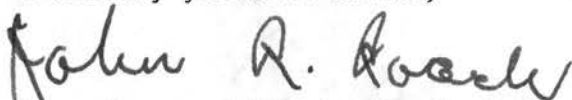
Dear Mrs. Gomez-Bethke;

The Co-directors of the Office of Hispanic Ministry have advised me of your willingness to serve on the Archdiocesan Hispanic Ministry Advisory Board for a two/three year term beginning February, 1986. I am grateful for your generosity and invite you to serve as a member of that board.

In this capacity you will have an excellent opportunity to be of service to our Hispanic sisters and brothers during this very important time of follow-up to the III Encuentro for Hispanic Pastoral Ministry and the Archdiocesan Renew process. We invite you to take up the challenge and commitment to build the Hispanic presence in our Church and society.

Be assured of my prayers for your service as a member of the Hispanic Ministry Board. The Office of Hispanic Ministry will contact you soon to provide the information you will need as a member of the Board.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 

Most Reverend John R. Roach, D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Letter of
Response.



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

November 24, 1986

Dear Board Member:

Thanksgiving greetings to you. May it be a day filled with blessings for your family, relatives and friends.

Thanksgiving time reminds us that the end of the year is just around the corner and there are somethings that need to be wrapped up for 1986. This seems true for us also. We are having our annual board meeting to do wrap-up on some agenda items and then to simple enjoy some time together. I invite you to our annual board meeting at:

Boca Chica Restaurant
December 4, 1986
6:30 Cash Bar
7:00 Business meeting
7:30 Dinner

Our agenda, as decided at our last board meeting includes:

1. Approval of amended by-laws. See enclosed copy.
2. Meeting date for 1986
3. Old members/new members
4. Election of Chair and Vice-chair for 1987

We'll see you on December 4th! God bless you.

Sincerely,

Consuelo Covarrubias
Consuelo Covarrubias

May 1st, 1986

President
Hispanic Board
Archdiocese Saint Paul/Minneapolis
328 West 6th Street
Saint Paul MN, 55102

Dear President:

It is with regret that we received notice of Virginia Rodriguez's resignation as member of the Diocesan Promotional Team for the 3^{er} Encuentro and as a Co-Director of the Hispanic Ministry Office.

Having known Virginia's excellent skills as a leader and her spirit of mission and also her great aspirations for the unity and growth of faith of our Hispanic Community we want to express our great concern about the present situation in our Archdiocese. We considered ourselves represented by Virginia because of her openness to apostolic work which has been rather absent in our Hispanic Community and should be one of the main objectives of the Hispanic Ministry Office. Her interest in developing ministry groups and extending herself personally towards the Minneapolis area is a proof of her unconditional devotion to bring the Good News to others.

We are aware of the constant tension that Virginia had to live because of her desire to include other hispanics and to do more outreach in the Twin Cities so we feel called to ask you to take a serious look at the present situation in the Hispanic Ministry Office.

We would like to have the opportunity to share in confidence the similar struggles that some of us have faced like Virginia because of existing personality conflicts and lack of trust. We can also bring forth others who, if asked, will share their story with you.

Taking a stand in situations like this is not easy but we know that serious problems are not always known or surfaced and can very easily be left aside hoping that things will change. This can certainly lead to a bigger problem and more harm.

We believe that by writing this letter to you the problem at the Hispanic Ministry Office will be given a closer look and the careful treatment that it deserves.

We would like to suggest some possible alternatives or ways of action which you might consider:

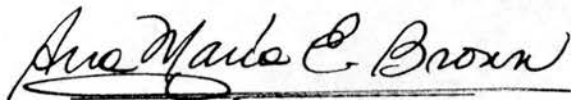
1. Ask Virginia to take a leave of absence (to have a chance to recuperate) and to please reassume the position of Co-Director of the Hispanic Office.
2. If #1 is not possible, look for an immediate replace-

ment giving Virginia a chance to suggest possible candidates that could assume the position of Co-Director. We also believe that this position should be filled according to accustomed procedures.

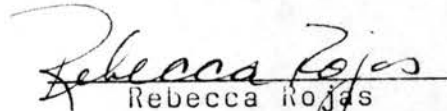
5. That both Co-Directors resign since the contract was for both, as a team.

We would appreciate a prompt response from you since this is an urgent and pressing matter for the Hispanic Community.

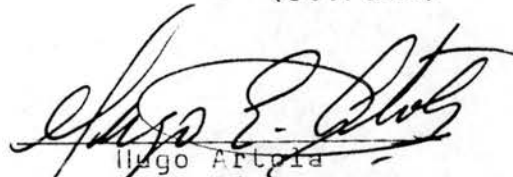
With the conviction that this letter will benefit all of us and, after prayer and offerings we remain yours truly,



Ana Maria E. Brown
Member Equipo Promotor Diocesano
Renew Co-Chairperson Home Visits Committee
Our Lady of Grace Parish (Edina)



Rebecca Rojas
Ex-member Hispanic Board
Ex-President Parish Council
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
(St. Paul)



Hugo Arce
Member Equipo Promotor Diocesano
Renew Chairperson Small Groups Committee
(Usseo)

cc. Archbishop Roach
Bishop Ham
Peter D'Healy
Members of Hispanic Board

16 de septiembre de 1986

Estimada Sr./Sra.

Le agradecemos su interes y devoción en la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano. Le pedimos disculpa por la tardanza en responder su carta, no ha sido porque la hemos ignorado, por el contrario.

Los Miembros del Board estan tan preocupados como ustedes en los recientes hechos y teniendo sus preguntas en mentes nos hemos reunido y tratado de responder a esto, pues ha tomado mas tiempo que lo imaginado.

El Board ha formado un comite para ver y desarrollar la posición de Director y para aclarar los asuntos a los cuales usted se refiere en su carta.

Muchas Gracias y que Dios lo/a bendiga.

Atentamente,

Hilda Sanchez-Henke

Irene Gomez-Bethke

August 14, 1986

Mr. Carl Valdez
3442 Aldrich Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55412

Dear Carl:

In response to your letter of July 11, 1986, I am also confused and alarmed over the misunderstanding of certain recent events. I intend this letter to clarify any questions I am in a position to explain.

I cannot respond to your first question about the intent of the July 1, 1986, meeting because I did not arrange the meeting. In fact, I became aware of it only by chance when I spoke with Phil a few days before the meeting about the status of his efforts with respect to the Search Committee. When I attended the meeting, I was surprised when Father O'Connell announced that it was to be an Executive Committee and not a Search Committee meeting. I cannot say why neither you nor I had been specifically invited.

During the first part of the meeting, before the arrival of Ms. Vega, we discussed the Board's recommendation that Sr. Consuelo continue as interim Director for a few weeks after the State Encuentro. The question was how to handle the position so there would be no suggestion of impropriety, such as access to inside information, playing a part in the selection. This was of special importance to us because of concerns expressed by members of the community to Mr. D'Heilly, me, and other Board members. The decision at this time was to follow through with the original Board decision (April 23) and to go forward with plans for the hiring process as soon as possible. We also discussed at this time that it would be better for Sr. Consuelo to apply from the outside to enhance the perception in the community that she would be competing on an equal footing with other applicants.

Phil was to have provided a complete report on these actions and the progress of the Search Committee at the next Board meeting, which was scheduled for a time I had informed the office I would be unable to attend because of work-related travel. Unfortunately, Phil did not attend that meeting either, and considerable misunderstanding appears to have resulted.

I must agree with you that the Board is struggling and, as we have discussed before, that we have to overcome our pettiness and differences before we can work successfully for the good of the community. It's my dream that one day we will all be brothers and sisters united under the banner of our Christian faith.

I hope I have responded to your questions; however, feel free to contact me if I have missed anything. I am as eager as you are to resolve these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda Sanchez-Henke".

Hilda Sanchez-Henke

cc: Peter D'Heilly
Michael O'Connell
Consuelo Covarrubias
Hispanic Ministry Advisory Board Members

July 11, 1986

3442 Aldrich Av N
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Ms. Hilda Sanchez-Henke
1471 N. St. Albans
St. Paul, MN 55117

Dear Hilda:

I am confused about your July 1 meeting with Deacon Peter D'Heilly, Father Michael O'Connell, Mr. Phil Nache, and Ms. Elsa Vega Perez.

Firstly, it appears that there was some misunderstanding about the intent of the meeting. I assume that is the only reason I was not contacted. Was it a Search Committee or an Executive Committee meeting?

Secondly, I understand that you recommended to Mr. D'Heilly and Fr. O'Connell that Sr. Consuelo Covarrubias be terminated as interim director as of July 31. I also understand that:

- 1) the rationale was to dispell notions (among the members of the community who do not want Sr. Consuelo in the position of director) that Sr. Consuelo's interim position would cause her to be favored should she apply for the directorship, and
- 2) Mr. D'Heilly and Fr. O'Connell accepted your proposal.

I am hoping that I am misunderstanding something here, because this information is incredible.

(Please know that I am not taking a position of favoring or not favoring, recommending or not recommending Sr. Consuelo for the position of Director of Hispanic Ministries.)

The first reason is that you made a recommendation without benefit of approval from or discussion with the other board members. The reaction among board members at last night's regularly scheduled meeting was one of surprise. It was unfortunate that you were not present to give us clarification.

The second reason is that the rationale does not appear to me to be complete. If I were against the appointment of Sr. Consuelo to the directorship, I would not be convinced that a 2-3 month absence from the interim position would deter favoritism. Forgive me - the rationale sounds petty.

1. Who will finish Encuentro business - will it not take at least 2 months?
2. How would a different interim director be better than the present one, considering efficiency and consistency?
3. How does it affect the daily business within the Chancery Annex building and in any of the archdiocesan structure to see yet another change in the Hispanic Ministries office?

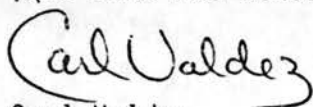
4. How does the Hispanic and non-Hispanic Community benefit?
5. Does this mean we form another search committee, the first for a director, the second for an interim director?

As a new board member, I see us struggling with our diversity as a Hispanic community. I feel the need to recognize and value that diversity among ourselves as board members before we can even think of being a board of ministry to the community around us, Hispanic or non-Hispanic. Are we doing that?

One part of that for me would be to retain the present interim director until we are prepared to find someone on a more permanent basis.

Regrettably, I will not be available to talk with you until August 18 when I return from my studies in Mexico. However, I believe my questions are pertinent for other board members, and your responding to them would be beneficial. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful consideration of them.

¡Que Dios nos bendiga!



Carl Valdez

cc: Peter D'Heilly
Michael O'Connell
Hispanic Ministry Advisory Board Members



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

July 12, 1986

Dear Irene,

Greetings to you! May these warm July days heal and nourish you both in body and spirit.

Our First State Encuentro was also a very nourishing and energizing experience! Good things result whenever we place our energies and talents together in the spirit of God, collaboration and faith.

I want to thank you for your very important part in making the Encuentro a beautiful experience of Hispanic Presence and commitment for our people in Minnesota. It was truly God's work and we were the instruments! It is always good for us to savor those moments of grace.

I invite you to set aside the evening of August 20, 1986, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. for an evening of appreciation and celebration. You will receive more details on this the first of August.

Enclosed please find a copy of the article found in the Catholic Bulletin for the week of July 13-19, 1986.

Mil gracias otra vez por la generosidad que recibió el pueblo por medio de tu compromiso con el Primer Encuentro Estatal. Que Dios te bendiga.

Sincerely in Christ,

Consuelo

S. Consuelo Covarrubias

Irene, I really appreciated the time you gave to be Hall Facilitator for the Encuentro - also for the extra support you give to Hispanic Ministries. Dios te lo pagará. Thanks for bringing Alice with you, was good to have her at the Encuentro -



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

February 19, 1987

Irene Gomez-Bethke
Instituto de Arte y Cultura Inc.
3501 Chicago Avenue South
Mpls., MN 55407

Dear Mrs. Gomez-Bethke:

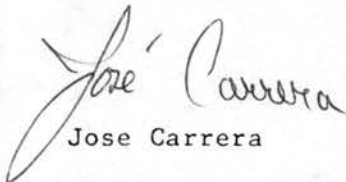
I am very pleased to inform you that on February 5, 1987, Archbishop John R. Roach appointed me as the new Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis.

I do want you to know my disposition and willingness to work closely with you in serving our Hispanic community.

I hope to count on your support and cooperation in the future endeavors of this office. I believe that without your generous help, we, in this office, will be unable to accomplish our central goal: to help build a better Hispanic community in the christian way of life; in unity, cooperation, love and hard work.

I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely yours,


Jose Carrera



MINISTRY

February 18, 1987

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

COPY

This letter was sent out to the three
new board members.

1. Eustolio Benavides
2. Rosa Rodriguez
3. Francisco Trejo ? Jose

Archbishop John Roach has informed us of his confirmation of having you as a member of the Hispanic Ministry Advisory Board for the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis.

Welcome and congratulations on being selected to serve on this board, which is valuable to the Hispanic Community and this local Church.

I know that with your talents, gifts and experience you will be an asset to the Hispanic Ministry Board.

There will be an orientation meeting for new members on Wednesday, February 25th at 4:30 to 5:15p.m. This will be followed by a regularly scheduled board meeting. Enclosed are materials that will give you some insight into the working of the board.

We are looking forward to meeting you on Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Jose Carrera, Director
Hispanic Ministry Office

Phil Nache, Chair
Hispanic Ministry Advisory Board



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

March 19, 1987

Dear Mr. [Signature]

Greetings! May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus be with you.

I am writing to invite you to participate in a weekend workshop to be held at Gretna, Nebraska, on May 2nd and 3rd. Enclosed you will find all the pertinent information.

We will be honored to count with your presence and sharing during this beautiful and motivating event. Indeed this is a great opportunity to learn more about ourselves and about our Church.

The Hispanic Ministry Office will take care of the transportation, and in a given case, we will help you with the required \$20. fee. Please, feel free to call us. We need your answer by April 12th, the latest.

God bless you! I look forward to travel with you to Nebraska for a reflexion and party time in the Christian sense.

Un saludo sincero para usted y su familia. Reciba mis deseos de salud y bienestar.

Le adjunto con mi saludo una invitación para que participe en un fin de semana de reflexion y alegría, al lado de muchos hispanos de todo el pais, en Gretna, Nebraska, los días 2 y 3 de mayo.

En realidad nos honraría el hecho de que usted se una a otras personas de St. Paul/Mpls. en un viaje agradable para aprender y reflexionar sobre nosotros mismos y sobre nuestra Iglesia.

En la oficina nos encargaremos del transporte y, en un caso dado, de ayudarle a pagar el costo de este hermoso evento.

Por favor, comuniquese conmigo lo más pronto posible. Que Dios le bendiga, y nos vemos en Nebraska.

Cordially yours,

Jose Carrera
Jose Carrera, Director
Hispanic Ministry Office



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

March 12, 1987

Dear Mrs. Gomez-Bethke:

Greetings!

Perhaps, you have already been informed that effective February 17, 1987, I, Jose Carrera, became the new Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry, in substitution of our dear friend, Sister Consuelo Covarrubias.

At this time, we at the Office of Hispanic Ministry want to update you on our follow-up to the State Encuentro. I am sure there are many fond memories of that event still lingering in your heart.

In September of 1986, a small group convened as an Ad Hoc Discernment Committee to meet monthly and set up the ground work for writing our Pastoral Plan on Hispanic Ministry for the Archdiocese. Our last meeting was on February 4, 1987, and we have realized that we already have sufficient material from the Diocesan, Regional and National Encuentros to start developing our Pastoral Plan.

We are excited about doing some concrete visioning that will, in time, better our people in the areas of the five Encuentro priorities Evangelization, Integral Education, Leadership, Youth and Social Justice.

We are planning to form five working committees, one for each priority. We invite you to participate in the committee for your priority area. The purpose of each committee is to develop concrete action plans based on the information done.



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

April 16, 1987

Dear member of Hispanic Advisory Board:

Greetings to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

By now you have probably received words from Phil Nache on the main item to be discussed in the next Hispanic Advisory Board Meeting.

In relation to that I have prepared a brief draft of the action plan for the Office of Hispanic Ministry. Such draft encompasses most of the ideas you expressed at the last Hispanic Advisory Board Retreat in terms of your dreams for the future of the Hispanic Ministry Office.

Please review this action plan and be prepared to share your perceptions of what the priorities and the direction of this office should be.

Enclosed you will find the draft of the Office of Hispanic Ministry Action Plan for this and the coming years.

God bless you and help you reflect on his word and resurrection.

Sincerely,

José Carrera
José Carrera



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

January 15, 1988

Irene Gomez-Bethke
4649 Decatur Avenue
New Hope, MN 55428

Dear Mrs. Gomez-Bethke:

May the blessings be upon you as we begin a bright new year! We hope that last year brought many opportunities to become closer to God for you and your family, and that 1988 will bring more.

Thank you for the time and energy you have spent in behalf of Hispanic Ministry in the past. As we look ahead, it is time to re-commit ourselves to our tasks on the Board.

In addition to expressing our appreciation of your efforts, the purpose of this letter is to determine the number of present Board members who are able to re-commit themselves for another year on the Board, so that we may know the number of new members we must solicit.

The Executive Committee, due to the lack of a quorum on more than one occasion, has seen a need to establish a more formalized procedure for Board members to determine their commitment over the next year.

We ask that you please consider the following as you make your decision:

The Hispanic Ministry Board will meet 10 times during the year (August through May). No meetings in June or July.

Missing 3 out of 10 meetings makes it nearly impossible to maintain continuity with our needs as a Board; therefore, a member who misses 3 meetings in a 10 meeting period will be replaced.

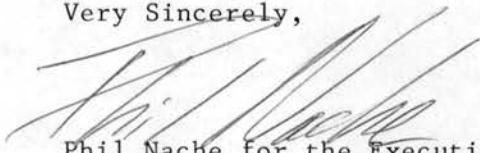
Since the purpose of the Office is MINISTRY, that is, to enhance or assist in the spiritual well-being of the Hispanic community in the Archdiocese, it is asked that its board members reflect ministerial or spiritual priorities and values in their own lives.

We invite you to re-commit yourself to the Hispanic Ministry Board. We also ask that, if you are not able to commit yourself to the above (as well as other requisites stated in the by-laws), you consider helping the Board in other capacities (such as serving on a committee occasionally as needed).

Kindly fill out the enclosed form and bring it to the next meeting on January 27.

Many thanks for your prompt attention in this important matter. We look forward to a productive year ahead.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Phil Nache', written in a cursive style.

Phil Nache for the Executive Committee

Jose Carrera
Irene Gomez-Bethke
qCarl Valdez



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

Date: February 19, 1988

To: Hispanic Ministry Board Members

From: Jose Carrera

Re: Concerned citizens letter to Archbishop John Roach

I am sending you a copy of a letter sent to Archbishop Roach by a group of "concerned Hispanic citizens of St. Paul/Minneapolis." The letter is self explanatory and brings back an issue that needs to be analyzed and discussed by this office and its advisory board members.

The letter's content, in the opinion of some community members, is an insult to the pastor and staff people of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church; also at the perception of the community at large. I foresee problems with regards to this matter and that is why I have brought it to your immediate attention and consideration.

Please, be prepared to talk about this during our next board meeting on February 24th, or when possible.

God bless you always,



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Sixth Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-4480

January 12, 1988

Irene Gomez-Bethke
4649 Decatur Avenue N.
New Hope, MN 55428

Dear Irene:

Dear friend of the Hispanic Institute. May the Lord and the blessed Virgen Mary be with you during all New year, 1988.

I'm writting at this time to wish you a happy new year 1988, and also to invite you to be part in the "Hispanic Institute Follow-up Session" that we are planning for the weekend of the 27th - 28th of February, 1988.

We will gather at the St. Croix Camp, in Hudson, MN (15 minutes driving distance from St. Thomas College) at exactly 8:30a.m. on February the 27th. We will stay overnight and conclude our review session at approximately at 12:00 noon Sunday the 28th.

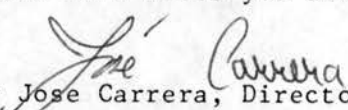
The cost for this overnight session is close to \$40. dollars per person. We are asking you to contribute with only \$18.00. The Office of Hispanic Ministry will cover the remaining \$22.00.

The facilitator of this follow-up session will be either Father Patricio Guillen or Sister Rosa Marta Zarate. They will arrive from California on Friday the 26th. I can assure you that we will have a great time both at studying and at sharing our characteristic joy.

Please call or write to the office before January the 22th to confirm your attendance. Without your presence we will not be able to have this greatly needed session in preparation for the upcoming summer 1988 Hispanic Institute.

May we call you if we don't hear from you before the 22nd?

May the Good Lord bless you always.


Sincerely, Jose Carrera, Director
Hispanic Ministry Office