



MEMORAN M

January 10, 1988

FM: Monsignor Curry
TO: Archbishop Mahony
RE: Father Nicolas Aguilar- vera

In March 1987, Father Rivera, a priest of the Diocese of Tehuacan, Mexico, asked if he could work in the Archdiocese. We appointed him to assist pro tem in Our Lady of Guadalupe (Rosehill), and after we received a confidential letter from his Bishop, we appointed him Associate to Father James Barnes at St. Agatha (May 1987). His Bishop stated that he had come to the United States because of family problems and for health reasons. Father Rivera is forty-six and was ordained in 1970.

On Friday last, Father Bill McLean called me to tell me two of the families in his parish told him that Father Rivera had abused their children. One incident apparently took place over Christmas, when Father Rivera stayed at their house, and another took place at St. Agatha's during the summer, when the family visited him there. According to one of the families, he was involved with their children also, but Father McLean has not spoken to them.

I saw Father Rivera at St. Agatha's on Saturday morning and told him he could not serve in this Archdiocese until a full investigation took place, and that his faculties were withdrawn, and that his Bishop would have to be informed of the accusations. I offered to find a place for him to live until he could make other arrangements, but he volunteered that he would stay with his sister here and leave for Mexico on Monday or Tuesday of this week. He denied all the allegations.

I found out on Saturday that the principal of the school at Our Lady of Guadalupe has been informed of the accusations, so she will be obliged to report it to the police.

I asked Father McLean to encourage the parents to see me, and I will keep in contact with him. I have consulted with Sister Judith Murphy.