

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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 Most Reverend Donald E. Pelotte, S.S.S., Ph.D.

Bishop of Gallup  
 P.O. Box 1338  
 Gallup, NM 87305

May 27, 1993

Dear Bishop Pelotte,

FAX 722 9135

The Rev. James Burns completed treatment at Villa Louis Martin in November of 1990. At that time the program was favorable towards Father Jim's assuming the role of pastor of the parish in Blanco. In view of standards that have since become established with regards to the care and reassignment of priests, who have been accused of sexual molestation of minors, I feel that I must now alter that recommendation.

On Father Burns behalf it needs to be said that there have been no indications that he has done anything inappropriate since he left the Jemez Program, that he has returned to therapy recently (because it is our standard policy to recommend continuing therapy, not because there have been any problems), that he has been cooperative with the same, and that he has had an assistant, who has been fully apprised of Father Burn's issues, serving with him in the parish.

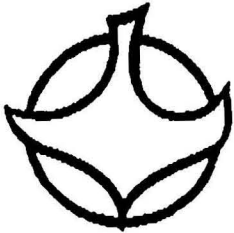
Since Father Burns left the program, however, the standard of care, that is being carefully developed throughout North America for clergy who have been accused of sexual abuse of minors, would not allow a priest with Father Burns' alleged background to serve as a pastor. This does not mean that his ministerial gifts could not be put to good and prudent use in another capacity. In the latter instance I would recommend continued contact with a therapist, supervision, and, in particular, no unsupervised contact with minors.

While I know that this alteration in recommendation will come as a disappointment to Father Jim, I would not want this to be understood as a lack of confidence in his sincerity and commitment to priesthood and its responsibilities.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Lechner, s.P.  
 Director: Jemez Program

copy /Rev. James Burns



# Servants of the Paraclete

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## Facsimile Transmittal

Date: May 27, 1993

Please deliver the following message to:

Most Reverend Donald E. Pelotte, S.S.S., Ph.D.  
Bishop of Gallup  
P.O. Box 1338  
Gallup, NM 87305  
(505) 722-9138  
 (FAX Number)

From: Reverend Peter Lechner, s.P., Ph.D.

(check one)

Office of the Servant General

Jemez Program Administration

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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