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TIROL - AUSTRIA

E. P. Smith  
REC'D DEC 2 1964

Innsbruck, Dec. 2, 1964

Rev. Fr. Prov. John R. Connery S.J.  
509 N. Oak Park Ave.  
Oak Park, Illinois

Reverend and Dear Father Provincial, P.C.

*Mark*  
I feel the serious obligation to give you some informations about Fr. Donald J. McGuire. When I met you last summer in Aurora you told me your sorrow that he might not finish his doctoral work at time. So you gave him time to do it only until next February. And I promised you to care that he works and keeps this term. Now I see clearly that I can not fulfil this promise and that he certainly will not finish his work within that time. Besides, you asked us for informations about Fr. McGuire in order to his 1st Vows. We gave them, but when I sent them I wanted to write you an additional letter with more detailed informations. I am sorry that I could not do that earlier because I had still to make clear some points that had come out in the last time. After a long talk I had with him (for several hours) I must let you know the following things:

*Visit  
D. McGuire  
to  
Innsbruck*  
Fr. McGuire lives completely out of the community. For the last months (since September) he never was seen at meals, in the recreation, in the libraries and so on, although I warned him seriously several times. I do not see him myself for weeks and hardly can reach him. One of the reasons is that he doesn't feel well, he sometimes suffers from his stomach. But another more important reason is that he seems to be dissatisfied here with everything, he is depressed and criticizes, with partly most exaggerated reproaches, the conditions here in this house and this province. That was not so much so in the former years but it has developed, as it seems to me, during the last months in a very bad way.

It seems to be connected with his dissatisfaction with his own work. He doesn't really go on; I do not know myself if and how much he works. He absolutely insisted in changing the subject of his thesis and to begin a new one. After more than two years he has been here I have not yet seen anything written not even a sketch of his thesis. So I really have no idea what he is doing and I can hardly bear the responsibility for his studies. I have the impression that he flees from his duty and cares for many other things he has nothing to do with.

In this connection is another difficulty that made already some serious sorrows. He has (or had) much relations with several boys, particularly some boys who work in our kitchen and who used to go to his room. He especially cared for one of these boy (a boy of 15 or 16 years) who was quite frequently with him, so much that some rumors and suspicions arose, also among laymen, for instance our cook who could observe these things. I have, as well as I could, examined these things and I am convinced that there didn't happen anything bad, on the contrary, that Fr. McGuire used to care for this boy in a priestly and apostolic intention. But certainly he did to much (what was not his duty) in a most imprudent way.

The most imprudent was that he took this boy with him when he went last summer for several weeks to Ireland. I hadn't known anything that Fr. McGuire wanted to go there; nor had he asked our Fr. Provincial for this permission. He only told Fr. Minister that he was going there. But he not even told our Fr. Minister (who is the immediate superior of the boys employed in the house) that this boy is going with him. And the boy, from his part, concealed it carefully, telling lies to Fr. Minister. There is no wonder that some bad suspicions came out. But only now, a short time ago, I learned that this boy was (already about the month of September) called to the Police and asked there about that travel, if there happened anything bad and so on. It seems (as far as I know) that the boy answered the questions so innocently that the Police dropped the suspicions and did not further prosecute them. So it seems for a moment that the thing has no further consequences. But I am not sure at all.

EXHIBIT 3