



Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus

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February 27, 1991

Rev. Donald J. McGuire, S.J.
Ganisius House
201 Dempster Street
Evanston, IL 60201-4704

Dear Don,

In the aftermath of our conversation last Friday, February 22, I wanted to send to you some sort of summation of our discussion. Let me begin by thanking you very much for your prompt response to my rather insistent summons which reached you at the Missionary Sisters of Charity residence in Tijuana, Mexico a day or so before.

As you well know, I had received on February 19 a phone call from the Director of the Christian Brothers Retreat House in St. Helena, California. The Director noted that you had been travelling with a seventeen year old boy, of Anchorage, Alaska, since sometime in January and became worried because of some things that he observed that you might possibly be sexually involved in some way or other with this young man. Because of his concerns, he called me and I then contacted you in order to learn at once what precisely had transpired.

In our conversation together you readily admitted that [redacted] had been travelling with you off and on since January. That is to say, on three separate occasions during your recent lengthy swing through various places on the West Coast, [redacted] with, as you pointed out, the full and explicit permission of his parents in each case, had come to accompany you. Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] thought that their son could be of special help to you especially in carrying heavier luggage, that sort of thing, in light of your recent rather serious back problems and also hoped that their son might meet some of the Missionaries of Charity in Tijuana and elsewhere and might in particular have a chance to meet Mother Teresa, who had been scheduled to visit the convent in Tijuana. Your secretary, [redacted] also travelled with you and [redacted] on this trip except for an eight or nine day period, a period which included the time in question at the Christian Brothers Retreat House. You underscored your care in always making sure that [redacted] had a separate room to himself and described in some detail where precisely [redacted] had stayed during the time at the retreat house in St. Helena. You denied that you had been alone with him in your bedroom with the door shut and insisted that you assiduously were very careful and prudent in your dealings with this young man.

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I asked you explicitly if you had had at any time any sort of sexual contact with _____ and you denied categorically that there ever had been any kind of activity of this sort. I further asked you if you had ever in the past been sexually involved in any sort of way with any minor person and you told me quite clearly that you had never done anything at any time of that sort.

While you have been clear and forthright in your denial of any wrong doing in this specific instance, I still believe that as your Major Superior I need to ask some things of you in terms of general prudence in this whole area. That is to say, both you and I recognize the great public concern that exists today about any sort of sexual impropriety especially with respect to minors. This heightened concern has been a help and a blessing in calling forth a special care in this area, an area in which failings and improper actions can so damage a young person. I therefore asked of you two changes in your behavior, and you readily agreed to both. First of all, I ask that you not travel on any overnight trip with any boy or girl under the age of 18 and preferably even under the age of 21. Secondly, I asked you to confine any further contact that you might have with _____ to situations in which at least one of his parents would also be present. This latter command I did not give you because of any wrong doing that I noted in your behavior; I think it simply a matter of careful prudence under the circumstances. Both of these directives, as I said, you accepted readily and agreed to observe fully.

Let me close this whole matter, Don, by once again thanking you both for your prompt and immediate response to my directive to travel from Mexico back to Chicago to meet with me and also for your readiness to accept what I asked of you at that meeting. I am sorry that this whole incident came up and I know that this whole business cannot have been pleasant for you. But, as we discussed at our recent meeting, it would be wrong for me to take lightly any allegations or concerns raised in this area. Nor would you wish me to do so. But I nonetheless am most grateful to you for your cooperation and I certainly will pray for you and for all of the apostolic work that you are doing.

Your brother in Christ,

Robert A. Wild, S.J.
Provincial