

September 25, 2000

Concerning: Fr. Donald J. McGuire, S.J.
From: Fr. Richard H. McGurn, S.J., Exec. Asst.

I received a phone call today from a [redacted] of Augusta, Georgia, in reference to Fr. Donald J. McGuire, S.J. [redacted] age 20, has just completed a year of service for Fr. McGuire, traveling with him as his assistant on his many retreats.

[redacted] gave these phone numbers: [redacted] / A check of BellSouth on the web turned up this home address:

[redacted] and his wife, [redacted] are concerned, now that the year is up, that they are having "difficulty communicating our thoughts" to their son, and he feels they have "lost touch with him." [redacted] with some reluctance, said that he feels that [redacted] is being controlled" by Fr. McGuire, and is "not listening to us."

[redacted] are also in contact with a Fr. Brett Brannen, vocation director for the diocese of Savannah, Georgia. I gather that he and [redacted] have previously talked about whether [redacted] has a vocation to the priesthood. [redacted] said that Fr. Brannen, like himself, is "very much not at peace about this" situation.

Fr. McGuire and [redacted] were in Augusta at the end of August, and I met with him and [redacted] "We weren't pleased with the results of the talk...Fr. McGuire said that [redacted] 'has a vocation serving me; he's not ready to come home.'"

[redacted] said that his son is arriving home today for a week's visit.

[redacted] also noted that some neighbors of his, [redacted] (spelling of surname uncertain) also had their son with Fr. McGuire last year, and that they, too, had concerns. [redacted] also made reference to a psychiatrist in Augusta, a D [redacted], whom [redacted] says sets up the arrangements of these young men with Fr. McGuire.

[redacted] said there were other details he could tell me, but that they would not be appropriate over the telephone. I asked him to send me a written statement, being as explicit as possible, and he said he would do so.

I told him I appreciated that it was not easy for him to make this call to me. I also said I would contact Fr. McGuire to check out this report, though I noted that Fr. McGuire is frequently (and, I think, presently) out of the country.