

Rev. Lawrence Lovell, C.M.F.  
*Laicized* 6/17/92

CONFIDENTIAL

**CLARETIAN  
MISSIONARIES**

PROVINCIAL OFFICE

December 16, 1985

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Rev. Msgr. John Rawden  
Chancellor  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
1531 West Ninth St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Dear Msgr. Rawden:

During a recent phone conversation with you I mentioned I would send you a copy of what has transpired concerning Rev. Lawrence Lovell, CMF, a Claretian priest who was assigned at San Gabriel Mission from 1979 to 1984. I also briefly spoke with Archbishop Mahony, and he mentioned that it would be best that I keep you informed about what has been happening concerning Fr. Lovell. Enclosed is an overview of the events that have happened from the time I first became aware of Fr. Larry's problem to the present. Obviously, this report is to be kept confidential.

If there is any more information which you might need, or if you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Msgr. Rawden have a very blessed and love-filled Christmas. Know that my prayers are with you and your ministry during this Holy Season.

Sincerely,



Rev. Frank Ferrante, C.M.F.  
Provincial

RE: Rev. Larry Lovell, C.M.F.

- Thursday, October 24 -- in the afternoon a member of San Gabriel Mission Parish came to speak to me about a serious problem involving Fr. Larry's relationship with one of her children.
- Thursday, October 24, in the evening I met with both parents and one of the children. Given the nature of the problem expressed during my afternoon and evening meetings with members of this family, I called Fr. Larry in Phoenix and asked him to come to the Provincial House for a meeting on October 24, 1985. I suggested and encouraged counseling for the child (young man) and for the parents. I knew at this time, too, that given the seriousness of the problem, and given certain legal requirements, that the counselor involved would have to make a report to child protective services (CPS). Shortly after this October 25th meeting I was assured by the parents of this family that such a report had been filed and that the police department had been involved with regard to interviewing some of the family members. I knew that both the parents including the child were also suggesting some kind of counseling. I concurred with the serious need for them to talk to a professional counselor and mentioned that I would see to it that the expenses would be taken care of.
- October 25, 1985 - I met with Fr. Larry at length and discussed the problem with him. The parents of the family involved and one of the children also joined Fr. Larry and me for part of our meeting. Given the nature of the problem and given the information which I received from the family and given my discussions with Fr. Larry, the following actions were taken:
  - 1)- I removed Fr. Larry from active ministry immediately -- he was to return to Phoenix to make arrangements for his moving out of the parish there.
  - 2)- After such arrangements were made which we had agreed would take only a couple of days, Fr. Larry was to be placed in residence in one of our communities where he would not be actively involved in a ministerial assignment. This move was to be very temporary. Within a couple of weeks Fr. Larry was to enter into a residential program which is specifically designed to help him with his illness. Larry began this program on November 7, 1985.
  - 3)- Within a short time after discovering the nature of Fr. Larry's illness and after more discussion with the family involved, and with the concern that Fr. Larry might have been involved with other children, Mr. Jim Mead from "FOR KIDS SAKE, INC" was asked to meet with some of the high risk families. Two such meetings were held at San Gabriel Mission. On November 20th Mr. Mead also met with the Pastor of the parish where Fr. Larry has been assigned during the last two years and with a parent whose son would be considered a high risk. The Pastor was to meet with the parents of another family shortly thereafter, since those parents were unable to meet previously.
  - 4)- I, together with a fellow Claretian priest, have spoken with Mr. Mead and other professionals on various occasions so that we could best respond to any families who might need help.

- 5)- One other family who learned of Fr. Larry's problem and who spoke with her children about this problem, since especially one of the children was considered to be a high risk, discovered that a few years back there was some inappropriate behavior on the part of Fr. Larry. I took the opportunity to speak with one of the parents and with the son who was involved. Once again, although this situation was not as serious as the former one discussed, I encouraged the young man to see a counselor. He himself had mentioned that although he did not feel that he was at the present time seriously affected by whatever took place a few years before, he would like to take the opportunity to speak to a professional.

Concerning Fr. Larry -- little by little he more and more has become aware of the gravity of his illness. I and a fellow Claretian have been in communications with him and have been pastorally supportive of him as he undergoes treatment. Fr. Larry has been advised that if he is able to return to ministry after his residential program of treatment, such ministry would be of a limited nature. The possibility of Fr. Larry's returning to ministry and the nature of such ministry would be decided upon after discussion and input from the various professionals involved. Many factors would have to be taken into consideration before any decision was made.

LOVELL, Rev. Larry, C.M.F.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
8/28/79	San Gabriel Mission, San Gabriel	Associate
7/1/84	LEFT ARCHDIOCESE	

August 10, 1994

Fr. Tim Dyer, Vicar for Clergy  
1531 W. 9th Street  
Los Angeles C.A. 90015

Father Tim

In September of 1986, I learned three of my four children had been molested by our parish priest and youth minister at San Gabriel Mission Parish, San Gabriel CA., for a period of approximately 5 years, during their early adolescence.

From this discovery a long and painful struggle began, that seems to be never-ending, and continues on with every life event encountered within our family.

The priest involved was Fr. Larry Lovell C.M.F.. He was charged by the City of San Gabriel, since more families were involved, but none of the parents of these children wanted to press charges, because of our "Christian loyalty."

The priest pleaded guilty in the Pasadena Courts, and was given a mere three years probation. He was placed in the New Mexico treatment center of the Paracletes for five months. From there the Claretians assigned him to "office duties" in their Chicago Administrative Building, while at the same time paying for his further education as a psychologist at the Loyola University in Chicago IL.

Soon after his graduation, he was released from the Claretian Order as well as the priesthood. I believe, the Claretians did no longer wish to be financially liable, in case of any re-occurrence of child molestation by this perpetrator. However, with his acquired "degree in psychology" Larry Lovell has been able to obtain a position in hospital-work with people, in "ministry" to the dying and their families. We don't know who is watching him!

Our family, has more or less dealt with this trauma on its own, and the presence of "Jesus" seems more present to perpetrators than its victims. Presently, our family is struggling to hang-on to it's sanity. Our oldest son is in immediate need of counseling and financial assistance for this.

As a family we seem to have encountered the pain, with every marriage of our four children, the birth of their children, and the grand-childrens' first Communion.

At one such an occasion with our grandson's first communion his father, shook while sitting in the church, trying to support his son at this event.

It is very clear to me at this point, my children are not okay, and what happened to them can't ever be undone.

None of them any longer attend any Church, but all of them are judged over and over by a Church that deeply hurt them, for not entering into "Sacramental" marriages or for being unforgiving. Still, all my children brought the grandchildren to Baptism.

We raised our children with strong Catholic faith, and it is a part of their total development. In the inability to embrace the faith of their childhood, because of pain and inability to trust those who are connected with it, the daily painful struggle continues. Their belief system has been destroyed and they live with a spiritual void in their lives. This is evident again and again.

I need your help. I want my children, my family to be okay. I realize, at some point all children will need counseling, I need your advice in what to do, and how get my children and grandchildren well, since what happened to my children seems to continues to perpetuate our lives.

Please respond and let me know what you feel we can do.

Sincerely,  
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