

VERY CONFIDENTIAL

November 6, 1984

MEMORANDUM TO ARCHBISHOP HICKEY:

Sister Manuela of the Capilla Latina came to see me today, with this story of her serious accusation concerning a priest in charge of Hispanic affairs in the Los Angeles Diocese (Director of Spanish Affairs in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles).

A Mexican woman came with three children to see Sister Manuela. She spoke of her sister who was very poor, who came from Mexico four years ago to Los Angeles. A priest there was very helpful, rented a home for them, put the children into Catholic school, and this family was undocumented. Presently the woman has eleven children and her husband remains in Mexico until he can arrange his papers. The oldest child was 16 years of age at the time of the arrival. The priest asked the 16 year old to come and live with him. The boy was unwilling. The parents encouraged him to do so, seeing nothing wrong. The boy never talked about the relationship, but he is now 20 years old and has become over the years a mental patient. He forgets, he is absent-minded and has difficulty in working. The priest also took the eleven year old boy at one time with him but after advances the boy went screaming to his mother, painting a horrible picture of what happened between himself and the priest. He told his mother and the psychiatrist the whole story. The psychiatrist seeing the 20 year old son insisted that he must leave the area. The boy 20 is therefore now in Washington area with his aunt, who spoke with Sister Manuela.

The story is that the young man was under the influence of the priest for four years; after their initial meeting the priest took him to the jail and instructed him to either behave or else he would end up either in jail or back in Mexico. He was supposedly told if you talk, I have lawyer friends and I will surely have you deported. The aunt says the boy is suffering severe mental illness at this time. His room, for example, is surrounded by numerous pictures of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The story is that the youngster was psychologically intimidated for the entire period.

The mother is not anxious for publicity, nor the aunt, and the name of the priest is Monsignor Peter Edward Garcia, who lives at San Marcellino, or St. Marcellinus Church in Commeric City, Los Angeles. The priest is an American, born here of an Hispanic father. There has been no publicity on this issue in the Los Angeles area. The priest's family is very influential, has extensive properties. Groups of young boys were taken on camping trips to the family property. Sister Manueal would like to refer the young man to Dr. REDACTED Virginia, 23707. The family wants to keep the issue private. They worry about other boys who may be similarly treated by this priest, they say.

Sister Manuela wonders if the Archbishop could speak to the Archbishop of Los Angeles during the upcoming Bishop's conference. The aunt's name (who spoke to Sister Manuela) is REDACTED the boy's name she thinks is REDACTED (?).

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In the National Directory, Monsignor Garcia is listed as "Director, Spanish Speaking Vicar's Office", 1530 West 9th Street, 90015, 213-388-8101.

I told Sister Manuella not to do anything by way of referral to a local psychiatrist until I spoke with the Archbishop. The whole family feels they must move away, because they fear the priest is powerful. He could send the whole family back and they do not rule out even physical violence, of which they are also afraid.

The aunt testifies that the sister, mother of the children, has a good reputation. The mother is not involved with the priest personally. She has removed all of her children from the school. They do not want court action. Sister Manuella did not know the family. She knows the aunt only fairly well, but initially came into contact with the aunt through a mutual friend.

Sister Manuella's phone number at work: 483-1520; Home 726-4499.

Msgr. Tom Kane