

OUR LADY QUEEN OF ANGELS

LA PLACITA
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March 13, 1989

Most Reverend Juan A. Arzube
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3149 Sunset Drive
Los Angeles, Calif. 90015-1194

Dear Bishop Juan,

This afternoon you called me up to say that Msgr. Curry had told several persons that I had said that REDACTED and REDACTED were "very angry" with you about how you had handled the case concerning what Peter Garcia had done to their sons.

I told you that Mr. and Mrs. REDACTED were not angry with you. I told you that I would call Msgr. Curry and tell him this. Msgr. Curry was not available when I called him.

But on reflection concerning your call, I want to share these thoughts with you, and Msgr. Curry and the Archbishop.

The REDACTED parents are in fact very disappointed with you. I in fact was angry with you, as well as disappointed.

On May 23, 1988, while giving spiritual direction to a young man whom I had years earlier introduced to the REDACTED family, in concluding our conversation he asked me if I knew that Peter Garcia had sexually molested REDACTED and REDACTED. I was shocked. I said, "No. I never have known this." On reflection I thought that I should speak with you because of two reasons: first, you would know if Peter Garcia's leave of absence was for this reason; secondly, during the past years you were closer to REDACTED than myself... I felt you could ask REDACTED about this better.

The following day, I tried getting an appointment with your secretary but was unable until Friday, June 3, 1988.

At that appointment you registered shock that Peter Garcia had molested REDACTED and REDACTED. You also assured me that you would speak with REDACTED about this and get him into counselling. But you readily admitted that rumors had been heard that Peter Garcia had molested children. From June 3, 1988, through Tuesday, August 16, 1988, I assumed that you had spoken to REDACTED and REDACTED about this.

REDACTED came to speak to me about some problems he was having at home. This meeting was on Tuesday, August 16, 1988.

Towards the end of that meeting with REDACTED I asked him if he had talked with Bishop Arzube about any problems or things in his life.

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REDACTED said, "No, I haven't talked to Bishop Juan for a long time." I asked REDACTED if he remembered this priest who had worked at San Gabriel Mission; and if he knew about what he had been accused of doing--(molesting children)? I asked REDACTED "Has this ever happened to you?" REDACTED looked surprised. He looked straight at me. He finally said, "Yes, Father Peter Garcia molested REDACTED and myself." I again asked REDACTED if he had talked to Bishop Arzube about this. REDACTED said, "No."

At that moment I was very angry with you. You had not done what you had said you would do. Two months and a half months had passed and you had not spoken to REDACTED about this, and gotten him and REDACTED into counselling.

I asked REDACTED if he would agree to counselling if I could find a good counselor. He finally said, "Yes."

Though I was angry with you, I still sought your help. (I respected you since you were my ordaining bishop.)

I tried calling your office for an appointment. I was told you were on vacation.

Several days later, Mrs. REDACTED called me to say that they had been told by REDACTED what Peter Garcia had done to them both. They wanted an appointment with you. They also respected you, and appreciated your friendship.

When Mr. REDACTED, his brother-in-law, REDACTED and myself met with you on Friday, August 26, 1988, you began the session by telling us that we should be concerned with the state of mind of Peter Garcia. In fact you read part of a letter that he had sent you in which he said that he had thought of taking his life. I was shocked at your behavior. You seemed to be at that moment more concern for the criminal rather than the victim! I registered this objection and you thereafter said that we indeed had to be concerned with REDACTED

I asked you if REDACTED and REDACTED could see a counsellor-- which the Archdiocese could suggest-- you said that you would have to talk with Peter Garcia and the Archbishop first. You would talk with Peter Garcia over the weekend to ask him if he had in fact called the REDACTED home on several occasions! I thought this was unbelievable that you would ask Peter Garcia if he had lately called the REDACTED family and said to REDACTED "When are we going to see each other?" And Peter Garcia had asked REDACTED, "Why don't you come and work with me at my brother's store." What did you expect that Peter Garcia would say to you?

You also said to us that you were on vacation until September 3, and thus wouldn't be able to speak to the Archbishop until then. This was incredible to me. REDACTED had just told us that Peter Garcia had taken him to Lancaster and had tied him and had sexual intercourse on him, and you were telling us that you couldn't do anything because you were on vacation! I also did not understand the later "relaxing" exercise you did on REDACTED How could you believe that you or any unprofessional therapist could help REDACTED

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After we left your office all of us expressed our deep disappointment with you, your comments and behavior.

The following Tuesday, September 6, 1988-- Monday was Labor Day holiday-- I went in person to present this case to Msgr. Thomas Curry. (Before our August 26 appointment with you, a priest had told me to call the Chancery Office and speak to Msgr. Fortier about possible counselors. Msgr. Fortier said that they had counsellors for this but that I should speak with Msgr. Curry because he was appointed by the Archbishop to handle these cases. I told Msgr. Fortier that the parents of these boys wanted to speak with Bishop Arzube and that they had an appointment. Msgr. Fortier told, "Well see Bishop Arzube but later see also Msgr. Curry."

Bishop Juan, I respect you but I became very angry and disappointed with you.

When I took this second-hand information for you to verify-- and you told me that you would-- and two and a half months passed and I found out that you had not acted on this. This is nothing but negligence!

Remember when I called you in late August to ask for an appointment with the REDACTED family! Your first words were not about REDACTED but rather, "How did they(the parents) find out about this?" I told you that REDACTED had told them.

During all of these years you knew that REDACTED and REDACTED had been close to Peter Garcia; you also probably knew that Peter Garcia took them to work with on weekends to his Chancery office; you probably later heard from Peter or the boys of other trips that they went on. When you later found out that Peter Garcia was being accused of molesting a child, why did you not ask yourself, "Since REDACTED and REDACTED were the closes boys to Peter Garcia, could Garcia have done anything to them?" This is a very logical question to have asked yourself. Why didn't you ask yourself this? Why didn't you discreetly ask REDACTED if something harmful had ever happened to him?

If you had asked yourself these questions years ago, REDACTED would have been able to have begun therapy much earlier. Some years of his life would have been salvaged!

But why did you not speak with REDACTED about this after I spoke with you on June 3?

Mr. and Mrs. REDACTED are not angry with you. I was angry with you. All of us experienced a great disappointment at how you responded to this. You should have realized that you were not qualified to deal with this. You should have referred us to Msgr. Curry.

If you should see REDACTED please do not ask him about his therapy, or anything related to his trauma.

Please do not call or write to me. (If I was the father of REDACTED Peter Garcia would be in prison now; and I would probably have begun a lawsuit against the Archdiocese.) The parents of REDACTED and REDACTED and in fact the two boys-- are more forgiving and compassionate than I would be!

CC: Msgr. Thomas Curry) *F. Anthony De Marco, conf*

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