


ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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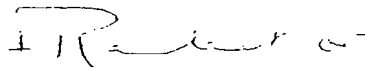

Dear Sister,

Thanks for writing your note to me. I readily understand your concerns.

I did not want a public funeral Mass for Father Murphy in order to avoid the kind of publicity that would simply have dragged his name across the pages of the press in a way that we don't need. I am sure you understand the sentiment among so many members of the deaf community and how emotional they are about this issue. I talked in Rome at great length about how to handle all of this, so that we would not create any more negative publicity toward Father Murphy than need be. I can readily assure you, Sister, that if I had permitted a public funeral of the kind that was wished for, it would have been awful in terms of the reaction and how the press would then have dealt with all that is out there. To protect Father Murphy's good name I had to do what I did and keep this as quiet as possible. So far we have succeeded in preserving his reputation, and I hope we are able to do so in the future.

Thanks for your concern and for writing. By all means, pray for him and have Masses said for him in private; but please do not agitate the community to the point where the press would simply destroy his name. We need healing now in the deaf community and I beg of you to be a part of that healing process, so that we can put this chapter behind us and move ahead. Many blessings on you, Sister.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee