

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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MEMORANDUM

TO: File --- Fr. John Lenihan

FR: Reverend **Redacted**

DT: September 28, 2001

On September 18, 2001 Bishop Brown and I met with Fr. John Lenihan. Bishop asked if he granted an interview with a reporter from the Los Angeles Times. In the article the reporter speaks with a Fr. X. Bishop asked Fr. John if he was Fr. X. Fr. John admitted that he was. Bishop asked if the article was accurate. Fr. John said the part about celibacy was not what he said. Bishop asked if the information about Fr. John having had "relationships" with four women was true. Fr. John stated that it was true.

Bishop asked Fr. John to resign the parish effective immediately. Fr. John said he did not think that was necessary. Bishop explained that it was and asked he to sign a letter of resignation. That letter is in Fr. John's file. After Fr. John signed the letter he said he was sorry, Bishop said he also was sorry he had to ask for his resignation. Fr. John asked if the Diocese of Orange would continue to support him, Bishop said yes. I walked Fr. John over to Fr. **Redacted** (Vicar for Priests) Office so that an evaluation could be arranged for Fr. John.

The next day when we arrived at the parish to inform the priests and the staff, Fr. John was there and he attempted to "take back" his resignation. After some discussion by phone with several Canon Lawyers Fr. John agreed to let his resignation stand.

As of September 18, 2001, Fr. John Lenihan is on Active Sick Leave.