

Redacted Hierarchy Name

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From: Redacted  
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2001 10:15 AM  
To: Redacted  
Subject: (no subject)

Aug 21,C1

Dear Fr. Redacted

In reading the very disappointing article today in the Orange County Register regarding Msgr. Harris, I was very interested in the paragraph referring to Fr. John Lenihan and his indiscretions. It came as no shock to me, due to the fact every time I come to Laguna Niguel to visit my Mother I encounter Fr. John. He is visiting my mother's next door neighbor, a single women. The visit's are at least three times weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

They begin at approximately 1:00pm and last about two to three hours. On some occasions his car is there after 10:00pm. On other occasions he picks her up and is gone for hours. On more then one occasion Fr. John has been observed on a trail next to the house holding hands and kissing this individual. I personally have witnessed this behavior.

There are other neighbors who happen to be his parishioners that have also witnessed his routine of visiting this women. We have known about this going on since mid march. It could have been going on longer, but we were not aware of it. It has caused great stress to my Mother and other neighbor's who hold the priesthood in high esteem.

Early in May I brought the subject up to a D.R.E. in the dioceses. She said to me "Aaron, that's the way he is, and the dioceses has known it for year's." I then decided to confront him personally as he was leaving the women's house. I told him that there where neighbors who had seen him on the

trails and knew he was coming to the person's house three times a week. He told me he was there counseling her because she was an alcoholic. When I said Fr. John they have seen you on the trail's with her, he said "I better be more careful." He thanked me for making him aware of this. I was so shocked by his response I wasn't sure what to do. As you and I both know,

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counseling is not done in the home and not three times a week for three hours a session. It also does not included physical contact.

I have great love for the Church and have been an active member my whole life. I do feel that this type of behavior needs to be stopped. The Bishop, Vicar General and the Vicar for Priest must call these priest to reprimand. I am the first to call for an optional celibate priesthood, as we know that is not the rule in the western Church. When Fr. John was ordained he knew the vows and the rules of the Church.

I pray that you will take action immediately to put a stop to his flamboyant disregard for the vow of chastity. The Church must stand up and put a stop to all indiscretion's in the priesthood. the Church has been silent to long.

If you are interested the indiscretion's take place at **Redacted**  
Laguna Niguel with a women named **Redacted**

Thank you for your time and I thank you in advance for your swift action on this matter.

In His name,

**Redacted**

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