



SAINT JEROME CHURCH

8100 COLFAX STREET • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136-1801 • 215/333-4461
September 6, 2002



Rev. Msgr. William J. Lynn, M.A., M.Div.
Secretary for Clergy
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103-1299

Good Morning Bill,

Thanks for seeing me on September 4th. As I mentioned to you on September 5th at the reception for Bishop Burbidge I have the following observations that could be offered after James's comments on Thursday, September 12th.

I was in my 5th year at St. Agatha-St. James and was so heavily involved with the H'Mong Community that I made an appointment with Cardinal Krol and explained to him that I am the only priest that the H'Mong people really know and to leave them would be devastating for them. I asked the Cardinal for extension of one year which he graciously permitted. One year later, at the end of my 6th year, for the same reasons I made another appointment with Cardinal Krol and this time I asked him if I could remain in the community in one of the neighboring parishes which would relieve me of my hospital duties and give me more time to spend in pastoral work with the H'Mong community. He agreed and sent me to St. Ignatius Parish.

Soon after my transfer James asked if he could live at St. Ignatius Rectory. I didn't know so I asked the pastor, Jim Locke, for permission which he granted and James moved into the rectory.

Besides my work with the people of St. Ignatius I continued to work with the H'Mong people. Every summer I would attend the National Catholic H'Mong Convention and one year James asked if he could come along and visit the American Indian Community in the Twin Cities. I said O.K. He didn't want to stay with H'Mong families which I always do when at the convention so I wound up towing a camping trailer behind my car. One of my adopted children came with us and stayed with H'Mong families while we slept in the camper.

My observations: If the alleged incident took place at St. Agatha-St. James Parish why would he want to live with me at St. Ignatius Parish? Was it an intended set-up that I would be alone with him in the camper? Did anything ever happen at St. Ignatius Parish or in the camper? Of Course not! I was so busy in St. Ignatius Parish doing my pastoral, parish, and priestly work - with no time for him - so eventually he moved out.

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If you have any questions about any of the details which may at times seem too sketchy please beep me at 215-406-9356. Again thanks for all of your time and support.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Edward V. Avery, M.Div.NACC

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