

APRIL 20, 1985

James J. Manning, Jr.
Reid & Hellyer
A Professional Corporation
3800 Orange Street
Post Office Box 1300
Riverside, CA 92502-3834

Dear Mr. Manning,

Please excuse the lengthy delay in answering your letter of April 15, 1985. I am truly sorry that Bishop Straling chose not to answer my letter to him, personally. It was written in all respect. I earnestly sought help in resolving a problem which I have been trying, through other means, for over a year.

As you suggested, I have decided to move ahead with this and retain an attorney. He is a person who is very well acquainted with the diocese and with legal and the Canon law. It does seem to me, paradoxical that the heirarchy of the diocese is thus forcing a devout Catholic man and a daily communicant to take this route instead of dealing with him in an honest and above board manner, with frankness and sincerity. I have chosen no longer to be the "invisible man" or to be a non-entity in this sordid matter. I totally reject the idea that a priest is "off-duty" when he is travelling with committee members to examine the various aspects of church building, when he is hearing confession, saying the Mass, giving spiritual direction, or inviting members of the parish to his home for prolonged and intense sessions of intercessory prayer. No doubt you will have different ideas on these matters.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Bishop Straling. Thank you for your good advice and well meant intentions.

I remain yours truly,

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