



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PASTORAL CENTER

THE TRIBUNAL

445 CHURCH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114-1799 (415) 565-3690

March 16, 1989

Most Reverend Phillip F. Strahling, D.D.  
Bishop of San Bernardino  
1450 North D Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92405

REDACTED

Dear Bishop Strahling,

Sister Nancy Reynolds, S.P., J.C.L., and I have been approached by [REDACTED] and asked to represent her as canonical advocates in the matter of her relationship to the Reverend Paeder Joseph Brennan, a priest of the Diocese of San Bernardino. Specifically, she is seeking financial support resulting from the two children born to her and Father Brennan.

[REDACTED] gave birth four years ago to her first son, [REDACTED]. Father Brennan has acknowledged his paternity of this child and until recently had been providing both financial support to the family and personal contact with the child. He has since broken off all contact with [REDACTED], and this has caused the child emotional difficulties which are requiring professional counselling.

On March 13 of this year, [REDACTED] gave birth to her second son, [REDACTED]. Although Father Brennan is refusing at this time to acknowledge his paternity, witness testimony supports this fact; and medical testing will conclusively determine that he is in fact the father of this child.

[REDACTED] was born with serious birth defects which require constant medical supervision; and he is not expected to live beyond a few months. In addition, since the child was born by caesarian section, [REDACTED] was herself hospitalized. At this time, the medical costs are extremely high; Father Brennan is providing no assistance to [REDACTED] financial or personal, at a time of extreme personal and emotional hardship. She has brought this matter to the attention of the Very Reverend Philip A. Behan, your vicar general; however, there has been no response or action on his part to assist [REDACTED].

Since [REDACTED] and Father Brennan freely entered into this relationship, both are equally responsible for its consequences. [REDACTED] is seeking Father Brennan's acceptance of his responsibility towards the children he has fathered; and it is our desire that you as his bishop direct him to provide this [REDACTED].

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support and yourself take the initiative to assist) at  
this time of extreme personally difficulty.

It is our wish as \_\_\_\_\_'s advocates to avoid the need  
of seeking formal action in this matter. In 1963, a case  
involving similar circumstances was heard by the Roman Rota  
(coram Filipiak, 9 July 1963). In this case, which was upheld on  
appeal in 1966 (coram De Jorio, 26 March 1969), the Rota  
determined that the priest involved was responsible for the  
support both of the mother and the child he fathered; and it was  
further determined that the civil courts were to determine the  
exact amount to be paid by this priest.

We wish to avoid the need of a canonical and possibly a  
civil action in order to seek a just and proper resolution of  
this tragic situation. Unfortunately, the circumstances of  
Father Brennan's relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ are already well  
known; and scandal has most likely already occurred. A civil or  
canonical action in this matter will only serve to embarrass  
further all of the parties involved in this painful matter and  
increase the scope of the scandal. We are appealing to you,  
therefore, to take direct and personal action in this matter and  
to intercede in \_\_\_\_\_ behalf.

Both Sister Nancy Reynolds and I are available to assist in  
any way possible in a just and equitable resolution on this  
matter; and either of us can be reached through the offices of  
the Tribunal in San Francisco.

Thanking you for your careful consideration of this  
sensitive matter, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Reverend Gregory Ingels, J.C.D.

cc: Very Reverend Philip A. Behan, V.G.  
Reverend Paeder Joseph Brennan

Sister Nancy Reynolds