

Covas, Peter

3rd Party Privacy Redacted

May 4, 2001

Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1201 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I have reviewed carefully the minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2001.

You do have in your file the two previous items of correspondence from [REDACTED].

Unfortunately, the [REDACTED] family is one that has suffered from extraordinary dysfunctionality and struggles over the time I have known them in the past 15 years.

If I made a mistake, it was reaching out and helping the family on occasion when they would ask for money for food and shelter.

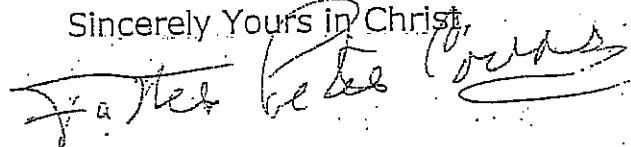
To this date, members of the family still approach me for money and I am much more cautious in how I provide assistance to them.

I trust the enclosed response is satisfactory to bring the matter to an end and close the file.

As always, I am prepared to assist you in any way to make certain that your review and analysis is complete and that you are satisfied with the results so that you can take appropriate action in maintaining your duties as Moderator of the Curia.

As always, I thank you for your support and your thorough and just treatment.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Reverend Peter Covas

Addendum to letter
of May 4, 2001 of
Fr. Covas: [redacted]

The following are observations relative to the confidential minutes provided to me of the meeting of February 14, 2001:

- It is unclear how old Mr. [redacted] is. I understand him to be approximately 36 years of age. If that is true, he was born in 1965 and in 1973 he would only have been 8 years of age.
However, I am now told he is 40.
- During the 1970s, I was stationed at St. Catherine of Alexandria in Riverside and Notre Dame High School. I have very little connection with the San Bernardino area.
- I was not assigned to Holy Rosary until approximately 1982.
- [redacted] claims he was 13 in 1974. In 1982, [redacted] would be 21 years of age by his own account.
- After serving at Holy Rosary for one year, I was also assigned to be pastoral coordinator at Our Lady of Fatima. That was in 1983. I was not transferred from Holy Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima. I served both parishes at the same time. I served Holy Rosary for one year before taking over the responsibility for Our Lady of Fatima.
- I recall meeting [redacted] and his family when I was at Holy Rosary in 1982 onward. Mr. [redacted] would be an adult at that time.
- He refers to "Father [redacted], I think." If he knew Father [redacted], he would remember his name. It would be, "I know." Father [redacted] was dead when I went to the High Desert.
- Father [redacted] was assigned to the prison throughout the 1960s and 1970s and would have no connection with the San Bernardino area until the late 1979 or 1980 when he became the director of seminarians.
- I did not go to the High Desert until approximately 1990. [redacted] would be approximately 25 years of age at that time or older. Father [redacted] was dead at that time.
- I never went to an [redacted] house. I did not know where they lived.
- There are documents provided by [redacted] for the last 6 months which contradict the interview. In February and March of this year, he provided statements that the facts set forth in the February 14th interview are untrue.
- Mr. [redacted] has sought money from a variety of sources for years, did so at the diocesan level and is ensnaring himself in confusing dates, times incidents, which are not credible.

I cannot remember exactly Mr. [redacted] remembering what he said. In fact, I knew Mr. [redacted] only as an adult, & I do agree with his statements of Feb & March that our relationship was as friend of his.

May 4, 2001

Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1201 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I have reviewed carefully the minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2001.

You do have in your file the two previous items of correspondence from [REDACTED].

Unfortunately, the [REDACTED] family is one that has suffered from extraordinary dysfunctionism and struggles over the time I have known them in the past 15 years.

If I made a mistake, it was reaching out and helping the family on occasion when they would ask for money for food and shelter.

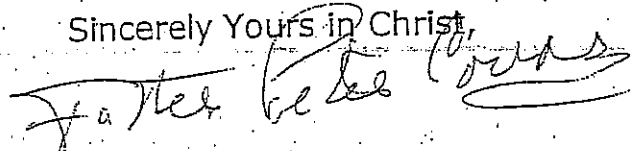
To this date, members of the family still approach me for money and I am much more cautious in how I provide assistance to them.

I trust the enclosed response is satisfactory to bring the matter to an end and close the file.

As always, I am prepared to assist you in any way to make certain that your review and analysis is complete and that you are satisfied with the results so that you can take appropriate action in maintaining your duties as Moderator of the Curia.

As always, I thank you for your support and your thorough and just treatment.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Reverend Peter Covas

Addendum to letter
of May 4, 2001 of
Fr. Covas. - [REDACTED]

The following are observations relative to the confidential minutes provided to me of the meeting of February 14, 2001:

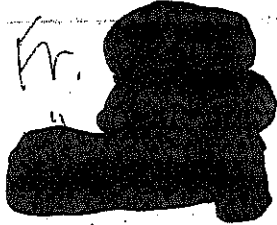
- It is unclear how old Mr. [REDACTED] is. I understand him to be approximately 36 years of age. If that is true, he was born in 1965 and in 1973 he would only have been 8 years of age.
However, I am now told he is 40
- During the 1970s, I was stationed at St. Catherine of Alexandria in Riverside and Notre Dame High School. I have very little connection with the San Bernardino area.
- I was not assigned to Holy Rosary until approximately 1982.
- [REDACTED] claims he was 13 in 1974. In 1982, [REDACTED] would be 21 years of age by his own account.
- After serving at Holy Rosary for one year, I was also assigned to be pastoral coordinator at Our Lady of Fatima. That was in 1983. I was not transferred from Holy Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima. I served both parishes at the same time. I served Holy Rosary for one year before taking over the responsibility for Our Lady of Fatima.
- I recall meeting [REDACTED] and his family when I was at Holy Rosary in 1982 onward. Mr. [REDACTED] would be an adult at that time.
- He refers to "Father [REDACTED] I think." If he knew Father [REDACTED], he would remember his name. It would be, "I know." Father [REDACTED] was dead when I went to the High Desert.
- Father [REDACTED] was assigned to the prison throughout the 1960s and 1970s and would have no connection with the San Bernardino area until the late 1979 or 1980 when he became the director of seminarians.
- I did not go to the High Desert until approximately 1990. [REDACTED] would be approximately 25 years of age at that time or older. Father [REDACTED] was dead at that time.
- I never went to an [REDACTED] house. I did not know where they lived.
- There are documents provided by [REDACTED] for the last 6 months which contradict the interview. In February and March of this year, he provided statements that the facts set forth in the February 14th interview are untrue.
- Mr. [REDACTED] has sought money from a variety of sources for years, did so at the diocesan level and is ensnaring himself in confusing dates, times incidents, which are not credible.

I cannot remember only Mr. [REDACTED] would say what he said. In short, I knew Mr. [REDACTED] only as an adult, & I do agree with his statements of Feb & March that our relationship was as friend of his & his family member now.



- worked with Duran
KC

Had a
rent
group



did - class from

May 4, 2001

Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1201 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I have reviewed carefully the minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2001.

You do have in your file the two previous items of correspondence from [REDACTED].

Unfortunately, the [REDACTED] family is one that has suffered from extraordinary dysfunctionality and struggles over the time I have known them in the past 15 years.

If I made a mistake, it was reaching out and helping the family on occasion when they would ask for money for food and shelter.

To this date, members of the family still approach me for money and I am much more cautious in how I provide assistance to them.

I trust the enclosed response is satisfactory to bring the matter to an end and close the file.

As always, I am prepared to assist you in any way to make certain that your review and analysis is complete and that you are satisfied with the results so that you can take appropriate action in maintaining your duties as Moderator of the Curia.

As always, I thank you for your support and your thorough and just treatment.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Father Peter Covas

Reverend Peter Covas

Addendum to letter
of May 4, 2001 of
Fr. Covas. - [REDACTED]

The following are observations relative to the confidential minutes provided to me of the meeting of February 14, 2001:

- It is unclear how old Mr. [REDACTED] is. I understand him to be approximately 36 years of age. If that is true, he was born in 1965 and in 1973 he would only have been 8 years of age.
Lawrence, I am now told he is 40.
- During the 1970s, I was stationed at St. Catherine of Alexandria in Riverside and Notre Dame High School. I have very little connection with the San Bernardino area.
- I was not assigned to Holy Rosary until approximately 1982.
- [REDACTED] claims he was 13 in 1974. In 1982, [REDACTED] would be 21 years of age by his own account.
- After serving at Holy Rosary for one year, I was also assigned to be pastoral coordinator at Our Lady of Fatima. That was in 1983. I was not transferred from Holy Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima. I served both parishes at the same time. I served Holy Rosary for one year before taking over the responsibility for Our Lady of Fatima.
- I recall meeting [REDACTED] and his family when I was at Holy Rosary in 1982 onward. Mr. [REDACTED] would be an adult at that time.
- He refers to "Father [REDACTED], I think." If he knew Father [REDACTED], he would remember his name. It would be, "I know." Father [REDACTED] was dead when I went to the High Desert.
- Father [REDACTED] was assigned to the prison throughout the 1960s and 1970s and would have no connection with the San Bernardino area until the late 1979 or 1980 when he became the director of seminarians.
- I did not go to the High Desert until approximately 1990. [REDACTED] would be approximately 25 years of age at that time or older. Father [REDACTED] was dead at that time.
- I never went to an [REDACTED] house. I did not know where they lived.
- There are documents provided by [REDACTED] for the last 6 months which contradict the interview. In February and March of this year, he provided statements that the facts set forth in the February 14th interview are untrue.
- Mr. [REDACTED] has sought money from a variety of sources for years, did so at the diocesan level and is ensnaring himself in confusing dates, times incidents, which are not credible.

*I cannot remember the name of Mr. [REDACTED] recently when he said
in short, I know Mr. [REDACTED] only as an adult, & I
do agree with his statements of Feb & March
that our relationship was as friend of his
& his son's mother now.*

May 4, 2001

Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1201 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I have reviewed carefully the minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2001.

You do have in your file the two previous items of correspondence from [REDACTED].

Unfortunately, the [REDACTED] family is one that has suffered from extraordinary dysfunctionality and struggles over the time I have known them in the past 15 years.

If I made a mistake, it was reaching out and helping the family on occasion when they would ask for money for food and shelter.

To this date, members of the family still approach me for money and I am much more cautious in how I provide assistance to them.

I trust the enclosed response is satisfactory to bring the matter to an end and close the file.

As always, I am prepared to assist you in any way to make certain that your review and analysis is complete and that you are satisfied with the results so that you can take appropriate action in maintaining your duties as Moderator of the Curia.

As always, I thank you for your support and your thorough and just treatment.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Father Peter Covas

Reverend Peter Covas

Addendum to letter
of May 4, 2001 of
Fr. Covas. - [redacted]

The following are observations relative to the confidential minutes provided to me of the meeting of February 14, 2001:

- It is unclear how old Mr. [redacted] is. I understand him to be approximately 36 years of age. If that is true, he was born in 1965 and in 1973 he would only have been 8 years of age.
However, I am now told he is 40.
- During the 1970s, I was stationed at St. Catherine of Alexandria in Riverside and Notre Dame High School. I have very little connection with the San Bernardino area.
- I was not assigned to Holy Rosary until approximately 1982.
- [redacted] claims he was 13 in 1974. In 1982, [redacted] would be 21 years of age by his own account.
- After serving at Holy Rosary for one year, I was also assigned to be pastoral coordinator at Our Lady of Fatima. That was in 1983. I was not transferred from Holy Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima. I served both parishes at the same time. I served Holy Rosary for one year before taking over the responsibility for Our Lady of Fatima.
- I recall meeting [redacted] and his family when I was at Holy Rosary in 1982 onward. Mr. [redacted] would be an adult at that time.
- He refers to "Father [redacted], I think." If he knew Father [redacted], he would remember his name. It would be, "I know." Father [redacted] was dead when I went to the High Desert.
- Father [redacted] was assigned to the prison throughout the 1960s and 1970s and would have no connection with the San Bernardino area until the late 1979 or 1980 when he became the director of seminarians.
- I did not go to the High Desert until approximately 1990. [redacted] would be approximately 25 years of age at that time or older. Father [redacted] was dead at that time.
- I never went to an [redacted] house. I did not know where they lived.
- There are documents provided by [redacted] for the last 6 months which contradict the interview. In February and March of this year, he provided statements that the facts set forth in the February 14th interview are untrue.
- Mr. [redacted] has sought money from a variety of sources for years, did so at the diocesan level and is ensnaring himself in confusing dates, times incidents, which are not credible.

I cannot remember only Mr. [redacted] remember what he said. In short, I know Mr. [redacted] only as an adult, & I do agree with his statement of Feb & March that our relationship was as friend of his.

[Redacted]

NO.

[Redacted]

NO.

Phone #

[Redacted]

MM

Phone Number

[Redacted]

DOB:

[Redacted]

(*)

Friday, June 23, 2000 – Confidential Notes:

On Thursday, June 22, 2000 Morning—I was contacted by Sister [REDACTED] about a young man she had met in the lobby of the Pastoral Center who said he needed to speak with someone right away. Sister [REDACTED] said the man was very agitated and irritated. He said he wanted to talk to a priest because he had been abused by a priest as a young boy. Sister [REDACTED] came to me and asked me to speak with him. I agreed to meet with the man [REDACTED] but not until the afternoon. He agreed to come at 2PM. Later in the morning, Mr. [REDACTED] called to say he could not make the meeting on time. He called a second time and said if he could re-schedule the meeting. I agreed. The new meeting was scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2000 at 10AM.

On Friday, June 23, 2000, I met in private with Mr. [REDACTED] in Conference Room 11. He was very agitated, irritable, and seemed confused at times. I asked him if was OK; he said he was in some type of AA rehab program. He also mentioned that he and his small nephew were homeless because they were evicted from a house. He could not stay with his ([REDACTED]) mother. I said that I was there to listen to him. He stated that he needed to speak to a priest about the fact that he had been abused sexually by a priest when he was a young boy. I said that I felt very sorry that that had happened to him.

I explained to Mr. [REDACTED] that the Catholic Church wholeheartedly opposes this sexual abuse on the part of anyone, especially priests and religious who had the trust of persons. He stated that the priest who had done this to him was from the Diocese here; that the priest was a family friend; that the priest was still in the area in ministry. I stated very clearly that I wanted to help him with this, but that it was absolutely essential that he (Mr. [REDACTED]) needed to name the priest and name the parish and name the dates when the sexual abuse happened. I stated to Mr. [REDACTED] that I wanted to explain the Diocesan Sexual Abuse by Clergy Policy to him step-by-step. I stated that the Diocese does not act on anonymous reports of alleged abuse. I asked Mr. [REDACTED] to name the priest. Mr. [REDACTED] said that he did not want to name the priest, because he (Mr. [REDACTED]) did not want to hurt the priest. He (Mr. [REDACTED]) just wanted some piece of mind by having someone listen to him. I asked Mr. [REDACTED] a second time. He again refused to name the priest.

At this point, I said that I could not speak with him any longer. That when he was ready to identify the priest, I would be willing to speak with him again (Mr. [REDACTED]). I again asked Mr. [REDACTED] what did he want from this. He asked if I or the Diocese could assist him financially with some motel money; I feel that he was willing to speak if he was to be paid some type of cash payment. I said that we did not offer monetary help of this type. I did recommend that he visit Catholic Charities for financial and possibly some counseling help. He said he would give it some thought. Once again, I apologized to Mr. [REDACTED] for what he was feeling. Throughout the interview, he seemed very confused and in a doped-up state (almost as if he were on some type of drug or foreign substance). His mood seemed to alternate and at time I was fearful of being in the room alone with him. I offered him my prayers. He then left the Pastoral Center. I again said I was willing to speak with him again whenever he wanted to get more specific about the allegations.

After the interview, I phoned Mr. [REDACTED] and asked if he knew of a "[REDACTED]". [REDACTED] said the name was not familiar. I explained the interview I had with Mr. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] agreed that without a specific name of the priest, we could not really pursue the case. I also informed Father [REDACTED] of the situation to keep him up to date.

Friday, June 23, 2000 – Confidential Notes:

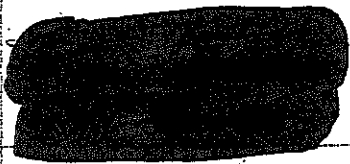
On Thursday, June 22, 2000 Morning—I was contacted by Sister [REDACTED] about a young man she had met in the lobby of the Pastoral Center who said he needed to speak with someone right away. Sister [REDACTED] said the man was very agitated and irritated. He said he wanted to talk to a priest because he had been abused by a priest as a young boy. Sister [REDACTED] came to me and asked me to speak with him. I agreed to meet with the man [REDACTED] but not until the afternoon. He agreed to come at 2PM. Later in the morning, Mr. [REDACTED] called to say he could not make the meeting on time. He called a second time and said if he could re-schedule the meeting. I agreed. The new meeting was scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2000 at 10AM.

On Friday, June 23, 2000, I met in private with Mr. [REDACTED] in Conference Room 11. He was very agitated, irritable, and seemed confused at times. I asked him if was OK; he said he was in some type of AA rehab program. He also mentioned that he and his small nephew were homeless because they were evicted from a house. He could not stay with his [REDACTED] mother. I said that I was there to listen to him. He stated that he needed to speak to a priest about the fact that he had been abused sexually by a priest when he was a young boy. I said that I felt very sorry that that had happened to him.

I explained to Mr. [REDACTED] that the Catholic Church wholeheartedly opposes this sexual abuse on the part of anyone, especially priests and religious who had the trust of persons. He stated that the priest who had done this to him was from the Diocese here; that the priest was a family friend; that the priest was still in the area in ministry. I stated very clearly that I wanted to help him with this; but that it was absolutely essential that he (Mr. [REDACTED]) needed to name the priest and name the parish and name the dates when the sexual abuse happened. I stated to Mr. [REDACTED] that I wanted to explain the Diocesan Sexual Abuse by Clergy Policy to him step-by-step. I stated that the Diocese does not act on anonymous reports of alleged abuse. I asked Mr. [REDACTED] to name the priest. Mr. [REDACTED] said that he did not want to name the priest, because he (Mr. [REDACTED]) did not want to hurt the priest. He (Mr. [REDACTED]) just wanted some piece of mind by having someone listen to him. I asked Mr. [REDACTED] a second time. He again refused to name the priest.

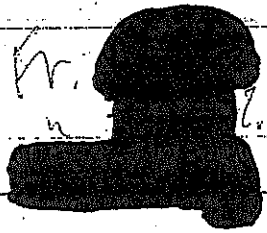
At this point, I said that I could not speak with him any longer. That when he was ready to identify the priest, I would be willing to speak with him again (Mr. [REDACTED]). I again asked Mr. [REDACTED] what did he want from this. He asked if I or the Diocese could assist him financially with some motel money; I feel that he was willing to speak if he was to be paid some type of cash payment. I said that we did not offer monetary help of this type. I did recommend that he visit Catholic Charities for financial and possibly some counseling help. He said he would give it some thought. Once again, I apologized to Mr. [REDACTED] for what he was feeling. Throughout the interview, he seemed very confused and in a doped-up state (almost as if he were on some type of drug or foreign substance). His mood seemed to alternate and at time I was fearful of being in the room alone with him. I offered him my prayers. He then left the Pastoral Center. I again said I was willing to speak with him again whenever he wanted to get more specific about the allegations.

After the interview, I phoned Mr. [REDACTED] and asked if he knew of a "[REDACTED]" [REDACTED] said the name was not familiar. I explained the interview I had with Mr. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] agreed that without a specific name of the priest, we could not really pursue the case. I also informed Father [REDACTED] of the situation to keep him up to date.



- worked with Owens
KC

Had a
rent
group



did - chow from

If you do not want a scandal that makes the [redacted] situation look quiet look into Peter Covis, his friend [redacted] and a record studio called R & R that has a bedroom on the working premises. The local honcho is one of yours too, [redacted]

2-7-94.

Informed Fr. Covas.
He doesn't know about
this information.
He questioned whether
[redacted] (St. Christopher's) may
have sent it.

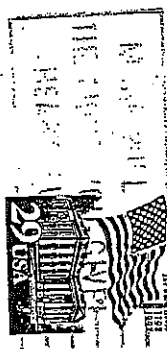
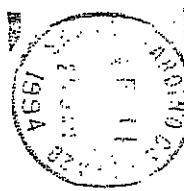
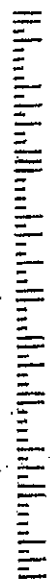
Moyn [redacted]
Should we
send this
on to Covas

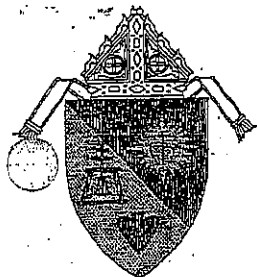
RECEIVED
JAN 23 1994

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO
BISHOP'S OFFICE

Bishop [REDACTED]
Diocese of San Bernardino
1450 North D St.
San Bernardino, Ca. 92405

0000





Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL

March 18, 2003

CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend Peter Covas
6970 Center Avenue
Alta Loma CA 91701

RE: David T. and Troy T. v. Diocese of San Bernardino, et al.
San Bernardino Superior Court Case Number SCV 49270

Dear Father Covas,

I am writing with regards to a very sensitive matter that affects you as a priest who has served here in the Diocese of San Bernardino. On January 28, 2003, the Honorable Judge Bob N. Krug issued an Order ("Order") requiring the Diocese of San Bernardino ("Diocese") to respond to certain questions and produce files for "in-camera" review by Referee Judge Kenneth Ziebarth. The Order was made and to be complied with prior to March 10, 2003.

An in-camera inspection simply means that Judge Ziebarth (a retired judge from San Bernardino County) will be reviewing the files to determine whether they must be produced to the plaintiffs.

The Order provides, among other things, that the Diocese produce files which reflect inappropriate contact between minors and priests that allegedly may have occurred or been reported from the period 1960 through 1988.

The Diocese has agreed to turn over the files through the 1988 date. The files will include dates of alleged acts of misconduct, the sources of information and the maintenance of files regarding alleged accusations of misconduct. It is incumbent upon me to inform you that materials from your priest file are among those materials which will be turned over by the Diocese in complying with this Order by Judge Krug.

Judge Ziebarth will review the files and make his report to Judge Krug regarding whether or not those files are discoverable, which means whether they should be turned over to plaintiff's counsel.

Covas - TC018

Reverend Peter Covas
March 18, 2003
Page 2

Bishop Barnes understands your expectation of privacy of your personnel file. The Constitution does provide you with certain protections which you have the right to exercise.

In this instance, the court has compelled discovery and the Diocese believes that it must not contest that decision. We are attempting to avoid all unnecessary legal entanglements.

Privacy law continues to change on a regular basis and the Diocese intends to exercise its statutory responsibilities regarding the confidentiality of your file. The Diocese will also conform to orders made by the court.

The Diocese will not be exercising any right you may personally hold. The Diocese will make the appropriate review and take procedural steps to protect files that are irrelevant to the civil litigation which is the subject matter of the Order.

If you wish to challenge the admissibility of your files as evidence in court, you should take immediate steps to do so.

If you are going to exercise any objection to the files either being reviewed by Judge Ziebarth or ultimately any that may be turned over to Judge Krug for review, you should do so forthwith and without delay.



The case number is referenced above. The litigation is in the San Bernardino Superior Court, Central Division before the Honorable Judge Krug in Department S16.

If you need any further information regarding the foregoing, please contact me or our diocesan attorney, Wilfrid C. Lemann at 909-889-3691.

May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministry. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely in Our Lord


Very Reverend Monsignor 
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend 
Mr. 

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Rev. Peter Covas
 6970 Center Avenue
 Alta Loma CA 91701

A. Signature Agent
Rev. Peter Covas Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) Agent
 C. Delivery No

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes
 If YES, enter delivery address below: No

3. Service Type

Certified Mail Express Mail

Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise

Insured Mail C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes

2. Article Number 7001 2510 0006 5350 1736
 (Transfer from service received)

PS Form 3811, August 2001 Domestic Return Receipt 102595-02-M-1540

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

INDUSTRY CA 92404
PM
2003

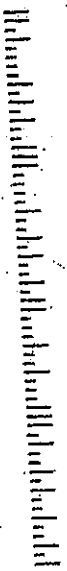
• Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4 in this box.

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Diocese of San Bernardino
1201 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino CA 92404

First-Class Mail
Postage & Fees Paid
USPS
Permit No. G-10

RECEIVED
MAR 29 2003

03





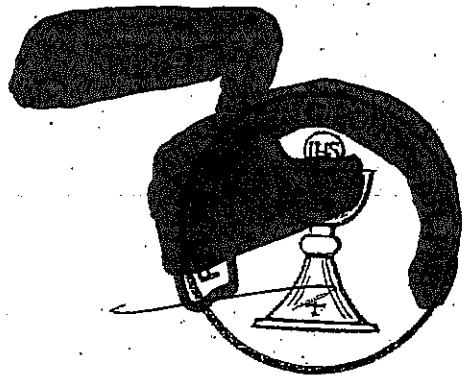
Sacred Heart Catholic Church

12704 FOOTHILL BLVD. • RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CALIFORNIA 91739-9764
PHONE (909) 899-1049

OT-24-2002

Dear [REDACTED]

In cleaning out some old files I
came across the following: Fr. Covas'
receipt of transcript & the undelivered
& still sealed copy for Mr. [REDACTED].
Should be in your files!



Diocesan Review Board

Receipt of Transcript

I, Rev. Peter Covas

acknowledge that I have received a copy of the minutes/transcript of the meeting held:

Date of meeting Feb. 14, 2001

Place of interview Chancery office

Purpose of interview Mr. [REDACTED] request of Bishop [REDACTED]

Name(s) of interviewers Rev. [REDACTED] / Ms. [REDACTED]

Name(s) of other present _____

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

Date May 3, 2001



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

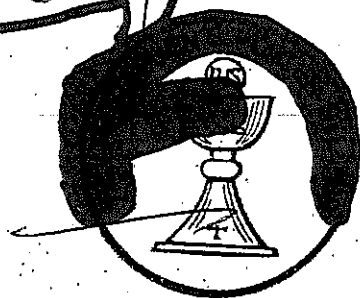
12704 FOOTHILL BLVD. • RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CALIFORNIA 91739-9764
PHONE (909) 899-1049

05-24-2002

Dear [REDACTED],

In cleaning out some old files I
came across the following: Fr. Covas'
receipt of transcript & the undelivered
& still sealed copy for MR. [REDACTED].
Should be in your files!

Sincerely,



Diocesan Review Board

Receipt of Transcript

I, Rev. Peter Covas

acknowledge that I have received a copy of the minutes/transcript of the meeting held:

Date of meeting Feb. 14, 2001

Place of interview Chancery office

Purpose of interview Mr. [REDACTED] request of Bishop [REDACTED]

Name(s) of interviewers Rev. [REDACTED] / Ms. [REDACTED]

Name(s) of other present _____

Signature [Signature]

Date May 3, 2001

If you do not want a scandal that makes the [REDACTED] situation look quiet look into Peter Covis , his friend [REDACTED] and a record studio called R & R that has a bedroom on the working premises. The local honcho is one of yours too, [REDACTED].

2-7-94.

Informed Fr. Covas.
He doesn't know about
misinformation.
He questioned whether
[REDACTED] (St. Christopher's) may
have sent it.

RECEIVED
JAN 20 1994

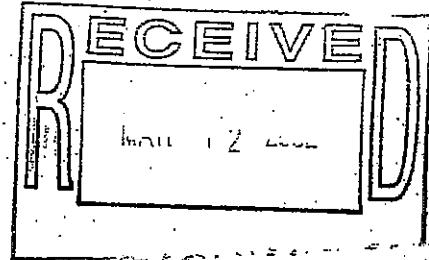
DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO
BISHOP'S OFFICE

To whom it may concern

I [redacted] am stating as once before
that Fr. Peter Covas and I have had only
a friendship and nothing more, so in the
future I would appreciate if any one who
would like to question this matter refer to my
attorney.

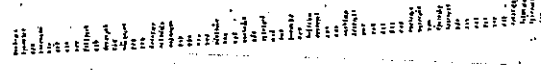
Thank you

[redacted]



Fr. [redacted]
1201 E. Highland Ave.
San Bernardino, CA. 92404 - 4603

Confidential

32404/4603 

[REDACTED]

To Mr. [REDACTED]

May 8 2001

I am writing you this letter to apologize to you the Diocese of San Bernardino and most of all to Fr. Covas for any sort of trouble or problems that I may of caused him or your staff. I never ment any harm to anyone especially Fr. Covas.

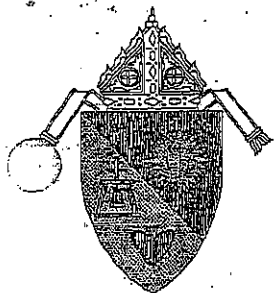
Fr. Covas and I have always been just friends as I had said once before to one [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It is they especially [REDACTED] that keep on insinuating that there was more than what's been said. Fr. Covas has always been a very dear friend of my family as well as to myself, There has never been any kind of foul play nor any sort of molesting gone on ever between Fr. Covas and I.

So I apologize for any inconvenience that I may have caused to your staff and most of all to Fr. Covas,

If you could please see to it that this letter gets to the proper personnel as well as to Fr. Covas in letting him know how sorry I am for any trouble I may of caused him. If you have any questions in regards to this letter feel free to give me a call at my phone number above.

Thank You
[REDACTED]

MAY 10 2001



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent written communications to me, the latest of which was from May 8, 2001.

I am writing you to inform you that the case which you raised to our attention is now to be considered closed and resolved. This is in accord with your own written communications of March 30, 2001 and May 8, 2001.

I thank you for your cooperation and assistance in studying and resolving this case. I am glad that you have found the conclusion of this case to be satisfactory. May the Lord bless you very much.

Sincerely in Our Lord Jesus

Rev. [REDACTED]

Reverend [REDACTED]

Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]

Very Rev. [REDACTED]

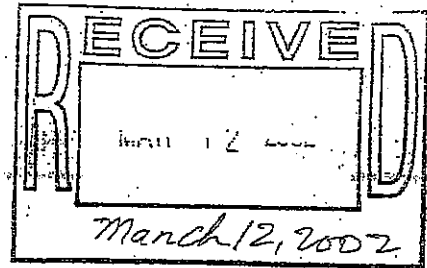
Covas - TC029

to whom it may concern

I [redacted] am stating as once before
that Fr. Peter Covas and I have had only
a friendship and nothing more, so in the
future I would appreciate if any one who
would like to question this matter refer to my
attorney.

Thank you


[redacted]



[redacted]

To Whom all May Concern

3/30/01

Attn: 

As stated before in a letter for Peter Covas, Our relationship is and has always been strictly friends no sexual acts have ever been performed between the two of us, so if you would please quit bothering me with this matter,

Thank you



Confidential

Fr. [REDACTED]
1201 E. Highland Ave.
San Bernardino, CA. 92404 - 4603

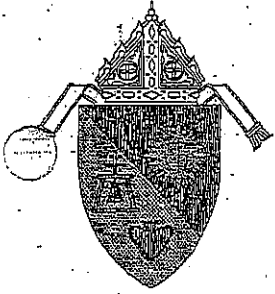
SAN BERNARDINO CA 92404
PM
0 MAR
2002



en
tating so once before
and I have had only
sting more, so in the
recite if any one who
this matter refer to me

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
MAY 12 2002



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your recent written communications to me, the latest of which was from May 8, 2001.

I am writing you to inform you that the case which you raised to our attention is now to be considered closed and resolved. This is in accord with your own written communications of March 30, 2001 and May 8, 2001.

I thank you for your cooperation and assistance in studying and resolving this case. I am glad that you have found the conclusion of this case to be satisfactory. May the Lord bless you very much.

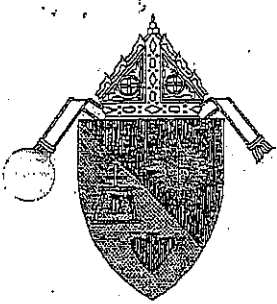
Sincerely in Our Lord Jesus.

Rev. [REDACTED]

Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]

Covas - TC033



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

[REDACTED]
St. Matthew Parish
2140 W. Ontario Avenue
Corona, CA 92882

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am writing to thank you for your tremendous support and assistance in researching the case brought forward by Mr. [REDACTED]. I have enclosed a copy of my letter to Mr. [REDACTED] for your files.

I appreciate the time and energy that you and Father [REDACTED] dedicated toward helping Mr. [REDACTED] in the resolution of this case. In particular, thank you for the patience and pastoral outreach that you provided to Mr. [REDACTED].

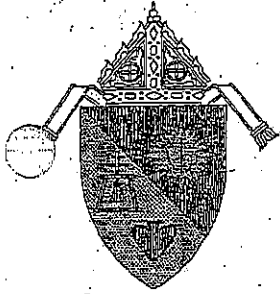
Once again, thank you very much for your help in concluding this matter. May the Lord bless you kindly during these summer months.

Sincerely in Our Lord

Jn.

[REDACTED]
Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

Covas - TC034



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Sacred Heart Parish
12704 Foothill Blvd.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

Dear Father Steve:

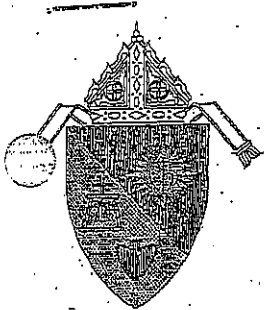
I am writing to thank you for your tremendous support and assistance in researching the case brought forward by Mr. [REDACTED]. I have enclosed a copy of my letter to Mr. [REDACTED] for your files.

I appreciate the time and energy that you and [REDACTED] dedicated toward helping Mr. [REDACTED] in the resolution of this case. In particular, thank you for the patience and pastoral outreach that you provided to Mr. [REDACTED].

Once again, thank you very much for your help in concluding this matter. May the Lord bless you kindly during these summer months.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

[REDACTED]
Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent written communications to me, the latest of which was from May 8, 2001.

I am writing you to inform you that the case which you raised to our attention is now to be considered closed and resolved. This is in accord with your own written communications of March 30, 2001 and May 8, 2001.

I thank you for your cooperation and assistance in studying and resolving this case. I am glad that you have found the conclusion of this case to be satisfactory. May the Lord bless you very much.

Sincerely in Our Lord Jesus,

Rev. [REDACTED]

Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To Mr. [REDACTED]

May 6 2001

I am writing you this letter to apologize to you the Diocese of San Bernardino and most of all to Fr. Covas for any sort of trouble or problems that I may or caused him or your staff. I never meant any harm to anyone especially Fr. Covas.

Fr. Covas and I have always been just friends as I had said once before to one [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It is they especially Mr. [REDACTED] that keep on insinuating that there was more than what's been said. Fr. Covas has always been a very close friend of my family as well as to myself. There has never been any kind of foul play nor any sort of molesting gone on ever between Fr. Covas and I.

So I apologize for any inconvenience that I may have caused to your staff and most of all to Fr. Covas,

If you could please see to it that this letter gets to the proper personnel as well as to Fr. Covas in letting him know how sorry I am for any trouble I may or caused him. If you have any questions in regards to this letter feel free to give me a call at my phone number above.

Thank You

[REDACTED]

MAY 10 2001

To Whom it May Concern
Attn: [REDACTED]

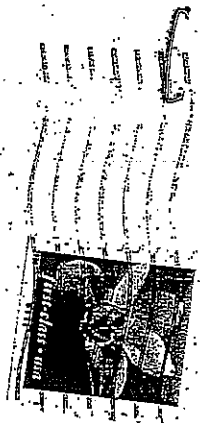
3/30/01

As stated before in a letter for
Peter Covas, Our relationship is and
has always been strictly friends
no sexual acts have ever been performed
between the two of us, so if you
would please quit bothering me
with this matter,

Thank you
[REDACTED]

4-3-01

Pr. [redacted]
Please note that
"Confidential"



FR. [redacted]
1201 E. HIGHLAND AVE.
SAN BERNARDINO, CA. 92404

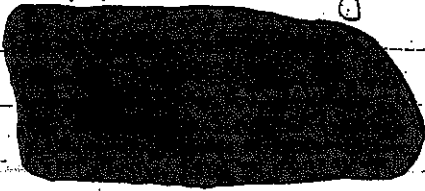
APR 0 9 2001

PRIVATE

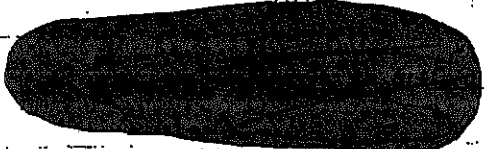
92404/4603 [redacted]

To Whom all May Concern

3/30/01

Attn: 

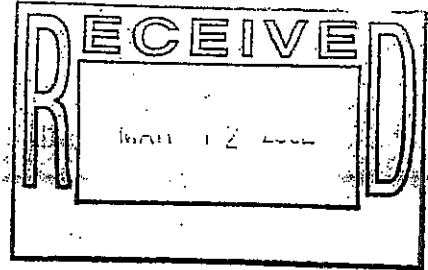
As stated before in a letter for Peter Covas. Our relationship is and has always been strictly friends no sexual acts have ever been performed between the two of us, so if you would please quit bothering me with this matter,

Thank you


To whom it may concern

I am stating as once before that Fr. Peter Covas and I have had only a friendship and nothing more, so in the future I would appreciate if any one who would like to question this matter refer to my attorney.

Thank you



Ft. [REDACTED]

1201 E. Highland Ave.

San Bernardino, CA. 92404 - 4603



Confidential

92404/4603 [Barcode]

[REDACTED]

To Mr. [REDACTED]

May 8 2001

I am writing you this letter to apologize to you the Diocese of San Bernardino and most of all to Fr. Covas for any sort of trouble or problems that I may of caused him or your staff. I never ment any harm to anyone especially Fr. Covas.

Fr. Covas and I have always been just friends as I had said once before to one [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It is they especially Mr. [REDACTED] that keep on insinuating that there was more than what's been said. Fr. Covas has always been a very dear friend of my family as well as to myself, There has never been any kind of foul play nor any sort of molesting gone on ever between Fr. Covas and I.

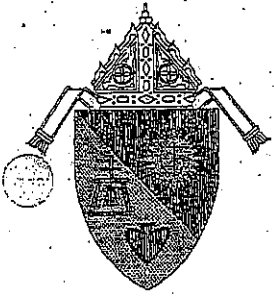
So I apologize for any inconvenience that I may have caused to your staff and most of all to Fr. Covas,

If you could please see to it that this letter gets to the proper personnel as well as to Fr. Covas in letting him know how sorry I am for any trouble I may of caused him. If you have any questions in regards to this letter feel free to give me a call at my phone number above.

Thank You

[REDACTED]

MAY 10 2001



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent written communications to me, the latest of which was from May 8, 2001.

I am writing you to inform you that the case which you raised to our attention is now to be considered closed and resolved. This is in accord with your own written communications of March 30, 2001 and May 8, 2001.

I thank you for your cooperation and assistance in studying and resolving this case. I am glad that you have found the conclusion of this case to be satisfactory. May the Lord bless you very much.

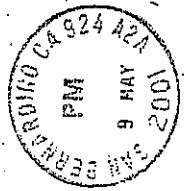
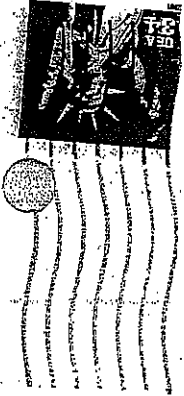
Sincerely in Our Lord Jesus,

Rev. [REDACTED]

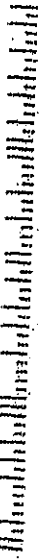
Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]

Covas - TC044




Parcel of Dan Bernardino
 c/o [REDACTED]
 1201 E. Highland Ave
 San Bernardino Ca 92401

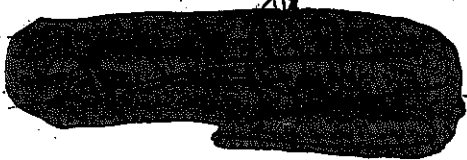
92408/4541 

To Whom it May Concern

3/30/01

Attn: 

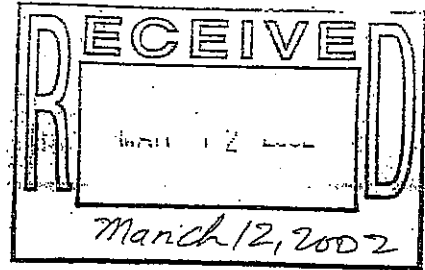
As stated before in a letter for Peter Covas. Our relationship is and has always been strictly friends no sexual acts have ever been performed between the two of us, so if you would please quit bothering me with this matter,

Thank you


to whom it may concern

I [redacted] am stating as once before that Fr. Peter Covas and I have had only a friendship and nothing more, so in the future I would appreciate if any one who would like to question this matter refer to my attorney.

Thank you
[redacted]



Confidential

Fr. [REDACTED]
1201 E. Highland Ave.
San Bernardino, CA. 92404 - 4603

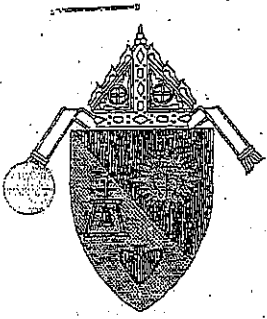
SAN BERNARDINO CA 924
PM
9 MAR
2002



en
taking as once before
and I have had only
thing more, so in the
recite if any one who
this matter refer to my

not [REDACTED]

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2002



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your recent written communications to me, the latest of which was from May 8, 2001.

I am writing you to inform you that the case which you raised to our attention is now to be considered closed and resolved. This is in accord with your own written communications of March 30, 2001 and May 8, 2001.

I thank you for your cooperation and assistance in studying and resolving this case. I am glad that you have found the conclusion of this case to be satisfactory. May the Lord bless you very much.

~~Sincerely in Our Lord Jesus.~~

Rev. [REDACTED]

Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]

Covas - TC049

To Mr. [REDACTED]

May 8 2001

I am writing you this letter to apologize to you the Diocese of San Bernardino and most of all to Fr. Covas for any sort of trouble or problems that I may of caused him or your staff. I never ment any harm to anyone especially Fr. Covas.

Fr. Covas and I have always been just friends as I had said once before to one [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It is they especially Mr. [REDACTED] that keep on insinuating that there was more than what's been said. Fr. Covas has always been a very dear friend of my family as well as to myself. There has never been any kind of foul play nor any sort of molesting gone on ever between Fr. Covas and I.

So I apologize for any inconvenience that I may have caused to your staff and most of all to Fr. Covas,

If you could please see to it that this letter gets to the proper personnel as well as to Fr. Covas in letting him know how sorry I am for any trouble I may of caused him. If you have any questions in regards to this letter feel free to give me a call at my phone number above.

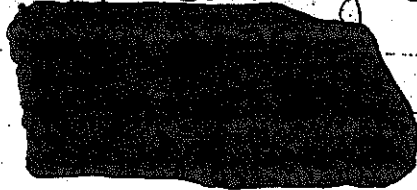
Thank You
[REDACTED]

MAY 9 2001

Covas - TC050

To Whom all May Concern

3/30/01

Attn: 

As I stated before in a letter for Peter Covas, Our relationship is and has always been strictly friends. No sexual acts have ever been performed between the two of us, so if you would please quit bothering me with this matter,

Thank you



To Whom all may Concern
Attn: [REDACTED]

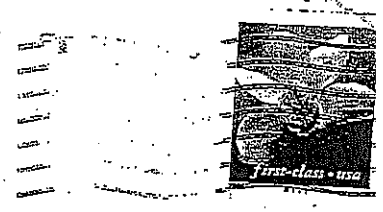
3/30/01

As stated before in a letter for Peter Covas, Our relationship is and has always been strictly friends no sexual acts have ever been performed between the two of us, so if you would please quit bothering me with this matter,

Thank you

[REDACTED]

4-3-01
Fr. [REDACTED]
Please notice that it was not marked "Confidential"



FR. [REDACTED]
1201 E. HIGHLAND AVE.
SAN BERNARDINO, CA. 92404

PRIVATE

APR 0 3 2001

Covas - TC052

CONFIDENTIAL

REGISTERED LETTER

[REDACTED]

March 27, 2001

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and I have been trying to contact you but it seems as if the phone number you gave us, [REDACTED] is no longer in service.

Will you please contact us as soon as possible as we have some clarifications we wish to make to the statement you gave us.

You may call me at [REDACTED], ext [REDACTED] (day time) or ext [REDACTED] (evening).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely in Christ,

COPY

Very Rev [REDACTED]

cc. [REDACTED]

Rev [REDACTED]

2-17-01

To whom it may concern

I [redacted] for relief
of any questions of my own
personally contact w/ Peter Bay
of any sort such as immorality
sexuality, or any bad of
any sort, my relationship w/
Peter Bay is strictly a none
friends ship, always has been
for a number of years -

[redacted]

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO

Permission to Record

I, Phillip Ortiz

Address: [REDACTED]

City, State & Zip: [REDACTED]

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

grant permission to record this conversation, taking place at the
Diocesan Pastoral Center on 02-14-2001

I understand that I shall receive a copy of the transcript, and be
able to comment on that copy.

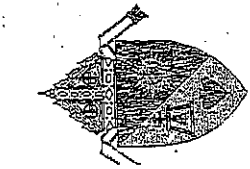
Signed: [REDACTED]

Witness: [REDACTED]

Witness: [REDACTED]

Witness: _____

Place & Date: San Bernardino 02-14-2001



Diocese of San Bernardino
MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL
1201 East Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92404

Tape - Peter Covas



Interview:

PH: [REDACTED]

909 832 1627 or 909 584 7150

Bishop

I would very much like to speak w/you personally in person, MATTER CONCERNING A PRIEST AND A YOUNG BOY who was molested by this priest. Also if you could please handle this matter yourself and do not direct me to Fr. [REDACTED]. I would appreciate this very much. Please call ASAP.

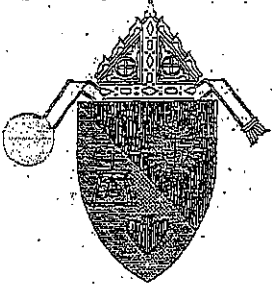
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

re:

Mr.

Confidential



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your recent written communications to me, the latest of which was from May 8, 2001.

I am writing you to inform you that the case which you raised to our attention is now to be considered closed and resolved. This is in accord with your own written communications of March 30, 2001 and May 8, 2001.

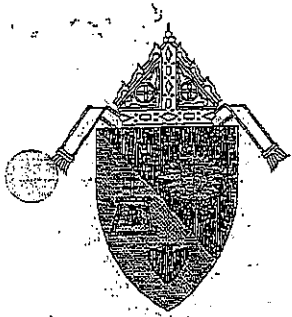
I thank you for your cooperation and assistance in studying and resolving this case. I am glad that you have found the conclusion of this case to be satisfactory. May the Lord bless you very much.

Sincerely in Our Lord Jesus,

Rev. [REDACTED]

Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Very Rev. [REDACTED]



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001.

[REDACTED]
St. Matthew Parish
2140 W. Ontario Avenue
Corona, CA 92882

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am writing to thank you for your tremendous support and assistance in researching the case brought forward by Mr. [REDACTED]. I have enclosed a copy of my letter to Mr. [REDACTED] for your files.

I appreciate the time and energy that you and Father [REDACTED] dedicated toward helping Mr. [REDACTED] in the resolution of this case. In particular, thank you for the patience and pastoral outreach that you provided to Mr. [REDACTED].

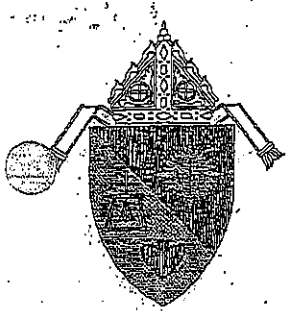
Once again, thank you very much for your help in concluding this matter. May the Lord bless you kindly during these summer months.

Sincerely in Our Lord

Jn.

[REDACTED]
Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

Covas - TC059



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

July 25, 2001

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Sacred Heart Parish
12704 Foothill Blvd.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I am writing to thank you for your tremendous support and assistance in researching the case brought forward by Mr. [REDACTED]. I have enclosed a copy of my letter to Mr. [REDACTED] for your files.

I appreciate the time and energy that you and [REDACTED] dedicated toward helping Mr. [REDACTED] in the resolution of this case. In particular, thank you for the patience and pastoral outreach that you provided to Mr. [REDACTED].

Once again, thank you very much for your help in concluding this matter. May the Lord bless you kindly during these summer months.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

[REDACTED]
Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

Covas - TC060

Handwritten and unsigned letter furnished by Mr. [REDACTED]

Written around December 2000.

d.s.b. 3-12

IT MUST OF BEEN AROUND 1975-1976, I WAS 12 OR 13 YRS OLD AND I WAS INTRODUCED TO ONE PARTICULAR PRIEST THROUGH A MUTUAL FRIEND AT THE TIME IT WAS A EMPLOYER OF MINE THAT HAD INTRODUCED ME TO ONE CERTAIN PRIEST (NAME WILL BE UN MENTIONED) FOR NOW ANY WAY THK PRIEST HAD INVITED ME OVER TO THE CHURCH WHERE HE HAD LIVED AND AT THAT TIME IN MY LIFE I COULD OF BEEN CONVINCED OF JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ESPECIALLY COMING FROM A PRIEST, SO HE AT THAT TIME LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT IF I HAD SEX WITH HIM OR JUST LET HIM FONDEL ME, THAT HE WOULD NOT ONLY GIVE ME MONEY BUT THAT HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF ME IN RETURN IF I EVER NEEDED ANY THING, SUCH AS MONEY, CLOTHES, FOOD, THAT I WAS DEFINTELY SERVING MY GOD AND MY GOD WOULD NEVER LET ME DOWN, AND THIS WENT ON FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND NOT JUST ONCE IN AWHILE BUT ON A REGULAR BASES. AND I FELT SO LONG AS I WAS SERVING MY GOD THAT I WAS BEING A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST, I BEGAN TO DRAW AWAY FROM CHURCH COMPLETELY, I WOULD EVEN GO OVER TO HIS PART OF THE CHURCH THAT HE LIVED IN AND GO FOR CONFESSION AND HE WOULD LISTEN TO ME CONFESS ABOUT HOW BAD I FELT FOR ALLOWING SUCH ~~MASADE~~ AND ~~PROF~~ PROFOUND ACT, TO BE INVOLVED IN, BUT AGAIN HE WOULD COMFORT ME AND LET ME KNOW, WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS GOING TO BE ~~BE~~ ALRIGHT, CAUSE IF I WANTED TO GET TO HEAVEN THIS WAS THE WAY

FOR SURE, EVEN IF I FELT UNCOMFORTABLE, THAT IS HOW ALL SOLDIERS IN CHRIST BECOME GENERALS PER SAY, HE TOLD ME THAT WAS HOW HE GOT INTO THE PRIEST HOOD, THAT HE WAS INTRODUCED BY ANOTHER PRIEST HIMSELF AND I BELIEVED HIM, HE BECAME VERY CLOSE WITH MY FAMILY, SO CLOSE THAT MY MOTHER WOULD ALLOW ME TO GO FOR THE WEEKEND WITH THIS PRIEST FOR WHATEVER REASON, HE GAVE MY MOTHER TRUSTED HIM THAT WE WERE GOING TO SOME KIND OF BIBLE RETREAT, OUT OF TOWN, AND THERE WERE GOING TO BE OTHER KIDS MY AGE, THERE IS ONE, AND THERE NEVER WAS I WOULD BE HIM AND ONE OR TWO MORE PRIEST THERE AND MYSELF, AND THEY WOULD BUY ME ANYTHING I WANTED, AND THEY ALL THREE WOULD TAKE TURNS AND DOING WHAT THEY WANTED WITH ME, OR HAVE ME DO SOME VERY NASTY THINGS TO THEM, THEY WOULD GIVE ME ALCOHOL TO DRINK AND I WOULD GET DRUNK AND A LOT OF TIMES JUST PASS OUT, AND WHEN I WOULD AWAKE I WOULD BE COMPLETELY NAKED AND ~~BE~~ ALONE IN THE BEDROOM, AND I KNEW THEY HAD GOT WHAT THEY WANTED CAUSE I WOULD BE IN A LOT OF PAIN AND I WOULD EVEN CRY CAUSE I FELT SO DIRTY AND NASTY, I WOULD GO TO SCHOOL AND GO TO GYM CLASS, AND I WOULDN'T EVEN GET DRESSED IN FRONT OF OTHERS CAUSE I KNEW THEY COULD TELL WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME, I JUST KNEW THAT THEY KNEW THAT THE NIGHT BEFORE I WAS SEDUCED BY THREE MEN, I EVEN DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL IN MY 9th grade year

CAUSE I COULDN'T HANDLE THE PRESSURE OF EVERYONE OR EVEN ANYONE KNOWING WHAT I WOULD DO TO SERVE GOD, AT ONE TIME I EVEN WANTED TO KILL MYSELF AND I KNEW THAT WAS NOT THE ANSWER, BECAUSE BY KILLING MYSELF WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST SINS ONE COULD DO, AND I WOULDN'T GET TO HEAVEN THAT WAY, OR I KNEW THAT MY GOD WOULD NOT APPROVE, OF THAT EVEN IF I FELT LIKE I WAS ALREADY ~~BE~~ KILLING MYSELF, BUT HE FORGAVE ME OF MY SINS, AND SO LONG AS I WOULD CONTINUE GOING TO MY CONFESSION, I WAS CLEANSED. OF ALL WRONG DOING I HAVE DONE OR ANY WRONG DOING THAT WAS DONE TO ME, SO AFTER DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL OR EVEN DURING SCHOOL I BEGAN TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRUGS ~~SOME~~ SMOKE POT, TAKE UPPERS & DOWNERS I DIDN'T CARE SO LONG AS I DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK OF WHAT I WAS GOING THRU IN MY LIFE, AT THAT TIME, I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP A STEADY GIRLFRIEND CAUSE I DIDN'T THINK THAT ~~THAT~~ WAS WHAT GOD WANTED ME TO DO, I REMEMBER SOME HOW ALWAYS BEING AROUND OLDER MEN, FOR WHATEVER REASON IT MAY BE, I WAS ALWAYS ATTENDING SOME KIND OF GATHERING OR PARTY WITHIN THE PASTORAL CIRCLE, AND AT THE TIME THE ATTENTION FELT GOOD, WHEN I WAS AMONG THOSE TYPE OF PEOPLE THE I WAS SOMEBODY TOO, BUT WHEN I WASN'T AND I WAS HOME, I WOULD DRAW MYSELF FROM MY FRIENDS & FAMILY I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO STAY IN MY BEDROOM

alone at night, my mom would ask me what was troubling me, cause I even wet my bed ~~at~~ up until my teenage years, and, I would say nothing ~~is~~ troubling me, but really I knew my life was not the way your average teenage boys life was, I even spoke with a mental health counselor and they could never pin point any certain problems, cause I would never tell any one what I really had been through, in my life, and I would stop going, to see them and, eventually just put it in the back of my mind and, go on living like, or what I though was life, I have had a personal relationship up until the present, with this one priest, he would loan me money and sometimes I wouldn't pay it back but that was alright he has always helped me anytime he was able to, except for one time about a year ago, when I thought I would kill myself my life was unbearable and I just wanted out of life, and it was then when I felt that this priest was ~~is~~ not really my friend and didn't care for me or what happened to me or my family anymore, and then I was so angry I had spoke with fr. [redacted] and he couldn't let me speak with you personally I think you had just had surgery and was recovering and a few days went by and when I

I really was angry at the time and I really didn't want to get anyone in trouble at the time cause I really cared for this press, but even more time has gone by and I gave it even more thought and I have decided what really has happened in my life was wrong very wrong, and I feel that something needs to be done about this and that if nothing else you should be aware of what really has gone ~~on~~ on in my life cause the first referee to you more importantly ~~show~~ the President of the United States, and that is why I insisted on speaking with you, even for [REDACTED] when I spoke within left me feeling like I ~~is~~ maybe the one in the wrong at the time ~~or~~ or even for putting myself in that ~~position~~ position he didn't say he didn't believe me but I felt ~~so~~ if didn't, and once the names of all involved are mentioned you might believe me your self - So please excuse my message story of my life and experiences with ~~of~~ God.

To Whom it May Concern
Attn: [REDACTED]

3/30/01

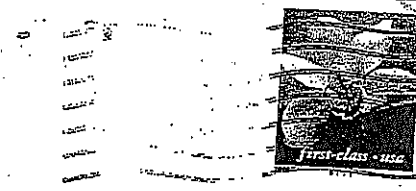
As stated before in a letter for
Peter Covas. Our relationship is and
has always been strictly friends
no sexual acts have ever been performed
between the two of us, so if you
would please quit bothering me
with this matter,

Thank you
[REDACTED]

4-3-01

Fr. [REDACTED]

Please notice that
it was not marked
"Confidential"



FR. [REDACTED]

1201 E. HIGHLAND AVE.
SAN BERNARDINO, CA. 92404

PRIVATE

APR 9 2001

Covas - TC067

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of meeting between Mr. [REDACTED], Ms. [REDACTED] and Rev. [REDACTED]
Held at Diocesan Pastoral Center, San Bernardino. Mr. [REDACTED] speaks quietly at times and
the recording is not always clear, but the substance of the conversation is minuted in
these notes.

February 14, 2001

[REDACTED] We are going to give Mr. [REDACTED] a copy of the Diocesan Policy on the way
the Diocese deals with issues of sexual misconduct in the church, and in
particular the page that we refer to is page three. Section two which says
*Situations in which clergy are accused by another or others of sexual
abuse* and you have made an allegation against this priest and this is what
we are going to do. It starts off by explaining that the Diocese does not
investigate anonymous allegations, and that is why when you first met
with Fr. [REDACTED] I believe that was back in July.....

[REDACTED] Is that Fr. [REDACTED]?

[REDACTED] Fr. [REDACTED] that is correct. He expressed to you that he is very sorry about
the situation that happened, but that at that stage if he couldn't have the
name of the priest he couldn't deal with it. All complaints must be made
in written form and will be treated respectfully, and that's what we want to
do with you. Permission will be sought by the Bishop's delegate, that's
us, to present them to the priest or deacon in question. So we'll take a
statement from you, if you are willing to give us a statement. And we
would ask your permission to present that statement to the priest in
question. If you refuse to give permission for us to present that statement
then of course we cannot do so, but we still have to go and speak with him
and explain to him what the situation is. Is that OK, do you understand
that?

[REDACTED] Yes.

[REDACTED] And you will also be informed that the person making the complaint will
be told what action the Diocese will take. So you will be kept fully
informed, and that is why we need your address and phone number.
That's what I was told was going to happen. It's not going to happen.
It will happen from now on. You will be kept fully informed of
everything that takes place in this case.

[REDACTED] After the fact, or before the fact?

[REDACTED] Sometimes after the fact; you will be told so that you know what action
the diocese will take afterwards. So we have invited you here: the
Bishop's delegate will meet with the party making the complaint, that's
you, and after meeting with you, with your permission we shall take your
statement to the priest concerned. If you don't give us permission at that
stage we shall still go see him...

[REDACTED] Exactly, so it doesn't matter whether I give permission or not.

[REDACTED] Well, it means he wouldn't have the details. Now there are three
possibilities that could happen after this. You see section A: when the
priest denies the allegations and he has credible evidence that he was not
involved in the allegation, which we don't know one way or the other until

CONFIDENTIAL

we talk to him. The second one on page 4 is when he denies it but it appears that the statement made by the person making the complaint is substantial and is correct. What we are saying is that evidence presented to us is stronger than the denial of the priest.

Meaning that you believe me over the priest?

Correct. And the third one, see on page 5, is when the priest says — OK that's true I did that — admission of the truth of the allegations by the priest.

What happens here?

Well, what happens in the third case is that the priest would be suspended from his priestly ministry.

Permanently?

At least for a period of five years; the last paragraph on that page is that there is a condition of the diocesan liability insurance that a priest or deacon who has engaged in sexual abuse will not be covered by that liability insurance for at least five years from the time the incident is reported to the insurance company.

Is this a Catholic company?

I don't know which company we use to carry liability insurance, but we do have full liability insurance coverage.

So once I've done this, does this insurance company cover me? Is there anything coming to me?

Once there is an admission of liabilities there may or may not be some recompenses coming to you.

I understand.

If C were the case, and the priest has admitted liability, then the insurance company would make a decision as to whether they would make a payment to you or not in recompense for your suffering for what happened.

I noticed here in the first case, page 3...

Sure...

In cases where there are no other witnesses, no previous allegations of a similar nature... if I had other witnesses, which I know of, what should I do?

Well we would like to have their names and addresses so we can interview them in the same way as we are interviewing you. Later on in this interview, one of the questions we shall ask you is if there are any other witnesses, and would you be willing to give us their names and addresses so we may contact them.

How long does this investigation take place?

That depends on a number of issues, the seriousness of the allegations, what you have to say which we shall respect, and the response made by the priest himself. And then the bishop has a meeting with his committee, who will have received all this evidence which we shall collect, your statement and any other statements from others, then they will make a judgment, which they will present to the Bishop. Then he will take the

CONFIDENTIAL

action on the recommendations of the committee. That could take six to eight weeks. Are there any other questions you have? No, then would you like to start at the beginning, tell us the story, the statement you wish to make? It may be helpful at this stage that you mention the name of the priest, dates, the parishes that he was associated with at that time.

The priest is Fr Peter Covas.

Fr Peter Covas? And what year did the situation start taking place? I was 13 at the time.

You were 13, and that would be what year? 1974 or 1975.

12 yrs old

1974 or 75. Which parish was that in?

Our family knew him at Our Lady of Fatima.

Our Lady of Fatima? And that was where the alleged instances took place? In the rectory there? Or in your home?

No, not in my home. No that was where I first met him.

That was where you first met him, in that parish. So the first incident of a sexual abuse nature took place when you were about 13 or 14? Where did it take place?

That was at Holy Rosary.

Holy Rosary.

He was transferred to Holy Rosary after Our Lady of Fatima.

After Our Lady of Fatima? And it took place in the rectory there?

Is that his living quarters?

Yes, in the rectory, in the living quarters.

Yes.

Would you like to give us a very brief description of what took place - we are not asking for details - but was it an overt sexual advance? Was it fully sexual? Was it...

It was fully sexual. My family knew him at Our Lady of Fatima, and I was used to being there to help with all sorts of things, with jobs and ...

> 19 yrs old

You were 13 or 14?

Yes, and I would do jobs around the church. How I met him was through a mutual friend. I used to work at [redacted]. And it was [redacted].

Mr [redacted]

Yes, he and [redacted]. He used to work for the diocese...

At the previous Chancery Office on D Street?

Yes, that's where he worked.

Do you know what he did, was he a priest?

No, he wasn't a priest, he was in some office there.

So, Mr [redacted] he did have a job, apart from [redacted] at the diocese?

Yes.

So you worked for him [redacted]?

Yes.

CONFIDENTIAL

And he introduced you to Fr Covas?

Yes, and to some other priests.

Some other priests as well? Were these other priests also involved in sexual abuse?

Yes. One is dead now...

And the other one?

I don't know.

What was his name?

Fr [REDACTED], I don't remember his last name.

Was he also at Holy Rosary?

I don't think so.

So this started in 74/75 and carried on until when?

A number of years.

When was the last time that Fr Covas made any alleged sexual advances to you?

I was already over 21.

So this took place over 8 or 9 years? Quite obviously you were not comfortable with any of these encounters?

As a matter of fact I was comfortable with these..., because he led me to believe that I was doing my duty for God in this way. To this day I know Fr Covas personally, and I would like to say he is a good friend of mine.

But, I don't know, that's why I needed to talk to the bishop.

If Fr Covas abused you as a child, then what you're doing is right.

But, he wasn't supposed to be told nothing, without me knowing. I would have preferred it to bring it to his attention myself. I was shocked that he was told...

I do understand that, but I believe that the bishop personally spoke with him, I do not know the content of that conversation. Are there any other statements you would like to make? The statement you have made is a very serious one, and we do want you to know that we shall take it seriously. And because it is a question of an allegation of underage sexual molestation being made we will have to investigate it. Was there anybody else involved that you know of, any other young men...

There is one other that I know of.

Would you be prepared to give us his name and address?

I don't have his address.

Do you have his name?

[REDACTED] do you know his last name?

No.

Was he about the same age as you?

He was a year or two older.

A year or two older, and he was also at Holy Rosary?

Yes.

And he would have done similar things to you in terms of ...

He was with me. We were together in this thing...

CONFIDENTIAL

With Fr Covas, in a sexual situation, the three of you together?

Yes.

are there any other questions you'd like to ask, any observations? Were you a member of Holy Rosary at that time? Your family participate in the church there?

All of my family did, my cousins went to school there, and I was an active member of the church there.

Your initial meeting with Fr Covas was through that person who you worked for? That was the main contact with him?

Yes.

The priest that you mentioned who is deceased, was he sexually inappropriate with you, could you give us his name?

Fr I think. He went to the prison, I guess. Do you know who I am talking about?

No, I don't personally know whom you are talking about, but the church records will indicate who was assigned to the prison at that time. This is the early to mid 70s all the way through to the early 80s. Did all this take place at Holy Rosary? Was Fr Covas there the whole time?

Sometimes in the dessert.

The High Dessert, the Low Dessert?

The High Dessert.

And did this continue when he was up there? Did you continue to visit him there? Was there still abuse?

Maybe once. It didn't necessarily always happen at the church.

Sometimes we would go out. My family knows him, my family trusts him. He would come to our house or something.

This was on weekends?

A couple of times, yes. Over a 10 year period it happened, what I mean is that it didn't happen just one time.

A number of different times, different places.

Did you ever have the opportunity to try to tell someone that this was going on when you were younger?

There was always the opportunity to tell someone.

Did you ever talk to anyone about it? To get any help at all?

I was having problems with school, and I was stressing out at school...

Which school were you at?

Shandin Hills.

Shandin Hills Junior High?

Yes.

So this stopped in the mid 80s? You were about 21.

I would say yes.

And since then you've not had any of this inappropriate behavior with Fr Covas?

Inappropriate behavior meaning sexual behavior? I talk to him still. He's always been a good person as far as I am concerned.

CONFIDENTIAL

Now you first came to the diocese last June or July, what prompted you at that stage to bring these allegations forward?

I was angry at the diocese.

But you didn't give a name at that time. You spoke to Fr [REDACTED]?

I spoke to Fr [REDACTED]

And then you saw the bishop just before Christmas time? And you gave him a name. Was that anger still the same?

No.

So what was the purpose to come to see the bishop then?

Well, I feel that in order for me to get on with my life, to proceed forward, this is something that I need to do. But this is just something that I need to get out of my system. For 12 years of my life I have had ups and downs and problems with drugs, and I know that I need to deal with this. And that's what I am attempting to do.

And that's what we would like to help you to do.

[REDACTED] have you talked to a counselor or someone who has been able to help you?

No, I have talked to counselors before, but not about this.

This has never come up?

No, I said I was angry at the time I brought it to Fr [REDACTED]'s attention, and I don't know, I could understand his situation and not being able to help me then. But I thought he could do something, but by the same token the diocese is nothing like Fr Covas... it is very... I don't know. But I would think that someone coming forward to the diocese with some similar thing, the diocese would be more understanding, more caring for the person involved. I felt like I was wrong.

I am sorry. You don't feel like that now, I hope?

No, I don't., but I did when I first got in here today. I still have that doubt that somehow this is my fault.

No.

And I feel like sometimes I am treated that way. I don't understand that myself. I was treated that way by the father. I was led to believe that I was doing the work for God. I shouldn't have to feel that this is a penalty. Was that told to you by Fr Covas?

Yes, it was.

And that if you behave in an inappropriate way with him it would end? It wasn't presented to me as "in an inappropriate way".

No, he wouldn't say that then, but we know now that such behavior is inappropriate. So he said to you "if you do this with me, you will get to heaven"? Are those more or less the words he used?

Yes, more or less. That was the way I understood it.

Did you feel threatened in any way by father?

No, not really he was a really good person.

Do you go to church now, do you have a pastor?

No, I don't.

CONFIDENTIAL

One of the things we can help put your mind at ease is that the diocese, the bishop, all of us who are members of the church, people who are in the church ministering, are trusted people. We feel we can trust them, and we take it extremely seriously when someone makes an allegation, but we have to be fair to hear both sides. We are not making any judgments, but we are trying to do the just, right thing. So we want to give you the opportunity to share with us your experience and what your statement is and we will also do the same for the person against whom the allegations have been made. It is really meant to be... and I apologize if this feels very formal, in handing you pieces of paper and we have a tape recorder, but we have to follow a procedure that is fair to everyone and we want to do it correctly. So we are very sorry that any body comes forward who has suffered through this, but in justice we have to be sure we get all the details we can, and we carry it through a really fair process to everybody that's involved. But we certainly are sorry that you have been in jail, we don't want to intimidate you, but we do have to be very professional and say that we are delegated by the bishop to get the information statement. Normally the bishop doesn't take those kinds of statements; it's done by us as a kind of objective...

But I have given to the bishop my written statement of my allegations. I knew this was going to take place, I knew I would be asked questions, but I... there again, I feel there was something wrong with me. It takes me sometimes for ever to get to sleep. Even knowing what's involved now, what the circumstances are now, why did he shut me out?

I do believe that when he did meet you it was in the evening, and it was the same day that you called, you finally got through to him.

No, when I spoke with him, but it took me ten different tries to get to speak with him.

Right, but when you got to him, he gave you an appointment that very same day.

Because I insisted, he wasn't ... It was the first time that I was able to speak with him, so I insisted that I speak with him in person, and there again that's when the anger started up again. I don't know, but I feel like it's my fault, well, naturally I'm going to get angry.

The church's understanding, indeed the state's understanding, of sexual conduct between an adult and a child, and you were a child at the time this started, is that the child is never at fault.

I understand what you are saying.

So we don't want you to feel that.

Now I understand that today, and the bishop also apologized on behalf of his church, I don't know, he was understanding at the time, but I feel like I used to be able to trust the church. I used to trust God, believe in God.

I'm not saying that I don't anymore, I do, but just to a certain degree. I lost a lot of trust and a lot of faith. I am beginning to understand a lot of doubts that I have. Over the years I have looked at the face of the church, I've been hurt by the church, what I did was wrong.

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
You never felt that his alleged behavior was wrong? It is wrong, it was wrong, if it happened. You know that now.

I understand that today. But I need to get on with my life, I need to turn around, to continue on with my life. I have approximately three years of sobriety and I cannot be any good to anyone else if I cannot be honest with myself, to be able to sponsor a person, or I can't open up to my sponsor.

And that's what my sponsor has told me today, my sponsor has told me that whatever I do I need to get rid of it. I need to deal with this. Because I cannot speak to or talk to anyone else on a very fair or honest level.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The saying is that you're as sick as your deepest darkest secret. Have you heard that?

Yes.

But the point is, Phillip, this is not a secret anymore, because you've shared it, so therefore you are not sick. Now you've shared with us that you have three years of sobriety, I have 11 years of sobriety so I understand the AA program and what you are being asked to do by your sponsor, because I sponsor a lot of men too, and I have my own sponsor as well. So I understand that what you're doing today to help you to move on with your life.

[REDACTED]
So that's good.

Now is there anything else you want to tell us at all today?

Handwritten and unsigned letter furnished by Mr. [REDACTED]

Written around December 2000.

IT MUST OF BEEN AROUND 1975-1976, I WAS
12 OR 13 yrs old AND I WAS INTRODUCED TO
ONE PARTICULAR PRIEST THROUGH A MUTUAL FRIEND
AT THE TIME IT WAS A EMPLOYER OF MINE
THAT HAD INTRODUCED ME TO ONE CERTAIN
PRIEST (NAME WILL BE UN MENTIONED) FOR NOW
ANY WAY THK PRIEST HAD INVITED ME OVER
TO THE CHURCH WHERE HE HAD LIVED AND
AT THAT TIME IN MY LIFE I COULD OF BEEN
CONVINCED OF JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ESPECIALLY
COMING FROM A PRIEST, SO HE AT THAT TIME LED
ME TO BELIEVE THAT IF I HAD SEX WITH
HIM OR JUST LET HIM FONDEL ME, THAT HE
WOULD NOT ONLY GIVE ME MONEY BUT THAT HE
WOULD TAKE CARE OF ME IN RETURN IF I EVER
NEEDED ANY THING, SUCH AS MONEY, CLOTHES,
FOOD, THAT I WAS DEFINITELY SERVING MY GOD
AND MY GOD WOULD NEVER LET ME DOWN, AND
THIS WENT ON FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND
NOT JUST ONCE IN AWHILE BUT ON A REGULAR
BASES. AND I FELT SO LONG AS I WAS SERVING
MY GOD THAT I WAS BEING A GOOD SOLDIER OF
CHRIST, I BEGAN TO DRAW AWAY FROM CHURCH
COMPLETELY, I WOULD EVEN GO OVER TO HIS PART
OF THE CHURCH THAT HE LIVED IN AND GO
FOR CONFESION AND HE WOULD LISTEN TO ME
CONFESS ABOUT HOW BAD I FELT FOR ALLOWING
SUCH AN UNLAWFUL AND ~~PROFANE~~ PROFOUND ACT, TO
BE INVOLVED IN, BUT AGAIN HE WOULD COMFORT
ME AND LET ME KNOW, WHAT HE WAS DOING
WAS GOING TO BE ~~THE~~ ALRIGHT, CAUSE IF I

FOR SURE, EVEN IF I FELT UNCOMFORTABLE, THAT IS HOW ALL SOLDIERS IN CHRIST BECOME GENERALS. FRER SAY HE TOLD ME THAT WAS HOW HE GOT INTO THE PRIEST HOOD, THAT HE WAS INTRODUCED BY ANOTHER PRIEST HIMSELF AND I BELIEVED HIM, HE BECAME VERY CLOSE WITH MY FAMILY, SO CLOSE THAT MY MOTHER WOULD ALLOW ME TO GO FOR THE WEEKEND WITH THIS PRIEST FOR WHAT EVER REASON, HE GAVE MY MOTHER TRUSTED HIM THAT WE WERE GOING TO SOME KIND~~OF~~ OF BIBLE RETREAT, OUT OF TOWN, AND THERE WERE GOING TO BE OTHER KIDS MY AGE, THERE AS WELL AND THERE NEVER WAS I WOULD BE HIM AND ONE OR TWO MORE PRIEST THERE AND MYSELF, AND THEY WOULD BUY ME ANYTHING I WANTED; AND THEY ALL THREE WOULD TAKE TURNS AND DOING WHAT THEY WANTED WITH ME, OR HAVE ME DO SOME VERY NASTY THINGS TO THEM, THEY WOULD GIVE ME ALCOHOL TO DRINK AND I WOULD GET DRUNK AND ALOT OF TIMES JUST PASS OUT, ~~AND~~ AND WHEN I WOULD AWAKE I WOULD BE COMPLETELY NAKED AND ~~BE~~ ALONE IN THE BED ROOM, AND I KNEW THEY HAD GOT WHAT THEY WANTED CAUSE I WOULD BE IN ALOT OF PAIN AND I WOULD EVEN CRY CAUSE I FELT SO DIRTY AND NASTY, I WOULD GO TO SCHOOL AND GO TO GYM CLASS, AND I WOULDN'T EVEN GET DRESSED IN FRONT OF OTHERS CAUSE I KNEW THEY COULD TELL WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME, I JUST KNEW THAT THEY KNEW THAT THE NIGHT BEFORE I WAS SO DIMIZED BY THREE MEN, I EVEN DROPPED ~~OUT~~ OF MIGHT SLEPT IN MY GYM GROOMING ROOM.

CAUSE I COULDN'T HANDLE THE PRESSURE OF EVERYONE OR EVEN ANYONE KNOWING WHAT I WOULD DO TO SERVE GOD, AT ONE TIME I EVEN WANTED TO KILL MYSELF AND I KNEW THAT WAS NOT THE ANSWER, BECAUSE BY KILLING MYSELF WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST SINS ONE COULD DO, AND I WOULDN'T GET TO HEAVEN THAT WAY, OR I KNEW THAT MY GOD WOULD NOT APPROVE, OF THAT EVEN IF I FELT LIKE I WAS ALREADY ~~BE~~ KILLING MYSELF, BUT HE FORGAVE ME OF MY SINS, AND SO LONG AS I WOULD CONTINUE GOING TO MY CONFESSION, I WAS CLEANSED. OF ALL WRONG DOING I HAVE DONE OR ANY WRONG DOING THAT WAS DONE TO ME, SO AFTER DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL OR EVEN DURING SCHOOL I BEGAN TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRUGS ~~AND~~ SMOKE POT, TAKE UPPERS & DOWNERS I DIDN'T CARE SO LONG AS I DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK OF WHAT I WAS GOING THRU IN MY LIFE, AT THAT TIME, I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP A STEADY GIRLFRIEND CAUSE I DIDN'T THINK THAT ~~THAT~~ WAS WHAT GOD WANTED ME TO DO, I REMEMBER SOMEHOW ALWAYS BEING AROUND OLDER MEN, FOR WHATEVER REASON IT MAY BE, I WAS ALWAYS ATTENDING SOME KIND OF GATHERING OR PARTY WITHIN THE PASTORAL CIRCLE, AND AT THE TIME THE ATTENTION FELT GOOD, WHEN I WAS AMONG THOSE TYPE OF PEOPLE THEN I WAS SOMEBODY TOO, BUT WHEN I WASN'T AND I WAS HOME, I WOULD DRAW MYSELF FROM MY FRIENDS & FAMILY I

alone at night, my mom would ask me what was troubling me, cause I even wet my bed ~~up~~ up until my teenage years, and, I would say nothing ~~is~~ troubling me, but really I knew my life was not the way your average teenage boys life was, I even spoke with a mental health counselor and they could never pinpoint any certain problems, cause I would never tell any one what I really had been through, in my life, and I would stop going, to see them and, eventually just put it in the back of my mind and, go on living life, or what I though was life, I have had a personal relationship up until the present, with this one priest, he would loan me money and sometimes I wouldn't pay it back but that was alright he has always helped me anytime he was able to, except for one time about a year ago, when I thought I would kill myself my life was unbearable and I just wanted out of life, and it was then when I felt that this priest was ~~to~~ not really my friend and didn't care for me or what happened to me or my family anymore, and then I was so angry I had spoke with fr. [REDACTED] and he couldn't let me speak with you personally I think you had just had surgery and was recovering and a few days went by and when I

I really was angry at the time and I really didn't want to get anyone in trouble at the time cause I really cared for this priest, but even more time has gone by and I gave it even more thought and I have decided what really has happened in my life was wrong very wrong, and I feel that something needs to be done about this and that if nothing else you should be aware of what really has gone ~~on~~ on in my life cause the priest refered to you more importantly than the President of the United States, and that is why I insisted on speaking with you, even fr. [REDACTED] when I spoke w/him left me feeling like I ~~is~~ maybe the one in the wrong at the time ~~or~~ or even for putting myself in that ~~situation~~ situation he didn't say he didn't believe me but I felt ~~as~~ if didn't, and once the names of all involved are mentioned you might believe me your self - So please excuse my message story of my life and experiance with ~~of~~ God.

To Whom it may Concern
Attn: [REDACTED]

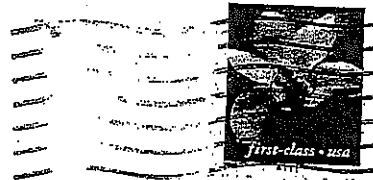
3/30/01

As stated before in a letter for Peter Covas, Our relationship is and has always been strictly friends no sexual acts have ever been performed between the two of us, so if you would please quit bothering me with this matter,

Thank you
[REDACTED]

4-3-01

FR. [REDACTED]
Please notice that
it was not marked
"Confidential"



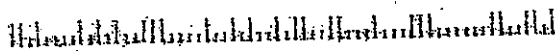
FR. [REDACTED]

1201 E. HIGHLAND AVE.
SAN BERNARDINO, CA. 92404

PRIVATE

APR 03 2001

32404/4607



Covas - TC082

CONFIDENTIAL

REGISTERED LETTER

[REDACTED]

March 27, 2001

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and I have been trying to contact you but it seems as if the phone number you gave us, [REDACTED], is no longer in service.

Will you please contact us as soon as possible as we have some clarifications we wish to make to the statement you gave us.

You may call me at [REDACTED], ext [REDACTED] (day time) or ext [REDACTED] (evening).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely in Christ,

COPY

Very Rev [REDACTED]

cc. [REDACTED]

Rev [REDACTED]

DIocese OF SAN BERNARDINO

Permission to Record

I, [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

City, State & Zip [REDACTED]

Telephone # [REDACTED]

grant permission to record this conversation, taking place at the

Diocesan Pstoral Center on 02-14-2001

I understand that I shall receive a copy of the transcript, and be
able to comment on that copy.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Witness: [REDACTED]

Witness: [REDACTED]

Witness: _____

Place & Date: San Bernardino 02-14-2001

2-17-01

To whom it may concern

I [redacted] for relief
of any questions of my own
personal contact w/ Peter Law
or any sort such as immoral
Sexuality, or any bad of
any sort, my relationship w/
Peter Law is strictly a more
friends ship, always has been
for a number of years -
[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of meeting between Mr. [REDACTED] Ms. [REDACTED] and Rev. [REDACTED]
Held at Diocesan Pastoral Center, San Bernardino. Mr. [REDACTED] speaks quietly at times and
the recording is not always clear, but the substance of the conversation is mirrored in
these notes.

February 14, 2001

[REDACTED] We are going to give Mr. [REDACTED] a copy of the Diocesan Policy on the way
the Diocese deals with issues of sexual misconduct in the church, and in
particular the page that we refer to is page three. Section two which says
*Situations in which clergy are accused by another or others of sexual
abuse* and you have made an allegation against this priest and this is what
we are going to do. It starts off by explaining that the Diocese does not
investigate anonymous allegations, and that is why when you first met
with Fr. [REDACTED] I believe that was back in July...

Is that Fr. [REDACTED]?

Fr. [REDACTED] that is correct. He expressed to you that he is very sorry about
the situation that happened, but that at that stage if he couldn't have the
name of the priest he couldn't deal with it. All complaints must be made
in written form and will be treated respectfully, and that's what we want to
do with you. Permission will be sought by the Bishop's delegate, that's
us, to present them to the priest or deacon in question. So we'll take a
statement from you, if you are willing to give us a statement. And we
would ask your permission to present that statement to the priest in
question. If you refuse to give permission for us to present that statement
then of course we cannot do so, but we still have to go and speak with him
and explain to him what the situation is. Is that OK, do you understand
that?

Yes.

And you will also be informed that the person making the complaint will
be told what action the Diocese will take. So you will be kept fully
informed, and that is why we need your address and phone number.
That's what I was told was going to happen. It's not going to happen.
It will happen from now on. You will be kept fully informed of
everything that takes place in this case.

After the fact, or before the fact?

Sometimes after the fact; you will be told so that you know what action
the diocese will take afterwards. So we have invited you here: the
Bishop's delegate will meet with the party making the complaint, that's
you, and after meeting with you, with your permission we shall take your
statement to the priest concerned. If you don't give us permission at that
stage we shall still go see him...

Exactly, so it doesn't matter whether I give permission or not.

Well, it means he wouldn't have the details. Now there are three
possibilities that could happen after this. You see section A: when the
priest denies the allegations and he has credible evidence that he was not
involved in the allegation, which we don't know one way or the other until

CONFIDENTIAL

we talk to him. The second one on page 4 is when he denies it but it appears that the statement made by the person making the complaint is substantial and is correct. What we are saying is that evidence presented to us is stronger than the denial of the priest.

Meaning that you believe me over the priest?

Correct. And the third one, see on page 5, is when the priest says - OK that's true I did that - admission of the truth of the allegations by the priest.

What happens here?

Well, what happens in the third case is that the priest would be suspended from his priestly ministry.

Permanently?

At least for a period of five years; the last paragraph on that page is that there is a condition of the diocesan liability insurance that a priest or deacon who has engaged in sexual abuse will not be covered by that liability insurance for at least five years from the time the incident is reported to the insurance company.

Is this a Catholic company?

I don't know which company we use to carry liability insurance, but we do have full liability insurance coverage.

So once I've done this, does this insurance company cover me? Is there anything coming to me?

Once there is an admission of liabilities there may or may not be some recompenses coming to you.

I understand.

If C were the case, and the priest has admitted liability, then the insurance company would make a decision as to whether they would make a payment to you or not in recompense for your suffering for what happened.

I noticed here in the first case, page 3...

Sure...

In cases where there are no other witnesses, no previous allegations of a similar nature... if I had other witnesses, which I know of, what should I do?

Well we would like to have their names and addresses so we can interview them in the same way as we are interviewing you. Later on in this interview, one of the questions we shall ask you is if there are any other witnesses, and would you be willing to give us their names and addresses so we may contact them.

How long does this investigation take place?

That depends on a number of issues, the seriousness of the allegations, what you have to say which we shall respect, and the response made by the priest himself. And then the bishop has a meeting with his committee, who will have received all this evidence which we shall collect, your statement and any other statements from others, then they will make a judgment, which they will present to the Bishop. Then he will take the

CONFIDENTIAL

action on the recommendations of the committee. That could take six to eight weeks. Are there any other questions you have? No, then would you like to start at the beginning, tell us the story, the statement you wish to make? It may be helpful at this stage that you mention the name of the priest, dates, the parishes that he was associated with at that time.

The priest is Fr Peter Covas.

Fr Peter Covas? And what year did the situation start taking place?

I was 13 at the time.

You were 13, and that would be what year?

1974 or 1975.

1974 or 75. Which parish was that in?

Our family knew him at Our Lady of Fatima.

Our Lady of Fatima? And that was where the alleged instances took place? In the rectory there? Or in your home?

No, not in my home. No that was where I first met him.

That was where you first met him, in that parish. So the first incident of a sexual abuse nature took place when you were about 13 or 14? Where did it take place?

That was at Holy Rosary.

Holy Rosary.

He was transferred to Holy Rosary after Our Lady of Fatima.

After Our Lady of Fatima? And it took place in the rectory there?

Is that his living quarters?

Yes, in the rectory, in the living quarters.

Yes.

Would you like to give us a very brief description of what took place - we are not asking for details - but was it an overt sexual advance? Was it fully sexual? Was it...

It was fully sexual. My family knew him at Our Lady of Fatima, and I was used to being there to help with all sorts of things, with jobs and ...

You were 13 or 14?

Yes, and I would do jobs around the church. How I met him was through a mutual friend. I used to work [REDACTED]. And it was owned and operated by a [REDACTED].

Mr [REDACTED] he [REDACTED]?

Yes, he and his family [REDACTED]. He used to work for the diocese...

At the previous Chancery Office on D Street?

Yes, that's where he worked.

Do you know what he did, was he a priest?

No, he wasn't a priest, he was in some office there.

So, Mr [REDACTED], he did have a job, apart from running [REDACTED] at the diocese?

Yes.

So you worked for him [REDACTED]?

Yes.

CONFIDENTIAL

And he introduced you to Fr Covas?

Yes, and to some other priests.

Some other priests as well? Were these other priests also involved in sexual abuse?

Yes. One is dead now...

And the other one?

I don't know.

What was his name?

Fr [REDACTED] I don't remember his last name.

Was he also at Holy Rosary?

I don't think so.

So this started in 74/75 and carried on until when?

A number of years.

When was the last time that Fr Covas made any alleged sexual advances to you?

I was already over 21.

So this took place over 8 or 9 years? Quite obviously you were not comfortable with any of these encounters?

As a matter of fact I was comfortable with these... because he led me to believe that I was doing my duty for God in this way. To this day I know Fr Covas personally, and I would like to say he is a good friend of mine.

But, I don't know, that's why I needed to talk to the bishop.

If Fr Covas abused you as a child, then what you're doing is right.

But, he wasn't supposed to be told nothing, without me knowing. I would have preferred it to bring it to his attention myself. I was shocked that he was told...

I do understand that, but I believe that the bishop personally spoke with him; I do not know the content of that conversation. Are there any other statements you would like to make? The statement you have made is a very serious one, and we do want you to know that we shall take it seriously. And because it is a question of an allegation of underage sexual molestation being made we will have to investigate it. Was there anybody else involved that you know of, any other young men...

There is one other that I know of

Would you be prepared to give us his name and address?

I don't have his address.

Do you have his name?

[REDACTED] do you know his last name?

No.

Was he about the same age as you?

He was a year or two older.

A year or two older, and he was also at Holy Rosary?

Yes.

And he would have done similar things to you in terms of ...

He was with me. We were together in this thing...

CONFIDENTIAL

With Fr Covas, in a sexual situation, the three of you together?

Yes.

are there any other questions you'd like to ask, any observations? Were you a member of Holy Rosary at that time? Your family participate in the church there?

All of my family did, my cousins went to school there, and I was an active member of the church there.

Your initial meeting with Fr Covas was through that person who you worked for at the donut shop? That was the main contact with him?

Yes.

The priest that you mentioned who is deceased, was he sexually inappropriate with you, could you give us his name?

Fr I think. He went to the prison, I guess. Do you know who I am talking about?

No, I don't personally know whom you are talking about, but the church records will indicate who was assigned to the prison at that time. This is the early to mid 70s all the way through to the early 80s. Did all this take place at Holy Rosary? Was Fr Covas there the whole time?

Sometimes in the dessert.

The High Dessert, the Low Dessert?

The High Dessert.

And did this continue when he was up there? Did you continue to visit him there? Was there still abuse?

Maybe once. It didn't necessarily always happen at the church.

Sometimes we would go out. My family knows him, my family trusts him. He would come to our house or something.

This was on weekends?

A couple of times, yes. Over a 10 year period it happened, what I mean is that it didn't happen just one time.

A number of different times, different places.

Did you ever have the opportunity to try to tell someone that this was going on when you were younger?

There was always the opportunity to tell someone.

Did you ever talk to anyone about it? To get any help at all?

I was having problems with school, and I was stressing out at school...

Which school were you at?

Shandin Hills.

Shandin Hills Junior High?

Yes.

So this stopped in the mid 80s? You were about 21.

I would say yes.

And since then you've not had any of this inappropriate behavior with Fr Covas?

Inappropriate behavior meaning sexual behavior? I talk to him still. He's always been a good person as far as I am concerned.

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED] Now you first came to the diocese last June or July, what prompted you at that stage to bring these allegations forward?

[REDACTED] I was angry at the diocese.

[REDACTED] But you didn't give a name at that time. You spoke to Fr Gerry?

[REDACTED] I spoke to Fr [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And then you saw the bishop just before Christmas time? And you gave him a name. Was that anger still the same?

[REDACTED] No.

[REDACTED] So what was the purpose to come to see the bishop then?

[REDACTED] Well, I feel that in order for me to get on with my life, to proceed forward, this is something that I need to do. But this is just something that I need to get out of my system. For 12 years of my life I have had ups and downs and problems with drugs, and I know that I need to deal with this. And that's what I am attempting to do.

[REDACTED] And that's what we would like to help you to do.

[REDACTED] Phillip, have you talked to a counselor or someone who has been able to help you?

[REDACTED] No, I have talked to counselors before, but not about this.

[REDACTED] This has never come up?

[REDACTED] No. I said I was angry at the time I brought it to Fr [REDACTED]'s attention, and I don't know, I could understand his situation and not being able to help me then. But I thought he could do something, but by the same token the diocese is nothing like Fr Covas... it is very... I don't know. But I would think that someone coming forward to the diocese with some similar thing, the diocese would be more understanding, more caring for the person involved. I felt like I was wrong.

[REDACTED] I am sorry. You don't feel like that now, I hope?

[REDACTED] No, I don't., but I did when I first got in here today. I still have that doubt that somehow this is my fault.

[REDACTED] No.

[REDACTED] And I feel like sometimes I am treated that way. I don't understand that myself. I was treated that way by the father. I was led to believe that I was doing the work for God. I shouldn't have to feel that this is a penalty. Was that told to you by Fr Covas?

[REDACTED] Yes, it was.

[REDACTED] And that if you behave in an inappropriate way with him it would end? It wasn't presented to me as "in an inappropriate way".

[REDACTED] No, he wouldn't say that then, but we know now that such behavior is inappropriate. So he said to you "if you do this with me, you will get to heaven"? Are those more or less the words he used?

[REDACTED] Yes, more or less. That was the way I understood it.

[REDACTED] Did you feel threatened in any way by father?

[REDACTED] No, not really he was a really good person.

[REDACTED] Do you go to church now, do you have a pastor?

[REDACTED] No, I don't.

CONFIDENTIAL

One of the things we can help put your mind at ease is that the diocese, the bishop, all of us who are members of the church, people who are in the church ministering, are trusted people. We feel we can trust them, and we take it extremely seriously when someone makes an allegation, but we have to be fair to hear both sides. We are not making any judgments, but we are trying to do the just, right thing. So we want to give you the opportunity to share with us your experience and what your statement is and we will also do the same for the person against whom the allegations have been made. It is really meant to be... and I apologize if this feels very formal, in handing you pieces of paper and we have a tape recorder, but we have to follow a procedure that is fair to everyone and we want to do it correctly. So we are very sorry that anybody comes forward who has suffered through this, but in justice we have to be sure we get all the details we can, and we carry it through a really fair process to everybody that's involved. But we certainly are sorry that you have been in jail, we don't want to intimidate you, but we do have to be very professional and say that we are delegated by the bishop to get the information statement. Normally the bishop doesn't take those kinds of statements, it's done by us as a kind of objective...

But I have given to the bishop my written statement of my allegations. I knew this was going to take place, I knew I would be asked questions, but I... there again, I feel there was something wrong with me. It takes me sometimes for ever to get to sleep. Even knowing what's involved now, what the circumstances are now, why did he shut me out?

I do believe that when he did meet you it was in the evening, and it was the same day that you called, you finally got through to him.

No, when I spoke with him, but it took me ten different tries to get to speak with him.

Right, but when you got to him, he gave you an appointment that very same day.

Because I insisted, he wasn't... It was the first time that I was able to speak with him, so I insisted that I speak with him in person, and there again that's when the anger started up again. I don't know, but I feel like it's my fault, well, naturally I'm going to get angry.

The church's understanding, indeed the state's understanding, of sexual conduct between an adult and a child, and you were a child at the time this started, is that the child is never at fault.

I understand what you are saying.

So we don't want you to feel that.

Now I understand that today, and the bishop also apologized on behalf of his church, I don't know, he was understanding at the time, but I feel like I used to be able to trust the church. I used to trust God, believe in God.

I'm not saying that I don't anymore, I do, but just to a certain degree. I lost a lot of trust and a lot of faith. I am beginning to understand a lot of doubts that I have. Over the years I have looked at the face of the church, I've been hurt by the church, what I did was wrong.

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

You never felt that his alleged behavior was wrong? It is wrong, it was wrong, if it happened. You know that now.

[REDACTED]

I understand that today. But I need to get on with my life, I need to turn around, to continue on with my life. I have approximately three years of sobriety and I cannot be any good to anyone else if I cannot be honest with myself, to be able to sponsor a person, or I can't open up to my sponsor. And that's what my sponsor has told me today, my sponsor has told me that whatever I do I need to get rid of it. I need to deal with this. Because I cannot speak to or talk to anyone else on a very fair or honest level. The saying is that you're as sick as your deepest darkest secret. Have you heard that?

[REDACTED]

Yes.

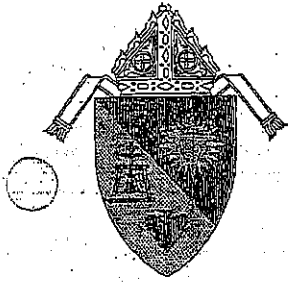
[REDACTED]

But the point is, Phillip, this is not a secret anymore, because you've shared it, so therefore you are not sick.. Now you've shared with us that you have three years of sobriety, I have 11 years of sobriety so I understand the AA program and what you are being asked to do by your sponsor, because I sponsor a lot of men too, and I have my own sponsor as well. So I understand that what you're doing today to help you to move on with your life.

[REDACTED]

So that's good.

Now is there anything else you want to tell us at all today?



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL

priest file - Peter Covas

April 22, 2004

Reverend Peter Covas
6970 Center Avenue
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Peter:

Happy Easter! I hope that your recuperation is going well.

I wish to congratulate you on your re-entry to ministry here in the Diocese. I am very happy for you.

I am enclosing a copy of the FAX statement that went out. Also, we still need for you to complete the required fingerprinting that we all did back in 2000. I am here with [REDACTED] this morning; he says to give him a call so that he can assist you in completing this. Please send me a receipt for the processing fees so that we can re-imburse you right away.

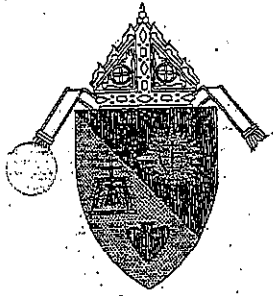
Thank you for your cooperation and help. I look forward to seeing you again in person soon. I believe that there is a retired priests luncheon in June; you should call Father [REDACTED] to find out the exact date.

Please let me know how else I can help. May the Lord bless you during this holy Easter Season.

Sincerely Yours in Our Lord,

Msgr. [REDACTED]
Reverend Msgr. [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Director of Priest Personnel

Covas - TC094



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL

February 26, 2003

Reverend Peter Covas
6970 Center Avenue
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Covas:

It has come to my attention that you reportedly have been facilitating a Scripture study at the Coldwell Banker training center in Upland on two separate weeknights. This information has been relayed to me by Reverend [REDACTED] Pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul Parish, Alta Loma.

I am forced to remind you that you continue to be on administrative leave from any and all priestly ministry in the Diocese of San Bernardino and in any other jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Church. This administrative leave precludes your involvement, direction, and leadership of any such Scripture study group. This leave is in effect while the civil authorities continue to research and investigate the allegations that have been lodged against you.

If this information is correct, I ask that you kindly and immediately terminate your participation in and leadership of this Scripture study group. I also ask that you contact me as soon as possible in order to discuss this reported activity which, if accurately described, can only serve to confuse the minds of the faithful of the Diocese.

I look forward to your complete and total cooperation in this matter. May the Lord bless you during this time.

Sincerely in Our Lord

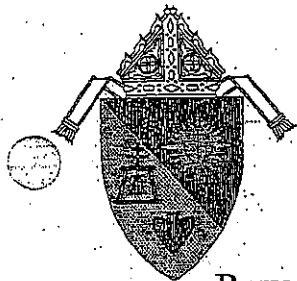
Rw. Msgr. [REDACTED]

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]

Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]

Covas - TC095



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL

February 19, 2003

Reverend [REDACTED] Pastor
St. Peter and St. Paul Parish
P.O. Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of February 14, 2003.

I am very thankful for keeping me informed of your recent decision relating to the bereavement ministry at the parish. I would support your analysis of the pastoral situation which you faced and am supportive of your administration.

My hope is that the case involving Father Covas will be resolved soon. Once this resolution takes place, I believe that people in the parish will be able to move forward. In the meantime, I think your current approach is to be commended. You are carefully listening to the people and their needs. You also are taking decisive action when this is needed.

In the long term, I would suggest finding someone who can help you make an objective assessment of where the parish stands after your first year as Pastor. This might be either a staff person from the Pastoral Services Office and/or the Human Resources Office. The first year of a new pastorate is a transitional time. It will be good to review the progress of your pastoral projects after this milestone is reached.

I definitely admire the fortitude which you are demonstrating more and more as the year progresses. The Lord has chosen you for this particular community at this particular time because of the gifts of healing and renewal which you are bringing to the people. Please know of my prayers and support for you as you continue forward in your pastoral ministry in Alta Loma. Soon, I hope that things can return to normal with God's grace. You are in my prayers.

Sincerely Yours in Our Lord

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
Reverend Msgr. [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

Covas - TC096

Parish:
9135 Banyan Street
Alta Loma, CA 91737
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701



Telephone:
(909) 987-9312
Telefax:
(909) 980-9404
Web Site:
www.stpeterspaul

February 14, 2003

The Reverend Msgr. [REDACTED] Vicar General
DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO, PASTORAL CENTER
1201 East Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Dear Msgr. [REDACTED]

I wanted to let you know that I have had continued problems with [REDACTED]. Today, I formally removed her from a leadership position as the head of the bereavement ministry. My reasons for doing so are numerous. First, she publicly disagrees with the decisions I have made, but more serious than that, while conducting the bereavement sessions, she called the Bishop a liar. When I met with her today, I asked her if this was true and she said it was.

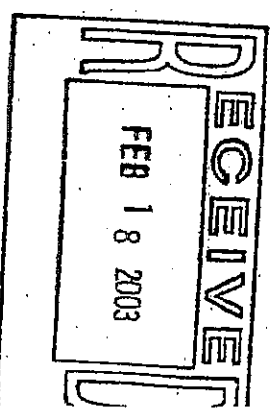
While I understand that [REDACTED] was especially fond of Peter Covas, her open hostility toward the Bishop and me is detrimental to the spiritual health of those not only in the bereavement group, but to all those in the parish community as well.

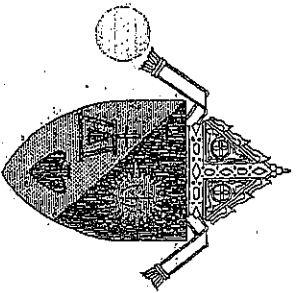
In many ways, the situation with Father Covas is still a big problem here at St. Peter & St. Paul. While I understand that there may not be any closure for some time, if any, I am concerned that the negativity surrounding how he was removed is still alive. Individuals such as [REDACTED] are not moving on and not letting go. In her eyes, I can do nothing right and Father Peter has done nothing wrong. I feel that her negativity is a poison within the parish and I would appreciate some advice on how I am to handle this on-going problem.

With every best wish, I am

Prayerfully,

[REDACTED]
Pastor





Diocese of San Bernardino
VICAR GENERAL

October 29, 2002

Reverend Peter Covas
6970 Center Avenue
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Covas:

I am writing with respect to my previous communication to you dated July 8, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to amend and clarify the communication of July 8, 2002.

The following points are hereby noted and affirmed in your case:

- 1) According to universal law (cf. Canon 134) and the particular law of the Diocese of San Bernardino (cf. "Diocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse by Clergy"), in my capacity as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, I have been, am currently, and will continue to serve as the principal and primary investigator of your case.
- 2) Paragraph four of my correspondence of July 8, 2002 therefore shall read: "Under the norms of the Code of Canon Law and the policy of the Diocese of San Bernardino, I am hereby designated and delegated to conduct an appropriate investigation into the facts and circumstances of this matter and the related question of your imputability in accord with the norm of law." The remainder of paragraph four stands in effect.
- 3) The role of Judge Martin Swanson and the Diocesan Review Committee is solely to assist and supplement the prior investigation of your case according to the norms of Canons 1717 through 1719.

I hope to be able to assist Bishop [REDACTED] very soon in making a final determination on the conclusion of the prior investigation of your case. May the Lord continue to sustain you during this time.

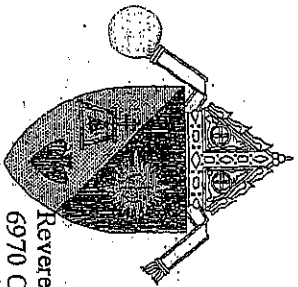
Sincerely in Our Lord,

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Very Reverend Msgr. [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia

Sister [REDACTED]
Chancellor

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]

Covas - TC098



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL

July 8, 2002

Reverend Peter Covas
6970 Center Avenue
Alta Loma, CA 91701

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Father Covas:

At this time, I have received information which appears indicative of the fact that a serious offense against the Church may have been committed by you. On the basis of this information, it appears that you have been accused of sexual misconduct with a minor. This letter serves as a form of citation under the norms of the Code of Canon Law.

Due to the seriousness of this information and by virtue of Canon 1717, I hereby decree that the prior investigation of a penal process be opened and that a cautious investigation be undertaken concerning these allegations and concerning your imputability in order to determine whether it is necessary to take further action.

Further, having fulfilled the requirements of Canon 1722, I hereby issue this written directive prohibiting you from the exercise of the sacred ministry in any public way. This prohibition is immediately effective. I am decreeing this in order to prevent scandal, protect the freedom of the witnesses, and safeguard the course of justice. If, however, the reason for this prohibition ceases, this restriction is to be revoked. This restriction also ceases by virtue of the law itself as soon as the penal process ceases.

Under the norms of the Code of Canon Law and the policy of the Diocese of San Bernardino, I hereby designate the Honorable Martin Swanson, Chair of the Diocesan Review Committee, as auditor and hereby direct him to conduct on my behalf an appropriate investigation into the facts and circumstances of this matter and the related question of your imputability in accord with the norm of law. In addition, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis P. O'Neil is hereby appointed as priest notary under Canon 483.2 of the Code of Canon Law.

Please know that you are in my prayers as this formal process of review begins. Thank you for your total cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

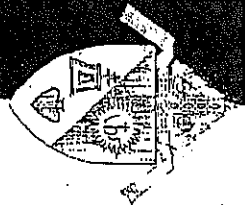
Nery D.

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia

Sister [REDACTED]
Chancellor

cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Mt. [REDACTED] (Chair, Diocesan Review Committee)

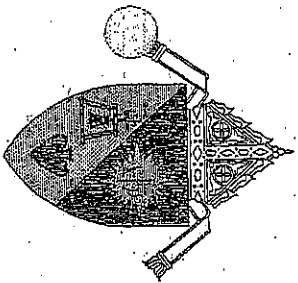
Covas - TC099



Diocese of San Bernardino
 1201 East Highland Avenue
 San Bernardino, California 92404

**PRIEST INFORMATION
 & PERSONNEL ACTION FORM**

1	Name: <u>Covas Peter</u> Social Security Number: _____ <small>Last First Middle</small> Parish/School/Dept: <u>St. Peter's St. Paul</u> City: <u>Alta Loma</u> Type of Action: <u>Termination - Retired</u> Entry Number: <u>1302</u> Effective Date: <u>7-1-02</u> File Number: _____
2	Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Telephone: _____ Birthdate: _____ Hire Date: _____ Ethnic Group: _____ <small>(1) Caucasian (2) African-American (3) Hispanic (4) Asian/Pacific Islander (5) American Indian (6) Other</small>
3	Appointment/Reinstatement Title: _____ Stipend/Salary: _____ Monthly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Type of Medical Insurance: _____
4	Salary Adjustment From: _____ Per Month _____ To: _____ <small>Stipend/Salary</small> <small>Stipend/Salary</small> <small>Per Month</small>
5	Transfer/Change From: _____ Title _____ To: _____ <small>Stipend/Salary</small> <small>Per Month</small> <small>Stipend/Salary</small> <small>Per Month</small> From: _____ To: _____ <small>Parish/Department/School</small> <small>Parish/Department/School</small>
6	Leave of Absence <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Leave <input type="checkbox"/> Leave Without Pay <input type="checkbox"/> Leave With Pay <input type="checkbox"/> Military Leave Duration From: _____ Duration To: _____
7	Remarks <u>Retirement</u>
8	Priest Signature: _____ Date: _____ I attest that a completed 1-975 on file with the Chancellor's Office and that the above information is correct. Director of Priest <u>[Signature]</u> Date: <u>6-14-02</u> Chancellor Signature <u>[Signature]</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Received Dept. of Human Resources Signature: _____ Date: _____



Diocese of San Bernardino
VICAR GENERAL

June 25, 2002

Reverend Peter Covas
c/o 6970 Center Avenue
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Covas:

Thank you for our telephone conversation of this morning. It was good to hear from you. I hope that you are well. I regret not contacting you sooner.

As I mentioned during our telephone conversation, I am writing to inform you that I have received some serious allegations of misconduct on your part. This information was given to me through the Office of the Vicar for Clergy for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles is currently preparing documentation from the persons who have reported these incidents.

The serious nature of these allegations may require me to remove your priestly faculties here in the Diocese of San Bernardino. However, according to Canon 50 of the Code of Canon Law, I am required to seek out the necessary facts of these allegations and hear your response to these facts prior to taking any administrative action such as removal of faculties. I would like to proceed with this process as quickly as possible.

Because of the potentially harmful impact that could result should these allegations become public in any way, I am requesting that effective immediately you voluntarily refrain from the exercise of your priestly ministry here in the Diocese of San Bernardino and in any other Diocese, until such time that I am able to conclude my investigation of these allegations. During our telephone conversation, you did agree to this request. I would like to thank you for your total cooperation in this regard.

You are in my prayers during this difficult time. I pray that the Lord sustain you with his grace and blessings. Please let me know how I can continue to assist you.

Sincerely Yours In Our Lord,

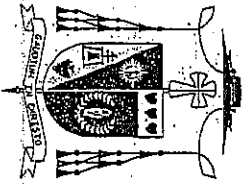
Pw


Reverend Monsignor
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend
Most Reverend
Very Reverend



Covas - TC101



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

COPY

April 20, 1995

Reverend Peter Covas
Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church
Post Office Box 248
Alta Loma, California 91701

Dear Father Peter:

Thank you for your recent letter of congratulations on my appointment to Reno.

It is both a sad and joyful time for me. Sad, in that I leave many good friends, ministries and works here in the Diocese of San Bernardino over these past sixteen years, as well as many fond memories of my thirty six years as a priest. It is truly hard to leave. On the other hand, there is joy in accepting a new assignment in northern Nevada. I am looking forward to this new and challenging experience.

Thank you for your offer to accompany me to Reno. Yes, we have been through times of joy and sorrow together, over these past sixteen years. I enjoy remembering those joyful and good events that have happened in our lives, as well as in the Church, and you have definitely been a part of many of them. The sorrows or mistakes are real too, but I think we need to leave those things in the past.

As far as coming to Reno, know that you are always welcome, but the places that are presently open may not be as appealing as St. Peter and Paul. We have some places more distant than Needles and Blythe. If you feel like John the Baptist, looking for a place in the wilderness, I would be happy to accommodate you. I am sorry that the places in Tahoe and Reno itself, are occupied and have a waiting list.

Reverend Peter Covas
April 20, 1995

Let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your good service and ministry over these past years. The times that we have had together, including our pilgrimage to Spain and the birth place of Junipero Serra were most enjoyable.

May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministry and work and with prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Administrator, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Ex-county fraud figure jailed in Florida probe

By David Danelski
The Press-Enterprise

A former Riverside restaurateur with a history of fraud convictions was arrested yesterday in Florida for investigation of taking at least \$200,000 from people who thought they were investing in medical clinics.

Franco Nicoletti, 43, who formerly owned an Arlington restaurant, was arrested outside Chio's Pomodoro restaurant in Boca Raton, Fla., where he worked as manager, head waiter and singer for the house band.

Palm Beach Sheriff's Detective Rod Hawkins told the Palm Beach Post that Nicoletti, also known as Franco Dimonica, told investors at least six medical clinics in South Florida that would cater to the Hispanic community.

Sheriff's detectives began investigating Nicoletti in July after a Parkland, Fla., man reported that Nicoletti misused \$200,000 the man gave Nicoletti to invest in medical clinics. Nicoletti allegedly hired



1982/The Press-Enterprise
Franco Nicoletti

contractors to convert a Miami building into a medical clinic, but never paid the contractors, authorities said.

George Vliet, a special agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, told the news-

paper that Nicoletti used investors' money to pay off commercial loans and to buy certificates of deposit.

Nicoletti owns four businesses in Florida, including a travel agency according to the Florida news-paper. Nicoletti also owns a \$300,000 house and two Rolls Royces.

"I have done nothing wrong," Nicoletti told the newspaper as he was handcuffed next to his brown Rolls Royce in the driveway of the Italian restaurant in Boca Raton. They have been trying to do this to me for the past 1 1/2 years. The detective said he wanted to make sure the news people would see me because he has wanted to get me for a long time.

Nicoletti was being held yesterday at the Palm Beach County Jail on \$25,000 bail for investigation of grand theft.

In the 1980s, Nicoletti was a repeat criminal defendant in Riverside County.

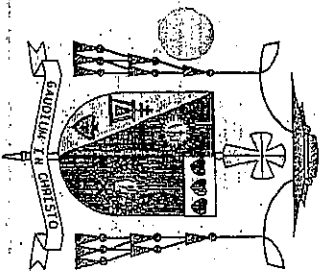
In 1985, he was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to a 1982 arson at his Via debt.

The diocese, which oversees Riverside Catholic churches, has since written off the loan as bad mail fraud.

probation for a federal sentence of 18 months. At the time, Nicoletti was on the Church Diocese of San Bernardino. Nicoletti received a \$225,500 loan from Roman Catholic Church Diocese of San Bernardino. Nicoletti received a \$225,500 loan from Roman Catholic Church Diocese of San Bernardino. Nicoletti received a \$225,500 loan from Roman Catholic Church Diocese of San Bernardino.

to try to improve this performance, a little more than simply writing

Covvas



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

October 18, 1985

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

This is in response to your letter of October 15, 1985 regarding money that was loaned by Father Peter Covas to Mr. [REDACTED]. His action was contrary to all diocesan investment policies and the fact that he did make such a loan is regrettable and disappointing. I am truly sorry that such an abuse of financial responsibility by one of our diocesan administrators has taken place and I have asked our attorneys to pursue every avenue that might assist us in recovering all or part of this money.

I have been most open with our priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, which is comprised primarily of the laity of the diocese, and when asked at Parish Meetings such as at St. Christopher's, a few weeks ago, I am happy to respond openly and frankly about this matter or any other financial situations of our diocese. As you will note in the diocesan newspaper, the "Inland Catholic," we have published the financial report of the diocese and in a few weeks we will publish the latest audit of all diocesan funds. It is my policy to make everyone aware of the money that is received and how it is being used. I can only state that I am trying to do my very best to have an open policy with all of the faithful of the diocese and to make sure that all money is properly used and administered.

We are trying to plan for future parish sites and in the past, some land owners have come forward to make property available for future Catholic Churches and Schools. When buying or selling land, the diocese tries to rely upon appraisals by professional people. In spite of this, not everyone is pleased or agrees.

Covas - TC107

Mrs. [REDACTED]
October 18, 1985

I thank you for writing to me regarding your frustrations and I can only say that we will try to do our very best in handling all diocesan funds and property. We are faced with the continued need for new parishes in many areas of our diocese. We make every effort, after consultation with the Diocesan Finance Board, which is totally comprised of lay business people to use the money entrusted to us as wisely as possible. It is my hope that in spite of our failures, we will learn from our past mistakes and go forward for the good of the church in spreading of the Gospel.

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

October 15, 1985

Bishop [REDACTED]
1450 N. [REDACTED] St
San Bernardino, Calif. 92405

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]

It is with all due respect that I write this letter. I am not usually one to be out of line or to overstep my bounds. I have been present on a couple of occasions when you have been the celebrant at Mass. Even though my direct exposure to you is limited, what I have heard you say and how I have observed you conduct yourself has impressed me favorably. You appear to be a kind and loving leader of our Diocese.

For some time now I have been upset and concerned with what appears to be the practice in our Diocese and probably throughout the hierarchy.

We constantly hear pleas from the pulpit for money. I acknowledge that there are many needs to be met and that those of us who are abundantly blessed have a responsibility to those less fortunate. However, if I am to believe the article in the Press-Enterprise, the Diocese did not even press charges against [REDACTED]. (Please note the enclosed newspaper clippings.) If the Diocese or our Parish needs funds and those monies are to go to the poor or other worthy endeavors, then I have no problem giving what my husband and I have worked to receive. However, I have a problem with the church "loaning" money to anyone or investing. My husband states that in reality the church must invest and run it like a business. My concept of God and my belief system is in direct opposition to that. I always thought I was giving to meet the needs of the church, not to support a business.

After having searched my conscience, I am of the honest opinion that we, the people of God and the financial supporters of our church deserve to be addressed from the pulpit on the above issue. We have not even been given an apology for the mishandling of our money or a statement of assurance that the Diocese will be more prudent in the future.

In another vein, I recently read that the Diocese was hoping someone in the Moreno Valley would donate land to build an additional church. Why, except for tax write-off, should anyone be expected to

donate land and why is the Diocese waiting to purchase, when in the meantime land values continue to soar in the area? It would seem to the un-initiated that the people of Moreno Valley would have been better served had the Diocese arranged a transfer or a trade of property for the recent undervalued sale of its land in Mocking Bird Canyon.

I have continued to allow myself to be frustrated when I ponder the above, and each time I am made aware of the Church's needs. Please in all Christian charity, respond to your flock when we occasionally ask why. I am a parent of 5 natural children and a step-parent to 2. (And a grandmother to 9!) In raising them to responsible adults there are times when it is necessary to give explanations with my requests and apologize when in error.

I have not intended this letter to be one of irreverence or impudence. Forgive me if it seems to be that way in any sense. Think of me instead as a pesky child at your knee seeking to understand.

Sincerely, your sister in Christ,

 Mrs.

By BOB LABARRE
The Press-Enterprise

LOS ANGELES — Former Riverside resident owner Franco Nicoletti, who only last month got out of jail, was sentenced to three years in prison yesterday for violating his probation in a federal mail fraud conviction. U. S. District Judge A. Andrew Hawk revoked the probation after ruling that Nicoletti had violated its terms when he fraudulently obtained loans in 1982 from Empire Savings and Loan Association of Riverside. Nicoletti was sentenced to four years in prison for the loan fraud and was released from county jail where he had been awaiting trial for allegedly having his Via Veneto restaurant set on fire.

Hawk imposed the sentence after a 45-minute hearing in which the Rev. Peter Covas, formerly the financial chancellor of the Diocese of San Bernardino, was subpoenaed. Covas was not called to the stand, and Wilfrid Lemann, an attorney for the diocese, said neither he nor Covas would comment on the hearing.

Covas wrote a letter in 1981 saying that Nicoletti had completed 550 hours of community service at St. Catherine's Church where Covas was pastor. The community service became part of the sentence and Covas' letter became part of the case file for Nicoletti's 1980 conviction. "That letter was not true," Marvin Rudnick, assistant U. S. attorney told the judge.

nan and minute. I'm

za,

The bishop's financial policy

Riverside

Editor, The Press-Enterprise:

Bishop Straling is asking us (Roman Catholics) to donate money for a special collection on October 6 to assist in the operation of Notre Dame High School. We are being asked to dig deep into our pockets to further support Catholic schools because Bishop Straling's official policy is that there will be no direct school subsidy with church monies.

I wonder if the bishop has estimated the parishioners' donations, and if that estimate is less than \$225,000, will the bishop also convicted ex-restauranteur Franco Nicoletti for a donation? Better yet, why doesn't the bishop ask for the return of the diocese's money, and if Nicoletti refuses to repay the loan, why won't the bishop sue him for it? After all, Nicoletti signed a contract.

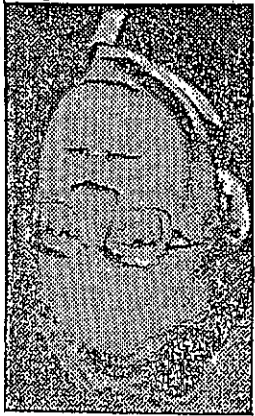
Bishop Straling is entitled to his strict, tight-fisted money policy, but I think it is hypocritical of him to take a "sink or swim" attitude on the operation of Catholic schools, and then make an unsecured loan to a convicted mail fraud operator in the amount of \$225,000 from the diocese's charitable fund.

MICHAEL A. CRICHTON
Riverside

Franco Nicoletti



Rev. Peter Covas



promissory note as president of the corporation. The Press-Enterprise disclosed the existence of the loan in a Feb. 5, 1984, news story. The story reported that Covas made the loan without collateral. The diocese has since written it off the books as a bad debt. Hawk said he was aware of the loan. "He (Nicoletti) has never been prosecuted for some reason." Nicoletti was convicted of mail fraud in 1980 for allegedly sending through the mail a false financial statement showing assets of \$1 million for another corporation he was involved with. Nicoletti told the owners of a Los Angeles ballroom that he would put up a sum of money to remodel the place if they would put up about \$26,000. Nicoletti later made restitution to the owners.

"He (Covas) wrote it. But he (Nicoletti) didn't do the work."

Rudnick went on to say that Covas told him that he could not "substantiate" what Nicoletti had done to perform his community service at the church and that Nicoletti "bragged" that "he didn't have to do his time." He declined to elaborate outside the courtroom.

The prosecutor told the judge that Covas had authorized a \$225,000 loan from the diocese to Nicoletti while he was on probation and performing the community service. The loan actually was made to Nicoletti's Europe-an Investments Inc., but Nicoletti signed the

"I must say you are a very engaging guy," Hawk said. He could have sentenced Nicoletti to a five-year term, but he decided to cut it to three because Nicoletti had spent about 19 months in the Riverside County Jail in Riverside.

"Give him credit for two years, because that's hard time," the judge said.

Ex-restaurant owner Franco Nicoletti back to prison

The Press-Enterprise Tuesday, September 17, 1985

promissory note as president of the corpora-

The Press-Enterprise disclosed the existence of the loan in a Feb. 5, 1984, news story. The story reported that Covas made the loan without collateral. The diocese has since written it off the books as a bad debt.

Hauk said he was aware of the loan. "He (Nicoletti) has never been prosecuted for some reason."

Nicoletti was convicted of mail fraud in 1980 for allegedly sending through the mail a false financial statement showing assets of \$1.1 million for another corporation he was involved with. Nicoletti told the owners of a Los Angeles ballroom that he would put up a sum of money to remodel the place if they would put up about \$26,000. Nicoletti later made restitution to the owners.

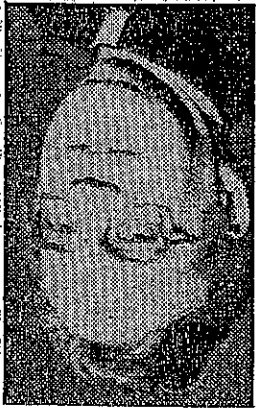
"I realize I have done wrong," Nicoletti told the judge yesterday. "I had dreams to have money, to have nice things, in a quick way. You were right when you said I was playing con games."

He went on to tell the judge he had turned his life around as a result of doing time for the loan fraud conviction. "I must say you are a very engaging guy," Hauk said. He could have sentenced Nicoletti to a five-year term, but he decided to cut it to three because Nicoletti had spent about 19 months in the Riverside County Jail in Riverside.

"Give him credit for two years, because that's hard time," the judge said.



Franco Nicoletti



Rev. Peter Covas

"He (Covas) wrote it. But he (Nicoletti) didn't do the work."

Rudnick went on to say that Covas told him that he could not "substantiate" what Nicoletti had done to perform his community service at the church and that Nicoletti "bragged" that "he didn't have to do his time." He declined to elaborate outside the courtroom.

The prosecutor told the judge that Covas had authorized a \$225,000 loan from the diocese to Nicoletti while he was on probation and performing the community service. The loan actually was made to Nicoletti's Europe-an Investments Inc., but Nicoletti signed the

By BOB LABAREE
The Press-Enterprise

LOS ANGELES -- Former Riverside restaurant owner Franco Nicoletti, who only last month got out of jail, was sentenced to three years in prison yesterday for violating his probation in a federal mail fraud conviction. U.S. District Judge A. Andrew Hauk revoked the probation after ruling that Nicoletti had violated its terms when he fraudulently obtained loans in 1982 from Empire Savings and Loan Association of Riverside.

Nicoletti was sentenced to four years in prison for the loan fraud and was released from county jail where he had been awaiting trial for allegedly having his Via Veneto restaurant set on fire.

Hauk imposed the sentence after a 45-minute hearing in which the Rev. Peter Covas, formerly the financial chancellor of the diocese of San Bernardino, was subpoenaed. Covas was not called to the stand, and Alfred Lemann, an attorney for the diocese, did neither he nor Covas would comment on the hearing.

Covas wrote a letter in 1981 saying that Nicoletti had completed 550 hours of community service at St. Catherine's Church where Covas was pastor. The community service was part of the sentence and Covas' letter became part of the case file for Nicoletti's 1980 conviction.

"That letter was not true," Marvin Rudnick, assistant U.S. attorney told the judge.

was not authorized

By BOB LABARRE

Press-Enterprise Staff Writer
Bishop Phillip F. Straling of the diocese of San Bernardino said yesterday that an unauthorized loan of diocesan funds was made by the Rev. Peter F. Covas, who later resigned his post as chancellor of financial affairs.

In a letter to congregants, the bishop made no other specific mention of the loan, but he apparently was referring to a \$225,000 loan to mall fraud convict Franco Nicoletti's European Investments Inc. The loan, according to knowledgeable sources, was unsecured and is in default, with virtually no chance of being recovered.

Straling wrote in the letter, which was published in the diocesan newspaper, the Inland Catholic, that he became aware of the loan "upon my return from vacation late last July," which would have been more than two years after the loan was made.

The bishop's letter was the first public comment by him on the transaction. The Press-Enterprise had been attempting to ask the bishop and Covas about the loan since last July, but they had declined comment.

The Press-Enterprise disclosed the loan in a story published in Feb. 5 editions. That story, based on certain documents and interviews with knowledgeable sources who were not named, reported that the diocese loaned \$225,000 to European Investments on Feb. 20, 1981. Nicoletti, who is now in state prison for defrauding Empire Savings and Loan Association in 1982 loan schemes, signed the note with the diocese as president of the corporation.

The note was supposed to be paid back March 1, 1982, but it carried a provision allowing the borrower to extend the note's duration for one year.

At the time of the loan, Nicoletti was on probation for a 1980 mail fraud conviction. He was performing 500 hours of community service imposed upon him as part of his sentence at St. Catherine's Church in Riverside under supervision of Covas, who was pastor.

The bishop was not available for comment yesterday, according to Paul Roma, the bishop's executive assistant and vice chancellor. He referred the inquiry

Riverside law firm of Reid, Bulbage and Coll, which represents the bishop. Manning was not available for comment.

Covas, reached at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino where he is rector, said he had no comment.

Straling's letter began by stating that "recent newspaper articles have given rise to questions about a diocesan loan." The bishop also stated that changes in diocesan financial practices have been instituted. He added that "the diocese now requires that all checks of significant amounts be co-signed."

The Feb. 5 news story reported that the check that transferred the \$225,000 to European Investments carried only Covas' signature.

Straling wrote that he "learned of an unauthorized loan made by Father Peter F. Covas" late last July.

"I immediately called a special meeting of the Diocesan Councilors to inform them of this and to seek their counsel," the bishop wrote in yesterday's Inland Catholic. "Father Covas' resignation was accepted on July 29, 1983. (Due to the restructuring of the diocesan curia in accordance with the Revised Code of Canon Law, the position of Financial Chancellor was eliminated Aug. 22, 1983.)"

An article in the Oct. 13, 1983, Inland Catholic said Covas was "relieved" of his position as financial chancellor Aug. 22 to conform to changes in church law and to devote his time to being pastor of Our Lady of Fatima parish in San Bernardino and rector at the cathedral.

The bishop, whose letter assured congregants "that the diocese is financially sound," said that "every effort is being made to make safe, secure investments." He also said a Diocesan Finance Council, "composed of experts in law, finance, investments and real estate," was formed, as the revised code requires.

That council has not yet met, according to George Schmitl, the diocese's financial manager. He said the council would have six to eight members and would meet as soon as the last members were

File

Riverside
Press-Enterprise
Feb. 17, 1984

LAW OFFICES

REID, BABBAGE & COIL

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

3800 ORANGE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 1300
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92502-3834

TELEPHONE 692-1771
AREA CODE 714

OFFICE IN
NEWPORT BEACH

OF COUNSEL
WALTER M. INGALLS

ENOS C. REID,*
JOHN C. BABBAGE*
HORACE O. COIL*
DONALD F. POWELL*
DAVID G. MOORE*
JAMES J. MANNING, JR.
DIANE S. BREWER
RICHARD D. ROTH
DAN G. MCKINNEY
BOB S. BROWN
WILLIAM J. WARD

*MEMBERS PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

September 29, 1983

[REDACTED]
Staff Writer
Press Enterprise Company
Post Office Box 792
Riverside, California 92502

Dear Mr. Labarre:

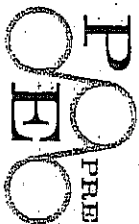
I received your letter of September 23 (meter stamped September 26; postmarked September 27) on September 29.

Bishop [REDACTED] is out of the country. I will discuss this matter with him sometime in mid-October.

Very truly yours,

REID, BABBAGE & COIL

[REDACTED]



PRESS ENTERPRISE COMPANY

September 23, 1983

The Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Your Excellency:

Re the attached letter to Father Peter Covas:

Since it is my understanding the loan was made in the name of the Bishop, I would also like to discuss it with you.

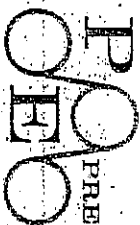
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Staff Writer

Attachment

cc: The Rev. Peter F. Covas

Mr. [REDACTED]
Reid, Rabbage & Coll



PRESS ENTERPRISE COMPANY

September 23, 1983

The Rev. Peter F. Covas
Chancellor of Financial Affairs
Diocese of San Bernardino
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Dear Father Covas:

Since my June 4, 1983 interview with you, I have become aware of a 1981 loan to European Investments, Inc. of [REDACTED] in Diocese of San Bernardino funds, authorized and signed by you. [REDACTED] signed as president of European Investments, Inc. I have, since becoming aware of this loan, made various efforts, direct and indirect, to discuss it with you but as yet to no avail. The subject of the interview I now request is made in specific terms so that there be no misunderstanding.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
STAFF WRITER

cc: The Most Rev., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Esq.
Reid, Babbage & Coll

Covas - TC117

PRESS ENTERPRISE COMPANY
OFFICE

September 23, 1983

Mr. [REDACTED]
Reid, Rabbage & Coil
3800 Orange Street
Post Office Box 1300
Riverside, CA 92502-3834

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Your earlier discouragement notwithstanding, I still want to make this effort to discuss with Bishop [REDACTED] and Father Covas the loan which has come to my attention since my June 4 interview with Father Covas, and I wanted to be as specific as necessary as to the subject of my interest.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Staff Writer

cc: ✓ The Most Rev. [REDACTED]

The Rev. Peter F. Covas

Saga of a yacht, a restaurateur and Empire loans

By BOB LABAREE
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

On the north side of the island of Jamaica, a yacht languished in the sway of Montego Bay tides for more than two years.

The vessel that carried European celebrities through the Mediterranean Sea had been "under arrest," the possession of authorities until its ownership is decided, for nearly as long as Franco Nicoletti has been in custody.

The yacht never cruised American waters, but

it brought Nicoletti to Riverside's Empire Savings and Loan in October 1982 just the same, and set off a series of rapid loan-making. It also got the Riverside restaurateur a four-year prison term.

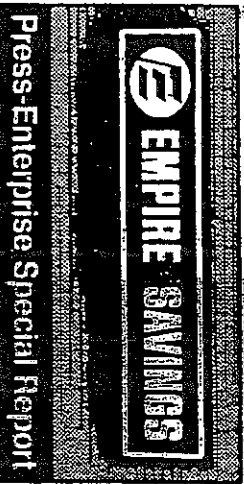
Nicoletti came to Empire with what turned out to be overvalued real estate as collateral for loans to buy the yacht. His visit started the loan-making that didn't stop until nearly \$1 million was lent to his corporation and friends.

He has been in custody for fraudulently obtaining \$602,000 from those loans, but his Empire-an Investments Inc. obtained two other loans for a total \$349,000 that never resulted in charges.

The savings and loan in a 1984 proxy statement attributed its loss from the loans to "apparent misconduct and misrepresen-

ted persons not affiliated with Empire Savings."

But the loans, apparently were made without the safeguards required by state and federal regulations. Empire did not require applications for the loans that did not result in criminal charges. It made those loans despite strong evidence Nicoletti's corporation could not make the payments. Before the



Press-Enterprise Special Report

Third in a Series

When Nicoletti

showed up at the Empire building on California Avenue on Oct. 11, 1982, he had already struck a deal to buy the 147-foot yacht then known as the "Angela." Offered for sale by the yachts of Ambley, Pa., and on the port of Athens, Greece, the yacht was advertised as the 1969 wedding present of shipping magnate Aristotile Onassis to Princess Grace and Prince Rainier III of Monaco.

Valer president Vassilios Billiellas had agreed to sell the boat for \$425,000, and an escrow was opened.

Nicoletti's European Investments was supposed to pay Valer \$60,500 in cash and the rest in five years. To guarantee payment of the \$374,500 balance, Nicoletti gave a trust deed for half amount on what was said to be \$467,000

in a house in Philadelphia owned by a loan broker and asso-

Summary of first two articles

Empire Savings and Loan Association opened its doors for business in September 1982 with promises of being a special part of the community.

However, in gaining its state charter and federal insurance, the association exaggerated its closeness to the local Roman Catholic diocese, despite the presence of diocesan financial chancellor Peter Covas on the board. While the association was organizing,

in addition, some letters to state regulators claiming community support for the institution were of dubious authenticity, and claims about Empire's involvement in a senior citizen housing project were overstated.

Board Chairman Donald L. Jolly, who said the exaggerations came from lawyers and economists hired to submit the applications, functioned as a bishop in a small separatist Catholic movement.

He regularly called himself "doctor" listing a number of doctorates in information submitted to the federal government. His degree came from a university he started.

Jolly's autobiography contains numerous inaccuracies about his background, but he blamed them on his collaborator.



Clasping hands during ceremony at Riverside National Cemetery yesterday were, left to right foreground, Michael

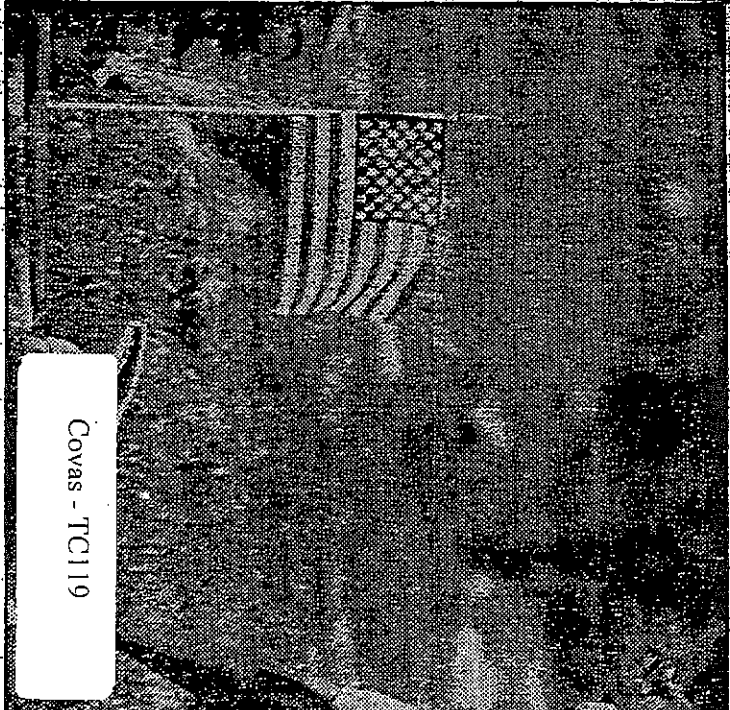
Memorial Day: tim

By DON BARWIN
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

Ricardo Elmonge has dirtily talking about what he went through in Vietnam. "It's like trying to explain what an elephant looks like to a blind man," the 39-year-old Riverside man says. "It depends on where you're standing."

Memorial Day holidays deaths. Story on Pa

The same statements have been made about Memorial Day services side National Cemetery. saw depended on wh



Covas - TC119

Antonia Garcia kneels near grave of her father

Empire

(From Page B-1)

Gems said to be worth \$1,000.

Having made the deal to purchase the yacht for European Investments, Nicoletti then sought money to buy it. His visit to Empire Savings produced an immediate response.

"This is to inform you that we had to loan Mr. Nicoletti an amount necessary to close your row within the next two weeks," stated an Oct. 11, 1982, letter from Empire Vice President Darryl Goodrich to Marvin Indsberry, the escrow agent handling the yacht sale.

Nicoletti had talked briefly to Empire board chairman Donald Jolly before meeting with Goodrich, and although the letter as signed by Goodrich, the secretary's notation indicates it was stated by DLI, possibly Jolly.

No loans ever were made in Nicoletti's name. Instead, on Oct. 1, a loan application bearing the name Giuseppe Gaudino was filed out.

Gaudino was portrayed in the application as the president of European Investments.

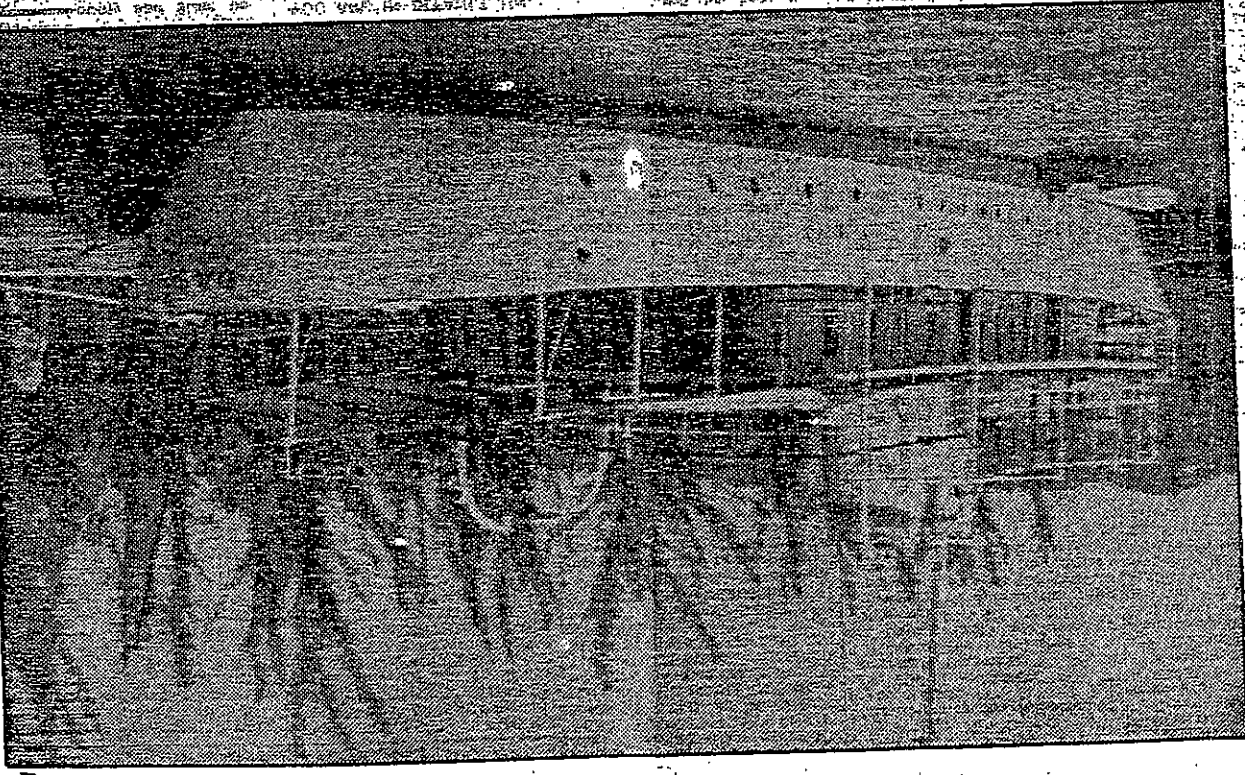
In fact, he worked as a cook, waiter and entertainer at Nicoletti's Via Veneto restaurant on Magnolia Avenue, and later testified under immunity from prosecution that he had set fire to the restaurant in August 1982 so Nicoletti could collect insurance.

Nicoletti rarely used his own name in transactions, partly because credit agencies were seeking to



File photo

Franco Nicoletti sings at his Via Veneto restaurant, while Giuseppe Gaudino plays guitar in the background.



The Ange'a, also known as Daska, at Montego Bay in Jamaica. Franco Nicoletti went to Empire to borrow money to purchase the boat in 1982 for European Investments. The California Administrative Code requires, since it was filed out for a deal that did not take place.

made. What is more, Empire the California Administrative Code requires, since it was filed out for a deal that did not take place. It also made the loan without a correct credit report since the name of the applicant was fictitious. Similarly, since the name of the appraiser was made up, Empire could not have had his qualifications on file as required by the code. Nicoletti was arrested on new loan fraud charges Dec. 15, 1982. The savings and loan funds were made, Nicoletti did get \$150,000 by foreclosing on

return that was given to Empire in support of the Canyon Lake loans. He also was listed as president in a Nov. 5, 1982, resolution authorizing European Investments to borrow the \$349,000 from Empire. Thus, the Blazewood and Canyon Lake loan packages conflicted on who the president of European Investments was and on other points as well. The 1981 return for the Canyon Lake loan said Gaudino's income was \$25,000 for the year, while the Blazewood application said his income was \$11,900 a month, or \$142,800 a year. The

Post also wrote he asked Jolly why, given European's "prior performance" in failing to make payments, he would approve a loan in a second position to bring current the first mortgage. "He had no answer to this question, or to a question as to the reason Empire S & L had not obtained a loan application for either of the two loans made to European Investments." A days after the Canyon Lake loans were made, Nicoletti

Empire to borrow money to purchase the boat in 1982 for European Investments. The California Administrative Code requires, since it was filed out for a deal that did not take place.

claim his assets, a sheriff's investigation later revealed.

In the loan application, Gaudino's income was listed as \$7,500 a month from European Investments and \$4,400 a month from real estate holdings and other assets. He supposedly was the owner of valuable automobiles, paintings, antiques and \$830,000 worth of real estate.

Despite these assets, a credit check on Gaudino, a routine step in loan-making, showed the applicant had no credit history.

The house Nicoletti lived in at 1144 Blazewood St. in Riverside was offered as security for the Gaudino loan, and on Oct. 12 the property was appraised at \$350,000.

The next day Empire's loan committee, consisting of Jolly, association President Barbara Offer and Vice President Patrick Casey, approved a loan for \$247,000. On Oct. 15, about \$238,000 was released. Nicoletti deposited about \$200,000 of the money in bank accounts he controlled, according to sheriff's investigators.

Jolly later testified at Nicoletti's preliminary hearing that he assumed Nicoletti and Gaudino were the same person, even though Nicoletti had never used the name Gaudino with him. He declined to say in a 1983 interview why he approved a loan to a man using an alias.

Three weeks after the Gaudino loan, Nicoletti was seeking another loan from Empire. This one was to be for European Investments, which by now was moving the yacht from Greece to Jamaica.

In July 1982, Nicoletti had acquired for his corporation two houses on the Canyon Lake shoreline — one on Skipper's Way and the other on Vacation Drive. He paid no more than \$1,500 for the



File photo
Franco Nicoletti at his 1983 preliminary hearing.

an officer of European Investment-promissory note on Feb. 20, 1981, as the president of European Investments when the corporation borrowed \$225,000 from the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino. The loan was made without security and has been written off as a bad debt.

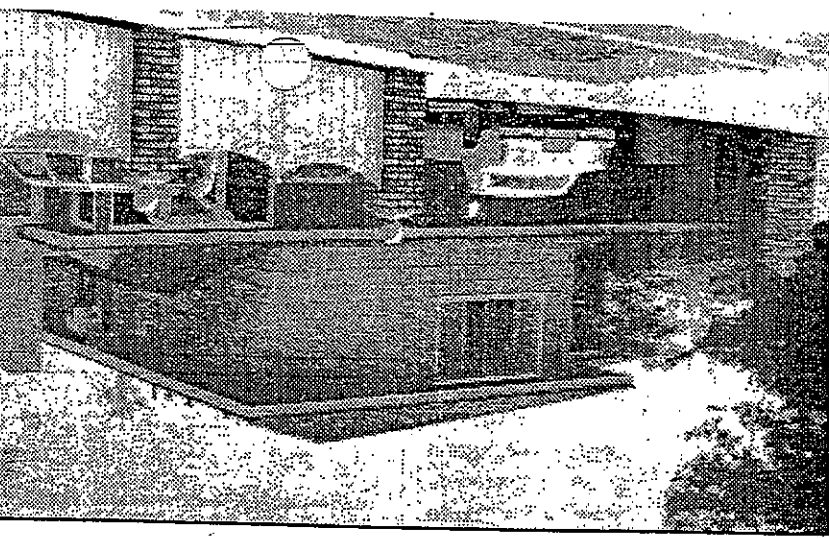
The loan was made for the diocese by the Rev. Peter F. Coval, financial chancellor for the diocese who was close to Nicoletti and who was an incorporator of Empire Savings with his friend Jolly.

However, Iorio signed, as president of European Investments, a 1981 federal income tax

For example, he signed a

He noted that European was about \$28,000 behind in its first mortgage payments at Canyon Lake when the Empire loans were

He noted that European was about \$28,000 behind in its first mortgage payments at Canyon Lake when the Empire loans were



return said Gaudino owned 50 percent of the corporation's stock, while the Blazewood application said he owned 60 percent.

The Oct. 11 Blazewood application listed the Vacation Drive home among Gaudino's personal real estate holdings. Three weeks later the same house was collateral for an Empire loan to European Investments.

It was the discrepancy between Gaudino as president of European Investments in the October Blazewood loan and Iorio as president in the November Canyon Lake loan that caught the attention of state Department of Savings and Loan examiner Robert L. Post.

"It would appear that someone does not have his act completely together on these loans," Post wrote in a memorandum dated Dec. 15, 1982.

"I have briefly reviewed Empire's loan operation, and it appears that it association personnel have expertise in real estate lending or in loan operations, that such expertise is not evident," Post wrote chief examiner Robert Morris.

He noted that European was about \$28,000 behind in its first mortgage payments at Canyon Lake when the Empire loans were

Lake loans were made. Nicoletti was arrested on fraud and forgery charges stemming from the Empire loan to Gaudino and was quickly released on bail. But the loan-making did not stop.

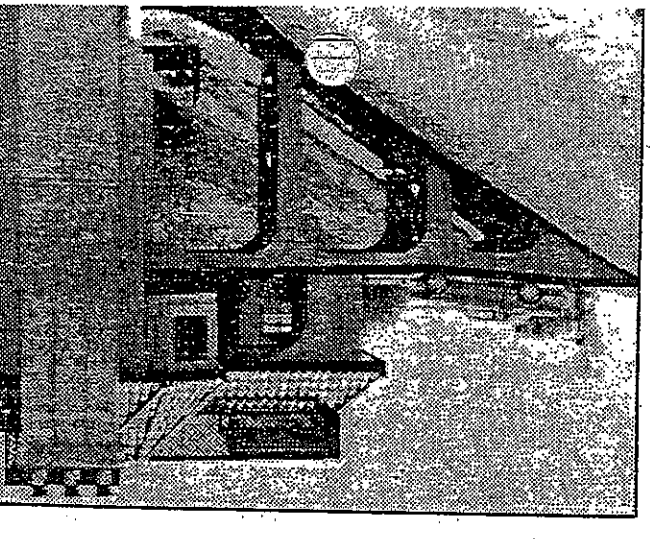
In December, Empire made a fourth loan. This one for \$355,000 on Redlands property later the same house was collateral for an Empire loan to European Investments.

It was the discrepancy between Gaudino as president of European Investments in the October Blazewood loan and Iorio as president in the November Canyon Lake loan that caught the attention of state Department of Savings and Loan examiner Robert L. Post.

"It would appear that someone does not have his act completely together on these loans," Post wrote in a memorandum dated Dec. 15, 1982.

"I have briefly reviewed Empire's loan operation, and it appears that it association personnel have expertise in real estate lending or in loan operations, that such expertise is not evident," Post wrote chief examiner Robert Morris.

He noted that European was about \$28,000 behind in its first mortgage payments at Canyon Lake when the Empire loans were



Lake loans were made. Nicoletti was arrested on fraud and forgery charges stemming from the Empire loan to Gaudino and was quickly released on bail. But the loan-making did not stop.

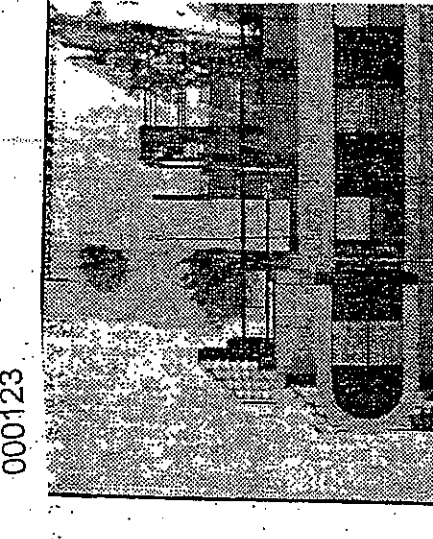
In December, Empire made a fourth loan. This one for \$355,000 on Redlands property later the same house was collateral for an Empire loan to European Investments.

It was the discrepancy between Gaudino as president of European Investments in the October Blazewood loan and Iorio as president in the November Canyon Lake loan that caught the attention of state Department of Savings and Loan examiner Robert L. Post.

"It would appear that someone does not have his act completely together on these loans," Post wrote in a memorandum dated Dec. 15, 1982.

"I have briefly reviewed Empire's loan operation, and it appears that it association personnel have expertise in real estate lending or in loan operations, that such expertise is not evident," Post wrote chief examiner Robert Morris.

He noted that European was about \$28,000 behind in its first mortgage payments at Canyon Lake when the Empire loans were



000123

In July 1982, Nicoletti had acquired for his corporation two houses on the Canyon Lake shore — one on Skipper's Way and the other on Vacation Drive. He said no more than \$1,500 for the two houses, according to county and records. But European investments was to make monthly payments of about \$3,000 on each of the houses.

Letafinis said in an interview that he learned that his second mortgage on the Canyon Lake properties were worthless because the value of the houses did not exceed the first mortgages. He also found out that the gems were worth only a small portion of what they had been appraised at before the deal for his yacht had been set.

He said he therefore gave up his \$374,500 in second mortgages on the properties for \$50,000 to salvage what he could from the deal. Nicoletti, however, said that Letafinis was paid in full.

The \$50,000 came from the loans Empire made on the same property to Nicoletti's European Investments. Nicoletti's corporation gave new second trust deeds to Empire.

Those loans, totalling \$349,000, were the second and third that Empire made to Nicoletti's corporation and his associates.

In the first, it was Gaudio who was the president of European Investment, but in the second and third, it was Michael P. Iorio, a Riverside house painter and wallpaper hanger who was the nominal owner of the Via Veneto restaurant.

Gaudio never was listed as



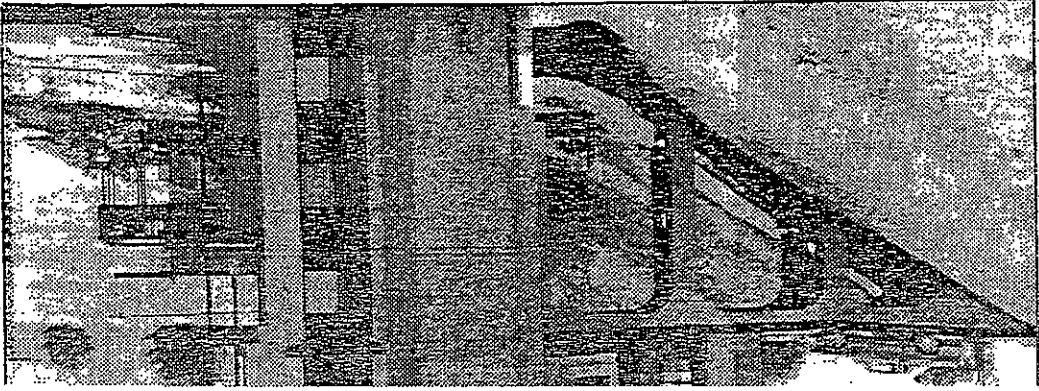
Loan one: House on Blazewood Street in Riverside was collateral for \$247,000 loan to Giuseppe Gaudio, described as the president of European Investments, Inc. Empire fore-

closed and recovered some money.

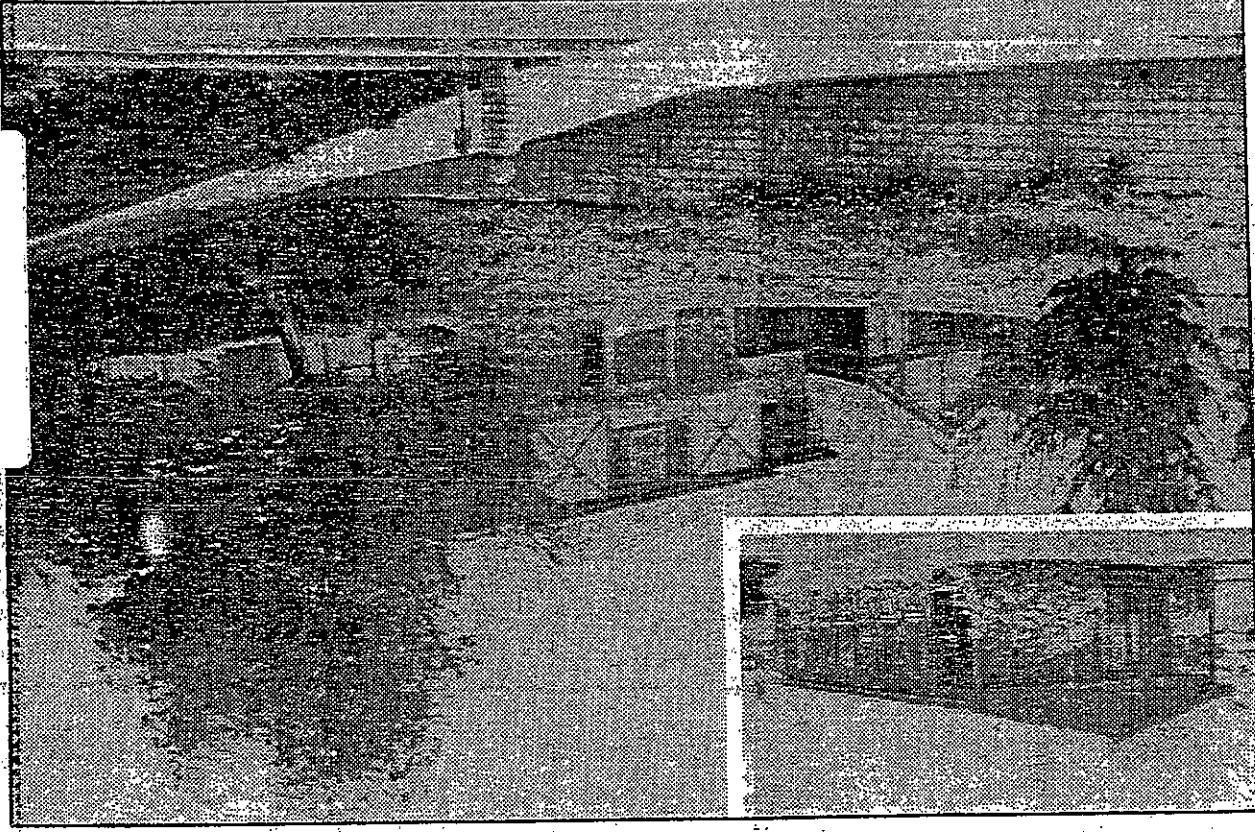
Loan two: House on Vacation Drive in Canyon Lake was collateral for \$294,000 loan to European Investments, Inc. Empire held a second trust deed and lost it's money when holder of first foreclosed.



Loan three: House on Skipper's Way in Canyon Lake was collateral for a \$55,000 loan to European Investments, Inc. Empire held a second trust deed and lost its money when the holder of the first trust deed foreclosed



Loan four: House on Church Street in Redlands (inset) was collateral for \$355,000 loan to Alfredo Baldieri. House was described in appraisal as \$400,000 house in large photo on Ocotillo Street in Redlands. The money was recovered before check was cashed.



Staff photo

Nicoletti loses motion for reduction in bail

By BOB LABARRE
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

Franco Nicoletti, who is accused of having his Via Veneto restaurant in Riverside set on fire, was denied a reduction in bail from \$500,000 to \$10,000 yesterday, two days after he was scheduled to be released from custody for a 1983 loan fraud conviction.

Riverside Superior Court Judge John H. Barnard refused to lower Nicoletti's bail over the protests of his attorney, Paul Caruso of Beverly Hills. The attorney argued that Nicoletti needed his freedom to prepare his defense.

Nicoletti is scheduled to stand trial May 28 for allegedly having his posh Riverside restaurant set on fire Aug. 10, 1982, to collect insurance. The prosecution also will allege at trial that Nicoletti falsely reported the theft of some diamonds on July 29, 1981, to steal them.

"I think it's absolutely un-American," Caruso said after the judge's decision not to reduce the bail. "I've had murder defendants who were released on a lower bail."

In court, Caruso said that Nicoletti was being treated unfairly.

"I think he has been singled out for special treatment," the attorney said. He argued that Nicoletti had shown up for previous court appearances and posed no threat to anyone.

However, deputy district attorney Paul Zellerbach said Nicoletti was a "flight risk." The prosecutor noted that bail had been set at \$500,000 in the loan fraud case because Nicoletti was considered a threat to jump bail.

"The same reason and motivation still exist, even more so," Zellerbach argued.

Barnard ruled on the bail matter after Superior Court Judge Thomas E. Hollenhorst disqualified himself at the request of the defense. Caruso filed an affidavit of prejudice against Hollenhorst yesterday after he raised the bail Friday to \$500,000.



Franco Nicoletti

Bail had been set at \$10,000 when Nicoletti was serving a term for fraud for his role in obtaining two loans from Empire Saving and Loan Association in 1982.

Nicoletti was scheduled to be released from jail Sunday after spending about 30 months in custody for illegally obtaining two loans totaling more than \$600,000. He pleaded guilty to seven charges in exchange for dismissal on six others. He was initially sent to state prison, but returned to Riverside County jail to answer the pending charges.

During Nicoletti's prison term, some of his closest associates came forward and told a grand jury that Nicoletti had the Via Veneto burned to collect insurance on the restaurant, which was not doing well.

Witnesses testified before the grand jury and in Riverside Municipal Court that he organized a scheme to report the theft of \$50,000 worth of diamonds from the restaurant. Nicoletti had the gems on consignment to sell them for a Los Angeles dealer. The dealer then filed an insurance claim.

MAIL
P 456 402 831
CERTIFIED

RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED
PRESS ENTERPRISE COMPANY
BOX 792 RIVERSIDE CALIF. 92502

PO BOX
LaBaire

CLAIM CHECK NO. 403033
 HOLD
DATE
1ST NOTICE
2ND NOTICE
RETURN
Detached from
PS Form 3849-A
7L 1980

The Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

SEP 26 1983
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF. 92405
PM 1
RIVERSIDE, CALIF. 92502
SEP 26 1983
CALIF. PD 137920
FEB 1983

Covas

March 7, 1983

Father [REDACTED]
Chancellor/Pastoral Affairs
Roman Catholic Diocese
San Bernardino/Riverside
1450 N. "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Dear Father [REDACTED]

I am in receipt of the February 25, 1983 letter from Empire Savings & Loan, hand-delivered by your office to mine.

As you may anticipate, I am not in a position to admit or deny any of the allegations made in that letter until I have had an opportunity to review the "documented evidence" referred to in the third paragraph and have been advised, specifically, what conduct, on my part, has been interpreted by the writers of this letter to be libelous and defaming.

Your help in resolving this matter would be greatly appreciated. In that light I would ask that you share with me all evidence that is in your possession and control verifying any of the allegations contained in the February 25 letter.

At this point, I would generally deny each of the allegations contained in the letter and choose to disregard it as I would other crank mail.

Your response and support in this matter will be anticipated.

Yours very truly,

Father [REDACTED]
Pastor [REDACTED]
St. Catherine of Alexandria's Church

LAW OFFICES

LEFF & STEPHENSON

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

SEVENTH FLOOR
9665 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90212
(213) 859-1200

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

SUITE 310
1300 NINETEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
(202) 466-7970

DONALD J. BURNISIC
JOHN C. GROSVENOR
ANDREW E. KATZ
ERNEST LEFF*
SAMUEL T. REES
RONALD L. STEPHENSON
ROBERT R. THORNTON

TELECOPIER (213) 278-0797

JOEL R. ARNOT

MEMBER OF THE
WASHINGTON, D.C. BAR

ANDREW ERSKINE
MARK C. GLAHN
PAUL H. IRVING
STEVEN G. POLARD

*DENOTES A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

February 24, 1983

OUR FILE NUMBER

04771

Dr. [REDACTED]
Empire Savings and Loan Association
7724 California Avenue
Riverside, CA 92504

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]

Enclosed is a copy of a section taken from the United States Code Annotated Title 18 Crimes and Criminal Procedure, Chapter 47 Fraud and False Statements. Please see Section 1001. Statements or entries generally.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Assistant to
Ernest Leff

[REDACTED]
ENCL

CHAPTER 47—FRAUD AND FALSE STATEMENTS

Sec.

1001. Statements or entries generally.
1002. Possession of false papers to defraud United States.
1003. Demands against the United States.
1004. Certification of checks.
1005. Bank entries, reports and transactions.
1006. Federal credit institution entries, reports and transactions.
1007. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation transactions.
1008. Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation transactions.
1009. Rumors regarding Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.
1010. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Federal Housing Administration transactions.
1011. Federal land bank mortgage transactions.
1012. Department of Housing and Urban Development transactions.
1013. Farm loan bonds and credit bank debentures.
1014. Loan and credit applications generally; renewals and discounts; crop insurance.
1015. Naturalization, citizenship or alien registry.
1016. Acknowledgment of appearance or oath.
1017. Government seals wrongfully used and instruments wrongfully sealed.
1018. Official certificates or writings.
1019. Certificates by consular officers.
1020. Highway projects.
1021. Title records.
1022. Delivery of certificate, voucher, receipt for military or naval property.
1023. Insufficient delivery of money or property for military or naval service.
1024. Purchase or receipt of military, naval, or veterans' facilities property.
1025. False pretenses on high seas and other waters.
1026. Compromise, adjustment, or cancellation of farm indebtedness.
1027. False statements and concealment of facts in relation to documents required by the Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act.

§ 1001. Statements or entries generally

Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact,

sentations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

§ 1002. Possession of false papers to defraud United States

Whoever, knowingly and with intent to defraud the United States, or any agency thereof, possesses any false, altered, forged, or counterfeited writing or document for the purpose of enabling another to obtain from the United States, or from any agency, officer or agent thereof, any sum of money, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

§ 1003. Demands against the United States

Whoever knowingly and fraudulently demands or endeavors to obtain any share or sum in the public stocks of the United States, or to have any part thereof transferred, assigned, sold, or conveyed, or to have any annuity, dividend, pension, wages, gratuity, or other debt due from the United States, or any part thereof, received, or paid by virtue of any false, forged, or counterfeited power of attorney, authority, or instrument, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both; but if the sum or value so obtained or attempted to be obtained does not exceed \$100, he shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

§ 1004. Certification of checks

Whoever, being an officer, director, agent, or employee of any Federal Reserve bank or member bank of the Federal Reserve System, certifies a check before the amount thereof has been regularly deposited in the bank by the drawer thereof, or resorts to any device, or receives any fictitious obligation, directly or collaterally, in order to evade any of the provisions of law relating to certification of checks, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

§ 1005. Bank entries, reports and transactions

Whoever, being an officer, director, agent or employee of any Federal Reserve bank, member bank, national bank or insured bank, without authority from the directors of such bank, issues or puts in circulation any notes of such bank; or

Whoever, without such authority, makes, draws, issues note forth

February 24, 1983

BAY STREET



Bank

Dr. Donald L. Jolly
Chairman of The Board
Empire Savings
7724 California Ave.
Riverside, California
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Jolly

On March 4, 1983 I intend to request that the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation and the F.B.I. begin an investigation with the intent to file charges against Erickson for over 200 counts of violation of the United States code on crime and criminal procedure, Title 18, Chapter 47, regarding his activities against Empire Savings and Loan Association. There is no doubt that he has diminished the faith of the public in a Federally Insured financial institution. This is a federal crime and my group intends to see that he is prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Civil procedure will be also brought against him.

Dear Dr. Jolly,

I do think that you are attempting to protect the church and that priest more than you are your own Co. and stockholders. I will give you until March 4, to put a stop to that mad man. He has caused two mergers to sour and that represents a potential loss of over \$5,000,000.00 to the combined entities. His remarks around town have caused losses in deposits of over \$7,000,000.00.

I am prepared to file two lawsuits on behalf of stockholders within the next 30 days. We have over 60 persons who will appear on our behalf and 250 more names of persons to whom he has defamed Empire. Of the above, 187 are stockholders. He has also violated Federal Law by his activities and could be subject to 5 years in Federal Prison. This is a very serious matter and we will put a stop to him if you and the Bishop will not and that will mean a lot of scandal for the church and for him. What we have on him will curl your hair. He is a sick man and has done things that will come out in court and hurt everyone on that side. If you can stop him go to it, if you can not we sure will and we will STOP AT NOTHING, and I mean NOTHING. 80 percent of your stockholders are good Catholic people and your board also. In fact half of your board go to his church or I should say used to go to his church.

Do something Now, I will call you
on the 28th.

Sincerely,



EMPIRE SAVINGS and Loan Association

February 25, 1983

Fr. Phillip [REDACTED]
Chancellor - Pastoral Affairs
Roman Catholic Diocese of San
Bernardino/Riverside
1450 North "D" St.
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Greetings Fr. [REDACTED]:

The purpose of this letter is to seek your intervention in a delicate matter involving Fr. [REDACTED].

It is alleged that for a period of approximately 1 1/2 years Fr. [REDACTED] has involved himself in defaming the corporate character of Empire Savings and also the character of the principals of the corporation.

We have documented evidence that this has occurred on a regular basis over this period of time. Fr. [REDACTED] has made libelous remarks to both clergy and laity regarding the financial stability and integrity of Empire Savings and has intimated that the management of Empire Savings is directly involved with criminal elements and is financially unstable and to quote, "Will soon fold". He has also specifically told dozens of people to "Get their money out of Empire Savings".

Statements of this type are a direct violation of the United States Code-Crime and Criminal Procedures, Title 18, Chapter 47, Section 1001. Legal counsel advises us that he may be liable for prosecution under the Federal Code and be financially liable for losses of deposits sustained by Empire Savings as a result of his insidious activities.

The officers and directors of Empire Savings, on behalf of 932 stockholders and 1,500 customers hereby demand that he cease and desist from activities which will

COVRS - TC134

Fr. Phillip [REDACTED]
February 25, 1983
Page Two

affect Empire Savings. We stand ready to formally request the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, and the F.B.I. to commence a formal investigation, with the intent of full prosecution. We also intend to pursue full civil remedies on behalf of the corporation and it's stockholders unless Fr. [REDACTED] ceases and desists immediately and assists in restoring the image of Empire Savings in the eyes of those to whom he has diminished it.

If I can provide any further specific information, or can assist you in any way, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
Chairman of the Board

[REDACTED]
President

[REDACTED]
Executive Vice President

[REDACTED]



EMPIRE SAVINGS
and Loan Association

Dear to [redacted]

The packages are for you

Information - I do hope you can put
a stop to him - How are money problems
working, but I think I can put a stop
to everything if you can get him to
stop his money & keep it about

About his money & how to help
to do something positive to help
himself. If we can do that, I think everything
will be ok

If I can help in any way, let
me know - Thank you

[redacted]

Covas - TC140

February 24, 1983

BAY STREET

Bank



Dr. Donald L. Jolly
Chairman of the Board
Empire Savings
7724 California Ave.
Riverside, California
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Jolly,

Dear Dr. Jolly, I intend to request that the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation and the F.B.I. begin an investigation with the intent to file charges against Erickson for over 200 counts of violation of the United States code on crime and criminal procedure. Title 18, Chapter 47, regarding his activities against Empire Savings and Loan Association. There is no doubt that he had diminished the faith of the public in a federally insured financial institution. This is a federal crime and my group intends to see that he is prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Civil procedure will be also brought against him.

I do think that you are attempting to protect the church and that priest more than you are your own Co. and stockholders. I will give you until March 4, to put a stop to that mad man. He has caused two mergers to sour and that represents a potential loss of over \$5,000,000.00 to the combined entities. His remarks around town have caused losses in deposits of over \$7,000,000.00.

I am prepared to file two lawsuits on behalf of stockholders within the next 30 days. We have over 60 persons who will appear on our behalf and 250 more names of persons to whom he has defamed Empire. Of the above, 187 are stockholders. He has also violated Federal Law by his activities and could be subject to 5 years in Federal Prison. This is a very serious matter and we will put a stop to him if you and the Bishop will not and that will mean a lot of scandal for the church and for him. What we have on him will curl your hair. He is a sick man and has done things that will come out in court and hurt everyone on that side. If you can stop AT NOTHING, and I mean NOTHING, 80 percent of your stockholders are good Catholic people and your board also. In fact half of your board go to his church or I should say used to go to his church.

Do something now, I will call you on the 28th.

Sincerely,



EMPIRE SAVINGS and Loan Association

February 25, 1983

*Fr. [redacted]
wants to talk to
Fr. Behan during this
week - keep me
informed of any
developments*

Fr. [redacted]
Chancellor - Pastoral Affairs
Roman Catholic Diocese of San
Bernardino/Riverside
1450 North "D" St.
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Greetings Fr. Behan:

The purpose of this letter is to seek your intervention in a delicate matter involving Fr. [redacted]

It is alleged that for a period of approximately 1 1/2 years Fr. Erickson has involved himself in defaming the corporate character of Empire Savings and also the character of the principals of the corporation.

We have documented evidence that this has occurred on a regular basis over this period of time. Fr. Erickson has made libelous remarks to both clergy and laity regarding the financial stability and integrity of Empire Savings and has intimated that the management of Empire Savings is directly involved with criminal elements and is financially unstable and to quote, "Will soon fold". He has also specifically told dozens of people to "get their money out of Empire Savings".

Statements of this type are a direct violation of the United States Code-Crime and Criminal Procedures, Title 18, Chapter 47, Section 1001. Legal counsel advises us that he may be liable for prosecution under the Federal Code and be financially liable for losses of deposits sustained by Empire Savings as a result of his insidious activities.

The officers and directors of Empire Savings, on behalf of 932 stockholders and 1,500 customers hereby demand that he cease and desist from activities which will

Fr. [REDACTED]
February 25, 1983
Page Two

affect Empire Savings. We stand ready to formally request the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, and the F.B.I. to commence a formal investigation, with the intent of full prosecution. We also intend to pursue full civil remedies on behalf of the corporation and it's stockholders unless Fr. Erickson ceases and desists immediately and assists in restoring the image of Empire Savings in the eyes of those to whom he has diminished it.

If I can provide any further specific information, or can assist you in any way, please let me know.

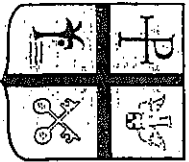
Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
Chairman of the Board

[REDACTED]
President

[REDACTED]
Executive Vice President

[REDACTED]



Be Ye Transformed

Dr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for [REDACTED]

for your help - I

truly do not want to

put a burden on you,

the thing is the budget

I am well like I have

money with you soon!
Thank you so much!

[REDACTED]

Post Office Box 951 • San Bernardino, California 92402 • (714) 886-2026 • (714) 494-2249 • (213) 796-2425

Savings and loan overstated community, diocese's support

By BOB LABARRÉ
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

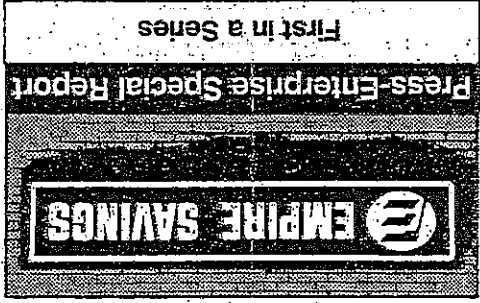
Two and half years ago a new savings and loan opened in Riverside. It was to be like no other the city had known.

It made four quick loans with inadequate collateral for nearly \$1 million in apparent violation of state and federal regulations to one of the priest's friends who had been convicted of mail fraud previously.

It was run by a board chairman who regularly referred to himself as a doctor but whose doctorate is an honorary one from a university he started, who wrote an autobiography containing exaggerations and fabrications and who functioned as a bishop in a breakaway Catholic movement.

The exaggerations to state and federal regulators were not known by them when Empire was awarded its charter and insurance.

Although state law at the time directed the state Department of Savings and Loan to "investigate all facts connected with the formation of the pro-



posed association, including its incorporated association, officers, directors, officers, such facts were investigated, according to department officials.

Tom Patterson B-2
Indian activist speaks at UCR B-2
Week in Review B-5

Local The Press-Enterprise

SECTION
B

COVBS - TC151
Sunday, May 26, 1985

In Empire's case no attempt was made to check the claims about its relationship with the diocese and its commitment to housing projects, even though Empire attorney Ernest Lett told regulators that this was "the reason for approving this application."

Later, when told of the exaggerations, the department's commissioner at the time said he would not investigate Empire's charter to do business if it had known that the claims were untrue.

In any case, Empire did not do well financially.

In addition to the setback of its early bad loans, Empire relied chiefly on \$100,000-or-more "jumbo" certificates of deposit. On those deposits it had to pay high interest, thus keeping its profitability low.

By the time of its Dec. 31, 1984, sale to Equitic Financial Group Inc., the association was in "tenuous" financial condition, according to its lawyer.

Losses had increased last year so that by the end of the third quarter the association's net worth was \$294,000 below the minimum set by the state regulator, although it still was above the federal minimum.

Empire directors began to seek a buyer one year after its opening. In June 1984, the directors accepted the purchase proposal of Equitic of Oakland, which later paid \$14.25 a share for the stock originally sold at \$10.

The new owners now call the institution Equitic Savings Bank and reported to stockholders that it made money in January.

"I thought we had a fabulous winner," Robert C. Kenny, a Palm Springs gem dealer, remembered thinking after (See EMPIRE, Page B-4)

Dan Bernstein

The Weather

Entertainment

B-3

B-4

B-5

000168

SECTION **B**

Monday, May 27, 1985

COVASS - TC152

Questionable Donald Jolly: Businessman? Bishop? Educator?

By BOB LABARRÉ
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

Growing up in San Bernardino, Donald L. Jolly acted out a childhood fantasy by playing pope with a chum named Jenny.

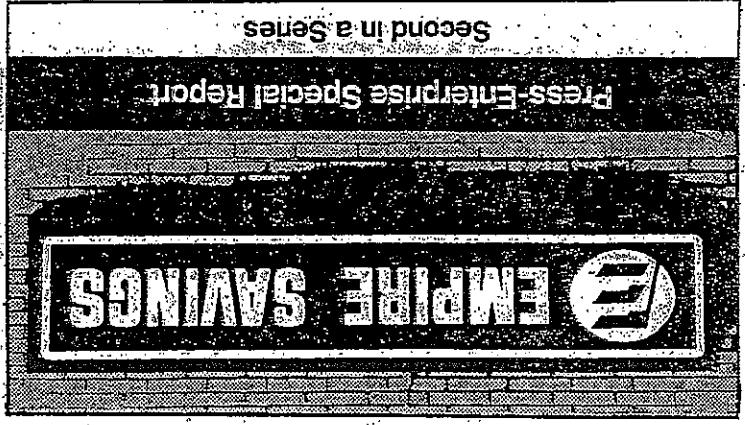
Jenny only reluctantly would assume the role of a bishop to Donald's pope. She protested that the game just wasn't right, the roles too sacred.

"I never really understood her feelings," Jolly wrote in his autobiography. "For me, it all seemed second nature, a sort of childhood rehearsal for an important role in later life."

While guiding into existence Empire Savings and Loan Association, claiming a special relationship with the local Roman Catholic diocese, Jolly functioned as a bishop in a separatist Catholic movement, according to records and interviews.

Although he denied in a lengthy 1983 interview that he was a bishop, records show Jolly participated in the consecrations of other bishops, using the title of archbishop and eminence, and helped organize and incorporate separatist churches generally associated with a century-old schismatic movement.

He regularly uses the title of



"Dr." to reflect an academic demeanor, "Ph.D., psychology, behavior, when confronted with them, Jolly said he really didn't write the book, that it was the product of his collaborator and that he didn't check her work closely enough. He now is known on Riverside's KPPO radio station as Dr. Donald Jolly, host of a two-hour talk show five days a week in which he expounds on motivation, discipline and awareness, then talks with callers.

Now 44 years of age, he founded his third university last year, becoming chief executive officer of United States University of Graduate Studies, which gave Empire Savings' address as its own.

Jolly lives in a San Bernardino house that he purchased last year from the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino. He occasionally conducts motivation seminars and speaks to a variety of groups.

The Education of Donald Jolly

In the biographical and financial report that Jolly filed with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board in 1981 to obtain federal loan insurance for Empire Savings, he listed four degrees under "Educational background": B.A., Ph.D., S.T.D., and D.B.A.

Jolly said he could not remember when or why he received the honorary Ph.D.

Jolly appeared mystified when asked about the D.B.A. on the federal report.

"D.B.A., I don't understand what that means. Doing business as, that's what I get out of (it)."

Asked whether it might mean doctor of business administration, Jolly answered: "No, that can't. That is not what that is."

But in another portion of Empire's application, Jolly listed a non degree *honoris causa*.

Both the Ph.D. and the D.B.A. honorary degrees came from California American University, worked in Hollywood, where Jolly then

Summary of yesterday's story

Empire Savings and Loan Association opened its doors for business in September 1982 with promises of being a special part of the community.

However, in gaining its state charter and federal insurance, the association exaggerated its closeness to the local Roman Catholic diocese, despite the presence of diocesan financial chancellor Peter Covas on the board while the association was organizing.

In addition, some letters to state regulators claiming community support for the institution were of dubious authenticity, and claims about Empire's involvement in a senior citizen housing project were overstated.

Soon after the Empire opened, four bad loans totaling nearly \$1 million were made to a corporation controlled by Riverside restaurateur Franco Nicoletti and two of his friends. Nicoletti received a four-year prison term for his role in two of the loans.

Board Chairman Donald L. Jolly said the exaggerations came from lawyers and economists hired to submit the applications.

Both the Ph.D. and the D.B.A. honorary degrees came from California American University, worked in Hollywood, where Jolly then

quarters in a State Mutual Savings

founded by Jolly in 1976 with Jolly no longer is connected (See JOLLY, Page B-3)

monies in 1979. During that time, the name was changed from the Skylark Hotel and it was advertised as a place to "Join the Men" in a September edition of the Advo-

deal was struck to sell the property to Empire before regulatory approval was sought. It wasn't until Feb. 17, 1983, that Jolly discussed with the board of directors a need for

"Please be advised that in the future the Department will not act favorably upon an action filed by your association unless you as a board have thoroughly investigat-

ed the matter." The seller helped finance the sale by accepting a deed of trust for \$235,000. The two Empire executives obtained another \$240,000 loan on the property.

a state law which in force. Jordia wife joined the board. However, the couple said they became disenchanted with Empire over Jolly's refusal to refinance a loan more than Empire's cost of ob-

taining funds and that also were denied the refinancing request. They had from the association. He said because of her pres-

Empire . . .

(From Page B-1)

tion also riles out indirect loans. Jolly first acquired the motel in 1979, according to county land records. Ownership shares were distributed among Jolly, friends Patrick Michael Casey and Jeremiah Michael Jacobs and the Peter Palmer Living Trust.

"That's me," the Rev. Peter Covas, former pastor at St. Catherine's Church in Riverside, said when asked in 1983 about the Palmer name. "That's my mother's name, Palmer . . . and he's (Jolly) the only one who uses that. By the way, I have rarely used it. He's the one who loves to use it because he knew my mother very well."

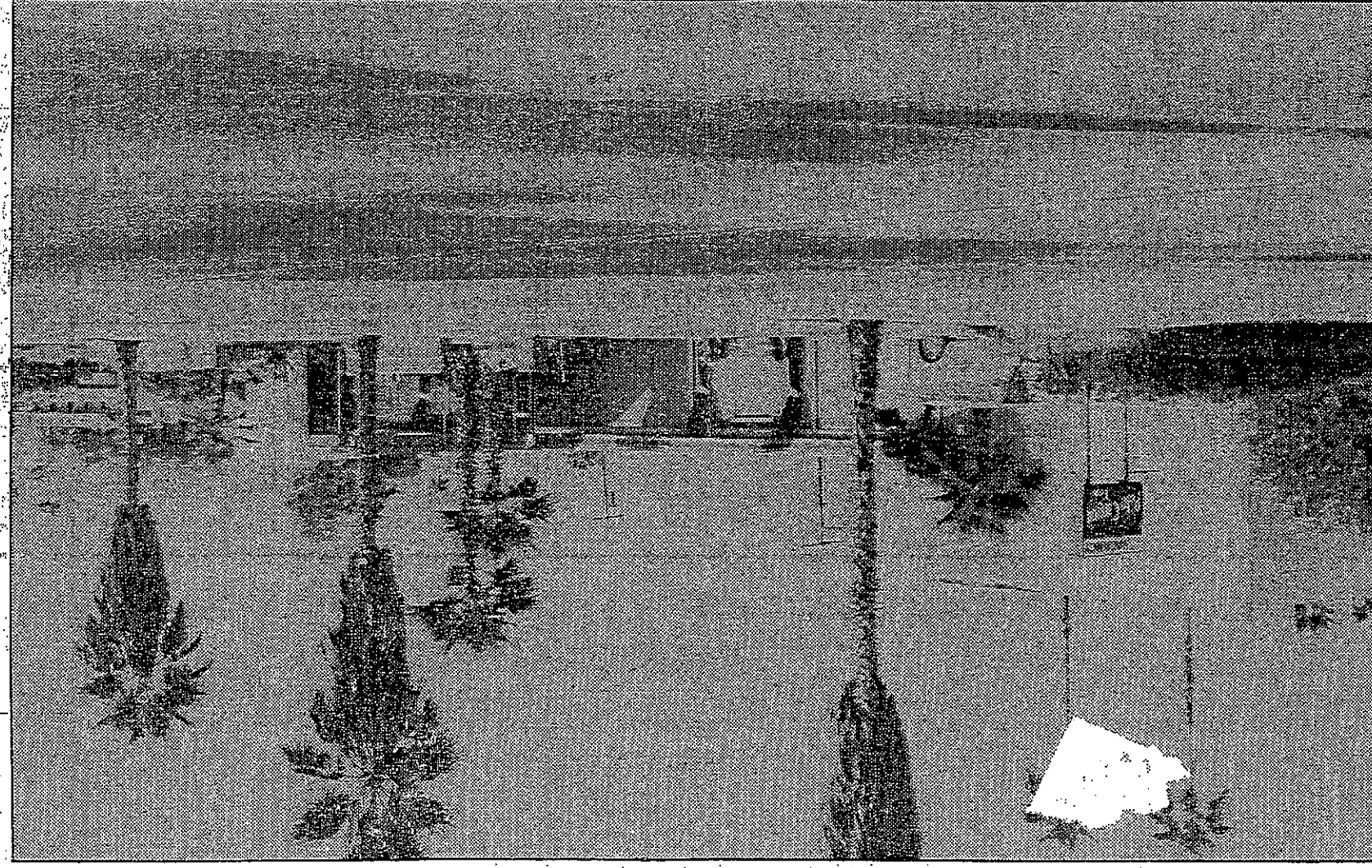
But both Jolly, who was trustee for the Palmer trust, and Covas denied that Covas was in any way connected with the motel or the trust.

When contacted last month, Covas, now rector at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino, said he had not asked Jolly about the Palmer name on the land records.

"I suspect he invented it," Covas said of the trust.

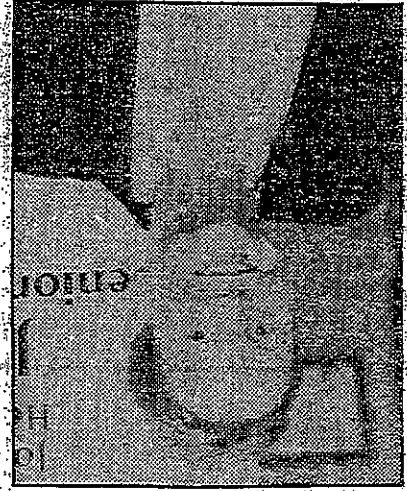
Jolly said in a 1983 interview that the Palmer whose name was on the trust worked in hotel management. He said he did not know where Palmer was.

Asked last month about Springs, Jolly's lawyer, Paul S. Abbot, answering for his client, wrote that Dr. Jolly has never had not been made since Debra-



Staff photos

The Palm Canyon Inn on North Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs was owned by Empire Savings Chairman Donald L. Jolly and facing foreclosure sale until late last year when it was exchanged for three Indio commercial properties on Fargo Street in a loan from Empire Savings and Loan. Shown below are commercial properties on Fargo Street.



Barbara Q. Offer
Empire Savings & Loan
President

...approval was sought...
 Hotel and it was advertised as a...
 September edition of the Advo-
 cate, a magazine aimed at homo-
 sexuals. The motel also has been
 listed in the Advocate's guide to
 the Los Angeles area.

In 1983, after several owner-
 ship changes, it was decided back
 to Jolly.

Jolly had borrowed about
 \$245,000 when he and the others
 purchased the motel. Last sum-
 mer he was about \$10,000 behind
 in payments on that note and the
 notice of default was filed Aug.
 21.

Three months later on Nov.
 20, a series of documents were
 recorded.

Jolly granted Deborah Ann
 Sisson, Pleasant Hills Investment
 trustee, the Palm Canyon Inn for
 \$300,000, not including outstand-
 ing liens on the property, and
 Sisson granted Jolly the Indio
 properties for \$252,000, also not
 including outstanding liens. Both
 deeds were dated Sept. 28.

Sisson secured a \$185,000
 loan from Empire with a trust
 deed on the Indio property dated
 Nov. 16. She also put up as addi-
 tional security a lease on the
 properties. On the date of the
 loan, Jolly gave up his third trust
 deed on the Palm Canyon Inn.

However, Jolly's creditors
 filed another notice of default last
 month against Jolly, citing the
 1979 trust deed. Pleasant Hills
 Investment Trust was responsible
 for the monthly payments under
 terms of the 1984 sale, according
 to Abdul K. Memon, one of the
 creditors. Memon said payments

...the couple said they became dis-
 enchanted with Empire over Jol-
 ly's refusal to refinance a loan
 they had from the association. He
 denied the refinancing request
 they said, because of her pres-
 ence on the board. She then re-
 signed.

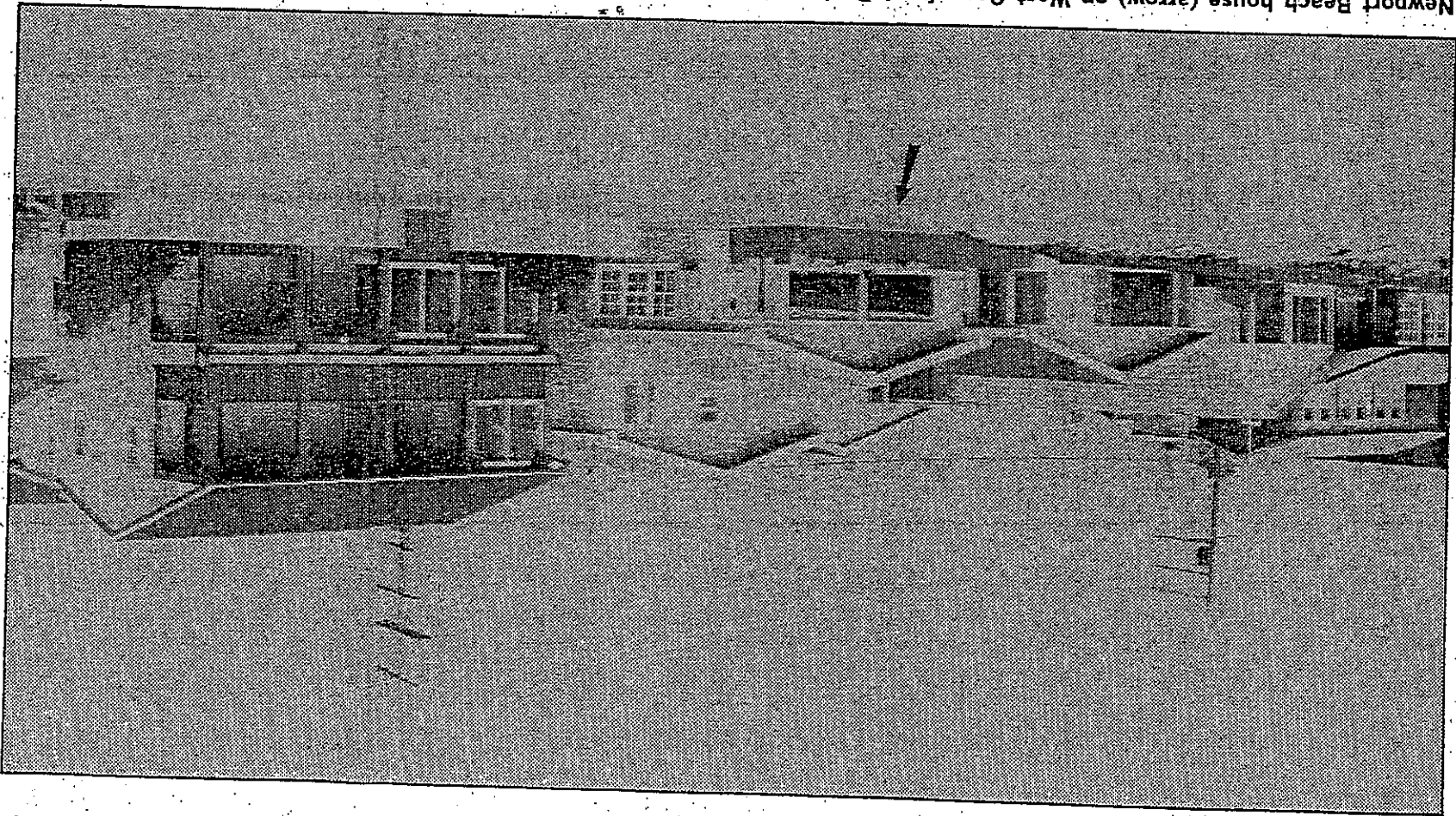
But they did get a loan in
 December 1982, when she was on
 the board. The Kennys received a
 \$150,000 mortgage loan on a
 home they owned in Palm Springs
 and on vacant land near River-
 side.

They weren't living in the
 home at the time, but said in an
 interview they intended to make
 it their principal residence. Such
 insider loans at that time were to
 be limited to principal residences.
 The Kennys' loan application
 was not dated and did not indicate
 whether it was filled out before or
 after the loan was approved. Other
 and Jolly approved the loan about
 five weeks before the date of
 most other loan documents.

David Knudtsen, whose com-
 pany handled the Empire loan to
 the Kennys and was trying to find
 a lender for the refinancing,
 wrote in an April 19, 1983, letter
 to Robert Kenny:

"No doubt you will under-
 stand that the manner in which
 your loan (initially) was handled
 at Empire Savings and Loan bears
 no real resemblance to the man-
 ner in which a conventional loan
 will have to be processed. The
 loan we did for Empire was actu-
 ally approved on November 2,
 and much of the processing was
 done by our office subsequent to
 that I am sure the fact that you
 were a stockholder and known to
 the people at Empire influenced
 their judgment at that time."

Knudtsen stated in the letter.



Newport Beach house (arrow) on West Oceanfront Boulevard was purchased by Empire Savings Chairman Donald L. Jolly and President Barbara Q. Offer who then received a loan on

...the seller helped finance
 1983. The seller helped finance
 the sale by accepting a deed of
 trust for \$235,000. The two Em-
 pire executives obtained another
 \$240,000 loan on the property
 from Western Empire Savings and
 Loan, which a month later tenta-
 tively agreed to merge with Em-
 pire. Those plans were later
 dropped.

In October the loan from

future the Department will not act
 favorably upon an action filed by
 your association unless you as a
 board have thoroughly investigat-
 ed the matter."

Continued Clayton: "We have
 from Western Empire Savings and
 Loan, which a month later tenta-
 tively agreed to merge with Em-
 pire. Those plans were later
 dropped.

It appears that

application . . . It appears that
 was not even mentioned in the
 the impending foreclosure which
 agency of the situation in view of
 approved this because of the ur-
 geency of the situation in view of
 the impending foreclosure which
 was not even mentioned in the
 application . . . It appears that

...approval was sought...
 Hotel and it was advertised as a...
 September edition of the Advo-
 cate, a magazine aimed at homo-
 sexuals. The motel also has been
 listed in the Advocate's guide to
 the Los Angeles area.

In 1983, after several owner-
 ship changes, it was decided back
 to Jolly.

Jolly had borrowed about
 \$245,000 when he and the others
 purchased the motel. Last sum-
 mer he was about \$10,000 behind
 in payments on that note and the
 notice of default was filed Aug.
 21.

Three months later on Nov.
 20, a series of documents were
 recorded.

Jolly granted Deborah Ann
 Sisson, Pleasant Hills Investment
 trustee, the Palm Canyon Inn for
 \$300,000, not including outstand-
 ing liens on the property, and
 Sisson granted Jolly the Indio
 properties for \$252,000, also not
 including outstanding liens. Both
 deeds were dated Sept. 28.

Sisson secured a \$185,000
 loan from Empire with a trust
 deed on the Indio property dated
 Nov. 16. She also put up as addi-
 tional security a lease on the
 properties. On the date of the
 loan, Jolly gave up his third trust
 deed on the Palm Canyon Inn.

However, Jolly's creditors
 filed another notice of default last
 month against Jolly, citing the
 1979 trust deed. Pleasant Hills
 Investment Trust was responsible
 for the monthly payments under
 terms of the 1984 sale, according
 to Abdul K. Memon, one of the
 creditors. Memon said payments

And Jolly decided the Indo Hills trust with a document recorded May 15 of this year. The corporation leasing the Indo building has not paid its rent. In fact, a notice posted on Palmer also was listed as an officer of North American Hotels International Inc., which applied for a beer and wine license for the Palm Canyon Inn. His address was given as Jolly's Riverside home, according to the secretary of state's records.

Covas said he was not aware of the existence of the corporation or of the Palmer name with Jolly's address on North American's filings with the state.

But Covas' name, using Jolly addresses, appears with Jolly's on corporate filings for universities in which the two were involved. The first board of directors of California American University included Covas and gave as his address a house Jolly owned in Hollywood. The first board of directors of American National University also included Covas, at Jolly's San Bernardino address.

During the same year that the Palm Canyon Inn was purchased, Jolly and Covas were involved in real estate deals in San Bernardino and Redlands.

They were the co-owners of a house on Valencia Street in San Bernardino, but sold it in 1981. In September 1980, Jolly purchased a home on LaFlora Drive in Redlands. Covas' name did not appear on the deed, but when a second mortgage was paid off in October 1981, the record of that payment was to be mailed to Covas at the LaFlora house. According to the gardener and tenants at the house, Covas identified himself as the owner.

Jolly, Patrick Casey, former Empire vice president, Jeremiah Jacobs, former member of Empire's advisory board, and the Palmers Living Trust owned the Palm Canyon Inn for only a few months.

Savings and loans were prohibited, until the law was repealed last year, from engaging in property transactions with officers, directors or major stockholders without the consent of the commissioner. In this case, the

offer agreed to sell the house to Empire with a deed dated Dec. 8, 1982, but the sale was not recorded at that time.

Ernest Left requested approval from the Department of Savings and Loan and on April 6, Left's assistant disclosed that the property was owned by Offer, who as association president was

On April 12, when who oversaw Empire's property transactions with officers, directors or major stockholders without the consent of the loan service office and the acquisition of property from a director.

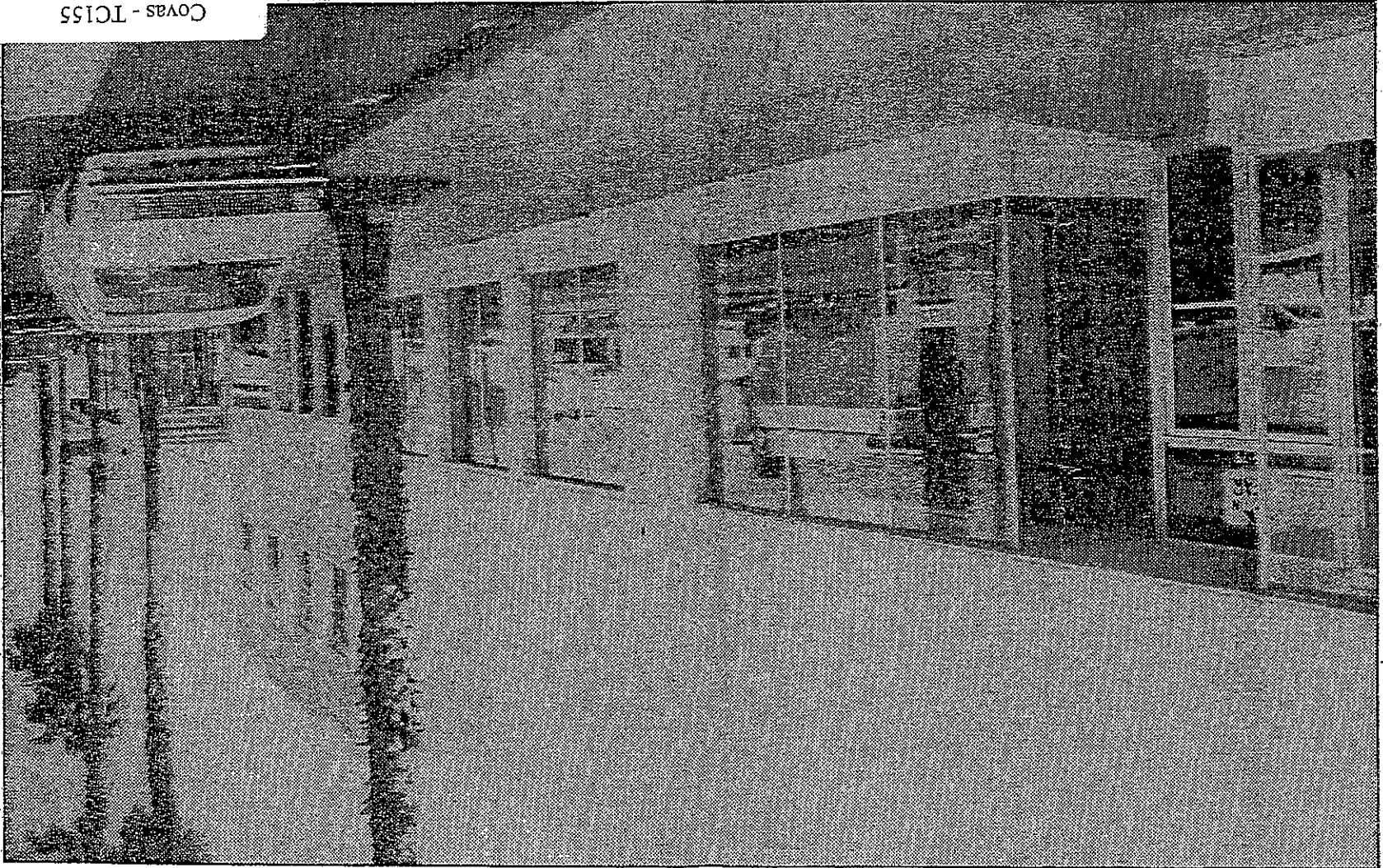
On March 15, Empire lawyer making a loan origination office.

the board of directors did not make sufficient inquiry before approving of this application.

The property never became an Empire office and was sold last year.

Even as the default on the Arlington Avenue property was being eliminated with Empire's help, Jolly and Offer were buying another home that would eventually serve as collateral for their \$333,000 loan from Empire.

Jolly and Offer paid \$500,000



COVAS - TC155

Western Empire was paid off after Jolly and Offer received the Empire loan. Empire's loan to its chairman and president was secured by a second trust deed, meaning that the home would have to be worth at least \$68,000 more than the purchase price for Empire's loan to be fully protected.

Stockholders were told in a report that the Newport Beach property was Offer's principal residence, so the loan did not violate

Ann Kenny, an Empire board member at the time, said that the board was informed when it voted to grant the loan that the house was appraised at \$750,000, a quarter million dollars more than the purchase price. Kenny did not

Robert Kenny had been a friend of Empire organizer Edson and through that association his

and that debts on the property exceeded the disclosed purchase price.

and that debts on the property exceeded the disclosed purchase price.

and that debts on the property exceeded the disclosed purchase price.

and that debts on the property exceeded the disclosed purchase price.



FINANCIAL SAGA — Empire Savings and Loan overstated support from the Roman Catholic diocese and from the community. A Press-Enterprise special report starts today on Page B-1.

THE STUDENT PRESS — What is the role of a newspaper at the high school level? Is censorship a problem? See Sidelight, Page C-1.

FAMILY FEES — From a Mormon singles meeting to becoming parents, or six, life's been busy for Samuel and Patricia Ferris. Lack of Riverside, The future? Commercial ventures await. Page B-1.

SUMMER MOVIES — Sylvester Stallone and Clint Eastwood, both in familiar roles, are expected to be big winners as cinemas enter their busy season. See Diversions, Page C-1.

GOING DOWN — Mortgage rates are headed toward five-year lows after the Federal Reserve Board's action that lowered lenders' money costs. See Real Estate, Page E-1.

Andy Rooney	D-9	Horoscope	C-12
Ann Landers	D-9	Mike Royko	B-9
Auto Care	B-7	Movies on Cable	B-3
Baker's Column	D-2	On Art	E-2
Best Selling Books	B-9	On Language	C-11
Bridge	C-13	Over 50	B-6
Classified	F-8	Per Column	C-8
Community Life	C-5	Real Estate	E-1
County Review	B-5	Sidelight	C-1
Crossword Puzzle	B-8	Sports	H-1
Dr. Donohue	C-12	Stamp Notes	E-7
Editorials	H-10	Theaters	E-6
Ellen Goodman	C-10	Tugable	E-3
Gary Deeb	E-5	Travel	E-7
Golden Years	B-7	Vitals	E-1
Help-Mate	B-6	Weather	F-7

Weather

WESTERN — Morning clouds. Highs near 80.
DESERT — Clear. Highs from 95 to 104.
EXTENDED FORECAST — Mostly sunny with low morning clouds through mid-week.

Officials of Empire Savings aided by loans to themselves

By BOB LaBARE
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

Empire Savings and Loan Association engaged in transactions with its two top managers that saved their personal properties from foreclosure and provided them with large loans.

Two of the deals permitted:

- Chairman Donald L. Jolly to save his interest in a Palm Springs motel from foreclosure on the last possible day to pay off creditors before they could advertise auction of the motel;

- President Barbara Offer to escape foreclosure on a house she bought from Jolly and another Empire organizer.

A third deal provided Jolly and Offer with a \$333,000 loan on a heavily mortgaged Newport Beach house at a reduced interest rate.

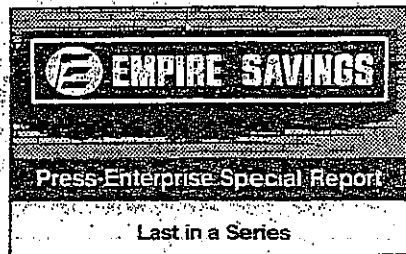
In addition, board director Ann Kenny and her Empire stockholder husband got from Empire a \$150,000 loan that the association's loan broker later wrote was "influenced" by their positions.

Although state and federal regulators allow such insider transactions under certain circumstances, abuse of laws and regulations governing such business has been attracting growing attention at the federal level.

A House of Representatives subcommittee found last year that insider criminal misconduct was a "major contributing factor" in a quarter of the savings and loan failures it studied over a 2½-year period.

It went on to say that it was

Jian's deregulation effort, but such practices are generally "unsafe and unsound," Osamu Mori, chief deputy commissioner of the Department of Savings and Loan,



said in an interview last month. "How do you foreclose on management?"

In June of last year Empire directors agreed to sell the association to Equitec Financial Group, Inc. of Oakland after posting losses.

Chairman Jolly at the time was having trouble with a Palm Springs property he owned.

Mortgage payments on the Palm Canyon Inn motel in Palm Springs had not been made. His creditors in August filed a notice of default, giving him until Nov. 21 to bring current his debts and save his equity. After that date they were free to advertise the property for auction.

The foreclosure was ended with a series of documents that were recorded Nov. 20, about three weeks before Empire stockholders agreed to sell the association.

Jolly and the Pleasant Hills Investment Trust exchanged prop-

Crowder

-in

students
ic field
ir first-
lle Cop-
said the
st week

District of Columbia
ent of the Eismore Union School
e mother was irate.

to be
option
B-6)

ent insider abuse was in the banking and savings and loan industries because no such information is gathered by banking regulators. Moreover, it criticized the regulators for missing or ignoring misconduct in routine examinations until "an institution fails or is about to fail."

In California, specific laws against savings and loans doing business with their directors, officers and stockholders have been repealed as part of Gov. Deukme-

...with the trust getting the motel and Jolly getting three commercial properties in Indio. Those properties became collateral for a \$185,000 loan made by Empire to the trust fund.

Empire could not have lent money to either Jolly or the trust with the Palm Canyon Inn as collateral. A federal regulation prohibits insured savings and loans, such as Empire, from making loans on real estate owned by or purchased from someone affiliated.

(See EMPIRE, Page B-7)

Summary of first three articles

Empire Savings and Loan Association opened its doors for business in September 1982 with promises of being a special part of the community.

However, in gaining its state charter and federal insurance, the association exaggerated its closeness to the local Roman Catholic diocese, despite the presence of diocesan financial chancellor Peter Covas on the board while the association was organizing.

In addition, some letters to state regulators claiming community support for the institution were of dubious authenticity, and claims about Empire's involvement in a senior citizen housing project were overstated.

Board Chairman Donald L. Jolly, who said the exaggerations came from lawyers and economists hired to submit the applications, functioned as a bishop in a small, separatist Catholic movement. He regularly called himself doctor, listing a number of doctorates in information submitted to the federal government. His degree came from a university he started. His autobiography contains numerous inaccuracies about his background, but he blamed his collaborator.

Soon after Empire opened, four bad loans totaling nearly \$1 million were made to a corporation controlled by Riverside restaurateur Franco Nicoletti and two of his friends. Nicoletti received a four-year prison term for his role in two of the loans.

ROW
by SAVE
NY title

6131

e,
0.

F
DISE

S

0-5
14-2003

Congratulations
ANDY HOEFLIN & PAT GALLAGHER
 May Sales in excess of 1.5 MILLION
 Sexton Realtors
 586-7300 3593 Arlington Ave.

"ELEGANT CLUTTER"
 Handmade & Old Fashion Gifts
 Country Bric-A-Brac
 Antiques & Collectibles
ROSE LEAVES
 3691 Merrill (behind Riv. Plaza)
 MC/VISA 788-8384 New Summer Hours
 Layaways We Gift Wrap

Planned savings and loan names priest as proposed board member

By CARLA LAZZARESCHI
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

As far as the State of California is concerned, Empire Savings and Loan is still a proposal awaiting official approval of its charter.

But certain aspects of the Riverside proposal raise it above the ordinary:

The Very Rev. Peter Covas, pastor of St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Riverside and an official of the San Bernardino Diocese, is among Empire's 16 proposed directors. And it has already circulated plans to use some of its assets to finance low-cost housing for the elderly.

"A priest on the board is certainly novel," said William Clayton, a department lawyer who conducted the public hearing on Empire's proposal earlier this year. "And, usually, savings and loan associations are established before they propose community benefit-type programs."

However, Clayton said the pending decision would be made strictly on the basis of financial stability and the ability of the Riverside market to support another savings and loan institution. Linda Tsao Yang, the state's savings and loan commissioner, said last week she did not know when her decision would be handed down.

Covas, the chancellor for financial affairs of the San Bernardino Diocese, said he became involved with the proposed savings and loan at the request of several St. Catherine's parishioners who have been organizing Empire.

Covas said he believed he would be serving as a consultant on the group's housing plans for the elderly "since that's my main interest in the diocese." He added that the project had no official connection with the church "except my own personal interest in it."

Donald Jolly, a St. Catherine's parishioner and the chief organizer of Empire Savings and Loan, agreed that Covas was sought out for his work with the elderly. But Jolly and the state Department of Savings and Loan

said Covas has been officially listed as one of Empire's proposed directors.

Jolly, a senior vice-president with Far West Savings and Loan in Orange County, said Covas — unlike other directors — would not be expected to buy stock. Nor would Covas be paid for his work with the association, said Jolly.

Jolly, who has been organizing Empire for nearly a year, said the its goal was "to do good for the community while making money for the association's stockholders." If the association is chartered by the state, Jolly will serve as its chief executive.

In addition to serving as a traditional savings and loan institution — making loans and offering savings accounts — Empire's plans call for it to create a non-profit corporation that would build, own and manage low-rent housing for senior citizens.

According to Jolly, the corporation would be able to offer rents below the prevailing market for two key reasons: it would be able to accept donations of land and Empire Savings and Loan would give the corporation lower-rate construction loans. Jolly said he already was pursuing several possible land donations, including some through the Catholic Church.

He added that the association's loans to the corporation would be protected because several members of the association's board of directors would serve as officers of the non-profit corporation and would be in a position to monitor the housing projects.

He said the group's other plans included offering braille passbooks for the blind and special telephones for the deaf.

"I've been in the savings and loan business since my early 20s," said the 40-year-old Jolly. "And I'm coming from the belief that if you're serving the community well as a financial institution, you will make money. And if you're doing good things in the community, people will believe in you."

"My profit motive is there," Jolly added. "We have an overwhelming concern for senior citizens, but we'll make money that, too."

Father Edward Cronin, chancellor of pastoral affairs for the diocese, said that, because he was unaware of Covas' plans to work with the proposed association, he could not determine whether they met church rules.

"There are certain areas which a priest can get involved in and there are certain areas where he cannot," Cronin said. "I don't know where this falls."

According to the Department of Savings and Loan, the Empire group has several steps remaining before it can begin operating at its proposed offices on Arden and Streeter avenues.

If a charter is granted, the group must sell \$3 million worth of stock and put the proceeds in an impound account, which would be used as the association's initial assets.

Jolly said Empire already has potential stockholders, including the proposed directors who, together, would buy one-third of the 300,000 shares in order to raise the first \$1 million. The remaining stock, Jolly said, would be sold for \$10 per share.

In addition to Jolly and Covas, the directors of the proposed association include Riverside residents Barbara Offer, real estate investor; Marshall E. retired restaurateur; Eric Ford, former bank employee; Flo Flores, lawyer; James print shop owner; Wylie, retired Air Force colonel; Frances Jones, volunteer for the blind; Dr. Ronald Low, dentist; Richard Jansing, retired Air Force and Dr. Carmine I. physician.

Other directors include George Gabriel, owner of equipment rental business in Bernardino and his wife, Doris, real estate developer; Ann, a Palm Springs real estate developer and Rose Park Beverly Hills real estate developer.

Jolly wrote that San Bernardino Councilman Robert Henley nominated him for the commission. However, Henley, now a land developer, said he did not recall such a nomination or any kind of formal inquiry into San Bernardino racial problems.

The final chapters of the book deal with Jolly's ordination and his juggling of careers in the clergy and at State Mutual Savings

(From Page B-1)

h the university, which now is at n Escondido.

did not receive a bachelor's degree until September 1980, according to the registrar's office the University of the State of w York at Albany, which operates an "external degree" program for people who take their course work elsewhere.

The Holy Terror

California American University wasn't the only university Jolly helped start. In 1977 he incorporated American National University with his friend, the Rev. er F. Covas. Covas also had n a director of the first university and later an incorporator of pire Savings and Loan while tor of St. Catherine's Church in erside.

The university never registered with the state and never red any classes leading to d a degree.

It did, however, publish its nder's autobiography, *The y Terror*, under the name erican National University ss.

The book was written primarily for those who attend Jolly's ivational and self-improvement seminars, he said in the rview. The book focuses on up and downs of his business er and on his desire to be a st.

He tells of his first business ure selling snow cones at Lit-League Baseball games and where.

Jolly and his partner then e up with a product for teens who wanted to enjoy alcoholic cruising the boulevards of Bernardino without being arded for having open containers alcoholic beverages in their

and Loan. In some sense, as he noted, it was juggling the diplomas and awards that hung from his wall.

"On it hang, side-by-side, such diverse documents as my diploma from the seminary, my doctorate in psychology, my master in business administration," he wrote.

But when asked in the interview about the master's degree, he said he did not have one and that his co-author, Diane Reed, who later declined to be interviewed, erred in saying he did. He said he didn't catch the errors in proof reading.

"You know I really didn't write this book. Right? I collaborated with Diane. I probably didn't read it as carefully as I should have when we finished."

Bishop Jolly

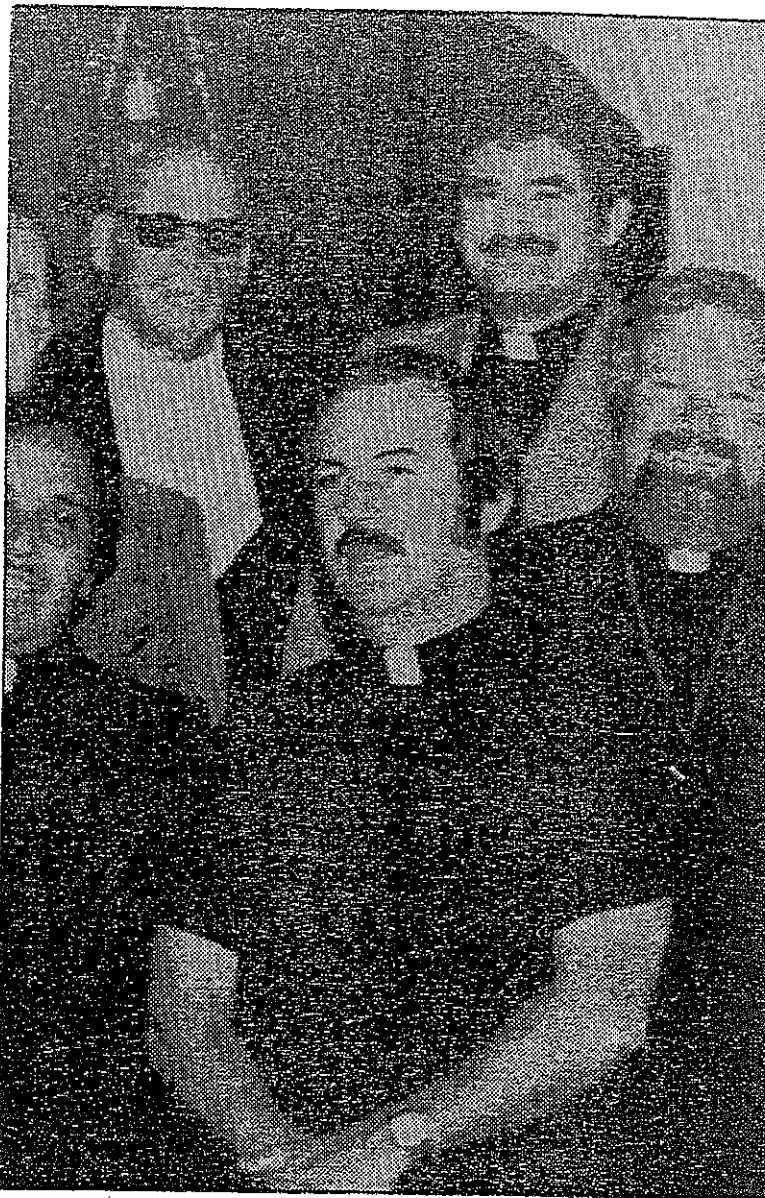
As a young man Jolly planned to become a priest, attending a San Diego seminary for two years in the 1950s before dropping out to pursue a career in savings and loan associations. But he never dropped the idea of becoming a clergyman.

His book says he traveled to Rome six times seeking ordination. His journey came to an end in Manila, the Philippines, on New Year's Eve 1973 when he was ordained in a midnight mass celebrated by three bishops in "a magnificent cathedral."

The book did not identify the bishops, but in an interview Jolly acknowledged that John Lawrence Brown, a friend for a number of years, was "one of the people who helped bring me to the priesthood."

Jolly's friend, Nanci Day, remembers attending a special Dec. 31, 1975, service in Jolly's Hollywood house conducted by Brown.

On that date Brown consecrated Jolly a bishop in a separat-



Donald L. Jolly, upper right, board chairman of Empire Savings and Loan, wears a clerical collar at a gathering of members separatist Catholic movement.

The Old Catholic movement began in Europe in the 1870s because of opposition to the dec-

Jolly said his church never did anything.

As of April 1, 1983 Jolly



cial officer of Old Catholic Church of (Anglican Rite), founded by his friend, Charles Maier of Laguna Beach.

Pruter left the church over that issue and established their own churches in the United States as well.

The Old Catholic sourcebooks by Karl Pruter and J. Gordon Melton published in 1983 by Garland Publishing, Inc. of New York and London.

ARROW: Four loans by Empire Savings.

Jolly was referred to at Maier's April 1, 1978, consecration as "His Eminence Donald Lawrence Jolly" and Archbishop Primate of the American Catholic Church Primacy of North America.

Pruter noted that in the late 1960s and 1970s, many other Catholic splinter churches were formed. "A lot of people discovered how terribly easy it is to organize a church. So they began to do so. A lot of it has to do with the egotism of the leader," he said.

Pruter, who has written extensively about separatist Catholic churches and is the leader of one himself, said in an interview from Highlandville, Mo., that he had talked to many people who knew Jolly as a bishop.

50 cents on weekdays and weekends. Thousands were sold, according to the book.

Jolly said in the interview he was involved in the separatist movement to bring Roman Catholic clergy and lay people back to the fold.

Pruter said most of the churches have no congregations or buildings.

"Too many people to have any doubts that he played that role," he said.

"I am able to slip in and out of these different churches and be accepted and I am able to bring an awful lot of people back, and a lot of priests," he said, declining to name any of them.

Jolly, too, has been involved in churches that have no apparent mission or following.

Jolly, in turn, is listed in the Pruter and Melton book as a co-secretor of Robert Dawe, formerly of Lake Elsinore and Corona. Jolly's name appears on invitations to Dawe's March 16, 1980, mass.

However, Paul S. Ablon, an attorney for Jolly, wrote in a letter last week that his client "voluntarily left the (Roman Catholic) Church for a number of years for purposes of exploring the purposes of exploring the protestant and orthodox area as a matter of conscience, and has since that time again aligned himself with the Church of Rome."

He has been an officer in the American Catholic Church Primacy of North America, which listed his address as its own.

Still, Jolly insisted in the interview that he was not a bishop in a church outside the Roman Catholic faith.

The church corporation, Jolly said, existed only on paper. He said the church, as far as he was concerned, was established to minister to divorced people, as a place of refuge on their way back to the Roman Catholic Church.

"I have had many, many honors and accolades bestowed upon me, and I will not claim to be a bishop or anything more than to have holy orders," Jolly said.

"I have had many, many honors and accolades bestowed upon me, and I will not claim to be a bishop or anything more than to have holy orders," Jolly said.

Pruter said most of the churches have no congregations or buildings.

Jolly, too, has been involved in churches that have no apparent mission or following.

Jolly, in turn, is listed in the Pruter and Melton book as a co-secretor of Robert Dawe, formerly of Lake Elsinore and Corona. Jolly's name appears on invitations to Dawe's March 16, 1980, mass.

However, Paul S. Ablon, an attorney for Jolly, wrote in a letter last week that his client "voluntarily left the (Roman Catholic) Church for a number of years for purposes of exploring the purposes of exploring the protestant and orthodox area as a matter of conscience, and has since that time again aligned himself with the Church of Rome."

He has been an officer in the American Catholic Church Primacy of North America, which listed his address as its own.

Still, Jolly insisted in the interview that he was not a bishop in a church outside the Roman Catholic faith.

The church corporation, Jolly said, existed only on paper. He said the church, as far as he was concerned, was established to minister to divorced people, as a place of refuge on their way back to the Roman Catholic Church.

"I have had many, many honors and accolades bestowed upon me, and I will not claim to be a bishop or anything more than to have holy orders," Jolly said.

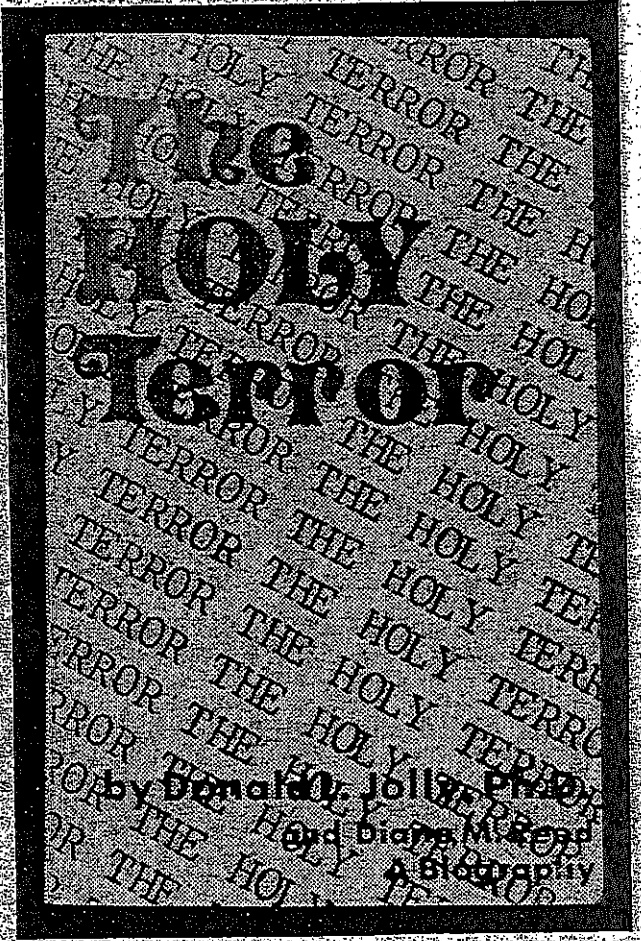
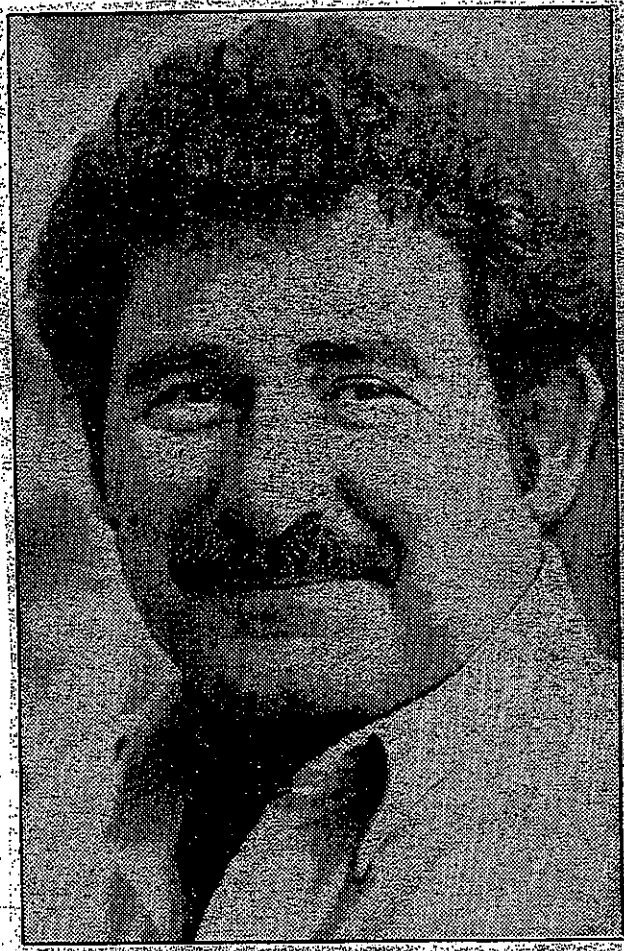
"I have had many, many honors and accolades bestowed upon me, and I will not claim to be a bishop or anything more than to have holy orders," Jolly said.

to wealth and a political arena, playing a major role in resolving the problems that caused the Watts riots.

He wrote that he was chairman of the Commission on Human Relations, riding "through the devastation of Watts in an armored car, with guns at the ready, surveying the wreckage

Jolly is not listed as having either served or presented testimony to the commission that investigated the riots, nor is he listed as a member of the human relations commission created after the riots.

When questioned about that part of his life, Jolly said he served on a San Bernardino Commission. He could not remember who served on the commission with him, or any specific act taken by the group.



Donald L. Jolly, left, wrote a book about himself titled "The Holy Terror." It was pub-

lished by American National University Press, an institution founded by Jolly.

About Empire officials; law since erased

ment for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, acknowledged that the review process was not what it should have been. But she said that the agency improved its review about a year ago by independently verifying applications for insurance.

In the case of Empire Savings, the bank board did not verify statements in the application about the proposed association's relationship with the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino.

The bishop, who ultimately controls all diocesan finances, had not authorized the statements.

Furthermore, the state did not examine letters voicing community support for the proposed association. Three of the letters were of questionable authenticity and content; a Press-Enterprise investigation found. Two of those letters later were unaccountably missing from the state file in Los Angeles, along with a letter listing members of Empire's advisory board, some of whom had not agreed to serve.

Nevertheless, Taggart said last year that he would not investigate Empire's charter application because the association already was operating. He said that he was more concerned about the association's economic health.

"That's really the thing we're wor-

ried about. The balance sheet and making sure it's a viable association. I can't spend an inordinate number of hours chasing down those letters to find out whether they're valid or not," he said.

The association was sold in December.

In the spirit of deregulation, the California Legislature has made it easier since Empire was formed to obtain a savings and loan charter. In addition to repealing the "all facts" statute, the state no longer requires that proposed associations show they will benefit the public and are needed, Commissioner William J. Crawford said.

"I've got applications on my desk now that I would like to turn down. But I can't. My hands are tied," he said.

State law still considers character and general fitness important factors in determining whether organizers should receive approval to operate a savings and loan. The federal government has similar requirements.

Prospective officers and directors submit biographical and financial statements with the warning that the applications are subject to verification and substantiation.

In fact, the state agency still depends on other people to come forward during

the charter application review and challenge any facts they consider false. However, the department treats much of the biographical and financial information as confidential.

Both state and federal regulators know applicants exaggerate claims about themselves, especially in the area of how they plan to serve the public good.

"I'd never condone this at all, but at the time that it happens, it's difficult to catch some of the things," Taggart said. "A good part of the applications are drafted by other people, attorneys, economists and so forth. And there's a certain amount of puffing as there would be in any kind of process. Bluff," Taggart said.

He said that if he had known before a charter was granted that an application contained lies about prospective officers and directors, he might have demanded that the offending individual resign before he granted the charter.

"If someone was attempting to manipulate us, or influence our decision with false documents, sure we'd be concerned," Taggart said.

"That would certainly indicate a character flaw," added Kelly, who left the state agency in February. "It would certainly reflect adversely on their fitness, as far as we're concerned, to be involved in this business."



The Rev. Peter Covas inside Riverside's St. Catherine's Church where he was pastor until 1981. He also was the diocese's financial chancellor and served on Empire Saving and Loan's board while the association was being organized.

incorporators of Empire Savings and Loan"

The signature on this Jan. 24, 1981, letter offered in support of Empire's state charter application was of "Dr. John B. Hewitt, vice chancellor of American National University."

In fact, John B. Hewitt, a Jolly friend from their San Bernardino boyhood, had worked abroad for 10 years at the time the letter was written.

Hewitt, contacted in Italy where he was principal of a high school for American school chil-

Jolly said Edson, who died in 1982, "did most of that work of gathering things like that and putting it all together . . . I wasn't part of that stuff . . . It could very well be that Marshall and John talked. I could have asked John to send that. I don't remember."

Hewitt's American National University letter carried an address of P. O. Box 951, San Bernardino, Jolly's post office box, the same address as that for the Order of Transformation, an organization Jolly helped form to

tionery of the Order of Transformation and signed by "Robert B. Dawe, Superior General."

Dawe, an investor in Empire and a Jolly friend who lives in Vacaville, denied that he wrote the letter, adding he was "not the superior general of anything."

When contacted, again, he said he had talked to other people about the letter, including Jolly, and had been told it had been signed for him by "a person who is now deceased."

Marshall Edson?

"I've heard that name; it may have been in that context," Dawe said.

Dawe explained that Jolly suggested the deceased person who signed the letter may have been "overexuberant."

Dawe said he was told that "there wasn't anything underhanded going on. I'm satisfied my name wasn't being used for anything illegal."

Added Dawe: "If I had been approached to sign it, I would have signed it."

But Jolly himself later offered another explanation, saying that a different Robert Dawe, who "is off in Europe someplace" had written the letter.

★ ★ ★

"Dear Donald: I applaud your efforts to organize a new Savings and Loan Association in the Riverside area. As you already know, I pledge the deposit support of our religious communities in the Riverside area. We are also negotiating at the present time with our Riverside units to arrange a donation of land for your proposed senior citizen housing project. I send you and your Directors my blessing and all of my devoted assistance."

This letter carried the signature of "the Rev. George Moussa," who was identified as a Roman Catholic chaplain and Maronite director for Southern California. The letterhead said it came from Scarborough General Hospital in Scarborough, Ontario.

Located in Connecticut, Moussa denied he had written or

... said he invested in Empire Savings, but did not recall writing any such letter. He said he was never vice chancellor of American National University and knew of no instructors, with the possible exception of John L. Brown, another Jolly friend.

Hewitt, Jolly and Covas incorporated the university and became its directors in 1977.

Jolly said in the interview, "I didn't sign the letter for him if that's what you're asking me. I did not write the letter for him."

... Catholic Church.

"Dear Dr. Jolly: This letter is to confirm our conversation on December 6, 1980, regarding (sic) our support of your efforts to establish a new locally owned Savings and Loan institution in the city of Riverside. As I said when we spoke, I will pledge to you our local deposits and any other support that we can give."

The letter was written on sta-

signed the letter, although he said he knew Jolly from visits to Southern California.

Jolly, however, said he asked Moussa to write the letter and the priest complied.

"Nobody signed that letter but George Moussa. You go get a sample of his signature and I'll pay somebody to tell you that's his signature . . . If you think I signed that letter, you're all wet." Jolly said.

Moussa did not respond to a request for a copy of his signature, and he died on Jan. 23, 1984. If he did write the letter, he misspelled the name of the Eastern Rite he was a member of as "Marinite," his title as "chaplain" and his own name as "Moussa."

Beyond that, the letter's representations about deposit support and donations of land were disputed by Maronite leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in Southern California.

Bishop John Chedid, of Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon in Los Angeles, is the leader of the Maronites in Southern California, not Moussa, said the Rev. George Kahalli, assistant to Chedid. Moussa, he said, was chaplain at the hospital, but never led a church in Southern California.

Kahalli said there were no Maronite churches in Riverside.

Of the proposed land donations, Bishop Chedid said: "It doesn't sound kosher to me. He (Moussa) doesn't have any land to donate, to begin with. If he did, it would be the bishop's prerogative."

As for Moussa's writing such a letter, the bishop said: "I don't see what interest a priest would have in establishing this institution."



Savings and Loan Association was near the intersection of Arlington and

California avenues in Riverside. The association was sold last year.

"The public is hungry for details." The next step for the family's story could be inside the TV screen. Golden has handled more

On Waller's recommendation, these people are," he said. "The major networks can provide the greatest exposure."

Although the 1974 graduate of just your utilities: I mean you'd probably wind up doing several loads of wash a day."

Empire . . .

(From Page B-1)
meeting over lunch with the prime organizers of Empire.

Attending that meeting were Donald L. Jolly of Riverside, who became the association's chairman of the board; Barbara Offer of Riverside, its president; the Rev. Peter Covas, a Roman Catholic priest who was Jolly's friend; and Marshall Edson of Beverly Hills, a Kenny friend.

Kenny, who bought Empire stock and whose wife, Ann, became a member of the board, said he was "very impressed that Father Covas was going to be associated with the bank." He remembered the "possibility being discussed" that the diocese might have accounts in the institution.

A relationship with the church was central to Empire applications filed with the state Department of Savings and Loan and

TOMORROW: Empire's chairman as "The Holy Terror"

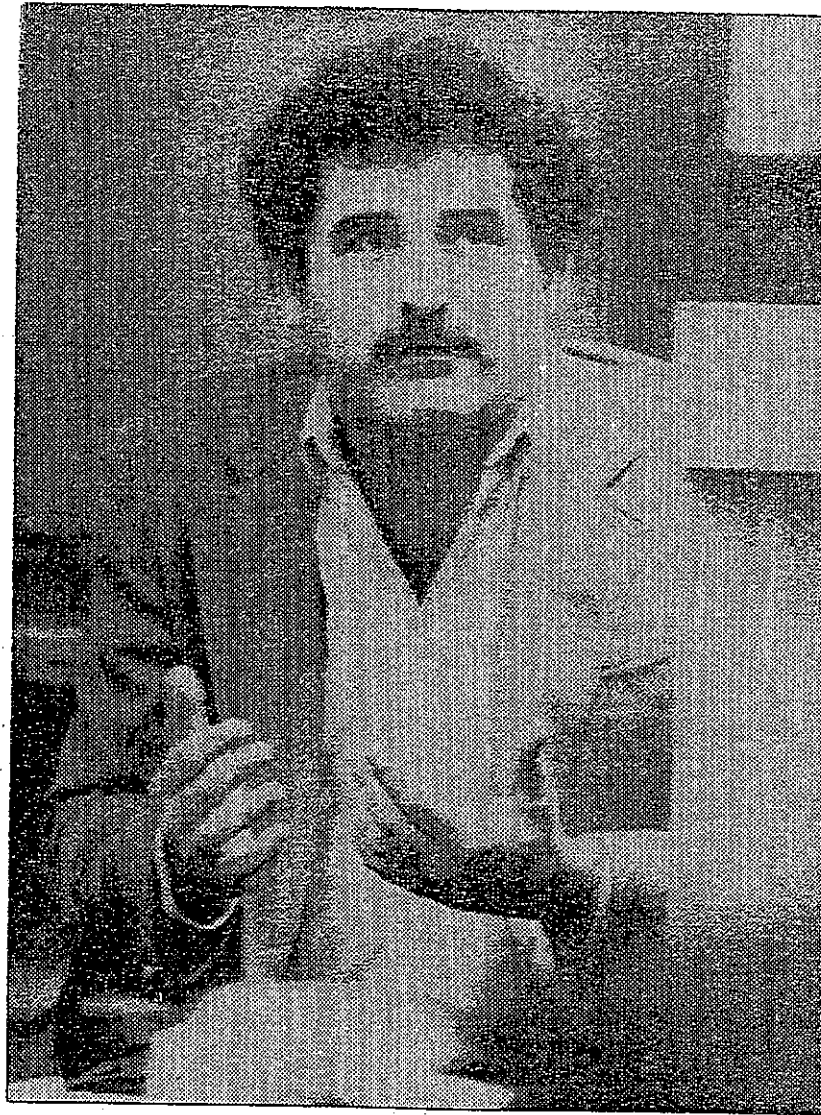
the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

"The church involvement in these proceedings, not in a formal sense, but in an alliance sense, is probably the most significant element, and the most unique element . . . that provides us with the greatest source of assurance of success," Leff told the state agency at a Feb. 6, 1981, charter hearing.

The representations bolstered Empire's case that it met the two key criteria for a state charter: That it had a sound financial program and that its formation would benefit the public.

Covas said at the hearing that he and Bishop Phillip F. Straling of San Bernardino had discussed the idea of starting a diocesan bank, but now they were interested in finding one that would finance some church projects.

"I think that this bank, this



Empire Board Chairman Donald L. Jolly makes a point during 1983 preliminary hearing in Riverside Municipal Court.

Reminded that he was sitting in the hearing room when Leff made the remarks about the 235,000 congregants and made no effort to correct them, Covas responded in the taped interview: "Yeah, yeah. I don't know what my reaction was at the time. I just . . . an assumption he was making, you know."

Jolly, however, said in a separate 1983 interview that Empire sought only to devise a plan to streamline diocesan accounting, rather than to serve as the bank-

for free. You would be surprised to learn how difficult it is to stay in business if you don't get paid," he said.

Jolly said later that it was Eric Holdsworth and not he who dealt with Ferreira.

"Eric died and I'm trying to get all the records and stuff from (his estate). But you know like he had all the contacts. I don't know the name of the man at Ferreira he had contacted," Jolly said.

In support of their charter application, Empire organizer also submitted a number of letters

savings plan from 1981. "It's a great help to us," Covas said, referring to Empire's proposal to finance housing projects for the elderly.

"Having spoken to the bishop recently, he was rather enthused about this and, as you may know, bishops are rather cautious about anything. So this is really our main reason for wanting to see this savings and loan get on its feet and, again, become a limited partner with it."

Similar assurances of Catholic involvement were given in 1982 when Empire's organizers applied to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board for federal loan insurance:

"Empire Savings will perform a number of financial services for the diocese which has some 235,000 members. These include, but are not limited to, receiving and holding the cash flow of St. Catherine's Church and some accounts of the diocese, as well as other churches, schools and hospitals in the diocese, which has approximately 90 parishes . . ."

Covas later acknowledged those representations were made without authorization from the bishop.

In a 1983 interview he called the representations to the state and federal agencies "assumptions, that they (Empire organizers) made."

However, Covas said in the 1983 interview that the federal application meant Empire expected to become the banker for St. Catherine's and for other diocesan accounts.

He said others might have assumed he had the authority to make such decisions because he was the diocese's financial chancellor.

"I don't know what the economists wrote. Whatever they put down on paper is their interpretation," Jolly said.

Covas, whose diocesan title changed from co-chancellor to chancellor during this time, and Jolly were participants in meetings at which the applications were developed, according to John R. Stuteville of the consulting firm of Trend Research Corp., Pasadena.

"That's what I was told and that's what I put in," Stuteville said about the references.

Stuteville said he relied on what he was being told, largely because "I see in front of me a Father (Covas) whom I certainly have reason to respect . . . I was introduced to him as the financial co-chancellor. If you're pulled over by a black-and-white and the lights are flashing, you assume it's a cop."

At the 1981 charter hearing, Jolly told the state regulator that plans already had begun for Empire's involvement in affordable senior citizen housing. He said that Cluster Lifestyle Inc., a non-profit corporation, had been formed to develop housing projects on land donated to the Catholic Church or a charity.

Jolly said that the architectural firm "William Perreira and Associates have committed to me that they will do a few experimental projects for nothing, which is incredible. We may save 10 percent of the building costs on that."

George Bliss, vice president of the Newport Beach firm, said later he had never heard of Cluster Lifestyle or Jolly or of any plan to do design work at no charge.

"Normally, we do not work

indicating community support. Several of the letters have proven to be of doubtful authenticity.

"As an active participant of Riverside/San Bernardino community affairs, I happily endorse the efforts of a group of our local citizens to organize a locally owned, state chartered Savings and Loan Association . . . I pledge the support of my office as well as the support of my fellow instructors to the efforts of the

February 5, 1985

INSURANCE POLICY:

To the Diocese of San Bernardino the sum of \$ [REDACTED]
upon the death of Father Peter Covas.

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY

[REDACTED]
Dated 10-26-84
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
*Please put in
Fr. Covas file
with his Will*

Fr. Covas

DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY
FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
DIOCESES OF SAN DIEGO AND SAN BERNARDINO
PENSION PLAN FOR PRIESTS

As a Participant in the Dioceses of San Diego and San Bernardino Pension Plan for Priests, I hereby designate the beneficiary named below to receive a refund of my personal contributions, without interest, which were required for participation. In the event of my death before I receive my pension under the Priests' Pension Plan, the entire amount of my personal contributions, without interest, will be paid to my named beneficiary. Should I die on or after the date a pension is paid to me, my named beneficiary will be entitled to all or a portion of my personal contributions, without interest, only in the case where the entire amount of monthly pension payments are less than my accumulated personal contributions, without interest.

Check One:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Weston, California</u>			<u>50%</u>
<u>Parish of St. Cecilia, San Bernardino, Calif.</u>			<u>50%</u>

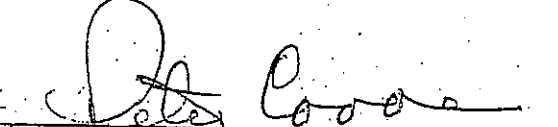
() My executors and administrators - this will be my designation if I have not designated to the contrary herein, or if the above beneficiary(ies) do not survive.

If more than one beneficiary is designated and if I have not directed otherwise, any amount distributable is to be divided among them, if all are then living; otherwise, equally among the survivors. However, if no beneficiary survives, or if none is named, distributions shall be made to my estate.

I hereby reserve the right to change or revoke this beneficiary designation without notice to any beneficiary.


Witness Signature

March 23, 1981
(Date)


(Participant's Signature)


Name Printed

De Ter Covas
(Name Printed)

DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY
FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
DIOCESES OF SAN DIEGO AND SAN BERNARDINO
PENSION PLAN FOR PRIESTS

As a Participant in the Dioceses of San Diego and San Bernardino Pension Plan for Priests, I hereby designate the beneficiary named below to receive a refund of my personal contributions, without interest, which were required for participation. In the event of my death before I receive my pension under the Priests' Pension Plan, the entire amount of my personal contributions, without interest, will be paid to my named beneficiary. Should I die on or after the date a pension is paid to me, my named beneficiary will be entitled to all or a portion of my personal contributions, without interest, only in the case where the entire amount of monthly pension payments are less than my accumulated personal contributions, without interest.

Check One:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Western Province</u>			<u>50%</u>
<u>Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif</u>			<u>50%</u>

() My executors and administrators - this will be my designation if I have not designated to the contrary herein, or if the above beneficiary(ies) do not survive.

If more than one beneficiary is designated and if I have not directed otherwise, any amount distributable is to be divided among them, if all are then living; otherwise, equally among the survivors. However, if no beneficiary survives, or if none is named, distributions shall be made to my estate.

I hereby reserve the right to change or revoke this beneficiary designation without notice to any beneficiary.

[Redacted Signature]
 (Witness' Signature)
[Redacted Name]
 (Name Printed)

March 23, 1981
 (Date)

[Handwritten Signature: Peter Covas]
 (Participant's Signature)
Peter Covas
 (Name Printed)

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. [REDACTED]

PERSONAL RECORD OF REV.

PETER COVAS

Name in Full

Father's and Mother's (maiden) name [REDACTED]

Birthdate and Place SEPTEMBER 14, 1930; PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Baptism Date and Place OCTOBER, 1930; SACRED HEART, PITTSBURGH, PA.

Present Citizenship U.S.A.

If Naturalized, Date and Place

Elementary School - Dates and Places FORBES ELEMENTARY, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA: 1937 - 44.

High School - Dates and Places FIFTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA. 1944-48

College - Dates and Places DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA; UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA: CLAREMONT MEN'S CALIF: U.C.R., CALIFORNIA

Seminary - Dates and Places ST. MARY'S SEMINARY, NORWALK, CONN., 1950-57

Degrees - Dates and Places MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION, 1958; MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY, 1962; EQUIVALENT MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Post Graduate Work - Dates and Places CLAREMONT MEN'S: U.C.R. 1960-68
ATTENDED EVERY YEAR

Degrees - Dates and Places

Ordination Date and Place AUGUST, 1957; NORWALK; CONN.

Ordaining Prelate [REDACTED]
Ordained for What Diocese

If Incardinated in San Bernardino, Date June 30, 1981

If not incardinated, Date of Arrival JULY, 1960

What foreign languages can you speak? CATALAN; SPANISH; ITALIAN

Name and address of nearest relative or friend [REDACTED]

State where last will and testament is filed
(The clergy are obliged to deposit at the Chancery the original or a copy of their last will)

List of ecclesiastical dignities and date of reception

State any special work or assignment and give dates DIRECTOR BOYS TOWN OF THE DESERT - SAVED THE DIOCESE ONE MILLION ACTUAL DOLLARS; SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Please type answers in full and return to the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1450 North D Street, San Bernardino, California 92405

PERSONAL RECORD OF REV.

PETER COVAS
Name in full

In re FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

Have you contracted any funded debts such as bank loans? _____

If so, in what amount? _____

Do You owe any current accounts _____

If so, in what amount? _____

LIST OF APPOINTMENTS SINCE ORDINATION

TOWN	PARISH	CAPACITY	DATES
DETROIT, MICHIGAN	SACRED HEART	HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN	1957
PITTSBURGH, PA	DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY	HISTORY TEACHER	1957
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA	SACRED HEART	BLACK WORK	1958
TUCSON, ARIZONA	ST. JOHN'S	UNIVERSITY	1958-60
RIVERSIDE, CALIF.	NOTRE DAME	TEACHER PRINCIPAL	1960-63 1963-70
RIVERSIDE, CALIF.	ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA	PASTOR	1970-81
RIVERSIDE, CALIF.	ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA	PASTOR & PART-TIME CHANCELLOR, DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO	1970-81 Nov. 10-78
SAN BERNARDINO	DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO	<i>Incorporated</i> FULL TIME CHANCELLOR OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS	6-30-81 7-1-81 - 8-22-81
SAN BERNARDINO	OUR LADY OF FATIMA	PASTOR	7/1/82
SAN BERNARDINO	OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL	ALSO RECTOR	7/1/83 - 6-30-90
Hesperia	Holy Family	Pastor	7-1-90
ALTA LOMA	ST. PETER & ST. PAUL	PASTOR	7/1/92
	<i>Retired</i>		<i>7-1-02</i>

[REDACTED]

From: Msgr. [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2004 9:19 AM
To: Fr. [REDACTED] 58; [REDACTED] 190
Subject: A Word of Thanks...

Dear Fr. [REDACTED]

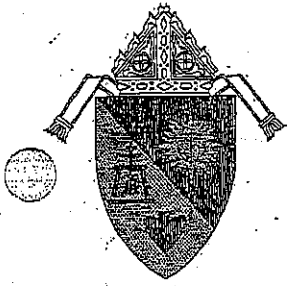
Just a note to thank you for all of the wonderful work that you both committed to making Fr. Covas' funeral arrangements such a positive and memorable experience. Thank you for all of your coordination, organization, and abiding patience.

Fr. [REDACTED] was blessed to have you both even in these last days.

You are both in my prayers this week and throughout,

Gratefully in Our Lord Jesus,

Father [REDACTED]



Diocese of San Bernardino
VICAR GENERAL

May 11, 2004

Ms. [REDACTED]
The Epler Company
450 "B" Street, #750
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

This is to inform you that on Reverend Peter Covas died on Sunday, May 9, 2004 in the city of Upland.

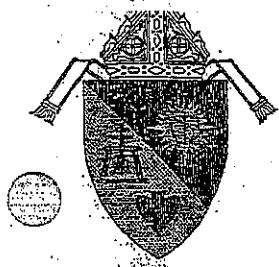
We would ask that you discontinue payment of pension benefits.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely Yours

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Director of Priest Personnel

Covas - TC197



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL

May 11, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It greatly saddens me to inform you that Father Peter Covas was called to his eternal rest early Sunday morning, May 9, 2004 at San Antonio Community Hospital in Upland. Over the past several years, Father Covas struggled with a variety of health issues. We pray that he may now enter the joy of the Most High, whom he trusted, loved and served for over 46 years as a priest.

Father Covas was born on September 14, 1930 to [REDACTED] in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He attended Forbes Elementary School and Fifth Avenue High School in Pittsburgh. Upon his graduation from high school, he entered Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and then moved on to the University of Arizona, Claremont Men's College in Claremont and University of California at Riverside. His seminary days were spent at St. Mary's Seminary in Norwalk, Connecticut. Father Covas earned a Master of Arts in Education, Master of Arts in History and Master of Arts in Counseling. He was ordained for the Congregation of the Holy Spirit in August 1957 in Norwalk, Connecticut by Bishop Sheehan. He was incardinated into the Diocese of San Bernardino in 1981.

~~After his ordination in 1957, his first assignment was to Sacred Heart in Detroit, Michigan.~~ In 1960 he began teaching at Notre Dame High School in Riverside and in 1963, Father Covas was named principal of Notre Dame where he served for the next 7 years. In 1970, he was named Pastor at St. Catherine of Alexandria in Riverside where he served for the next 11 years. In November 1978, he served as part-time Chancellor for the newly established Diocese of San Bernardino, while still shepherding his flock at St. Catherine's. In 1981, he began serving as full-time Chancellor of Financial Affairs for the diocese, while also serving as Pastor at Our Lady of Fatima in San Bernardino. Father Covas was then named Rector of Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral from July 1983 until June 1990. He was then assigned as Pastor to Holy Family Parish in Hesperia from July 1990 until 1992. In July 1992 he continued his ministry at St. Peter & St. Paul Parish in Alta Loma, where he served until his retirement in 2002.

Although Father Covas is no longer in our midst, he will always be remembered for his quick smile, gentle mannerism and genuine caring. He spoke several languages, which included Catalan, Spanish and Italian. His down to earth ability to communicate with people from different cultures, as well as his outstanding talent to relate to people and their concerns will long live in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. His priestly

presence and pastoral leadership were well known, throughout these many years, in both the Diocese of San Bernardino and the Diocese of San Diego.

Viewing will be Monday, May 17th starting at 5:00 p.m. followed by a Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter & St. Paul Parish in Alta Loma. On Tuesday, May 18th at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral; there will be viewing from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. followed by the Mass of Resurrection at 10:00 a.m. which will be celebrated by Bishop [REDACTED]. Monsignor [REDACTED] a long time friend of Father Covas' will be the homilist. There will be a reception in the parish hall.

I ask all of our priests to please remember Father Covas with the customary three Masses of suffrage for a brother priest. May his soul and the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

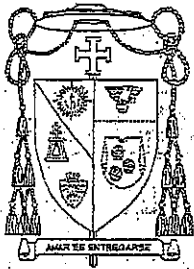
Very Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Vicar General, Diocese of San Bernardino



St. Paul's

P.O. Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Thank you for
the
General Fund Contribution



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of San Bernardino

June 10, 2002

Ms. [REDACTED]
The Epler Company
450 B Street, Suite 750
San Diego CA 92101

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

The following priests of the Diocese of San Bernardino have petitioned for retirement effective June 30, 2002.

Reverend Peter Covas:

Birthdate: 9/14/30

Ordained: 8/15/57

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Any assistance you could offer these priests would be greatly appreciated.

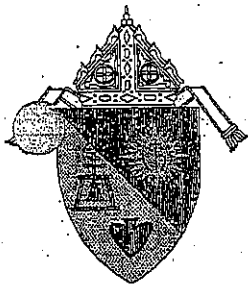
Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino

[REDACTED]

- cc: Reverend Peter Covas
- Reverend [REDACTED]
- Reverend [REDACTED]
- Reverend [REDACTED]
- Reverend [REDACTED]
- Reverend [REDACTED]
- Reverend [REDACTED]



Diocese of San Bernardino

PARISH ASSISTANCE

April 30, 2002

*In [redacted] I planned to
send copy to Msgr - ok
w/ you?*

To: Rev. [redacted]
From: [redacted]
Re: St. Peter St. Paul Church and Pre School, Alta Loma
Cc: Msgr. [redacted]

This morning I met with the bookkeeper, [redacted] Sr. [redacted] [redacted] of the pre school and Msgr. [redacted]. We obtained new bank signature cards for both entities. They will be processed by our office and returned to the parish and Pre School later this week. The bank account there was established requiring two signatures. At this time there is adequate personnel available for check signing before the new card is received by the bank.

Through interview we were told that the physical inventory at the rectory has been removed for the most part. However, most of that was done by volunteers a couple of weeks ago while Fr. Covas was on vacation. He had arranged for volunteers to move his personal belongings from the upstairs of the rectory. They misunderstood and took the furniture from the bottom floor. Over the past weekend, Fr. Covas's other personal items were removed from the upstairs. Other belongings that are in the parish offices have not yet been removed.

In regard to those items that were removed in error we were told were very old (as much as 20 years) and they had wanted to discuss the possibility of purchasing new items after Fr. [redacted] arrived. So, I am of the opinion that what ever was taken was immaterial.

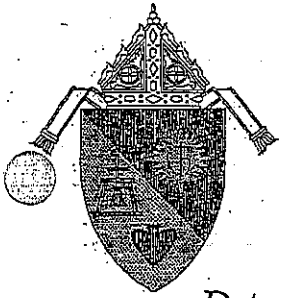
In regard to the other physical inventory items of the church we spoke with Msgr. [redacted] and told him to arrange for someone to verify the current inventory with the listing (this was prepared by the bookkeeper and there is a copy in our office). Msgr. agreed that this would be done this week.

Covas - TC202

When we spoke with Msgr. we also told him that he needed to arrange for the complete change of locks on all parish facilities (internal and external) as well as to make arrangements to change the combination to the safe(s).

We had previously arranged to do the audit field work in July in preparation for the change of pastor. While we did obtain the most current financial information, we do plan to return in July as previously planned.

We have no reason to believe that there are any deficiencies in the matter of the financial records.



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

Date: April 30, 2002

TO: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Accounting Services

FM: Fr. [REDACTED]

RE: Father Peter Covas

COPY

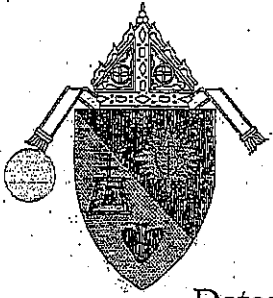
Effective immediately, I please ask that the salary and benefits for Father Covas be paid through the Office of Priest Personnel, the Priest Relief Account. Please speak with [REDACTED] Office Administrator, to determine which line item account to use. This is effective May 1, 2002 through June 30, 2002. On July 1, 2002 Father Covas will retire from active ministry.

Please see me if you have any questions on this.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Jm
[REDACTED]

Covas - TC204



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

Date: April 30, 2002

TO: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Accounting Services

FM: Fr. [REDACTED]

RE: Father Peter Covas

COPY

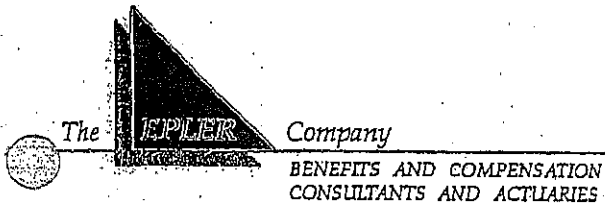
Effective immediately, I please ask that the salary and benefits for Father Covas be paid through the Office of Priest Personnel, the Priest Relief Account. Please speak with [REDACTED] Office Administrator, to determine which line item account to use. This is effective May 1, 2002 through June 30, 2002. On July 1, 2002 Father Covas will retire from active ministry.

Please see me if you have any questions on this.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Jn. [REDACTED]

Covas - TC205



San Diego Office
450 B Street, Suite 750
San Diego, CA 92101-8002
Telephone (619) 239-0831
Facsimile (619) 239-0807

Orange County Office
2028 Port Bristol Circle
Newport Beach, CA 92660-5413
Telephone (949) 759-1320
Facsimile (949) 759-1316

December 7, 2001

PRIVATE

Reverend Peter Covas
St. Peter & Paul Church
P.O. Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Covas:

As you may know, the San Bernardino Presbyteral Council has recommended and Bishop [REDACTED] has accepted that priests in the San Bernardino Diocese who have attained age 65 may begin to receive a pension immediately from the Priests' Pension Plan regardless of employment status. This change is effective January 1, 2002.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that your pension in the amount of \$ [REDACTED] will begin on January 1, 2002 unless you notify us, in writing, that you wish to defer receipt of the pension.

Enclosed are the tax withholding and direct deposit authorization forms that must be completed and signed by you and returned to our office immediately. Your benefit cannot start until we receive these forms. For your convenience, we have enclosed a return envelope.

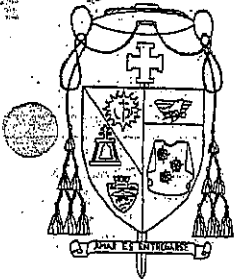
Please contact us if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,
THE EPLER COMPANY

[REDACTED]
President

[REDACTED]
Enclosure

cc: Reverend [REDACTED]



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of San Bernardino

May 24, 2001

Rev. Peter Covas
St. Peter and St. Paul Church
P O Box 248
Alta Loma CA 91701

Dear Fr. Covas:

I hope your trip to Rome was enjoyable. Do you have any news for me? I noticed you were there while the Cardinals were in Consistory. Is there an *In Pectore* that I don't know about?

I did receive your letter of May 18, 2001, in which you submit your resignation as pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul effective June 30, 2002. I do accept your resignation and I thank you for the outstanding spiritual and pastoral leadership you have given the people of that parish. As this year progresses, be sure that I will call on you as we look to the future of St. Peter and St. Paul. You are well aware of the personnel limitations our diocese faces. I want to also discuss with you what you may be doing in your retirement years. I know that you shared a few ideas with me when I made my pastoral visit there in January.

Fr. Peter, thanks for all you do for me in support of my pastoral leadership and in the personal kindness you continue to offer me. I do rely on that especially during the difficult moments of ministry.

May the Risen Lord continue to fill you with peace and joy.

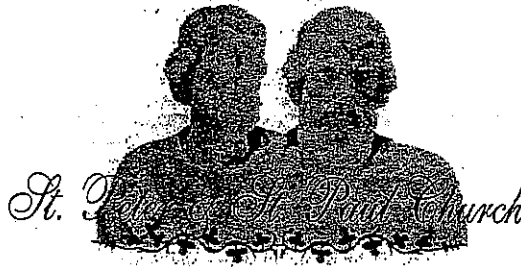
Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino

[REDACTED]

Parish:
9135 Banyan Street
Alta Loma, CA 91737

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701



Telephone:
(909) 987-9312

Telefax:
(909) 980-9404

Web Site:
www.stpeterstpaul

Most Rev. [REDACTED]

Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino
1201 E. Highland Ave.
San Bernardino

May 18, 2001

Most Rev. and dear Bishop [REDACTED]

As per our conversations during
your Episcopal visit (which was a great
success, everyone loved you), I was to
submit a letter seeking retirement June
2002 or whichever date more convenient
for the Diocese,

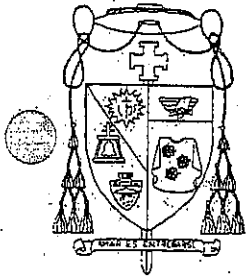
Consequently, I am now submitting
my letter for retirement for June 2002.

Most respectfully yours

Fredrick Peter Covas

Pastor, St. Peter and St. Paul

P.S. I am off to Rome with my family
May 22 to June 10



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of San Bernardino

November 10, 1999

Rev. Peter F Covas
Pastor
St. Peter and St. Paul Church
P.O. Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Covas,

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino, a Corporation Sole, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Vicars Forane held on June 29, 1999, a quorum being present;

Whereas, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income "the rental value of a home furnished to him as part of his compensation," or a church designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him for actual expenses incurred in maintaining a church owned or rented, parsonage; and

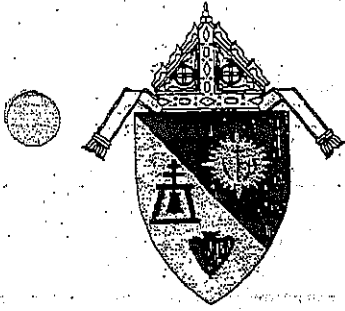
Whereas, Rev. Covas is compensated by the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino, a Corporation Sole, D.B.A., St. Peter and St. Paul Church, exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino, a Corporation Sole, D.B.A., St. Peter and St. Paul Church provides Rev. Covas with a rent-free use of a church-owned parsonage as compensation for services that he renders to the church in the exercise of his ministry; and

Whereas, as additional compensation to Rev. Covas for services that he renders to the church in the exercise of his ministry, the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino, a Corporation Sole, D.B.A., St. Peter and St. Paul Church, also desires to pay Rev. Covas expenses that he incurs in maintaining the parsonage, therefore, it is hereby

Resolved that the current annual compensation received by Rev. Covas for fiscal year 1999-2000 shall be \$ [REDACTED] of which \$ [REDACTED] is designated as an annual stipend paid directly to Rev. Covas and an annual maximum value of \$ [REDACTED]

Covas - TC209



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL ♦ CHANCELLOR

May 5, 1999

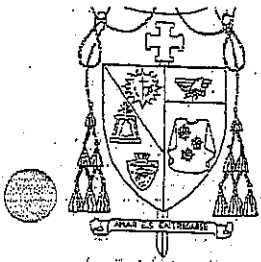
To: Very Reverend [REDACTED]
From: Msgr. [REDACTED]
Re: Sabbatical for Father Covas

Thank you for your report on the Vicariate meeting. We need to announce Father Covas is on sabbatical. I apologize for not contacting you with this information. Bishop [REDACTED] approved his sabbatical last year. He will be gone until September. He has designated Sister [REDACTED] as the administrator in his absence.

Father [REDACTED] will be on staff until January 1, 1999. Fr. [REDACTED] is in residence and assisting until June 30, 1999. Father [REDACTED] will help in July, August and September.

[REDACTED]

Covas - TC210



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of San Bernardino

October 21, 1998

Reverend Peter Covas
St. Peter and St. Paul Church
P.O. Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Covas:

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino, a Corporation Sole, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Presbyteral Council held on March 17, 1998, a quorum being present;

Whereas, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income "the rental value of a home furnished to him as part of his compensation," or a church designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him for actual expenses incurred in maintaining a church owned parsonage; and

Whereas, Rev. Covas is compensated by the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino, a Corporation Sole, D.B.A. St. Peter and St. Paul Church, exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino, a Corporation Sole, D. B., A. St. Peter and St. Paul Church, provides Rev. Covas with rent-free use of a church-owned parsonage as compensation for services that he renders to the church in the exercise of his ministry; and

Whereas, as additional compensation to Rev. Covas for services that he renders to the church in the exercise of his ministry, the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino, a Corporation Sole, D.B.A. St. Peter and St. Paul Church, also desires to pay Rev. Covas expenses that he incurs in maintaining the parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved that the current annual compensation received by Rev. Covas for fiscal year 1998-99 shall be \$ [REDACTED] of which \$ [REDACTED] is designated as a annual stipend paid directly to Rev. Covas and an annual maximum value of [REDACTED]

Covas - TC211



Diocese of San Bernardino

May 11, 1998

We,
the Church of
San Bernardino,
are a community
of believers in
Jesus the Christ,
called to impact
family, neighborhood
and society
with the Gospel
so that people's
lives are
filled with hope.

Nosotros,
La Iglesia de
San Bernardino,
somos una comunidad
de creyentes
en Jesús, el Cristo,
llamados a impactar
positivamente a
la familia,
el vecindario y
la sociedad
con el Evangelio,
para que las vidas
de las personas se
llenen de esperanza.

Reverend Peter Covas
St. Peter and St. Paul
PO Box 248
Alta Loma CA 91701

Dear Father Covas,

Following consultation with the Priests' Personnel Board, I am happy to appoint you to your second term of office of six years as pastor at St. Peter and St. Paul parish in Alta Loma, California, effective July 1, 1998 (Canon 523).

I want to thank you for your leadership during your first term of six years. You have been involved in our recent evaluation of the parish and your role of pastor. Congratulations on your leadership in these years. The information that was gathered during the process of your reappointment will be helpful in planning your role as the pastor during your second term.

I will appreciate your continued efforts to implement the coming diocesan goals as identified in our Diocesan Planning Process.

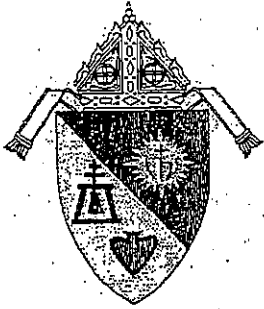
May God's blessings be with you each day during the coming years of your pastoral leadership.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of the Diocese

Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Chancellor

cc: Very Reverend [REDACTED]



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL ♦ CHANCELLOR

November 7, 1997

Reverend Peter Covas
St. Peter and Paul Church
9101 Banyan Street
P.O. Box 248
Alta Loma, Ca. 91701

Dear Father Covas,

As you are aware, the Priests' Personnel Board has recommended to Bishop [REDACTED] that your request for a second term for the office of pastor at Saint Peter and Saint Paul be processed. I will contact you in the near future to arrange the self-study evaluation.

I thank you for your generous offer to continue the priestly leadership of the parish. The responsibilities of contemporary pastoral life are challenging.

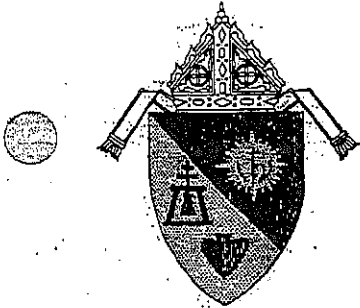
With my cordial regards, prayers and appreciation, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Chancellor

c: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Personnel Board

Covas - TC213



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL ♦ CHANCELLOR

October 17, 1997

Reverend Peter Covas
St. Peter and St. Paul Church
PO box 248
Alta Loma CA 91701

Dear Father Covas,

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 1997. I will present the information concerning your request for a second term as pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul in Alta Loma.

In November, I will contact you to arrange a meeting concerning the self evaluation process. It will involve some writing document and consultation with you.

With my cordial regards and appreciation, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Chancellor
[REDACTED]

Covas - TC214

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
LONG-TERM CARE ADMINISTRATION
98 San Jacinto Blvd., Ste 800
Austin, Texas 78701
1-800-224-4582

RECEIVED
OCT 14 1997



October 14, 1997

Peter Covas
1201 E Highland Ave
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Re: Application for Long-Term Care Insurance
[REDACTED]

Dear Rev. Covas :

Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that your application for Long-Term Care Insurance has been approved. Your policy has been mailed to your agent for delivery. Please expect a call from your New York Life agent to schedule an appointment with you to deliver your policy in the near future.



Thank you for choosing New York Life to serve your Long -Term Care insurance needs.

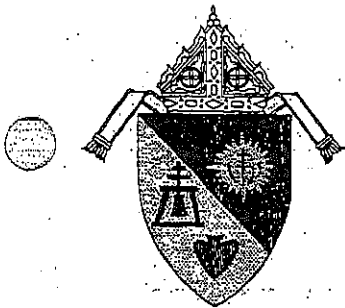
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

President
NYLife Administration Corporation

cc: [REDACTED]
NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE
3201 Temple Ave, Ste 200
Pomona, CA 91768





Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL ♦ CHANCELLOR

Confidential

September 30, 1997.

Reverend Peter Covas
Saints Peter & Paul Church
P. O. Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Covas:

At the past Priests' Personnel Board meeting, the pastor's term of office was reviewed. Your first term of six years will be completed on June 30, 1998. On page 90 of the Policy Manual, the diocesan guideline states:

“ At the end of the six year term the pastor's term may be renewed for another six year period. When deciding on this new six year term, the diocesan bishop will consider the views of the Priests' Personnel Board, the pastor and all those concerned.”

Bishop [REDACTED] has directed that you be notified of this event. If you wish to extend your term of office as pastor of Saints Peter and Paul parish in Alta Loma, please indicated your desire in writing to him. A second option would be that you may want your name to be available for an appointment as pastor in another parish.

If you decide to request a second term, one of the preparatory steps for renewal will be a process of self evaluation. This process is directed by Father [REDACTED] or myself. You may indicate with whom you would like to work on this project.

You may wish to discuss this matter directly with Bishop [REDACTED]. Otherwise, I am available to assist you in any way that you indicate. Our next Board meeting is October 30, 1997.

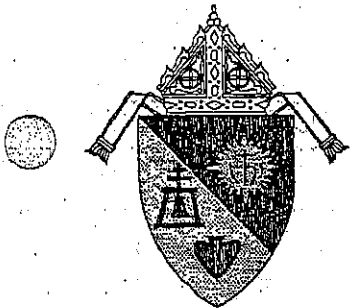
Covas - TC216

You are to be affirmed for all that you accomplished in your first term. You have been a strong leader both in your parish and in the diocesan responsibilities that you have undertaken. With my cordial regards and support, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Chancellor

c: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Priests Personnel Board
Very Reverend [REDACTED]



Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL ♦ CHANCELLOR

May 22, 1997

Reverend Peter Covas
St. Peter and St. Paul Church
PO Box 248
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Father Covas:

Having received the vote of the priests, ordained 31 years, they have elected you as their representative on the Diocesan Personnel Board, effective July 1, 1997 and extending to July 1, 1999.

I look forward to working with you as we begin meetings regarding assignments and personnel issues. The agenda and other materials will be forwarded to you prior to each meeting. Enclosed please find the scheduled dates for the 97/98 meetings.

With my prayers and best wishes, I remain

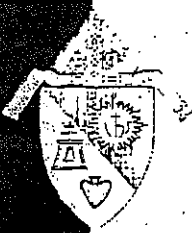
Fraternally yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Vicar General/Chancellor

[REDACTED]
cc: Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Priests' Personnel Board

Enclosures

Covas - TC218



Diocese of San Bernardino
 1201 East Highland Avenue
 San Bernardino, California 92404

**PRIEST INFORMATION
 & PERSONNEL ACTION FORM**

1

Name: COVAS PETER Social Security Number: [REDACTED]
Last First Middle
 Parish/School/Dept.: ST PETER + ST PAUL City: ALTA LOMA, CA 91701
 Type of Action: _____ Entity Number: _____
 Effective Date: Jan 1, 1997 File Number: _____

2

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 208
 City/State/Zip: ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 Ethnic Group: Caucasian
 Telephone: 909/987-9312 (1) Caucasian (2) African-American (3) Hispanic (4) Asian-Pacific Islander (5) American Indian (6) Other
 Birthdate: Sep 14, 1930 Hire Date: Jan 1, 1997

3

Appointment/Reinstatement
 Title: PASTOR Stipend/Salary: [REDACTED] Monthly Type of Medical Insurance: Diocesan

4

Salary Adjustment

From: _____	To: _____
<small>Stipend/Salary Per Month</small>	<small>Stipend/Salary Per Month</small>

5

Transfer/Change

From: _____	To: _____
<small>Title</small>	<small>Title</small>
From: _____	To: _____
<small>Stipend/Salary Per Month</small>	<small>Stipend/Salary Per Month</small>
From: _____	To: _____
<small>Parish/Department/School</small>	<small>Parish/Department/School</small>

6

Leave of Absence
 Sabbatical Leave Educational Leave Leave Without Pay Leave With Pay Military Leave
 Duration From: _____ Duration To: _____

7

Remarks

8

Priest Signature: Peter Covas Date: Oct 14, 1996
 I attest that a completed I-9 is on file with the Chancellor's Office and that the above information is correct.
 Chancellor Signature: Rev. Mary [REDACTED] Date: 11/8/96
 Received
 Dept. of Human Resources Signature: _____ Date: _____

Covas - TC219

**AUTHORIZATION / WAIVER STATEMENT
FOR
VOLUNTARY PAYROLL TAX WITHHOLDINGS**

Under Federal law all clergy have two options for paying their income and self-employment taxes:

- 1) By Voluntary Payroll Tax Withholding OR
- 2) By Quarterly Estimated Tax Payments Method

Please INITIAL below to indicate your choice:

I hereby choose to have **Voluntary Payroll Tax Withholding**. Attached is a signed W-4 Form (Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate) which Human Resources may use to withhold taxes from my paycheck. I understand that at any time, I may submit a new Form W-4 to change my withholding allowance; or a new signed Authorization/Waiver Statement to change my preference to Quarterly Estimated Tax Payments method.

I hereby **WAIVE** my right to **Voluntary Payroll Tax Withholding**. I understand that in waiving this right, I will be making payment directly to the Internal Revenue Service using Quarterly Estimated Tax Payments method. I also understand that, under this option, I am personally responsible and liable for the filing of estimated tax payments voucher and paying the taxes. Furthermore, I understand that I may, at any time, revoke this option by submitting a signed Form W-4 along with a new signed Authorization/Waiver Statement indicating my new preference.

I, Reverend PETER COVAS, understand my rights, and by signing below, authorize Human Resources to act according to the above marked option. I realize that under either options, I am responsible and liable for the filing and paying of my taxes.

Signature: Peter Covas

Date: Oct 14, 1996

Form W-4 (1996)

Want More Money In Your Paycheck?

If you expect to be able to take the earned income credit for 1996 and a child lives with you, you may be able to have part of the credit added to your take-home pay. For details, get Form W-5 from your employer.

Purpose. Complete Form W-4 so that your employer can withhold the correct amount of Federal income tax from your pay. Because your tax situation may change, you may want to refigure your withholding each year.

Exemption From Withholding. Read line 7 of the certificate below to see if you can claim exempt status. If exempt, only complete lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and sign the form to validate it. No Federal income tax will be withheld from your pay. Your exemption expires February 18, 1997.

Note: You cannot claim exemption from withholding if (1) your income exceeds \$650

and includes unearned income (e.g., interest and dividends) and (2) another person can claim you as a dependent on their tax return.

Basic Instructions. If you are not exempt, complete the Personal Allowances Worksheet. Additional worksheets are on page 2 so you can adjust your withholding allowances based on itemized deductions, adjustments to income, or two-earner/two-job situations. Complete all worksheets that apply to your situation. The worksheets will help you figure the number of withholding allowances you are entitled to claim. However, you may claim fewer allowances than this.

Head of Household. Generally, you may claim head of household filing status on your tax return only if you are unmarried and pay more than 50% of the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and your dependent(s) or other qualifying individuals.

Nonwage income. If you have a large amount of nonwage income, such as interest or dividends, you should consider making estimated tax payments using Form 1040-ES.

Otherwise, you may find that you owe additional tax at the end of the year.

Two Earners/Two Jobs. If you have a working spouse or more than one job, figure the total number of allowances you are entitled to claim on all jobs using worksheets from only one W-4. This total should be divided among all jobs. Your withholding will usually be most accurate when all allowances are claimed on the W-4 filed for the highest paying job and zero allowances are claimed for the others.

Check Your Withholding. After your W-4 takes effect, use Pub. 919, Is My Withholding Correct for 1996?, to see how the dollar amount you are having withheld compares to your estimated total annual tax. Get Pub. 919 especially if you used the Two Earner/Two Job Worksheet and your earnings exceed \$150,000 (Single) or \$200,000 (Married). To order Pub. 919, call 1-800-829-3676. Check your telephone directory for the IRS assistance number for further help.

Sign This Form. Form W-4 is not considered valid unless you sign it.

Personal Allowances Worksheet

A	Enter "1" for yourself if no one else can claim you as a dependent	A _____
B	Enter "1" if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are single and have only one job; or • You are married, have only one job, and your spouse does not work; or • Your wages from a second job or your spouse's wages (or the total of both) are \$1,000 or less. 	B _____
C	Enter "1" for your spouse. But, you may choose to enter -0- if you are married and have either a working spouse or more than one job (this may help you avoid having too little tax withheld)	C _____
D	Enter number of dependents (other than your spouse or yourself) you will claim on your tax return	D _____
E	Enter "1" if you will file as head of household on your tax return (see conditions under Head of Household above)	E _____
F	Enter "1" if you have at least \$1,500 of child or dependent care expenses for which you plan to claim a credit	F _____
G	Add lines A through F and enter total here. Note: This amount may be different from the number of exemptions you claim on your return	G _____

For accuracy, do all worksheets that apply.

- If you plan to itemize or claim adjustments to income and want to reduce your withholding, see the Deductions and Adjustments Worksheet on page 2.
- If you are single and have more than one job and your combined earnings from all jobs exceed \$30,000 OR if you are married and have a working spouse or more than one job, and the combined earnings from all jobs exceed \$50,000, see the Two-Earner/Two-Job Worksheet on page 2 if you want to avoid having too little tax withheld.
- If neither of the above situations applies, stop here and enter the number from line G on line 5 of Form W-4 below.

Cut here and give the certificate to your employer. Keep the top portion for your records.

Form W-4 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	<h2>Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate</h2> <p>► For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see reverse.</p>	OMB No. 1545-0010 <h1 style="font-size: 2em;">1996</h1>
1 Type or print your first name and middle initial _____ Last name _____		2 Your social security number _____
Home address (number and street or rural route) _____		3 <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Married, but withhold at higher Single rate. <i>Note: If married, but legally separated, or spouse is a nonresident alien, check the Single box.</i>
City or town, state, and ZIP code _____		4 If your last name differs from that on your social security card, check here and call 1-800-772-1213 for a new card <input type="checkbox"/>
5 Total number of allowances you are claiming (from line G above or from the worksheets on page 2 if they apply)		5 _____
6 Additional amount, if any, you want withheld from each paycheck		6 \$ _____
7 I claim exemption from withholding for 1996 and I certify that I meet BOTH of the following conditions for exemption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year I had a right to a refund of ALL Federal income tax withheld because I had NO tax liability; AND • This year I expect a refund of ALL Federal income tax withheld because I expect to have NO tax liability. If you meet both conditions, enter "EXEMPT" here		7 _____
Under penalties of perjury, I certify that I am entitled to the number of withholding allowances claimed on this certificate or entitled to claim exempt status.		
Employee's signature ► _____		Date ► _____, 19__
8 Employer's name and address (Employer: Complete 8 and 10 only if sending to the IRS) _____		9 Office code (optional) _____
		10 Employer identification number _____

Please read instructions carefully before completing this form. The instructions must be available during completion of this form. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE: It is illegal to discriminate against work eligible individuals. Employers CANNOT specify which document(s) they will accept from an employee. The refusal to hire an individual because of a future expiration date may also constitute illegal discrimination.

Section 1. Employee Information and Verification. To be completed and signed by employee at the time employment begins

Print Name: Last <u>COVAS</u>	First <u>PETER</u>	Middle Initial	Maiden Name
Address (Street Name and Number) <u>2000 S 1901 BANYAN</u>		APT #	Date of Birth (month/day/year) <u>Sept 14, 1930</u>
City <u>ALHAMBRA CA</u>	State	Zip Code <u>91701</u>	Social Security # [REDACTED]

I am aware that federal law provides for imprisonment and/or fines for false statements or use of false documents in connection with the completion of this form.

I attest, under penalty of perjury, that I am (check one of the following):

- A citizen or national of the United States
- A Lawful Permanent Resident (Alien #)
- An alien authorized to work until / / (Alien # or Admission #)

Employee's Signature <u>Peter Covas</u>	Date (month/day/year) <u>Oct 14, 1996</u>
--	--

Preparer and/or Translator Certification. (To be completed and signed if Section 1 is prepared by a person other than the employee.) I attest, under penalty of perjury, that I have assisted in the completion of this form and that to the best of my knowledge the information is true and correct.

Preparer's/Translator's Signature	Print Name
Address (Street Name and Number, City, State, Zip Code)	
Date (month/day/year)	

Section 2. Employer Review and Verification. To be completed and signed by employer. Examine one document from List A OR examine one document from List B and one from List C as listed on the reverse of this form and record the title, number and expiration date, if any, of the document(s)

List A	OR	List B	AND	List C
Document title: <u>PASSPORT</u>		<u>DRIVER LICENSE</u>		<u>SOCIAL SECURITY</u>
Issuing authority: <u>NATIONAL PASSPORT DIV</u>		[REDACTED]		<u>SSA</u>
Document #: <u>CENTER</u>		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
Expiration Date (if any): <u>5/1/04</u>		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
Document #:		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
Expiration Date (if any): <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u>		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]

CERTIFICATION - I attest, under penalty of perjury, that I have examined the document(s) presented by the above-named employee, that the above-listed document(s) appear to be genuine and to relate to the employee named, that the employee began employment on (month/day/year) 11/1/97 and that to the best of my knowledge the employee is eligible to work in the United States. (State employment agencies may omit the date the employee began employment)

Signature of Employer or Authorized Representative [REDACTED]	Print Name [REDACTED]	Title <u>VICE</u>
Business or Organization Name <u>Dioc. SAN BENO.</u>	Address (Street Name and Number, City, State, Zip Code) <u>1201 E Highland Ave San Bruno, CA 94064</u>	Date (month/day/year) <u>10-14-96</u>

Section 3. Updating and Reverification. To be completed and signed by employer

A. New Name (if applicable)	B. Date of rehire (month/day/year) (if applicable)
-----------------------------	--

C. If employee's previous grant of work authorization has expired, provide the information below for the document that establishes current employment eligibility.

Document Title: _____ Document #: _____ Expiration Date (if any): / /

I attest, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge, this employee is eligible to work in the United States, and if the employee presented document(s), the document(s) I have examined appear to be genuine and to relate to the individual.

Signature of Employer or Authorized Representative	Date (month/day/year)
--	-----------------------

The Secretary of State

of the United States of America

hereby requests all whom it may concern to permit the citizens of the United States named herein to pass without delay or hindrance and in case of need give all lawful aid and protection.

Le Secrétaire d'Etat

des Etats Unis d'Amerique

prie par la presente toutes autorites competentes de laisser passer et de ne point entraver les citoyens des Etats Unis en transit par ce pays, et en cas de besoin de leur donner toute aide et protection legitime.



SIGNATURE OF BEARER/SIGNATURE DU TITULAIRE

NOT VALID UNTIL SIGNED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Please read instructions carefully before completing this form. The instructions must be available during completion of this form. **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:** It is illegal to discriminate against work eligible individuals. Employers CANNOT specify which document(s) they will accept from an employee. The refusal to hire an individual because of a future expiration date may also constitute illegal discrimination.

Section 1. Employee Information and Verification. To be completed and signed by employee at the time employment begins

Print Name: Last <u>COVAS</u>	First <u>PETER</u>	Middle Initial	Maiden Name
Address (Street Name and Number) <u>1901 BANYAN</u>		ApL #	Date of Birth (month/day/year) <u>SEP 14 1930</u>
City <u>ALTA LOMA</u>	State <u>CA</u>	Zip Code <u>91701</u>	Social Security # [REDACTED]
I am aware that federal law provides for imprisonment and/or fines for false statements or use of false documents in connection with the completion of this form.		I attest, under penalty of perjury, that I am (check one of the following): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A citizen or national of the United States <input type="checkbox"/> A Lawful Permanent Resident (Alien # A) <input type="checkbox"/> An alien authorized to work until <u>1 1</u> (Alien # or Admission #)	
Employee's Signature <u>[Signature]</u>		Date (month/day/year) <u>02 14 1996</u>	
Preparer and/or Translator Certification. (To be completed and signed if Section 1 is prepared by a person other than the employee.) I attest, under penalty of perjury, that I have assisted in the completion of this form and that to the best of my knowledge the information is true and correct.			
Preparer's/Translator's Signature		Print Name	
Address (Street Name and Number, City, State, Zip Code)		Date (month/day/year)	

Section 2. Employer Review and Verification. To be completed and signed by employer. Examine one document from List A OR examine one document from List B and one from List C as listed on the reverse of this form and record the title, number and expiration date, if any, of the document(s)

List A	OR	List B	AND	List C
Document title: <u>PASS PORT</u>		<u>DRIVER LICENSE</u>		<u>SOCIAL SECURITY</u>
Issuing authority: <u>NATIONAL PASSPORT</u>		<u>DMV</u>		<u>SSA</u>
Document #: <u>CENTER</u>		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
Expiration Date (if any): <u>5/16/04</u>		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
Document #:				
Expiration Date (if any): <u>1 1</u>				

CERTIFICATION - I attest, under penalty of perjury, that I have examined the document(s) presented by the above-named employee, that the above-listed document(s) appear to be genuine and to relate to the employee named, that the employee began employment on (month/day/year) 11 1 1997 and that to the best of my knowledge the employee is eligible to work in the United States. (State employment agencies may omit the date the employee began employment)

Signature of Employer or Authorized Representative [REDACTED]	Print Name [REDACTED]	Title <u>VICAR</u>
Business or Organization Name <u>Dioc. San Bruno</u>	Address (Street Name and Number, City, State, Zip Code) <u>1201 E Highland Ave San Bruno, CA 94064</u>	Date (month/day/year) <u>10-14-96</u>

Section 3. Updating and Reverification. To be completed and signed by employer

A. New Name (if applicable)	B. Date of rehire (month/day/year) (if applicable)
C. If employee's previous grant of work authorization has expired, provide the information below for the document that establishes current employment eligibility.	
Document Title:	Document #: _____ Expiration Date (if any): <u>1 1</u>

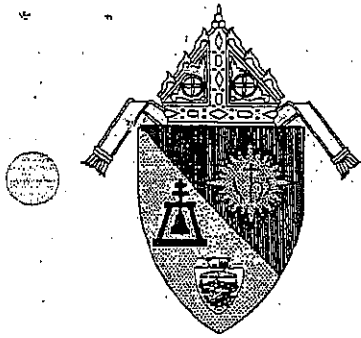
I attest, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge, this employee is eligible to work in the United States, and if the employee presented document(s), the document(s) I have examined appear to be genuine and to relate to the individual.

Signature of Employer or Authorized Representative	Date (month/day/year)
--	-----------------------

LISTS OF ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS

LIST A	OR	LIST B	AND	LIST C
Documents that Establish Both Identity and Employment Eligibility		Documents that Establish Identity		Documents that Establish Employment Eligibility
1. U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired)		1. Driver's license or ID card issued by a state or outlying possession of the United States provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, sex, height, eye color, and address		1. U.S. social security card issued by the Social Security Administration (other than a card stating it is not valid for employment)
2. Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (INS Form N-560 or N-561)		2. ID card issued by federal, state, or local government agencies or entities provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, sex, height, eye color, and address		2. Certification of Birth Abroad issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545 or Form DS-1350)
3. Certificate of Naturalization (INS Form N-550 or N-570)		3. School ID card with a photograph		3. Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal
4. Unexpired foreign passport, with I-551 stamp or attached INS Form I-94 indicating unexpired employment authorization		4. Voter's registration card		4. Native American tribal document
5. Alien Registration Receipt Card with photograph (INS Form I-151 or I-551)		5. U.S. Military card or draft record		5. U.S. Citizen ID Card (INS Form I-197)
6. Unexpired Temporary Resident Card (INS Form I-688)		6. Military dependent's ID card		6. ID Card for use of Resident Citizen in the United States (INS Form I-179)
7. Unexpired Employment Authorization Card (INS Form I-688A)		7. U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Manner Card		7. Unexpired employment authorization document issued by the INS (other than those listed under List A)
8. Unexpired Reentry Permit (INS Form I-327)		8. Native American tribal document		
9. Unexpired Refugee Travel Document (INS Form I-571)		9. Driver's license issued by a Canadian government authority		
10. Unexpired Employment Authorization Document issued by the INS which contains a photograph (INS Form I-688B)		For persons under age 18 who are unable to present a document listed above:		
		10. School record or report card		
		11. Clinic, doctor, or hospital record		
		12. Day-care or nursery school record		

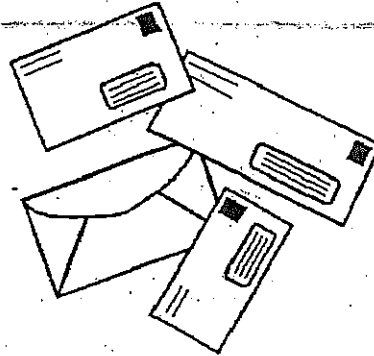
Illustrations of many of these documents appear in Part 8 of the Handbook for Employers (M-274)



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

Hard Copy mailed
to Fr. Covas 11-22-94
JH



FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Father Peter Covas

TO FAX NUMBER: _____

FROM: Bishop [REDACTED]

FROM FAX NUMBER: (909) 884-4890

SUBJECT: _____

COMMENTS: Bishop said to fax this letter
to you and you could forward
it. Hope you have a great time.

Love [REDACTED]

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS ONE): 3

DATE: 11-21-94

Covas - TC226



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

November 21, 1994

His Eminence Cardinal [REDACTED]
Archdiocese of Mexico
Apartado Postal 2-433
06700 Mexico

Your Eminence:

Reverend Peter Covas will be leading a Pilgrimage of 33 people to Mexico City from December 7th to December 14, 1994.

His itinerary is as follows:

December 8 - Thursday, permission to offer Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral - Zozalo, Central Mexico City. Attention Capellan: at 6:30 a.m. until 7:15 a.m.

December 9 - Friday, permission to offer Mass at the same Cathedral in the Chapel area at 6:30 a.m.

December 10 - Saturday, permission to offer Mass at the Santa Trisca Church in Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico at 7:00 p.m.

December 11 - Sunday, permission to offer Mass the Shrine of Guadalupe at 10:30 a.m.

December 12 - Monday, Father Covas would like to join other priests in celebrating Mass at the Shrine of Guadalupe in the days celebration.

December 13 - Tuesday, permission to offer Mass at the Chapel of Saint Teresa at 2:00 p.m. in Puebla.

Covas - TC227

His Eminence Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada
November 21, 1994

Any consideration you could afford Father Peter Covas would be
deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

[REDACTED]

COPY





The Secretary of State
of the United States of America
hereby requests all whom it may concern to permit the citizen
national of the United States named herein to pass
without delay or hindrance and in case of need to
give all lawful aid and protection.

Le Secrétaire d'Etat
des Etats-Unis d'Amerique
par les présentes toutes autorités compétentes de laisser passer
le citoyen ou ressortissant des Etats-Unis titulaire du présent passeport
sans délai ni difficulté et en cas de besoin de lui accorder
toute aide et protection légitimes.

[Signature]
SIGNATURE OF BEARER/SIGNATURE DU TITULAIRE
NOT VALID UNTIL SIGNED

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPORTS CENTER
15450 28th Ave
Bellevue, WA 98007
1-206-835-2800

PASSEPORT
Type / Catégorie: P
Code of Issuing Authority / Code de l'Autorité Emissive: USA
Date of Issue / Date de Délivrance: 15 SEP 80
Date of Expiration / Date d'Expiration: 15 SEP 84
Place of Birth / Lieu de Naissance: PENNSYLVANIA
Date of Issue / Date de Délivrance: 16 MAY 81
Date of Expiration / Date d'Expiration: 16 MAY 85
Authority / Autorité: PASSPORT AGENCY
Nationality / Nationalité: NATIONAL

PASADENA, CALIF. PETE
15450 28th Ave
Bellevue, WA 98007

Standard INSURANCE COMPANY
Dedicated to Excellence PORTLAND, OREGON

PRO-DENT[®] ME
Please print or type

1 GROUP POLICY NO 51 _____ F	2 EFFECTIVE DATE 07-01-92	3 EMPLOYER/GROUP DIUC
4 DIVISION COVERAGE TYPE		4 JOB TITLE/OCCUPATION PRIEST
5 YOUR NAME - LAST COVAS	FIRST PETE	MIDDLE
8 YOUR ADDRESS 6970 CENTAC		9 CITY ALTA
12 DATE OF BIRTH 04 14 30 MO DAY YR	13 HAVE YOU WORKED FOR THIS EMPLOYER BEFORE? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, LAST TERMINATION DATE / /	
15 MARITAL STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> married <input type="checkbox"/> divorced <input type="checkbox"/> sep		
16 Family members to be Covered or Deleted under this plan: NONE		
DEPENDENT/FIRST NAMES (Last name if different)	SEX (circle)	DATE OF BIRTH
SPOUSE	M F	CHILD-3
CHILD-1	M F	CHILD-4
CHILD-2	M F	CHILD-5

17 If last name is different, please explain the relationship of the dependent to you

18 Does your spouse have a dental plan? yes no
If yes, employer name _____ Insuran

19 Do you have children under age 19, or unmarried children age 19 to 25 who are full-time students dependent on you? yes no

20 Are those children enrolled in another dental plan? yes no
If yes, employer name _____ Insuran

21 Are you enrolled in your spouse's dental plan? yes no

22 Dental coverage will apply to:

A Employee, spouse, and children As a retiree (if applicable)

B Employee and spouse For a new enrollment

C Employee only To add dependent

D Employee and children (no spouse coverage) To delete dependent

To change address To change name

24 Effective date for family members to be added or deleted: / /

25 YOUR SIGNATURE (IN INK)
[Signature]

DENTAL INSURANCE WAIVED
CONTRIBUTORY DENTAL INSURANCE DECLINED BY EMPLOYEE
The Group Dental Insurance Coverage available to me and my family and I don't want to enroll. I understand that if I change my mind I am now waiving will be subject to a Late Enrollment Penalty

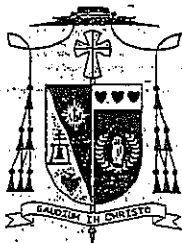
I decline Group Dental Insurance for my family

I decline Group Dental Insurance for my self

I am currently covered under another plan. Name of Carrier _____

Date _____ Signature of Employee _____

SI-23-3934 Top copy for Standard, 2nd copy



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

August 19, 1994

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter dated August 12, 1994 regarding the fine work and ministry of Father Peter Covas.

It is always refreshing to receive a letter which compliments one of the priests of the diocese. Ministering to a parish is not an easy task and it is nice to know that their hard work is appreciated. Father Covas is a very knowledgeable and congenial man who reads and continues to keep himself updated on a variety of items.

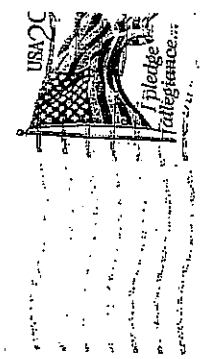
Thank you for taking the time to write and with prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
[REDACTED]

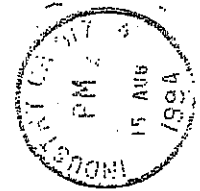
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Covas - TC232

August 2, 1994
Mrs. [redacted]



Most Rev. [redacted]
Bishop of San Bernardino Diocese
P.O. Box 5847
San Bernardino, CA 92412-5847



Dear Bishop [redacted]

I would like to congratulate you on your choice of pastor for our parish, St. Peter and St. Paul of Alta Loma. Father Peter Covas is a strong and powerful spiritual leader. There are many of us who find his homilies and Bible studies food for our souls. He speaks truth.

There are some in our parish who do not want to hear God's truth.

We love Father Peter, and thank God for him. I am a minister of the sick and elderly. When any of the people I visit request Father Peter's assistance, he comes right out to their residence. He has shown love and compassion for us.

Thank you again for your wisdom and care for our parish.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

Most Rev. [redacted]
Bishop of San Bernardino Diocese
P.O. Box 5847

Handwritten note: For [redacted] [redacted]

CERTIFICATION OF INSTALLATION

During the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II, I, the Most Reverend [REDACTED] Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino, in the presence of the parishioners whose signatures appear below, commit to the Reverend PETER COVAS responsibility for the spiritual and temporal administration of SAINTS PETER & PAUL parish to which he has been duly appointed as Pastor.

That Reverend PETER COVAS is hereby officially installed as Pastor of this parish, with all rights and responsibilities in accord with the laws of the Church. This document certifies that the installation ceremony has taken place and that it has been publicly proclaimed in fulfillment of all applicable requirements, canonical and civil.

Given this 26 day of July in the year of Our Lord 1992 at SAINTS PETER & PAUL Church in ALTA LOMA, CA

[REDACTED] _____
Witness

[REDACTED] _____
Witness

Peter Covas _____
New Pastor

[REDACTED] _____
[REDACTED]

To be signed in duplicate: Please submit one copy for Diocesan Archives and place one in the Parochial Archives.



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

July 11, 1994

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

I was very pleased to receive your kind letter dated July 8, 1994 regarding Father Peter Covas, your pastor at St. Peter and St. Paul in Alta Loma. I agree that Father Covas is doing an outstanding job within the parish community and he truly is a hard worker and a fine example of priestly ministry.

It is always a pleasure for me to hear about a priest who is respected and commended by his people. Many times the only correspondence I receive are letters of complaint. Thank you very much for taking the time to express your gratitude of a brother priest.

Be assured of my prayers and best wishes for you and your family, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
[REDACTED]

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Covas - TC235

July 8, 1994

Most Reverend. [REDACTED]
1450 North D Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

My Dear Bishop [REDACTED]

I would like to commend Father Peter Covas of St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Alta Loma. He is always faithful, dedicated and devoted to his parishoners. However, after the departure of Assistant Pastor, [REDACTED], to his new assignment, Father Covas had the entire parish business all by himself for the whole month of June. As you are aware, our parish was at one time served by three priests.

In spite of this tremendous responsibility, St. Peter and St. Paul serves approximately 4000 families, Father Covas offered mass twice, daily; conducted our bible study classes; managed the preparation of our church festival; attended to funerals and who knows how many countless other things we will never ever know about.

I personally have always held priests in the highest esteem. They are very, very special people and make the supreme sacrifice. I am sure the priesthood has many rewards but it can probably be a very lonely life as well. Many of us are too quick to criticize our priests never giving a single thought to their duties, their responsibilities and the burdens they bear. Dealing with the public is definitely not an easy task: it's frustrating more than fruitful and disappointing more times than joyful. The priesthood doesn't seem to be a very popular vocation these days and all the more reason for us to treasure those we have.

I have no idea how many letters of commendation you receive for your priests but I hope it would be often. Father Covas is very special and incidentally, he gives powerful homilies. I'd like to add, too, that during the month of June, he went about business as usual never showing just how much of a strain he was under. He did appear tired at times but never complained. If you will permit me, Bishop Straling, you can be very proud of Father Covas. He is a definite leader and a guide, and we are most fortunate to have him as our pastor.

May God bless you, Bishop Straling.

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Request for Verification of Employment

This information is to be used by the agency or its assignee or its assignee's program. It will not be disclosed outside the agency or its assignee's program. You do not need your application for approval as a condition of completion. This form is required by Title 38, USC, Chapter 37 (10/4/94), 5611, Section 1001 et seq. and 38 USC, 1001 et seq. (11/27/07 mhr)

IF A MISTAKE IS MADE IN FILING
NOTHING WILL BE DONE
THANK YOU



*Chas
Covas*

Part I - Request

To: (Name and address of employer)
NATIONAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE
P.O. BOX 6357
CERRITOS, CA 90701

From: (Name and address of lender)
National Pacific Mortgage Corp. attn: [redacted]
P.O. Box 6357
Cerritos, CA 90701

Subject: (Name of employee)
[Handwritten signature]

4. Title
LAWYER

6. Date
12/10/07

7. Employer's use only

8. Address of present employer
6000 AVENUE AVILA LANA, CA

Part II - Verification of Present Employment

9. Approve (Date of last review)
10. Reason for not approving

File # 1042015

Acct # 1567

MORTGAGE FAX

A CREDIT REPORTING COMPANY

13030 EUCLID STREET
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA 92643
(714) 638-2780

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPRIC OF ANAHEIM

1450 "D" ST

LA BERNARDINO, CA

92405

Date July 9, 1992

Name PETER COVAS

Address 16970 CENTER AVE

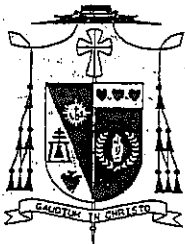
City ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

SS # 173 24 31 31

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you regarding a credit report for the above named individual. The report shows that the individual has a mortgage on property located at the above address. The mortgage was originated by the above named institution. The mortgage is in good standing and the individual is making payments as scheduled.

LA BERNARDINO, CA



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

June 12, 1992

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge your letter dated June 3, 1992 regarding Father Peter Covas, who will be leaving Holy Family Parish the end of this month to assume the pastorate of St. Peter and St. Paul in Alta Loma.

I was pleased to hear that you were spiritually nourished and helped through the ministry and work of Father Covas during his short stay at Holy Family. Perhaps, some people are not aware that I did not ask Father Covas to leave Holy Family, but he requested the transfer. I am sure he felt it was best for him, as well as for the ongoing needs of the parish.

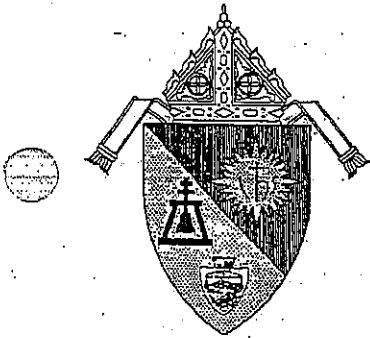
In a few days a new pastor will be assigned to the parish. It will be his task to select the supporting team to assist him in his pastoral ministry at Holy Family. I ask your prayers of support of the new pastor.

You do very well in typing on your computer. I also am appreciative of your taking the time to write to me regarding the spiritual nourishment that you have received at Holy Family, as well as some of your concerns. I believe very strongly in the guidance of the Holy Spirit over His church and that He will guide us during this transition. Please join me in prayer to the Holy Spirit for continued guidance and blessings as we work together to build community.

May the Lord bless and keep you always and with every best wish, I am
Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

Covas - TC239



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

June 5, 1992

TO: Reverend Peter Covas
FROM: Very Reverend [REDACTED]
RE: Rite of Canonical Installation

Please find enclosed the documentation for your Canonical Installation in the office of Pastor. (Canon 527.2)

You will also find a Rite of Installation, a prescribed Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity, and a Certificate of Installation, a copy of which should be returned for our files here in the Diocesan office.

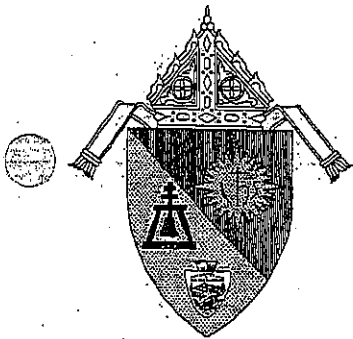
Please be in contact with your respective Vicar Forane to schedule an installation date. He is empowered by the Bishop to preside personally or through a delegate at this important event in the life of the parish.

Wishing you God's blessing as you assume this new office of service to His people.

With every best wish.

[REDACTED]
Enclosures

Covas - TC240



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

Notes on Holy Family, Hesperia - Meeting with Father Covas of
May 26, 1992:

1. Father Covas on vacation from June 8-19. Will call in on June 11.
2. Recommendation new pastor review both house as possible priests' residence.

Nun's house - closer to church
- possible 2 room suite plus
one very large master bedroom and bath.
- good neighbor
3. Audit, maybe extra educational bills due to:

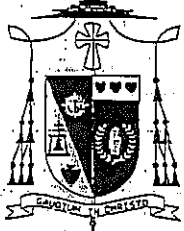
- associate pastor's program
- staff facilitator.
- informed George Schmit
4. Asked Father Covas to advertise and prepare candidates for D.R.E. - DCTF
- DECH
- Pesta
- Maura
5. Possible study program:

Call [REDACTED]
Notre Dame [REDACTED]
School of applied theology, Berkeley [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Very [REDACTED]
Moderator of Curia

[REDACTED]
5/27/92

Covas - TC241



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

May 20, 1992

Reverend Peter Covas
Holy Family Church
P.O. Box 685
Hesperia CA 92345

Dear Father Covas:

I am pleased to appoint you Pastor at St. Peter and St. Paul, Alta Loma, effective Wednesday, July 1, 1992. You are hereby, granted all faculties that the law confers on you, as pastor of this parish community.

As the pastoral service of God's holy people are entrusted in you, I ask that you take a personal and special interest in promoting and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese. In the prayers of ordination to the priesthood, the church prays that the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit renew within you the grace of holiness of life. As you assume these new responsibilities, I pray through this ministry you will grow in priestly holiness, sharing the joy and peace of the risen Christ.

I appreciate your ministry at Holy Family, Hesperia, during these past two years. I hope that your renewal program at Menlo Park, in the fall, will be a time of refreshment and rest.

With every best wish and assuring you of my prayers and support, I am

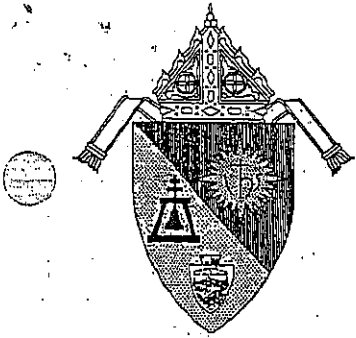
Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Redacted]
Most Reverend [Redacted]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

[Redacted]
Sister [Redacted]
Chancellor

cc: Reverend [Redacted]
Very Reverend [Redacted]
Very Reverend [Redacted]

Covas - TC242



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

April 14, 1992

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

Bishop [REDACTED] as asked me to respond to your letter of March 21, 1992, concerning the wedding of your son at Holy Family Church in Hesperia. I am sorry that the event was filled with so much confusion and stress. I know that belated apologies cannot change the situation, but it is important to express such regrets.

I have spoken with Father Covas about the wedding. The hope of the church is that there can be healing and reconciliation when human beings have such hurting encounters. Be assured that if I can be of any assistance, I would be available.

May this holy season be an occasion of grace and peace for you. With my best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

J. [REDACTED]

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Moderator of the Curia

cc: Reverend Peter Covas

Covas - TC243

[REDACTED]

March 21, 1992

Agostino Cacciavillan Nuncio
Apostolic Legat
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Your Excellency,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a member of the San Bernardino/Riverside Diocese in California. I have been a member of Holy Family Parish in Hesperia, California, for 18 years. I served this parish for 15 of those years, in many capacities, including Eucharistic Minister, CCD teacher, Lector, Parish Council President, and Charismatic Prayer Group leader. My husband served on the Financial Committee, and as a Charismatic Prayer Group leader. Both of us are graduates of the Straling Leadership Institute. After graduation from that institute, my husband served as a facilitator for the institute for two years. We have four sons and one daughter. All of our boys were Altar boys, and our daughter taught CCD. I mention all of the above in the hope that they will add credence to what I feel I have a moral duty to tell you. This will be a long and perhaps, boring, letter, but please read it in its entirety.

All of our children have been married in the Catholic Church. The most recent was our youngest son, who was married on February 1, 1992.

In our church bulletin there is often an announcement that people intending to be married must notify the parish six months in advance of the wedding date. Our son and fiance went to the ministry center at least eight months in advance of their wedding date, and told the receptionist of their intentions. They were told they would not see a priest until they had first met with the wedding co-ordinator. My son was told that if he was old enough to get married, he was old enough to join the parish, and was given a packet of donation envelopes. In addition, they were given several typed pages of do's and don'ts concerning the wedding, including specific fees for certain things: \$100 for rental of the church, to be paid when they met with the priest; a donation to the priest - suggested \$50; \$60 for the wedding co-ordinator; and between \$75 and \$125 for the music. They were told the wedding co-ordinator would contact them, which she did. A Pre-Cana date was made, as well as an appointment to take some sort of test administered by the wedding co-ordinator.

Covas - TC244

The two young people went on their Pre-Cana, but the meeting with the wedding co-ordinator was cancelled twice. Eventually, our future daughter-in-law called the co-ordinator and stated her concern that they would not be able to get their desired wedding date of February 1, since two or three months had already elapsed, and they still had not met with the co-ordinator or the priest. She said she was going to call the priest herself and was told not to; she needed to go through the co-ordinator. She waited, but did not receive any information from the wedding co-ordinator, so she called the parish and was allowed to speak to the Pastor. He assured her that February 1, 1992, was available and he would save it for them.

Eventually, they met with the co-ordinator and took the test. They were given another appointment to return for the evaluation of the test and other information. They were told that they would be able to be married on February 1, at 1:00 P.M. They were also told they could go ahead and order their wedding invitations. However, before ordering the invitations, my future daughter-in-law called the co-ordinator to be sure that everything was set as they had planned - date, time, etc. She was told everything was fine. So she bought the invitations.

On the second meeting with the co-ordinator, she called the parish and during the conversation was told that our son's and his fiance's names were not on the calendar to be married, but someone else's name was there on that date and time. Besides that, there were also two other weddings that day. She asked how that could be, since no one had come through her, concerning that time and date. She was told the temporary priest we had had for three months during the summer had set it up. The co-ordinator became upset and said she would have a meeting with the pastor to straighten out the problem. My daughter-in-law offered to send her invitations back to the printer to change the time, but the co-ordinator said no, she wanted to meet with the other people involved first. A few days later our daughter-in-law was called and received the good news that everything was straightened out. The Spanish wedding co-ordinator had set up the other wedding for a Spanish couple, but a neighboring parish had been contacted and they would have their wedding there. So everything was fine, the invitations could remain as they were.

The couple finally met with the pastor and everything was arranged to be married on February 1, 1992, at 1:00 P.M. Upon leaving his office, they went to the receptionist's desk to pay the \$100 for the rental of the church. She told them their name was not on the calendar. The pastor had already left his office, so the matter could not be settled then. The \$100 for the rental of the church was accepted, however. The couple were eventually called and given the message that all was well; the wedding was still scheduled for February 1, 1992, at 1:00 P.M.

Three weeks before the wedding my daughter-in-law called the parish to see what time the flowers could be brought into the church, preceding the wedding. She was told her name was not on the calendar to be married on February 1, 1992. She asked to speak with the pastor and was told that he was gone and would not be back until Wednesday, so she spoke to the associate pastor, who said he couldn't make any decision; the pastor would need to have the "last word." Later that day, one of the nuns in the parish called and made an appointment for our children to speak to the pastor on Thursday. After that, the wedding co-ordinator called and said the pastor would not be back until Friday evening, so she, our son and his fiance, and the associate pastor would meet with the pastor on Monday morning after daily Mass.

This is when I got involved. I called the associate pastor and had a lengthy conversation with him. It ended with him saying he could do nothing now, but would attend the meeting on Monday. He said he had been working with the Spanish couple, but didn't know why their names had not been on the calendar when the pastor originally told my daughter-in-law that the time was open and he would save it for her. He said he would abide by whatever decision the pastor made.

Later, the secretary called and said the associate pastor wanted to know if our couple would agree to move their wedding up to 12:30. If they would, he would ask the other couple to move theirs to 1:30. That would allow us to have the church until around 1:15. I said I thought that seemed reasonable, but the decision was not mine to make; I would relay the information to our children, which I did. Our daughter-in-law called the parish to speak to the associate pastor, but he was unavailable at that time. She was told he would return her call. She never got the return call.

On Monday morning, my husband and I went to daily Mass with our son and his fiance (who, by the way, is a non-Catholic who WAS interested in going through the Catholic information program). After Mass we met with the pastor, but the wedding co-ordinator and the associate pastor were not there. Our pastor did not seem to know what the meeting was about, so our son and daughter-in-law explained the situation. The young couple were visibly upset, but they were not disrespectful. Our daughter-in-law said she didn't want to change the time of the ceremony because she didn't think 45 minutes was enough time for a dignified ceremony and Mass to take place, and get flowers, etc., in and out of the church.

When our pastor spoke, he immediately began to chastise them for their attitude. When he finished speaking, I told him I did not think that was fair. I explained how patient they had been, and had followed all the directions the church had given them. I also mentioned that if our daughter-in-law had not chanced to

call the parish that day, three weeks before the wedding, both couples would have shown up at the church at 1:00. (It was now two weeks before the wedding) I said I believed there was an "attitude" there, but it wasn't the young couple's.

At this point the pastor started to try to work out the problem. He said he would have to talk to the associate pastor when he came in and get back to us. We asked when that would be -- he said probably around noon time. At this point our daughter-in-law said the associate had stated that the pastor needed to make the decision and he would abide by it. So the pastor said if we waited in the outer office he would try to contact the associate. When he called us back into his office he was very apologetic and said if we started the ceremony right at 1:00, we could keep it as scheduled. I asked him if that was written down. He said I had every right to ask that, but no, it wasn't, because he had to make some more calls to confirm it. He promised to call that afternoon with the final word. At that time he apologized and said, "don't blame the Church; blame the priest". Our daughter-in-law said she had never blamed the Church, but thought there had been mis-communication. That afternoon he called and said the wedding was on as scheduled.

The night before the wedding, when we went to the rehearsal, the wedding co-ordinator gave a long talk, which sounded more like a sermon a priest should be giving on the Sacrament of Matrimony. Then when we finally got into the actual practice for the ceremony, it seemed like the ceremony was more important than the sacrament. For instance, the ushers were instructed to tell all the guests not to stand when the bride walked down the aisle. This was to allow everyone good vision for pictures. When the rehearsal was over, the co-ordinator asked my son for the envelopes (money), which we had forgotten to take with us. Then she went up to the bride and told her that at 8:30 tomorrow morning she needed to bring the envelopes and the marriage license (in that order) to church; her husband would be there to take them. Apparently they couldn't wait until the time of the ceremony. At this point I walked out of the church in order to avoid an altercation -- I was furious! Throughout my life I was under the impression that the church could not charge for religious services. I was raised with the understanding that lay people donated what they felt they could afford. I wanted to ask the co-ordinator, "if there were no "envelopes", would there be no ceremony?" What do people who cannot afford those fees do? Are they denied the privilege of marriage in the church in this parish?

Well the big day finally arrived. Both wedding parties arrived at the church at the same time! Our wedding party was in and out of the church within 35 minutes-- this included Mass and wedding ceremony. The celebrant did not complete the Our Father we were standing with our hands upraised, but he was already onto the next prayer.

He did not give Communion to the Altar boys (who, by the way, were not in robes because the Altar boys in the other wedding party already had the robes on). During the rehearsal we had been instructed that everyone in the first two pews should come forward at Communion time; non-Catholics were to cross their arms in front of their chest; this would be a signal to Father to give them a blessing instead of Communion. Well we started to file out for Communion, but Father said "stay in the pew, I'll come to you, which he did. He gave Communion to the Catholics and quickly slapped the hands of the non-Catholics; that, I guess, was their blessing. At the end of the ceremony he walked out and motioned both sets of parents out before the full wedding party had left the altar. When he got to the vestibule of the church, he looked at his watch and said to the associate pastor, who was waiting to begin the next ceremony, "Not bad, huh?" I guess he was proud of how quickly he had gotten that job done.

Tell me, please, do you think this was a good example to our newly married couple as to what their religion should mean to them? It seems to me that time was of much more importance than God or religion at Holy Family Church at 1 P.M. on Saturday, February 1, 1992.

If one good thing has come from this nightmarish experience, it is that I feel more empathy for our Protestant brothers and sisters now. I can understand why they protested and left the Catholic church.

You see, our experience was not an isolated case. I have been told repeatedly, of people leaving this parish for one reason or another, since our former pastor retired and was replaced by two priests and two nuns. One woman I know of, wrote a letter of complaint to Bishop [REDACTED] concerning her experience with her daughter wedding. She received a reply stating the matter should be resolved at the local level it has; she left the parish.

I personally have not attended Mass at Holy Family since my son's wedding. My husband and I are going to neighboring parishes for Sunday Mass now, because we cannot sit and accept a sermon from a man we have lost respect for. When we go to Mass we need to be fed. Religion has always been foremost in my life and I have tried to raise my children to feel the same way. Our whole family has been very deeply hurt by this experience, which should have been an uplifting, happy experience. I do think that our faith is strong enough so that we will go on as ever, but I fear what is happening in this parish, and for that matter, in other parishes in this diocese. That is my main reason for writing this letter. This parish has gone from a wonderful caring, warm community, to a religious business. In fact, that is not just my opinion I heard that said in a place of business, by someone I do not know, and who was not speaking directly to me. There are a lot of unhappy Catholics in this area now.

If this were the end of my story, I probably would not be writing to you, Your Excellency. I'M sorry to say, in my opinion, this diocese is in far more trouble than what is happening in our parish.

This diocese, in my opinion, is catering to one minority ethnic group. Our bad experience, in all probability, would not have occurred had there not been two wedding co-ordinators involved, an English and a Spanish speaking one.

When our former pastor was here, we had an occasional Spanish Mass. Then it developed into a weekly Sunday Mass. Now, since our new pastor arrived, we have an associate priest whose primary job seems to be to work with the Spanish parishioners. In addition to the weekly Spanish Mass, we have Bilingual Masses on all Holy Days of Obligation. We also have many other programs for the Spanish speaking.

I have always prided myself on not being prejudiced against races or colors. However, I'm sorry to say that it has become very hard for me to remain unprejudiced.

My father was Polish and came to the United States from Europe. He was not catered to when he got here. He had to learn to speak English in order to adapt to the American way of life. This he did willingly; after all, he was in a country where the national language is English!

I have been to Mass in Mexico on several occasions. NEVER have I attended an English Mass in that country, nor did I expect to.

Those people have made a choice to cross the border into the United States of America. When they make that choice, they NEED to make the choice to learn to speak English. I have nothing against them being here; in fact, I think the border should be open to them. I do, however, object to having a foreign culture forced upon me. I must say, I can speak more Spanish than Polish!

I know that this is not an isolated parish. My son lives in a different parish, but still in the San Bernardino/Riverside Diocese. He was at a meeting where a Spanish woman slapped the pastor in the face. She then went to the Bishop's office and said the pastor had hit her. He was transferred to another parish --she is still in the same parish. This was after people testified to the fact that the priest had not hit the woman.

When I was a little girl, I went to Mass and heard only Latin. I needed to read from a book what those words meant. Nevertheless, I knew what the Mass was about, and it meant a great deal to me. Now I go to Mass and get a lesson in Spanish and Spanish culture.

If these immigrants choose not to learn English, they are isolating themselves from the majority of their neighbors. In this diocese the Church is helping them to do just that. Tell me, is that "Catholic"?

On the other hand, if the Spanish people need to isolate themselves, why not give them their own parish instead of forcing their culture on those of us who come from many, many other cultures? We certainly have Spanish speaking priests who could serve them. In fact, we now even have a Spanish Bishop to serve them, in this diocese. I suppose I shouldn't mention that because we all have a Polish Pope. However, I have never had the privilege or pleasure of meeting him.

I seriously doubt that anything will come from this letter to you, and copies to others involved. However, I have taken the burden from my shoulders and placed it on yours.

I want to close by saying that I understand that the clergy are human beings and we are all fallible. I do forgive all who have offended me in any way. I also want to apologize to anyone whom I may have offended.

I implore you, PLEASE, do not accept this letter as one of complaint; accept it for what it is meant to be - A CRY FOR HELP!

Very Sincerely yours,



CC: Roger Cardinal Mahoney

Bishop 

Reverend Peter Covas

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008-3687

E
RICA

March 31, 1992

No.

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of San Bernardino
1450 N. "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]

Noting that Your Excellency received a copy of Mrs. [REDACTED] recent letter to me, I enclose herein one of my reply.

With prayerful good wishes and fraternal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Alcega
Apostolic Pro-Nuncio

Enclosure



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COPY

7752/5

March 31, 1992

No.

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your kind letter of March 21, 1992.

You may be assured that your observations have been carefully reviewed and duly noted, and that I appreciate your confidence in approaching me on such a personal matter.

I see from your correspondence that you have brought your sentiments to the attention of the Bishop of San Bernardino and the Pastor of Holy Family Parish. In so doing, you have followed proper ecclesiastical procedure, and I trust they will respond satisfactorily.

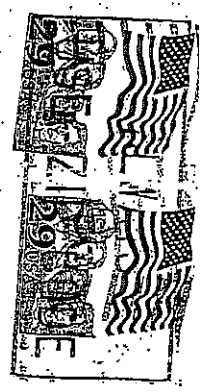
With prayerful good wishes and cordial regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

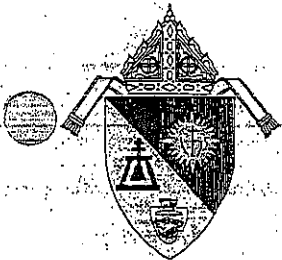
[REDACTED]
Apostolic Pro-Nuncio



The Most Reverend
Bishop of San Bernardino/Riverside
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, California 92405



San Bernardino, CA 92405



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

August 5, 1991

Spoke on the telephone with Father Covas about [redacted] statement in final sentence of her letter of June 21, 1991, "proceed with my law suit against Holy Trinity" according to Father Covas.

She has come to the office and said she would not proceed with law suit.

She is "up and down" about other issue.

Feels it involves her loyalty to Father [redacted]

See how meeting with Bishop [redacted] and Father [redacted] goes.

Father Covas is going to come to my office this week to discuss.

[redacted]
Very Reverend [redacted]
Vicar General

8/8/92

J. Covas will confer with [redacted] to make sure Termination procedure is correctly followed.

Covas - TC254

RECEIVED
JUL 3 1991

THE DIOCESE OF
SAN BERNARDINO

June 21, 1991

Dear Very Reverend Peter Covas,

The position as Hispanic Coordinator was given to me because of my being capable, responsible and professional. I have always strived to discharge my duties effectively and have respected the confidentiality of my people's problems.

Since July 1990, when Sr. [REDACTED] came to Holy Family Parish there has been rationalism, favoritism, and discrimination.

I was promoted on September 1, 1990 to Hispanic Coordinator of the Hispanic Ministry Office. Fr. [REDACTED] conducted my review for this office. I was promised a raise effective as of January 1, 1991. To date this raise has not materialized. I approached Fr. [REDACTED] about this and was told that Sr. [REDACTED] had not forwarded his paperwork to the diocesis.

When attending the Vicariate Meetings in Barstow, I was told by Sr. [REDACTED] "You are not one of our staff members. You should not attend these meetings." I am always having to contend with mental anguish, tension and negativity put forth from Sr. [REDACTED]. I find myself at constant odds with her regarding my work and what I feel is needed for the Hispanic community.

It is very apparent that Sr. [REDACTED] is prejudiced against the Latin community and has at several times played favorites preferring the Anglo community over the Latin or by placing one of her "pet" ministries over another not so favored by her. For example Latin marriages that were to be scheduled by her have been bumped from their allotted date to accommodate Anglo ceremonies. Because she does not understand or agree with the Mexican tradition of presenting fifteen-year-old daughters before God and the church, she prefers to end this age old tradition of the ~~Quinceaena~~ ^{Quinceaena}. She has never shown to our Hispanic community any overtures of love or understanding. She simply does not identify with this community or its needs! She actively and aggressively segregates the people of Holy Family, not wishing them to come together in fellowship or brotherhood.

As a liaison between the Latin/Anglo community and the Pastor for the past 5 years, I have always discharged my duties in a professional and timely manor. Up until now, I have been respected for this position and the work I do for the Parish and the Hispanic community.

Covas - TC255

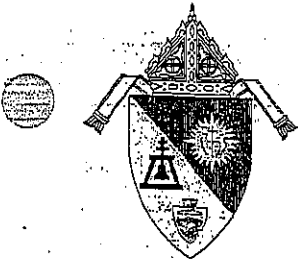
I am sorry to say it is of popular opinion that Sr. [REDACTED] is causing stress and division in all ministries here at Holy Family. . . but I can only present my case and speak for myself (for further information on problems it might be wise for you to speak to all employees both past and present to ascertain any problems that may have existed between Sr. [REDACTED] and them.) All in all my constant struggle with Sr. [REDACTED] has caused me such stress that I have suffered an emotional breakdown as well as the miscarriage of my child. These problems have been medically documented.

I have worked here at Holy Family Parish since March of 1989. In that time I have always been a loyal employee as well as a loyal parishioner— yet, now due to the toll these problems have taken on my emotional and physical health I feel I must proceed with my law suit against Holy Family.

I remain respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

B.C.C. Bishop [REDACTED]



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

August 30, 1990

Parishioner, Holy Family Church
[REDACTED]

Hesperia, CA 92345

Dear Parish Member:

Bishop [REDACTED] is in receipt of your recent mailing and will bring its contents to the attention of Father Peter Covas, if you will so permit. I await your written permission so that we might share this with him.

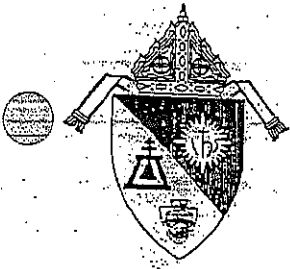
Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Vicar General

[REDACTED]
yes may should the letter to
Father Covas - But block out the
return address as I have

Thank you

Covas - TC257



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Vicar General

Diocese of San Bernardino

August 30, 1990

Parishioner, Holy Family Church
[REDACTED]

Dear Parish Member:

Bishop [REDACTED] is in receipt of your recent mailing and will bring its contents to the attention of Father Peter Covas, if you will so permit. I await your written permission so that we might share this with him.

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Reverend Monsignor [REDACTED]
Vicar General
[REDACTED]

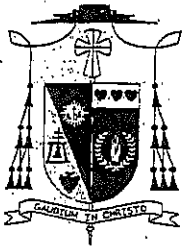
Covas - TC258



Dear Bishop,

We have a new pastor and couple of nuns. I feel funny writing this but I also feel I must. Others in group were talking about this problem also.

Well the problem is, here at Holy Family people are hard working and when our new pastor and nuns came they rented in very classy and expensive area. Wh^{en} they couldn't have moved into nice home but
Hot Spring Valley La



Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

February 23, 1990

Very Reverend Peter Covas
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Father Covas:

In conformity with Canons 523 and 524, I am happy to appoint you Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Hesperia, effective July 1, 1990.

The church envisions the primary tasks of a pastor as the areas of preaching and teaching; liturgical celebrations - particularly the Eucharist and sacraments; pastoral care and counselling; church leadership and the enabling of shared responsibility of ministry; and in church administration.

I wish to thank you for your ministry and service at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral and for your ongoing service to the diocese. I know your service at Hesperia will be dedicated and zealous, and be assured of my continued prayers and support.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Redacted signature]
Most Reverend
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

[Redacted signature]
Sister
Chancellor

cc: Very Reverend [Redacted]
Very Reverend [Redacted]
Reverend [Redacted]

Covas - TC260



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th

265 West 25th Street

San Bernardino, California 92405

714 883-8991

April 30, 1990

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Diocese of San Bernardino
1450 North "P"
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Msgr. [REDACTED]

May I make a serious request for my associate to be Deacon [REDACTED]
for Holy Family, Hesperia.

My reasons are: I have worked with [REDACTED] for the past year and he has done work with a number of Ministrices here at the Cathedral. In short we seem to work harmoniously, and as I can see a number of large tasks, I need someone who I don't have to train and iron out problems, etc. Also Holy Family needs to identify with a priest with definite Spanish Culture. I understand the Hispanic Community is rather large, and very much needs such identity. I make note however, that I would work with [REDACTED] as a team as also with Anglo Community.

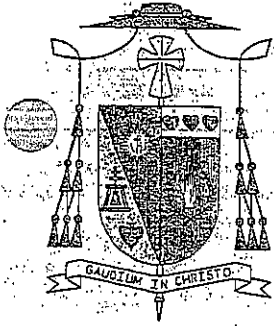
Lastly my only negative with Fr. [REDACTED] that I have not ^{in the Hispanic} Community worked with him, hence I feel it would take time to get to know him, his work habits and I need the time for other tasks.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Peter Covas
Very Rev. Peter Covas, Rector

[REDACTED]
c.c. Bishop [REDACTED]



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

May 22, 1981

Reverend [REDACTED]
Secretary General
Congregazione Dello Spirito Santo
Casa Generalizia
Clivo Di Cinna, 195
00136 Roma, Italy

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I am ready and willing to execute a letter of incardination in behalf of Father Peter Covas, CSSp., as soon as an Indult of Secularization has been made.

As you know, Father Covas has worked in the San Diego (now San Bernardino) Diocese for over twenty years. As it is his own desire and decision to join the diocese, we are pleased to accept him with your approval.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

cc: Reverend Peter Covas

Office Memo

Diocesan Pastoral Center

To BISHOP [REDACTED] Date 5/7/81
From FATHER COVAS Subject _____

I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MY PROVINCIAL ASKING THAT YOU WRITE A LETTER (NOT FATHER [REDACTED]) TO THE SUPERIOR GENERAL'S RESIDENCE STATING YOUR INTENTION OF INCARDINATION + MY INCARDINATION INTO THE DIOCESE.

LETTER TO: FATHER [REDACTED]
SECRETARY GENERAL
CONGREGAZIONE DELLO SPIRITO SANTO
CASA GENERALIZIA
CLIVO DI CINNA, 195
00136 ROMA

[REDACTED]

Covas - TC263

Office Memo

Diocesan Pastoral Center

To FATHER [REDACTED]

Date March 3, 1981

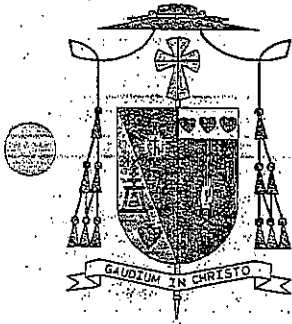
From BISHOP [REDACTED]

Subject FATHER COVAS

PLEASE PREPARE FOR ME A LETTER TO FATHER COVAS'S PROVINCIAL STATING THAT FATHER COVAS HAS APPROACHED US REGARDING HIS BECOMING A DIOCESAN PRIEST IN THE SAN BERNARDINO DIOCESE. HE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT HIM AND ALSO THAT HE HAS BEEN IN THE DIOCESE FOR 21 YEARS, AND WITH THE FORMAL PAPERS, WE WILL GRANT HIM INCARDINATION.

MANY THANKS . . .

Covas - TC264



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

March 6, 1981

Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Congregation of the Holy Ghost
919 Briarcliff
San Antonio, Texas 78213

Dear Father [REDACTED]

Father Peter Covas, who has worked in the area for twenty-one years, has applied for incardination into the Diocese of San Bernardino. Before proceeding any further, we need the Indult of Exclaustration and/or Secularization.

I wish to assure you and the Congregation of the Holy Ghost that I will incardinate Father Covas as soon as the above mentioned indults are received.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

cc: Reverend Peter Covas
Diocesan File

Covas - TC265

Office Memo

Diocesan Pastoral Center

To FATHER [REDACTED]

Date March 3, 1981

From BISHOP [REDACTED]

Subject FATHER COVAS

PLEASE PREPARE FOR ME A LETTER TO FATHER COVAS'S PROVINCIAL STATING THAT FATHER COVAS HAS APPROACHED US REGARDING HIS BECOMING A DIOCESAN PRIEST IN THE SAN BERNARDINO DIOCESE. HE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT HIM AND ALSO THAT HE HAS BEEN IN THE DIOCESE FOR 21 YEARS, AND WITH THE FORMAL PAPERS, WE WILL GRANT HIM INCARDINATION.

MANY THANKS....

Covas - TC266

RECEIVED

FEB 6 1981

DIOC. OF SAN BERNARDINO
BISHOP'S OFFICE

His Excellency Bishop [REDACTED]
Diocese of San Bernardino
San Bernardino, California

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]

I am inclosing a little folder containing some of the things I have written in the last year. I thought in glancing through it you would know me and what my faith means to me in a subtle way nothing else could reveal. I am well on my way to having lived seventy-nine years. I grew up in a devout Methodist home, but I always longed to be a Catholic. I waited until I was 42, rather than hurt my family. It has been and will forever be my greatest joy, comfort and inspiration. I was transferred from Washington D.C. to Riverside in 1948 and St. Catherine has been my only church home. There are no words to tell you how much it means to me.

The priests have all been my friends. I have needed them for I had no Catholic background other than two years of instruction from a Jesuit priest at Creighton, University. I was like a child learning to walk--never feeling quite sure of myself until the last ten years in which I have grown spiritually and knowledgably due largely to the strong leadership, the gentle guidance and the teaching ability of Father Covas.

When Father [REDACTED] celebrated his Silver Jubilee I saw for the first time what it meant to a priest and his parish and I wondered how long it would be until we would have the privilege to use Father Covas' Silver Jubilee as a vehicle through which we could really show our appreciation and gratitude for all he has done to make St. Catherine's the wonderfully united, happy, financially sound, spiritually growing church it is today.

I, of course was only one of many who had the idea and we began dreaming dreams of what we would do in June 1982, which we found to be the date. Father [REDACTED]'s death after his long illness was a great grief to Father Covas. His mother's long illness and death has torn him apart in a way I had not expected. This makes our opportunity to celebrate his Jubilee all the more important to him. St. Catherine's is his home. No other parish can bring him the love and appreciation on this occasion as no other parish knows him as we do.

Covas - TC268

In the last months he has grown spiritually beyond belief. His homilies are beautiful and helpful through out the week. He gives us patterns to shape our lives around. An increasing number bring tape recorders. Others take notes. It is as if the Holy Spirit speaks through him. People want to be able to carry his message home in order to benefit again and again from his depth of inspiration and spirituality. He is speaking to his own flock and the people drink it in as the words seem to pour out.

His masses are crowded. Financially he has only to intimate a need and the response is generous. He is truly evangelizing.

I feel he needs St. Catherines particularly this year of personal strain. It will culminate in our gifts of love and appreciation bringing greater comfort and strength than anything else. I know we need him and the parish will be bitterly disappointed if we are not able to show our gratitude as we have planned.

So, Dear Bishop I appeal to you to recognize what having him with us this special year means to us and will mean to him.

I know you must want what is best for St. Catherines and I felt you had no way to really know what it would do to us as a parish if we are deprived of this act of gratitude to one who so truly deserves more than we can ever do. For that reason I decided to write you.

We will be forever grateful to you for granting our request that comes from deep in the heart of every one of us.

God bless you and keep you,



DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY

FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE

DIOCESES OF SAN DIEGO AND SAN BERNARDINO

PENSION PLAN FOR PRIESTS

As a Participant in the Dioceses of San Diego and San Bernardino Pension Plan for Priests, I hereby designate the beneficiary named below to receive a refund of my personal contributions, without interest, which were required for participation. In the event of my death before I receive my pension under the Priests' Pension Plan, the entire amount of my personal contributions, without interest, will be paid to my named beneficiary. Should I die on or after the date a pension is paid to me, my named beneficiary will be entitled to all or a portion of my personal contributions, without interest, only in the case where the entire amount of monthly pension payments are less than my accumulated personal contributions, without interest.



Check One:

()	<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>

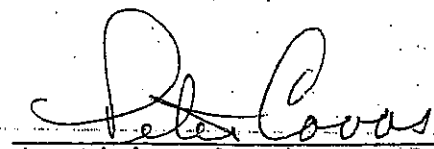
My executors and administrators - this will be my designation if I have not designated to the contrary herein, or if the above beneficiary(ies) do not survive.

If more than one beneficiary is designated and if I have not directed otherwise, any amount distributable is to be divided among them, if all are then living; otherwise, equally among the survivors. However, if no beneficiary survives, or if none is named, distributions shall be made to my estate.

I hereby reserve the right to change or revoke this beneficiary designation without notice to any beneficiary.


 (Witness' Signature)

 (Name Printed)

Jan 20, 1981
(Date)


 (Participant's Signature)
 PETER COVAS
 (Name Printed)

DIOCESES OF SAN DIEGO AND SAN BERNARDINO

PENSION PLAN FOR PRIESTS

Application for Membership

Participant's Name: _____

Effective Date: _____

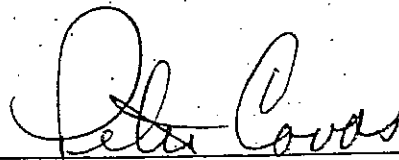
I have been informed of my eligibility to join the Dioceses of San Diego and San Bernardino Pension Plan for Priests, and I hereby elect to participate in the Plan. I understand that my participation in the Pension Plan begins on the effective date set forth above.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of a conformed copy of The Dioceses of San Diego and San Bernardino Pension Plan for Priests' Plan document, which describes the Priests' Pension Plan.

In addition, I hereby agree to make the required annual personal contributions with such contributions continuing until my retirement, disability, death or the date of my excardination in the Diocese of San Diego or the Diocese of San Bernardino. I further understand that my personal contributions will not be refunded to me as long as I am still incardinated in the Diocese of San Diego or the Diocese of San Bernardino.

Date: Jan. 20, 1981

Signature of Participant: _____



Date: _____

Accepted by Plan Administrator: _____

Letter Requesting Incardination

His Excellency the Most Reverend

Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino

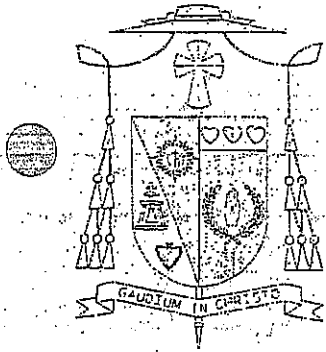
Dear Bishop Shaver

As you know, I, Peter Covas, am in the active service of the Diocese, and humbly request Your Excellency to incardinate me into the Diocese, through the process prescribed by canon law.

Serving the Diocese in the past has proven to be a very rewarding experience, and I shall continue to make every attempt to perform my duties faithfully and in a priestly manner.

Yours in Christ

Peter Covas



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 2, 1979

TO: FATHER COVAS
FROM: BISHOP [REDACTED]
RE: WELFARE CORPORATION

Received the most recent letter from [REDACTED] regarding the Welfare Corporation. I know that you mentioned that you were going to be in touch with him regarding this.

Keep me advised as to when we can get a meeting put together.

Covas - TC273

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTH REGISTRATION

This is to advise you that there is preserved under File No. 135-279 in the State office for the registration of vital statistics at HARRISBURG, PA., a Record of Birth, as follows:

Name: Pete Covas Sex: Male

Born on September 14, 1900, at Ferndale, Pa.

Name of father: [Redacted]

Maternal name of mother: [Redacted]



W. Stewart
Director of the Census

Frederick Bluffel M. D.,
Special Agent, Bureau of the Census,
South Office Building, Harrisburg, Pa.

11-5753

Seminarium Sanctae Mariae apud Ferndale

OMNIBUS

QUI HAEC PRAESENTIA SUNT PERLECTURI

Salutem in Domino

Vobis notum esse volumus, Auctoritate publica qua fruimur usi,

Petrum P. Covas

Cursum Studiorum rite peracto et Examinis periculo feliciter subrito,

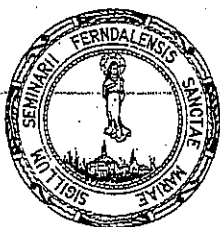
Gradum et Titulum

Baccalauri Artium

Apud nos consecutum esse et omnibus Juribus Privilegiisque quae ad eundem Titulum pertinent adhaerentem.

In cuius rei Testimonium Sigillum Seminarium et Chirographa Nostra Nos, ejusdem Seminarium Rector et Moderator apponenda curabimus.

Datum ex Actibus Academicis apud Ferndale, Norwalk, in Civitate Connecticut, a die diem quintum Idus Junias. Anno post Christum millesimo nongentesimo quinquagesimo quarto



E. C. Supple, C. S. J.
RECTOR