

3544 Mississippi St.
San Diego, Calif. 92104
January 23, 1966

Dear Bishop Avery,
At this moment I
don't think of you as being
very excellent. I am a
member of St. John the
Evangelist Parish and have
been since 1951.

In fifteen years only
and priest made it a point
to know the members of
his parish and to call
on them in their homes.

I am, of course speaking
of Father O'Keefe. St.
John's was like a "new
look". Everyone was so
averse of the change
from the monastic Father

O'Keefe arrived. If he
met you once he had
embraced you and your
name.

To describe a man
like him of peasant
work where he was
so gifted to work with
the children, such a
joy to the older people,
and a friend to all of
us certainly makes
me wonder about you.

The way our be-
loved Bishop Buddy
was squeezed out
was not enough but
this just has added
insult to injury. Do
you really enjoy spend-
ing "time" and his-

3.

Contextment?

The very least
you could have done
would have been to
leave him in the parish
where we could hear
his masses on Sunday.
He had to live some
place. Why does it have
to be in Loma Portal?

Sincerely,

Mrs. John E. Myley



MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=OCT-23 14:30

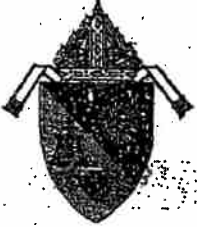
END=OCT-23 14:32

FILE NO. = 191

STN NO.	CDM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL. NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK		93873785	002/002	00:00'43"

-BISHOP'S COMPLEX

***** -BISHOP - ***** 909 475 5109-*****



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA

DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

facsimile transmittal

To: Detective Jack Trotter Fax: 909-387-3785

From: Rev. Msgr. Gerard M. Lopez, Date: 10-23-02
STL, VG

Re: Msgr. O'Keefe Pages: 1 + Cover

CC:

Urgent
 For Review
 Please Comment
 Please Reply
 Please Recycle

O'Keefe2-WOA 0000004

Msgr. Gerard Lopez x123

From: Ann Loughney [ALoughney@crosscare.ie]
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2002 10:56 AM
To: 'Msgr. Gerard Lopez x123'
Subject: RE: INFORMATION FOR FR. MICHAEL CULLEN

O'Keeffe

Just to update you on this
Unfortunately the person who contacted Mick re Mgr. O'Keeffe is now on holidays and uncontactable by phone.
In the meantime Mick has informed the Chancellery of the Dublin Diocese on the situation and should he have
any further information re Mgr. O'Keeffe he will contact you direct.

Thanking you

Ann Loughney
for
Fr. Michael Cullen, Director CROSSCARE

Ann Loughney
PA to Director
CROSSCARE - Social Care Agency of the Dublin Diocese
The Red House, Clonliffe College, Dublin 3
Ph: (01) 836 0011, Fax: (01) 836 7166

-----Original Message-----

From: Msgr. Gerard Lopez x123 [mailto:glopez@SBDiocese.org]
Sent: 11 October 2002 19:33
To: 'Ann Loughney'
Subject: RE: INFORMATION FOR FR. MICHAEL CULLEN

Oct. 11, 2002 (11:30 AM PST)

TO: Fr. Cullen
FM: Fr. Lopez, Diocese of San Bernardino
RE: Msgr. O'Keeffe

This is to notify you that Msgr. O'Keeffe does not have priestly faculties in the Diocese of San Bernardino. He is currently the subject of a criminal investigation for inappropriate activity with a minor.

I would appreciate if you have any information on Msgr. O'Keeffe's whereabouts that you provide this information immediately to the following person here in the US: Sgt. Jack Trotter, San Bernardino Sheriff's Dept., San Bernardino, California USA; his telephone is 909-387-3710.

I also would like this information on his whereabouts. I can be reached at this e-mail as well as at the following numbers: telephone 909-475-5120; cellular line 760-963-5593.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

10/18/02

O'Keeffe2-WOA 000006

Sincerely,

Msgr. Gerard M. Lopez, VG
Diocese of San Bernardino
1201 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404 USA

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Loughney [mailto:ALoughney@crosscare.ie]
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2002 7:32 AM
To: 'glopez@sbdioocese.org'
Subject: INFORMATION FOR FR. MICHAEL CULLEN

Hi Gerard

Nice to talk with you early (for you) this morning!

I have spoken to Mick on the phone and he has the following questions re
Mgr. O'Keeffe.

He was approached by a cousin of his who is working with the Knights of
Columbanus in Dublin with regard to Mgr. O'Keeffe. Mgr. O'Keeffe asked to
do some voluntary work with the Knights on a homeless project in Dublin. The
Knights suggested that he would get plenty of work in the Dublin Diocese as
currently there is a shortage of priests in the Diocese. Mgr. O'Keeffe
replied he did not want to do any priestly work and would prefer to work in
a voluntary capacity. In order to establish some background references Mick
was approached and asked to check with Mgr. O'Keeffe's Diocese.

If you can give us any information on this matter we would be most grateful.

- Gerard since speaking to you the Knights have contacted me for any word
as they have a meeting tonight (Friday 11th Oct) so I would appreciate a
reply as soon as you possibly can.

Thanking you

Ann Loughney
for
Fr. Michael Cullen, Director CROSSCARE

Ann Loughney
PA to Director
CROSSCARE - Social Care Agency of the Dublin Diocese
The Red House, Clonliffe College, Dublin 3
Ph: (01) 836 0011 Fax: (01) 836 7166

10/18/02

O'Keeffe2-WOA 000007

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=OCT-11 12:36

END=OCT-11 12:37

FILE NO. = 205

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-BISHOP'S COMPLEX

***** -BISHOP - ***** 909 475 5109- *****



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA

DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

Date: October 11, 2002

TO: Sgt. Jack Trotter, San Bernardino Sheriff's Dept.

FM: Father Gerry Lopez *GL*

RE: Information on Msgr. Patrick O'Keeffe

Sgt. Trotter,

We received a phone call from Dublin, Ireland inquiring about Msgr. O'Keeffe's status. It appears as if he is in Ireland looking for some type of employment, but I cannot verify this since I have not spoken with the "Father Cullen" referred in the e-mail.

I did speak this morning with Fr. Cullen's office assistant, Ann Loughney. She sent me the attached e-mail of October 11, 2002. I replied to her e-mail as documented.

I would suggest trying to contact Fr. Cullen at the different numbers that are shown on the e-mail information.

I hope that this is of some help to you. Please let me know if you have any questions: 909-475-5120 (office phone); 760-963-5593 (cellular number).

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000008

Msgr. Gerard Lopez x123

From: Ann Loughney [ALoughney@crosscare.ie]
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2002 7:32 AM
To: 'glopez@sbdiocese.org'
Subject: INFORMATION FOR FR. MICHAEL CULLEN

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10-11-02 - I called Fr. Cullen + informed him by voice mail of criminal complaint ag. P. O'Keeffe.



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

Date: October 11, 2002

TO: Sgt. Jack Trotter, San Bernardino Sheriff's Dept.

FM: Father Gerry Lopez *GML*

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O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000010

Msgr. Gerard Lopez x123

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Sent: Friday, October 11, 2002 11:33 AM
To: 'Ann Loughney'
Subject: RE: INFORMATION FOR FR. MICHAEL CULLEN

Oct. 11, 2002 (11:30 AM PST)

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FM: Fr. Lopez, Diocese of San Bernardino
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Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Gerard M. Lopez, VG
Diocese of San Bernardino
1201 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404 USA

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To: 'glopez@sbdioocese.org'
Subject: INFORMATION FOR FR. MICHAEL CULLEN

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If you can give us any information on this matter we would be most grateful.

- Gerard since speaking to you the Knights have contacted me for any word as they have a meeting tonight (Friday 11th Oct) so I would appreciate a

O'Keefe2-WOA 0000011

reply as soon as you possibly can.

Thanking you

Ann Loughney

for

Fr. Michael Cullen, Director CROSSCARE

Ann Loughney

PA to Director

CROSSCARE - Social Care Agency of the Dublin Diocese

The Red House, Clonliffe College, Dublin 3

Ph: (01) 836 0011 Fax: (01) 836 7166

Estela Sandoval x104

From: QMheaton@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2002 9:19 AM
To: chancellor@sbdiocese.org
Cc: GMCHRISTINE@HOTMAIL.COM → use this one
Subject: FWD. INFO TO: REV. HOWARD LINCOLN, REV. GERALD LOPEZ

RE: FATHER PAT O'KEEFE AND NICKY RISTER SEXUAL MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION
I AM NICKY RISTER'S SISTER, CHRISTINE. I HAVE INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS
INVESTIGATION INTO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT. I WILL OUTLINE FOR YOU SOME EVENTS
THAT TOOK PLACE FROM 1969 TO PRESENT REGARDING NICKY.

NICKY HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ACTIVE SINCE THE AGE OF 15, IN 1969. HER DATE OF
BIRTH IS JULY 21, 1954. WE ARE 13 MONTHS APART IN AGE AND I HAVE BEEN FULLY
AWARE OF MANY THINGS SHE HAS DONE OVER THE YEARS.

IN REFERENCE TO THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN THE S.B. SUN DATED AUG. 26, 2002 I
WILL CLARIFY SEVERAL THINGS. NICKY AND FATHER PAT DID IN FACT HAVE SEXUAL
RELATIONS. NICKY WAS VERY PROUD OF IT AND STATED SO TO MY SISTER, PAULINE
AND TO ME. SHE STATED SHE ALWAYS WANTED TO "DO A PRIEST". SHE WAS VERY
OUTSPOKEN ABOUT THE FACT THAT SHE INITIATED THE RELATIONSHIP. AT THE TIME
SHE AND FATHER PAT WERE HAVING THIS RELATIONSHIP NICKY WAS 18 YEARS OLD - NOT
17. IT WAS CLEARLY A CONSENSUAL RELATIONSHIP. MY PARENTS AND NICKY MOVED TO
SAN BERNARDINO THE 2ND WEEK OF JUNE, 1971 FROM FLAGSTAFF, AZ. I AM NOT SURE
EXACTLY WHAT SCHOOL NICKY ATTENDED STARTING IN AUGUST OF 1971, BUT SHE WAS IN
FACT LIVING IN SAN BERNARDINO AND ATTENDING SCHOOL THERE. SHE MADE A LOT OF
"NEW FRIENDS" FROM THE VERY START AND EVEN SPENT THANKSGIVING OF 1971 WITH
~~ONE OF THEM INSTEAD OF WITH MY PARENTS. MY PARENTS SPENT THANKSGIVING WITH ME~~

IN LOS ANGELES THAT YEAR AND WE ATE AT THE RESTAURANT AT THE LA AIRPORT
TERMINAL. MY MOTHER, WHO IS DECEASED, DID NOT SUGGEST TO NICKY TO JOIN THE
CHOIR IN ORDER TO GET TO KNOW PEOPLE, NICKY DID THIS ON HER OWN ACCORD (IF
SHE DID IN FACT JOIN THE CHOIR-THIS WAS NOT SOMETHING SHE LIKED TO DO). AS
FAR AS TYPING UP HYMNS, THIS WAS DONE LATER IN 1972 WHEN SHE WAS LOOKING TO
START A RELATIONSHIP WITH FATHER PAT. THIS WAS HER WAY OF GETTING HER FOOT
IN THE DOOR AND HAVING PRIVATE TIME WITH FATHER PAT IN THE EVENINGS IN ORDER
TO PROCEED WITH HER PLANS OF "DOING A PRIEST".

IN MAY OF 1972 I WENT TO MY PARENTS HOUSE FOR A VISIT. DURING THE STAY THERE
BOTH MOM AND DAD TOLD ME HOW UPSET THEY HAD BECOME WITH NICKY AND ALL OF HER
"BOYFRIENDS". SHE WAS BRINGING NEW BOYS INTO THE HOUSE ON A REGULAR BASIS
EVERY 2 OR 3 DAYS. ONE OF THE BOYS MY MOTHER WAS PARTICULARILY UPSET ABOUT
WAS BLACK. NICKY DIDN'T BRING ANY GIRL FRIENDS TO THE HOUSE. MY MOTHER AND
FATHER LED ME TO NICKY'S BEDROOM WHERE MY MOTHER PROCEEDED TO OPEN THE TOP
DRAWER OF NICKY'S DRESSER AND SHOW ME IT CONTAINED ABOUT 30 BOTTLES OF
VARIOUS MEDICATIONS. MY MOTHER BELIEVED THAT NICKY WAS INTO DRUGS. I LOOKED
AT SEVERAL BOTTLES OF THE MEDICATIONS AND FOUND SOME FOR GONORRHEA, STREP
THROAT AND OTHERS THAT I WASN'T REALLY SURE ABOUT, PLUS BIRTH CONTROL PILLS.
I EXPLAINED TO BOTH MOM AND DAD WHAT SOME OF THESE PILLS WERE FOR ESPECIALLY
THE BIRTH CONTROL. NICKY WAS 17 AT THE TIME THIS OCCURRED AND MY PARENTS
ASKED ME HOW SHE COULD OF GOTTEN THESE PRESCRIPTIONS WHEN THEY HAD NOT TAKEN
HER TO THE DOCTOR NOR DID THEY GET THE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR HER. OTHER THAN
HAVING A FAKE ID, I DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER. I DID EXPLAIN TO MY PARENTS
THAT NICKY WAS IN FACT PROSTITUTING HERSELF OUT BY THE DESCRIPTION THEY HAD
GIVEN ME ABOUT THE MEN COMING AND GOING ALL THE TIME. EVERYTIME NICKY
BROUGHT A MAN OVER THEY WOULD DISAPPEAR INTO THE BEDROOM AND NOT COME OUT TO
WATCH TV OR HAVE ANY CONVERSATIONS WITH MY PARENTS. MOM AND DAD BOTH SAID
THAT THAT EXPLAINED HOW SHE WAS GETTING MONEY. THEY TOLD ME THAT SHE WAS
WORKING AT SOME PLACE (NOT SURE IF IT WAS THE POLICE DEPT. AT THIS TIME OR
SOMEPLACE ELSE. SHE WAS A DISPATCHER FOR THE POLICE DEPT. OF SB SOMETIME
BETWEEN 1972-1973), AND THAT SHE SAID SHE WASN'T MAKING ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY
MY PARENTS RENT ON THE BEDROOM. YET SHE WAS ABLE TO PURCHASE A BRAND NEW VW
(GREEN COLOR) AND WAS ALWAYS WALKING IN THE DOOR WITH NEW STUFFED ANIMALS TO
DECORATE HER ROOM. SHE SAID THAT THESE ANIMALS WERE "GIFTS FROM GUYS". SHE
ALSO WAS CONSTANTLY BUYING NEW CLOTHES THAT MY PARENTS WERE NOT HAPPY ABOUT
BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO REVEALING. SOMETIME BETWEEN MAY AND SEPT. 1972 MY
PARENTS TOLD NICKY TO MOVE OUT OF THE HOUSE.

IN SEPT. 1972 I VISITED MY PARENTS AGAIN AND NICKY WAS NO LONGER LIVING IN THE HOUSE. I WAS VERY SICK AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO MY FIRST CHILD AND MY MOTHER SUGGESTED I GET SOME IRONIZED YEAST AND START TAKING IT BECAUSE I WAS ANEMIC. MY HUSBAND DROVE ME TO A PHARMACY NEAR MY PARENTS HOUSE AND I WENT IN ALONE TO LOCATE THE IRONIZED YEAST WHILE MY HUSBAND REMAINED IN THE CAR. THE PHARMACY WAS SET UP WITH THE PHARMACIST IN THE CENTER ON A RAISED PLATFORM. THE PHARMACIST WENT UP SEVERAL STAIRS INTO THE PHARMACUTICAL SECTION BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. THE TOP OF THIS PLATFORM HAD WINDOWS COMPLETELY SURROUNDING THE AREA SO THAT THE PHARMACIST COULD SEE ALL OF THE STORE. ANYONE LEAVING OFF OR PICKING UP A PRESCRIPTION WOULD BE LOOKING UP TOWARD THE PHARMACIST. EACH SIDE OF THE STORE WAS BLOCKED FROM VIEW OF THE OTHER. WHILE I WAS ON ONE SIDE, I KNEW SOMEONE HAD COME INTO THE STORE AND WAS TALKING TO THE PHARMACIST. I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT IT WAS NICKY. I WALKED AROUND TO ONE END AND JUST PEEKED AROUND THE CORNER TO SEE NICKY STANDING THERE TALKING TO THIS PHARMACIST. THEY STARTED OUT IN LOW TONES AND THEN NICKY STARTED RAISING HER VOICE TO HIM. SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH HIS CHILD AND THAT SHE NEEDED \$300 TO GET AN ABORTION AND HE HAD BETTER COME UP WITH THE MONEY TODAY. HE ASKED HER TO QUIET DOWN AND HE WOULD TALK TO HER LATER AFTER HE GOT OFF WORK. NICKY GOT LOUDER AND SAID THAT SHE KNEW HIS WIFE'S NAME AND HIS HOME PHONE NUMBER AND THAT SHE WAS SURE THAT HIS WIFE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP. THAT IF HE DID NOT COME UP WITH THE MONEY TODAY SHE WAS GOING TO CONTACT HIS WIFE. NICKY THEN LEFT THE STORE. IN ESSENCE NICKY WAS BLACKMAILING THIS MAN. I FOUND OUT LATER IN 1973 THAT SHE HAD DONE THIS TO SEVERAL MEN. THE MEN CAME UP WITH THE MONEY TO SHUT HER UP AND THEN NEVER SAW HER AGAIN. ONE MAN, ROGER DAWSON, TOLD ME THAT SHE HAD TRIED TO DO THIS TO HIM - CLAIM SHE WAS PREGNANT AND GET HIM TO GIVE HER MONEY. HE SAID NO AND TOLD HER TO GO SCREW HERSELF. ~~NICKY PLAYED THIS GAME IN SB, IN FARMINGTON, NM AND IN WOODLAND, CALIF.~~ NICKY ALSO ATTEMPTED TO SEDUCE MY HUSBAND, AND MY OTHER SISTERS' HUSBANDS. THERE ARE ALSO OTHER FRIENDS SHE MADE AND THEN LOST DUE TO HER SEXUAL ACTIVITIES.

I UNDERSTAND THAT NICKY HAS TURNED OVER SOME TYPE OF LETTERS FROM MY DAD TO THE POLICE DEPT. IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO VERIFY WITH OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS THAT THOSE LETTERS ARE IN FACT FROM MY FATHER AND NOT FORGED OR FAKE. OF SPECIAL INTEREST PLEASE NOTE THAT NICKY DID NOT TELL ANY OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS THAT SHE WAS FILING THIS REPORT ON FATHER PAT, EXCEPT 1 BROTHER, AND THAT INFORMATION SHE GAVE TO HIM WAS MINIMAL AT BEST. SHE DID NOT WANT THE REST OF US TO KNOW BECAUSE WE ARE VERY AWARE OF HER PAST, OF THE TIMELINES AND HER WAY OF LIFE. YOU CAN GET A BETTER IDEA INTO WHO AND WHAT NICKY IS BY CONTACTING THE BROOMFIELD POLICE DEPT., BROOMFIELD, COLORADO AND THE ADAMS COUNTY POLICE DEPT., BROOMFIELD, COLORADO. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 500 PAGES OF POLICE REPORTS THAT THESE TWO AGENCIES HAVE ON NICKY FOR VARIOUS OFFENSES BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY 1990 AND 1996. THERE WERE SO MANY REPORTS THAT THE LAST TIME SHE WENT BEFORE THE JUDGE, THE JUDGE REQUESTED THAT SHE MOVE FROM THE AREA, WHICH OF COURSE SHE DID, ENDING UP IN KREMMLING, CO. NICKY RARELY SPOKE TO MY PARENTS AFTER THEY THREW HER OUT IN 1972. FROM TIME TO TIME SHE WOULD SHOW UP WHEN SHE WANTED SOMETHING - LIKE MONEY. I HAD TO THROW HER OUT OF MY PARENTS HOUSE IN WOODLAND, CALIF. AT MY DAD'S REQUEST. THAT WAS IN 1977-78.

MY DAD THREW HER OUT OF MY GRANDPARENTS HOUSE ON THE DAY THAT MY GRANDMOTHER DIED, BECAUSE NICKY WAS TAKING ALL OF THE FURNISHINGS AWAY FROM GRANDPA. SHE THOUGHT ALL OF US HAD GONE HOME AFTER SPENDING A WEEK WITH GRANDMA DURING HER COMATOSE PERIOD. NICKY NEVER SHOWED FOR THIS, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS THERE. SHE WAITED FOR EVERYONE TO LEAVE AND THEN BACKED A UHAUL UP AND STARTED HAULING THINGS OUT OF GRANDPA'S HOUSE WHILE HE SAT THERE AND CRIED. MY FATHER JUST HAPPENED TO GET THE CALL AT THE DENVER AIRPORT, THAT GRANDMA HAD DIED AND HE GOT ON THE PLANE AND RETURNED TO ELPASO, TX. IMMEDIATELY, JUST TO FIND NICKY DOING THIS.

I FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INTERVIEW THE FAMILY MEMBERS REGARDING NICKY'S PAST BEFORE LOWERING THE BOOM ON FATHER PAT. YES, THERE WAS A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP, HOWEVER IT WAS CONSENSUAL AND NICKY WAS OF AGE. FATHER PAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED HIMSELF TO PARTAKE IN SUCH A RELATIONSHIP AND YES, HE IS AT FAULT. BUT THERE OTHER FACTS THAT NEED TO BE KNOWN IN THIS CASE. I'M PRETTY SURE THAT IS WHY NICKY DID NOT INFORM FAMILY MEMBERS ABOUT THIS. SHE IS ONCE AGAIN TRYING TO PULL A BLACKMAIL SCHEME, ONLY THIS TIME IT'S THE CHURCH SHE LOOKING TO GET MONEY FROM.

ALSO, SHE HAS STATED TO MY BROTHER THAT SHE SPENT 3 HOURS ON THE PHONE WITH

O'Keeffe2-WOA 000014

"YET ANOTHER OF FATHER PAT'S VICTIMS". HOW IS IT THAT NICKY HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE NAMES OF OTHER VICTIMS WHEN THE POLICE DEPT. CANNOT RELEASE THAT INFORMATION? NICKY'S PHONE NUMBER IS UNLISTED SO THE VICTIM COULD NOT HAVE CALLED HER BECAUSE OF THE NEWS ARTICLE. SOMETHING DOES NOT WASH CLEAN WITH THIS.

YOU MAY CONTACT ME VIA MY EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE.
SINCERELY,
CHRISTINE RATCLIFF

D.A. John
Kochis

Saw Bdr's D.A.

387-6454-

9/20/02 -> Kochis

~~W.A. Kochis~~
already has this
~~information~~

e-mail.

TO SENDER
 2002
 SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

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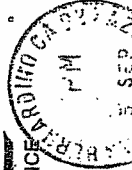
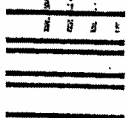
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- For an additional fee, a Return Receipt may be requested to provide proof of delivery. To obtain Return Receipt service, please complete and attach a Return Receipt (PS Form 3811) to the article and add applicable postage to cover the fee. Endorse mailpiece (Return Receipt Barcodes) to receive a fee waiver. A duplicate return receipt, a USPS postmark on your Certified Mail receipt required.
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PS Form 3800, January 2001 (Reverse)

102595-01-M-1829

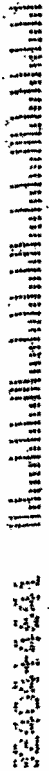
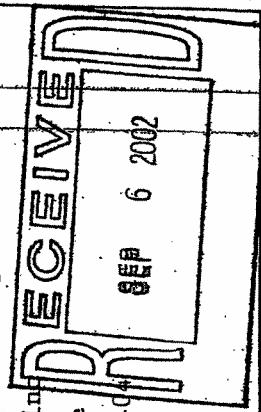
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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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

Reverend Monsignor Gerard M. Lopez, STL, VG
 Diocese of San Bernardino
 1201 E. Highland Avenue
 San Bernardino CA 92404



Gordon & Nick Rister
 Jennifer & Michael Rister
 PO Box 1058
 Kremmling, CO 80459
 970-724-9487

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. Msgr. Patrick J. O'Keefe
 PO Box 7105
 Laguna Niguel CA 92607

A. Received by (Please Print Clearly) B. Date of Delivery

C. Signature Agent Addressee

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

3. Service Type
 Certified Mail Express Mail
 Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise
 Insured Mail C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes

Article Number (Copy from service label)
 7001 2510 0003 3903 3124

Form 3811, July 1999 Domestic Return Receipt

102595-00-M-0952

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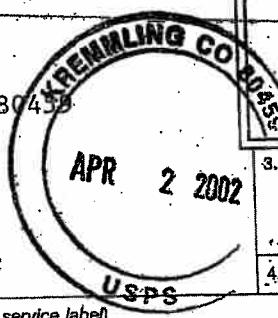
Direct 970 887 5101
 Fax 970 887 5105
 Email nrister@solvista.com

NICKI RISTER
 Office Manager/
 Executive Assistant

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

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.
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1. Article Addressed to:
 Veronica Rister
 PO Box 1058
 Kremmling CO 80459



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C. Signature Agent Addressee

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 Certified Mail Express Mail
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4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes

2. Article Number (Copy from service label)
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PS Form 3811, July 1999 Domestic Return Receipt

102595-00-M-095

U.S. Postal Service CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT
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Article Sent To:

Postage	\$.34
Certified Fee	2.10
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	1.50
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 3.94

Name (Please Print Clearly) (To be completed by mailer)
 Veronica Rister

Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No.
 PO Box 1058

City, State, ZIP+4
 Kremmling CO 8-459

PS Form 3800, 2002 See Reverse for Instructions



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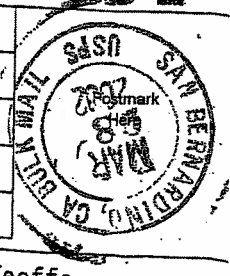
Postage	\$.34
Certified Fee	2.10
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	1.50
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 3.94

Sent To
 Rev. Msgr. Patrick O'Keefe

Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No.
 PO Box 7105

City, State, ZIP+4
 Laguna Niguel CA 92607

PS Form 3800, January 2002



O'Keefe2-WOA 0000017



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

July 1, 2002

Veronica Budai Rister
P.O. Box 1058
300 Grand Avenue
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Ms. Rister:

I am enclosing for you the written responses of Monsignor Patrick O'Keeffe with respect to the allegations you described in our interview of May 4, 2002.

Monsignor O'Keeffe has elected not to respond to these allegations in person. However, I will be submitting your case to the Diocesan Review Committee for review at its July meeting. I will keep you informed of the outcome of the Committee's recommendations to Bishop Gerald Barnes.

As we discussed before, I once again extend the offer of the Diocese of San Bernardino to assist you with any type of counseling which you would like to pursue. I please ask that you request your counselor/therapist to contact me to arrange for this pastoral outreach to you.

Once again, thank you for your assistance and cooperation during this time.

Sincerely Yours,

Rev. Msgr. Gerard M. Lopez
Reverend Monsignor Gerard M. Lopez, STL
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes, DD

O'Keeffe2-WOA 000020

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete (150) 1-9. Also complete Item A if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the cover so that we can return the card to you.
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1. Article Addressed to:

Veronica Budal Rister
PO Box 1058

300 Grand Avenue
Kremmling, CO 80459

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Signature: *Veronica Budal Rister*

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2. Article Number (Copy from service label)

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PS Form 3811, July 1989

Domestic Return Receipt



THE SUN

San Bernardino County's Newspaper

AUGUST 27, 2002

TUESDAY

Police perks explored by SB officials

Changes to retirement plan could attract more recruits

By GINA BOTHNER
 Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Improving retirement benefits to attract more police recruits would cost the city an additional \$1.3 million annually, City Administrator Fred Wilson said Monday.

Extending the improved retirement package to include firefighters would add another \$800,000, he said.

The city is short 21 police officers from its authorized strength of 296 and some officials are hoping an improved benefits package will draw qualified candidates to the city.

The city's Personnel Committee, made up of three City Council members, met Monday with police and city officials to discuss whether enhancing retirement benefits might help the department attract and retain more officers.

Some union and city officials said new re-
 See PERKS/A4

Woman says trust shattered by sexual abuse

Pastor molested her, church protected him, she alleges

By ELISA CARDONA
 Staff Writer

He told her she was special, that she was the first and only one and what they would do would be their little secret.

Nicki Rister was 17 years old in 1972 when a trusted Catholic priest, Patrick J. O'Keefe, took away her innocence, she says. In connection with the case, O'Keefe last month was charged with 15 felony counts of oral copulation with a minor. Rister did not disclose the details of her sexual contact with O'Keefe, who was granted the title monsignor in the early 1990s. She said, however, that he sexually abused her while she served as a typist for him at St. Adelaide Catholic Church in Highland 30 years ago.

"When you are raised such a strict Catholic as I was, you never, ever doubt what a priest says," said Rister, now 47 and living in Colorado.

See PRIEST/A6



Rister



O'Keefe

2nd woman charges

THE WAR ON TERROR: IS IRAQ NEXT?

WHITE HOUSE CALL FOR WAR WITH IRAQ

VP SAYS SADDAM WILL HAVE NUK

Local representatives want congressional sign-off on a



RODRIGO PEÑA/1

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld speaks to soldiers at Fort Irwin on Monday. Despite earlier remarks by Vice President Cheney that an attack on Iraq could come soon, Rumsfeld declined to speak about Iraq.

Cheney: U.S. can't risk inaction

By ELISABETH BUMILLER
 and JAMES DAG
 New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney on Monday presented the administration's most forceful and comprehensive rationale yet for attacking Iraq, warning that Saddam Hussein would "fairly soon" have nuclear weapons.

Cheney said a nuclear-armed Saddam would "seek domination of the entire Middle East, take control of a great portion of the world's energy supplies, directly threaten America's friends through-

out the region and subject the United States or any other nation to nuclear blackmail."

The vice president's remarks, to a convention of veterans in Nashville, came as White House advisers said they were increasingly concerned about the news accounts and the growing debate in Congress and among former high-ranking foreign policy officials over the administration's plans for Iraq.

Cheney's speech, which his advisers said he was still writing on Sunday,
 See CHENEY/A8



Vice President Cheney

Local re desire to congress war: supp

By ANDREW SILA
 Staff Writer

Local represent gress from both i the war on terror: want to see the U tack another cour nod from Capitol I

It's the consti field through w and presidents hav time U.S. troops l battle in the past h

It was reveal White House at



Rumsfeld dodges Iraq questions during visit with Fort Irwin troops

O'Keefe2-WOA 000023

Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Redlands, said the president is unlikely to proceed against Iraq without a broad base of support.

"There are people suggesting that consultations are not necessary because of the technical fact that Congress has been consulted in the past regarding the thrust to the United States represented by Saddam Hussein," Lewis said in a written statement.

It's been too long since a debate regarding Iraq has been held in Congress, he said.

"I have every reason to believe that the president and his people are not only sensitive to this but smart enough to want to have further consultation with members of Congress on questions of such grave import to our country," Lewis said.

The last time Congress formally declared war was more than 50 years ago when the United States entered World War II.

the power to declare war to Congress, and makes the president the commander-in-chief of the nation's armed forces. That inherent conflict has never been fully resolved.

But disillusionment with Vietnam led to the War Powers Act of 1973, which requires congressional authorization for military action. It's a law that neither Congress nor presidents have been willing to test in the Supreme Court.

"Keeping it vague is in the interest of both parties," said Mike LeMay, political science professor at Cal State San Bernardino. "Congress is sort of reluctant to push the issue, because there's a question about whether the War Powers Act is legal."

LeMay worries that if the United States were to oust Saddam Hussein, it could wind up stuck in Iraq for years trying to build a new government.

I don't think we've discussed and debated it enough," he said.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., introduced a resolution last month calling on the president to seek formal congressional approval or a declaration of war before any military action is launched against Iraq.

"(It is not) a question of whether or not Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator — he most certainly is," Feinstein said last month.

"The question is what is the best policy for the United States to address these issues and, if we are to use force, that we do so only after a full debate and consideration of the options and with a united government and the specific statutory authorization of Congress."

Contact writer Andrew Silva at (908) 386-2880 or via e-mail at andrew.silva@sbsun.com.

Priest

Continued from A1



Patrick J. O'Keefe

After her mother died, Rister's own father was ordained a priest in the late 1980s.

"You pour all of your heart out to them," she said. "You know that they are one of God's chosen and that you can trust them to the very end of your life."

Rister is yet another purported victim who has come forward publicly with details of sexual abuse in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

Law enforcement officials are barred by law from naming victims of a sexual assault, but the Diocese of San Bernardino says Rister is the woman who reported O'Keefe.

Another priest, the Rev. Paul Shanley, who served in the diocese in the early 1990s, faces trial on felony charges of molesting boys in the Boston Archdiocese.

A Big Bear Lake man, Kevin English, has accused Shanley of sexually abusing him when he was 17 years old. English, now 30, says he met the priest while Shanley was filing in at St. Anne Catholic Church in San Bernardino.

The diocese purchased a plane ticket so Rister could fly to San Bernardino in May to be interviewed by the Rev. Gerald Lopez, who oversees priest personal matters for the diocese.

"They took four weeks to put my interview on paper, and then it was so poorly done that I re-did it in two hours and sent it back," Rister said.

"They allowed Pat to delay doing his interview for weeks for one excuse or another. Then he refused to do it at all and wrote a letter on June 17 and said he was leaving the country for an extended vacation with his brother."

Rister said her interview should have never been shown to O'Keefe and that the diocese should have immediately turned him in to the police before wasting time interviewing him.

She says she called the Sheriff's Department and informed them of her allegations first. Sgt. Jack Trotter said that's true, but that the diocese also reported O'Keefe after she did in April.

"Basic fairness mandates that a priest is informed if an allegation has been made or a police report filed," Lincoln said. "How would you feel if a business you worked for filed a police report about you? Wouldn't you like to know about it?"

Under new guidelines established during a meeting of the nation's Catholic bishops in Dallas this year, O'Keefe is a candidate for laicization, or being defrocked.

Diocesan officials said they have to interview him about the allegations before that process could get under way, Lincoln said.

But Rister said there was a delay, and it gave O'Keefe plenty of time to leave the school he was working at in Laguna Niguel and possibly leave the country to escape prosecution.

"We are fully cooperating with the authorities and are not and have not remotely protected Pat O'Keefe nor have we provided an environment where he could leave or hide," Lincoln said.

"When we found out about the allegations we contacted St. Anne's School in Laguna Niguel and he was placed on administrative leave. The police went to St. Anne's looking for him four weeks ago."

O'Keefe was working as director of religious education at St. Anne, a nondenominational, private elementary and middle school.

Lincoln said the diocese's policy is to report any reasonable, credible allegation of sexual abuse, such as Rister's, to the police immediately.

"We filed the police report before we interviewed her in person in April," Lincoln said. "When she first contacted us in March, we told her to contact the police."

Rister said her experience with O'Keefe and the diocese has turned her off to the Catholic Church.

FORT IRWIN

the future.

Asked about the role of Fort Irwin if there is action against Iraq, Rumsfeld said, "I'm not going to answer any Iraq questions," he said. "If I do then it gets quoted as though I brought up something about Iraq, and I didn't."

Congress and the Army must weigh the best ways to compet-

sate members of the Armed Forces to attract and retain people, Rumsfeld said.

"It's an overall look," he said. "There is no way to isolate it... (to) improve pay or housing. We look for the right mix and the right blend of incentives so the nation can go on in peace and freedom."

"It's a very different world (and) it punctuates the critical importance of our country's armed services transforming and changing — in ways they are organized, equipped, and trained and ultimately fight," the defense secretary said.

"We must face the unexpected. We live in an environment where we're faced with little or no warning as we faced on Sept. 11."

"We know what capabilities exist, that terrorist networks exist and various countries harbor them. Our task is to dry up their financing, make it difficult for them to recruit and move across borders and find ways to stop countries from providing safe havens."

Rumsfeld said another vital mission is to deal with the proliferation of dangerous weapons possessed by terrorist networks that have publicly indicated they have every intention to kill innocent people.

"It's our task to see we're organized and trained and equipped to live in a world where there is little or no warning," he said.

Rumsfeld arrived by Black Hawk helicopter at the desolate training site, where the fort's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment earlier faced off with the visiting 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Carson, Colo.

"He won the applause of most of the 500 troops gathered at the site when he said dangers faced by our fighting forces would be considered, along with other benefits, as Congress reviews upcoming budget."

Rumsfeld presented a flag, flown over the Pentagon Aug. 14, to Brig. Gen. Joseph Fil Jr., Fort Irwin's commander.

"We will fly it very proudly over the post headquarters on Sept. 11," Fil said.

Contact writer Chuck Mueller at (760) 252-5723 or via e-mail at chuck.mueller@sbsun.com.

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Contact writer Chuck Mueller at (760) 252-5723 or via e-mail at chuck.mueller@sbsun.com.

THE HEADLINE

of the day means to you

Cheney

Continued from A1

World War II

Numerous conflicts since then have been fought without a formal declaration of war, including Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama and the 1991 Gulf War.

Presidents have sought congressional approval for military action, as Lyndon Johnson did in 1964 with the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which led to the buildup of U.S. forces in Vietnam, and as President George H.W. Bush did in 1990 in building a broad international coalition against Iraq.

But, if it was disillusionment with Vietnam that gave rise to the War Powers Act of 1973, which required specific congressional approval for any lengthy commitment of U.S. troops. Neither Congress nor any president has been willing to force a Supreme Court test of the law.

What put Iraq back on the radar screen?

President George W. Bush, in his January State of the Union speech, listed Iraq along with Iran and North Korea, as part of an "axis of evil."

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld has said he is certain al-Qaida fighters are now in Iraq, though officials have said they are not.

appeared intended to quell the confusion and present the administration, as united behind the central idea that Saddam must be ousted, sooner rather than later.

"What he wants is time, and more time to husband his resources to invest in his ongoing chemical and biological weapons program, and to gain possession of nuclear weapons," Cheney said.

The risks of inaction, he said, "are far greater than the risk of action."

Administration officials said that Cheney's views mirrored those of President Bush, and were part of an ongoing effort to convince the allies, Congress and the American public of the need for what the administration calls "regime change" in Iraq.

The officials said Bush was expected to address Iraq in a speech to the UN General Assembly on Sept. 12, although they said the extent and nature of Bush's remarks on Iraq were still under discussion.

The speech by Cheney was the most prominent of several steps taken on Monday by the administration to build a public case for going to war against Iraq.

Also on Monday, the Defense Department announced that it is sending more than 14,000 reserves that they may be required to extend their duty, to

Middle Eastern radio services to broadcast remarks by the third-ranking Pentagon official calling for the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam.

In Crawford, Texas, an administration spokesman said that White House lawyers have concluded that the administration does not need congressional approval to attack Iraq. The spokesmen, Ari Fleischer, asserted that previous congressional resolutions, as well as the president's power as commander-in-chief, already give him that authority.

Fleischer said that Bush would "consult" with Congress about Iraq, although he pointedly refused to say whether the president would ask Congress to support an invasion through a vote, as his father did prior to the Persian Gulf War of 1991. The White House position that it does not need congressional approval was first reported by The Washington Post and Associated Press.

Republicans said Cheney's speech, planned since early August, was intended to lay out the most serious and complete case for an attack on Iraq.

The speech appeared designed in particular to answer critics who say that the administration lacks intelligence on Iraq's nuclear capabilities.

While Cheney argued that the administration could never know with precision the extent and type of Saddam's programs to develop weapons of mass destruction, he said it would be

Rister said she continues to fight "a big, black wad of shame and guilt" for the things she says O'Keefe did to her.

Authorities issued an arrest warrant for the 67-year-old O'Keefe on July 18. His whereabouts are unknown.

O'Keefe's last known address was in Laguna Niguel. He is a native of Ireland.

Rister said she met O'Keefe shortly after her family moved to San Bernardino from Flagstaff, Ariz.

She spent the last half of her senior year at Aquinas High School and had few friends because she was new, she said.

Her mother suggested she sing in the church choir to get to know people.

Rister said O'Keefe asked if she would be willing to help him by typing up hymns for him in the late afternoons.

"After school and after dinner, I would go over there and do typing in the office, and that's where it started," she said. "I thought that he was a very nice, honest person that was just trying to help me get out of the house and meet people."

Rister does not want to jeopardize the sheriff's investigation of O'Keefe, so she is not discussing the details of the sexual contact.

Rister and San Bernardino diocesan officials agree that the matter was not handled correctly when she first reported the alleged abuse in 1989.

Bishop Philip F. Straling, who headed the diocese from 1978 to 1995, handled the complaint internally but did not report anything to police, said the Rev. Howard Lincoln, spokesman for the diocese.

Straling is now a bishop of the Diocese of Reno, Nev., and could not be reached for comment. Reno officials said Straling is on vacation until after the Labor Day holiday.

Rister said her mother died without knowing about O'Keefe's alleged indiscretions, and she didn't tell her father until 1992 after he was already a priest himself.

"My father turned his back on me and chose the church over me," Rister said. "Pat had been his best friend, and maybe he didn't think Pat would do something like that. That hurt an awful lot, and for years we didn't

BUSINESS
BOEING
WINS \$9.7
BILLION
CONTRACT
 PAGE C9



ENTERTAINMENT

ALL ABOARD
 THE WOMEN OF 'BLUE CRUSH' COULD REVIVE
 HOLLYWOOD'S SURF MOVIE GENRE.

PAGE U1

SPORTS



FURYK AND FUN
 PGA leaders from nowhere set t
 PAGE C1

Weather
 Clouds, hazy sunshine.
 High 92, Low 62
 Air Quality: Unhealthy
 Page B8

THE SUN

San Bernardino County's Newspaper

Met
 Colton, Gra
 and San Be
 4*

AUGUST 15, 2002

FRIDAY

No relief
awaits
depleted
police

recruiting woes.
 lag SB's force.

KIM PRENDERGAST
and ANGELICA MARTINEZ
 Staff Writers

SAN BERNARDINO — The
 oggie is on and it's taking its

Recruiting police officers has
 ver been harder in this busy
 y, and it's the residents who
 : paying the price, some police
 ficials say.

Currently, the San Bernardino
 lice Department is down 21
 ficers, and the prospect of
 ickly filling those vacancies
 ks grim, city and police offi-
 ls agree.

"We're in a bind, I would de-
 scribe it as we're in a crisis,"
 id Sgt. Steven Filson, president
 the San Bernardino Police Of-
 ers Association. "Unfortunately,
 officers don't have the time to
 proactive work. They're busy
 along with the level of routine
 lls on a daily basis."

The number of serious crimes

Onetime Highland priest accused of sexual crime



O'Keefe

Teen tryst allegations surface after 30 years; arrest warrant i

By **HELISA CARDONA**
 Staff Writer

A Catholic priest has been charged with a
 felony count of oral copulation 30 years ago
 with a then-17-year-old girl who was a parish-
 ioner at St. Adelaide Catholic Church in High-
 land.

An arrest warrant was issued for the Rev.
 Patrick J. O'Keefe, 67, on July 18, along with
 the criminal complaint.

Sheriff's investigators said they don't
 know where O'Keefe is. A native of Ireland,
 his last known address was in Laguna Niguel.

The alleged victim contacted the Florida
 Bishops Conference in April and said she had
 been sexually abused by O'Keefe while he
 was the pastor in Highland, according to the
 Rev. Howard Lincoln, spokesman for the Dio-
 cese of San Bernardino.

From Florida, the complaint subsequently

was turned over to the San Bern-
 ardo County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff's spokesman Chip Pa-
 rsons said deputies have more than the
 crimes took place.

"I could tell you that we have
 more statements to support the
 charges," he said, "but I would not
 see

CHANGE OF HEART



Kidnap
suspect
ordered
to trial
 Abductor took

continued from A1

to detail for fear of hurting the integrity of our case."

Investigators are protecting a woman's identity because she is a purported victim of a sexual assault.

Lincoln said the woman apparently reported the incident in 1989 to the administration of former San Bernardino Bishop Phillip F. Straling, but Bishop Gerald Barnes did not learn of her complaint until notified by the bishops' conference in April.

Straling was bishop in San Bernardino from 1978 to 1995.

"In 1989, an attempt was made by the previous administration to address this matter internally," Lincoln said. "That was the way they chose to handle the matter. With Bishop Barnes, it would be handled differently."

The reported incidents with the teen-age girl is not the first time O'Keefe's sexual habits have come into question.

O'Keefe was fired from the diocese on April 27, 1994, by Straling after sexual indiscretions with three adult women were reported.

Lincoln said he did not know the exact nature of the complaints, the dates or the ages of the women involved.

The diocese settled a complaint with one of the women financially, but a confidentiality agreement issued at that time prevented Lincoln from disclosing how much money was involved.

"The incidents were reported by the women themselves," Lincoln said. "It wasn't rape or anything like that. It wasn't criminal in nature, but any sexual misconduct by a priest is misconduct."

One of these complaints was the last straw. That led to a letter to Father O'Keefe.

In the letter, Straling told O'Keefe that he should seek work outside the church.

"It is not possible for you to continue to work as a priest here in this diocese due to the reasons that you and I spoke of during our meeting," Straling wrote. "It is also not possible for you to go to another diocese."

"The only option would be to seek and obtain a job in the secular world. This should be one that in no way would be associated with duties of the ministry."

Despite the letter, O'Keefe got a job at St. Anne School in Santa Ana in 1997, Lincoln said. The school has students from preschool through eighth grade.

O'Keefe was working there, although it's not known whether it was in a clerical capacity, until April, when the Sheriff's Department began investigating the woman's complaint.

"We informed St. Anne and they immediately dismissed him, and he was forbidden to be around the campus," Lincoln said.

Orange diocesan officials could not be reached for comment late Thursday.

Lincoln said he's not sure if the San Bernardino Diocese told the Diocese of Orange about O'Keefe's alleged indiscretions with the adult women or that he was told he should not seek employment within the church.

"I would think there was a possibility of communication," Lincoln said.

Lincoln said the school got approval from former Orange Bishop Norman McFarland to hire O'Keefe, but he didn't know if McFarland was completely aware of O'Keefe's history.

In April, O'Keefe was made

The Rev. Monsignor Patrick J. O'Keefe, a former priest in the Diocese of San Bernardino, has been charged with 15 counts of oral copulation with a minor.

A native of Kilkenny, Ireland, O'Keefe worked in his parents' publishing business as a young boy and teen-ager. He taught mathematics and religion at St. Kieran's High School from 1958 to 1959. In 1959, he came to the United States after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy at St. Kieran's College in Kilkenny.

O'Keefe, now 67, was a priest in the Diocese of San Bernardino from 1969 to 1992. His positions in the Catholic Church include:

- 1959-64: Associate pastor, St. Rose of Lima Church, Chula Vista; chaplain, Newman Club, Southwestern Junior College, Chula Vista
- 1964-66: Associate pastor, St. John the Evangelist Church, San



Diego; chaplain, San Diego City College

San Diego; religion and English teacher, University High School; San Diego

- 1968: Named Notre Dame "Man of the Year" for city of San Diego
- 1969-70: Religion and English teacher, Aquinas High School, San Bernardino
- 1970-71: Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Rancho Cucamonga
- 1971-76: Pastor, St. Adelaide Church, Highland
- 1976-77: Pastor, St. Joseph the Worker Church, Loma Linda
- 1977-83: Pastor, St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Rancho Cucamonga
- 1983-92: Director of vocations, Diocese of San Bernardino
- 1989-92: Pastor, St. Margaret Mary Church, Chino
- 1992-97: Hospice in Orange County
- 1997-April 2002: St. Anne School, Santa Ana

aware that he was being investigated on suspicion of engaging in oral copulation with the 17-year-old.

"We do not know where he is now," Lincoln said. "We gave the last address we had for him to the San Bernardino authorities."

O'Keefe was ordained in 1959 for the Diocese of San Diego, of which San Bernardino County was then a part.

He came from Kilkenny, Ireland, where his parents were in the publishing business.

"In those days, they actually went to seminary in Ireland

knowing they would be assigned to places in the United States," Lincoln said.

O'Keefe spent most of his ministry in San Bernardino County, but previously did some work in San Diego County.

"He could be a very eloquent sermonist and a man who had significant experience in ministry," Lincoln said.

"It's a painful subject to talk about, he said.

"Bishop Barnes and our diocese are trying to be very open and accountable and trying to restore the trust that has been lost in the Catholic Church," Lincoln said.

Former students and parishioners did not want to speak on the record about O'Keefe, but they described him as a dynamic, sophisticated man who liked to dress formally and drove a Chrysler New Yorker.

O'Keefe kept St. Bernard dogs at the rectory at St. Adelaide.

Churchgoers described him as a popular priest who had a long line of people waiting for him to hear confession.

He was an adamant public defender of celibacy for the priesthood and pushed that idea as director of vocations for the diocese.

"He was very he was very outwitted Beelner, a Adelaide since I him enough to r gest daughter and I am quite a bit r this because he d that kind of persc

Beelner greets bers at 7 p.m. M and 'hugged' eve came in. Althou by reports about duct by priests, I closure can only diocese.

"It's just brie gether," Beelner!

Patterson sail allegations are th Sheriff's Departm

Since the b broke earlier this iff's Departmen three complaints including the O'Keefe.

"One we deta side the realm (limitations for t fence," Patterson we determined ously investigate tigation did not i charges."

All of the cor by sheriff's im decades old, Pat

"That might into perspect Chrysler New York

"These are no tions."

Sheriff's dete the public's h O'Keefe.

"We would s himself in in the attorney if nece said, "because v chance to interv. Contact writer f (951) 385-3810 felisa.cardona@

age killed 2 students, wounded 13 near San Diego in sentenced to 50 years to life for school shooting

NEWS DIGEST

SUN 16, 2002

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- 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 a label permits.

Article Addressed to:
 Veronica Budak
 50 Box 1058
 300 Grand Avenue
 Kremmling CO 80459



COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

Signature: *Veronica Budak*
 Agent Addressed to:
 Received By (Printed Name): *VERONICA BUDAK*
 Date of Delivery: *07-03*

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

Service Type:
 Certified Mail Express Mail
 Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise
 Insured Mail C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes No

2. Article (Transit) *7007 0140 0001 0104 4783*

PS Form 3817, August 2001 Domestic Return Receipt

102599-01-M-2009

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE



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

• Sender, please print your name, address, and ZIP+4 in this box •

Very Reverend Msgr. Gerard M. Lopez, STL VG
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1201 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404



O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000030

7-16-02

These letters were
never a part of the
personnel file of

Patrick O'Keefe.

BM Lopez

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=MAY-01 16:18

END=MAY-01 16:20

FILE NO.= 196

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
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-BISHOP'S COMPLEX

*****-BISHOP - ***** 909 475 5109-*****



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA

DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

facsimile transmittal

Le Ann
 To: Double Tree Inn Fax: 909-937-1999
 From: Rev. Gerard M. Lopez, STL Date: 5-1-02
 Re: Reservations of May 4th Pages: 2 + cover
 cc: Conf. # 87522112

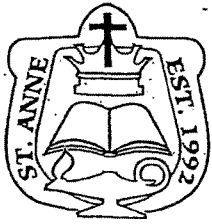
Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

As requested are the copies of the Credit Card and Driver's License.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at this number.

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000080

ST. ANNE SCHOOL



Accredited by the
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

O'Keeffe

received
April 18, 2002

April 10, 2002

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Father Michael McKiernan
Mary wood Center
2811 East Villa Real Drive
P.O. Box 14195
Orange, CA 92863

P. O'Keeffe's #:
949-842-1406.

Diane
Schiller

Re: Patrick O'Keeffe

Dear Father McKiernan:

As you may have been aware, Patrick O'Keeffe has served as Director of Religious Studies for St. Anne School since 1994, except for a one year absence.

We were informed by Father Jerry Lopez, Director of Priests in the Diocese of San Bernardino, about an investigation filed by an unnamed individual for an inappropriate incident which occurred over 30 years ago.

We have received a request from Patrick O'Keeffe for a paid sabbatical leave through the balance of this school year, June, 2002.

We have asked Father Jerry Lopez to keep us informed of the investigation. We do not intend to re-activate Patrick O'Keeffe until the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Diocese of San Bernardino.

This matter is being maintained in the highest of confidentiality, being disclosed only to the five Members of St. Anne School and its President, Steve Hammond.

In the wake of all that is happening it is important to investigate the victims' rights, but equally important not to taint the reputation of these men who are being indicted in this wave of complaints.

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000081

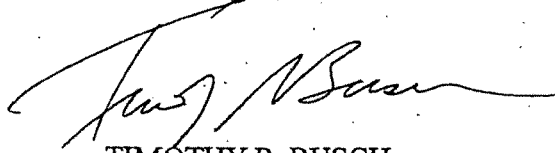
An Independent Christian School

2532 Dupont Drive • Irvine, California 92612 • (949) 474-7368 • Fax (949) 474-7732

Father Michael McKiernan
April 10, 2002
Page 2

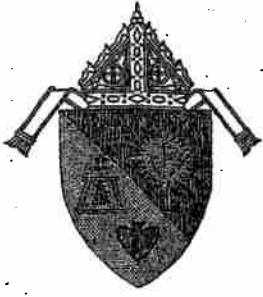
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Very truly yours,



TIMOTHY R. BUSCH
Chairman of the Board
St. Anne School
(949) 474-7368 Ext 100
Cell: (949) 337-5040
email: tbusch@buschfirm.com
efax: (781) 207-0713

TRB/os/gtv
cc:Father Jerry Lopez (Personal & Confidential)
eicc: TRB
icc:OCS; Steve Hammond
2364A/McKiernan040802OS



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 28, 2002

Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. O'Keeffe
P.O. Box 7105
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607

Dear Monsignor O'Keeffe:

I am writing to inform you that on Thursday, March 28, 2002 I received a complaint of misconduct against you by Veronica Rister.

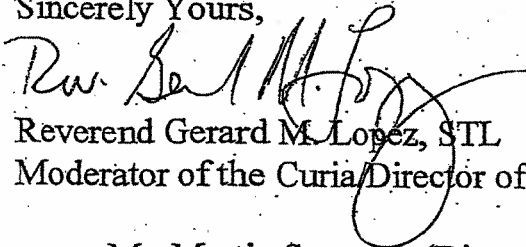
By this letter, I am informing you that a formal investigation of this complaint has been initiated.

The formal investigation of this complaint will involve a personal interview with you to offer you an opportunity to be presented with the nature of the complaint and to offer you an opportunity to respond to said complaint.

I please ask that you contact me as soon as possible to discuss an appointment for your personal interview. I will be available in the office beginning Thursday, April 4, 2002. You may elect to bring a priest associate with you to this personal interview.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

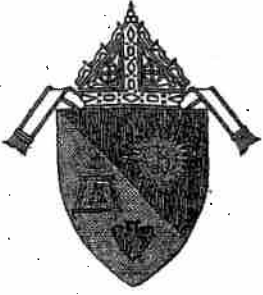
Sincerely Yours,



Reverend Gerard M. Lopez, STL
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Mr. Martin Swanson (Diocesan Review Committee)
Mr. Bill Lemann (Diocesan Counsel)

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000100



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 28, 2002

Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. O'Keeffe
P.O. Box 7105
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607

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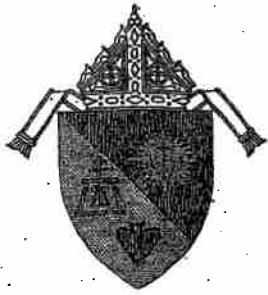
Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Yours,

Reverend Gerard M. Lopez, STL
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Mr. Martin Swanson (Diocesan Review Committee)
Mr. Bill Lemann (Diocesan Counsel)

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000101



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 28, 2002

Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. O'Keeffe
P.O. Box 7105
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607

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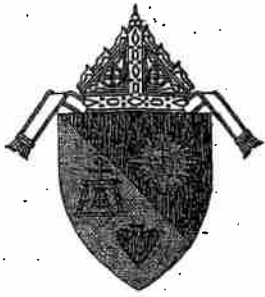
Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Yours,

Reverend Gerard M. Lopez, STL
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Mr. Martin Swanson (Diocesan Review Committee)
Mr. Bill Lemann (Diocesan Counsel)

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000102



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 28, 2002

Veronica Rister
P.O. Box 1058
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Ms. Rister:

This is to acknowledge that I received and opened your correspondence to me. I am writing to confirm that I have received your correspondence today.

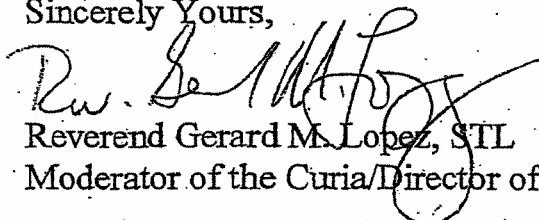
I wish to thank you for the copies of the letters that you mailed to me. In reviewing the copies which you sent, I am able to confirm that you wish to file a complaint of misconduct against Monsignor Patrick O'Keeffe.

This is to inform you that my Office will be initiating an internal investigation of the facts of this case. My delegate or I will be in communication with you to arrange a personal interview with you in order to take a full explanation of this case. Please know that you may contact me at any time to review the progress of this investigation.

This is also to confirm that you have contacted the appropriate local authorities. This is to acknowledge that on March 13, 2002 and March 14, 2002, I had strongly encouraged you to contact the San Bernardino County Child Protective Services to report your case.

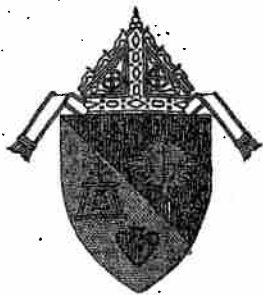
Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely Yours,


Reverend Gerard M. Lopez, STL
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Mr. Martin Swanson (Diocesan Review Committee)
Mr. Bill Lemann (Diocesan Counsel)

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000103



Diocese of San Bernardino

MODERATOR OF CURIA
DIRECTOR OF PRIEST PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 28, 2002

Veronica Rister
P.O. Box 1058
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Ms. Rister:

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I wish to thank you for the copies of the letters that you mailed to me. In reviewing the copies which you sent, I am able to confirm that you wish to file a complaint of misconduct against Monsignor Patrick O'Keeffe.

This is to inform you that my Office will be initiating an internal investigation of the facts of this case. My delegate or I will be in communication with you to arrange a personal interview with you in order to take a full explanation of this case. Please know that you may contact me at any time to review the progress of this investigation.

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Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely Yours,

Reverend Gerard M. Lopez, STL
Moderator of the Curia/Director of Priest Personnel

cc: Mr. Martin Swanson (Diocesan Review Committee)
Mr. Bill Lemann (Diocesan Counsel)

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000104

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Fr. Lopez
Diocese of San Bernardino
1201 E. Highland Ave.
San Bernardino. CA 92404

Fr. Lopez,

Per your request, please find attached copies of letters I sent to the Bishop, Pat O'Keefe and their letters to me.

As you can see, in his own hand writing he admits "you were the victim" and he "wishes I could love the pain from me" and "wish I could tell you how sorry I am for the past."

I have tried many many times to forget and forgive myself but for some reason it keeps coming back and haunting me. I think it stems from being brought up strict Catholic and the respect that was pounded into us for priests. (It is ironic that my own Dad was ordained a priest after my mother passed away.) All the new stories about others being abused and used just reminds me of what happened and brings back all the guilt and doubt.

Even though Pat says he is sorry for the past, he stresses more how sorry he is that he had to be moved and or transferred. I think he felt worse about that then about our affair. I never heard from Pat after his last letter.

I have sent a copy of this letter and the other letters to the San Bernardino Prosecutor. You had suggested contacting the Child Protective Services but I feel the prosecutor is a better place to start.

Sincerely,



Veronica (Nicki) Rister
PO Box 1058
Kremmling, CO 80459
970-724-9487
4risters@rkymtnhi.com

3/28/02 - I called at her home #. Left a message.

1-9-89

Bishop Straling
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
2525 Arrowhead Ave.
San Bernardino, Calif. 92405

Bishop Straling,

I feel it is time to step forward and be counted as one of females taken advantage of by a priest. I have carried this guilt with me for 17 years and just now feel secure and brave enough to tell you about it.

I saw an article on 20/20 about priests taking advantage of kids, and I related to it. I realize these priests are the minority, but that is no reason for us victims to stay in the closet.

I am referring to Father Pat O'Keefe when he was in Highland, Ca. I was only 17, a senior in high school, and very new to the area. The exact dates are very easy to pin down, as I kept a diary of our affair. I am sure you don't want to know all the sordid details, but I can tell you it went on for months. It started Feb. 17, 1972. On April 17, I told Pat (I never called him Father) I thought I was pregnant. He was both scared and excited.

He felt free to call me at home and tell me he loved me, and did so often. My parents thought it was great for me to have such a good rapport with my priest. Little did they know what went on. Luckily, I had, and still have, a girlfriend I could confide in, to help me through all my mixed emotions.

Pat always told my mother that as long as I was a "good" girl, I would inherit all his cut glass from Ireland. My mother and Dad never stopped me from going to the church to "help" Pat when he called for me. They always said to be very "good".

Finally, on April 27th, I found out I wasn't pregnant. I didn't want to continue with Pat, but he continued to pursue me. My love for him made it hard to resist his desires. Eventually, it tapered off.

The lasting effects of this love affair have been much worse than I ever expected. I no longer trust priests and have no desire to return to the church on a regular basis. It has been this way for the 17 years since I was with Pat.

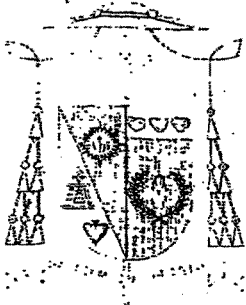
O'Keefe2-WOA 0000106

I know I should have spoken out MUCH sooner, but I never did because it would have killed my folks. If my Dad ever does find out, it still may. I trust that this will not get back to him, as I know that you know him.

Thank you for your time.

Veronica Budai Rister

Veronica Budai Rister
9595 W. 105 Place
Broomfield, Co. 80020



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

February 3, 1989

Mrs. Veronica B. Rister
9595 W. 105 Place
Broomfield, Colorado 80040

Dear Mrs. Rister:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of January 9, 1989. It took some time to reach me, since it was addressed to the Cathedral Parish, rather than the pastoral offices.

I appreciate your concern and am grateful that, even after these many years, you have taken the time and effort to bring this serious matter to my attention. I am reviewing the contents of your letter with the priest you named.

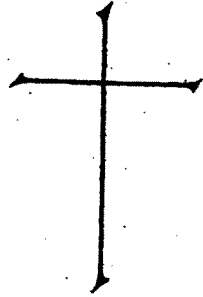
It is my prayer that your sharing these events with me will bring you a renewed relationship with your church and that the Lord may grant you healing and peace.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Most Reverend Phillip F. Straling
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

PFS/jm

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000108



At the request of
Someone who has discovered the meaning
of "Good Friday" in Mar. 89. Pray for
me that it's not too late as I do daily
for you + yours.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
will be offered for the intentions of

Niki & her family

Rev. Pat O'Keeffe

what can I do to help?

MARCH 24, 1989

10-15-90

Pat,

Last night I went to church with a friend that is having some problems in her marriage. This was the first time for me in a long time, but it sounded interesting. The name of the Mass was The Praise Mass. It was very interesting. I met a woman there that I talked to for a long time. She was interested in why I felt I couldn't go to Communion. She has had a lot of problems in her life with her father being an alcoholic and was treated very bad. I did not tell her what happened in my past, I just explained to her that I felt that if I received Communion, I felt that a bolt of lightning would strike me dead. She said something very interesting to me after that, she said that I should forgive myself first. My friend agreed. She does know what went on and feels that before I can say I have forgiven you, that I MUST forgive myself. Cherrine, my friend, feels that the relationship between Dad and myself might be improved if I tell him about what happened. I am afraid to tell him, for fear of killing him too because of the trust he had in you. I know Dad is wondering why I did not receive Communion when he married Gordon and I in the church last year.

I never thought about forgiving myself. I never have dug deep enough to realize that I do need to. There is another mass or training session next Sunday on Guilt and we are supposed to bring a picture of ourselves when we were younger. I don't know if I am going or not yet but I would like to. I would love to take my kids to Church on a regular basis. Without guilt. Feeling comfortable about myself. Right now I can't do that. Every time I go in a Church I see you. Everytime I talk to a Priest, I talk to you. I don't have any trust in any Priest. I always wonder who he has hiding in the back room waiting for him like I waited for you. It has been close to 20 years now, you would think that the guilt of our relationship would have gone away, but it hasn't. It still keeps me away from Church. It still keeps me at a distance from my own father. I should hate you for what you have done to me. Using me for your own physical needs and then going on your way, leaving me to cope with the guilt. How many others were there that you haven't had a second thought about? How many others are having to cope with this guilt by themselves? I don't hate you, I feel sorry for you. You are the one who has to face God in the end. You are the one who took advantage of a 17-year old who was lonely and in a new city. This will be with me for a long time still I am sure but I am trying to work it out. I am just lucky that I have an understanding friend to help me, and this other woman who would love to help me if I could confide in her. I don't know her well yet, so that may come in time.

Nicki

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000110

OCT 24, 1990

Dear Wiki,
Received your letter today. I'm devastated. I did not want anyone I was sent away, convicted, sent to the "cave", I wanted to refuse these major dreams. I was ordained for San Diego Diocese. I just have you ever heard you as well why I ended in San Bernardino. My life was slowly having the opportunity to get reasonably happy & then your letter arrived. Again I was punished. A sorcerer appeared one of your letters my mistake - was shown & that "now I'm at 12686 CENTRAL AVE, CHICO, CA. 91701

How could you think God would spare you dead. You poor darling. You are His daughter, He loves you, He was called your very name. He wants to lead you. I think positionally. Put the part in your hands. I stood at the feet of the cross & saw you at the other side. I cried aloud to have your pain ~~right~~ put to please it on my shoulders. I know He will I haven't seen your face except twice in 15 yrs. Don't destroy his peace of mind in whatever years as I left him. Wishes could save the pain from you.

as can't wave you forgive
we don't wish you could.
I don't talk to anyone
under the sky. Friends
do not exist for me &
as just live to help
I lead when I can & can
& do hope that my
death will come soon.
It's not possible for me
to be happy - never was.

Pray for me, forgive
yourself, for what I
don't know. ~~You were~~
the victim but I've seen
a lot of people slant like
selves, even tho' innocent

Glenn go to Eucharist
There are too many
good talents - don't paint
them all with the
same brush.

11-24-92

Pat,

Last night I got in bed as usual and said my prayers but for some reason you came to mind and I started crying. I couldn't stop and I couldn't go to sleep. I had this urge to find all my letters you wrote me. I don't know why I thought of you out of the blue. Maybe it is the fact that a priest in the local parrish was sent away because he liked the women too much. I still do not go to church. Don't worry I have gotten on with my life. I still talk to God on a regular basis. I think He is the one that brought you to mind last night. Somehow I get the feeling that either you are at it again and He wants me to expose you for the fraud that you are or He just wants me to expose you period. In your letters you say how much you have suffered and cried and how bad you feel. Somehow I just don't believe you. I mean I am the one who hasn't been able to go to church in 20 years because of the guilt I feel. You? You went on acting the great Priest and offering Mass and taking Communion like nothing ever happened. Like you never had me give you Blow jobs in your office, like I never went to your bed. Like I never came to you and told you I thought I was pregnant by you. Did you never feel guilt until I wrote the Bishop in 89??? How many others were there?? Come on Pat, for once be honest with yourself and me. Tell me the truth. Did you really love me the way I loved you or was I just one of your many flings???? Were you ready to marry me if I was pregnant with your child? I was ready to marry you in an instant. I know I am a thorn in your side but better a thorn than not to have a church, like me..... I really would like some HONEST answers from you.

Nicki

Nicki

In case you threw it away, my address is:
13050 King Circle
Broomfield, CO. 80020

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000113

Dear Dicki,

Don't know if
His will find you.
I've resigned my
pastorate & taken an
18 mt. leave. Don't
know what to think
about the future. Maybe
there is no future, in
the church anyway. Wish
I could tell you how
sorry I am for the past.

It's been too heavy a
burden. Hope you are
feeling even a little bit
better. I'll write when I
get settled & know what the
future holds.
This Christmas may you see and know anew
just how great His love is toward you!

Pat

DEC 1992

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David
A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
LUKE 2:11

8-10-93

Pat,

I figure you are back at work now and acting normal as possible. I thought I would let you know that I did tell my dad about us. I told him on Christmas Day 1992. I haven't spoken to him since. You have managed to not only take my religion from me with our affair, but you have also taken my dad now. I have thought about suing the church for what you have done, but money will not give me the trust it takes to go to church without wondering if the priest has someone in the wings as you had me, money will not give back my dad. Money is for material items and neither one of those is material. There is nothing that will give me those two things back.

~~Pat, I don't hate you, I feel sorry for you. You are the one that will have to face your Maker with the guilt of our past, not to mention anyone else that happened into your life after me. I was stupid and lonely and you saw very well how to fill your own needs.~~

You will be with me, good or bad for the rest of my life.

Nicki

Fr. Gerard Lopez x123

From: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2002 12:00 PM
To: '4risters@rkymtnhi.com'
Subject: RE: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

Dear Nicki:

I received your message today. Thank you for replying.

I will await the materials you will be sending to me. Please send them here to my office under confidential cover.

Please know that you continue in my prayers. Feel free at any time to contact me. Thank you again for your information. I look forward to perhaps meeting you in person soon.

Sincerely,

Father Gerry Lopez.

~~Original Message~~

From: Nicki Rister [mailto:4risters@rkymtnhi.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2002 6:55 PM
To: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
Subject: Re: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

Father Lopez,

No, I do not live in California anymore. I live in Kremmling Colorado about 45 minutes south east of Steamboat Springs. My best friend lives in northern California so it would make it almost impossible to meet all at once.

Yes, it was St. Adelaide's Parish in Highland and the priests name is Patrick J. O'Keeffe. Rather than write the whole story here, I will run copies of everything tomorrow and put it in the mail to you.

I don't understand why Child Services needs to be contacted or how to get in touch with them. What can they possibly do this late? Or does it just have to be on file?

Sincerely,
Nicki Rister

"Fr. Gerard Lopez x123" wrote:

Thursday, March 14, 2002 Dear Nicki, Thank you for your reply to me. I received your reply and have read it this morning (Thursday, March 14, 2002 at around 7AM). I would like to listen to your story and information. Do you still live in the California area? I am available to meet with you in person. Also, can you please provide me with the complete name of the priest? I am new in this position and was not in this position in 1989. I can only infer that the "Highland church" you speak of is St. Adelaide's Parish in the city of Highland. Once again, I would definitely be open to seeing your information, diaries, and journals. Also, if you want you can invite your high school friend to come with you when you meet with me. As I mentioned in my e-mail of March 13, I am advising you to report your information to the San Bernardino County Child Protective Services as soon as possible. May the Lord bless you. We do want to help you during this time. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Sincerely, Father Gerry Lopez
Diocese of San Bernardino

3/15/02

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000118

-----Original Message-----

From: Nicki Rister [mailto:4risters@rkymtnhi.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2002 6:25 PM

To: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123

Subject: Re: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

Fr. Lopez,

I have been told that since I was 35 when I brought it to the attention of the Church that the Statute of Limitations had expired. That was 12 years ago. But that does not change my feelings about the situation and what was done to me as a very lonely, vulnerable teenager.

If you would like copies of the letters I wrote to Pat and his responses as proof of what happened I will be glad to send them to you. I also kept a diary at the time and have exact dates when things actually happened. I also have my best friend from high school that I confided in about everything that happened. I seriously believe I was just one of many of his conquests at the Highland church.

Do you think you can help in anyway?

Nicki Rister

"Fr. Gerard Lopez x123" wrote:

March 13, 2002 (4:39PM Pacific Time)Dear Nicki Rister:My name is Reverend Gerard M. Lopez. I am the Director of Priest Personnel for the Diocese of San Bernardino in San Bernardino, California.I received a copy of the e-mail which you sent to the Florida Catholic Conference. I received this e-mail through the California Catholic Conference earlier this afternoon at 3:11 PM.I ask that you please contact me as soon as possible. I have primary oversight to deal with complaints such as this.The following are my phone numbers:Office: 909-475-5120 (weekdays, 8AM to 5PM)Cellular: 760-963-5593(24 hours access)e-mail: glopez@sbdioocese.orgAddress: Diocese of San Bernardino1201 E. Highland AvenueSan Bernardino, CA 92404Please call me and contact me as soon as possible. It is essential for you to contact me so as to initiate the necessary investigation process on this. I also recommend and encourage you strongly to contact the local Child Protective Services agency to report your case immediately.Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.Sincerely,Reverend Gerard M. LopezDiocese of San Bernardino

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000119

3/15/02

Fr. Gerard Lopez x123

From: Nicki Rister [4risters@rkymtnhi.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2002 6:55 PM
To: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
Subject: Re: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

Father Lopez,

No, I do not live in California anymore. I live in Kremmling Colorado about 45 minutes south east of Steamboat Springs.. My best friend lives in northern California so it would make it almost impossible to meet all at once.

Yes, it was St. Adelaide's Parish in Highland and the priests name is Patrick J. O'Keeffe. Rather than write the whole story here, I will run copies of everything tomorrow and put it in the mail to you.

I don't understand why Child Services needs to be contacted or how to get in touch with them. What can they possibly do this late? Or does it just have to be on file?

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To: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
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Do you think you can help in anyway?

Nicki Rister

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000120

3/15/02

"Fr. Gerard Lopez x123" wrote:

March 13, 2002 (4:39PM Pacific Time)Dear Nicki Rister:My name is Reverend Gerard M. Lopez. I am the Director of Priest Personnel for the Diocese of San Bernardino in San Bernardino, California. I received a copy of the e-mail which you sent to the Florida Catholic Conference. I received this e-mail through the California Catholic Conference earlier this afternoon at 3:11 PM. I ask that you please contact me as soon as possible. I have primary oversight to deal with complaints such as this. The following are my phone numbers: Office: 909-475-5120 (weekdays, 8AM to 5PM) Cellular: 760-963-5593(24 hours access)e-mail: glopez@sbdioocese.orgAddress: Diocese of San Bernardino 1201 E. Highland Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92404 Please call me and contact me as soon as possible. It is essential for you to contact me so as to initiate the necessary investigation process on this. I also recommend and encourage you strongly to contact the local Child Protective Services agency to report your case immediately. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Reverend Gerard M. Lopez Diocese of San Bernardino

3/15/02

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000121

Fr. Gerard Lopez x123

From: Nicki Rister [4risters@rkymtnhi.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2002 6:55 PM
To: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
Subject: Re: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

Father Lopez,

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Yes, it was St. Adelaide's Parish in Highland and the priests name is Patrick J. O'Keeffe. Rather than write the whole story here, I will run copies of everything tomorrow and put it in the mail to you.

I don't understand why Child Services needs to be contacted or how to get in touch with them. What can they possibly do this late? Or does it just have to be on file?

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Subject: Re: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

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Do you think you can help in anyway?

Nicki Rister

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000122

3/15/02

"Fr. Gerard Lopez x123" wrote:

March 13, 2002 (4:39PM Pacific Time)Dear Nicki Rister:My name is Gerard M. Lopez. I am the Director of Priest Personnel for the Diocese of San Bernardino in San Bernardino, California. I received a copy of the letter you sent to the Florida Catholic Conference. I received this e-mail from the California Catholic Conference earlier this afternoon at 3:11 PM. Please contact me as soon as possible. I have primary oversight of all complaints such as this. The following are my phone numbers: Home: 951-251-5120 (weekdays, 8AM to 5PM) Cellular: 760-963-5593 (24 hour) Email: glopez@sbdioocese.org Address: Diocese of San Bernardino, 12121 Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92404 Please call me and contact me as soon as possible. It is essential for you to contact me so as to initiate the investigation process on this. I also recommend and encourage you to contact the local Child Protective Services agency to report your concerns immediately. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Reverend Gerard M. Lopez, Diocese of San Bernardino

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000123

3/15/02

"Fr. Gerard Lopez x123" wrote:

March 13, 2002 (4:39PM Pacific Time)Dear
Gerard M. Lopez. I am the Director of Pries
Bernardino in San Bernardino, California. I r
you sent to the Florida Catholic Conference
California Catholic Conference earlier this e
please contact me as soon as possible. I ha
complaints such as this. The following are r
5120 (weekdays, 8AM to 5PM)Cellular: 760
glopez@sbdiocese.orgAddress: Diocese of
AvenueSan Bernardino, CA 92404Please c
possible. It is essential for you to contact m
investigation process on this. I also recomr
contact the local Child Protective Services a
immediately. Thank you and I look forward to
you.Sincerely, Reverend Gerard M. LopezDI

3/15/02

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000124

Fr. Gerard Lopez x123

From: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2002 7:47 AM
To: '4risters@rkymtnhi.com'
Subject: RE: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Dear Nicki,

Thank you for your reply to me. I received your reply and have read it this morning (Thursday, March 14, 2002 at around 7AM).

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Once again, I would definitely be open to seeing your information, diaries, and journals. Also, if you want you can invite your high school friend to come with you when you meet with me.

As I mentioned in my e-mail of March 13, I am advising you to report your information to the San Bernardino County Child Protective Services as soon as possible.

May the Lord bless you. We do want to help you during this time. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Father Gerry Lopez
Diocese of San Bernardino

-----Original Message-----

From: Nicki Rister [mailto:4risters@rkymtnhi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2002 6:25 PM
To: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
Subject: Re: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

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Do you think you can help in anyway?

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000157

3/14/02

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3/14/02

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000158

Printed March 14, 2002

Fr. Gerard Lopez x123

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Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2002 6:25 PM
To: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
Subject: Re: E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference

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O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000159

3/14/02

Printed March 14, 2002

Fr. Gerard Lopez x123

From: 4risters@rkymtnhi.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2002 6:09 PM
To: Fr. Gerard Lopez x123
Subject: Note: this Return Receipt only acknowledges that the message was displayed on the recipient's machine. There is no guarantee that the content has been read or understood. - E-mail to Florida Catholic Conference



MDNPart2.txt



MDNPart3.txt

This is a Return Receipt for the mail that you sent to 4risters@rkymtnhi.com.

Note: this Return Receipt only acknowledges that the message was displayed on the recipient's machine. There is no guarantee that the content has been read or understood.

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000160

PERSONAL RECORD OF REV.

PATRICK JOSEPH O'KEEFFE
NAME IN FULL

Father's and Mother's (maiden) name WILLIAM JOHN O'KEEFFE (deceased) AND MARGARET MARY O'SHILL

Birth Date and Place OCTOBER 10, 1934 KILKENNY, IRELAND

Baptism Date and Place OCTOBER 17, 1934, ST. GANICE'S, KILKENNY, IRELAND

Present Citizenship IRISH

If Naturalized, Date and Place

Elementary School—Dates and Places PRESENTATION CONVENT SEPT, 1938 to JUNE 1941
CHRISTIAN BROTHER'S SCHOOL SEPT, 1941 - JUNE 1948

High School—Dates and Places SEPTEMBER 1948 - JUNE 1953
ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE

College—Dates and Places

Seminary—Dates and Places SEPTEMBER 1953 to MAY 1959
ST. KIERAN'S SEMINARY

Post-Graduate Work—Dates and Places

Degrees—Dates and Places

Ordination Date and Place MAY 31, 1959, ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, KILKENNY IRELAND

Ordaining Prelate MOST REV. DR. DUNNE, DD

Ordained for what Diocese SAN DIEGO

If incardinated in San Diego, Date JUNE 1956

If not incardinated, Date of Arrival

What foreign languages can you speak? GALLIC

Name and address of nearest relative or friend MRS. W. MANLEY, 6418 CLAIRMONT AVE. SO. CHICAGO, ILL

State where last will and testament is filed CHANCERY OFFICE, SAN DIEGO (36)

List of ecclesiastical dignities and date of reception

State any special work or assignment and give dates

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000195

PERSONAL RECORD OF REV. PATRICK JOSEPH O'KEEFE

NAME IN FULL

In re FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

Have you contracted any funded debts such as bank loans? YES

If so, in what amount? \$ 2000.00

Do you owe any current accounts? yes

If so, in what amount? \$2000.00

List of Appointments since Ordination

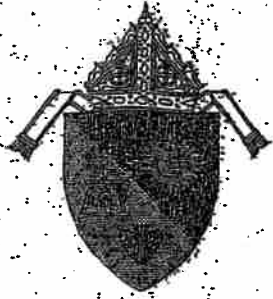
TOWN	PARISH	CAPACITY	DATES
CHULA VISTA	ST. ROSE OF LIMA	ASSISTANT	AUG. 1, 1959 - 1/31/61
SAN DIEGO	ST. JOHN	ASSISTANT	1/31/61 - 7/26/66
SAN DIEGO	Dioc. Dir. Pre-Sem Dept. Univ. High	In res. Univ. High St. Chas. Borromeo	7/26/66 - 7/10/69
SAN BERNARDINO	Aquinas High	Faculty	7/10/69 - 6/10/70
San Bernardino & Riverside Counties	Director Pre-Seminary Program In Res: St. Thomas More	Rialto	
CUCAMONGA	O.L. of Mt. Carmel	Pastor	7/8/70 - 7/1/71
HIGHLAND	St. Adelaide	Pastor	7/1/71 - 8/17/76
LOMA LINDA	St. Joseph the Worker	Pastor	8/17/76 - 7/1/77
ALTA LOMA	St. Peter & St. Paul	Pastor	7/1/77 - 7-1-83
Appointed Episcopal	Vicar for Ontario	Vicariate	7-26-82
San Bernardino	Diocese Office	Director of Seminarians and Vocations	7-1-83 to 6/30/90
Named Monsignor by	Bishop Phillip F.	Straling on November 6, 1988.	
Chino	St. Margaret Mary	Pastor	10/1/89 to
ESPERIA	HOLY FAMILY	ON LEAVE IN RES.	11/1/92
		RETIRED	7/1/94

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000196

Please type answers in full and return to the Chancery Office, Alcalá Park, San Diego 12, California.

Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL



May 30, 2002.

Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. O'Keeffe
 P.O. Box 7105
 Laguna Niguel, CA. 92607

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Monsignor O'Keeffe:

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.

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 an appropriate investigation into the facts and circumstances of this matter and the related question of your imputability in accord with the norms 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.

I kindly ask that you contact my office in order to present you with the testimony of the person who has lodged the complaint of sexual misconduct. You will be requested to provide a response to the testimony provided to you. 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,

Very Rev. Gerard M. Lopez
 Very Reverend Gerard M. Lopez, S.T.D.
 Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia

Sister Mary Frances Coleman
 Sister Mary Frances Coleman, RSM
 Chancellor

cc: Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes, DD
 Most Reverend Dennis P. O'Neil, DD
 Mrs. Martin Swanson (Chair, Diocesan Review Committee)

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000197

Diocese of San Bernardino

VICAR GENERAL

October 29, 2002

Reverend Msgr. Patrick O'Keeffe
20 Guildford Avenue
Sandymount
Dublin 4, IRELAND

Dear Monsignor O'Keeffe:

I am writing with respect to my previous communication to you dated May 30, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to amend and clarify the communication of May 30, 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 three of my correspondence of May 30, 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 three 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 Barnes 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.

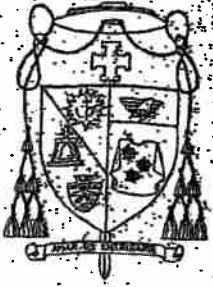
Sincerely in Our Lord

Very Rev. Sr. M. Lopez
Very Reverend Msgr. Gerard M. Lopez, S.M., V.G.
Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia

Sister Mary Frances Coleman
Sister Mary Frances Coleman, RSM
Chancellor

cc: Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes, DD
Most Reverend Dennis P. O'Neil, DD

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000198



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of San Bernardino

DECREE

On May 30, 2002, a prior investigation of a penal process was opened and undertaken to examine the allegations of sexual abuse of a minor, serious offenses against church law, committed by Reverend Monsignor Patrick Joseph O'Keeffe. After a careful examination of these activities and the question of imputability and on the basis of the proofs which have now been gathered, it is clear that a process for declaring a penalty should be set in motion. It likewise appears that such a process is expedient in light of canon 1341 in view of the fact that it has not been possible to effect a reform of Monsignor O'Keeffe and in view of the scandal and injustice which his actions have caused.

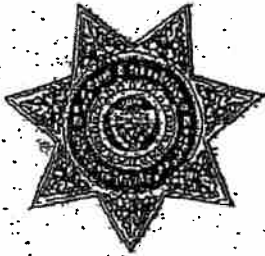
As required by canon 1718, I therefore decree that the prior investigation of this penal process be closed. I also decree on the basis of the proofs that have been gathered that the acts of this prior investigation be forwarded to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith according to the Apostolic Letter *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela*, Part II, Article XIII.

Given at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, San Bernardino, California on this the 14th day of the month of April in the year of our Lord 2003.

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes, DD
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Sister Mary Frances Coleman, RSM
Chancellor/Notary

O'Keeffe2-WOA 0000199



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DENNIS L. STOLT
District Attorney

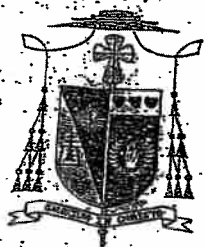
Contact person: Susan Mickey, Public Information Officer, 909-387-6856
Date: August 15, 2002

DA Files Charges Against Priest

San Bernardino, CA – The District Attorney's Office has filed 15 counts of felony oral copulation with a minor against Patrick O'Keefe. O'Keefe was a Catholic priest serving in St. Adelaide's parish in San Bernardino in 1972, when the incidents occurred. The victim, a 17-year-old female, was a member of the parish at the time.

Currently, O'Keefe's whereabouts are unknown. If any member of the public has information regarding his location, please call Sergeant Jack Trotter of the San Bernardino Sheriff's office at 909-387-3615.

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Diocese of San Bernardino
Office of the Bishop

April 27, 1994

Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. O'Keeffe
Holy Family Catholic Church
9974 11th Street
Hesperia, California 92345

Dear Monsignor Pat:

I am pleased that we had the opportunity to speak over the weekend while I was in Hesperia for the Confirmation at Holy Family Parish. I think that some things became clearer to me as to what is possible or not possible. I thought there would be some option from what you said in the past of receiving priestly employment in England or Ireland. I gather that this is not possible because of the same type of problem that we are having here in the states. Other than your being able to return to England or Ireland for vacations or special visits, there is no possibility of full time employment.

It is not possible for you to continue to work as a priest here in this diocese due to the reasons that you and I spoke of during our meeting. It is also not possible for you to go to another diocese because they too would run into the same problems that we have. The only option would be to seek and obtain a job in the secular world. This should be one that in no way would be associated with, or assist in, our ministry.

You are entitled to your priest pension benefits once you reach the age of 65. At that time, I would need a letter from you requesting retirement which I would then forward to the Postal Company authorizing payments. At that time, this would amount to \$1,200.00 per month for 30 years of service which you presently have. The question is what do we do between the present time and the official time of your retirement? We

Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. O'Keeffe
April 27, 1994

discussed the possibility of a leave of absence or early retirement. You are opposed to the idea of the leave of absence because of some of the connotations that would be attached to it. I have spoken to Monsignor Don Webber regarding granting you early retirement.

The question however is, your means of support as a retired priest until your formal pension would be available. I told you that in this time of transition, as we are doing with other priests who are in similar circumstances as yourself, I will certainly assist you during this time of transition. What I would like to ask you to do is in order to ensure you of adequate funds for this transition, that we would provide you with the current pastors salary and \$600.00 for your rent for the first six months. After that time, we would review with you, your financial condition and then make an arrangement for continuance, change or discontinuance of the stipend. What I envision is your good will in finding adequate employment that would pay your benefits until your pension is available. Once the pension benefits would become available, this could be additional funds to whatever other money you would be earning.

In granting you early retirement, you would not be allowed to do any priestly functions or ministry. I would not see this status from preventing you from saying a private Mass. This may be a little difficult for you to explain to other priests, who know that you are retired, but you would not have faculties to perform public services or ministries.

I am sorry that we must go to this extent of prohibiting your priestly ministry and service in the latter part of your life. However, I think we are both aware of the difficulties and problems that have arisen that make any public ministry or service impossible, at this time. If anything should change

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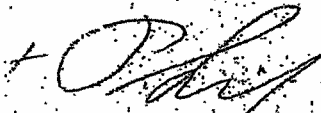
Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. O'Keefe
April 27, 1994

or other assurances be secured that would alter the situation,
I am always willing to review this matter.

I realize that this is a very hard decision that you must
make, but it is also a very hard for me to write this letter.
Know that I will assist you in every way possible, but we must
face the realities of our present situation.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Phillip F. Straling
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

PFS/jm



April 27, 1994