

December 7, 2002

^{nr 8267}
Ralph Bonaccorsi 312-751-8291
C/o The Office of Conciliation for the Archdiocese of Chicago
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, IL 60690

Dear Ralph,

We are writing regarding the phone conversation we had with you today concerning the status of Fr. Donald McGuire, a Jesuit priest in the Chicago area.

Our son, [REDACTED] served Fr. McGuire without pay as a personal assistant for over a year beginning in August 1999. He has been employed part time by the priest's organization, Mission FIDES, ever since.

Beginning in 1999, we were struck by the controlling heavy-handed influence Fr. McGuire had over our son. When our neighbors informed us of some improprieties Fr. McGuire had with their son, we immediately contacted the Jesuits. The Jesuits sent us a complaint form, which we completed and submitted along with our letters (from both families). Unfortunately, the Jesuits have not been forthcoming in addressing our formal complaint made on 10/27/2000. The last communication we received from the Jesuits in January 2001 requested that we trust them to act appropriately. We have not been informed of any conclusions derived from the Jesuits' own inquiry referenced in that letter.

Recently we received letters from Mission FIDES that have us wondering if some formal action had been undertaken with Fr. McGuire. A Thanksgiving mailing from Mission FIDES states, "Fr. McGuire's unfortunate leave of absence announced this fall forced the tragic cancellation of ten programs." Fr. McGuire also sent out a card where he expressed regret of his "time of exile from my beloved priesthood".

Late this afternoon, we were able to speak with Fr. Richard McGurn, Executive Assistant, Chicago Province, Society of Jesus. We asked him about Fr. McGuire's status in light of the Mission FIDES mailings. It is his understanding that Fr. McGuire and the Provincial are in the process of working out the details of reassignment. He said that the Provincial was taking Fr. McGuire out of his retreat ministry and that Mission FIDES needed to stay open only until April for tax purposes.

Fr. McGurn's statement contradicts the information in the Mission FIDES mailings. Fr. McGuire's Mission FIDES organization does not appear to be going out of business.

[REDACTED] and I would like you to help us find out what is really happening with this Fr. McGuire. As you can imagine, we have been unsatisfied with the request from the Jesuits to just "trust us". Our son [REDACTED] intends to work for Fr. McGuire again this Christmas break. We wish to give him counsel as to the appropriateness of his involvement with Fr. McGuire. Perhaps if we have the truth about the current standing of Fr. McGuire, we could

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persuade our son to disassociate himself from Fr. McGuire.

Any assistance that you could provide us would be immensely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Enclosures attached