

REV. JOSEPH SHARPE

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PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Vicar for Clergy Database

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

Rev Msgr Joseph Francis Sharpe*Current Primary Assignment*

<i>Birth Date</i>	4/16/1914	<i>Age:</i>
<i>Birth Place</i>	Denver, Denver, USA	<i>Deanery:</i>
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>		
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	4/27/1943	
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Archdiocese of Los Angeles	
<i>Date of Incardination</i>	4/27/1943	
<i>Religious Community</i>		
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin	
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Deceased	
<i>Canon State</i>	Diocesan Monsignor	<i>Incard Process</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>		
<i>Seminary</i>	Catholic University of America	
<i>Ethnicity</i>	American (USA)	

Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training

Date Background Check
Virtus Training Date

Assignment History

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Deceased, R.I.P. Files sent to archives on 10/04/2001.	11/2/1999	
Living Privately	12/2/1997	11/1/1999
Director, Active Service, of Tidings, 1977 and 1979. Dates not known.	1/1/1977	12/31/1979
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles Defender of the Bond, Active Service, Notary, Advocate and Defender of the Bond, Matrimonial Tribunal. End date not known	12/18/1973	12/31/1976
Santa Clara Catholic Church, Oxnard Pastor Emeritus, Retired	8/15/1973	11/1/1999
Santa Clara Catholic Church, Oxnard Pastor, Active Service	7/14/1964	8/14/1973
Domestic Prelate, Elevated	12/8/1961	11/2/1999
Christ the King Catholic Church, Los Angeles Resident, Resident, Administrator in absence of pastor	10/24/1960	7/13/1964
Superintendent, Active Service, Superintendent for High Schools and Colleges	2/9/1960	7/13/1964

Cathedral Chapel, Los Angeles Resident, Resident	2/9/1960	10/23/1960
Pius X-St. Matthias High School, Downey Resident, Resident	1/1/1955	2/8/1960
St. Emydius Catholic Church, Lynwood Resident, Resident, Pro tem. Exact end date not known	9/1/1953	12/31/1954
Pius X-St. Matthias High School, Downey Principal, Active Service	5/12/1953	2/8/1960
St. Timothy Catholic Church, Los Angeles Resident, Resident	9/1/1952	6/12/1953
Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service, Catholic Girls High School. Exact start date not known	9/1/1952	5/11/1953
Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service, Exact end date not known	7/16/1952	8/31/1952
Study Assignment, Catholic University, Washington D.C. Exact start date not known	12/2/1951	7/15/1952
Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Compton Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service, End date not known	5/21/1951	12/1/1951
Chaplain, Assigned outside the Archdiocese, Start and end dates not known	1/2/1949	12/31/1950
St. Agnes Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service, End date not known	7/2/1946	1/1/1949
Visitation Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	4/22/1946	7/1/1946
Chaplain, Assigned outside the Archdiocese, Start date not known	9/10/1944	4/21/1946
Transfiguration Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service, End date not known	3/21/1944	9/8/1944
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	5/4/1943	3/20/1944

Date 5-12-71

Dear Archbishop Manning:

I am writing this letter to you concerning a priest in the Archdiocese. But before coming to this decision, I consulted many hours with my spiritual director. He is REDACTED from St. John's Seminary. I believe that I have an obligation to write to you since I feel that this priest may be hurting someone else as he has hurt me.

First, may I tell you something about myself. My name is REDACTED I am 23, and belong to Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Port Hueneme. I am from a broken home. My mother REDACTED and my dad REDACTED. I have a sister and two brothers but I don't know my brothers since the family was broken up REDACTED. My sister and REDACTED

REDACTED We were brought up together. REDACTED Our REDACTED were good people, and although they meant well in everything they did, they were overly strict. As a result I was afraid of them and became very confused and unhappy.

In this state of fear and confusion I became very scrupulous. They made me feel so guilty about everything I did, I kept confessing the same things over and over again, but I never seemed to find peace.

When I was a junior in High School, I heard about general confessions. Trying again to find peace of mind, I asked one of the nuns to help me prepare for a general confession. She said she would but seeing that she was very busy, I decided to ask one of the priests of the parish. This is where I met Monsignor Sharpe. He was very kind and seemed interested in helping me. We talked and that evening I made my confession. The following couple of days I was up in the clouds with happiness. Because I was so grateful I thought I should thank REDACTED for his help and kindness.

That weekend I went to see him and he became very affectionate with me. At first I allowed him to express his affections but then I realized that it was wrong and I told him so. He answered that I didn't know the difference between what was sinful and what was not. I believed him and let everything pass.

I began to see him more often and as time passed our relationship became more and more serious. Deep down in my heart I knew our relationship was wrong and sinful, but I couldn't seem to stay away from him. My experience with him has caused me much unhappiness and guilt. I fully acknowledge my part of the guilt because I should have known better. I was a confused person but as I said deep down I knew having sexual relations outside of marriage was wrong, especially with a priest.

I never had any intention of revealing anything of this to you or to anyone, for I felt it was something I had to live with and do penance for. Now, however, I feel it should come to your attention since I recently found out, through my brother-in-law, that Msgr. Sharpe also had an improper relationship with my sister which has caused her much mental suffering. She doesn't know that I know this and neither she nor my brother-in-law

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know about my affair.

Bishop Manning, I feel that if he has done this before, he is capable of doing this again and hurting someone else. I endured five years of confusion and guilt while I knew him. I wouldn't want anyone else to go through this.

My intentions are not to hurt him but to help him if he needs help. I would be willing to speak to you personally, if you think it necessary. I have prayed that I would do the right thing and have sought the guidance of my spiritual director. I have given Father Goerge permission to speak to you concerning this case and to reveal any of our conversations in direction.

If you wish to communicate with me, please send any letter through REDACTED as I am presently living with my sister and brother-in-law and I do not want them to know what is going on.

I am very sorry to burden you with such a terrible cross. I will pray that you receive the grace to do the right thing.

Sincerely in Christ,

REDACTED

Confidential

May 9, 1973

YOUR EMINENCE

This date a conference was held with MONSIGNOR SHARPE.

The following was discussed:

- 1) Resignation from the pastorate of Santa Clara, Oxnard.
- 2) A grace period to repair damage and save face - Monsignor Sharpe proposed September 15, 1973 as a deadline (after the opening of school). I suggested that August 15, 1973, would be more acceptable.

The "contestatio litis" was what this date (August 15, 1973) meant:

- a) Msgr. Sharpe contended that it meant a date of "reevaluation of the entire situation" - he indicated that this was his impression from his conference with Your Eminence at the Seminary, May 8, 1973.
- b) I contended that it meant the physical departure of Msgr. as pastor of the parish. My impression from Your Eminence's phone call this morning was that there would be a "grace period" of a few months but that at the end of such period he would leave this pastorate.

After Monsignor had agreed to accept this proposal AT MY REQUEST, I asked if he would mind if Bishop Ward were to witness our agreement. He consented and the Bishop came in.

Monsignor Sharpe then indicated that he was doing this AT MY REQUEST - *i.e.* that his agreement was voluntary only inasmuch as I had requested it.

Other matters discussed were:

- a) Whether he would apply for another parish - YES
- b) Could he live with his sister in Oxnard consequent to August 15, 1973 until he would make application for another parish or other ministerial duties - YES
- c) Could he make application before this date for another assignment - YES

Monsignor Rawden

REDACTED

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