

MEMORANDUM

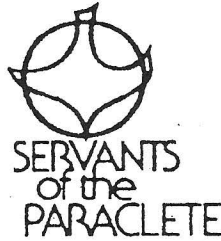
*F. Confidential
Michael Baker*

DATE: January 12, 1987 ✓
FROM: Monsignor Curry ✓
TO: Archbishop Mahony
RE: Father Mike Baker

I have been in touch with Mike several times since he left for Jemez Springs. At the beginning, he was most reluctant to even consider the possibility of his staying for the five-month program. However, at the end of last week he called me and was not only reconciled to staying but was quite agreeable to doing so. Apparently, after talking to one of the psychologists there he realized that in the eventuality of future legal action, his taking the program would certainly be an asset to him.

The evaluation concluded this past Friday, and it will take five to six days for it to be written up. He is staying there in the meantime, however.

*Thank - encouraging!
+ RAK
1-14-87*



Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 (505) 829-3586

January 23, 1987

Most Rev. Roger M. Mahony, D.D.
Archbishop of Los Angeles
1531 West 9th Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

Dear Archbishop Mahony:

I have enclosed the evaluation report that was done here for Father Michael Baker. I am sorry for the delay in getting this to you but I was vacationing during the first two weeks of January.

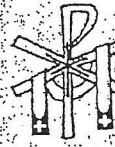
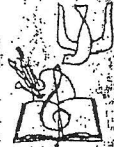
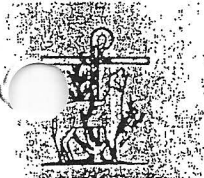
We have recommended that Father Baker remain here for the program that began on January 19. It was my understanding, after discussions with Msgr. Curry on the telephone, that this was your desire. Obviously, Father Baker has need of such a program. Also, I believe that it is best for him to be away from Los Angeles and California in case any legal proceedings are filed. Msgr. Curry and I both agreed on this assessment.

As I stated, Fr. Baker has begun the program and has been most honest and forthright in admitting his difficulties. I have hope that this program can be helpful to him. If you have any questions or observations concerning this report or our recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(Rev.) William D. Perri, s.p.
Director: Foundation House

cc: Rev. Michael Baker





OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

1531 WEST NINTH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194

February 25, 1987

Reverend Michael Baker
c/o Servants of the Paraclete
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Mike:

I am writing to assure you of my continuing prayers and interest in you and your progress, and I was pleased to receive the recent report from those involved in your care.

You have adjusted well to this important change in your life and ministry, and I know that you will find this overall experience not only an important personal challenge, but a whole new chapter for your priestly life.

You are remembered in my prayer in each day, and I continue to entrust you fully into the hands of our brother and savior, Jesus Christ. I am confident that your share in His priesthood will receive new vitality through this overall experience at Jemez Springs.

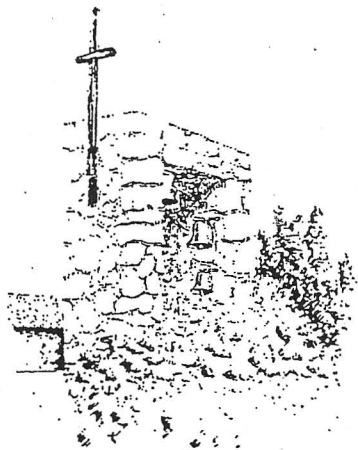
Please continue to entrust yourself fully into the hands of Mary, Queen of the Angels and Mother of Priests.

Assuring you of that daily remembrance and my own personal interest, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Roger Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

eb



St. Sebastian's Church

235 NORTH NINTH STREET
SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA 93060
TELEPHONE (805) 525-2149

May 22, 1987

Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Curry
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Dear Tom,

This is not going to be an easy letter to write. Before I get into the matter, I would like to assure you that the young man who just got out of jail has found a place to stay and has already lined up a full time job in a meat market plus a part time job helping a man remodel his home.

The reason for my writing at this time, however, is something which I discussed at great length with Fr. Charlie O'Gorman, who suggested that I write to you and also notify Bishop Ziemann of the problem. Since Mike and I have had a great deal of friction I had hesitated in bringing this up, wondering if it would just be mud slinging on my part. But since Charlie has made me aware of how sensitive the board is to matters of scandal involving priests in sex related issues, I feel that my silence can no longer be justified.

Before I begin, I want to affirm that no one, to my knowledge, has made any accusations. But the potential for danger appears to me to be very great.

When I came here, there was a king size bed in my bedroom. I used only half of it. Meanwhile, Mike was sleeping diagonally on a double size bed. I suggested that we switch beds, since I didn't need such a big bed and he could easily use one. So we switched beds on the Saturday after Easter. After we had moved his bed into my room, the housekeeper came in and told me that I should throw out that double size mattress and buy a new one. I asked her why, since it appeared all right to me. She then told me that two years ago Mike had a ten year old boy sleeping with him and the kid wet the bed and soaked the mattress. I saw no stain on it, so I have kept the mattress.

Just about a week ago, she again repeated her urging. I told her that I didn't see any reason to throw it out because it was only wet on once. She then said: "No, Father, it happened at least three times that I know of." She told me the boy had brought a sleeping bag with him, but it was never used and she would find the bed soaking wet.

I am pretty certain that this is the same boy that Mike took with him, just the two of them, in his house-trailer from April 20th to the 22nd, this year. He played golf here on the 22nd and then left again the next morning in his trailer with two other boys, who are brothers, ages 7 and 12. They too were gone for two days. Though I have no evidence that anything improper occurred, the whole situation seems extremely imprudent.

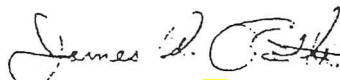
There is another aspect of his relationship with these boys that disturbs me, and that is the issue of firearms. About two weeks ago, the public school teacher of this seven year old child called on the phone, seeking advice. She was disturbed by the anger and hatred that this boy has exhibited in class, both in his conduct and in his written work. The child's father, an alcoholic, burned to death in a fire about three years ago. The child has never accepted it. What disturbed the teacher, among other things, was a story that the child wrote about shooting and killing a rattlesnake with a gun. He said that it made him feel good when he did that. The teacher was wondering if she should bring this matter up with the child's mother, since she knew there was already a lot of stress in the home. But the teacher also expressed astonishment that any adult would let a seven year old child, especially one that is so angry, shoot a gun.

It came as a shocker to me when I realized that Mike was the one she was talking about, even though she was unaware of it. Mike told me that they had killed a rattlesnake when they were away during Easter week, and he even showed me the snake's skin. I have trouble with the idea of priests teaching children to shoot guns, apart from the question of this particular child's emotional problems.

How much and how many people know about the matters I have related here I would have no way of knowing. Mike is still very much involved with the three boys mentioned above. I would judge that his association with them is rather widely known, since he usually schedules them to serve only at his Masses and he is very close friends with their families.

I have discussed this situation with Bishop Ziemann. He asked that I relay in this letter that he would like you to contact him about this matter as soon as possible. There are other details which he can relate to you, including names which I do not wish to put in writing.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. James A. Rothe

cc Bishop Patrick Ziemann
Rev. Charles O'Gorman

MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: June 22, 1987
FROM: Monsignor Curry
TO: Archbishop Mahony
RE: Rev. Michael Baker

Mike came in to see me last week and we discussed the Jemez Springs recommendations. I wish to check with the program to verify that they did not recommend his taking depro provera. Mike would also like me to check to see if he needs to return on July 19, as the purpose of that--according to him--is really just to review the contract, and I think that probably could be handled by phone or letter.

One other item that needs clarification is the recommendation that Mike continue in therapy with a qualified psychologist or psychiatrist. I see a difficulty here, in that if he were to mention his problem with child abuse it would put the therapist in the position of having to report him. I think we have to be very careful about whom he goes to see and what kind of information is released to the program. Given the fact that he cannot mention his past problem, the necessity to be so circumspect might defeat the purpose of his going to a therapist.

He is currently staying with Father Tim Dyer at St. Elisabeth in Van Nuys and plans to help out there during the summer with Masses and in visiting rest homes and hospitals. I did give him permission to be there while we are working on a position in ministry for him.

We talked about his possibly ministering in the following areas:

- 1) Matrimonial Tribunal - while he would definitely not like to work here full time, he would be open to part-time work. I see him possibly working particularly in counseling those whose marriages have broken up and before they engage in a new marriage.
- 2) Family Life/Marriage-Engaged Encounter - I can contact Jim Gehl to see if Mike could work in some of the Marriage Preparation programs, since they involve only adults.
- 3) Adult Education/Bible Study - I will contact the Religious Education Office to see if they could use him there.
- 4) Catholic Charities - Mike is interested in working with older people, and I plan to contact Father Cousineau to see if he could be used by the Commission on Aging in any way--or in any other area of this operation.

If you are agreeable to the above I will go ahead and make these contacts and then see if I can draw up some kind of job description that will still allow Mike to continue his follow-up program as outlined in the Jemez Springs report. I would also proceed to find a residence for him and to clarify with the pastor of that parish just what his status would be.

*Sounds good - please proceed!
Thanks, + RMc*

6-22-87