



RK 0001

Koerner, Robert (Rev.)

RK 0002

MEMO

October 30, 2002

Today I spoke to Bishop Robert Brom of San Diego. In response to his earlier call two days ago, I told him that in December of 1989, Richard Haslem, OMI, talked to a [redacted] in reference to the late Robert Koerner, OMI.

Robert was accused of molesting a number of young boys during his pastorate in Calipatria, CA. Richard spoke to [redacted] who brought the information forward. Then, Richard confronted Robert.

Robert resigned from the pastorate, and left the parish at the end of December, 1989, or early January, 1990.

Robert retired – first to Lafayette, CA and later to San Antonio.

Robert Koerner died in San Antonio in 1999.

Charles Banks, OMI

Chancery Office [San Diego, CA]

858-490-8200

RK 0003

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Paul Nourie, omi
Provincial

14065 Nordhoff Street
Arleta, CA 91331

tel. off. (818)891-0579
res. (818)891-0879
FAX: (818)893-9819

"leave nothing undared"

March 17, 1995

Rev. Robert Koerner, omi
Oblate Mission House
% 290 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Dear Bobby,

I have just received a call from Richard Haslam with the information from the hospital, indicating that you would be released on Friday, March 31, 1995. I am glad to hear that you are making sufficient progress to be able to be discharged.

As we spoke during my visit with you, we are very concerned that you receive adequate care once you leave the hospital. They are indicating to you and ourselves, that you will be needing daily care, something more than can be provided for you at our Crockett parish residence.

I and Richard have made an effort to inquire within the Bay Area and other California facilities for the care that the hospital team is indicating that you are in need of, and have found nothing that we deem adequate. After talking with members of the Provincial Council, I have come to the decision that the care facility that will best serve and respond to your medical needs as well as to your more personal needs, is our own health care facility in San Antonio.

This letter then, is to be received by you as your obedience to the Oblate Madonna House in San Antonio, Texas. I feel that they will be able to give you the personal daily care which you require. They will also be in a position to provide you with an environment where your Oblate heritage, values and awareness is known and respected, and provide you with the opportunity to meet and to interact with other Oblates, many previously known to you.

I have asked Richard Haslam to plan the help that you will need at the time of your release so as to be able to return to Crockett for any packing that you may need, and then to arrange for your travel with

RK 0004

someone to San Antonio. Richard will assist you with this so that you will be travelling no later than April 3rd or 4th, which is when the Oblates are expecting you in San Antonio. I am most appreciative of Father Richard's generosity and efforts in the making of these arrangements.

Bobby, I realize that this assignment/move is not an easy one for you. Nor is it an easy assignment letter for me to write to you, but I honestly feel that it is the one that is most caring and brotherly. I have known you now for over 30 years. I know and expect that you will once again respond in deep faith as a dedicated Oblate and religious, and see God's hand in this move, as you have responded previously in your more than 60 years of Oblate religious life. I thank you for that strong faith and life that you so express.

Bobby, know that you are very much remembered in my prayers and Eucharists. Please keep me and the many members and ministries of the province in your daily offerings and prayer life. This is a most precious role and ministry that you can offer and perform today for your brother Oblates. Thank you!

Caringly, your brother,

in the Lord and in Charles Eugene de Mazenod,

Paul Nourie,omi
Provincial

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate of Texas

Provincial Administration
Southern United States Province

7711 Madonna Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78216-6696

(210) 349-1475
Fax: (210) 349-7411

July 26, 1995

Very Reverend Paul Nourie, O.M.I.
Provincial, Western Province
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
14065 Nordhoff Street
Arleta, CA 91331

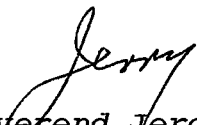
Dear Paul,

Gene asked me to assure you that we will be happy to maintain the present arrangement for Fathers and Koerner at Madonna Residence.

At any rate, the amount of money we have available for grants has become less and less each year, so that would not be an alternative. Therefore, things will remain the same as before.

With the assurance of my prayers and best wishes, I remain,

Fraternally yours,


Reverend Jerome Burnet, O.M.I.
Provincial Treasurer
Southern U. S. Province

xc: Very Rev. Eugene Cañas, OMI, Provincial, Southern U. S. Province.

JB/ig

RK 0006

COPY

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate of Texas

Provincial Administration
Southern United States Province

7711 Madonna Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78216-6696

(210) 349-1475
Fax: (210) 349-7411

LEO - please note - and so we' ll continue as we've been

July 26, 1995

doing and not
change -- we can
talk later about
it at Council or
on phone
Paul

Very Reverend Paul Nourie, O.M.I.
Provincial, Western Province
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
14065 Nordhoff Street
Arleta, CA 91331

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Fraternally yours,

Jerry
Reverend Jerome Burnet, O.M.I.
Provincial Treasurer
Southern U. S. Province

xc: Very Rev. Eugene Cañas, OMI, Provincial, Southern U. S. Province.

JB/ig

RK 0007



L. J. C. et M. I.

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

WESTERN U.S. PROVINCE
290 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, California 94610

Tel (510) 452-1550
Fax (510) 452-3421

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: March 8, 1995

TO: Oblate Provincial Office, San Antonio, Texas

ATTENTION OF : Rev. Charles Banks, OMI

NO. OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 0

MESSAGE/INSTRUCTION:

Dear Charlie:

Good talking with you yesterday. Bobby Koerner is going to a rehabilitation center today. He may be there for a few days and then we hope to make plans to have him go down there to Madonna Residence. We are most grateful that you can take him and I hope to be more precise with dates in a few days, Paul Nourie will come up at the week-end to talk with Bob about this move. It will take a little time to have him accept the change.

The book by _____ is

Harper San Francisco is the publisher and it came out in 1991.

If you don't have it locally I will be happy to bring you a copy in May ..or even earlier if I accompany Bob Koerner to San Antonio.

Take care. Best wishes to Gene and all there.

Richard

RK 0008



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

WESTERN U.S. PROVINCE
290 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, California 94610

Tel (510) 452-1550
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L. J. C. et M. I.

March 25, 1995

Health Care Coordinator
Madonna Residence
5722 Blanco Road,
San Antonio, TX 78216

This is to confirm that Fr. Robert Koerner, OMI, will be arriving in San Antonio..

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
DELTA FLT.# 1656 from Salt Lake City
at 8.00 PM

He will be accompanied by Fr. Ruben Martinez, OMI.

Again I want to thank you for all the help you have given in this arrangement to have Fr. Bob live there with the Oblate Retirement Community at San Antonio.

Look forward to seeing you early May when I hope to be in San Antonio for some meetings.

Gratefully,

Richard Haslam, omi
vicar provincial

cc: Fr. Charles Banks, OMI vicar provincial
Fr. Clifford Blackburn, OMI, director

RK 0009



Oblate Madonna Residence

5722 Blanco Road / San Antonio, Texas 78216 / 1-210-341-2350 / 1-210-341-5025

March 21, 1995

Rev. Richard Haslam, O.M.I.
290 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, Calif. 94610

Dear Dick,

Getting on committees and not having a secretary can have its drawbacks. Yet, I will do my best to keep up with the correspondence.

Thanks for your recent letter informing me about Koerner and his coming here. It's too bad he has had a setback, but from what you say it's not too serious at this point in time. We will welcome him whenever he comes. You mentioned April 3 or 4. At that very time we will also be getting from New Orleans. He also is 82.

I also received the tape on "Aging". Thanks again. There are a lot of good ideas in it. It will take another listening to fully grasp them all. I hope by the time I retire I will have all the answers.

I have noted the time of your coming to San Antonio. I will be in touch with Charlie Banks to work out accommodations. We will be happy to meet you at the airport.

is doing well. He is a delightful man. Everyone here has helped him to adjust and seems to be getting along fine. He's never lost for an answer -- really sharp on the comeback. It's got to be his Irish wit.

I hope I'm not leaving anything out. Keep in touch and we'll get all the aging problems cleared up by the turn of the century!

Sincerely and fraternally in Christ,

Cliff O.M.I.
Cliff Blackburn, O.M.I.



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

WESTERN U.S. PROVINCE
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L. J. C. et M. I.

March 20, 1995

Rev. Clifford Blackburn, OMI
Madonna Residence
5722 Blanco Road
San Antonio, TX 78216

Dear Cliff:

Hope things go well with you. Am on the wire again about arrangements for Fr. Robert Koerner, OMI, to join you there.

Just came back from a long session at Alta Bates Hospital, Berkeley, with _____ M.D., the physician in charge and _____ the Patient Care Coordinator.

I have given the latter the name and phone of _____ she will contact _____ about the facilities there in San Antonio.

_____ would like to have the name and phone number of the doctor who will be the attending physician for Fr. Koerner. It appears Dr. _____ can only supply drugs for three days so wishes to have Fr. Bob seen by a physician as soon as he arrives.

Please FAX the name and number of this San Antonio doctor to me (510)-452-3421.

It is also Dr. _____ advice that Fr. Bob go straight from the hospital here to San Antonio. We agreed that for all concerned this was best done on Thursday, March 30.

I have asked Fr. Ruben Martinez, OMI, to accompany Fr. Koerner to San Antonio. He studied there and remembers you. It would be nice for him to have this opportunity to stay over a few days and visit old memories, etc., so I hope you could arrange some accomodatiuon for him through Monday morning, April 3.

If these arrangements are feasible, please let me know and I shall arrange air travel and let you have the times, etc.

Again my sincere thanks to you and to the Province.

Fraternally,

Richard Haslam, omi
vicar provincial

cc: Fr. Charles Banks, OMI

RK 0011



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

WESTERN U.S. PROVINCE
290 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, California 94610

Tel (510) 452-1550
Fax (510) 452-3421

L. J. C. et M. I.

March 22, 1995

Patient Care Coordinator
Rehabilitation Center
Alta Bates Medical Center
Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Just a note to follow up on the meeting I had with you and Dr. MacKinnon last Monday around the future placement of Fr. Robert Koerner, OMI.

Dr. _____ had asked for the name of the primary physician who will be attending Fr. Koerner in San Antonio.

The physician will be

Our care center there has already scheduled an appointment for Fr. Koerner on Friday, March 31.

I have left a message on your voice mail, confirming that Fr. Ruben Martinez, who will travel with Fr. Koerner to San Antonio, will be available at Herrick next Tuesday, March 28, from 10.00 am to 1.00 p.m. to get various instructions to facilitate that journey.

The flight to San Antonio has been arranged for Thursday, March 30. It will leave Oakland at 12.50 pm. Fr. Koerner's neice, Fr. Martinez and myself will get to the hospital around 10.30 am. that morning. I hope you can arrange to have Fr. Koerner ready around that time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your great concern for Fr. Koerner, his welfare and his future. Please also convey my thanks to _____ The patients there are blessed to have such a caring presence.

Sincerely

Richard Haslam, omi
vicar provincial

RK 0012



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

WESTERN U.S. PROVINCE
290 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, California 94610

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L. J. C. et M. I.

March 17, 1995

COPY

Rev. Clifford Blackburn, OMI
Oblate Madonna Residence
5722 Blanco Road
San Antonio, TX 78216-6615

Dear Cliff:

Hope this note finds you in good health and spirits. You sure have taken on quite a lot of work between the hospital chaplaincy and the job as director of Madonna Residence. Don't overdo it!

I just want to follow up on your kind offer and that of the Province to accept Fr. Robert Koerner, OMI, into your community. Bobby will be 83 come September. He was a pastor in Calipatria for many years, coming into retirement in 1989. He had been residing at our parish in Crockett, about 20 miles north of here.

A few weeks ago he had a small stroke..embolism in the brain stem. There was little damage. He is doing some speech therapy ay Alta Bates Rehab. Center and also some walking exercises to strengthen his legs. He is ambulatory, able to take his own meals and take care of basic necessities. He may need a little help to get him up and to bed and also to make sure he takes medication.

The Rehab. Center has informed me yesterday that they will release him March 31 and that he is fit to travel. Afetr further consultation with them on Monday next, I should have a date for travel to San Antonio. It will probably be April 3 or 4. I will have Fr. Ruben Martinez, OMI, accompany Bobby. Is that timing o.k. with you?

Yesterday I talked with _____ there. The Rehab. people here will be in touch with her about needs, etc. and then to forward the required records/reports.

Am attaching a separate note on my trip to San Antonio May 6-10.

Thank you for all your help in this.
Fraternally,

Richard Haslam, omi
vicar provincial/secretary

RK 0013

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Paul Nourie, omi
Provincial
290 Lenox Avenue
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COPY
"leave nothing undared"

tel. off. (510)452-1550
res. (510)655-9210
per. (510)653-2849
fax. (510)452-3421

December 16, 1993

Rev. Robert S. Koener, omi
Mount Mary Immaculate
3254 Gloria Terrace
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Bobby,

Just a short word with my Christmas card to say hello, and to also make official, your upcoming change in residence. I recognize that you have found yourself to be at home with Leo Dummer and those at the Mount. I wish that a change was not necessary but the situation in the province with personnel and finances necessitates that we proceed as we have begun to do so. I appreciate your cooperation in this aspect that is affecting you personally.

I have talked with Ciaran Dillon, omi, pastor at St. Rose in Crockett, and he is open to welcoming you there. From my past observations, I have sensed that you are comfortable with Ciaran and he with you. In talking with Leo and reviewing the necessary arrangements with the group who is taking over the Mount, January 3rd or 4th would be good days for you to move from the Mount. Leo and Ciaran will work out the practicalities of the move.

And so, Bobby, see this letter as your official assignment to move to Crockett. It is a very comfortable home. The facilities have no stairs, the people are warm and welcoming, etc. I would expect that you would enjoy such an environment. What the future hold regarding your length of stay in Crockett, depends very much on what changes and progress we can make on our facilities here at the provincial house/offices. Whenever this situation is clarified and completed, we will review your arrangements, and see what, if any, changes would be in order so as to accommodate you and all involved.

Do take care; have good Holidays, and God Bless!

Your brother in the Lord and in Charles Eugene,

Paul Nourie, omi
Provincial

cc: Leo Dummer, omi
Ciaran Dillon, omi

RK 0014

REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION MADE AROUND POSSIBLE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ON THE PART OF A MEMBER OF THE OBLATE FATHERS WESTERN U.S. PROVINCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

At the request of the Provincial of the Western U.S. Province and consequent on a report made to him by Fr. Frank Wagner, O.M.I. pastor at Sacred Heart Church, Brawley, California, I interviewed a _____ at Sacred Heart Rectory, Sunday afternoon December 10, 1989, from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

This _____ is the same person whose report to Fr. F. Wagner in August of 1989 led to my first interview with the Oblate against whom sexual misconduct is alleged.

(cf. my report of August 23, 1989)

_____ shared with me information he received about sexual misconduct on the part of the pastor at Calipatria, California, Fr. Robert Koerner, OMI, with several young men and boys over a period of time from 1977 to 1984. Three of these persons spoke to him directly; information about two others came from their parents.

_____ had no explicit details of the alleged misconduct. Those who spoke to him mentioned fondling and kissing and indicated that the alleged behavior was sexually inappropriate ; they were reluctant to go into any further details. Two of the young men are willing to speak with a priest about the matter; a third told _____ that his mother instructed him to 'forgive and forget.'

It appears that all those involved were from families close to the pastor and both friendly and supportive of him over the twenty plus years he has been pastor at Calipatria.

The aunt of one of the young men who spoke to Mr. Barros also spoke to Fr. Wagner about Fr. Koerner's sexual misconduct with her nephew: her main worry and concern was, according to Fr. Wagner, that people would not react angrily against Fr. Koerner.

_____ informed me that he felt some of those involved might need some counselling; the father of one, whose son was married and is now divorced, is inclined to place some of the blame for the failure of his son's marriage on the previous experience he had of sexual harassment by Fr. Koerner.

_____ also told me that no one at this time of those involved is contemplating any action, legal or otherwise, against Fr. Koerner: what they want is that he be replaced.

On Monday morning December 11, 1989, I met with Fr. Koerner from 9.45 am till 11.00 a.m. His first greeting was " Do you have another problem?" Initially in our interview he dismissed the whole matter as another mischevious attempt to discredit him and get him removed. When I pointed out that several people were now alleging misconduct of a sexual nature on his part with them, his manner became both cavalier and evasive .

To me Fr.Koerner did not appear to evidence appreciation of the serious nature of the allegations made against him or possible consequences.

He did admit to me fondling and kissing young boys and girls, insisting that mexican people are very affectionate and very demonstrative in their feelings. When I asked him if he recalled touching any of these young men genitally he replied " it could have been so", but apparently he could see no wrong in that.

Consistently he kept asking " Why are they bringing these things up now? Why did they wait so long?". "They are trying to have me removed."

I tried to suggest that the reluctance of those involved or their families to take any action previously came most likely from their respect for the priesthood and from their personal esteem for him.

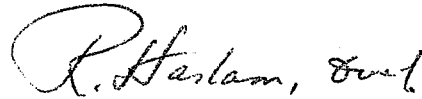
I also told him that the person who was reporting these matters explained to me that, at this time, no one of those involved wished to take any action against him. All they wanted was that the matter be resolved by him being replaced. I felt this approach was very considerate in the circumstances and told him that I could not say what might happen if he insisted in remaining on as pastor.

At first he maintained they would take no action if he stayed. Later he agreed to submit his resignation to the Provincial by the end of December.

Sadly, throughout our whole dialogue I experienced only self-pity on the part of Fr,Koerner and the feeling he was being victimized. Yet, he did not deny the allegations as they stood.

I can only hope he will appreciate the sensitivity expressed by that the matter be known to as few people as possible and that he will see the value of submitting his resignation as pastor and being able to leave with dignity and grace.

December 12, 1989



Richard Haslam, O.M.I.

REPORT ON AN ENQUIRY MADE INTO A REPORT OF POSSIBLE SEXUAL MISBEHAVIOR
ON THE PART OF AN OBLATE MEMBER OF THE WESTERN U.S. PROVINCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

Prologue:

At the request of the Provincial, V.Rev.Andrew Harris,O.M.I. I visited, as a member of the Provincial Council, Robert Koerner,O.M.I. on the morning of August 21, 1989.

Fr. Koerner, aged 76, is pastor of Calipatria, California. He has been pastor there since 1963. The purpose of my visit was to invite Fr.Koerner to respond to certain statements that had been made about him by a parishioner, implying possible sexual misbehavior with a young man or men.

This parishioner made these statments to Fr.Frank Wagner,O.M.I. on Wednesday,August 16, 1989. The setting or occasion is important. Fr.Wagner, pastor at Sacred Heart, Brawley, California, about 10 miles from Calipatria, was counselling this parishioner, in reference to the sexual abuse of a boy of about 11 years of age and a pupil in Sacred Heart parochial school. The abuse had been perpetrated by a parishioner of Sacred Heart parish,

After the counselling session asked to speak alone with Fr. Wagner. He told Fr.Wagner he was impressed with his caring for and his concern about what had happened. This prompted him to mention something that he saw about four to five years ago.

One evening,in Calipatria, had occasion to go to the rectory of St.Patrick's parish to look for a young man ; he had been told at this young man's house that he could be found at the rectory. Coming to the rectory he says he saw, in silhouette (as it was dark) Fr.Koerner kissing this young man.On another occasion, also about five years ago, he saw Fr.Koerner place his hand on a young man' s thigh. He felt he should mention these matters now to Fr.Wagner.

Process:

Fr. Wagner felt the obligation to report what had told to the Provincial; the Provincial invited me to ask Fr.Koerner to respond to this matter.

I spoke with Fr.Wagner in the afternoon of August 20, 1989 and he told me what had related to him.

At the outset of my visit with Fr.Koerner I explained the obligation of the Provincial to follow up this matter as reported to him by Fr.Wagner. I assured him that our concern was to help him should there be any substance to these reports; I also expressed regret for any pain that might be caused by having to speak with him about such allegations.

Fr.Koerner told me that there was no issue around sexual misbehavior in his life. He explained that the Mexican people were affectionate and that at times they spontaneously embraced one and even kissed one.But these were mere expressions of affection and estimation. On his part he assured me there was not nor ever has been any seeking of sexual

Report on visit to Fr.R.Koerner,O.M.I. (CONFIDENTIAL)

gratification from such encounters and that he was not aware of any sexual misbehavior on his part. He felt saddened that any actions of his might have been interpreted as such, commenting that at times Mexican people can read sexual connotations into such behavior to justify sexual misconduct of their own.

In his 26 years as pastor at St.Patrick's he has never had any complaint about him made to the Diocese or coming from the Diocese of San Diego.

He asked me to assure the Provincial that there was no ground for worry in this matter of suggested sexual misconduct.

Conclusion:

I am satisfied that Fr.Koerner gave me positive and truthful responses to my queries about the statements of

I also feel the 'incidents' mentioned by to Fr.Wagner are very vague and too general to draw any conclusions about sexual misconduct. Also they happened four to five years ago. I feel that the stress occasioned by what had happened to not only occasioned his felt need to mention what he observed about Fr.Koerner but also,perhaps, colored his view that such actions may have been sexually inappropriate.

Signed: Richard Haslam August 23, 1989



L. J. C. et M. I.

OBLATE FATHERS

WESTERN PROVINCE
290 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, California 94610

452-1550

MEMORANDUM

To: Richard Haslam, O.M.I.
From: Andrew Harris, O.M.I. Provincial
Re: Visitation/Investigation
Date: December 8, 1989

- * Contact _____ by phone
Phone (_____)
Arrange for an appointment with him.
- * Arrange for an appointment with
 - Rev. Robert Koerner, O.M.I.
 - Rev. Frank Wagner, O.M.I.
- * Make a report to the Provincial.

RK 0019



L. J. C. et M. I.

OBLATE FATHERS

WESTERN PROVINCE
290 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, California 94610

452-1550

MEMORANDUM

Re: Allegation of Sexual Abuse
Date: December 2, 1989

* At about 12.40 p.m. Fr. Frank Wagner, O.M.I., contacted the Provincial, Andrew Harris, O.M.I., by telephone, informing the Provincial that [redacted] Calipatria, had contacted Fr. Wagner regarding reports of possible sexual misconduct by Fr. Robert Koerner, O.M.I., with some members of the parish community.

* At about 1.50 p.m. Fr. Harris made a phone call to [redacted] answered the phone and informed Fr. Harris that [redacted] had left for work. Fr. Harris requested [redacted] to contact [redacted] and request [redacted] to contact Fr. Harris at his convenience at ph. (415) 452-1550.

* At 3.05 p.m. [redacted] called. Fr. Harris informed him that an appointment will be set up with him.

*

RK 0020