

June 30, 1961

His Excellency
The Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

PERSONAL.

Most Reverend and dear Bishop:

I am glad to have Your Excellency's confirming and clarifying letter in re J. T. S. To speak with simplicity, my opinion remains the same, viz. to remain at Via Coeli for life or else to be laicised. However, after having Father in residence here, I would like to add these comments:

1. Father has conformed perfectly to our community way of life since arriving. However, to be realistic, I think that he would hardly be able to remain contented here. He wants activation. And, what is quite disturbing in his and similar cases, there seems to be a generic lack of comprehension of the damage done by his past.

2. The main reason why I personally have hesitated to recommend laicisation in these cases has been because Mother Church, in Her present discipline, leaves these men in the world but still under the obligation of celibacy. To me, and I think to a great many other priests, it seems like telling a man to go to hell to expect him to observe priestly chastity in the world when he obviously is not capable of observing it. I feel that these men should be laicised, but I do wish that this laicisation would leave open for them a plank on which to walk towards salvation, the prospect of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

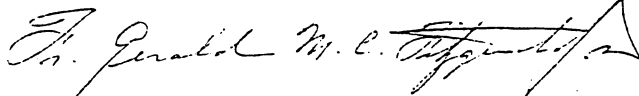
I am in hopes that this matter will be given serious consideration by the proper committee in the Ecumenical Council. My argument would run thus: obviously this priest has not the capacity for priestly chastity. Therefore, not

because he wishes it but to protect the good name of the Church, he should be reduced involuntarily to the lay state with the liberty of a layman to contract honest matrimony. The reduction would be the penalty, protecting the honor of the Church. The relaxation would be in view of the salvation of the individual soul. Our Lord said "Let him take it who can" when referring to the celibate life.

Obviously in a case like that of J. T. S., this individual has de facto assumed a burden he is in no way capable of carrying. The reduction to the lay state would exercise mercy to the Church by removing scandal and mercy to the individual by opening up to him a way of life more within his capacities.

In what I have written above, I do not wish to be understood as reluctant to accept the final decision of Mother Church. Whatever She decides I, please God, will always accept with obedience and alacrity.

Most cordially in Spiritu,



Servant General

P. S.: I will write to Your Excellency about the case of Father John Davy under separate cover. *Good bet in a gambler's world!*

J. T. Sullivan
6031

September 18, 1961

Father Gerald of the Holy Spirit,
Servant General
Via Coeli
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Dear Father Gerald:

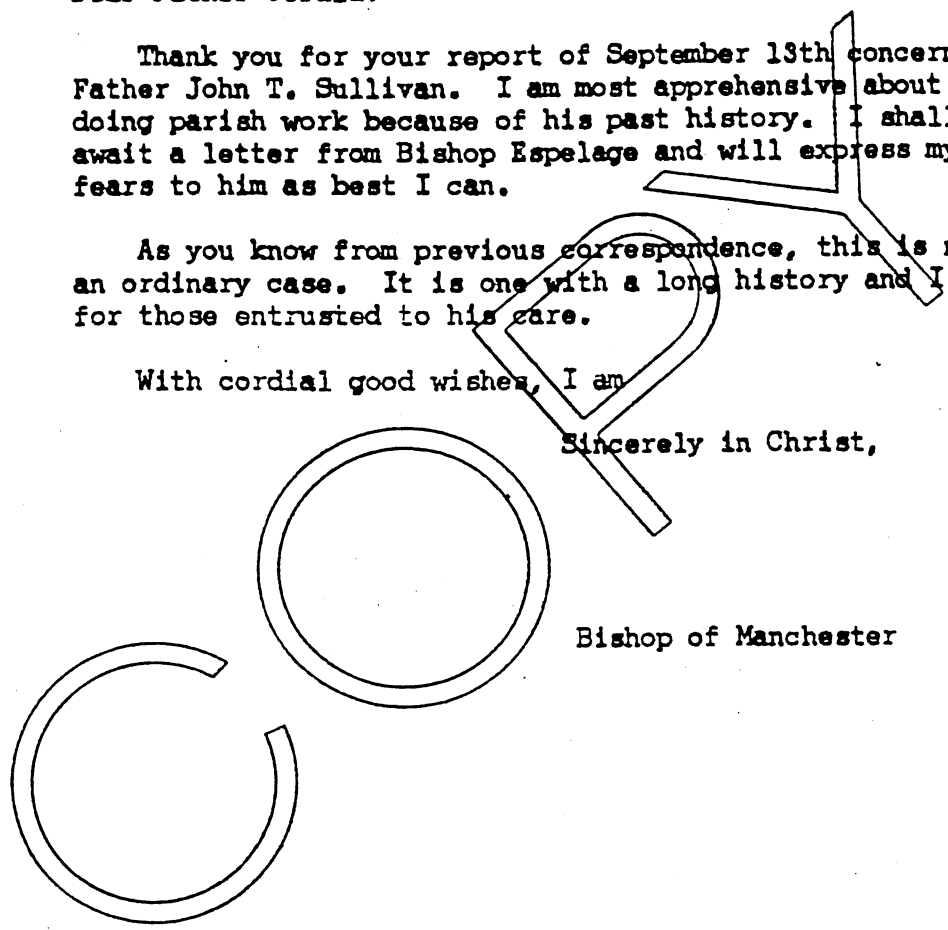
Thank you for your report of September 13th concerning Father John T. Sullivan. I am most apprehensive about his doing parish work because of his past history. I shall await a letter from Bishop Espelage and will express my fears to him as best I can.

As you know from previous correspondence, this is not an ordinary case. It is one with a long history and I fear for those entrusted to his care.

With cordial good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



Via Coeli

MONASTERY OF THE SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

6032

o OF THE SERVANT GENERAL

Jemez Springs, New Mexico

September 13, 1961

His Excellency
The Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

RE: FATHER JOHN SULLIVAN

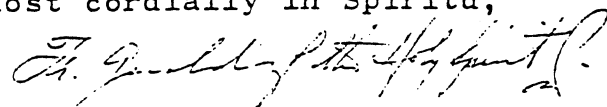
Most Reverend and dear Bishop:

Knowing that Your Excellency has been away, we postponed a report on your padres who are with us. For the sake of proper filing, we will make these reports separately.

Some time ago, and in answer to an appeal from the Chancery of Gallup, N.M. for the temporary replacement of a sick priest, we permitted Father JOHN SULLIVAN to go there during the emergency. When I called Bishop Espelage this morning suggesting that Your Excellency would not wish Father John to be away from here indefinitely, the good Bishop assured me that he hoped to keep him as he was doing a fine job and was very much liked by the poor Mexican people among whom he was working.

Under the circumstances there was nothing for me to do except to suggest to Bishop Espelage that he write to Your Excellency and take the matter up with you.

Most cordially in Spiritu,



Servant General

October 16, 1961

His Excellency
Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M., D.D.
Bishop of Gallup
P. O. Box 110
Gallup, New Mexico

Dear Bishop Espelage:

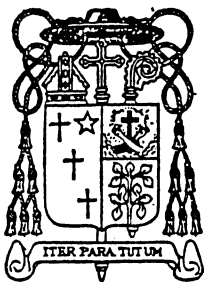
Thank you for your good letter of September 27th which arrived during my absence in Rome. It had to do with Father John T. Sullivan of this diocese currently in residence at Via Coeli in Jemez Springs, N. M.

I believe that Father Gerald has given you full information concerning this priest. I have not the least confidence that he will be able to live up to his good intentions. He has made a good initial impression upon every Bishop he has contacted but has failed to live up to it. Frankly, I am very much concerned about him and the scandal which he has caused and may cause. I cannot assume responsibility for any which may result from your assignment of him to parish work in your diocese. If you find it absolutely necessary to make use of his services, I caution you to be most watchful over him, especially as regards young women and teen-age girls.

With cordial good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



BISHOP'S RESIDENCE

P. O. BOX 110
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

September 27, 1961.

Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, D.D.,
Bishop of Manchester,
657 River Road,
Manchester, New Hampshire.

Dear Bishop Primeau:-

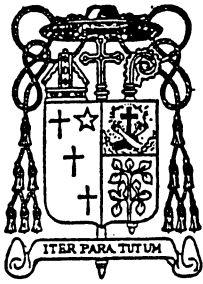
I have just had a good talk with Father Sullivan, a priest of your diocese, who ~~was~~ was at Via Coeli and is now substituting for the pastor at Madre de Dios parish at Winslow, Arizona. Father Sullivan made a good impression on me as well as on the other pastor at St. Joseph Winslow. I asked him very bluntly about his failing, and he assured me that is all behind him, and with God's help will be able to keep it so. He said that he has had no difficulty in this regard, *since he is in Wins* Fr. Vosst, the pastor of the other parish, gives me a good report on him and says that he is doing very good work in the parish. He goes to this other parish every morning and visits with the priests there for about half an hour. Every Sunday he takes supper there. If there should have been any kind of lapse with the priests or I certainly should have heard of it.

Father Sullivan is doing very excellent work in the parish there. For this reason may I request that you grant permission for Fr. Sullivan to continue his work there. How long I will need the services of Fr. Sullivan I do not know, as the pastor there is sick in St. Louis and his doctor wants him near him so that he can keep a close check on his patient. I would very much appreciate your granting this request to help me out of this difficulty.

Thanking you for any consideration of this request and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Bernard J. Espelage *BPM*
Bishop of Gallup.



BISHOP'S RESIDENCE

P. O. BOX 110

GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

6035

September 23, 1961.

Very Rev. Gerald FitzGerald, s.P.
Servant General,
Via Coeli,
Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

Very Rev. and dear Father:-

Thanks for your letter from the
Bishop of Manchester in regard to Father Sullivan.

So far no report of any lapse
in his difficulty has reached our office. In fact, all the
reports we get are very good in regard to his work. It
seems that he sees Father Vost, pastor of St. Joseph Church,
Winslow, very often and he speaks very highly of him and
his work.

Father Sullivan has asked per-
mission to go to Via Coeli to get some of his winter ~~thin~~
clothing. He will go next week, perhaps on Tuesday, and
on his way back he will stop off here on Wednesday.
When here, I will speak to him about this work etc. and
also talk to him about his trouble etc. I will come
directly to the point about his past. If everything seems
allright I will write to Bishop Primeau and tell him all
and then ask permission for him to remain in Winslow, at
least until I can make other arrangements. I trust that
this will be agreeable with you.

With every good wish and praying
God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Bernard J. Espelage *BM*
Bishop of Gallup.

Immaculate Conception Rectory

P. O. Box 995

Cottonwood, Arizona

Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, S.T.D.
 145 Lowell Street
 Chancery Office
 Manchester, N. H.

A few days ago, His Excellency, Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M., visited Cottonwood. During our conversation, the subject of incardination was discussed. On many occasions Bishop Espelage has indicated his satisfaction with both my work and conduct during the past three and a half years. Relative to the possibility of incardination into this diocese, he directed me to initiate such by making formal application to you submitting my intentions and to state that "I expressed my willingness to incardinate you into the diocese of Gallup."

Consequently, I do humbly submit to you my desire to be excardinated from the diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, and to be incardinated into the diocese of Gallup, New Mexico.

His Excellency, Bishop Espelage, has asked me to have you direct your communication to him in answer to this request. It will be upon hearing from you that Bishop Espelage will inform me as to whether or not you approve of my request.

Prayerfully looking forward to a favorable decision on the part of Your Excellency I remain,

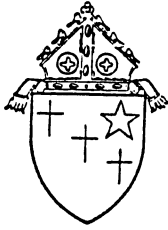
Obediently yours in Christ,

(Rev) J. T. Sullivan

(Rev.) J. T. Sullivan

Dec. 7
 1964

J. T. Sullivan
6037



THE DIOCESE OF GALLUP
Chancery Office
P. O. Box 110
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

January 25, 1963

Rt. Rev. Thomas S. Hansberry,
Chancellor,
145 Lowell Street,
Manchester, N.H.

Dear Monsignor Hansberry:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of inquiry concerning Rev. John T. Sullivan of your diocese who is presently serving in the Diocese of Gallup.

Father Sullivan is in charge of St. Francis parish in Seligman, Arizona. During the year previous to this assignment, he has served the Diocese faithfully and well at Madre de Dios in Winslow, Arizona. Thus far, Father has been quite conscientious in his work and has done well in his two assignments.

Trusting that this will be of some assistance, and with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dunstan Schmidlin, O.F.M.
Dunstan Schmidlin, O.F.M.
Chancellor

P.S. - As far as we know, there has been no relapse of Father's difficulty nor have we received any complaints.

fr. Dunstan, O.F.M.

January 21, 1963

Rev. Dustan C. Schmidlin, O.F.M., J.C.L.
Chancellor, Diocese of Gallup
Chancery Office
406 W. Aztec Street, P. O. Box 110
Gallup, New Mexico

Re: Rev. John T. Sullivan

Dear Father Schmidlin:

It is our understanding that Rev. John T. Sullivan of this diocese is presently serving in the Diocese of Gallup. The Most Reverend Bishop has directed me to request a report upon his work and conduct. This is merely for our records, as we have no intention of calling him back to Manchester.

With cordial good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Thomas S. Hansberry,
Chancellor

*Transcript prepared
and filed*

R.B.
S. memo to
J. Sullivan

also
As I does well but perhaps is better here than would be our in dream pastor
J. Sullivan!

MADRE DE DIOS CHURCH
P. O. BOX 441
WINSLOW, ARIZONA

6033

Very Rev. Gerald Fitzgerald, s. P.
Superior-General
Via Caeli Monastery
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

My dear Father Fitzgerald:

So very grateful to you for sending Father Messier to Madre de Dios. It was for some time that I longed to return home to see my good mother and it pleased me so much and needless to say it gave her great joy and happiness. To see her was so nice - to see her growing old so very graciously and sweetly, but more important to see her growing in sanctity at the same time not that I expected it otherwise. I managed to make three trips to Randolph and enjoyed a few meals with the Fathers there. It certainly is a wonderful place to 'stop off' and to be sincerely welcomed. Everyone was fine with the exception of Tom Hayden who was nursing a cold after his long trip - but I did have a nice hour visit with him in his room.

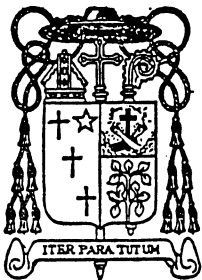
Father, upon applying for faculties for Fr. Messier the Bishop in granting them mentioned in his letter to me that he would "be most anxious to learn how Father Messier made out during my absence." Therefore, immediately upon returning I wrote to the good Bishop and recommended Fr. Messier to him. He was most attention to all things - very faithful - and carried out all parish activities with promptness and excellent decorum. The people were very pleased with him and he did a wonderful piece of work. Presently, Father Messier is at St. Joe's (Winslow) as Fr. Vorst has not yet returned. In the meantime, we are praying that the good Bishop will drop a line to either of us and that it will be an opening for Fr. Messier. I do hope so as he certainly well adjusted himself to Madre de Dios. Possibly by the end of this week word might reach us from Gallup. Before leaving for home, it was said that the Bishop was badly in need of a priest. Whether or not that void has since been filled I have not yet heard. If not, it could be an opportunity for Mr. Messier.

It is so nice to be back at Madre de Dios and to be working. Much lies ahead. A semblance of a rectory is to be built this spring as directed by the Bishop. I am sure that the good people here will give of what they can and the rest will be given in free labor. So, with God's help and the wonderful support of these poor people maybe something can be put up so that I will have a place to keep my extra pair of shoes.

Again, Father, ever so many many thanks for all things. Each day you and all the Fathers at the Canyon are thought of and are in my Mass, too. Kindly regards to all and warmest regards and much affection for you I remain,

Gratefully yours in Christ,

J. T. Sullivan



BISHOP'S RESIDENCE

P. O. BOX 110

GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

November 14, 1961.

Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, D.D.,
Bishop of Manchester,
657 River Road,
Manchester, New Hampshire.

Dear Bishop Primeau:-

Your good letter of October 15th has been received in regard to Father John T. Sullivan.

Yesterday I had a good talk with Fr. Sullivan after he read the letter you sent to me. I asked him about his difficulty and he told me that he has had no lapses since he is at Winslow, Arizona at Madre de Dios parish. He is keeping himself very busy which may be the reason for this. I told him that I wanted to help him in every way to overcome his trouble. I also asked that he write me every two or three weeks and let me know just how things are. However, I told him that I wanted him to tell me the truth. If he did not, and something should happen, I would very soon find out about it, so he may just as well give me the truth. I spoke to him about your concern about his giving scandal, and he realizes this very much and assured me that he would do everything to avoid this. Under these conditions I told him that he continue to work in the diocese.

Let us hope that now all will go allright and he may continue to work here.

With every good wish and kind regards,

I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bernard J. Espeloy

Bishop of Gallup.

John T. Sullivan

6041

December 29, 1964

Rev. John T. Sullivan
Immaculate Conception Rectory
P. O. Box 995
Cottonwood, Arizona

Dear Father Sullivan:

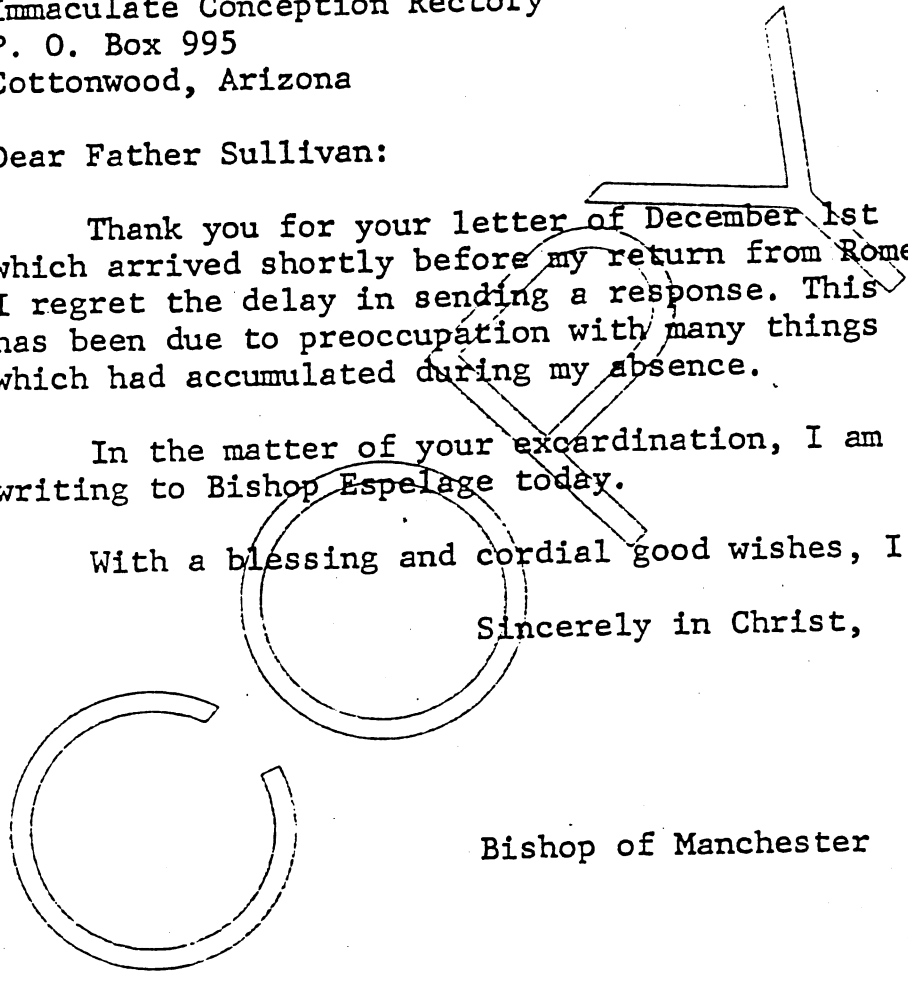
Thank you for your letter of December 1st which arrived shortly before my return from Rome. I regret the delay in sending a response. This has been due to preoccupation with many things which had accumulated during my absence.

In the matter of your excardination, I am writing to Bishop Espelage today.

With a blessing and cordial good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



December 29, 1964

His Excellency
Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.
Bishop of Gallup
Post Office Box 110
Gallup, New Mexico

Dear Bishop Espelage:

Earlier this month, I received a letter from Father John T. Sullivan of Cottonwood, Arizona about his possible incardination into your diocese. He said that you had directed him to write to me about this because you are willing to take him on a permanent basis.

Frankly, although we do not plan to take Father Sullivan back into this diocese, I am hesitant to have you assume responsibility for him because of his past record. You are acquainted with this from previous correspondence, so I shall not repeat it. If you wish further information, we shall be pleased to send it to you.

Should you decide upon incardination for Father John T. Sullivan, please let me know and I shall prepare the document of excardination. This will become effective upon issuance of your decree of incardination.

With cordial good wishes to Your Excellency, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

January 25, 1965

Rev. Dunstan Schmidlin, O.F.M.
Chancellor
The Diocese of Gallup
P. O. Box 1338
Gallup, New Mexico

Dear Father Schmidlin:

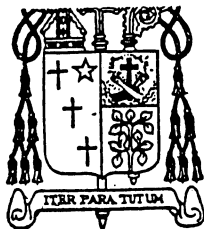
In the absence of Bishop Primeau who is attending a meeting of CICOP in Chicago, I wish to thank you in his name for the incardination document of Father John T. Sullivan into the Diocese of Gallup.

All of us were pleased to learn of the good work being done in the Diocese of Gallup by Father Sullivan and of the satisfaction of Bishop Espelage.

With fraternal good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Msgr. Wilfrid H. Paradis
Vice Chancellor



THE DIOCESE OF GALLUP

P. O. BOX 110
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

LITTERAE INCARDINATIONIS

Dilecto Nobis in Christo

DNO. JOANNI T. SULLIVAN

SALUTEM IN DOMINO

Quum per litteras excardinationis et absolute, die 19a Januarii 1965, subscriptas, certo Nobis compertum sit Illmum. ac Revmum. D.D. Ernestum J. Primeau, Episcopum Manchesteriensis, hactenus Ordinarium tuum, votis tuis annuentem, jurisdictionem et auctoritatem quam super te hucusque habuit in manus Nostras successorumque Nostrorum transtulisse, per has praesentes litteras te in clerum Dioecesis Gallupiensis perpetuo et absolute incardinamus ad normam Canonis 112 Codicis Juris Canonici incardinatumque declaremus.

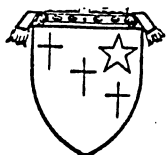
In quorum fidem, praesentes Incardinationis litteras manu Nostra subscriptas sigilloque Nostro munitas fieri jussimus.

Datum Gallupiensi ex aedibus Nostris.

Die 19a Januarii, anno Domini 1965

+ Bernardus J. Espelage S.M.
Episcopus Gallupiensis

Dunstan Schmidlin Ofm
Cancellarius



Chancery Office

P. O. Box 1338

GALLUP, NEW MEXICO 87301

January 20, 1965

His Excellency,
Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau,
153 Ash Street,
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105 -

Your Excellency:

His Excellency, Bishop Espelage, has directed me to forward the inclosed copy of the Incardination papers of Father John T. Sullivan and to thank you for your kindness in making it possible for Father Sullivan to join this Diocese.

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter, and with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dunstan Schmidlin, O.F.M.
Dunstan Schmidlin, O.F.M.
Chancellor

January 13, 1965

Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M.
Bishop's Residence
P. O. Box 1338
Gallup, New Mexico

Dear Bishop Espelage:

Assenting to your request, I have excardinated Father John T. Sullivan from the Diocese of Manchester so that you may incardinate him into the Diocese of Gallup. My document of excardination is enclosed. The extra copy is for Father Sullivan. At your convenience, would you send me the document of incardination that will complete the transfer.

It is my fervent hope that Father Sullivan will serve you well and that he will live up to your expectations.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am

Very cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

Enc 2



P. O. BOX 1338
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO
87301

January 4, 1965

Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, D.D.,
Bishop of Manchester,
Bishop's House,
657 River Road,
Manchester, New Hampshire.

Dear Bishop Primeau:-

Your letter in regard to Father John T. Sullivan has been received for which I thank you very much.

When Father Sullivan came here from Via Coeli I asked him all about his previous difficulties and he was very frank with me. He has now been in the diocese for over three and one half years, working in several places, some very hard places, and he has done good and efficient work. I am more than satisfied with the work he has done. I have had no reports or rumors in any way about his past difficulties (and I am sure that I would have had, if there had been any). From this it seems that he has overcome his past troubles. He seems to have liked by every one where he has been and even the priests like him very much. The people have cooperated with him in any undertaking in the parishes where he has been. He has been alone in these places, and should there have been any signs of his past shown up, I am sure that I would have heard about it.

When he approached me about incardination, I suggested that he write your Chancery Office, to find out how you felt about this. He said he would.

I know your concern about him but from the above it seems that he has overcome his difficulty, and considering his past record in this diocese I am willing to incardinate him. I would, therefore, appreciate it if you will kindly prepare the document of excardination.

With cordial good wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Bernard J. Espeloy
Bishop of Gallup.

657 RIVER ROAD
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ERNESTUS IOANNES PRIMEAU

gratia Dei et auctoritate Apostolicae Sedis Episcopus
Manchesteriensis

Dilecto Nobis in Christo Ioanno T. Sullivan

Nos, considerantes tuam in Domino utilitatem, et rationes quas ad hoc Nobis exposuisti, salvis iure praescriptis circa ordinationis tuae titulum, praevis etiam de tuis natalibus, vita, moribus ac studiis opportunis relationibus et testimoniis a Nobis mature perpensis et recognitis, et causa novae incardinationis tuae ad Excellentissimum ac Reverendissimum Dominum Bernardum T. Espelage, O.F.M., Episcopum Gallupensem, directis, ad tuam petitionem et instantiam, ex Nostra diocesi Manchesteriensi praesentium virtute te excardinamus excardinatumque declaramus. In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

Datum Manchesterii, sub sigilloque Nostris ac cancellarii Nostri subscriptione, anno Domini 1965, die vero XIV, mensis ianuarii.


Episcopus Manchesteriensis

De mandato Ill.mi ac Rev.mi Episcopi.

Cancellarius

657 RIVER ROAD
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ERNESTUS IOANNES PRIMEAU

**gratia Dei et auctoritate Apostolicae Sedis Episcopus
Manchesteriensis**

Dilecto Nobis in Christo Ioanno T. Sullivan

Nos, considerantes tuam in Domino utilitatem, et rationes quas ad hoc Nobis exposuisti, salvis iure praescriptis circa ordinationis tuae titulum, praevis etiam de tuis natalibus, vita, moribus ac studiis opportunis relationibus et testimoniis a Nobis mature perpensis et recognitis, et causa novae incardinationis tuae ad Excellentissimum ac Reverendissimum Dominum Bernardum T. Espelage, O.F.M., Episcopum Gallupensem, directis, ad tuam petitionem et instantiam, ex Nostra diocesi Manchesteriensi praesentium virtute te excardinamus excardinatumque declaramus. In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

Datum Manchesterii, sub sigilloque Nostris ac cancellarii Nostri subscriptione, anno Domini 1965, die vero XIV, mensis Ianuarii.


Episcopus Manchesteriensis

De mandato Ill.mi ac Rev.mi Episcopi.

Cancellarius

OF ORDAINING PRELATE Most Rev. John B. Peterson, D.D.

DATE OF INCARDINATION (IF EXTERN)

ACADEMIC DEGREES

COLLEGES ATTENDED St. Anselm's,

SEMINARIES ATTENDED Mt. St. Mary, Emmitsburg, Md.

APPOINTMENTS AS ASSISTANT Westville-- 6-8-42, Dover, St. Mary--2-19-43, Whitefield,
5-10-45, Derry, 3-15-45, Nashua, St. Ptk's, 19-14-45, Claremont, 11-4-47.
St. Kieran, Berlin, 8-30-49 - Suspended, June 16, 1952. Westville, 9-2-52
Suspended 7/20/56; Incardinated into Diocese of Gallup January 19, 1965.

APPOINTMENTS AS PASTOR

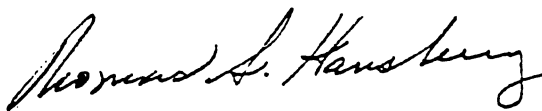
DIOCESAN OFFICES

SULLIVAN, Rev. John T.

6051

On January 19, 1965, Rev. John T. Sullivan was officially incardinated into the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, having been given a letter of excardination by Bishop Primeau under date of January 14, 1965.

All correspondence concerning Father John T. Sullivan was transferred to the secret archive in the Bishop's safe at the Chancery Office on February 12, 1965.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas S. Hansburg".

Chancellor

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

30 CHURCH STREET
LACONIA, N. H. 03246
PHONE 524-1442

6052

Most Rev. Odore Gendron
657 North River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire 03104

The last time I saw you was when you were flying into the Berlin, New Hampshire, post office taking two or three steps at a time giving me sufficient time to say "Bon jour, pere." Perhaps, even then, unknowingly you were conditioning yourself with those long steps to raise yourself to the Episcopacy. Along with your priest in the Manchester Diocese, I do wish you well: I do congratulate you and ask God to bless your ministry.

This letter reaches you late. However, I do want to inform you that I have been retired from the Diocese of Phoenix for a little more than one year and a half and carry with me a celeret signed by Bishop Tom O'Brien. My time is running out and I thought it best to return home permanently.

I have been working in the above parish with Mike Griffin for the last two weeks, while Sam Hewitt is on vacation, and will terminate this assignment the end of this month. However, since I have been here I have picked up a couple of week-end assignments for October. I truly do enjoy substituting on a short-term basis and would avail my services in the diocese whenever they may be needed.

Do pray for me, please!

With every warm wish, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,
(Cul J. T. Sullivan
(Rev.) J. T. Sullivan

Aug. 12
1983

Phoenix confirms that he does still have
the faculties of the diocese

FJC.

Aug 23, 1983

*File - Bishop's Office
Return to Fr. Sullivan*

0053

August 24, 1983

Reverend John T. Sullivan
St. Joseph Rectory
Post Office Box 366
Laconia, New Hampshire 03247

Dear Father Sullivan:

I am most appreciative of your taking the time to arrange to meet with me yesterday. I was happy to see you once again.

This letter will serve to confirm, as a result, the substance of our conversation for the sake of the record. Since, by the decision of your own Ordinary, you do not have a pastoral assignment in the Diocese of Phoenix, it is understood that it will not be possible for me to offer you any pastoral assignment here in the Diocese of Manchester.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

INFORMATION REGARDING FATHER JOHN SULLIVAN

On Thursday, August 25th, Father Robert Boisvert of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Laconia called the Chancery and spoke to Father Christian, the Chancellor, about an incident regarding Father John Sullivan, a native of New Hampshire and a priest of the Diocese of Phoenix.

Father Sullivan had made advances toward [REDACTED] old girl, over a period of several weeks. She had finally told her parents, who had reported the situation to Father Boisvert.

On Monday, August 29th, Father Christian spoke to [REDACTED] to verify the details of the situation, which involved his attempt to kiss the girl on several occasions, the offer of monetary gifts to her, etc. The [REDACTED] are very faith-filled people and want no harm to come to Father Sullivan, but were afraid of what could happen if his problem were not handled.

After discussing the matter with the Bishop it was agreed that Father Sullivan's faculties for the Diocese should be withdrawn, and that this should be communicated to him by Father Christian over the phone, to be followed by a letter to him from Bishop Gendron in this regard.

August 30, 1983

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. John Sullivan
Post Office Box 31
Concord, N. H. 03301

Dear Father Sullivan:

Subsequent to our recent appointment and discussion, it has come to my attention that a recurrence of your long standing problem has taken place in the Laconia area. You are aware of this situation due to your recent discussion about the matter with Father Francis J. Christian, the Chancellor of the Diocese.

Because of this fact and out of concern for you, the Church, and any other parties who might be harmed, I am hereby withdrawing all priestly faculties from you for the Diocese of Manchester. As of the moment of your conversation with Father Christian, you may no longer serve the people of the Diocese in any sort of priestly ministry.

I would urge you to receive whatever medical attention may be appropriate so that you might endeavor to overcome this difficult problem. I assure you of my prayers as you make that attempt. If I can be of any service to you in this regard please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

cc: Most Reverend Thomas J. O'Brien

August 30, 1983

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Most Reverend Thomas J. O'Brien
Diocese of Phoenix
48 East Wagon Wheel Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85020

Dear Bishop O'Brien:

Before leaving for Rome for his ad limina visit, Bishop Gendron asked me to forward to you the enclosed letter, which he sent to Father John Sullivan.

I would like to take this occasion to briefly make you aware of the situation which occasioned the withdrawal of the faculties of the Diocese of Manchester. Father Sullivan had befriended a very good, active ~~Catholic~~ family with two teenage daughters, the younger of which is thirteen. For a period of several weeks he had been making advances toward the thirteen-year old who finally revealed to her parents his touches, kisses, etc. They shared this information with their pastor, who informed me of it. I, in turn, spoke with the family and am convinced that they bear no vindictiveness toward Father Sullivan. They simply wish to insure the safety of other people and preserve the good reputation of the priesthood and the Church. They are aware of the action taken by the Diocese of Manchester and seem content with it.

I communicated the contents of the letter to Father Sullivan, who is currently in Vermont, by phone this morning. He seems crushed by the whole situation and I made him aware of our desire to be of whatever assistance we could be to him. I made it clear to him that the Bishop's decision regarding faculties does not affect his ability to say Mass privately. If there is any more information we can provide you in this regard, or any assistance the Diocese can offer to Father Sullivan, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

With every good wish, I am

Faternally in Christ,

Francis J. Christian
Chancellor

Enclosure



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

Church of Phoenix

IF YOU HAVE RISEN WITH CHRIST, SEEK THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE

400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004

TELEPHONE (602) 257-0030

OFFICE OF
THE BISHOP

September 6, 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. Francis J. Christian
Chancellor
Chancery Office
153 Ash Street
P. O. Box 310
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105

Dear Father Christian:

This is to acknowledge your letter informing me of a recent serious and unfortunate incident involving Fr. John Sullivan, a priest of this diocese.

Naturally, I was very distressed to learn of a recurrence of a problem which has beset him for a long time. I feel very badly for the young girl and her family and I appreciate their understanding.

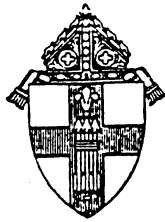
I am grateful also for the careful and prudent manner with which you handled this case and I apologize to you and Bishop Gendron for this very regrettable incident.

Please keep me informed if there are further developments.

With cordial good wishes, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas J. O'Brien
Bishop of Phoenix



Secretariat for Pastoral Services
Diocese of Manchester

6058

August 3, 1993

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Msgr. Francis J. Christian

RE: Father John T. Sullivan

- I. Born: January 3, 1917
- II. Ordained: May 30, 1942
- III. After several assignments in the Diocese as associate pastor, he was suspended June 9, 1952, because of improper advances toward young women. The records do not make it clear when he was reinstated.
- IV. He was suspended again on July 11, 1956, for the same problem.
- V. Then Bishop Brady referred him to Via Coeli in Jemez Springs, New Mexico, in September of 1957. He doesn't want to go, and indicates his plan to seek another diocese.
- VI. After suspension in July 1956, he applied to some 17 dioceses. Bishop Brady, in response to inquiries from those dioceses, wrote letters indicating that he could not recommend him for ministry.
- VII. In August of 1960, Father Sullivan was informed by Bishop Primeau that he would not recommend him for ministry.
- VIII. On September 20, 1960, Bishop Primeau writes to Father Lee, the superior at Via Coeli in Nevis, Minnesota, where Father Sullivan at that point had agreed to seek help, warned him not to give Father Sullivan weekend work.
- IX. Letter of Bishop Primeau of February 14, 1961, to Bishop Markowsky, the Bishop of Amarillo. Bishop Primeau had discovered that Bishop Markowsky had already given pastoral work to Father Sullivan without first contacting the Diocese of Manchester. Bishop Primeau warns Bishop Markowsky about his past, and indicates that he cannot recommend Father Sullivan to any Bishop.

- X. Letter of June 26, 1961, to Father Fitzgerald, superior general of Via Coeli in New Mexico, indicated that Bishop Markowski had given Father Sullivan ministry without consulting Manchester.
- XI. Letter in June of 1961, from Father Fitzgerald, indicating that Father Sullivan needed to be laicized or stay there for life.
- XII. Letter from Bishop Primeau in October 1961, to Bishop Espelage of the Diocese of Gallup, expressing grave reservations about Father Sullivan and saying he couldn't accept responsibility for his actions.
- XIII. Bishop Espelage writes to Bishop Primeau on January of 1965, indicating that because of three years of good service, even though he was aware of Father Sullivan's past, he was going to incardinate him.
- XIV. We have no record or correspondence after this time until August of 1982, when Father Sullivan writes to Bishop Gendron informing him that he had retired from the Diocese of Phoenix (we have no understanding how the move from Gallup to Phoenix was handled), and that he had faculties from the Diocese of Phoenix. This was confirmed with Phoenix by a phone call from the Chancery. Father Sullivan had been helping Father Griffin at St. Joseph's in Laconia for about a month, without the knowledge of the Bishop, and indicated he would be interested in doing weekend work.
- XV. Bishop Gendron set up an appointment with Father Sullivan in August, and then wrote a letter to him August 24th, saying he would not offer any pastoral ministry to him here because he was not given a pastoral assignment in Phoenix.
- XVI. On August 25th, a call from Father Boisvert to Father Christian, indicating that Father Sullivan had made advances toward a young woman in his parish.
- XVII. On August 30, a letter to Father Sullivan, indicating he could not function in any capacity in the Diocese of Manchester, and a letter to the Diocese of Phoenix informing the Bishop of this.

August 3, 1993

MEMORANDUM

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The File

FROM: BED

DATE: August 3, 1993

RE: John T. Sullivan - Diocese, Amarillo, TX

On Friday, the 30th of July, 1993, Attorney Frederick Griffin, 504 S. Polk Street, Amarillo, TX 79101, attorney for the Diocese of Amarillo (and interestingly, a native of Portsmouth, NH and relative of the [REDACTED] family in Portsmouth) called regarding the Rev. John T. Sullivan, late of the Diocese of New Hampshire.

Apparently, Fr. Sullivan was a Diocesan priest in Manchester. In some period of time between 1960 - 1965, he had some kind of problem in New Hampshire and went to Amarillo, Texas for some reason (reason unclear at this point). While in Amarillo, he is accused of having abused several young women or girls. At some point after he was in Amarillo, he went to New Mexico either for treatment or not. Supposedly, after he was in Amarillo, he returned to New Hampshire, got in additional trouble and was sent out of the Diocese. Griffin claims to have seen letters from Bishop Primeau to either the Bishop in Amarillo or New Mexico indicating that he would not recommend Sullivan to that Bishop but "if the Bishop wanted to take him, he could have him".

Apparently, Griffin has been contacted by a woman who lives in Louisiana or Mississippi who has now decided or discovered that she was abused by Fr. Sullivan while he was in Amarillo. She has apparently contacted an attorney in the Amarillo area who indicates that he is going to bring suit against the Diocese of Amarillo, the Diocese of Manchester and the possibly the Diocese of New Mexico.

On Monday, August 2, 1993, I discussed this matter with Monsignor Christian who indicates that he has in fact reviewed Fr. Sullivan's file and that while he has not looked at it in some time, he does not believe that we sent any priest to another Diocese without warning. Obviously, there are statute of limitations and other problems involved in this matter but I am to review the file with Monsignor Christian and get back to Attorney Griffin with whatever I can discover.

SHEEHAN
PHINNEY
BASS +
GREEN
PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION

6063



August 11, 1993

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

1000 ELM STREET
P.O. BOX 3701
MANCHESTER
NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105-3701
FAX 603-627-8121
603-668-0300

Attorney Frederick Griffin
504 S. Polk Street
Amarillo, TX 79101

Dear Fred:

1 HARBOUR PLACE
SUITE 325
PORTSMOUTH
NEW HAMPSHIRE
03801-3856
FAX 603-433-3126
603-433-2111

I trust you had a good visit to your native land and have returned to Texas refreshed.

I have had an opportunity to discuss the Father John Sullivan matter with Monsignor Francis Christian of the Diocese of Manchester who reviewed the file. Obviously, all of this information is confidential but the files of the Diocese of Manchester reveal the following information:

1. It appears that John T. Sullivan was born January 3, 1917 and is still alive.
2. He was ordained May 30, 1942.
3. After several assignments in the Diocese of Manchester as an associate pastor, he was suspended June 9, 1952 because of allegations of improper advances towards young women. Records do not make it clear when he was reinstated.
4. He was suspended again on July 11, 1956 for the same problem.
5. Bishop Brady referred him to Via Coeli in Jemez Springs, New Mexico in September, 1957. He did not want to go and indicated he planned to seek an assignment in another diocese rather than going.
6. After suspension in July of 1956, Father Sullivan applied to some seventeen dioceses. Bishop Brady, in response to inquiries from

these Dioceses, wrote letters indicating that he could not recommend Father Sullivan for ministry. We have copies of these letters.

6064

7. In August of 1960, Father Sullivan was informed by the new Bishop, Bishop Primeau that he would not recommend him for ministry.
8. On September 20, 1960, Bishop Primeau wrote Father Lee, the superior at Via Coeli in Nevis, Minnesota, where Father Sullivan at that point had agreed to seek help, warning him not to give Father Sullivan weekend work.
9. Bishop Primeau wrote a letter to Bishop Markowsky of Amarillo in 1961 when he discovered that Bishop Markowsky had already given pastoral work to Father Sullivan without first contacting the Diocese of Manchester. Bishop Primeau warned Bishop Markowsky about Sullivan's past and indicated that he would not recommend Father Sullivan to any bishop. We have a copy of this letter.
10. On June 26, 1961, the Diocese wrote a letter to Father Fitzgerald, Superior General of Via Coeli in New Mexico, indicating that Bishop Markowski had given Father Sullivan ministry without consulting Manchester.
11. There is as letter in June of 1961 from Father Fitzgerald indicating that Father Sullivan needed to be laicized or stay there for life.
12. Bishop Primeau wrote a letter in October 1961' to Bishop Espelage of the Diocese of Gallup, expressing grave reservations about Father Sullivan and saying he could not accept responsibility for his actions.
13. Bishop Espelage wrote to Bishop Primeau in January of 1964, indicating that because of three years of good service, even though he was aware of Father Sullivan's past, he was going to incardinate him, notwithstanding the advice of the Bishop of Manchester.
14. We have no record or correspondence after January of 1965 until August of 1982 when Father Sullivan wrote to Bishop Gendron informing him that he retired from the

Diocese of Phoenix (and we have no understanding of how he moved from Gallup to Phoenix) and that he had facilities from the Diocese of Phoenix. This was confirmed with Phoenix.

15. Father Sullivan apparently returned to New Hampshire after retiring from Phoenix and after several discussions, was informed that he could not function in any capacity in the Diocese of Manchester and a letter was sent to the Diocese of Phoenix informing their Bishop of that fact.

I do not know whether any of this information is helpful to you, but thought you should have it. If you find out anything further about any possible or potential claims, I would be interested in hearing about them. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Bradford E. Cook

BEC:jf

cc: Monsignor Christian

BEC/6423-AB6

September 1, 1993

Atty. Bradford E. Cook
Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green
Professional Association
1000 Elm St. - P. O. Box 3701
Manchester, NH 03103-3701

Dear Attorney Cook:

Enclosed please find copies of the three letters you requested in reference to Father John T. Sullivan.

I believe that Attorney Griffin misunderstood your documentation. We have a copy of a letter written to Father Fitzgerald by Bishop Primeau, not by Bishop Morkovski. I have included a copy of this letter, assuming that is what Attorney Griffin desires.

Sincerely,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

SHEEHAN
PHINNEY
BASS +
GREEN
PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION

6067



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

August 30, 1993

1000 ELM STREET
P.O. BOX 3701
MANCHESTER
NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105-3701
FAX 603-627-8121
603-668-0300

Monsignor Francis Christian
Diocese of Manchester
PO Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105

RE: Father John Sullivan

Dear Monsignor Christian:

1 HARBOUR PLACE
SUITE 325
PORTSMOUTH
NEW HAMPSHIRE
03801-3856
FAX 603-433-3126
603-433-2111

Enclosed find a letter received by me on August 26, 1993 dated August 23, 1993 from Fred Griffin in Amarillo, Texas. As you can see, they are looking for copies of additional correspondence referenced in the letter. Further, they want to know if we have information as to Father Sullivan's present whereabouts. Please send me the information so I can provide it to Attorney Griffin.

Sincerely,



Bradford E. Cook

BEC:jf

BEC/6423-DL8

SELL and GRIFFIN

A Professional Corporation

Attorneys at Law

504 S. Polk, Suite 101
Amarillo, Texas 79101-2318
(806) 374-3765
Fax (806) 374-4269

6068

GAT D. SELL
Boi ed
Con Real Estate
Residential Real Estate
Farm & Ranch Real Estate

FREDERICK J. GRIFFIN
Board Certified
Residential Real Estate

STEVE M. MCKINZIE

August 23, 1993

Mr. Bradford E. Cook
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green
P. O. Box 3701
Manchester, N.H. 03105-3701

RE: Claim by [REDACTED] against Diocese of Amarillo and
Diocese of New Hampshire relating to alleged abuse by
Father John Sullivan

Dear Brad:

Thank you for your letter of August 11, 1993 in relationship to Father John Sullivan. A couple of months ago we were contacted by a woman who lives in Biloxi, Mississippi, claiming that Father Sullivan had abused her when she lived in Amarillo. It is our policy that the Diocese will pay for some counselling and expenses related to travel if the claimant lives outside of a major metropolitan area where counselling would be available. Our present policy is that we will pay \$2500.00 for therapy expenses and up to \$1500.00 in accumulated travel expense. We have recently heard that she contacted an attorney in Lubbock to bring suit against all responsible entities. We have not at this point in time been contacted by an attorney in regard to the claim and may not until she has expended the counselling benefits.

We are, however, trying to assemble any information that we can obtain on Father John Sullivan and your letter was very helpful, especially since he was only in Amarillo approximately three months.

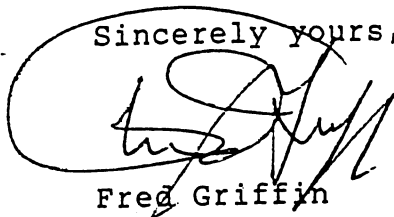
Because the dates are so important, we would like to have a copy of the letter that Bishop Primeau wrote to Bishop Monkowsky in 1961 and a copy of the letter Bishop Monkowsky wrote to Father Fitzgerald, the Superior General of Via Coeli in New Mexico, as well as the letter of September 20, 1960 by Bishop Primeau to Father Lee, the superior at Via Coeli in Nevis, Minnesota.

If you would send us a copy of the above letters, I would like to have them for our investigation. If you request, I would return them to you after review.

Mr. Bradford E. Cook
August 23, 1993
Page Two:

We also would like to request any information that you have that relates to his present whereabouts, as the therapists tell us that it is important that the victim know that he can no longer do any harm.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Griffin", is written over a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fred Griffin

FG:jb

cc: Most Rev. L. T. Matthiesen

SHEEHAN
PHINNEY,
BASS +
GREEN
PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION

6070



December 8, 1993

1000 ELM STREET
P.O. Box 3701
MANCHESTER
NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105-3701
FAX 603-627-8121
603-668-0300

Attorney Wayne Hengen
979 Howard Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

RE: [REDACTED] / John Sullivan / Diocese of Manchester

Dear Mr. Hengen:

1 HARBOUR PLACE
SUITE 325
PORTSMOUTH
NEW HAMPSHIRE
03801-3856
FAX 603-433-3126
603-433-2111

This will confirm our telephone conversations concerning your client [REDACTED] who apparently has claims against one John Sullivan.

For reasons stated below, we believe that the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester has no responsibility concerning anything which may have occurred between John Sullivan and your client:

1. John Sullivan was disciplined by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester in the 1950's and stripped of his rights to perform as a priest in this Diocese.
2. When inquiry was made by Bishops of several Dioceses, after Sullivan had apparently sought to function as a priest in their Dioceses, the then Bishops of Manchester wrote letters strongly discouraging and specifically not recommending that Sullivan be allowed to function. There were a great number of such inquiries and the position of the Bishops of Manchester was uniform.
3. Notwithstanding the discouraging of allowing Sullivan to function as a priest, he was apparently allowed to so function in one or more Diocese in the upper-Midwest.

4. After functioning in the upper-Midwest, Sullivan apparently somehow ended up in Amarillo, TX. When this was discovered by the Bishop of Manchester he wrote a letter to Amarillo (copy enclosed), discouraging his being allowed to function as a priest.
5. Subsequent to his functioning in Amarillo, Sullivan apparently proceeded to other Dioceses in the Southwest.

As I explained to you, the Diocese of Manchester had no responsibility in sending, recommending or placing Sullivan in Amarillo or anywhere. Any responsibility for his actions after he left New Hampshire is, obviously, his own and if you think you have any claims against any component of the Roman Catholic Church, it is our position that it would not be the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester but some other Diocese or entity to which you would have to look.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bradford E. Cook
(46)

Bradford E. Cook

BEC:jf

cc: Fred Griffin, Esq.
Monsignor Francis Christian

BEC/6423-DQ9

February 14, 1961

His Excellency
Most Rev. John L. Morkovsky, S.T.D.
Bishop of Amarillo
P. O. Box 2009
Amarillo, Texas

Dear Bishop Morkovsky:

I recently received word from Rev. John T. Sullivan of this diocese that you had given him an assignment in Amarillo. I have been very much worried about this because I am sure you are not acquainted with his past history. It was my understanding that he was headed for Via Coeli as a permanent guest when he left here under a dark cloud. I did not realize that he would be recommended for parochial work.

Frankly, I cannot in conscience recommend Father Sullivan to any Bishop. He has been in very serious trouble all during his career and I would advise extreme caution on the part of the pastor to whom he has been assigned, especially as regards his relations with teen-age girls.

With most cordial good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

SHEEHAN
PHINNEY
BASS +
GREEN
PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION

6073



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

December 29, 1993

1000 ELM STREET
P.O. BOX 3701
MANCHESTER
NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105-3701
FAX 603-627-8121
603-668-0300

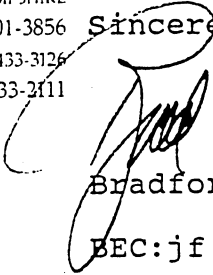
Monsignor Francis Christian
Diocese of Manchester
PO Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105

Dear Monsignor Christian:

1 HARBOUR PLACE
SUITE 325
PORTSMOUTH
NEW HAMPSHIRE
03801-3856
FAX 603-433-3126
603-433-2111

Enclosed find a copy of a letter from Attorney
Griffin in Amarillo to the lawyer for [REDACTED] in
Biloxi, Mississippi concerning that case. I send
this along for your records.

Sincerely,


Bradford E. Cook

BEC:jf

BEC/6423-DR7

SELL and GRIFFIN

6074

A Professional Corporation

Attorneys at Law

504 S. Polk, Suite 101
Amarillo, Texas 79101-2318
(806) 374-3765
Fax (806) 374-4269

FREDERICK J. GRIFFIN
Board Certified
Residential Real Estate

GARI AND D. SELL
Sc. Real Estate
Res. Real Estate
Farm & Ranch Real Estate

December 22, 1993

Mr. Wayne Hengen
Hengen & Hengen
979 Howard Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

RE: [REDACTED] Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, et al

Dear Mr. Hengen:

Pursuant to my telephone conference with you on Monday, December 20, 1993, I am forwarding to you a copy of the letter of Bishop Brom to Father Sullivan dated September 20, 1993, wherein Father John Sullivan has been prohibited from acting in any public capacity as a priest within the Diocese of San Diego. I believe that Bishop Brom acted as a result of information which he received from our Chancellor in regard to the allegations brought by [REDACTED]

I think that you will find that in most Dioceses throughout the United States that any allegations of sexual misconduct by a priest are taken very seriously, and there is great care and concern for the faithful which might come in contact with the priests.

I am not sure that there has always been this care and concern, however, 20 or 30 years ago, there certainly was not the same understanding of the nature of these problems as there is today.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By
Frederick J. Griffin

Fred Griffin

FG/ys
Enclosure

cc: Bishop L. T. Mattiesen
Brad Cook ✓

COPY

