

From: Heusersdb@aol.com
To: susanekg@attbi.com
Cc: rberan@mccarter.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2002 11:02 PM
Subject: Fr. Nugent

Dear Ms. Gallagher:

Permit me first to introduce myself. I am Fr. James Heuser, the current Vice Provincial for the Eastern Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Our provincial has been in Rome for a series of meetings since late February and will remain there until early May. In his absence I bear the responsibility for the governance of our Salesian province.

It is in this capacity, then, that I have been made aware of your more recent e-mails to one of our province lawyers, Mr. Richard Beran. Your e-mails have prompted me to carefully review the file of Fr. Frank Nugent in our provincial office, as well as some further documents our lawyers provided me.

I want to first apologize to you. I apologize for the harm you and your family have directly suffered at the hands of Fr. Nugent, one of our members. You recount actions that are both grievous sins and grave crimes. I recognize that there is no way an apology can erase the deep hurt you have experienced. But the minimum of justice demands it from us.

I also apologize for the further pain you have experienced by our seeming failure to grasp the seriousness of your claims. I see that it has only exacerbated the harm already caused you by Fr. Nugent himself. I am truly sorry for that.

I understand that amends are best made by deeds rather than words. It is in this light that I want to notify you of the following:

1. I removed Fr. Nugent last week from his placement in Orange, New Jersey. He is now being supervised in seclusion and is prohibited from performing any priestly ministry whatsoever.
2. As per your request to speak out, I recommend that we abrogate the confidentiality agreement that has bound both yourself and the Salesians to date. We will not prosecute you for speaking out.
3. I have instructed our lawyers from McCarter and English today to promptly notify the appropriate civil authorities in the states of New Jersey and New York of your accusations against Fr. Nugent.

I hope you do not mind that I have taken the liberty to write to you directly. I can only say again how sorry I am that we have betrayed your trust.

Sincerely,
Fr. James Heuser