

October 25, 2000

Father Richard McGurn
c/o Chicago Province Jesuits
2050 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Father,

We should have written you long before now but we were trying to respect our son's wishes. We want to bring to your attention something that transpired between Father Donald McGuire and our son [REDACTED] who served him in Chicago from June 1998-August 1999. [REDACTED] was invited to serve Father and Mission Fides for a year. During this year Father was almost completely blind due to complications from his diabetes and needed assistance to be able to travel and give retreats. We were happy to have our son serve Father and thought the experience would be of benefit him. [REDACTED] had just graduated from high school and was open to giving a year of his life in service.

The year started off with [REDACTED] keeping in regular communication with us by phone and e-mail. After about a month, the communication became less frequent as [REDACTED] said Father told him to cut back on his e-mailing to friends and family even though [REDACTED] was doing this on his own time. We did not agree with this and continued to communicate regularly with [REDACTED] by phone. We are a very close family and we felt it was important for [REDACTED] to keep in touch with us and his six brothers and sisters.

The incident that we want to bring to your attention is actually a pattern that developed from June of 1998 until shortly before they left for India in the Fall. [REDACTED] called us late one night. He was very anxious and emotionally upset. He cried as he told us he "couldn't take it anymore!" He stated that Father was overwhelming him with pornographic pictures and talking to him about sexual matters at every waking moment. Father was doing this, he said, to prepare him for the trip to India where he would be seeing a lot of nudity because of the lifestyle of the people in that culture. [REDACTED] was exhausted from lack of sleep and constant activity in caring for Father's needs. He never had a day off in the entire time he cared for Father except for the three days he came home for Christmas. The emotional state of our son alarmed us. He is a very stable young man and was not prone to such anxiety or emotional upheaval. We told our son we would come get him immediately if he wanted to leave. He became more anxious as we talked and finally said he had to go see about Father McGuire. About fifteen minutes later as my husband and I were talking about what we should do, the phone rang again. [REDACTED] was

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calling us back to say, "Please don't tell anyone what I just told you. Father's reputation is at stake. Don't tell anyone. I'll be ok. Father said he would stop doing this immediately if it upsets me so much." It was obvious that [REDACTED] had told Father he had called us and Father insisted that he call us back immediately. Trying to trust our son's judgement, we did as he asked us. We have never mentioned this incident to anyone until the last two months.

When [REDACTED] came to us with concerns about their son, [REDACTED] we immediately thought of this incident. Our son served Father McGuire for a year and is now in college at Steubenville, Ohio. We have spoken to him about his experiences with Father in the light of the [REDACTED] concerns. He is bothered still from the effects of the pornography he experienced while with Father. He is very independent but expressed concern about [REDACTED] (who is his friend from high school) who has not been so resistant to Father's extreme control, nor as communicative with his parents as [REDACTED] was with us. He agreed that Father is very controlling of the young men who serve him and expressed concern about this control. We feel you should know about this incident and the effect it has had on our son. Together with the alarming experience the [REDACTED] have had this year, we ask that you give this matter your immediate attention.

We have great respect for Father McGuire's learning and the excellent Ignatian retreats he gives. We do however have concern for the influence he is having on these young men who serve him and for his own personal weaknesses which threaten the work that God would do through him. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,