



Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus

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June 19, 1991

Rev. Donald J. McGuire, S.J.
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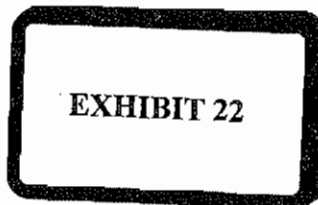
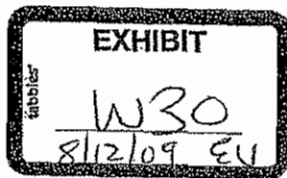
Dear Don,

Let me thank you very warmly indeed for your helpful report on your present situation that you sent me under date of June 5. I am sorry that you were not able to make our Province Days; the turnout of our men once again was extraordinary and I think that people were really enthusiastic about our gathering. And, as you say, I think you would have found it a special moment of grace to impose hands upon the four ordinandi.

Your health situation sounds challenging but still something that you can deal with. I hope that the therapy that you are undergoing does help your overall physical well-being. You have had a variety of health struggles along the way but they never seem to stop you from your apostolic work.

Don, I gave a lot of thought to writing the sort of letter that you proposed to ~~write~~. In the end, however, I decided against such a course of action but determined simply to acknowledge his original letter in much more neutral fashion, even though quite supportive of you. Since in that whole business I have already made one mistake for which I apologized to you, I felt that I ought not to compound matters by getting into a lengthy discussion with ~~you~~ specially since you seemed to have the backing of most of the key people in any case. I am presuming that the governing board has in fact moved in your direction and that you now are officially appointed the Spiritual Director. If ~~you~~ is not happy with that, well, never in these sorts of matters is there any sort of guarantee that there will be total unanimity. Since in any case your letter arrived too late for me to influence the basic vote of the Board, I hope that this approach on my part to the whole business is fundamentally satisfactory.

As you are undoubtedly aware, I received a very helpful letter from the parents in Alaska of the boy who had been travelling with



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you during the early part of this year. That letter helped further to clarify matters and certainly supported your fundamental position. I am sorry that I had to put you through all of that whole business, but I know you understand that we cannot be too prudent in this sort of matter. Despite this clear vindication of your conduct, however, I would still ask of you the basic things that I asked in my previous letter since I think these matters are for your own prudent protection. My own sense is that you agree fully with this perspective. You realize, of course, that in the aftermath of your conversation with me and then my reception of the letter from Alaska I say this not because any blame should fall upon you but rather simply in a prudent way to protect you and your important ministry from any sort of harm.

Thanks again, Don, for your most helpful letter. May the Lord bless you abundantly in your life and in your ministry.

Your brother in Christ,

Robert A. Wild, S.J.
Provincial