



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND LEO E. O'NEIL, D.D.

July 19, 1995

Most Reverend Leon A. Tharmaraj
Bishop of Kottar
Bishop's House
P. B. No. 17
NAGERCOIL-629 001
INDIA

Your Excellency:

Recently, Father A. M. Hilary, a priest from your Diocese, has presented himself to one of the pastors here in Manchester requesting parish ministry. This pastor would be of a mind to engage him.

However, it has been reported to me that Father Hilary has a serious problem with alcohol and a long history of serious drinking. I have also been told that, when he is drinking, there have been several occasions in which he was involved in molesting girls who went to his rectory. At least one of these instances allegedly has been verified by an investigation which you conducted.

Given the explosive situation in the United States at this time in regard to these problems, I can obviously not permit Father Hilary to serve here, if the reports made to me have any substance. Would you be so good as to respond to me at your earliest convenience to inform me whether or not these problems have in fact plagued Father Hilary, as well as any other information you feel that would be helpful.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness and assuring you of my fraternal best wishes, I am

Your friend in Christ,

+ *Leo E. O'Neil*

Bishop of Manchester