



## Secretariat for Pastoral Services

*Diocese of Manchester*

3875

February 24, 1993

Rev. Ron Wolf, Chancellor  
Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
4000 Saint Joseph Pl., N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Dear Father Wolf:

Following is the information requested on Father Donald Osgood, a former priest of the Diocese of Manchester. I attach a summary of the chronology of the dealings with the Diocese from February 1956 to February 1964. A search of the files since that date would add the following information.

- 1) In September of 1963, he began seeing a Dr. Warren Brown of Albuquerque, and at the same time requested a period of probationary ministry in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. In the letters of February 15 and June 14, 1966, to the Diocese of Manchester, Dr. Brown recommended that he could return to ministry with some sort of appropriate supervision.
- 2) In January of 1967, he was appointed to a parish in the Diocese of Manchester, but quickly reverted to his previous behavior and was removed. At this point he moved back to the Albuquerque area.
- 3) In the letters of January 31st, 1968 and February 27, 1968, which letters admitted his past problems, he requested ministry respectively of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and the Archdiocese of Washington. Our files do not indicate what sort of responses were received in this regard.
- 4) In a letter to him on May of 1968, dealing with practical matters such as medical insurance, the then Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester raised with him the possibility of requesting laicization. This was apparently not acted upon, and there is no further documentation in this regard.
- 5) The last communication of the Diocese with him took place on December 9th of 1970, at the following address: 4608-30 Arden Way, El Monte, California 91732.

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian  
Secretary  
Chancellor

February 25, 1956 -- Police report: involvement with boy from our school (mutual masturbation.) Involvement with boy from public school (same thing). No doubt of identity. Report from the boys that many others go to his apartment at the hospital. He has charge of the choir boys. (Note: This report is fully detailed.)

September 3, 1958: Detailed secret report from official outside sources:

- 1) His quarters have been scene of licentious acts involving college boys.
- 2) Pornographic materials relating to homosexuality on display in his rooms when the boys visited them.
- 3) Intoxicating beverages served and materials displayed.
- 4) Masturbation and oral relations.
- 5) Another priest involved. Known in the Boston "ring".
- 6) Apparently this relationship involving yet another began at St. A's when they were clerics. (Two of them left there.)
- 7) Teen agers involved.

At this time rumors and stories gained wide circulation in the city about this matter. The railroad station was a hangout for many "queers" who apparently know of the events at his apartment and a "beer joint" just around the corner from his place became a hangout for homosexuals.

Drastic steps were taken to correct the above:

- a) Forbidden to set foot on campus.
- b) Warned several times by superior.
- c) Cautioned by the police.
- d) Told to get rid of his car and forbidden to drive a car.

March 22, 1960: More police reports submitted on relations with young boys. Admission of guilt by the party. No formal charges lodged in court.

Subject moved around twice and called on the carpet several times. Should have been suspended according to many.

July 14, 1961: Subject order to Via Coeli.

June 30, 1961: Canonical warning of suspension.

July 29, 1961: Formal notification that he would automatically be suspended on August 3 if he did not comply with orders to report to Via Coeli.

Subject disappeared but was found by officials living with kind-hearted friends.

August 14, 1961: Official notification of his arrival at Via Coeli.

September 18, 1961: Good report.

November 16, 1961: Suspicious query from Via Coeli about him and some correspondence.

- December 5, 1961: More correspondence about letters sent by subject to young boys in Our area.
- April 7, 1962: Favorable report.
- April 27, 1962: Report of psychiatrist that there is no evidence of psychiatric illness or other disability.
- June 12, 1962: Report of suspicion concerning him.
- August 7, 1962: Permission granted to <sup>go</sup> to Minnesota on trial but official warning given through superior that this is "his last chance". Another deviation to mean permanent retreat or worse.
- August 11, 1962: Confirmation given that official notification given above was delivered to the subject.
- August 15, 1962: Pessimistic report from superior.
- October 22, 1962: Telephone report: Via Coeli household upset by his activities and association with lay outsiders. Avoiding spiritual exercises. Belief that he is deceiving psychiatrist. Superior feels nothing more can be done for him there. Asked permission to send him to Santa Fe house. Granted.
- December 18, 1962: Given permission to come home for Christmas to visit his parents.
- January 31, 1963: After temporary assignments in Santa Fe, authorities ask permission to use him regularly and later to adopt him. Permission granted February 5, 1963.
- March 4, 1963: Reported for duty in Albuquerque.
- Note: During all this period, we paid his salary, kept him on the Blue Cross-Blue Shield program and took care of all his expenses, so he was not neglected. We now turned him over to Santa Fe.
- June 3, 1963: Santa Fe forced to terminate his assignment because of "repetitions of his old failures." Ordered to return at once to Via Coeli by Santa Fe.
- June 6, 1963: We expressed our regrets to the subject and suggested by letter that he apply for reduction to the lay state.
- June 16, 1963: Subject left Via Coeli without permission and took all his personal belongings with him.
- August 26, 1963: We tried to find him discreetly through his parents. We receive a post office box number for him from Via Coeli. This is in Albuquerque, N. Mexico.
- December 14, 1964: Subject writes that he is cured through professional psychological help. Requests reinstatement. Excuses departure from Via Coeli. We request details on what he has been doing and report from doctor.
- February 11, 1964: Doctor reports cure by psychotherapy.