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OUR FILE NUMBER

April 5, 1985

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

REDACTED

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned represents the Diocese of San Bernardino. Due to his unavailability, Bishop Straling has not seen this letter.

Regarding your letter of March 29 to the bishop, we agree with you that the reputation of all should be protected and that destructive gossip should be prevented. Rest assured that diocesan officials will not spread rumors or publicize what is a private matter. Given your expressed concerns for reputations and gossip, we assume you will do likewise.

It may be of interest to you that the California Courts have consistently held a diocese and its bishop are not responsible for the conduct of priests outside the course and scope of their priestly duties. Obviously, the conduct alleged by you is such conduct. A recent court opinion confirmed that.

If you have any questions or comments, please have your lawyer contact me after April 17. I will be unavailable until then. I certainly hope you consult with a lawyer before pursuing this matter any further.

Very truly yours,

REID & HELLYER

James J. Manning, Jr.

JJM:dt

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