

March 29, 1985

Bishop Philip Straling
Diocese of San Bernardino
San Bernardino, CA.

Dear Bishop,

Let me begin this letter by apologizing for the necessity of bringing this matter to your attention. As you will understand from the enclosed copy of a letter which I have sent to Father Peter Brennan, there has been a terrible catastrophe visited on the life of myself and my family. As a devout Catholic husband living apart from and divorced by his wife, I have accepted the situation and the state in which I find myself. Before going on I wish to say that I made it very clear to Father Brennan both man-to-man and by letter that he should be aware that his unrelenting attack on the most precious things in my life - my home and family - would be met with my greatest resistance.

It seemed to me as though I had in some manner magically disappeared from view and had become invisible, a non-entity, or someone who was not physically or emotionally involved in any way. To protect the reputations of all and to prevent destructive gossip in the parish, I had long and serious talks with important members of the parish council and was doubly reassured by them that the matter would be solved. At their earnest request I agreed to do nothing, but instead to allow them to take whatever steps were necessary.

I now understand through reliable sources that Father Brennan is returning very shortly to resume his duties as pastor of the parish of St. Francis of Assisi in La Quinta, after having had a restful and needed vacation in Hawaii and Ireland.

Dear Bishop Straling, on my own part I intend to do what I must do in the light of day, hiding nothing, and proceeding as I believe any upright and righteous Christian man should proceed. I will, as I have previously stated to them institute actions both in the Civil Court and Canon Court to seek whatever measure of relief I can. I am not looking for personal compensation and will not accept such.

However, there are young children and an unborn child who must face, at this time, a very uncertain future due to the acts of this misguided man.

Throughout this terrible ordeal my faith has not been shaken. If anything, it has been strengthened as I am a daily communicant and my relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ has sustained me.

Once again, I apologize for the necessity of bring this matter to your attention, but it was obvious that in view of the events which have transpired, the insensitivity, both of the priest and the parish council, and their continued disregard of any and all promises, that I have no other choice.

Very truly yours,

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Enclosure