

No. 1123/76

April 9, 1976

Most Reverend Jean Jadot
Apostolic Delegate
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Your Excellency:

In reference to the complaints of a group of parishioners from St. Anne Parish, San Diego, first of all they are not a parish council nor do they represent the parish. They are a group of personal friends of the pastor, some not even from the parish. It could be they represent the pastor or better still, they front for him. There are about twelve of them. The pastor has been able to brainwash them. He is a genius at manipulating people and more unfortunate than that, trains them to act as he does. They become vindictive and vicious, most unchristian. His technique is to attack to put the other person on the defensive. This body did not exist until a group of parishioners complained against him.

These were the complaints against him: that there was no accounting of the parish funds from raffles and bazaars amounting to over seven thousand a year; secondly, the pastor's relationship with his secretary was scandalous; thirdly, he was away from the parish too much.

I called him in and directed that he dismiss his secretary, [REDACTED] and to disassociate himself from her. I had requested this on other occasions since this relationship has been scandalous for many years. I then appointed a committee of priests from the Senate, the Personnel Board, the Canon Law Department, and our bookkeeper to interview the parishioners. They have tapes of the interviews. I also requested all parish account books. The books did not show any monies from raffles or bazaars even though his parish bulletin acknowledges a bazaar which collected seven thousand dollars.

When questioned, he had no immediate answer; then he conjures up the story that he gave the monies to the parish societies. So I asked for their books but they never produced them. Lately he did present a few pages of some account we cannot verify showing parish monies for the purchase of a piece of property he had no permission to purchase. It was seem it was purchased in his personal name under the title of the Holy Name Society.

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Even though he promised to dismiss [REDACTED] he persuaded the group of so-called parish council that seems to bow to his every wish, to hire [REDACTED] as their secretary; so she continues to work at the rectory, and it is a scandal to the people and to the other priests of the diocese. I am enclosing a copy of a letter written to the pastor, Father Robert Nikliborc, which explains my views, and I believe the views of all the clergy of the Diocese of San Diego.

In my last interview, I asked him to move from this area and to disassociate himself from [REDACTED], but he refused to move from here. If he is relieved from his priestly duties, it will cause a tremendous amount of publicity and bring up all the scandal of Boys Town, which is partially presented in the book, Indict and Convict, by Bill Davidson. I would refer you to pages 67 to 72 about Father Nikliborc - Rand, and pages 161 etc. about Father Nikliborc and [REDACTED]

It would seem he not only in the past lived a double life but continues to do so. It would seem he has a dual personality, has charm and a most pleasing personality, and can easily win people over to his views. But if one does not agree, he is really vicious, very vindictive. He has threatened to go on television and belittle Bishop Chavez' family and to tell all the faults of priests that he knows, and it is not beyond him to make some up. I can say in all honesty he is a liar and a very dishonest person.

There seems to be a mental problem here but he is so clever and lives on intrigue that no one can help him. Even the IRS could not prove much on him even though he served a prison sentence.

From my experience with him, I do not believe he should be allowed to function as a priest. Since it seems that circumstances are becoming uncontrollable and there is terrible tension in the parish for he attacks every parishioner who complains against him and they are living in fear of him, some action should be taken.

The only suggestion I have is that the group who presented their views should be told to obey the Bishop of the Diocese and so should their pastor. If you have any advice in this matter, I would welcome it.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Leo T. Maher
Bishop of San Diego

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