

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH
40 WALK HILL STREET
FOREST HILLS, MASS. 02130

August 17, 1979.

Most Rev. Thomas V. Daily
2121 Commonwealth Ave.
Brighton, Mass. 02135

Dear Bishop Daily :

I write in respectful recognition of your known concern for the well-being of a brother priest and your faithful adherence to the virtues of justice and charity.

It has been called to my attention that a Mrs. [redacted] of [redacted] St., Forest Hills, has made serious charges of a moral nature against Fr. John J. Geoghan, associate pastor here at St. Andrew's. It is also my understanding that Fr. William Francis, Chaplain of the Boston Police Dept. has reported this matter to you.

These charges are completely false and do not bear even a scintilla of truth. Fr. Geoghan is an outstanding, dedicated priest who is doing superior work at St. Andrew's Parish. He is a zealous man of prayer who constantly gives of himself infurthering the cause of Christ in this area. His good works are countless and I thank God daily that he has favored and blessed me with his priestly presence.

The [redacted] family is emotionally unstable, psychotic, revengeful and spiritually barren. Their reputation in the community is poor and in my judgment they are people of low character whose presence presents an ever-threatening danger. I do not discount the possible hand of the devil where they are concerned and prudence dictates that they should be carefully avoided. Only recently I was the victim of an unprovoked assault by [redacted] (approx. 19 yrs. old) whose mind allegedly has been altered by drugs. Knowing that the Courts would do nothing, fearful of an implied threat to set fire to church property and not wishing to find myself on the front page of the Boston Globe, I have let the frightening incident pass. I predict that it is only a matter of time before Robert commits a violent criminal act against some person in this community.

Members of the [redacted] family have seen fit to harass the priests at St. Andrew's over the years and I believe that a check of the Police files will reveal that charges similar to those made against Fr. Geoghan were made by Mrs. [redacted] against a previous pastor. Like the present existing charges, they too were totally untrue. I suppose my turn will be next. As Shakespeare once said, "Be thou chaste as ice and pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny".

I presume that Fr. William Francis, after proper investigation, has by now informed you that the charges made against Fr. Geoghan are completely false. I regret that for some unknown reason he did not ^{consider} it necessary or important enough to discuss ^{the matter} with the pastor of the parish. Fr. Geoghan was very open about the whole matter from the very beginning.

The past week has placed a terrible strain on Fr. Geoghan and a lesser man would not have been able to bear up under it. The slow poison of calumny has a deadly affect upon the spirit. I now ask you in your priestly goodness to personally assure Fr. Geoghan that his record is clear and inform him that he still enjoys the blessing of a good priestly reputation—a reputation which is rightfully his. Only you, as Chancellor of the Archdiocese, can dispel the lingering doubts that are understandably in his mind, restore his confidence and bring peace to his mind and soul. There are calumnies against which even innocence loses courage. I feel sure that you will be happy to comply with my respectful and reasonable request.

Well, I'm off to Kennybunkport to fatten up a body that is already too fat (bonum diffusivum sui) and to take out ny many frustrations on a little white golf ball. It keeps me at least half sane in these crazy, difficult times --

Wishing you all the best, always-

In Christ,

