



MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

Feast of the Presentation
February 2, 1994

Fr. Bradley Schaeffer, S.J.,
Provincial
Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus
2050 N. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60613 U.S.A.

Dear Rev. Fr. Bradley Schaeffer,

I am deeply grateful to the Society of Jesus for the generous gift of Fr. Donald J. McGuire's priestly services to my communities throughout the world.

I am also grateful to Fr. McGuire, himself, for his unselfish, often heroic response to go anywhere I send him for the spiritual welfare of the sisters, priests, and brothers of the various communities of the Missionaries of Charity. He has always lived up to the highest ideals of St. Ignatius Loyola and taught the true doctrine of our precious faith to every M.C. community he has directed in retreats, seminars, vow tridua and conferences. He has been also a faithful son of the Church.

Since October 1982, when Fr. McGuire spoke to my novices in our new novitiate in San Francisco on the recommendation of the cloistered Carmelites of San Francisco, he has conducted 55 eight day retreats, 1 thirty day retreat, 21 three day retreats, 30 three to ten day seminars as well as many separate conferences and days of recollection to M.C. communities around the world: North, South and Central America, East and West Europe, East and West Africa, Australia, Oceania, the Indian Ocean and India.

I have come to know and trust him through my own personal experience of his counsel, doctrine, and the example of his life, having met with him many times over the last thirteen years. My impressions are corroborated by my four assistants, Sisters Mary Frederick, Priscilla, Monica and Joseph Michael. I have heard only trust and confidence in Fr. McGuire from the Regional assistants with whom he has worked everywhere: Sisters Sylvia, Dolores, Gilbert, Raphaela, Damien, Ragina, Stella, Magdalena, Beatrice, Jacqueline Clara, Mala, Chantal and Andrea.

During his recent visit to Calcutta in the past month, Fr. John Hardon, S.J., brought a letter to me from Fr. McGuire, describing the sad events which took him from his priestly ministry these past seven months. Fr. Hardon explained the mediating role for Fr. McGuire which you requested and how he had established Father's innocence of the allegations against him. Father Hardon said that Fr. McGuire admitted imprudence in his behavior. I understand how grave is the scandal touching the priesthood in the U.S.A. and how careful we must be to guard the purity and reputation of that priesthood. I must say, however, that I have confidence and trust in Fr. McGuire and wish to see his vital ministry resume as soon as possible. We, in the Missionaries of Charity, will do all in our power, to protect him and the Priesthood of Jesus Christ which he bears, when he once more takes up his mission with us.

01160



Jesuit Community
Lanning-Reilly Hall

November 20, 1993

Dear Father Schaeffer: P.C.,

This is a detailed report on my meeting with Father Donald McGuire. It was made after I had spent a day and a half in Oakland, California, with the [redacted] family.

I arrived in Philadelphia about 8:45 am with a 7:25 am flight from Detroit and was driven to Villa St. John in Downingtown, PA, almost an hour from the airport. Fr. McGuire took me to his room, where we began the six and a half hours we spent together, Tuesday, November 2.

Fr. Don is 42 pounds lighter and looking very vigorous and healthy. He was warm, cheerful, and visibly very pleased to see me, as well as eager to cooperate in every way to truthfully and peacefully bring the issues to a conclusion.

After a few minutes of pleasantries, we got down to the serious business of our meeting. Our first session before lunch lasted two hours.

I apprised Fr. Don of my role in these unhappy days and events of his life:

--That, as early as April, the [redacted] family had sought to engage me as an intermediary in their difficulties with him;

--That, I had sought to reach him, unsuccessfully, during the ensuing months;

--That, in September Frs. Provincial, Brad Schaeffer, and Socius, Fr. Dely, informed me that he, Fr. Don, would welcome me as a liaison;

--That, Fr. Schaeffer met with me in Detroit and expressed his personal desire that I inter-mediate;

--That, later in Chicago, I met with Fr. Dely, who brought me up to date on Fr. McGuire's situation;

--That, I agreed to act as intermediary on the issue of the alleged violation on the sigillum confessorum and any other related issues;

--That, [redacted] was willing to accept my judgment and determination on the issue of the sigillum and Father Don's rehabilitation.

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I then told Fr. Don that the [redacted] are approaching this matter in a deeply spiritual way and that they had no interest in reprisals, but send their love and prayers. However, they (more particularly [redacted] on the way to the airport with [redacted] and me) wanted to be assured that Fr. Don is rehabilitated and that [redacted] would completely accept my judgment in the matter.

I told Fr. Don that the Society of Jesus (Fr. Brad and Fr. Fran) could not be more supportive and understanding, but that they are concerned--from a reputational and financial standpoint--about reprisals.

I reassured Don that I was here for him as his brother and friend, as well as a priest. For example, I said he could put our whole sharing under the seal and designate whatever he wished to be communicated or incommunicable:

- To Brad and Fran;
- To the [redacted] together;
- Or to [redacted] and [redacted] separately.

Fr. Don agreed to trust my judgment as to what would be communicated and to whom.

Fr. Don spoke of his scrupulosity regarding the seal and how difficult it has been to be dealing with very sensitive matters with people whose relationship with him has been closely connected with the Sacrament of Penance--both mother and son.

At this point in the day we went to lunch. At 2:15 pm, after lunch and a rest, Fr. Don and I celebrated our second and third Masses for Holy Soul's Day. Tearfully, Don said that the most difficult aspect of his life at St. John's has been his exile from the altar.

At 3:30 pm we had our second conference, getting down to the specific complaints of the [redacted]: pornography, joint showering, and massages.

Regarding pornography Fr. Don said that there were Playboy and Penthouse magazines, which he neither got nor threw away.

Regarding showering, Fr. Don said that it was true, but the picture is not one of a lingering sensual experience. It was rather the picture of two firemen, responding to an emergency, one of whom was seriously handicapped and in need of support and care from the other.

Regarding the massages, Fr. Don said they were done with attention to modesty and were necessary to relieve spasm at the 4th-5th lumbar disc and the right leg, involving the sciatic nerve.

An additional item was raised. Fr. Don said he had never been apprised of it before and could categorically deny it--that he watched [redacted] masturbate and that, on one occasion, he touched [redacted] genitals.

Finally, I raised the issue of [redacted] assertion that Fr. Don violated the sigillum confessionis. I hastened to add, that, unquestioning [redacted] had to conclude from his responses that nothing he claimed Fr. Don said could be construed as a violation of the seal.

When I told Fr. Don that [redacted] claimed the alleged violation occurred in a telephone conversation in which Fr. McGuire stated how much [redacted] "needed" him as a priest, Fr. Don recalled the whole telephone conversation and its accompanying circumstances.

The circumstances were the following:

[redacted] had expressed a strong desire to be with Fr. Don, where he could do his academic assignments with interest and energy and not be confined to his house in a state of continued depression, "treated as a 3 year old by his father."

[redacted] (mother) had remarked about the good changes in [redacted] cheerful, energetic, committed to his studies--when he returned from working with Fr. Don; and, on the other hand, how [redacted] never accepted priests, teachers, and other professionals in his children's lives. She also said how happy she would be if [redacted] could continue to work for Fr. Don.

Regarding the pertinent telephone call:

Fr. Don, needing [redacted] phone in San Francisco, for a seminar to Mother Teresa's sisters in the novitiate, called [redacted]

In the course of the conversation, which was warm and friendly, [redacted] said that [redacted] was not in favor of [redacted] helping on this occasion. Suddenly she asked: "Is there anyone else on the line?" Fr. Don assured her there was only one phone at his end.

Finally, [redacted] owned up to being there on another phone in their house. [redacted] seemed shocked and upset.

[redacted] asked: "Why is my son so attached to you?"

Fr. Don answered: "First, I think [redacted] genuinely wants to assist a priest in his work. Secondly, [redacted] finds that he enjoys and works harder at his school work when he is with me."

[redacted] countered: "His mother is his tutor and he doesn't need outside help."

Fr. Don said: "Why is such a bright kid still a year and a half behind his class. By his own testimony, he does almost no school work at home, especially when his mother is almost always helping you, [redacted] at your [redacted]?"

[redacted] denied this heatedly.

[redacted] put in: "All I hear is anger from you, [redacted] Can't you deal with this reasonably?"

Fr. McGuire went on to answer the original query: "Thirdly, [redacted] used Father in his priestly capacity."

This last statement of Fr. McGuire, [redacted] called the violation of the seal of confession. I see this judgment as insupportable by the facts and in no way a violation of the seal.

After studying the matter thoroughly and conferring personally with all the principals, I can express my firm beliefs:

--I do not believe Fr. McGuire was involved in any sexual harassment.

--I do not believe Fr. McGuire is sexually disoriented.

--I do not believe Fr. McGuire had any intention of arousing sexual passions in [redacted]

--I do not believe there was any conscious and deliberate sexual perversity.

--I do not believe that in any shape or form Fr. McGuire broke the seal of confession.

--I do believe Fr. McGuire was acting on principles which, though objectively defensible, were highly imprudent.

--I also believe Fr. McGuire, in his charity towards [redacted] did not take into account all the consequences of dealing with [redacted] among these consequences, the impact on [redacted] father.

I added: "After all, Don, if it were not for [redacted] you and I would not be here."

Fr. Don sends his love and prayers to the [redacted] thanking them for their compassionate love and prayers. He wants them to know how sorrowful he is for the pain and suffering he has caused them.

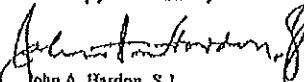
Fr. Don also wants his brother Jesuits, especially his provincial, Fr. Brad Schaeffer, and Fr. Fran Daly, his liaison, to know how grateful he is for their unqualified support in these difficult days of his life. He looks forward to the warm embrace and future life in the Society of Jesus.

In conclusion, Fr. Don felt that his behavior with [redacted] although not sinful, crossed boundaries and was gravely imprudent.

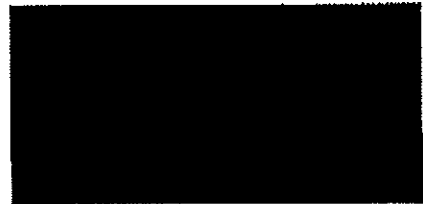
I believe that Fr. Don should be prudently allowed to engage in the priestly ministry. I am willing to cooperate with him in this matter. The [redacted] in my judgment, will be satisfied with such an arrangement. In recent years, Fr. Don and I have worked together in conducting retreats at Harrington.

Be assured of my special prayers for God's grace in resolving this situation. My regards to
Mr. Fran Daly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


John A. Hardon, S.J.

P.S. Omit, in communication with the [redacted], the statements
in the letter which are identified by a red margin. The reason
is because of provisional availability, that is i.e., [redacted].



Jesuit Community
Lansing-Rolly-Hall

The Reverend John A. Hardin, S.J.
U of D Jesuit Community
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January 3, 1994

The Reverend Donald J. McGuire, S. J.
Villa St. John Vianney
P.O. Box 219
Downingtown, PA 19335

Dear Don, P.C.

I thought it would be good to recall briefly the history of my involvement in your sad plight this past year.

In April, 1993, I was already contacted through telephone and letter by [redacted] of Walnut Creek, California. Mr. [redacted] requested my involvement in a process that was already in motion concerning certain complaints that you had engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior with his son, [redacted] when he was travelling with you on missionary journeys. I have since been informed that a meeting had taken place in which Mr. [redacted] shared his complaints with four other people: Francis Crotty of Napa, California; [redacted] a lawyer and member of Opus Dei; Fr. Joseph Fessio, S.J., director of St. Ignatius Press; and [redacted] a lawyer and friend, formerly from Walnut Creek. No explanation was given for the nature of his approach.

I immediately sought to contact you over several weeks but to no avail. I did not know at that time that, you would be completely out of communication. Finally in August, your secretary, Miss Nancy Courtright, met me at the Ballarmino Hall Retreat House in Barrington, Illinois, and I sought to contact you through her. I gave your secretary the message that I was aware of your situation and I would be happy to hear from you.

When Fr. Francis Daly, S.J. visited you in October at Villa St. John Vianney, he informed you that Mr. [redacted] made another very serious accusation against you, namely, that you had violated the seal of confession. He added that Mr. [redacted] would accept my mediation and judgment in the matter. You happily agreed to accept me as an intermediary. Some days later your Provincial, Father Brad Schaeffer made a special trip to Detroit to ask me if I would accept this office. And I agreed.

My first step was to visit the Provincial Office in Chicago and to discuss my procedure as judge. Fathers Schaeffer and Daly have been very helpful in filling me in on the background about you and this case and very grateful for my help.



Jesuit Community
Lansing-Reilly Hall

Fr. Donald J. McGuire, S.J.
January 3, 1994 (cont.)

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Subsequently, I traveled to Walnut Creek, California and overnights near the home of the [redacted] family. I interviewed the family together and each member separately--father, mother and son. About ten hours in these conversations I found that [redacted] would accept my judgment. In the ensuing conversation which occurred in the automobile together with his son [redacted] on the way to the airport he again said he would accept my judgment in the matter.

The next step in my process of adjudication was my visit to you at the Villa St. John Vianney on November 2, 1993. I interviewed you for six hours that day and in the end formulated a letter in which I firmly expressed my belief in your innocence of any sexual misbehavior or violation of the seal of confession. You hastened to add that you admitted imprudence in your relationship to [redacted].

You also related to me that you were bound by the seal of confession in your relationship to both [redacted] and his mother, [redacted]. This seriously hampers your clear defense. You could say, however, that young [redacted] was profoundly unhappy and dangerously depressed.

I contacted Mr. [redacted] and he accepted my judgment.

I was able then to report to Father Schaeffer on the results of my investigation. He expressed great gratitude and joy at the conclusion.

The final step was to call you and tell you that all had been resolved and I related to you how pleased the Provincial was with all of this.

You expressed your deep fear that despite your proven innocence of all charges, somehow you would nevertheless not be allowed to continue your retreat ministry to Mother Teresa's sisters and to the many other faithful religious communities and lay groups throughout this country. You were especially concerned that I would not be closely associated with you as you had hoped. I then called Father Provincial Schaeffer who, although he was involved in the Provincial Congregation, responded to my call and assured me that I would be very much a part of your life after the Villa--and that we would "play ball together". He wanted me to assure you that he intended that I would be as deeply involved in your future as humanly possible.

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Jesuit Community
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Fr. Donald J. McQuire, S.J.
January 3, 1994 (cont.)

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And so, Don, this is the state of the question on this eve of my departure for Calcutta, India where, with your permission, I will be communicating with Mother Teresa about your situation and your future. I have told you that my life in the Society of Jesus has been very happy since it has always involved the cross. I encourage you to continue to embrace this cross and find that happiness that only the cross can give. Let us pray for each other.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Fr. Donald J. McQuire, S.J., written in dark ink.

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