

***REV. ARWYN DIESTA***

**DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES 2013  
PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

**Vicar for Clergy Database**

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

**Rev Arwyn N. Diesta**

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*Current Primary Assignment*

<i>Birth Date</i>	5/25/1953	<i>Age:</i>	59
<i>Birth Place</i>	Sorsogon, Philippines	<i>Deanery:</i>	22
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	5/27/1978		
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Diocese of Sorsogon, Philippines		
<i>Date of Incardination</i>			
<i>Religious Community</i>			
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Left Archdiocese		
<i>Canon State</i>	Extern Priest	<i>Incard Process</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>			
 <i>Seminary</i>	 St. John's Seminary, Camarillo		
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Filipino		

**Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training**

*Date Background Check*  
*Virtus Training Date*

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**Assignment History**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Left Archdiocese	3/15/1988	
Holy Innocents Catholic Church, Long Beach Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	7/9/1982	3/14/1988
St. Stephen Catholic Church, Monterey Park Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	9/1/1978	7/8/1982

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5/14/04

Please do not remove this  
sheet.

200037

# JESUS Y. VARELA

Bishop Emeritus of Sorsogon  
El Retiro, Cabid-an  
4700 Sorsogon City  
Philippines

REV. MSGR. GABRIEL GONZALES  
VICAR FOR CLERGY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

DEAR MSGR. GABRIEL:  
PEACE AND BLESSING!

YOUR LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 2008 REACHED ME  
HERE THIS MORNING. I AM VERY SADDENED BY THE CONTENTS.  
TO BEGIN WITH, PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT I HAD  
RETIRED AS DIOCESAN BISHOP OF SORSOGON UPON REACHING  
AGE 75, AS CANON LAW PREScribes. I AM NO LONGER IN  
A POSITION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ANY INVESTIGATION  
OF ANY <sup>ALLEGED</sup> MISCONDUCT OF ANY PRIEST. I HAVE NO LONGER  
ANY ACCESS TO THE CHANCERY FILES. SO I WRITE ONLY  
FROM MEMORY, WHICH MAY NOT BE TOO SHARP ANY MORE,  
BEING NOW 80 YEARS OF AGE. I NO LONGER HAVE ANY  
CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY WHO COULD TYPE FOR ME. SO,  
PLEASE UNDERSTAND WHY I AM WRITING THIS IN LONG HAND.  
BUT IN FAIRNESS TO YOU, I WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE  
YOU WITH INFORMATION THAT I CAN STILL RECALL.

1. WHEN THE CASE OF FATHER DIESTA WAS BROUGHT  
TO MY ATTENTION BY CARDINAL MANNON IN 1992, I DID MY  
OWN INVESTIGATION APROPOS. I COULD NOT FIND ANY EVIDENCE  
TO PROVE THE GUILT OF FATHER DIESTA. I HAD KNOWN REDACTED  
REDACTED. HE WAS OUR HOUSE GUEST AT THE BISHOP'S RESIDENCE  
A COUPLE OF TIMES. AND I ALSO MET HIM AND HIS FAMILY IN  
LOS ANGELES, OR LONG BEACH, WHENEVER I VISITED THERE.  
FROM MY OWN OBSERVATION, I DID NOT FIND ANY UNBECOMING  
BEHAVIOR BETWEEN REDACTED AND FATHER DIESTA. ALL THE WHILE  
I TOOK THEIR FRIENDSHIP AS BETWEEN A YOUNGER BROTHER

REDACTED

REDACTED

# JESUS Y. VARELA

Bishop Emeritus of Sorsogon  
El Retiro, Cabid-an  
4700 Sorsogon City  
Philippines

AND AN ELDER BROTHER, OR <sup>2</sup> SPIRITUAL SON AND SPIRITUAL FATHER.

2. DURING ONE OF OUR AD LIMINA VISITS TO ROME — I DON'T EXACTLY REMEMBER THE DATE — I MET WITH CARDINAL LAGHI, WHO INFORMED ME ABOUT CARDINAL MATHONY'S REPORT. I EXPLAINED WHERE MY INVESTIGATION OF FR. DIESTA'S CASE BROUGHT ME. OUR CONVERSATION, AS FAR AS I KNOW, WAS NEVER PUT IN WRITING. CARDINAL LAGHI SEEMED SEEMED TO ME AS BEING SATISFIED WITH MY EXPLANATION. HE SAID HE WAS JUST TRYING TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST OF A BROTHER REDACTED THAT FATHER DIESTA NOT BE ASSIGNED TO ANY POSITION THAT MIGHT ROSE A DANGER TO OTHER YOUNG BOYS. WE PARTED CORDIALLY. THERE WAS NO FOLLOW-UP TO THAT CONVERSATION.

3. FROM MY PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF FATHER DIESTA'S BEHAVIOR WITH YOUNG BOYS AT THE MINOR SEMINARY OR ELSEWHERE, I COULD NOT FIND ANY MISCONDUCT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE WAS <sup>ADULATED</sup> BY BOTH THE PARENTS AND THE SEMINARY FACULTY. THERE WAS NO GROUND FOR ME TO REMOVE HIM. HE WAS DOING A REMARKABLE JOB, IN ALL ASPECTS OF SEMINARY FORMATION.

4. TRUE, A PRIEST APPROACHED ME SOMETIME IN THE LATE 90'S, TO TELL ME THAT ONE OR TWO SEMINARIANS COMPLAINED TO HIM ABOUT FR. DIESTA'S ALLEGED MISCONDUCT. SINCE IT WAS JUST HEARSAY ON HIS PART, HE TOLD ME THAT THESE TWO SEMINARIANS WOULD SEE ME TO LODGE A COMPLAINT. THEY NEVER DID. I KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT THAT PRIEST HAD AN AXE TO GRIND. I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE DID NOT ~~DO~~ OUT OF HATRED AND ENVY TOWARDS FATHER DIESTA.

REDACTED

REDACTED

# JESUS Y. VARELA

Bishop Emeritus of Sorsogon  
El Retiro, Cabid-an  
4700 Sorsogon City  
Philippines

3-

5. WHEN MY SUCCESSOR WAS INSTALLED, HE TRANSFERRED FATHER DIESTA AS A PASTOR OF A SMALL PARISH, IN VIEW OF THE RESHUFFLE OF ASSIGNMENTS. I HAVE BEEN HEARING A LOT OF GOOD THINGS ABOUT FATHER DIESTA FROM THE PARISHIONERS.

6. FATHER ARWYN DIESTA HIMSELF INFORMED ME MOTU PROPRIO, WITHOUT ME ASKING HIM, THAT AT THE <sup>U.S.</sup> MILITARY BASE AT OKINAWA, HIS SUPERIORS BROUGHT UP THE MATTER WITH HIM, AS A RESULT OF WHICH, HE DEFINITELY RESIGNED ~~FROM~~ HIS RANK. CASE CLOSED, HE TOLD ME.

7. FATHER DIESTA ALSO TOLD ME, AGAIN MOTU PROPRIO, THAT EARLY ON, HE HAD A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH REDACTED WHO ASSURED HIM (FATHER DIESTA) THAT THE FORMER HAD NO INTENTION OF BRINGING THE MATTER TO THE CIVIL COURTS. REDACTED TOLD HIM, HE SAID, THAT IT WAS HIS MOTHER, MRS REDACTED, WHO WANTED TO BRING THE CASE TO THE COURT.

8. IF I WILL BE ALLOWED TO STATE FURTHER, FATHER DIESTA AS A PASTOR IS PERFORMING VERY WELL. HE IS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE AN EXPERT ON LITURGY, AMONG OTHER THINGS. HE IS ALSO A GOOD ORGANIZER OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, WHICH EARNED HIM THE APPRECIATION OF THE NEW BISHOP.

★ WITH REGARD TO REDACTED

IT IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE HEARD (FROM YOU) OF THIS CASE. I HAVE COMPLETELY NO KNOWLEDGE OF <sup>IT.</sup> ~~THIS CASE.~~

REDACTED

REDACTED

# JESUS Y. VARELA

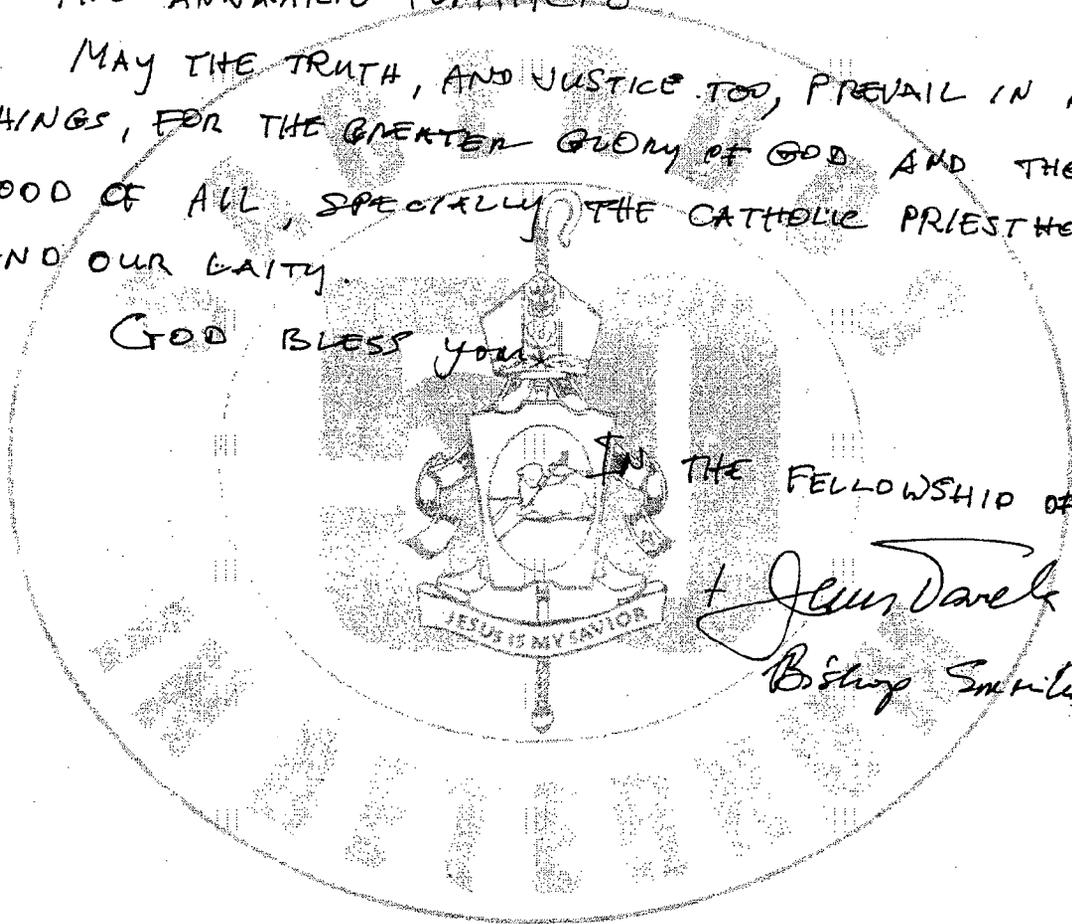
Bishop Emeritus of Sorsogon  
El Retiro, Cabid-an  
4700 Sorsogon City  
Philippines

- 4 -

IF THERE ARE FURTHER INQUIRIES ABOUT THESE TWO CASES, I SUGGEST THAT YOU TAKE THEM UP WITH THE NEW BISHOP. HIS NAME AND HIS ADDRESS SHOULD BE IN THE ANUARIO PONTIFICIO

MAY THE TRUTH, AND JUSTICE TOO, PREVAIL IN ALL THINGS, FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD AND THE GOOD OF ALL, SPECIALLY THE CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD AND OUR LAITY.

GOD BLESS YOU



IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE,

*Jesus Varela*  
Bishop Emeritus

REDACTED

REDACTED

Priests.db Browse 1 Record found  
PRIMARY SCREEN

Last Diesta Title Rev. First Arwyn Middle N.  
Birthplace Philippines Sorsogon Year 53 DOB Age 39  
Ordained 78 Seminary St. John Seminary, Camarillo, CA  
Order Incardinated no Diocese Sorsogon, Philippines  
Diocesan Religious Brother Living/Working Inactive x Rite Deacon  
Institution Assigned 88  
Address1 Address2  
City State Zip Country  
Home Work Private FAX ( )  
Status Left-archdiocese  
Comment

Date Entered 03/28/88 Date Assigned 03/15/88  
Deanery 00 Title3 Father Title4(Dean) Salutation Arwyn  
Will Retired in Rectory C

Appointments

St. Stephen, Monterey Park - Associate 9, 78  
Holy Innocents, Long Beach - Associate 7, 82

\_ Find \_ Add \_ Modify \_ Remove \_ Sort \_ Output \_ Layout \_ Define \_ Zoom

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Order Incardinated no Diocese Sorsogon, Philippines  
Diocesan Religious Brother Living/Working Inactive x Rite Deacon  
Institution Assigned 88  
Address1 Address2

REDACTED

Met in 1984 July 28, 1992

- friends = I, altar boy, Commissioner  
We did things together = Movies, bowling, shopping, sacramental functions = home masses, baptisms, weddings.

- I ~~to~~ told him I had been sexually harassed by men before... this led me to trust in him fully. By this age (14?) I would frequently spend the night at rectory, maybe 3-4 nts. per week - during summer months.

During this time we talked much about our feelings of love and care for each other; he told me how he prayed to God for a friend like me; he said I reminded him of himself at my age. We would talk as he would hold me on his sofa. (During school year, I would spend almost every SAT & Sun. evening) I even missed some classes during the week.

- one afternoon we were talking intimately and we kissed. I ~~thought~~ thought it was strange, yet natural. During following evenings, we would hold each other while sleeping. It felt so comfortable

that I thought nothing was wrong with  
 his friendship, at age 14 or 15. I felt  
 like this was the perfect person in my life.  
 He cared for my needs better than my parents,  
 he gives me attention and warmth, he is  
 my best friend. I totally trust this  
 guy - priest. I did not mind that  
 we slept in the same bed, him in shorts  
 and t-shirt, me in just shorts, later  
 on, just underwear (briefs). ~~the~~

~~the~~ This innocent relationship lasted  
 until the summer we went to Europe,  
~~the~~ the end of sophomore year HS. (OCCAN)  
 beginning junior year. Previous night  
 that we slept together there was ~~nothing~~ rubbing  
 of our genitals by our bodies.

The night we arrived in London, he went  
 too far, this time while masturbating my penis  
 he made me ejaculate and I came.  
 He said he did not ~~see~~ mean to do  
 that, but this was the beginning of years of  
 physical manipulation. This also led to my  
 emotional & ~~the~~ psychological manipulation.

- I received money and have traveled  
 to many countries: Throughout Europe, Asia. at  
 no expense to me, except my person being  
 violated.

②

34830

REDACTED

I had been so dependent on him that I could, I might, do nothing without him; not even make decisions that were good for me, but would offend him.

(3)

34831

REDACTED

July 28, 1992

Met in 1981.

- Friends: I was altar boy commissioner. We did things together--bowling, shopping, sacramental functions (home Masses, Baptisms, weddings).
- I told him I had been sexually molested by men before. This led me to trust in him fully. By this age (14?) I would frequently spend the night at rectory, maybe 3-4 nights per week during summer months. During this time we talked much about our feelings of love and care for each other; he told me how he prayed to God for a friend like me; he said I reminded him of himself at my age. We would talk as he would hold me on his sofa. (During school year, I would spend almost every Saturday and Sunday evening [with him].) I even missed some classes during the week.
- One afternoon we were talking intimately and we kissed. I thought it was strange, yet natural. During following evenings, we would hold each other while sleeping. It felt so comfortable that I thought nothing was wrong with this friendship, at age 14 or 15. I felt like this was the perfect person in my life. He cared for my needs better than my parents, he gives me attention and warmth, he is my best friend. I totally trust this guy--priest. I did not mind that we slept in the same bed, him in shorts and T-shirt, me in just shorts--later on, just underwear (briefs).
- This innocent relationship lasted until the summer we went to Europe, the end of sophomore year high school (Our Lady Queen of Angels), beginning junior year. Previous nights that we slept together there was rubbing of our genitals by our bodies. The night we arrived in London, he went too far, this time while masturbating my penis he made me ejaculate and I came. He said he did not mean to do that, but this was the beginning of years of physical manipulation. This also led to my emotional and psychological manipulation.
- I received money and have traveled to many countries: throughout Europe, Asia, at no expense to me, except my person being violated.
- I had been so dependent on him that I could, I thought, do nothing without him; not even make decisions that were good for me, but would offend him.

34832

MEMORANDUM**CONFIDENTIAL**DATE: July 29, 1992FROM: Rev. REDACTEDTO: Rev. Timothy DyerRE: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

Phone:

Graduated from St. John's College in 1991. Started at Queen of Angels in 1983. Married in December 1991 and moved to San Diego.

Fr. Arwyn Diesta befriended him as 8th grader in 1982. Lots of travel, movies, home Masses, etc. Evenings in rectory. REDACTED would sleep in same bed in rectory with Fr. Diesta from later part of 8th grade on. In the summers, about 3 times per week, often on weekends in school year when home from Queen of Angels. He told his parents that staying in the rectory was part of his training. They traveled to Europe between his sophomore and junior years, during which time their relationship became more overtly sexual-- mutual masturbation. The relationship continued with deepening emotional dependence on REDACTED part, always checking with Father Diesta on any significant decisions, right up until his last year in the seminary, 1990-91. By this time, Father Diesta had returned to the Diocese of Sorsogon in the Philippines, and REDACTED was impatient with the long turn-around time (two weeks) of correspondence since he still felt the need to get Father Diesta's approbation for any major decision.

Becoming ever more uncomfortable, REDACTED consulted Father REDACTED at the seminary, who counseled him to an understanding of the abusive and unhealthy nature of their relationship. After the better part of a year's counseling, REDACTED wrote a letter in December 1991 to Father Diesta in Sorsogon, describing how he had come to see that their relationship had been abusive and terribly unhealthy for REDACTED.

Right now, REDACTED wants to put the matter behind him and tell the Church authorities about his relationship with Father Diesta, so that Father will get help and not hurt anyone else. He made no mention of a lawsuit, criminal charges, or wanting financial help of any kind.

I told him that we regard any priest who abuses someone to be financially responsible for health care needed because of that abuse. I told him further that if Father Diesta acknowledges the basic truth of this account, we will ask him to provide any financial help Mr. REDACTED might need for therapy.

Attached is handwritten account by REDACTED

34828

DRAFT by REDACTED for Cardinal

Dear Bishop,

Mr. REDACTED, now 23 years of age, who completed four years at our Minor Seminary and graduated from our College Seminary in 1991, has brought me a very disturbing account of his relationship with Father Arwyn Diesta. He reports that Fr. Diesta initiated a sexual relationship with him which lasted from the time he was a young teenager until Fr. Diesta returned to the Philippines in 1988. Inasmuch as I know REDACTED personally and can vouch for his character, I must relate to you the details of his testimony and then suggest what action must be taken:

-- Fr. Diesta befriended REDACTED as an 8th grader (13 years of age) in 1982. Fr. Diesta took him to movies, shopping and to assist him as an altar boy at home Masses. During summer months REDACTED spent 3-4 nights per week in the rectory. REDACTED reports that they talked about their feelings of love for each other; Fr. Diesta told him how he had prayed to God for a friend like him. When REDACTED entered the Minor Seminary in 1983, he told his parents that staying at the rectory was part of his training and he would spend nearly every Saturday and Sunday evening with Fr. Diesta. They would talk for long periods of time and Fr. Diesta would hold him on the sofa. One afternoon they were talking intimately and began to kiss. They began the practice of holding each other while sleeping and at that age (14-15 years), REDACTED thought nothing was wrong with the friendship. The relationship continued with deepening emotional attachment on REDACTED's part -- so that he would make no significant decisions without Fr. Diesta's advice.

-- REDACTED reports that their relationship changed in the summer of 1985 when Fr. Diesta took him to Europe. On the night they arrived in London, Fr. Diesta held him and rubbed his genitals to the point of ejaculation. Fr. Diesta had not gone this far ever before; on previous nights, however, there had been "rubbing of genitals by our bodies." Fr. Diesta told him he did not mean to do this but, in reality, this was the beginning of years of physical manipulation.

-- REDACTED reports that he received money from Fr. Diesta and traveled to many countries in Europe and Asia, with all expenses paid except for the fact that "my person was being violated." The emotional dependence had become so strong that by the time Fr. Diesta returned to the Diocese of Sorsogon, REDACTED was having great difficulty making decisions on his own.

-- In desperation, REDACTED finally consulted a member of the College Seminary faculty who counseled him to an understanding of the abusive and unhealthy nature of the relationship with Fr. Diesta. After nearly a year's counseling, REDACTED wrote a letter in December 1991 to Fr. Diesta -- describing how he had come to see that their relationship had been abusive and terribly unhealthy for him.

At this point, REDACTED wants to put the matter behind him. He wants Church authorities to know about the relationship with Fr. Diesta so that he will not hurt anyone else and will receive help himself. REDACTED has made no mention of lawsuit, criminal charges or wanting financial aid of any kind.

34824



MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

September 11, 1992

TO: CARDINAL MAHONY  
FROM: FATHER DYER  
RE: REV. ARWYN DIESTA

A serious problem has arisen with regard to Father Arwyn Diesta of the Diocese of Sorsogon, who served here from 1978 to 1988, when he left the Archdiocese to return to the Philippines and take a position in the Chancery of his Diocese.

Attached are:

Testimony concerning Father Diesta that was given to Father REDACTED by REDACTED, who graduated from St. John's College in 1991 and has moved to San Diego;

Mr. REDACTED handwritten notes regarding his relationship with Father Diesta and a typed transcript of same;

Comments from Father REDACTED as to suggested content for letter to the Diocese of Sorsogon.

I think we have to take action in this matter, and I would appreciate your recommendation as to whether you should write to the Bishop of Sorsogon (with copy to Father Diesta) or I should write to Father Diesta (with copy to the Bishop).

It is important to note that at the present time, Father Diesta is serving as Chancellor of the Diocese of Sorsogon.

With thanks for your help.

Really sad - I recall REDACTED well - a fine young man.  
I should write to the Bishop - copy to Diesta.  
Please help prepare the letter. The Bishop must respond to me.  
+ RMM  
9-15-92

34825

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 11, 1992  
FROM: REDACTED REDACTED  
TO: Msgr. Dyer  
RE: Rev. Arwyn Diesta

Attached you will find:

- (A) My notes on what I think the Cardinal should write to the Bishop of Sorsogon;
- (B) My memo to you about my talk with REDACTED
- (C) A typed copy of REDACTED actual notes.

One thing for you and the Cardinal to decide:

Should the letter go to the Bishop with a copy to Arwyn?  
Or should the letter be written to Arwyn (REDACTED suggestion) with a copy to the Bishop?

Remember, Arwyn is the REDACTED of the Diocese of Sorsogon.

At your service.

REDACTED

Msgr. Dyer:                    soap  
 REDACTED REDACTED                    night  
 went to call REDACTED  
 + just explain what is  
 happening - do not give a copy  
 of this, but just explain what's  
 happening, next steps, etc.

34764

The last address we have for

REDACTED

is : REDACTED

You might want to check with her mother

REDACTED

i.e. the above address is obsolete

REDACTED

34775

9/14/92

Suggested points for a letter from Cardinal Mahony to the Bishop of Sorsogon (or to Rev. Arwyn Diesta with a copy to that Bishop)

1. REDACTED , a young man of 23 years, who left our seminary only last year, brought us a very disturbing account of his relationship with Father Arwyn Diesta while Father Diesta was serving in this Archdiocese. The notes of Mr. REDACTED - interview with REDACTED REDACTED and Mr. REDACTED : own handwritten notes speak for themselves: Father Diesta apparently inflicted serious emotional and sexual abuse on a minor.
2. Mr. REDACTED : account seems credible to us: no sign of vindictiveness, no request for money, and, after a year of counseling about this matter with a priest psychologist.
3. If this account is true, Father Diesta has an emotional/sexual disorder that puts other young people in his life in danger of similar abuse. One-on-one contact with minors, especially traveling, socializing, would be out of order for Father Diesta. It might be questioned whether working as a priest, with the invitation to trust that goes along with ministry, is suitable for him at this time.
4. Father Diesta would need serious counseling and recovery time before there could be a condition of safety for young people in his life.
5. If Father Diesta acknowledges the basic accuracy of these allegations, we consider him responsible for helping Mr. REDACTED financially in his continued therapy. We would be happy to mediate such assistance, if that would help.
6. A situation like this is traumatic, life-changing, and very difficult to handle. Our prayers and support are with you, etc.

34833

**CONFIDENTIAL****MEMORANDUM****September 19, 1992**

**TO:** Cardinal Mahony  
**FROM:** Father Timothy Dyer  
**RE:** Draft Letter to Bishop of Sorsogon

I have attached a draft of the information you will want to send to Fr. Diesta's bishop. I wrote up to the point where you will tell the bishop what action must now be taken. You may want to tell him that you have conveyed to REDACTED (through REDACTED REDACTED) that we regard any priest who abuses someone to be financially responsible for health care due to the abuse.

Behind the draft is the entire file to this point -- from which I compiled my notes for you.

Please let me know if I can be of further help.

34823



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

CONFIDENTIAL

September 24, 1992

Most Reverend Jesus Y. Varela  
Bishop of Sorsogon  
The Chancery Office  
P.O. Box 7  
Padre Pedro Licup Hall  
4700 Sorsogon  
Philippines

Dear Bishop Varela:

I am writing to you with a sense of urgency and of great sadness because of the past conduct and behavior of one of your priests, the Reverend **Arwyn DIESTA**.

Mr. REDACTED, now 23 years of age, who completed four years at our High School Seminary (Our Lady, Queen of the Angels Seminary) and who graduated from our St. John's Seminary College in May of 1991, has brought me a very disturbing account of his relationship with Father Arwyn Diesta.

REDACTED reported that Father Diesta initiated a sexual relationship with him which lasted from the time he was a young teenager until Father Diesta returned to the Philippines in 1988. Inasmuch as I know REDACTED personally and can vouch for his character, I must relate to you the details of his testimony and then recommend that immediate action be taken by you, his Diocesan Bishop, in this extremely serious case.

Father Diesta befriended REDACTED when he was 13 years of age and an eighth grader at Holy Innocents Parish, Long Beach. Father Diesta took REDACTED to the movies, shopping, and to assist him as an altar boy when Father Diesta celebrated Home Masses. During the summer months, REDACTED spent three to four nights per week in the Holy Innocents rectory.

REDACTED reports that they talked about their feelings of love for each other, and that Father Diesta had told him how he prayed to God for a friend like him. When REDACTED entered the High School Seminary in 1983, he told his parents

34819

that staying at the rectory was part of his training to become a priest, and he would spend nearly every Saturday and Sunday evening with Father Diesta.

They would talk for long periods of time, and Father Diesta would physically hold him on the sofa in his quarters. One afternoon they were talking intimately and began to kiss each other. They began the practice of holding each other while sleeping, and at that age (14 to 15 years), REDACTED thought nothing was wrong with the friendship.

This relationship continued with deepening emotional attachment on Michael's part with the result that REDACTED would make no significant life decisions without Father Diesta's advice.

REDACTED reported that their relationship changed in the summer of 1985 when Father Diesta took him to Europe. On the night they arrived in London, Father Diesta held him and rubbed REDACTED genitals to the point of ejaculation. Father Diesta had not gone this far ever before. On previous nights, however, there had been "rubbing of genitals by our bodies," as REDACTED reports. Father Diesta told him that he did not mean to do this, but in reality, this was actually the beginning of years of physical, sexual manipulation. Apparently, a continuing relationship of mutual masturbation then ensued over the years.

REDACTED reported that he received a great deal of money from Father Diesta, and that he traveled to many countries in Europe and Asia, with all expenses paid except for the fact that "my person was being violated." The emotional dependence had become so strong that by the time Father Diesta returned to the Diocese of Sorsogon, REDACTED was having great difficulty making personal decisions on his own.

In desperation, REDACTED finally consulted a member of St. John's College Seminary who counseled him to understand the abusive and unhealthy nature of the relationship with Father Diesta. After nearly a year's counselling, REDACTED wrote a letter in December, 1991, to Father Diesta describing how he had come to understand that their relationship had been abusive and terribly unhealthy for him.

At this point in time, REDACTED wants to place this matter behind him. He has married and now lives south of Los Angeles. But REDACTED wants the appropriate Church officials to know of this relationship with Father Diesta so that Father Diesta will not harm any other young men in similar fashion.

These actions by Father Arwyn Diesta are immoral, criminal, and a serious breach of his vows of chastity and celibacy.

Since <sup>REDACTED</sup> was under 18 years of age during this ongoing abuse, Father Diesta's conduct is subject to criminal prosecution in the Courts of California. If found legally guilty, Father Diesta would spend a long time in prison. It is up to <sup>REDACTED</sup> to decide whether he will press criminal charges in this case.

Father Diesta is also subject to civil legal action should <sup>REDACTED</sup> decide to file a suit in Court to seek reparation for the enormous personal damages he has suffered.

Because of the seriousness of this ongoing misconduct on the part of Father Arwyn Diesta, and because of the danger that other young men may have also been so abused--both in the past and presently--it is important that you, as his Diocesan Bishop, take immediate steps to deal with this matter.

If Father Diesta were one of my priests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, these are the steps we would take at once:

- 1) The priest would have his Faculties suspended at once, and he would not be permitted to remain in any priestly ministry assignment pending the outcome of a full investigation and the completion of a full treatment program.
- 2) The priest would be sent to an institution that specializes in sexual misconduct by priests where a full and thorough evaluation would take place.
- 3) Based on the outcome of that evaluation, the priest would have to follow the course of action determined by the Treatment Center. Those actions could include:
  - ◆ a life-long suspension from priestly functions, and a request that he write our Holy Father requesting a return to the lay state;
  - ◆ the completion of an extensive rehabilitation program, including psychological counselling, spiritual counselling, and the like;
  - ◆ a new assignment following treatment that does not place the priest in any contact with teenagers or young men;
  - ◆ the priest would assume full financial responsibility himself for the full treatment of his victim(s);

◆ a combination of the above action plans.

Given the extreme seriousness of this case because of its long and ongoing nature, I would urge you to take immediate action steps against Father Arwyn Diesta.

I do not know if <sup>REDACTED</sup> will pursue criminal or civil legal action here in the Courts of California. If he does, then I would insist that you require Father Diesta to return to California to face the legal processes that result from his own misconduct.

I would also insist that you require Father Diesta to pay personally for any ongoing counselling that <sup>REDACTED</sup> will need to move away from this terrible, harmful relationship imposed upon him by Father Diesta.

May I please ask that you acknowledge receipt of this letter, and that you inform me of the steps that you have taken with respect to Father Arwyn Diesta.

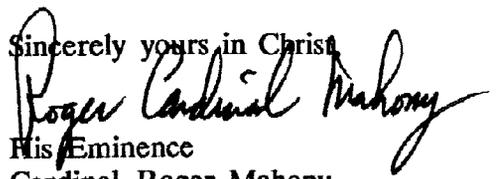
I can be reached by both telephone and by FAX as follows:

Telephone Number: (213) REDACTED

FAX Number: (213)

Given the seriousness of this entire matter, I am sending a copy of this correspondence to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Gian Vincenzo Moreni, the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines.

Thanking you for your understanding of the seriousness of this case, and looking forward to hearing from you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ  


His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

cc: Most Reverend Gian Vincenzo Moreni



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
PHILIPPINES

2140 TAFT AVENUE  
P. O. BOX 3604, MANILA

1 October 1992

N. 7751

Your Eminence,

I have today received the copies of your letter of September 24, 1992, addressed to the Bishop of Sorsogon.

May I assure Your Eminence that the letter will most certainly be brought to the attention of Archbishop Moreni upon his return from vacation.

I think it may be some time before you hear from Monsignor Varela, as I believe he is presently in Manila, but about to leave for a trip of several weeks abroad.

With my most respectful greetings, I remain,

Yours devotedly in Christ,

Paul R. Gallagher (Mgr)  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

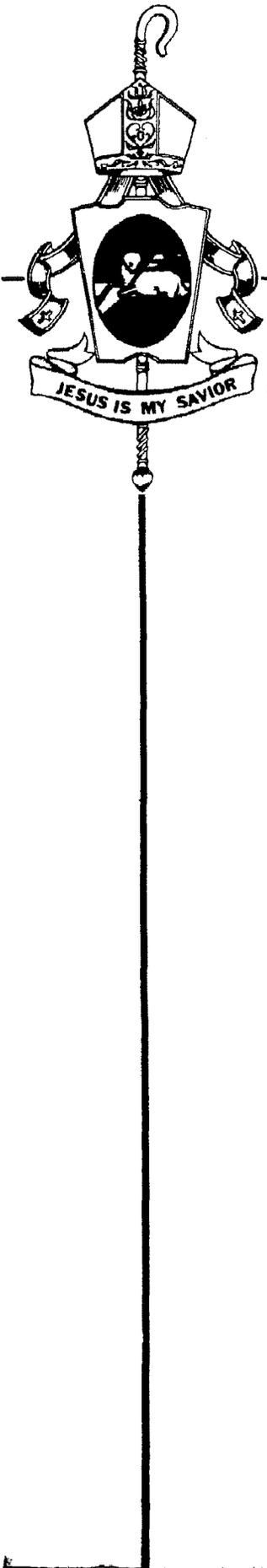
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His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger MAHONY  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
LOS ANGELES

34818

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF SORSOGON

P.O. Box 07  
4700 Sorsogon  
Philippines



Jesus is the Savior (Mt. 1:21)

CONFIDENTIAL

01 October 1992

His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
1531 West Ninth Street  
Los Angeles, California 90015-1194

Dear Cardinal Mahony:

Peace and blessing!

After reading your confidential letter dated 24 September 1992, and digesting its contents, I immediately went to see the accused and confronted him with the accusation contained in your letter.

The accused denied the allegations. With due respect to all concerned, I must say that I believe the accused. I have known him for twelve years. he has worked closely with me all these many years. There is nothing in his behavior that could provide me with a reason to doubt now his word.

As a fellow pastor, I respect the manner with which you would handle a matter like this. But in my twenty-five years experience as a bishop, I have used a different approach.

Firstly, no matter how credible an accuser may sound, I would reserve judgement until the accused is heard and all the evidence weighed. I subscribe to the fundamental tenet that the accused is presumed innocent until he is shown to be otherwise by a preponderance of evidence. The reputation of every person, and more so of an anointed of God, is always a primordial concern with me. The right to one's good name is a basic human right. Priests, and including even bishops, are so vulnerable to false and malicious accusations. And to our great disadvantage, as it frequently happens in cases like this, we cannot even avail ourselves of our best

34814

Page two, Dear Cardinal Mahony

defense because our lips are sealed either by professional confidentiality or even the sacramental seal.

Secondly, suspension of Faculties is a penalty, and is to be meted out only after guilt is established. Of course I would admit that if the case so warrants it, the public exercise of faculties may be curtailed while the process of investigation is taking place.

Thirdly, if the accused is proven guilty beyond shadow of doubt, I would always temper the just penalty with compassion. The compassionate scene of Jesus forgiving the woman caught in adultery, while the whole world wanted to stone her to death, has so conditioned my basic attitude towards all sinners. After all, I too stand before God as a sinner, maybe the worst sinner of all.

I have personally known the accuser for some time too. He regularly spent part of his summer vacation as a guest in my house. He was friendly with everybody. He did not strike me as one who was undergoing problems with relationships. He enjoyed staying with us, and was always looking forward to his next vacation here. We too enjoyed his company.

Then, all of a sudden, we were so shocked by the news that the accuser had left the seminary, and got married in a hurry. We never heard of a courtship preceding the wedding. I wonder aloud: might not marital problems now be the reason for this unexpected shift of attack?

From all appearances, there was nothing more than good and healthy friendship between the accused and the accuser. I never observed any unbecoming conduct. It was to me a typical case of a zealous priest seeing in a young man a potentially excellent priest, and going out of his way to nurture that vocation. The accused was like a father to the accuser. Maybe he was a surrogate father to one who, I am told, had a troubled childhood.

The accused has been instrumental in the vocation of other seminarians. In fact there are Seminary Fathers who have singled out the accused as a good example of how priests should foment the priestly vocation among the young.

The accused is so hurt that his love and zeal for the Priesthood is to be repaid in this fashion. It is sad how that good name that he had built for himself be destroyed by this accusation. But he is taking it all in the spirit of the Suffering Lord who also was falsely accused many times.

Your Eminence, whatever motive the accuser might have, should we not be equally concerned for the reputation and the peace of mind of the accused, and so lay the whole matter to rest? After all, if the accuser "wants to place

34815

Page three, Dear Cardinal Mahony

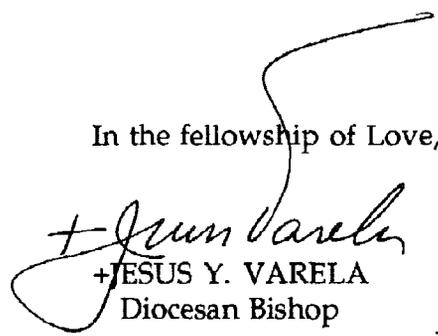
this matter behind him," and if all he wants is to let church officials know of this relationship so that the accused "will not harm any other young men in similar fashion," there is nothing more the accuser has to worry about. The accused is doing splendidly in the Priesthood. His behavior towards boys and young men is above reproach. He has a good public image. He performs his other duties to the admiration of many.

I honestly do not see any benefit to anybody if this matter is brought to court. Both litigants will be subjected to verbal abuse by the opposing lawyers. The media will have a field day. Whatever will be the outcome at the end, the shame and the humiliation to both litigants will leave them badly scarred the rest of their lives.

The scandal-mongering media have done a lot of damage to the Church lately. I would not want us to play right into their hands or give them a free ride at our expense.

God bless you.

In the fellowship of Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jesus Y. Varela", with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

+ JESUS Y. VARELA  
Diocesan Bishop

P.S. I will be in Europe from 07 to 31 October 1992. If there are any follow-up correspondence, please send them in early November.

cc: REDACTED REDACTED

REFERRAL MEMORANDUM from CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY

TO: Insg. Dyer DATE: 10-8-92

- Please REVIEW, then SEE ME
- Please REVIEW, then RETURN to me
- Please REVIEW, then SEND me your COMMENTS
- Please REVIEW, then FILE
  
- Please HANDLE this matter ENTIRELY
- Please ANSWER; send copy of letter to me
- Please WRITE A REPLY for my signature
- For your INFORMATION
- Please XEROX - FAX and send copy/copies to:

*Desta -  
for C file*

Original to:  file  back to me  \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Thanks!*

REFERRAL MEMORANDUM from CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY

TO: Msgr. Dyer DATE: 10-15-92

- Please REVIEW, then SEE ME
- Please REVIEW, then RETURN to me
- Please REVIEW, then SEND me your COMMENTS
- Please REVIEW, then FILE
  
- Please HANDLE this matter ENTIRELY
- Please ANSWER; send copy of letter to me
- Please WRITE A REPLY for my signature
- For your INFORMATION
- Please XEROX - FAX and send copy/copies to:

Original to:  file  back to me  \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: Please see REDACTED ACTED review this, then

let's discuss our next steps. No problem in showing

the letter to REDACTED Thanks!

MEMORANDUM

October 17, 1992

**TO:** REDACTED,EDACTED

**FROM:** Father Timothy Dyer

**RE:** Attached letter from Bishop Varela

I wonder if you would look this over and then suggest the next steps. Maybe we should go in together to present them to the Cardinal. Notice his "remarks" at bottom of his memo to me.

I'll met with you as soon as you are ready about this matter.

34812

**SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY and COLLEGE**  
5118 Seminary Road  
Camarillo, California 93012  
805-482-2755

REDACTED  
Psychological Consultant  
REDACTED

**PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Monday, November 2, 1992

Reverend REDACTED  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
1531 West Ninth Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear REDACTED

I am writing you concerning the allegations made by Mr. REDACTED against a Father Arwyn Diesta who served as an associate pastor at Holy Innocents Parish in Long Beach during the 1980's. REDACTED requested that I send this letter to you and he has given me written permission to discuss the matters herein contained.

REDACTED joined the St. John's Seminary College community in the fall of 1987. It was my practice, as Dean of Formation, to become acquainted with the new students, and it was also my obligation to interview them prior to entry into the seminary college. My initial impression of REDACTED was that he was a good-hearted and sincere individual who gave the appearance of being somewhat naive.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

# CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend REDACTED  
page 2  
Monday, November 2, 1992

REDACTED

As this pattern emerged and REDACTED awareness of his earlier neediness began to be apparent, I became concerned about his relationship with Father Diesta. REDACTED spoke very highly of this priest, who was now living in the Philippines, and in fact visited him on several occasions while he was seeing me professionally. REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED In one occasion, REDACTED fiancée asked if there were any secrets that he hadn't told her. He responded by telling her of the sexual relationship that he had had with Father Diesta earlier in his life.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Reverend REDACTED  
page 3  
Monday, November 2, 1992

REDACTED

REDACTED

My experience in working with a number of dioceses in these cases over the past few years is that those perpetrators who are allowed to pick their own counselors and their own institutions for recovery do far poorer than those who are encouraged to go to reputable establishments which have a track record of successful intervention.

I have also found it important that the victim is given some awareness from the authorities in the concerned diocese of what has, in fact, happened to the perpetrator. Most of these situations, I have found, are situations in which the victim has been a friend and still holds a great deal of affection for the perpetrator and sincerely does want them to get the best help possible. It is to <sup>REDACTED</sup> credit that he also has the broad vision of the welfare of the church in mind; hence he is to be commended for bringing this forward to the archdiocese.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED



COPY

MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

November 30, 1992

TO: MSGR. TIMOTHY DYER

FROM: REDACTED REDACTED

RE: RESPONSE TO BISHOP VARELA IN THE REDACTED MATTER

At the Cardinal's request, I contacted REDACTED to (a) communicate the substance of Bishop Varela's letter; (b) ask him for a copy of REDACTED letter to Father Diesta; (c) obtain a release from Father REDACTED so we can get a professional assessment of REDACTED credibility; and (d) ask REDACTED what he wants, e.g., financial help for therapy? civil suit if the help is not forthcoming?

In a phone conversation on October 26, 1992, REDACTED said:

- a) - He did not want to hear Bishop Varela's letter read verbatim, was saddened but not surprised by the bishop's protective denial, and deeply appreciated the Cardinal's strong representation of his case.
- b) - He has no copy of his "confronting" letter to Father Diesta.
- c) - He would write Father REDACTED a release of confidentiality letter.
- d) - He did not want to file criminal charges, initiate a civil suit, nor even pursue with any vigor financial help for therapy. "I still want only to protect other young people and help Father Diesta, not hurt him."

After receiving Mr. REDACTED "release" letter, Father REDACTED REDACTED wrote (copy attached) a detailed account of their therapy, with a very strong endorsement of Mr. REDACTED credibility.

Recommendations: In view of Bishop Varela's strong defensiveness and denial, the probable lack of any resource of effective therapy for perpetrators near Sorsogon, and the real bottom line, i.e., the protection of young people, I suggest that the following points be emphasized in a resply to Bishop Varela's letter:

- a) - Although we are short of juridical proof, the letter from Father REDACTED a seasoned psychologist, strongly supporting Mr. REDACTED veracity makes it nearly certain that these allegations have substance.
- b) - With the degree of likelihood that Father Diesta has been and can be severely abusive in his relationship with boys, the first priority is to strictly restrict his ministry and social life to assure, as far as possible, that he not spend time alone with boys of early adolescent age.

RESPONSE TO BISHOP VARELA IN THE REDACTED

Recommendations (cont.):

- c) - With this case of abuse of Mr. REDACTED unacknowledged and unhealed, we would regard any visit by Father Diesta to this area as dangerous and offensive.
- d) - Father Diesta should receive professional help for his condition. We might be able to recommend some resources in the United States.



MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

December 1, 1992

TO: CARDINAL MAHONY  
FROM: REDACTED  
RE: ATTACHED DRAFT

Attached, per your request, is a draft of a letter to Bishop Varela of Sorsogon regarding Father Arwyn Diesta.

Also attached are a memo I sent to Monsignor Dyer on this subject (before I received your memorandum of request) and a copy of the report from Father REDACTED

These last two attachments will clarify why I took the approach I did in the draft letter. Sending a copy of the REDACTED report to Bishop Varela would, in my judgment, be appropriate.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

REDACTED

cc: Rev. Msgr. Timothy J. Dyer

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

Most Reverend Jesus Y. Varela  
Bishop of Sorsogon  
P.O. Box 07  
4700 Sorsogon  
Philippines

Dear Bishop Varela:

Thank you for answering my letter of concern about the relationship between Father Arwyn Diesta and Mr. REDACTED REDACTED. It is true that merely receiving a plausible sounding account of abuse does not constitute juridical proof that such abuse took place. I also appreciate your having come to value and respect Father Diesta for his friendship and valuable work in your Diocese. Nonetheless, I am deeply disappointed in your seeming certitude that this young man's account of abuse is without foundation, as well as in your apparent willingness to let more young people risk abuse if Father Diesta, in fact, has this problem.

Since first writing to you, I have received from Rev. REDACTED REDACTED a psychologist at St. John Seminary here, a detailed report, written with REDACTED permission, of their lengthy therapeutic work. Father REDACTED professional assessment is very clear: Mr. REDACTED account of serious abuse is substantially accurate.

Even if you cannot believe that Father Diesta became abusive in his relationship with Mr. REDACTED the well-considered professional assessment that he did would seem to require at least one precaution, i.e., that Father Diesta in his ministry and social life be forbidden to spend time alone with adolescent boys. A good conscience would seem to demand that this restriction be made very clearly to Father Diesta and be known and monitored by several significant adults close to him. We make and monitor such a restriction for any priest with a similar tendency, even after length and effective treatment.

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

Psychologists tell us that an adult with the tendency to become inappropriately close and then sexual with a young person is not thereby a bad person. This is a deep disorder, a disease if you will. A person so afflicted can be honest and competent in other areas of his life. But when it comes to the object of his emotional/sexual affection, there is denial, confusion, and self-deception--to say nothing of the devastating harm done to the young victim's capacity to trust and relate maturely later on.

While Mr. REDACTED experience of abuse is unacknowledged, we would regard any visit by Father Diesta to this area as dangerous and offensive.

We would very much like to see Father Diesta receive the support and healing he needs. If either of you should eventually be seeking such professional help for him, I pray you find a good resource. There are some places of treatment in the United States that we could recommend if you should wish that.

34806



COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

December 2, 1992

Most Reverend Jesus Y. Varela  
Bishop of Sorsogon  
P.O. Box 07  
4700 SORSOGON  
The Philippines

Dear Bishop Varela:

Thank you for your letter of October 1, 1992 in which you respond to my letter of concern dated September 24, 1992 with respect to the relationship between Father Arwyn Diesta and Mr. REDACTED

It is true that merely receiving the allegation of a plausible account of abuse does not constitute juridical proof that such abuse actually took place. I also appreciated your having come to value and respect Father Diesta for his friendship and valuable work in your Diocese.

**Nonetheless, I am deeply disappointed in your seeming certitude that this young man's account of abuse is without foundation, as well as your apparent willingness to let more young people risk serious abuse if Father Diesta, in fact, has this serious problem.**

Since first writing to you, I have received from the Reverend REDACTED REDACTED a professional psychologist at St. John's Seminary and Seminary College here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, a detailed Report written with REDACTED REDACTED permission of their lengthy therapeutic counselling. Father REDACTED professional assessment is very clear: REDACTED account of serious abuse is substantially accurate. Given the years of professional experience in treating hundreds of priests and seminarians, I value REDACTED conclusions highly.

Even if you cannot believe that Father Diesta became abusive in his relationship with REDACTED, the well-considered professional assessment by Father REDACTED that Father Diesta actually misbehaved would seem to require at least one precaution: that Father Diesta, in his ministry and in his social life, be forbidden to spend time alone with adolescent boys and young men. Sound pastoral practice would demand that this restriction be made very clear to Father Diesta and be known and monitored by several significant adults close to him, such as Pastors, Principals, Diocesan Authorities, and the like. Here in this Archdiocese we make and monitor such a

34791

restriction for any priest with a similar tendency, even after the priest has had lengthy and effective treatment.

Psychologists tell us that an adult with the tendency to enter into a relationship that is inappropriately close, and then sexual, with a young person is not thereby a "bad" person. This is, rather, a deep disorder, even a disease. A person so afflicted can be honest and competent in other areas of his life, or in the case of a priest, of his priestly life and ministry.

However, when it comes to the object of his emotional/sexual affection, there is denial, confusion, and self-deception--to say nothing of the devastating harm done to the young victim's capacity to trust and to relate maturely as he grows and develops into adulthood.

While REDACTED experience of abuse is un-acknowledged by Father Diesta, I would regard any visit by Father Diesta to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as dangerous and offensive.

I would like very much to see Father Diesta receive a full and complete evaluation in an approved Institution which deals principally with misconduct and sexual misconduct on the part of priests and religious. I do not know whether you have such qualified Institutions there in the Philippines, but if not, there are several in the United States and Canada that I could recommend to you.

**I believe that, in the light of the Report from Father REDACTED, you have a serious obligation for the good of the Church to seek a full objective evaluation of Father Arwyn Diesta, and if warranted, to make certain that he enters a full program of treatment.**

I am hopeful that you will understand and accept the very serious obligation which you, as a Bishop, have to safeguard the members of the Church from priests who may be suffering from certain psychological illness, while at the same time, reaching out to the priest in question through a full, professional evaluation.

Thanking you for your continuing attention to this very serious case, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

cc: REDACTED REDACTED

34792



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

**CONFIDENTIAL**

January 4, 1993

His Eminence  
Cardinal Pio Laghi  
Prefect  
Congregation for Catholic Education  
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE  
Europe

Your Eminence:

Since the priest involved in the matters outlined in my letter, the Reverend Arwyn Diesta, is the Vice-Rector of the Minor Seminary for the Diocese of Sorsogon in the Philippines, I am writing to advise you of the situation that occupies my concern.

While in the Philippines earlier in December serving as the Papal Envoy for our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, I had the occasion to discuss this matter with Archbishop Gian Vincenzo Moreni, the Apostolic Nuncio in the Philippines. He suggested that since Father Arwyn Diesta holds a position on the Minor Seminary staff, it would be important for you and your own office to be aware of this very serious case.

Obviously, if Father Diesta has indeed engaged in such sexual misconduct in the past, and I am convinced that he has, then he should not be in any ministry involving young people - especially young seminarians.

I am grateful to you and to your office for your review of this matter, and I would welcome any assistance which you can give in making certain that Bishop Varela does carry out an extensive evaluation of Father Diesta before he is allowed to function in any capacity with the seminary or with seminarians.

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Cardinal Roger Mahony*  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

34800

REDACTED

Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels    Fernando    San Gabriel    San Pedro    Santa Barbara

**MEMO** from ARCHBISHOP ROGER MAHONY

REDACTED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Orestes", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

UNCLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED] DATE: [REDACTED]

34801



REDACTED sign black  
or then ask how  
to send since you're  
not going

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

**CONFIDENTIAL**

January 4, 1993

His Eminence  
Cardinal Pio Laghi  
Prefect  
Congregation for Catholic Education  
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE  
Europe

need attachments:  
copy of first letter to REDACTED  
in Sorsogon re: Fr. Diesta REDACTED  
copy of 2nd letter to REDACTED  
copy of report from REDACTED

Your Eminence:

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Thanking you for your assistance in this matter, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Roger Cardinal Mahony*  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

81776

REDACTED

January 11, 1993

Fr. REDACTED  
Los Angeles Archdiocese  
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Fr. REDACTED

It has been some time since our last correspondence/discussion. A few weeks ago I was informed by Father REDACTED that he had sent you some information regarding my "case". At this point I am curious to know what has transpired since then.

I would also like to thank you and the Cardinal for your support and your letters. As I had previously stated, I am not interested in pursuing this matter legally. I would just like to have some type of guarantee that Father Diesta is receiving professional help chosen and researched by the Archdiocese, and that he is not placed in any situation of temptation. If legal means are the only way for this to occur, I am willing to go through that route.

Please let me know how things are going. Once again I thank you for all your help and support.

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

January 11, 1993

REDACTED

Los Angeles Archdiocese  
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Fr. REDACTED

It has been some time since our last correspondence/discussion. A few weeks ago I was informed by Father REDACTED that he had sent you some information regarding my "case". At this point I am curious to know what has transpired since then.

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Please let me know how things are going. Once again I thank you for all your help and support.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

34787





CONGREGATIO  
DE INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA  
DE SEMINARIIS ADULS SCLDORUM INSEDTIS

P. N.  
[Illegible text]

Rome, 16th January 1993.

Your Eminence,

Thank you very much for your letter of 4 January about the Reverend Arwyn Diesta of Sorsogon, Philippines. The charges against Fr. Diesta are very, very serious.

I have read very carefully all the accompanying documentation which you enclosed, and I am bringing the matter to the attention of the Apostolic Visitor of Seminaries in the Philippines, Monsignor Gaudencio Rosales, who has recently been promoted to the Archdiocese of Lipa. Archbishop Rosales has the confidence of the Philippine Bishops, and he is known to be principled, perceptive and competent. He knows how to handle the varieties of Philippine culture.

With respect, and with every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Pio Cardinal Laghi.

His Eminence,  
Roger Cardinal Mahony,  
Archbishop of Los Angeles,  
U.S.A.

34786



CONGREGATIO  
DE INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA  
(DE SEMINARIIS ATQUE STUDIORUM INSTITUTIS)

FILE

PROT. N. ....  
(*Hic numerus in responsione referatur*)

Rome, 16th January 1993.

Your Eminence,

Thank you very much for your letter of 4 January about the Reverend Arwyn Diesta of Sorsogon, Philippines. The charges against Fr. Diesta are very, very serious.

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With respect, and with every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Pio Cardinal Laghi.

His Eminence,  
Roger Cardinal Mahony,  
Archbishop of Los Angeles,  
U.S.A.

34797

REDACTED

sign black  
+ then ask how  
to send since you're  
not going

34798

read attachments:  
copies of first letter to REDACTED  
in Georgetown re: Fr. Drosty  
+ copy of 2nd letter to Bishop +  
copy of report from REDACTED

34799



CONGREGATIO  
DE INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA  
DE SEMINARIIS ET SCHOLIS INSTITUTIS

FILE

PROE N.

*His. Congregatio de Institutione Catholica*

Rome, 16th January 1993.

Your Eminence,

Thank you very much for your letter of 4 January about the Reverend Arwyn Diesta of Sorsogon, Philippines. The charges against Fr. Diesta are very, very serious.

I have read very carefully all the accompanying documentation which you enclosed, and I am bringing the matter to the attention of the Apostolic Visitor of Seminaries in the Philippines, Monsignor Gaudencio Rosales, who has recently been promoted to the Archdiocese of Lipa. Archbishop Rosales has the confidence of the Philippine Bishops, and he is known to be principled, perceptive and competent. He knows how to handle the varieties of Philippine culture.

With respect, and with every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Pio Cardinal Laghi.

His Eminence,  
Roger Cardinal Mahony,  
Archbishop of Los Angeles,  
U.S.A.

81775



COPY  
Desta

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

January 27, 1993

REDACTED REDACTED  
St. John Seminary  
5012 Seminary Road  
Camarillo, CA 93012

Dear REDACTED

Thank you so much for your thorough and well-focused report on REDACTED therapy with you. I'm sorry I have taken so long to acknowledge and thank you for this very helpful piece of work.

With your report, the Cardinal put together a strong message to Bishop Varela. I do not yet know the results, but your knowing endorsement of REDACTED allegations will increase the chances that this man will not act out with other youngsters.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely yours,

REDACTED REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTED

34796



## MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

January 27, 1993

TO: CARDINAL MAHONY  
FROM: REDACTED  
RE: REV. ARWYN DIESTA

Attached is a letter from REDACTED

I need some help from you in order to answer it properly. REDACTED is asking if Fr. Diesta is getting help, and if he is in a "situation of temptation". If he is not getting help, and if youngsters are still exposed to abuse, REDACTED is willing to take legal action to encourage appropriate changes.

I am wondering whether Bishop Varela responded to your second communication to him, or whether you have had any response to your letter to Cardinal Laghi.

34794



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-4194

February 2, 1993

His Eminence  
Cardinal Pio Laghi  
Prefect  
Congregation for Catholic Education  
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE  
Europe

Dear Cardinal Laghi:

Thank you very much for your letter January 16, 1993 concerning the matter of Father Arwyn Diesta.

I am grateful to you for using the good offices of the Congregation for Catholic Education to make certain that Father Arwyn Diesta is not a further threat or danger to any young men in the Philippines.

I have just received a letter from Mr. REDACTED the victim in this serious matter. A copy is enclosed for your own reference. Obviously, Mr. REDACTED REDACTED has no interest whatsoever in pursuing this matter unless he discovers that no remedial action or treatment is being given to Father Diesta in this case.

I felt that it would be important for you to have this additional information as the matter is pursued.

If there is any further way in which I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to ask.

Assuring you of my prayers during this new year, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Roger Carl Mahony*  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

REDACTED

34793



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

February 2, 1993

His Eminence  
Cardinal Pio Laghi  
Prefect  
Congregation for Catholic Education  
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE  
Europe

Dear Cardinal Laghi:

Thank you very much for your letter January 16, 1993 concerning the matter of Father Arwyn Diesta.

I am grateful to you for using the good offices of the Congregation for Catholic Education to make certain that Father Arwyn Diesta is not a further threat or danger to any young men in the Philippines.

I have just received a letter from Mr. REDACTED the victim in this serious matter. A copy is enclosed for your own reference. Obviously, Mr. REDACTED REDACTED has no interest whatsoever in pursuing this matter unless he discovers that no remedial action or treatment is being given to Father Diesta in this case.

I felt that it would be important for you to have this additional information as the matter is pursued.

If there is any further way in which I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to ask.

Assuring you of my prayers during this new year, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Cardinal Roger Mahony*  
+  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

REDACTED

81774

REFERRAL MEMORANDUM from CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY

TO: Mary Dyer DATE: 10-2-94

- Please REVIEW, then SEE ME
- Please REVIEW, then RETURN to me
- Please REVIEW, then SEND me your COMMENTS
- Please REVIEW, then FILE
  
- Please HANDLE this matter ENTIRELY
- Please ANSWER; send copy of letter to me
- Please WRITE A REPLY for my signature
- For your INFORMATION
- Please XEROX - FAX and send copy/copies to:

*entire  
file  
attached  
apparently no  
response  
received*

Original to:  file  back to me  \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: Did we ever receive an answer to this letter?  
Please let me see the entire file -  
Thanks!

MEMORANDUM

October 4, 1994

TO: Cardinal Mahony  
FROM: Father Timothy Dyer  
RE: Fr. Arwyn Diesta

There appears to be no response to your December 2, 1992 letter to Bishop Varela. There is a January 16, 1993 letter from Cardinal Laghi -- indicating that the matter will be studied. Your February 2, 1993 reply to Cardinal Laghi is on the top of the file.

*Copies of these letters, please!*

*Thanks!*

*+ Rbk*

*10-5-94*

34789

REFERRAL MEMORANDUM from CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY

TO: Msgr. Dyer DATE: 11-2-94

- Please REVIEW, then SEE ME
- Please REVIEW, then RETURN to me
- Please REVIEW, then SEND me your COMMENTS
- Please REVIEW, then FILE
- Please HANDLE this matter ENTIRELY
- Please ANSWER; send copy of letter to me
- Please WRITE A REPLY for my signature
- For your INFORMATION
- Please XEROX - FAX and send copy/copies to:

Original to:  file  back to me

REMARKS: I am writing Card. Leger once again -

Thanks!



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

**PERSONAL**

November 4, 1994

His Eminence  
Cardinal Pio Laghi  
Prefect  
Congregation for Catholic Education  
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE  
Europe

Dear Cardinal Laghi:

Since it has been almost two years since we corresponded about the matter concerning Father Arwyn Diesta, I wanted to write and to see whether or not Archbishop Rosales has been able to investigate the matter and make any recommendations to Father Diesta's proper Bishop.

After sending you my letter on January 4, 1993 we did receive a further communication from the young man involved. Please note that he is very anxious, for the good of the Church, that Father Diesta be properly evaluated, and if necessary, that he receive appropriate treatment. He has also indicated that he may have to pursue legal means in this case should Father Diesta not be evaluated nor receive any treatment program. The young man is concerned that others are very much at risk and for the good of the Church he is anxious to protect other young men.

Thanking you for your willingness to continue a review of this serious matter, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Cardinal Roger Mahony*  
+ *Roger Card. Mahony*  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

REDACTED

34785



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

**PERSONAL**

November 4, 1994

His Eminence  
Cardinal Pio Laghi  
REDACTED  
Congregation for Catholic Education  
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE  
Europe

*see:  
Vicar  
for Clergy  
files.*

Dear Cardinal Laghi:

Since it has been almost two years since we corresponded about the matter concerning Father Arwyn Diesta, I wanted to write and to see whether or not Archbishop Rosales has been able to investigate the matter and make any recommendations to Father Diesta's proper Bishop.

After sending you my letter on January 4, 1993 we did receive a further communication from the young man involved. Please note that he is very anxious, for the good of the Church, that Father Diesta be properly evaluated, and if necessary, that he receive appropriate treatment. He has also indicated that he may have to pursue legal means in this case should Father Diesta not be evaluated nor receive any treatment program. The young man is concerned that others are very much at risk and for the good of the Church he is anxious to protect other young men.

Thanking you for your willingness to continue a review of this serious matter, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Roger Cardinal Mahony*  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

REDACTED

34755

*Diesta*

DRAFT                      DRAFT                      DRAFT                      DRAFT                      DRAFT      DRAFT

Dear Mrs. REDACTED

I write in response to your February 24, 1995 memorandum to Cardinal Mahony, which he received with a cover letter from Father REDACTED REDACTED

I would like to invite you and any members of your family to meet with me to discuss the possibility of family counseling.

I would also like to have you speak to me in greater detail about some of the things you report in your letter. If we are able to meet, I would like to share with you the steps taken by Cardinal Mahony with regard to Father Diesta--following the initial report from your son, REDACTED

You may call my office--REDACTED --and ask for my Executive Assistant REDACTED to set up an appointment, or you can reach me personally in the evening at my home phone--[REDACTED

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Timothy J. Dyer  
Vicar for Clergy

*I would be happy to meet w you  
REDACTED REDACTED. I met with your son  
in 1992  
to see way to family counseling*

*when I meet w her:  
=> Probe to find out what caused this letter  
=> Check for Lois in this file  
=> (willing to give 6 sessions)*

34777

COPY

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

Dear REDACTED

I write in response to your February 24, 1995 memorandum to Cardinal Mahony, which he received with a cover letter from Father REDACTED

REDACTED

I would like to invite you and any members of your family to meet with me to discuss the possibility of family counseling.

I would also like to have you speak to me in greater detail about some of the things you report in your letter. If we are able to meet, I would like to share with you the steps taken by Cardinal Mahony with regard to Father Diesta--following the initial report from your son, REDACTED

You may call my office--REDACTED -and ask for my Executive Assistant REDACTED to set up an appointment, or you can reach me personally in the evening at my home phone--REDACTED

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Timothy J. Dyer  
Vicar for Clergy

3/28/95  
Check with Msgr  
to see what victim  
is in regard to  
mom's report -  
REDACTED

REDACTED

34778

**MAIL REFERRAL**

**TO:** REDACTED

**FROM:** REDACTED

**COPY**

**DATE:** 3-1-95

**THE ATTACHED CORRESPONDENCE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO YOUR OFFICE:**

- To answer for the Cardinal; send copy to his office
- To prepare reply for the Cardinal's signature
- To handle entirely
- For your information
- For your files

**REMARKS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

**HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH****(310) 591-6924**

---

TO: Cardinal Roger Mahony  
FROM: Fr. REDACTED  
RE: REDACTED

Dear Cardinal Mahony,

Though the attached letter is addressed to you, REDACTED felt that a cover letter from me would be appropriate. She is a very sincere and hardworking lady who has been affected by the relationship of Fr. Diesta and her son REDACTED. I have talked with her several times. She is frustrated that her husband and family are in denial and do not want to talk about the experience. However, it is possible that they just want to get on with their lives. There is the possibility that she might wrongly blame every problem that her other children are experiencing on what happened. However, there is no doubt that the family dynamic was affected by the experience.

As you can see from the letter she has two main concerns:

1. That everything that can possibly be done to prevent Fr. Diesta from repeating history be done.
2. That some assurance be given as to the availability of counselling for REDACTED or for other members of the family should they request it.

I feel that a kind letter from you might go a long way towards the healing of some wounds.

Yours sincerely,  
REDACTED

Fr. REDACTED

34780

425 E. 20th St. Long Beach, California 90806

REDACTED

February 24, 1995

Cardinal Roger Mahoney  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
1531 West 9th Street  
Los Angeles, California 90015-1194

Dear Cardinal Mahoney:

Approximately three years ago, our son, REDACTED, contacted your office concerning sexual abuse suffered under Fr. Arwyn Diesta while Fr. Diesta was assistant pastor at Holy Innocents and also after Fr. Diesta left Holy Innocents. However, he did not tell me until three years ago this abuse had occurred. He had received counseling at St. John's Seminary from a priest there. After he told me about it, I urged him to report Fr. Diesta to the Archdiocesan office. He reported Fr. Diesta to Msgr. Dyer. REDACTED was assured he could receive counseling help at any time. However, nothing was ever mentioned of help for our family. We were left in limbo and because REDACTED was at this time over 18 when he reported the abuse, I thought the effects this abuse had on our family would not be helped. I felt that not enough was done for REDACTED either nor was he told about pressing legal charges against Fr. Diesta so another young boy or boys would not have to undergo the trauma REDACTED went through.

Did any investigation ever take place? Did Fr. Diesta ever receiving any counseling or treatment? Was Fr. Diesta ever removed from his duties in the Philippines? I understand he was in charge of a boys's seminary in the Philippines when he left. How many other boys have trusted him and been part of their confidence only to be subjected to this abuse and control? What about former parishes?

Fr. Diesta also became a chaplain in the Air Force counseling Air Force families. Was he removed from this as well? While Fr. Diesta was in Georgia or Alabama for the training, he had REDACTED come and stay with him. It seemed that REDACTED life was controlled and not his own. He worked at the Archdiocesan offices the summer before the Pope arrived, but somehow Fr. Diesta did allow him to do so again with distractions such as trips, etc. Evidentially, he supplied him financially which made it even harder for REDACTED to break from this bondage.

Besides three girls, we have three boys--REDACTED, the oldest; REDACTED, middle; and REDACTED, the youngest. All of our boys were altar boys. Fr. Diesta seemed especially attracted to REDACTED because of his vocal musical talent which was also a strong interest for Fr. Diesta. When Fr. Diesta first came to Holy Innocents, he became a popular priest for the young kids. REDACTED had spent several years with the Bob Mitchell Singing Boys, and he immediately singled REDACTED out for many things. I believe REDACTED was in 7th grade at the time.

Because all of our boys were altar boys, when Fr. Diesta first came to Holy Innocents, he would ask them to serve at funerals, weddings, etc. However, I noticed that gradually only REDACTED was asked. REDACTED, and REDACTED used to get upset because he was no longer inviting them along. Then he asked if REDACTED could stay at the rectory. I was hesitant, but Fr. Diesta said they were working on an important project, so I gave in. I believe it was when he started introducing the Novena Masses to our parish for which has now expanded to other parishes.

The staying at the rectory continued and the continued isolation of REDACTED from everyone including family. Many times Fr. Diesta and REDACTED would show up for family events very late or not at all. REDACTED father, REDACTED, is a very trusting and unassertive type so REDACTED I did not have anyone to rescue him from this predicament. REDACTED and Fr. Diesta were always together. I encouraged REDACTED to spend time with other friends. I told him it wasn't healthy, but he said, Fr. Diesta is my friend. Because REDACTED was in his teenage years, I felt this was the time when he would have an interest in girls. Whenever I mentioned girls, Fr. Diesta would become very upset. I also told REDACTED about a friend of mine concerned that REDACTED was spending too much time with Fr. Diesta. She felt that it wasn't healthy for REDACTED, and I concurred. A short time later, Fr. Diesta called and asked to meet with us at the rectory. REDACTED told him what my friend had said. In the meeting Fr. Diesta said he would never do anything to hurt REDACTED and had not done anything to REDACTED (REDACTED never knew the meeting took place.) He berated REDACTED for not being a good father to REDACTED I felt very humiliated after meeting with him. He also told us he was leaving Holy Innocents and going back to the Philippines.

Shortly after that, Fr. Diesta wrote a letter to me. I wish I had kept it to pass along to your office. It told of how we neglected our son and not supporting him while he was going to Queen of Angels Seminary, etc. In retrospect, I feel that Fr. Diesta was trying to throw us off track of something I was suspecting. I was so depressed because of the lack of parental control. I felt we had lost our son. REDACTED trusted him completely because he was a priest. I sensed that something was not right at all.

Fr. Diesta took particular advantage of our family. We are a family of eight, and it wasn't easy financially providing for our family at times. Fr. Diesta would buy REDACTED clothing and many other things at the pretense of helping out. REDACTED went with him to Europe, the Holy Land, the Philippines. REDACTED did not have a chance to interact much with his brothers and sisters. He had always been very close to REDACTED because they are very close in age and cared for each other very much. But Fr. Diesta interfered with much of that. I let REDACTED know not long ago what had happened to REDACTED has since moved out of our home and his attitude towards church has certainly changed from trust to mistrust.

REDACTED did go to Queen of Angels Seminary for his high school years for which seemed a relief to me to be away from Fr. Diesta. Somehow, Fr. Diesta would manage to visit him and ask to have him go with him during school days without our permission. He even had a job on the weekends which seem to keep him away from Fr. Diesta for a period of time. There was always this frustration within me that our son was being totally manipulated and possessed by Fr. Diesta

and there was nothing he could do to escape. Yes, ] <sup>REDACTED</sup> | needed to make decisions on his own but this was different.

When Fr. Diesta left for the Philippines, I thought finally <sup>REDACTED</sup> will be able to live his own life. But he traveled at least six times to the Philippines to go see Fr. Diesta. I felt like he was trapped and no matter where Fr. Diesta was, he would pull him there. At one point, <sup>REDACTED</sup> asked if he could go to seminary there. I put my foot down, and said, "no."

As <sup>REDACTED</sup> was deciding whether to go onto St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, <sup>REDACTED</sup> was very unhappy with us. <sup>REDACTED</sup> was concerned we didn't want him to go to the seminary because we never said anything. I responded that he had to make that decision himself. Go try it and we would always back his decision. He did go for four years. I do not know how he freed himself from the bondage of Fr. Diesta. Later, I found out that through a good priest at the seminary, Fr. <sup>REDACTED</sup>, he received counseling. God certainly answered my prayers.

Shortly before <sup>REDACTED</sup> told me about the physical, mental and spiritual abuse by Fr. Diesta, he returned to our parish to visit a good friend of his in our parish who was dying of cancer. We wondered why he avoided all contact with everyone. During the visit, the man died. Fr. Diesta officiated at the funeral, but right after the funeral he ran to his car and was gone. We did not know why. We also wondered why <sup>REDACTED</sup> didn't come to the funeral and why he didn't visit with Fr. Diesta. A few days later, <sup>REDACTED</sup> told me about what had happened over the years of the abuse by Fr. Diesta. I knew what I had suspected all along was true and the torment inside of me was real.

Shortly after <sup>REDACTED</sup> reported this to me, I talked to Fr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> | about the abuse. He encouraged me to have <sup>REDACTED</sup> report it to the Archdiocese. Because of the publicity in a case in the neighboring parishes of St. Lucy and St. Barnabas I have read in the past few months of Fr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> and the damage he did to the young men in the parishes he served, the reality of our family and its experience with Fr. Diesta again flared up. (By the way, our son, <sup>REDACTED</sup>, and his friend, <sup>REDACTED</sup> did Christian Service for St. Anthony's with Fr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> but nothing happened.) Fr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> encouraged me to write to you concerning our family concerns and possible action and counseling which could be done. I also realized we were not alone with these secrets that pedofile priests inflict onto their victims and their families.

When this happens to a member of one's family there are feelings of shock, shame, helplessness, and depression. What about the counseling that families need as well as the victims? It is time to wake up and see that there is more than the priest's victims. There are the mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters who have befriended these priests. We liked Fr. Diesta a great deal, and we were grateful at one time for his concern and taking care of <sup>REDACTED</sup> But he took advantage when we were the most vulnerable and because we lacked financial resources to take care of all of the needs of our kids. We did the best we could. I went back to school and worked several jobs to provide an education for our kids. We still owe a large sum for <sup>REDACTED</sup> education at St. John's Seminary. We know because he didn't become a priest, it must be paid

back. It will be paid someday, but I am still paying my school loans while assisting two other children with their college education.

**Cardinal Mahoney, Fr. Diesta must not continue working with young boys and needs to receive treatment. We want to be assured that the U.S. Air Force has also been informed. He cannot be a Chaplain to families. He violated our family trust; don't let it happen to another family.**

Because our children trusted Fr. Diesta a lot, some are in denial while others are confused. Our family needs a lot of counseling. I went to counseling when I suspected what was going on. The counselor was a good Christian man, and we prayed for Fr. Diesta, but that was not enough. After spending a large sum of money for counseling for three years, the problem never seem to be fully addressed. Men don't understand nor do I believe are given this extra sense that mothers have about their children. I felt discounted for my concern by the psychiatrist and my own husband. Besides my anger, there is a sadness that someone we cared about would take advantage of one of our children in the name of the Church. Healing needs to take place, but a lot of help is needed. We need a counselor who understands this particular problem and help work through it for our family. A family counseling session would certainly be the ideal, but I know everyone has to agree to it. Whatever help would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

REDACTED

3/28

Would you pl's give  
this to REDACTED

REDACTED wants him to  
go through it + get in  
it REDACTED

REDACTED  
— before we send  
or revise the draft letter.

I've told REDACTED to  
get this file from you

Over  
REDACTED

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

To: REDACTED

Recently I received a copy of Cardinal Mahony's letter to you of April 3.

The inquiry that came into the office from your mother, referred to therein, is a request for family counseling in regard to your case with Father Arwyn Diesta.

Normally, our policy is to deal directly with victims. In this instance, however, I thought it would be wise to inquire of you as to your thinking the need for family counseling. You may wish to speak to your mother and then contact me. My home phone is REDACTED My office number is REDACTED



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

**PERSONAL**

April 3, 1995

REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

This is just a brief note to see how you are doing and how everything is going in your life and in your marriage.

I wanted to update you on as much as I know about the case involving Father Arwyn Diesta. I continue to send letters to appropriate officials in the Philippines and in Rome about this matter, but so far I have no confirmation that the evaluation which I requested has been carried out, nor that his local Bishop has taken any direct action in the case.

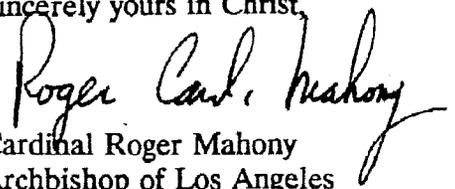
As you might understand, countries other than the United States handle these matters far differently than we do, and we are really not able to take any initiatives which have the desired results.

If I hear any other information in the near future, I shall notify you.

Your mother has also made inquiry about this matter, but it is our policy not to respond directly to parents, family members, or other persons in these cases. You yourself are able to share whatever information you think relatives or other parties should have.

Assuring you of my continuing prayers, and with every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+   
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

REDACTED

34772

*Diesta*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

April 26, 1995

To: Msgr. Dyer

From: REDACTED

Attached is the entire correspondence we were discussing just before you left. We had discovered that the Cardinal had written to REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED We left it that I would figure out something that would take care of it.

BUT instead of coming up with something, I read through the mother's letter carefully, and Father REDACTED cover memo, AND traced the activity back through REDACTED and found the following:

What you got from REDACTED is a xerox or perhaps a FAX of the original--which went or had already gone to the Cardinal. Something got mixed up there, but no sense in following that trail.

A note from the Cardinal to REDACTED was attached to the yellow copy of his letter to REDACTED, indicating she should check REDACTED latest address, and also REDACTED response to her request for that information!

The Cardinal deliberately chose to write to REDACTED instead. It was the mother's letter that generated his letter to

Given that fact, REDACTED indicated if you are going to respond yourself to REDACTED mother, it had better be by way of a draft of your letter to the Cardinal for approval first. *There is one attached beneath this memo.*

And to tell you the truth, reading the whole letter from Mrs. REDACTED gives one the impression that it is a bit of a "fishing expedition", itself generated by the REDACTED case (Long Beach address for her, too) and that there are so many unknown quantities in it that you could be opening up a real Pandora's box by writing--especially now that so much time has elapsed and also since you do not know what REDACTED may have done when he got the Cardinal's letter saying she had "made an inquiry."

So, in the interest of CAUTION, I did not write or send anything to her. I did read through the entire Diesta file and note from REDACTED report that REDACTED relations with his mother are (and probably still are) fragile to say the least. I have a hunch the Cardinal was checking out REDACTED first for a reason. That was only April 3. You may want to wait and watch to see if and how REDACTED responds to that letter from him. There is more to this than meets the eye, I think.

*Perhaps your earlier suggestion that REDACTED should contact REDACTED before you send anything to his mother would be a possibly good solution also.*



CONGREGATIO  
DE INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA  
(DE SEMINARIIS ATQUE STUDIORUM INSTITUTIS)

Rome, 6 May 1995

PROT. N. 137/93  
(*This number is responsive referator*)

Your Eminence,

We write to you now regarding the case of Father Arwyn Diesta, and apologise for the tardiness of our reply to your letter of 4 November 1994.

Upon receipt of your letter we wrote to Archbishop Rosales, the Apostolic Visitor of Major Seminaries in the Philippines and the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Moreni, seeking their advice as how best to proceed with the case.

At this point we have had no reply from Archbishop Rosales. The Nuncio, however, has been kind enough to send us his thoughts on the matter. According to him, the way forward in this case would be to require Father Diesta to undergo an evaluation. As Your Eminence will realise, this means providing an appropriate institute and the financial means necessary to facilitate such an evaluation. The Nuncio is of the opinion that the evaluation should take place somewhere other than the United States, perhaps England, Ireland or Australia. We suggest that the proposal of the Nuncio is worthy of consideration in order to avoid any doubts, particularly as regards the formation of seminarians. Accordingly, we would ask Your Eminence to consider offering such a collaboration to the Bishop of Sorsogon.

If Your Eminence has need of any further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With sentiments of esteem, and wishing you every blessing of this Easter season, we remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Ric. Card. Laphi*

*+ Jose' Lavinia Martins, Secret.*

---

His Eminence  
Roger Cardinal MAHONY  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
= LOS ANGELES =

34767



*C-File Arwyn Diesta*

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 251-3288

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

May 30, 1995

His Eminence  
Cardinal Pio Laghi  
REDACTED  
Congregation for Catholic Education  
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE  
Europe

Prot. N. 137/93

REDACTED

Thank you very much for your letter of May 6, 1995 with respect to the case of Father Arwyn Diesta.

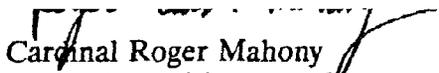
I was pleased to learn that Archbishop Rosales in the Philippines and Archbishop Moreni, the Papal Nuncio, are now recommending that Father Diesta have a complete evaluation in one of the countries you mentioned: England, Ireland or Australia.

I concur entirely in this proposal, and I am confident that the good of the Church and the priesthood will be greatly served by having Father Diesta go through this overall evaluation. Our experience with such evaluations indicates how important this is that the evaluators know more accurately the reasons for the evaluation, including any past problems or difficulties.

Consequently, I would urge you to make certain that the evaluation director has available copies of the materials and the reports that I have already forwarded to REDACTED. They would then have before them an actual case and specific difficulties that they could then address.

Thanking you for your willingness to continue with this important matter, and pledging you my full cooperation in every way, I am

*Simulcrum in Christo*  
REDACTED

  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

REDACTED  
REDACTED

34766



**CONFIDENTIAL**

---

**MEMORANDUM**

---

June 5, 1995

TO: CARDINAL MAHONY  
FROM: REDACTED  
RE: REV. ARWYN DIESTA

Mr. and Mrs. REDACTED are happy to hear that the letter from Cardinal Laghi indicated that Father Diesta will be undergoing an evaluation in regard to the very substantial charges of sexual misconduct on his part.

I assured them by phone today that we will forward all pertinent material to the evaluator when we learn who that is to be.

They thank you for your vigorous effort in this matter.

*Thanks!*  
*+ Rmk*

*6-7-95*

6/12/95 - pers. REDACTED  
 REDACTED Callins REDACTED  
 REDACTED - saying  
 Why didn't she get a  
 response to her letter  
 to Cardinal - did he get  
 it?  
 REDACTED REDACTED called  
 Fr. REDACTED and informed  
 her REDACTED does not  
 write to parents, relatives,  
 etc. REDACTED

REDACTED

December 28, 1995

Cardinal Roger Mahoney  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
1531 West 9th Street  
Los Angeles, California 90015-1194

Dear Cardinal Mahoney:

On February 24th of this year, I wrote you a letter concerning Fr. Arwyn Diesta and our son, REDACTED and the physical, mental and sexual abuse REDACTED suffered from Fr. Diesta while he was at Holy Innocents in Long Beach. However, you have not responded, and I understand you will not.

When I wrote to you in February, I also alluded to our son, REDACTED and his friend, REDACTED who were friends of Fr. Ted. Recently, I found out that REDACTED was the young man who told the police about Fr. Ted. Our son, REDACTED had to keep this a secret for some time because his friend asked him to do so. I had my suspicions, and they too were true. This affected REDACTED, and his distrust of the Church is has also been evident. He has so much anger about REDACTED and also about his brother, REDACTED, also being a victim of a pedofile. How do you tell REDACTED that the Church doesn't care about the residual victims who need counseling help, too?

I am very unhappy with the lack of communication from your office. When REDACTED first reported this to your office, I assumed you would let the authorities know. We did not know the Church was exempt from this requirement. Had I known, I as a teacher would have been required to document and report it to the authorities. Now that I know this, as a teacher, I am required to do so.

Before I do so, we are encouraging REDACTED to contact the police to file a complaint against Fr. Diesta. We feel that there are other victims as well. REDACTED might be the only one from Holy Innocents, but I believe there might be another REDACTED in Monterey Park, Fr. Diesta's previous parish. Also, if he is head of the seminary in the Philippines, other young men are in danger.

I cannot understand why the Church in Los Angeles is being so difficult about helping our young men who have been abused. Look at the damage it has done to our family alone, and it is ignored. I see the Church now only as a political piece only caring about their image. When this goes public, the image will certainly be tarnished even more. What is important is that the victims be contacted and receive counseling.

We still desire justice to be served, and Fr. Diesta removed as a priest. Also, I will be contacting the U.S. Air Force to let them know about Fr. Diesta. The Church must do a more thorough job

of removing these men before they become priests. I would especially check any priests from the Philippines.

I will be reporting this to the police after January 15th if I do not hear from your office. Our phone number is REDACTED

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: File**

**From: Monsignor Richard Loomis**

**Date: Thursday, January 04, 1996**

**Re: Calls to Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> in reply to her letter to Cardinal Mahony**

Called Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> at approximately 2:00 pm.

Assured her that the Cardinal had done everything he could to assure that action was taken concerning Fr. Diesta.

Told her that the Cardinal had written <sup>REDACTED</sup> her son, after her last letter, telling him what had been done to that point.

Also, that on or about June 5, <sup>REDACTED</sup><sup>REDACTED</sup> had called to inform <sup>REDACTED</sup> that Fr. Diesta was undergoing evaluation in the Philippines.

Offered counseling to her son, <sup>REDACTED</sup>. She mentioned her other son, <sup>REDACTED</sup>, and their daughters were also terribly affected by this and might request counseling. I said we would be happy to talk to them to see if we could be of help.

She told me that the decision about going to the police was up to <sup>REDACTED</sup>, not herself.

The conversation seemed to end genially, but it is obvious that she is in great pain over this.

34757



MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

To: Cardinal Roger Mahony  
REDACTED  
From: Monsignor Richard Loomis  
Date: Friday, January 05, 1996

Re: Father Arwyn Diesta

Your Eminence,

I regret bringing up an older case. However, Mrs. REDACTED letter to you complaining of our inaction on behalf of her son, REDACTED who is now an adult and married), was handed on to me. After consulting with REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED I told her that you had written her son, REDACTED last April 3, and REDACTED REDACTED had spoken with him by phone last June 5. She seemed satisfied by this response -- though she seems to hold the abuse between Father Diesta and her son as the reason for all the problems in her family.

I think it would be of value to write the Bishop of Sorsogan or to REDACTED with the following points:

1. though we offered to provide any requested information to assist in Father Diesta's evaluation, our records show that we have never been contacted,
2. to see what action has been taken to date.

A favorable reply might end the case as far as Mrs. REDACTED is concerned (she seems to be the only one in the family who is trying to keep the issue alive). I also think such action might be advisable since she alluded that her youngest son, REDACTED is a very good friend of REDACTED and "kept his secret of abuse with Father REDACTED for years." REDACTED REDACTED

*Please check with REDACTED - we have had more recent correspondence from REDACTED on this.*  
+ RLM

34753

1-11-96

All we could find in  
our files. Little note  
shows that it would  
have gone to Oscar  
for Clergy.

34754



# Diocese of Sorsogon

[home](#) [main menu](#) [contact us](#)

## clergy

directory

### DIRECTORY – DIOCESAN CLERGY (As of September 1, 2000)

REDACTED

18 December 1927 (birthday)  
17 March 1956 (priestly ordination)  
30 April 1967 (episcopal ordination)

*(for the directory of the diocesan clergy, please click buttons)*

(A-D)   (E-G)   (H-L)   (M-P)   (Q-Z)

34742

clergy



# Diocese of Sorsogon

home main menu contact us

## clergy

DIRECTORY

directory

(A-D)

REDACTED

(E-G)

(H-L)

(M-P)

(Q-Z)

34743

http://www:

4/11/02

clergy

Page 2 of 4

*(In Manila)*

REDACTED

**REV. ARWYN N. DIESTA**

25 May 1953

25 May 1978

*Our Lady of Peñafrancia Seminary  
Sorsogon, Sorsogon 4700*

*Executive Vice-Rector – OLPS High School Department*

*Dean of Studies – OLPS High School & College*

*Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy*

*Diocesan Master of Ceremonies*

*Curia Consultant and Adviser*

*Private Secretary to the Bishop*

*Member – Diocesan Presbyteral Council/College of  
Consultors*

*Treasurer – Seminary Finance Committee*

REDACTED

34744

clergy

Page 3 of 4

REDACTED

clergy REDACTED

34746



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
PACIFIC AIR FORCES

19 February 2002

YOUR EMINENCE:

Peace and blessing!

I have wanted to write this letter since New Year and somehow it never got its way to the paper. I went home to the Philippines on the second week of January with the intention to drop you a line. I am back here in Okinawa (I was recalled), to fill in for a deployed chaplain.

I promised myself that on my first day of office, my letter to you would be the first in agenda. I am glad I am doing it now.

I just want you to know HOW HAPPY and HOW GRATEFUL I am for your visit here in Okinawa. I had the best Christmas ever. This was an answer to my prayers all these years. YOU made all this happen. Your presence said it all.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

These last 8 years, I have been wanting to talk to you and see you. I have been hoping and wishing for any opportunity. I waited patiently. And finally.

Talking to you was all that mattered. I just wanted you to know where I was coming from. I wanted you to hear my side. I wanted to be assured that you were not mad at me.

Your Eminence, I want you to know again, that I have been a faithful priest. I have tried to be faithful to my calling and to my ministry – since my ordination. And I will continue to do so. In all humility, I am very happy in my ministry. Every day, I am excited to serve. And next year, I will be celebrating, God willing, my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest!

May I ask for your blessing and count on your prayers. Happy Easter!

With all my respect and love,

*Arwyn*  
Fr. Arwyn N. Diesta

P.S. On March 15, I will be back in: Our Lady of Penafrancia Seminary  
Box 43, Bibincahan Road  
SORSOGON City 4700, PHILIPPINES

34752

Msgr. Cox

3/5/2002

From REDACTED dictation tape:

Re: Letter from Fatehr Arwyn Diesta

Ask REDACTED Cox to review the file on Father Diesta and then come see the REDACTED, sometime in the near future.

REDACTED does not want to answer until he has a chance to talk to REDACTED Cox.

REDACTED

34751



MEMORANDUM

TO: Cardinal Roger Mahony  
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox  
RE: Fr. Arwyn Diesta  
DATE: 14 March 2002

As you requested, attached are copies of the most recent correspondence between you and REDACTED concerning Father Diesta. The Protocol numbers are there.

Also enclosed is the letter of Fr. Diesta to you so you can make any reply you deem fit.

Thank you.

attachments

*I decided to not respond to the Diesta letter. Copy of my other letter to Rose attached.*

*Thanks!*

*+ Rkx*

*3-16-02*

34748



# COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 637-7288

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

March 16, 2002

His Eminence  
Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski  
Prefect  
Congregation for Catholic Education  
00120 Vatican City State  
Europe

**In re: 137/93**

Your Eminence:

Your files at the Congregation for Catholic Education will contain letters and information from me in the early 1990s with respect to the **Reverend Arwyn Diesta**, a priest of the Diocese of Sorsogon City, the Philippines.

In my most recent correspondence with your predecessor, His Eminence, Cardinal Pio Laghi, you will note my concern and that of the Congregation with the worthiness of Father Diesta to serve in a leadership capacity with the Diocesan Seminary given the serious allegations here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles of the sexual abuse of a minor. I am enclosing the last two letters: the one from REDACTED dated May 6, 1995; and my response to him dated May 30, 1995.

It was clear in those letters that the Bishop of Sorsogon City was to assume the responsibility to make certain that the full evaluation took place with respect to Father Diesta. Since the 1995 correspondence, I have heard nothing further.

What troubles me is that Father Diesta is presently the Rector of Our Lady of Penafrancia Seminary in the Diocese of Sorsogon City, where there are minors enrolled and living there. Those young men are at possible risk to sexual misconduct or abuse on the part of Father Diesta. This is a matter of grave concern for the Church everywhere since we have the responsibility to protect young people from any harm or abuse.

During the recent Christmas Holidays I visited many of the military bases in Okinawa and Tokyo. By chance I happened to see Father Diesta who is an auxiliary chaplain to the U.S. Navy. I was surprised to see him on Okinawa, but more surprised to learn that he was still the Rector of the Diocesan Seminary—without knowing whether the proper evaluation of him had taken place.

34749

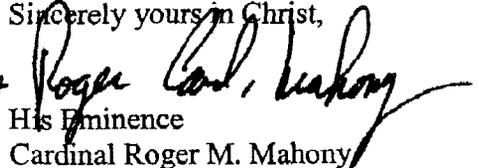
I am writing with urgency to ask the assistance of your Congregation, which has the proper role of supervising Seminaries world-wide, to make certain that the proper evaluation of Father Arwyn Diesta has taken place, and if it has not taken place, that it be ordered as soon as possible.

The choice of either Australia, England, or Ireland is most acceptable. Australia is not that distant from the Philippines, and would be easier for Father Diesta to reach.

All of the file material which I sent to your Congregation should be given to the Institution offering the in-depth evaluation.

We simply cannot remain silent in this matter without knowing whether Father Diesta has a serious problem in need of professional care. Given his role as Rector of the Seminary, my concern is heightened even further.

Thanking Your Eminence for your assistance in this matter, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
+   
His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger M. Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

REDACTED

REDACTED

-----  
April 3, 2002

Cardinal Roger Mahoney  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Cardinal Mahoney:

It is with great anger and sadness that I contact your office again about the past sexual abuse that our son, REDACTED, suffered under Fr. Arwyn Diesta when he was assigned to Holy Innocents Parish some years ago. Ten years ago, your office was notified about the problems with Fr. Diesta. Since Fr. Diesta had returned to the Diocese of Sorsogon, Philippines, your office was also told that Fr. Diesta was working with young men in a seminary in the Philippines. Fr. Diesta was also a chaplain with the U.S. Air Force and took our son along with him when he went to Alabama for training. In speaking with Fr. Dyer, I was assured that the Vatican was informed about Fr. Diesta's immoral conduct toward our son and appropriate action would be taken for his removal.

Evidently, the Vatican was not notified or chose to ignore the information because Fr. Diesta remains a priest and in charge of a seminary in the Philippines, Diocese of Sorsogon. After my own personal investigation on the Internet (copies attached), it appears that Fr. Arwyn Diesta has been elevated in rank and still involved with the Seminar in the Philippines (copies enclosed). His brief biography says: **"Very Reverend Father ARWYN DIESTA = Executive Vice-Rector of the High School Department of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia Seminary, Curia Adviser and Consultant, and Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy."**

REDACTED  
It is so sad to say that we implicitly trusted this priest with our son REDACTED and our two other sons, REDACTED. The other two sons were eventually excluded, and REDACTED was the only one where Fr. Diesta's interest remained. We trusted him with our son, and we were so naïve to think anyone would want to sexually abuse a child. He lavished him with gifts and trips, and thought nothing of it when he spent time with REDACTED. He capitalized on REDACTED's vocal musical ability, his being an altar boy, and attendance at Holy Innocents School to take advantage of him. We did not know what he was doing to our son although we did meet with Fr. Diesta before he made his hasty departure to the Philippines when I became suspicious. We were made to feel ashamed and embarrassed by Fr. Diesta that we should be suspicious that the relationship between him and REDACTED was other than completely honorable. He left Holy Innocents for the

Cardinal Roger Mahoney  
April 3, 2002  
Page 2

Philippines right after that conversation. Besides the damage done to our son, we have been violated as a family who respected and trusted Fr. Diesta.

My question to you, Cardinal Mahoney, is, how many other young men have been needlessly subjected to sexual abuse by Fr. Diesta since it was reported to you 10 years ago. How many others were abused at the same time as REDACTED was abused (before and at the same time)? Also, how many could have been counseled by him in the Air Force, and he abused them through family or individual counseling?

It is imperative that you as the Cardinal and Archbishop of the Church of Los Angeles contact those in the Philippine Church and the Vatican authority to have Fr. Arwyn Diesta removed from his position in the Diocese of Sorsogon for his abuse of REDACTED REDACTED when he was a priest at Holy Innocents Parish in Long Beach, California.

It is also imperative that the case be turned over to the civil authorities, and if criminal charges are filed against Fr. Diesta, that he be extradited back to the United States to stand trial for sexual abuse of our son in his pre-teen and teen years and any others who may have been sexually abused by him. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles needs to notify all of the parishes where Fr. Diesta was assigned (either as a seminarian or a priest) so if Fr. Diesta sexually abused any young men, they can come forward and notify the proper authorities.

Finally, any young men who come from another country (either as prospective seminarians or already ordained priests) must have background checks before being allowed to go to any seminaries or be assigned to parishes. These background checks must be done in conjunction with the local law enforcement authorities as well as the local Church and Vatican Church.

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

REDACTED



# Diocese of Sorsogon

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## clergy

directory

### DIRECTORY – DIOCESAN CLERGY (As of September 1, 2000)

REDACTED      IACTED

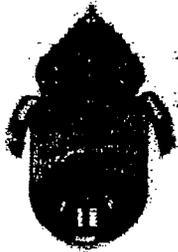
18 December 1927 (birthday)  
17 March 1956 (priestly ordination)  
30 April 1967 (episcopal ordination)

*(for the directory of the diocesan clergy, please click buttons)*

[\(A-D\)](#)   [\(E-G\)](#)   [\(H-L\)](#)   [\(M-P\)](#)   [\(Q-Z\)](#)

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clergy



# Diocese of Sorsogon

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## clergy

directory

REDACTED

### DIRECTORY

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(H-L)

(M-P)

(Q-Z)

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clergy

*(In Manila)*

REDACTED

**REV. ARWYN N. DIESTA**  
25 May 1953  
25 May 1978

*Our Lady of Peñafrancia Seminary*  
*Sorsogon, Sorsogon 4700*

*Executive Vice-Rector – OLPS High School Department*

*Dean of Studies – OLPS High School & College*

*Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy*

*Diocesan Master of Ceremonies*

*Curia Consultant and Adviser*

*Private Secretary to the Bishop*

*Member – Diocesan Presbyteral Council/College of*  
*Consultors*

*Treasurer – Seminary Finance Committee*

REDACTED

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clergy

REDACTED

736

clerREDACTED

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[http://www.sorsogondiocese.org/clergy/clergy\\_dir\\_ad.htm](http://www.sorsogondiocese.org/clergy/clergy_dir_ad.htm)

4/11/02

REDACTED

COPY

April 13, 2002

His Excellency Gabriele Montalvo  
 Embassy of the Holy See  
 3339 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
 Washington, DC 20008

His Excellency Gabriele Montalvo:

It is with great anger and sadness that we contact you about the past sexual abuse that our son, REDACTED<sup>REDACTED</sup> suffered under Fr. Arwyn Diesta of the Philippines when he was assigned to Holy Innocents Parish, Long Beach, California, some years ago. Ten years ago, Cardinal Roger Mahoney's office was notified about the problems with Fr. Diesta. Since Fr. Diesta had returned to the Philippines, Cardinal Mahoney's office was also told that Fr. Diesta was working with young men in a seminary in the Philippines. Fr. Diesta was also a chaplain with the U.S. Air Force and took our son along with him when he went to Alabama for training. In speaking with Fr. Dyer, we were assured that the Vatican was informed about Fr. Diesta's immoral conduct and appropriate action would be taken for his removal.

Evidently, the Vatican was not notified or chose to ignore the information because Fr. Diesta remains a priest and in charge of a seminary in the Philippines, Diocese of Sorsogon. After my own personal investigation on the Internet (information dated January 15, 1999), it appears that Fr. Arwyn Diesta has been elevated in rank and still involved with the Seminar in the Philippines (copies enclosed). His brief biography says: **"Very Reverend Father ARWYN DIESTA = Executive Vice-Rector of the High School Department of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia Seminary, Curia Adviser and Consultant, and Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy."**

It is so sad to say that we implicitly trusted this priest with our son<sup>REDACTED</sup> and our two other sons, REDACTED. The other two sons were eventually excluded, and REDACTED was the only one where Fr. Diesta's interest remained. We trusted him with our son, and we were so naïve to think anyone would want to sexually abuse our child. He lavished him with gifts and trips, and we thought nothing of it when he spent time with REDACTED. He capitalized on REDACTED vocal musical ability, his being an altar boy, and attendance at Holy Innocents School to take advantage of him. We did not know what he was doing to our son although we did meet with Fr. Diesta before he made his hasty departure to the Philippines when I, REDACTED became suspicious. We were made to feel ashamed and embarrassed by Fr. Diesta that we should be suspicious that the relationship between him and REDACTED I was less than completely honorable. He left Holy Innocents for the Philippines right after that conversation.

34731

His Excellency Gabriele Montalvo  
April 13, 2002  
Page 2

Our question to you, how many other young men have been needlessly subjected to sexual abuse by Fr. Diesta since he was reported to Cardinal Mahoney 10 years ago of his sexually abusing REDACTED How many others were abused at the same time as REDACTED was abused (before and at the same time)? Also, how many could have been counseled by him in the Air Force, and he abused them through family or individual counseling?

It is imperative as the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, you must contact REDACTED and Bishop Varela, Diocese of Sorsogon, and the Vatican authority to have Fr. Arwyn Diesta removed from his position in the Diocese of Sorsogon for his abuse of REDACTED when he was a priest at Holy Innocents Parish in Long Beach, California. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles needs to notify all of the parishes where Fr. Diesta was assigned (either as a seminarian or a priest) so if Fr. Diesta sexually abused any young men, they can come forward and notify the proper authorities.

It is also imperative that the case be turned over to the civil authorities, and if criminal charges are filed against Fr. Diesta, that he be extradited back to the United States to stand trial for sexual abuse of our son in his pre-teen and teen years and any others who may have been sexually abused by him.

Finally, any young men who come from another country (either as prospective seminarians or already ordained priests) must have background checks before being allowed to go to any seminaries or be assigned to parishes. These background checks must be done in conjunction with the local law enforcement authorities as well as the local Church and Vatican Church. I expect an acknowledgement of this letter as to what immediate action you will take in this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

enclosures



CONGREGATIO  
DE INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA  
(DE SEMINARIIS ATQUE STUDIORUM INSTITUTIS)

Rome, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2002

PROT. N. 137/93  
*(Hic numerus in responsione referatur)*

Your Eminence,

Our Congregation thanks you for your letter, of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2002, concerning Rev. Arwyn DIESTA.

We regret to inform Your Eminence that the Bishop of Sorsogon refused to agree that Father Diesta should receive the suggested evaluation. Therefore, we have forwarded the dossier on the aforementioned priest to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is now the competent Dicastery in cases such as this one.

Thanking Your Eminence most sincerely for your co-operation in this circumstance, we take the opportunity to express to you our sentiments of personal esteem, remaining

Yours most devotedly in the Risen Lord,

+ Giuseppe Tettan, secr.  
A. Vincenzo Jaul, scil

-----  
His Eminence  
**ROGER M. CARDINAL MAHONY**  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California  
= U.S.A. =

34738

REDACTED

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT OF THE RETURN ADDRESS. FOLD AT DOTTED LINE.  
**CERTIFIED MAIL**



7001 2510 0007 1275 5735



0000



90010

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LONG BEACH, CA  
90809  
APR 15, '02  
AMOUNT

**\$4.17**

00054770-12

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**RETURN RECEIPT  
REQUESTED**

**Cardinal Roger Mahoney  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241**

90010+2202 40



34747

VIII 000102

RCALA 002384



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. .14569.....

April 27, 2002

*This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer*

**Personal and Confidential**

Your Eminence:

I write to acknowledge receipt of the copy of your letter addressed to His Eminence, Zenon Cardinal Grocholewski, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, dated March 16, 2002, Prot. No. 137/93, concerning the **Reverend Arwyn Diesta**, a priest of the Diocese of Sorsogon City, the Philippines.

At the same time, I wish to take this opportunity to forward to you a copy of a letter, with enclosures, dated April 13, 2002, and addressed to me from REDACTED REDACTED, also regarding Father Diesta. I thought it necessary to inform you of this correspondence, especially since you have dealt with this sad situation. Also, respecting your familiarity with this case, I have not replied to Mr. and Mrs. REDACTED with the hope that Your Eminence, if you feel it appropriate, would apprise them of your efforts in this regard and assure them that the necessary procedures are being followed.

Thanking Your Eminence for your gracious consideration in this matter, I remain, with prayerful and respectful cordial regards,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo  
Apostolic Nuncio

---

**His Eminence  
Roger Cardinal Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90010-2241**

*- With one enclosure -*



**FILE**

**Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

May 14, 2002

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, J.C.D.  
Apostolic Nunciature  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008

RE: Prot. N. 14569

Your Excellency:

Cardinal Mahony has asked me to reply to your kind letter of April 27, 2002. Enclosed, please find a copy of my response to Mrs. REDACTED, who had written Cardinal Mahony a letter similar to the one she and her husband wrote to you.

Hopefully, their son, REDACTED, will indeed contact the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

May God continue to bless you in your service.

Yours in Christ,

Msgr. Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy

attachment

34727



**FILE**

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

May 14, 2002

REDACTED

Dear Mrs. REDACTED

Cardinal Mahony has asked that I reply to your letter of April 3, 2002. I regret that a combination of many factors, including the Cardinal's hospitalization and my own absences from the Archdiocese, have delayed this response.

Let me begin by indicating that the Cardinal shares frustrations similar to yours. On numerous occasions, he has written to Father Diesta's own bishop and to Vatican authorities asking them to address the concerns you have rightly raised.

In response to REDACTED complaints, the Cardinal has on numerous occasions written to Father Diesta's bishop and to appropriate Vatican authorities. REDACTED REDACTED reported on some of these communications to your son. By June of 1995, the Cardinal believed that all appropriate steps were being taken.

Late last year, when the Cardinal went to Japan to celebrate the sacraments for American military personnel, he learned that Father Diesta was still serving in the seminary of Sorsogon. At that time, he asked me to review the file. He again inquired about the status of the matter and was informed that the complaints against Father Diesta had been referred to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith for a full investigation.

To assure that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith moves forward, let me suggest that REDACTED personally write to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of that Congregation. The address is:

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza del S. Uffizio, 11  
00193 Roma  
ITALIA.

It would be most helpful if I REDACTED I would send me a copy of his letter to Cardinal Ratzinger. Or, if REDACTED prefers, I would be happy to forward his letter to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith on his behalf.

34728

I trust that this information will be helpful to you!

REDACTED

Thank you for writing. May God bless

Sincerely yours,



Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 14569.....

May 22, 2002

*This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer*

**Personal and Confidential**

Reverend and dear Monsignor Cox:

Gratefully I acknowledge your kind reply of May 14, 2002, together with its enclosed copy of your response to Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> relative to my previous letter of April 27, 2002, addressed to His Eminence, Roger Cardinal Mahony, concerning the Reverend Arwyn Diesta, a priest of the Diocese of Sorsogon City, the Philippines.

Please be assured that the content of your correspondence has been duly noted. Your consideration and review of this situation are appreciated. It would be helpful to know of any further developments in this case.

With prayerful best wishes and cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo  
Apostolic Nuncio

---

The Reverend Monsignor Craig A. Cox  
Vicar for Clergy  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90010-2241

34726

RECEIVED  
MAY 28 2002  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213)637-7288

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

**MEMORANDUM**

**Monday, December 16, 2002**

To: Reverend Monsignor Craig Cox  
Vicar for Clergy

From: His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

+ *Roger Cardinal Mahony*

Subject: Reverend Arwyn Diesta

This is just a brief note to make certain that we have notified the Military Archdiocese about the past problems of Father Arwyn Diesta, and that they are aware of the difficulties which we experienced here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles some years back.

Thank you very much for reviewing our files once again on Father Diesta to make certain that he is not involved in any type of pastoral ministry with the Military Archdiocese.

Thank you very much for double-checking this matter for me.

REDACTED

81773



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## MEMORANDUM

---

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony  
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox  
RE: Reverend Arwyn Diesta  
DATE: 20 December 2002

-----  
Thank you for your phone call and follow up memorandum of December 16, 2002, on Father Diesta.

I consulted with officials in the Military Archdiocese. Indeed both they and the military itself are aware of the past complaints raised against Father Diesta. His endorsement for any chaplaincy has been revoked.

The appropriate officials in the chaplain corps are also conducting their own inquiry into the activities of Father Diesta. He will not be serving as a military chaplain.

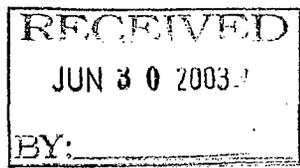
Thank you.

*Thank you!*  
*+ RMC*

*12-23-02*

81772

REDACTED



June 24, 2003

REDACTED

Los Angeles Police Department  
Sexually Exploited Child Unit  
Juvenile Division  
150 North Los Angeles Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Re: Father Arwyn Diesta**

Dear Detective REDACTED

We represent the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in connection with various clergy misconduct matters.

Although this is not a matter within the mandatory reporting statutes, we on behalf of the Archdiocese hereby notify you that REDACTED now approximately 34 years of age, has alleged that he was sexually abused by Fr. Arwyn Diesta in the mid-1980's.

At all relevant times, Fr. Diesta was incardinated in the Diocese of Sorsogon in the Philippines and served within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles from 1978 until 1988 as an Extern. Fr. Diesta was assigned to Holy Innocents Parish in Long Beach during the period of alleged abuse. In 1988, Fr. Diesta returned to the Diocese of Sorsogon.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles advised Mr. REDACTED that he could report the matter to law enforcement but apparently he has not done so. Recently, we received a letter from his mother requesting that the Archdiocese report this matter to the District Attorney. Pursuant to her request, we hereby report the matter to you as the proper authority to receive an initial report.

We assume that Mr. REDACTED has not reported this matter because he wishes to maintain his personal privacy. In fact, he has told the Archdiocese that he does not wish the matter pursued legally. Accordingly, we would suggest that you approach his parents and Mr. REDACTED himself with great discretion. The last address we have for Mr. REDACTED is quite old. It is REDACTED I am sure his parents can provide a current address. Mr. REDACTED is married now and his wife may not know of these matters so

81769

REDACTED

Detective REDACTED  
Los Angeles Police Department  
June 24, 2003  
Page 2

again we strongly suggest that if it is necessary to approach him, you do so in the most careful and sensitive manner possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

REDACTED

cc REDACTED

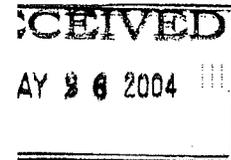
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81770

REDACTED

81771

REDACTED



May 25, 2004

Department of Social Welfare and Development  
 Special Committee for the Protection of Children  
 DSWD Bldg. Constitution Hills  
 Batasan Complex  
 Q.C. Philippines

**Re: Report of Sexual Misconduct Involving** [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam:

This office represents the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, located in Los Angeles, California, United States of America.

We are writing to notify your office of an allegation of childhood sexual abuse committed by Rev. Arwyn Diesta, a priest incardinated and presently living in the Diocese of Sorsogon.

[REDACTED], now approximately 35 years of age, has alleged that he was sexually abused by Father Diesta in the mid-1980s while Father Diesta was assigned to Holy Innocents Parish in Long Beach, California, here in the United States. In 1988, Father Diesta returned to the Diocese of Sorsogon, Philippines. Mr. [REDACTED] did not make this allegation until long after Fr. Diesta returned to the Philippines.

We bring this matter to your attention because Mr. [REDACTED] mother has informed us that, at least at some point within the last two years, Father Diesta was working with minors at Our Lady of Penafrancia Seminary in Sorsogon. The documentation Ms. [REDACTED] provided us to this effect, which she apparently obtained from the Internet, is enclosed.

We previously have informed the authorities here in the United States and the Bishop of Sorsogon. Upon reviewing this file in conjunction with the civil litigation that Mr. [REDACTED] recently brought against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and upon learning of the existence of your office in the Philippines, we decided to notify you as well.

209034

REDACTED

Department of Social Welfare and Development  
Special Committee for the Protection of Children  
May 25, 2004  
Page 2

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

REDACTED

REDACTED

Enclosure

cc REDACTED, Executive Director, Council for the Welfare of the Children  
Fax # 011-63-2-743-83-74  
[cwc@info.com.ph](mailto:cwc@info.com.ph)  
(via facsimile and email)

National Police Commission  
Government Regional Center Site  
Rawis  
Legaspi City  
4500 Philippines  
Fax #011-63-52-214-5084  
(via facsimile and air mail)

Most Reverend Jesus Y. Varela  
Bishop of Sorsogon  
P.O. Box 07  
4700 Sorsogon  
The Philippines  
(via air mail)

Most Reverend Antonio Franco  
Apostolic Nuncio  
P.O. Box 3604  
1099 Manila  
Philippines  
Fax #011-63-2-521-1235  
(via facsimile and air mail)

399925

209035

REDACTED

Department of Social Welfare and Development  
Special Committee for the Protection of Children  
May 25, 2004  
Page 3

bcc Monsi  Craig A. Cox  
(via m

209036



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

**DE C R E E**

Preliminary information has come forward indicating that Reverend Arwyn N. Diesta, a priest of the Diocese of Sorsogon (Philippines), may have committed a delict against canon 1395 in the territory of this Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California. An earlier allegation of a similar nature was referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2002 and previously. It now appears in the interest of justice that it may be advisable to proceed with a penal process in this jurisdiction should the evidence so warrant. Therefore, in accord with the provisions of canon 1717, in accord with my authority as REDACTED, I hereby decree the opening of a canonical preliminary investigation.

I hereby designate Mr. REDACTED as auditor to conduct the investigation. He has the authority to subdelegate this responsibility and involve other investigators to assist in this investigation. In the course of conducting this investigation, the auditors are reminded of their duty to respect the rights and reputation of all involved and to respect the canonical requirements of secrecy attached to such an investigation.

Given this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April in the Year of Our Lord 2006 at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California.

REDACTED

ARCHDIOCESAN SEAL

REDACTED

209021

**ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES**  
**Suspected Child Abuse Report**  
**NON-MANDATORY REPORTING FORM**

Date of this report to Public Authority:

Name of Public Authority:

Date of this Report to Archdiocese:

April 11, 2006

Reported to Archdiocese by victim:

REDACTED

Current Address:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

September 22, 1968

Alleged Perpetrator:

Fr. Arwyn Diesta 1981  
St. Stephen's Church, Monterey Park

Name: (Victim)

REDACTED

Reported Date of Incident: (s)

Beginning of 8<sup>th</sup> grade - 1981

Reported Circumstances of Incident(s):

Sleepovers(10+) at the Rectory, Fr. Diesta  
tried to touch or hold REDACTED penis.  
Diesta tried to kiss him. "I don't know what  
happened while I was asleep."

Reported Type of Abuse or Neglect:

Sexual abuse of a minor under 14.

Comments:

Submitted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles:

REDACTED

209031

**Memo to Confidential File****May 8, 2006**

I was contacted around March 21 by REDACTED, a therapist, who left a message for me to call. Her telephone number is REDACTED. When I finally reached her a few days later, she related to me that she was contacting me on behalf of one of her clients. She said that the name of the man was REDACTED. She said that he was 37 years old and of Cuban descent. She told me that she had permission from her client to speak with me. She related to me that Mr. REDACTED had made some considerable progress with her, and that he was interested in coming to speak to me about sexual abuse that had been perpetrated against him by a priest whose name appeared on the Report to the People of God. While she did not identify the priest, she said that that priest was Filipino.

I agreed to speak to Mr. REDACTED. She said that he would contact me within a few days.

Mr. REDACTED contacted my office on April 5 and left a message for me with his telephone number. REDACTED

I reached Mr. REDACTED over the telephone and told him who I was. I indicated to him that it would be helpful to know the name of the priest. He told me that the priest was Father Arwyn Diesta, and arranged an appointment to see him on Tuesday, April 11 at 10:30 am. I arranged to interview Mr. REDACTED with REDACTED the canonical auditor.

**G. Gonzales****209028**

REDACTED

RECEIVED  
OCT 9 2007

REDACTED

REDACTED

November 8, 2007

Monsignor Gabriel Gonzalez  
Los Angeles Archdiocese  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Re: REDACTED

Dear Monsignor Gonzalez:

REDACTED has retained this office to represent him regarding sexual molestation inflicted against him by Father Arwyn N. Diesta that occurred when he was approximately 12 to 13 years of age.

We are aware that you and REDACTED REDACTED are fully aware of the molestation that occurred to our client. It is also our understanding that you and REDACTED REDACTED have authorized and are paying for psychological therapy that is still ongoing.

The purpose of this letter is to first, inform you of our representation and secondly, and more importantly, to attempt to resolve this matter in a manner that would obviate the need for any litigation. On behalf of our client, we are seeking a resolution that includes continued psychological therapy and additional compensation for our client for the trauma he has had to endure and continues to endure.

After you have had an opportunity to further review this matter, we would appreciate hearing from you to explore the possibility of settlement.

REDACTED *[Signature]*

REDACTED

cc: REDACTED

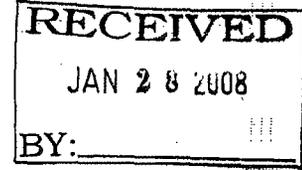
209027

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

January 24, 2008



Monsignor Gabriel Gonzalez  
Los Angeles Archdiocese  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Re: REDACTED

Dear Monsignor Gonzalez:

On November 8, 2007, I sent to you a letter regarding the sexual molestation of  
REDACTED by Father Diesta.

I would appreciate receiving a response from you as to whether you are interested  
in attempting to resolve this matter. Please respond within 30 days from the date  
hereof.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours  
REDACTED

ISL:lb  
cc: REDACTED

209026



**COPY**

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

January 30, 2008

REDACTED

REDACTED

Re: REDACTED

Dear Mr. REDACTED

It was a pleasure to speak with you last night and I appreciate your understanding about my delay in calling you. I look forward to resolving this matter promptly. In that regard, I have asked REDACTED our outside counsel in these matters to contact you. His direct dial is REDACTED if you want to call him.

I have also provided REDACTED with the background information we have from the time Mr. REDACTED contacted our Victim's Assistance Ministry office in 2006, at the suggestion of the professional whom has been providing counseling to him since 2000. We have reimbursed him for counseling he incurred prior to 2006 and are paying his on-going fees on a current basis.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me as well.

Yours very truly,

REDACTED

REDACTED

cc: I REDACTED

REDACTED

209025

Please do not remove  
this sheet.

209022

2/11/08

REDACTED

REDACTED

*mother*

REDACTED

REDACTED

*we  
have address  
in special  
Trading*

34773

**CMOB #** 141

**Considered by CMOB**

**Inactive Date**

**Case Name** Asian Extern

**Active Case?**

**Priest Name** Diesta, Arwyn N.

**DOB** 5/25/1953

**Ethnicity** Filipino

**Diocese** Diocese of Sorsogon, Philippines

**Canon State** Extern Priest

**Religious Order**

**Incardination**

**Date Of Ordination**

**Clergy Status** Left Archdiocese

**Deacon**

**DOB**

**Diocese**

**Ethnicity**

**Ordination**

**Status**

**Date Referred to Vicar**

**Date Of Alleged Incident**

**Alleged Victim**

**Multiple Victims**

**Accusers**

**Investigation Complete**

**Investigator Name**

**Removed From Ministry**

**Date Removed From Ministry**

**Date Returned To Ministry**

**Case Disposition**

**DispositionComments**

**Intervention**

**Description**

**Case Status**

*Follow Up*  
*Follow Up Date*  
*Legal Proceedings*  
*Legal Proceedings?*   
*Court Cases Settled*  
*Response*  
*Response Date*  
*Sent To Rome?*  *Date Sent To Rome*  
*Canonical Trial*  *Canonical Trial Date*  
*Canonical Disposition*  
*Page* 31

**Vicar for Clergy Database**

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

**Rev Arwyn N. Diesta***Current Primary Assignment*

<i>Birth Date</i>	5/25/1953	<i>Age:</i>	55
<i>Birth Place</i>	Sorsogon, Philippines	<i>Deanery:</i>	22
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	5/27/1978		
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Diocese of Sorsogon, Philippines		
<i>Date of Incardination</i>			
<i>Religious Community</i>			
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Left Archdiocese		
<i>Seminary</i>	St. John Seminary, Camarillo		
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Filipino		

**Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training**

*Date Background Check*  
*Virtus Training Date*

**Assignment History**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Left Archdiocese	3/15/1988	
Holy Innocents Catholic Church, Long Beach Vicar), Active Service	7/9/1982	3/14/1988
St. Stephen Catholic Church, Monterey Park Vicar), Active Service	9/1/1978	7/8/1982

**Background Information**

<i>Salutation</i>	Father	<i>Retired in Rectory?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Social Security Number</i>		<i>Will Filed?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Citizenship</i>		<i>Reference</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Immigration Status</i>	Citizen	<i>Power of Attorney Health Care</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Green Card End Date</i>		<i>Power of Attorney Finance</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Payroll in lieu of stipends</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>Enrolled in Pension Plan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>Receiving Pension?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

## DECREE

Preliminary information has come forward indicating that Reverend Arwyn N. Diesta, a priest of the Diocese of Sorsogon (Philippines), may have committed a delict against canon 1395 in the territory of this Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California. An earlier allegation of a similar nature was referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2002 and previously. It now appears in the interest of justice that it may be advisable to proceed with a penal process in this jurisdiction should the evidence so warrant. Therefore, in accord with the provisions of canon 1717, in accord with REDACTED I hereby decree the opening of a canonical preliminary investigation.

I hereby designate Mr. REDACTED as auditor to conduct the investigation. He has the authority to subdelegate this responsibility and involve other investigators to assist in this investigation. In the course of conducting this investigation, the auditors are reminded of their duty to respect the rights and reputation of all involved and to respect the canonical requirements of secrecy attached to such an investigation.

Given this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April in the Year of Our Lord 2006 at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California.

REDACTED

ARCHDIOCESAN SEAL

Confidential  
Attorney Client Privilege  
Attorney Work Product

Record of Investigation/Interview

REDACTED, born REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED was interviewed by Canonical Auditor REDACTED at the Archdiocesan Catholic Center, 3424 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales was present during the interview. Mr. REDACTED had previously contacted Monsignor Gonzales by telephone to report that he had been the victim of sexual abuse and identified Father Arwyn Diesta as the abuser. Monsignor Gonzales identified himself to Mr. REDACTED as the Vicar for Clergy, provided his background and explained his role as the Cardinal's representative. The auditor also identified himself and explained his role investigating reports of misconduct involving priests. Mr. REDACTED provided the following information:

He attended St. Stephens School from the 1<sup>st</sup> grade through graduation from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 1982. He met Father Diesta when he first arrived at St. Stephens in early 1981. At that time, he was already serving as an Altar Boy and recalled Father Diesta telling him that he was a "really good Altar Boy". He noted that Father Diesta saw a weakness in him because he was "a little chubby" and did not have a lot of friends. He said Father Diesta started making friends with him and taking him along with other children to play miniature golf, bowl and eat pizza. He also accompanied Father Diesta alone to bowl, eat out and attend movies. He assisted Father Diesta as an Altar Boy during funerals and weddings outside of the parish. He also performed cleaning chores at the rectory. Father Diesta promised him that, in return for performing chores and assisting with religious ceremonies, he would pay him money. He said he never actually received any money "up front" because Father Diesta said he would save it and give it to him at a later date. He did, on occasion, give him small amounts of about one or two dollars.

He noted that when he accompanied Father Diesta to social events or religious functions he was transported in Father Diesta's "brand new Volvo".

He continued that in 1981, at the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, he started sleeping over at the rectory with Father Diesta. REDACTED REDACTED

During the sleepovers he would sleep in the same bed with Father Diesta and Father Diesta wanted him to sleep naked or in his underwear. He recalled Father Diesta asking him if he masturbated and when he said, "No", Father Diesta seemed disappointed. He said two other priests, REDACTED and Father REDACTED also

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Record of Interview with REDACTED  
Interview on: April 11, 2006 at 3424 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California  
By: Canonical Auditor REDACTED

---

**Confidential**  
**Attorney Client Privilege**  
**Attorney Work Product**

lived in the rectory and Father Diesta would sneak him in around nine or ten o'clock at night. He said in bed, while he was awake, Father Diesta would try to touch or hold his penis. He also tried to kiss him, but he did not allow it. He said, "I don't know what happened while I was asleep." He spent the night mostly on the weekend, but sometimes during the school week if they had to get up to go somewhere the next day.

Additionally, he said that when Father Diesta took showers he would come out naked and wanted him to "check out his body" and pull out white hairs from his head while he was nude. While driving, Father Diesta would also reach over and try to grab his penis.

He said the sleepovers occurred ten or more times during the school year and twice after Father Diesta was transferred to Long Beach. He said that toward the end he started pushing away from Father Diesta and in bed he would sleep closer to the edge to avoid being touched. He gradually started to avoid Father Diesta and stopped returning his telephone calls. He last saw Father Diesta in 1986 when he called and wanted to have lunch. He met Father Diesta for lunch at a location in Monterey Park on Garvey Street. He said Father Diesta asked questions about his personal sexual activity.

Mr. REDACTED said he had never told anyone about what had happened to him with Father Diesta until about three months ago REDACTED

Mr. REDACTED was asked what motivated him to finally make a report to the Archdiocese.

He said, "I want justice for this and I know he has done it to others. I want some kind of an apology from the church." He said that what happened to him had killed his faith and before this he had thought about going to the seminary. He said it is difficult for him to trust anyone. He said he would like some form of restitution for what he had suffered and was disappointed in how the church has handled the abuse cases. He said the church seemed more concerned about saving face and relied on the faith of its followers for forgiveness.

He said he could not provide the names of others who might have been victims, but recalled Father Diesta having photographs of other "young guys".

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Record of Interview with REDACTED  
Interview on: April 11, 2006 at 3424 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California  
By: Canonical Auditor REDACTED

---

REDACTED

CC. INFORMATION



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of the Archbishop  
(213) 637-7288

3424 Wilshire Boulevard

Los Angeles California 90010-2202

May 23, 2008

Most Reverend Arturo M. Bastes, SVD, DD  
Bishop of Sorsogon  
Sorsogon City 4700  
PHILIPPINES

Dear Bishop Bastes:

I have seen a copy of your letter of April 27, 2008 to Monsignor Gabriel Gonzalez, our Vicar for the Clergy, with respect to Father Arwyn Diesta.

As you know from previous correspondence, we consider this matter to be extremely serious and a full canonical investigation needs to be carried out.

We have received various credible allegations of sexual abuse towards a minor on the part of Father Diesta. Accordingly, I am hopeful that you will be able to proceed with a formal investigation and send your results to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith as required by current Church law.

If Father Diesta were in the United States, our norms would require that he be removed from priestly ministry and placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigations.

There is no doubt in my mind that Father Diesta should not be in priestly ministry at this time, and if the investigation shows that the allegations are truthful then he should be removed from ministry.

Thanking you for your assistance in moving this investigation forward, and with every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**FILE COPY**

His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

CC: Most Reverend Edward Joseph Adams, Apostolic Nunciature

REDACTED

Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels San Fernando San Gabriel San Pedro Santa Barbara

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

April 3, 2008

REDACTED

RECEIVED  
APR - 4 2008

Attention: REDACTED

Re: REDACTED

Dear Mr. REDACTED:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of February 20, 2008, enclosed please find a Declaration of our client, REDACTED I believe the Declaration answers all of the questions you had at the time of our conversation.

After you have had an opportunity to review the enclosed Declaration, I would appreciate hearing from you to determine whether or not we can resolve this or whether we should proceed, as you suggested, with either mediation or arbitration.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

REDACTED

REDACTED

cc: REDACTED

1. DECLARATION OF REDACTED

2. I, REDACTED, declare and state:

3. 1. I am over the age of 18 years and if called upon as a witness, I could  
4. and would competently testify to facts contained herein.

5. 2. This declaration is intended to relate the facts concerning incidents  
6. that occurred in 1981 and 1982 while I was a student at St. Stephens school and  
7. St. Stephens Church in Monterey Park, California. The facts contained herein are  
8. related to the best of my knowledge and recollection. The dates may not be  
9. accurate in that the events occurred approximately twenty-seven years ago.

10. 3. In 1981, when I was 12, I was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade attending school at St.  
11. Stephens School. I was also a member of St. Stephens Catholic Church.

12. 4. In 1981, I had been an altar boy for two years when I first met Father  
13. Arwyn N. Diesta. To my knowledge, he had just been transferred to the church.  
14. He was from the Philippines and appeared to be in his late 20's. In my eyes, he  
15. seemed "hip". He seemed to be in tune with the times, smoked and drove a nice  
16. car.

17. 5. Father Diesta, after arriving at the church, became in charge of training  
18. the altar boys. He would take the altar boys on outside the church activities.  
19. These activities would include miniature golf, bowling and, at least on one  
20. occasion, a trip to Disneyland. Most of the outings were either after school or an  
21. all day outing on the weekend. These types of activities went on for several  
22. months. During this time, Father Diesta became very close with me. He would pay  
23. me for doing work around the church or on some occasions, he would promise to  
24. pay but didn't. To my recollection, this went on for two to three months.

25. 6. Approximately six to nine months after Father Diesta came to the  
26. church, he began taking me alone on outings after school.

27. 7. Several weeks later, he informed me that he was going to perform a  
28. mass at some other church the next day. He wanted me to go with him. He

1 thought it would better for me to stay with him overnight at the church. I didn't  
2 understand this since I lived only seven blocks from the church.

3 8. Prior to this occasion, I believe that Father Diesta was essentially  
4 seducing my mother and sister by befriending them. My mother would often cook  
5 for Father Diesta when he arrived to pick me up and take me to the rectory. My  
6 mother took great pride in the fact that I had befriended a priest. I believe because  
7 my father did not live with us (parents were divorced), my mother thought he was  
8 a suitable father figure because he was a man of God. In retrospect, he, of course,  
9 betrayed her trust. Father Diesta also started having sexual conversations with me.  
10 He wanted to know whether I had started to masturbate and whether I had been  
11 with any girls. Father Diesta would talk about pornography and wet dreams and  
12 whether or not I liked girls.

13 9. On the first night that we went to the rectory, that was next to St.  
14 Stephens Church, we went to Father Diesta's room located upstairs in the rectory.  
15 He would tell me to be especially quiet when we walked up the stairs because I  
16 wasn't supposed to be there. I remember that his room was not decorated like one  
17 would think a priest's room would be. He had a late model stereo sound system,  
18 TV and piano. I remember asking him where were we going to sleep? He said that  
19 I could sleep with him. The bed appeared to be a double bed with room for two  
20 people. At the time, I thought this was a little weird but went along with Father  
21 Diesta's plan. After entering the room, he took off his clothes, got into bed and  
22 was totally naked. He told me to get undressed, but I insisted on keeping on my  
23 underwear. When I got into bed, I tried to stay as far away from him as possible.  
24 However, he reached over and put his hands inside my underwear and started to  
25 fondle me. I tried to pull away, but he said, it would be okay. I believe it finally  
26 ended only when I fell asleep. I also remember that sometimes I would wake up  
27 with underwear soiled with semen. I believe the semen was mine and Father  
28 Diesta may have molested me to climax but I can't be sure that it wasn't also his.

1 Also, on some occasions, in the morning, I would wake up with Diesta spooning  
2 with his hands on my genitals. In the morning, he went to the shower and invited  
3 me in. I refused. However, he walked around naked in front of me. He would also  
4 say, "Don't tell anybody that you were staying here."

5 10. Two to three weeks later, the molestation occurred again. He came  
6 into the house, picked me up and we stayed at the church and the same routine  
7 regarding the fondling occurred. And of course, he said not to tell anybody.

8 11. To the best of my recollection, the fondling started in the Fall of 1981  
9 and continued into the Summer of 1982. I would estimate that it occurred  
10 somewhere between twelve to twenty times during this period of time.

11 12. During the entire period, he tried to make me feel special by taking me  
12 to places that I wouldn't normally be able to go. For example, to different  
13 churches, seminary, movies, art shows and music presentations. He knew how to  
14 play the piano and tried to teach me to play the piano.

15 13. At my 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation, he gave me a plaque as the "Altar Boy of  
16 the Year." To my recollection, this award had not been given before.

17 14. Father Diesta was transferred to Long Beach to the Holy Innocents  
18 Church in the Summer of 1982. He kept in contact by calling me and also writing  
19 to my mother. He would pick me up and take me to dinner, bowling or a movie.  
20 He would then take me back to Long Beach. He would make excuses for not  
21 bringing me home. He again, on several occasions, had me sleep over in the same  
22 bed and the fondling routine would occur.

23 15. Also during the fondling over the several months, he would take my  
24 hand and try to put it on his naked penis. I would quickly remove my hand.

25 16. Many times, while driving in the car, he would reach over and grab my  
26 crotch. I also remember that during some of the fondling occasions, I would see  
27 Father Diesta with an erection.

28 17. I remember that I had enjoyed being an altar boy and wanted to

1 continue being an altar boy. Father Diesta tried to make me feel special, as  
2 evidenced by the award for Altar Boy of the Year at my 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation.

3 18. Somewhere during the end of the Summer of 1982, I stopped  
4 returning Father Diesta's calls. I began to feel that this was very wrong and cut off  
5 the relationship.

6 19. As a result of the molestation, I have experienced a loss of spirituality  
7 and a loss of faith in God and the church. Prior to the molestation, I was a devout  
8 Catholic and the molestation has forever corrupted my faith. I no longer believe in  
9 God. Also, whenever I pass a Catholic Church or happen to attend a service (I  
10 don't attend Catholic services but sometimes I will attend a wedding or baptism of  
11 a friend or acquaintance), I become very tense and agitated and all thoughts revert  
12 to the molestation and father Diesta. It unnerves me. It feels like I am returning to  
13 the scene of the crime regardless of the church or the location. This also occurs  
14 whenever I am exposed to Catholic iconography or related stories in the media.  
15 Meeting clergy of any faith (especially, of course, Catholic priests) is and may  
16 forever be uncomfortable.

17 20. I have felt ashamed and have kept it a secret until it finally started to  
18 come out in the open during a therapy session at the end of December in 2005. I  
19 REDACTED

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22 21. The therapist then recommended that I contact the Archdiocese  
23 regarding the molestation. To my recollection, my therapist contacted the  
24 Archdiocese and a meeting was set up with Sister REDACTED. The meeting  
25 occurred with my therapist and it was at this meeting that Sister REDACTED authorized  
26 continued therapy. She also advised against obtaining an attorney because the  
27 attorney would take forty percent of whatever compensation I would receive. She  
28 also told me that as a victim of priest abuse herself when she was young, she

1 empathized with me. There was a subsequent meeting at the Los Angeles  
 2 Archdiocese headquarters in downtown Los Angeles with REDACTED and  
 3 also with Monsignor Gabriel Gonzalez. This occurred within a couple of weeks of  
 4 my initial meeting with Sister REDACTED. At this meeting, REDACTED who I  
 5 understand to be a private investigator, collected facts from me regarding the  
 6 molesting. Monsignor Gonzalez offered me no compensation other than paying for  
 7 therapy. He did offer his apologies. Then, since that time, no one has discussed  
 8 any settlement or offered any compensation other than to pay for my therapy.  
 REDACTED

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REDACTED REDACTED  
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**DECLARATION OF REDACTED**

REDACTED

4 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California  
5 that the foregoing is true and correc REDACTED

6 DATED: 3/30/08

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**ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES**  
**Suspected Child Abuse Report**  
**NON-MANDATORY REPORTING FORM**

Date of this report to Public Authority:

Name of Public Authority:

Date of this Report to Archdiocese: April 11, 2006

Reported to Archdiocese by victim: REDACTED

Current Address:

Telephone:

Date of Birth: September 22, 1968

Alleged Perpetrator: Fr. Arwyn Diesta 1981  
St. Stephen's Church, Monterey Park

Name: (Victim) REDACTED

Reported Date of Incident: (s) Beginning of 8<sup>th</sup> grade - 1981

Reported Circumstances of Incident(s): Sleepovers(10+) at the Rectory, Fr. Diesta  
tried to touch or hold REDACTED's penis.  
Diesta tried to kiss him. "I don't know what  
happened while I was asleep."

Reported Type of Abuse or Neglect: Sexual abuse of a minor under 14.

Comments:

Submitted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles:

REDACTED