



Jesuit Community
Lansing-Reilly Hall

The Reverend John A. Hardon, S.J.
U of D Jesuit Community
4001 McNichols Road
Detroit, MI 48221 - 3090
January 3, 1994

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

Dear Don, P.C.

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

In April, 1993, I was already contacted through telephone and letter by [redacted] requested my involvement in a process that was already in motion concerning certain complaints that you had engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior with his son, [redacted] when he was travelling with you on missionary journeys. I have since been informed that a meeting had taken place in which [redacted] shared his complaints with four other people:

[redacted] No explanation was given for the nature of his approach.

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

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

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



Jesuit Community
Lansing-Reilly Hall

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

2

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

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

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

I contacted [redacted] and he accepted my judgment.

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

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

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



Jesuit Community
Lansing-Reilly Hall

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

3

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Fr. Donald J. McGuire, S.J.".

4001 W. McNichols Road
PO Box 19900
Detroit MI 48210-3500