



MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

Feast of the Presentation
February 2, 1994

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

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

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

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

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

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

Right at this moment several of our regional superiors are requesting his services for retreats and seminars. He brings a particular message which I want the communities to hear--a message grounded in the Spiritual Exercises and our own Constitutions--one of cheerfulness, loving trust and total surrender with special reverence for the Holy Father and the teaching authority of the Church. Fr. McGuire has a gift of communicating the truths of our Faith and the Religious life joyfully and in the simplest, clearest language. He loves the truth and has the special gifts of a good teacher to lead others to live the truths he teaches. He has the added gifts of a prudent and trusted confessor and spiritual advisor.

I am full of hope on this day when we celebrate the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, that you, very reverend Father, will send Father McGuire to continue his ministry to the Missionaries of Charity as soon as possible. He is most welcome in Calcutta or any house of the Missionaries of Charity throughout the world.

As our Mother Mary and her beloved spouse, Joseph, were told: "Your own soul a sword shall pierce," I know I am asking you to call Fr. McGuire more deeply into the mystery of the cross. Ministry to the poor is a beautiful Way of the Cross.

You and all your works I commend to prayer, as I humbly beg your prayers for the Missionaries and all their works that all of us may continue to seek to satisfy the thirst of Jesus for souls.