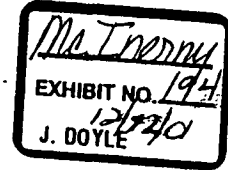


PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

July 5, 1992

TO: REV. JOHN B. McCORMACK
Secretary, Ministerial Personnel

FROM: FR. FRED RYAN



RE: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION: July 3, 1992 (2:15 pm - 3 pm)

I received a "beeper" call from the Chancery Answering Service on July 3, about which I made mention to you the morning of July 4. The following is my recollection of that conversation on the telephone July 3...

1. A person who identified herself as Mrs. [REDACTED] --- "593" is a Lynn telephone exchange...) began by noting her thanks for my return of the call and her wondering if I had been calling from a "car phone". I stated I had been out on the road, but had just returned to the Chancery and thus was calling about 15 minutes after her "beep"....
2. She went on to say that she did not want her name brought into public - this was a confidential call. She stated that at Morning Mass July 3, at St. Adelaide Parish, Peabody, she was speaking with a gentleman after Mass. She lamented the "Porter Case" etc. and he quietly commented back: "That happened to my two boys..." She related she then invited the gentleman away from a crowd and spoke with him for a while at the Church. (She noted this was not her parish, but has come frequently in light of Fr. Tom DiLorenzo's ministry. She commented also on how well he and Fr. Blute, Pastor, conduct a Parish Community, etc...).
3. The gentleman told her that in the 60's a priest by the name of Fr. John Geoghan was stationed at his parish: Blessed Sacrament, Saugus. He told her he was currently assigned to St. Julia Parish, Weston... His two sons were altar boys and regularly (for about 6 months) Fr. Geoghan would come to his house about 10 pm on a Sunday evening. While his wife and he put together a "cup of tea", etc. Fr. John would speak with the boys in their room where they were sleeping....
4. This gentleman, whom the lady mentioned once in the telephone chat as [REDACTED] (spelling? I did not ask her to repeat his surname, since at the outset she indicated she had spoken in strictest confidence to the man and thus could not give his name...) told her more details, I gather. When I wondered to her whether there might be any "jumping to conclusions" in light of recent publicity about Mr. Porter - presuming some impropriety, etc....: Mrs. [REDACTED] politely asserted that improprieties had occurred. She noted that "[REDACTED]" told her the priest would come out of the room, wash his hands, have tea, and then go across the street to another house of altar boys. The lateness of the Sunday evening "dropping in" concerned her. I noted that perhaps the only time the priest had time to drop in to visit the Parishioners might have been after the busy week-end Mass schedule and activities.... She felt Mr. [REDACTED] gave a different picture....
5. Mrs. [REDACTED] then mentioned that while awaiting my call, she had called St. Julia Parish, Weston and spoke with the Pastor "Fr. Rossiter" and alerted him. She realized he was to retire this coming week, and asked me if I thought he might, as an older priest, have a heart attack because of her "call".... I assured the good lady that Monsignor was a strong healthy man, and would be OK.
6. The lady went on, recalling that Mr. [REDACTED] related that Fr. Geoghan had told his boys to keep his visits to themselves; to tell no one. (Thus, that's why they never had any reason to question the visits...at the time).

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7. Evidently from what Mrs. [] heard, Fr. Geoghan has called one of the sons within the past year, to ask him how he was, etc. The man reported to his dad that he told the priest: "Don't you ever call again. If you come here (to his place of work), I'll kill you!"

8. Mrs. [] spoke of how religious Mr. [] is; she has been with him at Living Rosari as well as Masses, etc. And yet his wife and children, she gathered, do not go to Mass. She commented to me, as I gathered from her report that she commented to Mr. []: "No wonder your family stays away...." There are other children - seemingly all grown up at this point. I think she told me Mr. [] was a 30 years member of the "Blue Army".

Mrs. [] urged the man to bring the family back to the Church, etc....

9. In light of the CONFIDENTIALITY of the telephone call; the assertions by the woman that Mr. [] did not allow her passing on the information; and that she did not want her name involved....: I asked what she felt should be done at this time? Initially she wondered if someone could call the priest....

I told her Fr. John McCormack was delegated by His Eminence Cardinal Law to care for any allegations in these matters (She seemed to know that already by her recognition of that point...). I urged she request the gentleman (Mr. []) to call Fr. McCormack or to speak with his pastor Fr. Blute -- whom he knows, would trust, and from whom he'd receive good guidance, including perhaps assisting his coming to see Fr. McCormack to relate the situation 'first hand'. She understood my point of her giving me heresy, etc....

10. She confided that she does not go to St. Adelaide's regularly; but would keep in mind my recommendation to urge the gentleman to speak directly with one of his parish priests or telephone Fr. McCormack directly....

11. With that the lady switched her conversation to that of her family. She told me she had two boys (one of them seemed to be in the background of the telephone at this point?)...Rob who was 22 and another age 16. She also had 1 girl: 20 years old. Her husband was retired from the FDIC a few years back, and is now with TWA.

She kept asking me what direction for college her son should take....

Upon asking me what I thought was a good Catholic College, I pointed to St. Anselm in Manchester, NH. She responded: "The Cardinal's thinks that's a good school too!"

She then went through a listing from: "Catholic Home Study" via a college in Virginia to Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula, Ca.; Thomas More College in Merrimac, NH - 76 students; Gannon University; "Ignatius Institute at the U of San Francisco"....

I repeatedly told the good lady that I did not know her son, thus could not comment directly on what was best for him. She seemed to point to his being a "religious radio TV person".... I encouraged a good College background in Arts, Philosophy and Theology if that was his goal, and not put aside going into the Seminary, if....

12. In concluding the long call, I told the good lady that I would pray for her son and family; and also offer Mass for "Mr. [] and his sons, as well as the priest about which she registered concern. I urged her trying to contact Mr. [] when possible, to encourage his "coming to the Church" via his pastor or Fr. McCormack so the Church might be better informed and he/they aided in whatever the matter past. She said she would continue her plea that her name not be involved. I pointed out to her that this condition made it impossible for my calling Fr. Geoghan, Fr. Rossiter, etc. since I was held to confidentiality. She understood and agreed.

This is all I know about this matter.

(I have self-typed all the above, so as to preserve confidentiality.)


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