



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

October 27, 1997

## Third Party Privacy Rights

Ms. Christine Bethard  
1008 Neptune  
Leucadia, CA 92024

Dear Christine,

Thank you so very much for the card you sent to Mel and for the generous donation. I certainly enjoyed speaking with you while we were at San Luis Rey.

I received a letter from Robert today. He sounds good. Christina, if we can be of any help, please do not hesitate to ask. Be assured of our prayers for you and for Robert.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Address]

OFM VANH 1

0001



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TM

OFM VANH I  
0002

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barn's burnt  
down... now i can  
see the moon.

--masahide

10/8

Mel-  
Sorry it took me so  
long to send this. But  
given the situation, it's  
still the perfect card.

Love to you and Mike  
and Joel.

your friend,  
Christine

Bethard.

1008 Neptune  
Lencadia Ca  
92024



\$ 5,000

Fr. Mel Jurisich, OFM  
1508 Arch St.  
Berkeley, Ca. 94708



I answered this but-  
I think you should also that



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

*Bay Area  
SF  
San Francisco*

- 1) Support of program
- 2) access to *psych on your care*
- 3) a group of friends + colleagues to help in

*housing jobs  
job preparation  
re-training*

September 25, 1997

Dear Robert,

I know how disappointed you must have been when you received my last letter. I hope in this letter I can give you better news.

I now have the final information from Pat.

I will summarize the letter:

1. Communication regarding the County of residence following the parole should be directed as follows:

Classification and Parole Representative  
California Medical Facility  
PO Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696

A copy of all correspondence (no matter from whom) should be sent to:

Ellie McGunnigle  
Parole Agent III  
Unit Supervisor  
State Parole Office  
411 East Canon Perdido Street  
Suite 15  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

2. Pat has spoken to Ron Zonen, the DA who prosecuted your case and he is willing to write a letter to the CMPR at Vacaville indicating that he does not think it is a good idea to have you paroled to the SB county.
3. Pat feels it would be helpful if a local SB *(Virgil?)* would write a letter noting the current state of affairs re St. A *(Virgil?)*.

OFM VANH 1

0005



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

Classification and Parole Representative  
California Medical Facility  
PO Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696  
January 19, 1998

COPY

Dear Sir,

I write this letter as provincial superior of the Franciscan Friars of California stating our concern and our willingness to help Robert Van Handel as he begins a new life on the outside.

In the areas of San Francisco, Alameda and Sacramento counties (in order of priority), where the friars are quite highly represented, we are willing and able to help Robert in the following ways:

1. to find adequate housing;
2. we have a net-work of people (friends, colleagues, other friars) who are willing to help Robert in his search for adequate employment; these people are also willing to help in job preparation and in re-tooling programs for different occupations;
3. we know professional therapists who are available to offer therapy programs and on-going care for Robert;
4. we, friars, are certainly committed to continual fraternal and moral support for Robert;
5. we are also committed to offer Robert some financial support as he gets started.

Thank you

Provincial of the Franciscans of the Province of St. Barbara

*cf. to Eddie M. ...*  
*M. ...*  
*1. 1. 5*

OFM VANH 1  
0006

- you, and the impact that would have if you were paroled there.
4. Ron Zonen is also going to ask the victim to sign a request asking that you be transferred to another county. That will really help.
  5. Pat also spoke to someone from the State Parole Headquarters in SF. they said that if we (you) do not receive a response to our letters within a month or so of the expected parole date, we should contact Ms McGunnigle in the SB office.
  6. All of the above will be to no avail if you do not request that your housing be changed to the location and circumstances outlined in the Province letter (which tells me that we have to have all this figured out). Pat says your wishes have to coincide with our proposed plans.

I (we) should be very grateful to Pat for all his help. It took him over three weeks of phone calls to gather all this. I will write and thank <sup>for</sup> you on your behalf as well as the [REDACTED]. He is a good man!

I will make sure that Joe C and Michael get copies of this letter as well as Pat's letter. How all this plays out should be worked out with Michael and Joe as they talk with you and work with you. I am pleased to have been able to play a small part on your behalf.

Fraternally,  
[REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]  
Michael P. Doherty, [REDACTED]

Here is some additional information you may find useful:

Ron Zonen, the Senior Deputy District Attorney who prosecuted this case, told me that he will write a letter to the CMPR at Vacaville indicating he does not think it is a good idea to have Father Robert paroled to this county. I will send you a copy of that letter. I also think it would be helpful for a local representative of the Friars to include a letter, making particular note of the current state of affairs regarding St. Anthony's, Father Robert, and the impact it may have if he is paroled here to Santa Barbara.

In addition, I asked Ron Zonen to contact the victim of Father Robert's case and see if the victim would sign a request that Father Robert be transferred to another county. Under Penal Code section 3058 - If the victim so requests - the Parole Office will usually act favorably on a request to house the parolee in excess of 25 miles from the victim's residence.

I spoke personally to Ellie McGunnigle about the above information, and also to Linda Shutes - from State Parole Headquarters in San Francisco. Ms. Shutes suggested that if you do not receive a response to your letters that you contact the Santa Barbara Office to the attention of Ms. McGunnigle, within a month or so of the expected parole date.

One other final point -- all of this will be for nothing unless Father Robert himself requests that his housing be changed to the location and circumstances outlined in your letter. With this in mind, you might want to communicate with him directly at Vacaville to make sure that his wishes coincide with your proposed plans.

Father Mel -- If you need anything further on this, please give me a call at my direct number (805) 568-2305.

With kindest, personnel regards, I am,

Very truly yours,



PATRICK J. MCKINLEY  
Assistant District Attorney

PJM:lf  
cc: Ellie McGunnigle  
State Parole Office

OFM VANH 1  
0008



from the desk of...

Mel Jurisich, OFM

Local probate officer →  
Encouraging -

6 County of Pinal  
San Antonio

Olaf Wes  
Ellison

408 422-2043

Dear Mel,

8 March 98

I hope this letter finds you well. Mike tells me about your various exploits including the important meeting of the Old Guard regarding my issues. Thank you again for the many kindnesses you have performed on my behalf.

Recently Herb Liberman was here for a visit. He was positively beaming about how you had thanked him for taking up my cause. He said to me that receiving thanks like that makes all his work worth doing. You really made him feel appreciated.

I just wrote to Mike D. telling him that my "counselor," Mr. La Bue, told me that parole had assigned me to Salinas. He knew we were trying for SF, so he faxed the Regional Headquarters in SF the letter I had given him stating the reasons for our choice. I don't think Mr. La Bue had a copy of the Provincial's letter to that effect. La Bue suggested that one of the priors should personally contact the Regional Headquarters and make the case for San Francisco. I will need to send a memo to Mr. La Bue about whom to contact. In a letter from Pat McK in SB which Michael sent me, he mentioned a Linda Skutes in SF. Perhaps she is the one.

The good news is that parole seems to realize I cannot ~~be~~ serve parole in SB. I can think of worse places than Salinas, but I'm sure I would make an ~~unhappy~~ unhappy splash in such a community.

OEM VANH 1  
0010

I wrote all this to Mike, but if he is off preaching a mission it might be a while before you and the Provincial got the news.

I have cautious hopes of getting out on the morning of May 25. Probably the following day I will have to report to my parole officer. I have seen many men think they were being released only to be foiled days or hours before walking out the door — hence my hesitation. God willing I will see you before the summer!

Please give Joe C my best.

Fraternally,  
Robert

Dear Christine

March 10, 1998

I just spoke with you on the phone.  
Thanks very much for coming to visit - the last? -  
and also many thanks for the package chock full of  
goodies. This is the nice per you sent.

Enclosed is the fax from parole to my counselor.  
Chuck La Bue is my counselor.

Rich Winistorfer is from parole headquarters, Region II.  
His address and number are at the top.

Ray Willenberg is the Salinas Unit Supervisor. His  
address is at the bottom along with Joe Rausch  
who must be my parole agent.

I think Winistorfer is trying to establish that  
Parole, not I, is in control of the show. In his view  
it is the victim, not the prison, who got me out of  
S. B. Further the reference about church involvement  
is because he might be supposing that church and  
my crime are interconnected. Again, I think he  
wants to establish control.

I'm feeling better about the whole thing than  
I was at first, partly because my group reacted  
so positively.

Another thought about church involvement:  
parole may think that I plan to step back into parish  
work.

I will send a copy of this fax to Mike in

Malibu. Perhaps you could send it to Mel in the Provincial Office, and to Mike in Washington.

Prov. office fax: 510 536-3970

FYI - Susan Retzsch

Malibu fax: 310 456-9417

Good luck, bad luck, who knows?

Love,  
Robert

P.S. What is your fax number?

**Parole & Community Services Division  
Region II Headquarters  
1145 Market Street, 9th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103**

**T 415.557.2860  
FAX 415.557.0934**

**To:** Chuck LaBue **Date:** Mar. 5, 1998

**From:** Rick Whistler

**Re:** VanHandel J. 30982

**Message:**

Regarding the fax that you recently sent me stating that Inmate VanHandel would like his parole transferred from the Santa Barbara area to San Francisco County. Because of victim concerns Inmate VanHandel's parole has been transferred to the Salinas area. It is also the Parole Division's intent for Inmate VanHandel to not have as much involvement in the church as he might want, because of the circumstances surrounding his commitment offense. Any arrangements that need to be made can be coordinated through the Supervisor, Ray Willenberg.

Salinas Unit  
365 VICTOR ST. - STE P  
Salinas, CA 93907

408-422-2043

Fax: 408-422-2254

P.A.: JOE ROUSH

cc: Ray Willenberg

Page 1 of 4

Third party privacy

THOMAS W. SNEDDON, JR.  
District Attorney



PATRICK J. McKINLEY  
Assistant District Attorney  
CHRISTIE SCHULTZ  
Assistant District Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 29, 1997

California Department of Corrections  
Victim Services Program  
P. O. Box 94283-0001  
Sacramento, CA. 94283-0001

Re: **Robert Van Handel**  
**CDC# J-30982**

Gentlemen:

I was the prosecutor assigned the case of People v. Robert Van Handel. Mr. Van Handel was a clergyman in Santa Barbara who during his many years of service to the church molested numerous boys, all of whom were his parishioners. There is still a great deal of animosity among members of this community, including his former victims and their families, directed against Mr. Van Handel.

I believe it is in his best interests, along with the best interests of the community, that Mr. Van Handel be allowed, and even directed, to relocate to a community other than Santa Barbara. I understand the church is prepared to place him in the Bay Area of Northern California should the Department of Corrections agree. I would join in that request. I believe placement there would be a very wise decision.

Enclosed please find a form titled "Request for Notification/Special Conditions of Parole", CDC 1707, filed by the now adult victim of this case, [REDACTED]

If I may be of any further assistance please feel free to call.

Most sincerely,

Ronald Zonen  
Senior Deputy District Attorney

Enclosure

OFM VANH 1  
0015

☐ Santa Barbara Office  
Courthouse  
1105 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

☐ Lompoc Office  
115 Civic Center Plaza  
Lompoc, California 93436  
(805) 737-7760

☐ Lompoc Office  
401 E. Ocean  
Lompoc, California 93436  
(805) 737-7777

☐ Santa Maria Office  
312-D East Cook Street  
Santa Maria, California 93454  
(805) 346-7540



THE FRANCISCANS  
OLD MISSION  
2201 LAGUNA STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105  
(805) 682-4713

Oct. 25, 1997

Classification and Parole Representative  
California Medical Facility  
P.O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696

Dear Parole Representative:

I have been told that arrangements are being made for the parole of Robert Van Handel, CDC number J 30982. The Franciscan Friars and I of Mission Santa Barbara, adjacent to St. Anthony's Seminary, and many other concerned citizens strongly urge that Robert Van Handel not be paroled in the County of Santa Barbara. There are a good number of persons in this area who are still very angry over what happened at St. Anthony's Seminary. They are strongly opposed to the re-entry of those who are accused of child abuse. They are ever on the watch to prevent this happening. We Franciscans continue to suffer from their animosity and the media attention still given to what happened some years ago. If Robert Van Handel were to appear in this County, there would in all probability be public demonstrations. Also Robert Van Handel's efforts at rehabilitation would be thwarted.

I and other concerned citizens ask your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Virgil Cordano*  
Rev. Virgil Cordano, O.F.M.

OFM VANH 1

0016



THOMAS W. SNEDDON, JR.  
District Attorney



PATRICK J. McKINLEY  
Assistant District Attorney  
CHRISTIE SCHULTZ  
Assistant District Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

September 19, 1997

Fr. Mel Jursich, OFM  
Franciscan Province Office  
1500 34th Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94601

Personal and Confidential

RE: Robert Van Handel  
CDC# J-30982

Dear Father Mel:

I will not bore you with the three weeks of phone calls I made trying to get an answer to your question. In any event, I personally followed up on the final information and feel pretty certain that this is the correct info.

Communication regarding the County of residence following the parole of Father Robert should be directed as follows:

Classification and Parole Representative  
California Medical Facility  
P.O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696

On the letter that you are writing, but not on the envelope, make reference to Father Robert's full name and CDC number. You should also send a copy of all correspondence to:

Ellie McGunnigle  
Parole Agent III  
Unit Supervisor  
State Parole Office  
411 East Canon Perdido Street  
Suite 15  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

OFM VANH 1  
0017

☐ Santa Barbara Office  
Courthouse  
1105 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

☐ Lompoc Office  
115 Civic Center Plaza  
Lompoc, California 93436  
(805) 737-7760

☐ Lompoc Office  
401 E. Ocean  
Lompoc, California 93436  
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312-D East Cook Street  
Santa Maria, California 93454  
(805) 346-7540

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In addition, I asked Ron Zonen to contact the victim of Father Robert's case and see if the victim would sign a request that Father Robert be transferred to another county. Under Penal Code section 3058 - If the victim so requests - the Parole Office will usually act favorably on a request to house the parolee in excess of 25 miles from the victim's residence.

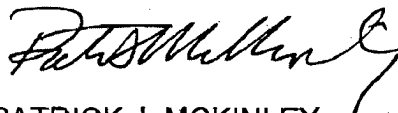
I spoke personally to Ellie McGunnigle about the above information, and also to Linda Shutes - from State Parole Headquarters in San Francisco. Ms. Shutes suggested that if you do not receive a response to your letters that you contact the Santa Barbara Office to the attention of Ms. McGunnigle, within a month or so of the expected parole date.

One other final point - all of this will be for nothing unless Father Robert himself requests that his housing be changed to the location and circumstances outlined in your letter. With this in mind, you might want to communicate with him directly at Vacaville to make sure that his wishes coincide with your proposed plans.

Father Mel - If you need anything further on this, please give me a call at my direct number (805) 568-2305.

With kindest, personnel regards, I am,

Very truly yours,



PATRICK J. MCKINLEY  
Assistant District Attorney

PJM:lf  
cc: Ellie McGunnigle  
State Parole Office

THOMAS W. SNEDDON, JR.  
District Attorney



PATRICK J. MCKINLEY  
Assistant District Attorney  
CHRISTIE SCHULTZ  
Assistant District Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

September 8, 1997

Mr. C. Labue  
California Medical Facility  
Vacaville, California  
By Fax Only (707) 448-6306

RE: Robert Van Handel  
CDC #J-30982

Dear Mr. Labue:

Many thanks for taking the time to speak to me on the phone a few weeks ago. As I indicated in our telephone call, the above-named inmate is committed to the Department of Corrections from Santa Barbara County following child molest conviction. Next year, when his determinate sentence will be up, there will be a request by both the inmate and the Provincial Office of the Friars to house the defendant in a county other than Santa Barbara. The reason for this request will be spelled out by the Provincial Office at some later date.

My reason for writing to you is that they have requested the name and proper mailing address for whoever it is that makes the determination regarding the county of parole.

I am aware that you indicated that this usually happens three to four months before the actual parole date, which would mean that this would not really come up until January of next year. Nevertheless, the Provincial Office is quite interested in getting their material together, and hopefully into the appropriate hands of the entity that will ultimately decide this issue. Any help you can give me with respect to this will be very much appreciated.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

PATRICK J. MCKINLEY  
Assistant District Attorney  
Direct Fax No.: (805) 568-2398

PJM:lf

☐ Santa Barbara Office  
Courthouse  
1105 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101  
(805) 568-2300

☐ Lompoc Office  
115 Civic Center Plaza  
Lompoc, California 93436  
(805) 737-7760

☐ Lompoc Office  
401 E. Ocean  
Lompoc, California 93436  
(805) 737-7777

OFM VANH 1  
0019

☐ Santa Maria Office  
312-D East Cook Street  
Santa Maria, California 93454  
(805) 346-7540

Classification and Parole Representative  
California Medical Facility  
P.O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696

January 21, 1998

RE: Robert Van Handel  
J - 30982

Dear Sir,

I, Robert Van Handel, request to have my parole location moved from Santa Barbara County to San Francisco County. I am well known in Santa Barbara, and because of the amount of attention my arrest and conviction received, Santa Barbara County is not a viable place for me to live. This request has the support of the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, as well as that of the Franciscan Friars of California, who are my social and financial support. My release (EPRD) is May 25, 1998.

I would like to settle in San Francisco County as it is not only a sufficient distance from Santa Barbara, but also there I will be able to find appropriate housing, I have a personal support group, my expenses will be covered by the Franciscans, I can receive therapy specific to my crime, and I am even now receiving assistance in getting employment, which is virtually guaranteed. Following are further specifics:

HOUSING:	Temporary Mailing Address:	c/o Franciscan Friars 133 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102
	Immediate Temporary Housing:	St. Boniface Friary 133 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco
	Proposed Housing:	A single men's boarding hotel or A studio apartment distant from schools and playgrounds

EMPLOYMENT AND EXPENSES:

Currently a network of friars and their associates are searching for suitable employment opportunities.

Franciscan Friars of California have agreed to fully fund all living expenses for an extended period, or until no longer needed.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES:

My primary support group would be the Franciscan Friars at St. Boniface Friary. Contact person: [REDACTED]  
Secondary support by other friars and friends in the Bay Area.

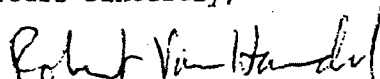
OFM VANH 1  
0020

Two private therapeutic programs in San Francisco are being explored with the intention of contracting with one of them for psychological services and crime-specific group work.

ALTERNATE SITES:

If San Francisco County is not possible, I would be able to develop resources in Alameda County, or Sacramento County.

Yours Sincerely,



Robert Van Handel  
J - 30982

cc: Ellie McGunnigle, Parole Agent III, Santa Barbara County  
Franciscan Friars of California  
Mr. La Bue, CCI, California Medical Facility

OFM VANH 1  
0021



THE FRANCISCANS  
OLD MISSION  
2201 LAGUNA STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105  
(805) 682-4713

Oct. 25, 1997

Classification and Parole Representative  
California Medical Facility  
P.O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696

Dear Parole Representative:

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I and other concerned citizens ask your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Virgil Cordano*  
Rev. Virgil Cordano, O.F.M.

OFM VANH 1  
0022

# THE PINNACLE

Page 36

SAN BENITO COUNTY'S BEST SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Week of June 11, 1998

## Spring Grove names interim superintendent

### *to buy out Cavaliere's 4-year contract*

Interim Cavaliere has been placed on paid administrative leave by trustees of the North County School District. Principal Elizabeth White was named

to keep the superintendent's salary at \$74,000 a year, instead of increasing the amount to

which were taken Monday night following a two-hour special meeting of the board. Each vote was 4-1 with Mark Skow absent. Cavaliere did not attempt to reach him for comment were not successful.

The meeting adjourned, trustee Steven Lindsay held a meeting with parents who had waited, while other board members were present. At one point, it was suggested that for four board members to be present and for one of issues after the meeting had been addressed.

Parent Bob Davies told Lindsay parents are "encouraged progress is being made, but there is concern about the rest of the story. Why we are continuing (Cavaliere's) salary?" he asked. Lindsay responded by saying, "That is a personnel issue and must be kept confidential. He added that Cavaliere will only be on administrative leave until the board can negotiate a buy out of his contract. "Basically there are rules and laws that we didn't create. The state of California created them," Lindsay said.

Davies said several board members ran on a platform of they want to hear everything from everybody, "but now we are getting shut down when there is a controversial issue. The parents are the ones that brought to your attention some problems that were here. You guys had no clue," he said.

Parent Carl Donley said the teachers, parents, board and new superintendent need to work together, but it has been difficult for parents to get matters placed on the board's agenda for a full airing.

Trustees have held five special meetings since the last regular board meeting on May 13, four of them in closed session.

Parents have checked into Cavaliere's background and say they are concerned with the circumstances which led to his resignation one year ago as superintendent/principal at Vista del Mar Union School District north of Santa Barbara. That board issued a letter to parents, stating that boards of trustees and school administrators do not always see eye to eye on issues of performance, philosophy and leadership and that continuing conflict over such matters is never in the best interest of a school district.

Cavaliere has stated the Vista del Mar board signed a statement when he resigned, saying his departure was not a reflection on his performance.

Vista del Mar is paying Cavaliere \$119,803 over an 18 month period as a result of provisions in his contract when he resigned. He signed a similar contract last year with North County's board, which has three years remaining.

Spring Grove parents say they have been frustrated over the district's lengthy negotiations with teachers, which have yet to be resolved. Teachers are asking for a 6 percent on-schedule salary hike, while the district has offered a 1.26 percent on-schedule increase and a 4.74 percent one-time bonus.

OFM VANH 1  
0023

Robert Van Handle, 51, has completed four years of an eight-year prison term for his 1994 conviction on charges of molesting a boy in his care.



STEVE MALONE/NEWS-PRESS FILE

## ST. ANTHONY'S SCANDAL

# Ex-priest paroled in molestation

By **BARRY BORTNICK**  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Robert Van Handle, a former St. Anthony's Seminary rector and confessed pedophile who received an eight-year prison term in 1994 for molesting a boy, was released Sunday for time served at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville.

The 51-year-old former priest

reported to his parole officer in Salinas on Monday morning and is expected to reside in the small mission village of San Juan Bautista while on parole.

Van Handle is considered a high-security case by the state Department of Corrections and will remain under rigid controls by his parole officer, officials said.

"He is in a lodging in San Benito County that has been careful-

ly selected so it is not near schools or children," said Fran Berkowitz, deputy regional administrator for the state Department of Corrections.

"He is under the highest level of supervision. That means very frequent contacts in the community and at the parole office. We are being very careful watching him."

Under the terms of his three-year parole, Van Handle may not live

SEE **MOLESTATION ON A10**

*In File*

OEM VANH 1

0024



"Visitors have had cars towed away for lack of a permit, despite the fact that they have been unable to obtain such a permit because the main office has been closed and/or management has been unavailable to issue temporary permits," the report said. "There have been angry and potentially violent confrontations between tow operators and residents."

"The proposed ordinance regulates contract patrol towing and insures that

carefully," he stated. "We would be prosecuted."

Cardinalli said that if the City were

and Police Department."

Cardinalli said that he does respond

(continued on Page A3)

## Convicted child molester now living in San Benito County

By Dan Gleason

A former priest who was convicted and served time in prison for child molestation has been paroled to San Benito County, which has made some area residents very uncomfortable.

Robert Van Handle, 51, was sentenced to an eight-year prison term in 1994 but released from California Medical Facility in Vacaville late last month for time served. He reported to his parole officer in Salinas and is considered a high-security case by the State Department of Corrections, who have indicated he will remain under rigid controls by his parole officer.

A spokesperson for the department said Van Handle is residing in San Benito County in an area that was carefully selected so it is not near schools.

Julie Hicks, a teacher at San Juan School, said people in San Juan are really concerned. She said some parents have indicated Van Handle is living right downtown in San Juan, but San Benito County Sheriff Harvey Nyland disputes that.

(continued on Page A2)

## Good claims

(AMBAG) is trying to establish a meeting near the end of June involving a small group. Sanders said AMBAG has been doing a study of the Pajaro. "The City of Hollister has used that study as a basis to show AMBAG and other joint power agencies exist and there is no need to create this new monster Keeley is attempting to create," Sanders added.

The County Counsel also reported on efforts under way in Sacramento to reduce or repeal the Vehicle License Fee as a way of returning money to taxpayers in this year of budget surplus. He said the issue is very fluid and is being

(continued on Page A4)

## enega Road

slide, looking at ways to place the road-way so it crosses the slide area without removing the material so there won't be any additional movement. He said providing drainage through the slide mass for water from Anzar Lake will likely be an expensive proposition.

"We are looking at well over \$1 million to address that location, in rebuilding the road and allowing for drainage,"

(continued on Page A4)

## Two month deadline set on fate of historic bridge parts

By Dan Gleason

San Benito County Historical Society has been given two months to come up with a viable plan and timetable for installing the historic 1914 Pratt Truss Bridge over Tres Pinos Creek at the county's Historical Park.

Currently the bridge is partially buried in the creek bed following this winter's storms. Society member Ted Thoeny visited the park recently and inspected the bridge. He feels its parts

are still in place, though buried in dirt. Businessman David Grimsley has volunteered to dig out and stack the bridge nearby at the park.

Supervisors Tuesday agreed to the delay after hearing from several members of the society, who said the goal of the society is to restore and erect the bridge over Tres Pinos Creek near the entrance to the park.

Recently the board agreed to declare

(continued on Page A2)

## School districts place compliance of Prop. 227 on temporary hold

Unlike districts in the Bay Area who are attempting to get around requirements of Proposition 227 passed by voters last week to end bilingual education, San Benito County schools are waiting to decide how they will proceed.

Gary Bloom, outgoing superintendent of Aromas-San Juan Unified School District, said there has already been a meeting of the district's leadership team to discuss the situation and he expects a task force will be established over the summer. Bloom said the talk has focused on how to implement the law,

Eastin has urged districts not to act hastily, but rather to wait for guidelines that will be coming from the state.

Hollister School District Superintendent Tom Andrade said his district is focusing on finishing up the school year this week and that he is looking for direction from the state Education Department. "We don't know what we will do at this point. We will do what is right and legal," he said. If the law is ruled legal Andrade said his district will make the necessary modifications to implement it.

Officials in San Jose, Oakland and

## intendent resigns

down considerably over the past year. Instead of packed school board meetings and heated debate, as was the case at the height of the high school controversy, attendance in recent months has been limited to staff and a few parents.

"We are on a high right now," Bloom said, noting the district is in a wonderful position with the first high school graduating class as well as being in "sound financial shape." After difficult negotiations with teachers last year, Bloom said the teacher union now has

# Defrocked priest to be under strict control while on parole

## MOLESTATION

Continued from Page A1

within a mile of any school or find work that involves children. He must attend counseling, have no contact with his past victim, and avoid all minors. He could face an additional year in prison should he violate parole, Berkowitz said.

Once parole is over, Van Handle is on his own.

"We hope the police will watch him," Berkowitz said of Van Handle's life beyond parole. "He will be known in the community. He has to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life."

Van Handle was the last rector at St. Anthony's Seminary before it closed in 1987. He was one of 11 seminary faculty members linked to the molestation of 34 boys from the 1960s to the 1980s by an independent board of inquiry formed in 1992 to examine the sex scandal.

Most of the accused clergymen avoided prosecution because the alleged acts did not come to light until the statute of limitations on those crimes had expired.

Van Handle and fellow priest Philip Wolfe were prosecuted. Wolfe spent a year in prison following a 1989 conviction for oral copulation and child fondling. He committed suicide in 1994.

Van Handle, who formed the Santa Barbara Boys Choir, admitted molesting several children during his life.

Santa Barbara police investigators seized a journal of his thoughts when they arrested Van Handle in March 1994 at a San Juan Bautista religious retreat. Investigators called the diary "sad and disgusting," but useful in terms of prosecution.

"It reveals the mind of a pedophile," Detective Mike McGrew

said at the time of Van Handle's arrest. "As I read it I thought, 'This was like reading the thoughts of a serial killer.'"

Van Handle's journal outlined his sexual history. He wrote of being molested as a boy at the hands of a St. Anthony's Seminary priest.

Van Handle ultimately evolved into a molester himself in the '70s when he attended graduate school in Berkeley. His first victim was either a 5-year-old relative in Oregon or a young choir boy he met in 1972, according to the journal.

"There is something about me that is happier when accompanied by a small boy," Van Handle wrote in the journal. "I think it is probably a combination of sexual feelings, emotional attachment and perhaps the child in me wants a playmate."

Van Handle is no longer a priest or member of the Franciscan Friars. The church, however, remains interested in his welfare. Church officials have promised Van Handle financial support, provided he lives up to the terms of parole.

"We don't have to support him, but this is charity to get him started in life," said Father Virgil Cordano, pastor emeritus of the Santa Barbara Parish. "If he is well set up and gets a job, there will be less chance he will fool around with boys. It is the best preventative measure we can offer... He will be under close supervision with state employees, so we are giving him motivation to follow the rules."

Cordano described Van Handle as a likable guy and a talented musician during his time at St. Anthony's Seminary.

"This (crime) came as a big surprise to us," Cordano said. "How do you understand a sickness like this? He had been abused as a boy. He came into life handicapped."

The church's current hopes and the

“  
We hope the police will watch him. He will be known in the community. He has to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.”

FRAN BERKOWITZ,  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

parole board's rules did little to calm Santa Barbara resident Ray Higgins, whose son was victimized by Van Handle.

"He's a danger to society," said Higgins. "In his court documents Van Handle said he had started the boys choir to have fresh young boys to molest. He is a very dangerous perpetrator."

Higgins, who worked to create a 1995 state law that forced priests to report suspected molesters in their midsts, wondered why some of the other clergymen believed by some to be linked to the seminary crimes remain employed by the church.

"There was a commitment by the Franciscans to keep the perpetrators away from children," Higgins said. "But several of them are on assignments that have access to children."

Cordano defended his organization, saying the guilty had been convicted and removed from the church.

"I know of no other organization that has dealt with this as openly as we have," Cordano said. "What more can we do?"

## PRESS RELEASE

Robert Van Handel has been (will be) released from prison in May 1998. While Robert Van Handel was in prison, he asked for and received an indult from the Vatican to be released from his vows and dispensed from priestly obligations. Robert Van Handel is now a layperson.

Although Robert Van Handel is no longer a Franciscan Friar of the Province of St. Barbara nor a Catholic priest and is not now a member of any Catholic religious order, the Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Barbara have agreed under specified conditions to help in supporting him for a period of time, in finding suitable employment, in obtaining a suitable place to live, and in receiving needed preventative therapy to help prevent re-offending.

The Franciscan Friars have agreed to provide this financial support for several reasons. Among those reasons is the requirement of Canon Law that a religious order is, "to observe equity and evangelical charity toward the member that is separated from it." In addition, however, the Franciscans remember the hope expressed by many victims that their painful disclosures would at least help prevent future wrongs. That hope of prevention of future wrongs cannot be best achieved if the Franciscans simply wash their hands of Robert now that he has left the Order. Therefore, the financial support to Robert Van Handel has certain conditions attached. To receive financial support Robert may not accept work with children. He must remain in preventative therapy, and he must comply with the terms of his parole, including registering as a sex offender, among other things.

In 1993, the Franciscans made a public apology and a promise to work to prevent harm in the future when the Board of Inquiry publicly released the report of its investigation into the accusations of misconduct by friars at St. Anthony's Seminary. The Franciscans have endeavored to honor that pledge by addressing the needs of victims and their families who have sought help through the Board of Inquiry, many of whom are still receiving therapy. Robert Van Handel is in

need of this healing assistance as well and does not, as yet, have the ability to provide it for himself.

It is the hope of the Franciscans that the assistance they offer to Robert Van Handel, as well as the assistance they continue to offer to his victims and others, will help prevent other wrongs in the future and will help restore the health and faith of so many people that has been tested.

Although the Franciscans are required by Canon law to act with charity toward our former member, Robert Van Handel, we have not forgotten the past. Our support of Robert Van Handel has conditions attached. For instance, in order to receive financial support from the Franciscans, Robert has agreed that we may speak with his therapist to determine whether Robert remains committed to the goals of his therapy. In addition, to receive financial support from the Franciscans, Robert has agreed that we may speak with his parole officer to determine if Robert is obeying all the terms of his parole. As long as Robert receives any financial support from the Franciscans, he has agreed that the Franciscans may disclose to his employers, co-workers, and others his conviction and its nature.

The Franciscans have attached these and other conditions to their financial support for Robert not so that he can begin a new life in a new place free of his past, but so that he can begin a new life in a new place in light of his past. When many of the victims came forward and shared their pain with the Board of Inquiry, they expressed the hope that their disclosure would make a difference for the future. They asked important questions about what the Franciscans would do to prevent such a thing from happening again and, more specifically, what the Franciscans would do to prevent Robert Van Handel from repeating his behavior. Robert Van Handel has left the Franciscan Order and the Franciscans cannot control his life. But by helping Robert to establish a new life for himself, and attaching conditions to the support, the Franciscans hope that the new life Robert builds for himself will be amid a network of people who are aware of his past and in that way may serve as a check against any reoccurrence of his behavior. [The Independent Response Team, created by the Franciscans to

identify and offer aid to victims, will be asked to monitor the conditions on the assistance offered to Robert Van Handel.}

The Franciscans have not forgotten the needs of Robert's victims in agreeing to provide financial support to Robert Van Handel; to the contrary, the Franciscans have remembered the needs expressed by Robert's victims that their pain and disclosure should help spare children in the future.



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

May 22, 1998

Dear Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace.

I am sending this letter to each friar individually. I hope this letter finds you well - preparing for the feast of Pentecost. First, I'm sure I speak for Robert Van Handel when I thank the many friars of the Province who have written to him, visited him, prayed for him, and shown him brotherly understanding and kindness during his stay in prison. I write this letter today to inform you that Robert will be released from prison sometime toward the end of the month of May.

While Robert was in prison, he asked for and received an indult from the Vatican to be released from his vows and dispensed from priestly obligations. Robert Van Handel is now a lay person. Although he is no longer a friar, the Province has agreed to support him for a period of time in order to help Robert find suitable employment and to help him to find a suitable place to live. We have also agreed to help him receive needed therapy during this time. We have agreed to provide this financial support for several reasons.

We know as members of the Roman Catholic Church and as members of our Franciscan brotherhood, that both our Order's statutes and canon law demand of us to observe evangelical charity and equity toward a member who has left the Order (Canon 702, General Statute 237). In addition, however, we remember the hope expressed by many that the painful disclosures would at least prevent future wrong. Therefore, the Province has agreed to offer Robert support. To receive this support, Robert has agreed to fulfill certain conditions among which are the following: (a) he must remain in therapy; (b) he must comply with the terms of his parole including registering as an offender, and (c) he must not accept any work where children are present. [There will be a responsible person selected by the friars to see that these and all the other significant conditions are met.]

OFM VANH 1

0030

We remember the evening of November 29, 1993 when the Provincial, in our name, made a public apology and a promise to work to prevent harm in the future and, publicly released the Board of Inquiry's report of its investigation into the accusations of misconduct at St. Anthony's Seminary. The friars have endeavored to honor that pledge by addressing the needs of victims and their families who have sought help through the Independent Response Team. Many of them are still receiving therapy. Robert Van Handel is in need of this healing assistance as well. He cannot, as yet, provide it for himself due to the vow of poverty under which he has lived for so many years. It is the hope of the friars that the assistance we offer to Robert, as well as the assistance we continue to offer to the victims and to others, will help prevent such wrongs in the future and will help restore the health and the faith of so many people. I am sure you can see that the Province is very concerned about the victims' demands for future protection; our attempt to meet these demands has led us to place the many conditions on the financial support to Robert.

My brothers, I hope this letter helps to answer some of the questions you may have about this issue. I feel that we are trying to do the best we can for our brother, Robert, and also for the victims and their families. Should you have any further questions, please call the Provincial Office. Fr. John Hardin, OFM, is the spokesperson. Please be assured of my prayers. Please pray for Robert.

Fraternally



ISRAEL B. ROSALES, Ph.D.  
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST  
1734 FILLMORE STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94115  
TEL: 415-441-9504  
FAX: 415-383-3074

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Client: Robert Van Handel Birthdate: 4/2/47

I, Robert Van Handel and/or N/A  
Parent or Guardian

authorize the party below to disclose to and to receive information from Israel B. Rosales, Ph.D., with the knowledge that such contact discloses the fact that the named person has received psychological services:

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The disclosure of records is required for evaluation, treatment planning, or for the following purpose:

It shall be limited to the following specific information:

1. ☒ Diagnosis
2. ☒ Legal Status
3. ☒ Results of psychological/vocational tests
4. ☒ Educational assessment
5. ☒ Pertinent summary of psychological/psychiatric history
6. ☒ Treatment summary
7. ☒ Medical information
8. ☒ Other: pertinent personnel records

This consent is subject to revocation by the undersigned at any time except to the extent that action has been taken in reliance thereon, and if not earlier revoked, this consent expires on:

8/1/00

x Robert Van Handel  
Client/Parent/Guardian

x 7-17-98  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client/Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



COPY

Robert VanHandel  
Page 2  
September 28, 1994

life and also in my life and in the life of the province. In this sense, Robert, God is very present with you. And we give great thanks that this strength has been given to both of us and to so many friars to move forward.

Mel and Mike and I plan to have dinner with Christine sometime this week in San Luis Rey. I'm looking forward to it. She's been a great support, not simply to you but to all of us. Please be assured of my prayers and support. Do write. I am very concerned and want to know all that is going on. I talked also with Monica on the phone. She sounds pretty good, with a little bounce in her voice and she is feeling well. Of course she is very concerned, but so are we all. We'll muddle through together.

Love,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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0032

*Note: 0114 is the missing pg to this ltr.*

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Robert VanHandel  
Page 2  
September 28, 1994

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Love,



OFM VANH 1

0032

*note: 0114 is the missing pg. to this ltr.*



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

*File*

June 22, 1994

Dear Robert,

Just a note to let you how much the Province is concerned about you. Yesterday, I received many calls about you -- in fact, the Provincial phoned from England to show his concern. You are loved by your brothers.

I'm in the office while [REDACTED] is on sabbatical. It's nice to know that he can have it back when he returns in mid-August. I work in the office and live in Danville. If I leave early enough I can miss the traffic and make good time -- if I have to stay late, I end up eating at St. E's and driving home around seven.

I'm gradually getting settled in the Bay Area. After 26 years in Fresno it was quite tough to leave.

Robert, please be assured of the prayers of your brothers and of my own. Know that you are in our prayers daily.

Fraternally,

[REDACTED]



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

*he*  
*Robert Van Handel*

*XII*  
*B.*

To: Definitorium  
From: [REDACTED]  
Re: Misconduct Cases  
September 8, 1994

Attached please find some documents we need to review at the definitorium level.

1. Your opinion is asked for with respect to future actions re Robert Van Handel.
2. Attached is:
  - a. the questions I have posed with respect to the actions of the Independent Response Team on friar confidentiality.
  - b. the response of an American canonist, David Deibel to my memorandum;
  - c. notes from my conversation in Rome with Gilles Bourdeau, procurator general.

In my conversation with the Procurator General, he encouraged us to develop general procedures which will cover these cases, and to attempt to make a contribution to this "frontier issue" in the law. He will be glad to have any of our procedures reviewed and then advocate for us at the Congregations in Rome.



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

To: Provincial Definitorium

From: [REDACTED]

Re: Meeting with Gilles Bourdeau, OFM, Vicar General, on misconduct cases.

September 7, 1994

I. Robert VanHandel, OFM

Q: Because of Canon 1395.2, would we be obliged to dismiss Robert from the fraternity?

The operative words here are, "si casus ferat," and this makes the institution of the canon dependent on the decision of the minister provincial. Since some ecclesiastical penalties have already been assessed (e.g. removal of faculties, disciplinary regulations about following aftercare, oversight of progress, etc.), anything further would be discretionary. Discretionary sanctions, including dismissal, can be addressed in the following way:

1. Consult with definitorium: Is it our judgment that Robert VanHandel should be dismissed from the Order, or is another action deemed appropriate at this time? If second option,

2. Keep current evaluation of the case, weigh the prudential actions involved; return periodically to the situation for review (once a year); indicate in the record that the decision is made at this time for the following reasons, and that there is no intention here to limit the actions of future definitoriums or provincials. "We considered dismissal, but it did not seem opportune at this time (state reasons)..."

[These notes based on conversation with the Vicar General, July 12, 1994, in Rome, JPC]

OFM VANH 1

0035



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

November 16, 1994  
(dictated Nov. 8, 1994)

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
Cell # 6233  
P O Box 8101  
San Luis Obispo CA 93409-8101

Dear Robert,

Peace!

Thanks so much for your letter to me of November 3rd. I really appreciated hearing from you. I'm so happy that you're stationed there at the California Men's Colony. That's a great gift to you and to us. And I think now that things are settling down a bit that we can get in and see each other through for the long haul. Please remember me in your spare time in those prayers that you are offering. I appreciate very much your forwarding to me the chaplain's card so that I can contact him. And also, I'm really glad that you are able to see him so frequently. That's a wonderful opportunity.

I'm sure you're glad to be processed out of Wasco and able to view the train and the terrain in and around San Luis Obispo. That's wonderful.

Mel has been gone, of course, for the last about six weeks and he has another two weeks left. I just sent him a fax bringing him up to date on some of the news lest he get too removed from all of us. Anyway, we look forward to his return. I understand that it has been a very restful time for him. I did tell him that you have been moved to the California Men's Colony --- news in which he will rejoice also. Mike has talked with Christine and she seems to be doing fairly well. I just sat down and wrote to Ann and talked with Monica on the phone about two weeks ago. Everything seems pretty good on that front. I think Monica is feeling pretty well.

For myself, it's good to get the regionals over and to stop so much traveling. I was pushing myself a little bit too much there and I'm glad now for a brief respite. This coming weekend I'll be in Santa Barbara to visit my mom and then go down to San Luis Rey for visitation. [REDACTED] is making visitation in the Central Valley. We're trying to establish a new house there in Delano so everyone can live in a regional house and minister out of it.

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0036

Robert Van Handel  
Page 2  
November 16, 1994

The community : Arturo, Marco Antonio, Ponchie and Emérito have been very cooperative. [REDACTED] going down to look at the new house which they propose, not too far from the parish complex. I hope that it works out.

Here in the office we're continuing to make progress on some of the settlements of the civil suits and I'm fairly optimistic about that. I find the negotiations with the insurance agents have gone along well. Really, I could not ask for a better development at this time. So that is fairly good news.

Today is the feast day of Don Duns Scotus. I wish there were some way in which we could celebrate that a little bit more in the province, as I think the theology of love which he presents would go a long way toward enabling us to understand a lot of the things that are happening to us. I want you to know, Robert, that this vision of Scotus which places love at the center of reality and brings all of creation into the context of a loving, working God making us and molding us into greater human beings and a beautiful life with God applies in a particular way and in a special way to you, and to the way in which you have handled the present situation. I thank you for your example and ask for your prayers. Please be assured of my continued prayers and support.

This letter is just a short update just to let you know I'm thinking of you and am very grateful for your letter to me.

Love,

[REDACTED]



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

December 12, 1994  
(dictated Nov 22, 1994)

COPY

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
Cell # 6233  
P O Box 8101  
San Luis Obispo CA 93409-8101

Dear Robert,

Peace and all good!

I wanted to write you this brief note before the Thanksgiving holidays, and even if you get it a week later, I wanted you to know that I was thinking of you. I think that it's appropriate - I would like to give thanks to you for your presence in my life, for the friendship that you've given, for the trips that we've taken together, for the service that you gave at St. Anthony's and as my provincial secretary. I appreciate all of this. And no matter what's happened, no matter what water has gone under the bridge, no matter what difficulties we've experienced together, still, it does not outweigh the good and the value of your life for me. And I want you to know that.

Things in the office have quieted down a little bit as they always do around these Thanksgiving holidays as the world shuts down. I'm glad that the world shuts down because it gives us a chance to shut down a bit too. Tomorrow morning I'm going to leave for Santa Barbara and drive down there with my sister and then take my mom out to have dinner with my brothers on Thanksgiving Day. It should be a nice family occasion. It's always a little bit difficult to go into Santa Barbara these days as I'm associated with so many events of the past two years. But it will be nice to see my mom and to have a good visit with my sister as we travel down together in the car.

■ gets back from Australia tomorrow. I'll be eager to see him. I think he's had a great time. He sent me a progress report on his trip. You can imagine it. It was structured in categories with a description of each category, what he had done in each category, and how he was responding in each category. I thought it was really quite informative and I was glad that he was able to share it with me. At the same time I was especially glad to see that he's happy to come back and continue on as Provincial Secretary. He's done an

OFM VANH 1

0038



3RD PARTY PRIVACY

COPY

Robert Van Handel, OFM

Page two

December 12, 1994

outstanding job, I think, really, one of the finest we've ever had in the Province. Anyway, it will be good to have my good friend home.

Mike's doing fine. We had dinner together in our new house, just the two of us, the other day. It was a good meal and we spent about an hour and a half talking. Also I find that as a friend that knows me so well I'm able to discuss a lot of my own personal issues with him and he's always ready to give a willing ear and then to respond in kind. I really appreciate his love and friendship.

We are making some progress settling the abuse cases. In fact we've made a good deal of progress the last few weeks. A couple of the insurance companies have been very cooperative and although it's true we're entering into an arrangement with them whereby some of the monies will be coming out of the province, I'm optimistic that we can reach an equitable solution for all concerned. And I believe we will be able to extricate ourselves from some of these difficulties without doing any lasting damage. In fact, as I've mentioned to you in many letters, there's been a great deal of fruit borne from the whole affair.

By this time you've certainly found out about Phil Wolfe. It was a real tragic affair. I was comforted by the thought that Louie called me up after Phil had taken his life and indicated to me that this had been an outstanding issue. In fact, it had been an issue with Phil since his young adulthood, previous to any of the abuse cases in Santa Barbara and previous to his involvement with the [REDACTED]. I gather that it was something that stemmed way back into his family history. He was a very bright man and I think he did great work for many people. And yet he was troubled always by these inner demons. In addition he had a very rigid personality. I understand the friars had a very good service for him at Huntington Beach. God bless Gus Krumm. He did an outstanding pastoral job. I just wrote him a letter congratulating him for this. I was glad he was able to do it. I did not attend as I think it would have been a lightening rod for some news media and these days I try to avoid that. Most of the friars seem to be taking the death fairly well, although I'm sure it has been a real discouragement for some. I hope not so much for you and I hope you've had somebody to talk with. If there's anything I can do, don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks for the visiting forms. I'll fill them out and hopefully they will be processed in due time and I'll be able to get to see you sometime in the next eight weeks or so. At least I hope so. It will be good to sit down and have a chat. I like the description of your 'digs' which you offer periodically in your various letters which I see. It's not exactly the same as mine at Oxford, but

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
Page three  
December 12, 1994

COPY

let's face it, Greyfriars was somewhat of a prison. So we can share that experience together.

Please remember me and all the friars in your prayers, Robert. We certainly remember you continually and let us pray that we might move forward together in great wisdom and peace.

Fraternally,

[REDACTED]

Provincial Minister

[REDACTED]



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

COPY

December 13, 1994

## 3RD PARTY PRIVACY

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
Cell # 6233  
P O Box 8101  
San Luis Obispo CA 93409-8101

Dear Robert,

Peace and all good! Happy Advent! Happy Christmas! May God bless you. I just wanted to write a short note to let you know that I'm thinking of you and certainly will be praying for you during the holidays. I hope that by then the visitor forms come in so that as I pass through the area I may be able to stop and see you. That would be a wonderful visit.

We finished the definitorium meeting just after Thanksgiving and this past week I made a visitation in Albuquerque and then at Tularosa and Mescalero. The friars seem to be doing very well in Tularosa and Mescalero. I think we'll be asking Emil Kryanon to go to Tularosa and I trust that it will work out. The experiment in Mescalero continues well. The friars pray together regularly and their witness among the Native Americans is very good. It certainly is a very difficult place psychologically. It is very depressing. I hope that you will pray for them in particular as they try to maintain their hope and give witness to the Light in a very dark part of the Native American experience.

Well, I see the 49ers just whipped the San Diego Chargers into proper perspective. I didn't see much of the game on TV as I was up at Hannah Boy's Center visiting Mary Lyons' son, Tim, and checking out the place, seeing if all the rumors I'd heard about it were true. They are true. It seems to be very good.

For myself I'm going to stay up here at Christmastime. My mother is coming up with Peter and we'll have Christmas dinner over at Rosemary's. I would appreciate it if you could remember my mom in your prayers. She's having a little bit of a difficult time of it right now and we're discussing whether or not she should move out of her apartment and into a single room place connected with some health care. I don't know how it will develop but Mom certainly wants to make her own decisions and we want to support her in

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Robert Van Handel  
Page two  
Decemb er 13, 1994

that. It is very difficult to see this. Don't mention it to anyone, but I just would appreciate your prayers.

Everything goes well in the office. The staff is working fine. I think they're looking forward to the Christmas holidays. We should have a good time. Our staff party is this coming Saturday.

God bless you, Robert. Please be assured of my continued prayers and love. By now you've heard that Ann Linnehan's father died. I wrote to her and heard that she was going to call me. But then Monica called and said that Ann didn't want to talk with anybody. You know how Ann is. No doubt she'll surface sometime in the future.

Fraternally,

  
Provincial Minister  




3RD PARTY PRIVACY

# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

February 8, 1995

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
Cell # 6233  
P O Box 8101  
San Luis Obispo CA 93409-8101

COPY

Dear Robert,

Peace and good. Well, the Super Bowl is over; San Diego got whipped. Not whipped but annihilated. I suppose it was to be expected to be that way but I want you to know that yours truly lost ten dollars, two five-dollar bets with various individuals. They gave me San Diego plus twenty points. I thought for sure that San Diego would at least make a game of it. I think they did a wonderful job getting into the finals and I was particularly happy for Bobby and Christine.

Both Bobby and Christine have been exceedingly gracious to the friars and particularly to me, [REDACTED] and to [REDACTED] when we have been at San Luis Rey. September seems to be our annual get together. I've really enjoyed meeting your sister. What a wonderful person she is. I know that it is her love and support that has been such a substantial gift to you during these difficult times.

I'm glad everything is going well. By now you've seen Berard and I hope he's indicated to you that I still have not heard about my visiting rights. This bothers me a bit since I know that [REDACTED] was refused. Perhaps I'm refused simply because I'm Provincial Minister. I do not know, but maybe there's something that's holding the whole thing up, or maybe it just takes a long time. We'll see.

Things in the province are going fairly well. In terms of yourself, I want you to know that we have managed to settle quite a few cases, among them the settlement with the two [REDACTED] This is of great benefit, obviously, to the province and to yourself. If I have not told you this before, we have also settled with [REDACTED]

So this means that in terms of major people to be concerned about, I think we've taken care of quite a few of them. Obviously we're not completely out of the woods yet but I'm fairly optimistic that we'll be able to negotiate this at

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Robert Van Handel, OFM  
Page two  
February 8, 1995

least by the time I end office two years from now. Hopefully, even in the next six months we will be ninety percent out of the woods in terms of any civil cases that have been brought to bear against the friars. Again, I want to indicate to you that a sizable number of these cases are not due to anything that you have done in the past but all of them are spread out among various members of the fraternity. Surely we must help each other to bear our burdens. And I think that because we have been helping each other, God has been gracious and good to us. God will continue to bless us. I count on your prayers very much.

Life at Arch Street is going fairly well. It's fun to live with the guys and I really think it came up for me at a good time in my own life. It feels like a real house and a real community. It would be nice to have you there to share this.

This is just a short note to bring you up to date a little and to let you know that I'm thinking of you. God bless you, Robert. Please be assured of my continued prayers and support. From my understanding, Monica is doing well. Ann's father died and so Ann is weathering that experience. It's difficult but I'm sure she's tough and can come through it.

Hope to see you soon

With fraternal love,



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

March 2, 1995  
(dictated Feb 18, 1995)

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
Cell # 6233  
P O Box 8101  
San Luis Obispo CA 93409-8101

COPY

Dear Robert,

Peace and all good.

This is just a short note to thank you very much for the letter which you sent me on the sixth of February. I have passed on some of the contents to our attorneys and I am sure it will be very helpful.

Things are going along fairly well in the province. We continue to move ahead with the case settlements on the one hand. On the other, and more importantly, we are beginning to see the fruits of all the difficulties that we have gone through -- very positive fruits. The friars are coming together in convocation much more enthusiastically and with a much greater sense of interdependence and generosity. This is evident every place I go. I also believe that the fraternity is praying a lot more. Each is praying for himself and for the others and they are coming together in daily prayer. There is a real revival of interest in the Spirit. I do not believe any of this could have been accomplished were it not for the fact that we have faced the storm and tried to weather it. This includes yourself. God always brings good out of the mistakes we make, as Paul says in Romans. And I think we can see this to be the true case with our province. I'm very optimistic about developments.

Most recently we had a facilitator's meeting in Danville at which Fran Ferder and John Heagle came and led a group of sixteen friars through a process which would enable them to work with local communities in the discussion of fraternity in mission, particularly in the areas of chastity, sexuality and intimacy. The meeting was great, one of the best we've had in many years. This week [REDACTED] and I are meeting with all the pastors and associates to discuss the thirteen parishes we will be releasing in the future. I hope this meeting is as successful. Last week also, we had a

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Robert Van Handel, OFM  
Page two  
March 2, 1995

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meeting of the Hispanic friars at Mary Help of Christians. It too was very positive and upbeat.

I've been encouraged by the Visitations I've done in the Northwest, Southwest, Las Vegas and Scottsdale.

Thanks so much for your support and prayers, Robert. I'm doing fairly well. I'm getting a little tired and I don't have a lot of emotional energy for all these meetings and engagements but I feel good about the direction of the province and am beginning to get some distance from all of the difficulties. I think now, for the first time maybe, I'm able to look backwards and appreciate at least a little bit of what has happened and the role that I have played in it. It hasn't always been easy, nor have I always been successful, nor even good at it. But I think something is happening.

I do look forward to seeing you soon. I'll let you know when I can get down there. God bless you.

Love,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



3RD PARTY PRIVACY



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

March 13, 1995

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
Cell # 6233  
P O Box 8101  
San Luis Obispo CA 93409-8101

COPY

Dear Robert,

Peace and all good.

This will just be a short note to kind of bring you up to date. I want you to know that your provincial minister is now 50 years old! I know that is hard to believe from your perspective and that of Mike Doherty. But it is true. Of course with 50 comes certain rights: the right to make judgments on others; the right of the gift of wisdom; the right to be served; the right to take vacations when and where one wants; the right to take nothing all that seriously. At least I'd like to think it was this way. But of course it isn't. In these fifty years I think I've learned a few things and mostly I simply am very appreciative for the love and friendship that so many people have given me. Yours is among them. And I wanted to send you this thank you note in honor of all the great support you've given me over so many years. I know these last years have been difficult, Robert, and perhaps you've questioned your own contribution. But as I have told you many times, love has no bounds and deep waters cannot quench love. We will move through whatever happens together.

What a great party yesterday! I went up to Mary Lyons' house and there was a surprise there composed of many different people. Among them, of course, Mary, my sister, Terry and Chris Wenzl, Larry and Liz Schafer, [REDACTED] my friend from Southern California, Fran Campbell and Giles. It was a great time. I really enjoyed it and would recommend it for everyone!

The province seems to be perking along fairly well. We have settled most of our cases with respect to St. Anthony's. The [REDACTED] case is still outstanding. I will certainly keep you posted. I appreciate very much your response to my inquiries.

Yes, I thank you for sending me permission to come visit you which I will do probably in the month of April. I'll try to arrange it through Albie. I know that we'll have a good time and a good conversation. I do look forward to it.

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Robert Van Handel

Page two

March 13, 1995

The Definitorium meeting is just a week from now in Scottsdale, Arizona. Between now and then we have a meeting of the Guardians and Vicars at San Juan Bautista and the Southwest Regional and two more birthday parties. It should be an exciting week.

I'm glad to hear that you are learning so much about computing and accounting. This will enable us to -- like Scrooge in the comic strip -- sit down and count the coins, toss them in the air and you can add them all up.

God bless you, Robert. I hope you are having a very grace-filled and hopeful Lent.

Fraternally with love,

[REDACTED]  
Provincial Minister  
[REDACTED]

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# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

April 11, 1995

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
California Men's Colony East #5197  
P O Box 8101  
San Luis Obispo CA 93409-8101

Dear Robert,

Peace and good. Happy Easter!

Things are going along fairly well in the province, Robert. The program we put together called "Fraternity in Mission" which will require the friars to meet in clusters and local community groups to discuss friendship, communication and other things has been very well accepted. In the last eight weeks we've had about five provincial meetings involving Hispanics, pastors, guardians and vicars, facilitators plus three of the regionals. All of the meetings have gone exceptionally well. In fact I would say there's more interest and activity going on in the province now than I have seen in many, many years. I think we are finally coming together in new ways and with new vitality. I mean this in all honesty and I simply don't think it's the vision of a myopic provincial minister.

For myself I just returned from Milwaukee, having re-entered the ranks of historians. I gave a talk at the Spring meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association on the History of Contemplative Prayer. It seemed to go over fairly well. I think there were one or two people in the audience who understood what I was talking about and the rest, well --- it was probably too much theology and too much history. Either that or I simply wasn't clear. As you know, I've been working in this kind of esoteric field for so many years now that I kind of take it for granted and sometimes the people get lost. At any rate it was good to see a lot of friends and I do think the work I did present was fairly well accepted. It's nice to return to the Society at least in a more active way.

I'm going down to visit my mother at Eastertime. Sometime in the next six weeks or so I hope to get down to San Luis Obispo so we can have a good long visit. The settlement of the cases moves along well and I want you to know that all the cases involving yourself have been settled as of this date. I am not anticipating new ones, but let us continue to pray that nothing may surface.

Please remember all of us in your prayers, Robert, particularly myself. I very much depend on the witness that you give and am very grateful for the offering of your prayers and hopes for the good of the province. I hope the family is well. Be assured of my love and support.



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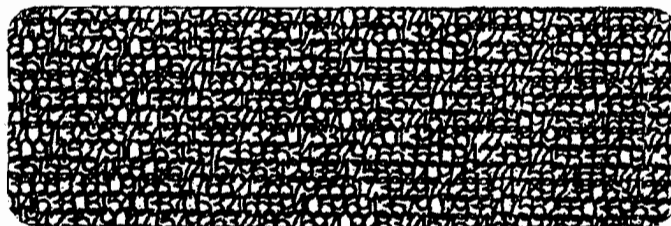
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about ... when you see him.  
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m.d.

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Telephone: 01235 524466  
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3 04100-5 1004  
R M VANHANDEL ESQ  
1712 EUCLIO AVE  
BERKELEY  
CALIFORNIA 94709  
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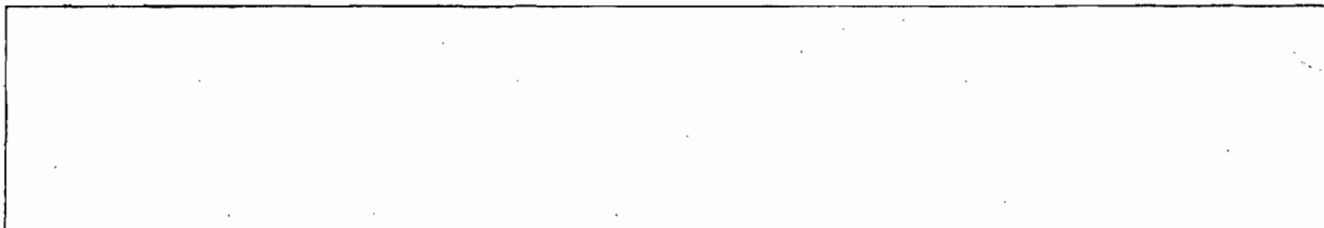


**INTEREST RATES WHICH APPLY ON 26APR95**

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Credit Rates (Gross)

Deposit Rate Gross      Dep      0.25% pa



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OFM VANH 1  
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1W 2X 0S

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AT 7 DAYS NOTICE - EXCEPT BY CASHPOINT**

Sort Code: 30-10-04  
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Telephone: 01235 524466  
Facsimile: 01235 555089

3 04100-5 1004  
R M VANHANDEL ESQ  
1712 EUCLIO AVE  
BERKELEY  
CALIFORNIA 94709  
U S A

All entries to 27APR95 inclusive are complete

When overdrawn marked OD

Date	Particulars	Payments	Receipts	Balance
1995	Opening Balance			1288 56
	TOTAL PAYMENTS/RECEIPTS	NIL	NIL	

The items and balance shown should be verified. Any interest rates shown are the rates in force only on the date shown. Details of all other rates and calculations of any interest charged are available on request to your branch.

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0054





1W 2X 0S

Account Number: 7103725  
VANHANDEL R M

Sort Code: 30-10-04  
ABINGDON

Telephone: 01235 524466  
Facsimile: 01235 555089

3 04100-5 1004  
R M VANHANDEL ESQ  
1712 EUCLIO AVE  
BERKELEY  
CALIFORNIA 94709  
U S A

## ANNUAL INTEREST SUMMARY

This summary details credit interest earned on this account during the tax year ending on the 5 April 1995 to help you complete your tax return. If you wish to reclaim tax deducted, the Inland Revenue will require a Tax Deduction Certificate which your branch will be pleased to supply.

TAX YEAR 6 APRIL 1994 - 5 APRIL 1995

Gross Interest Paid (no tax deducted)

Nil

Gross Interest (before tax)  
Tax Deducted

£2.02  
£0.50

Net Interest Paid

£1.52

Please note: If your account has changed from joint to sole or vice versa during the last tax year you may need to refer to your statements to help you work out the amount of interest and tax paid by each person.

The items and balance shown should be verified. Any interest rates shown are the rates in force only on the date shown. Details of all other rates and calculations of any interest charged are available on request to your branch.

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# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

July 12, 1995

COPY

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
California Men's Colony East #5197  
P O Box 8101  
San Luis Obispo CA 93409-8101

Dear Robert,

It was great to see you recently! I was very gratified to know that your health is basically good and that you're receiving fair treatment at the facility. Please be assured always of my prayers and support.

Thanks very much for your followup letter. I will wait to hear from the person so that we might discuss some of the issues in more detail. I appreciate very much your openness and willingness to explore some of these areas.

I know that any plans for the future are difficult to consider for yourself and also for me. But mostly for yourself. Please be assured, Robert, always, of my love and support. We will try to do the best we can. I think you and I both recognize we are in very different positions with different responsibilities. But both of us have a desire to do what is best for the other. I so much appreciate your openness in speaking with me. After talking with a few more people I will get aback to you. In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you have any more reflections on options you could pass them on.

We had a great Fourth of July. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I went down to eat dinner at 7th St with Giles, Ben Innes and Tommy King who had just returned from Guatemala. It was just a very relaxing time and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Did I tell you also that I managed to go to Cambria the week after I saw you at San Luis Obispo? I had a good time there just visiting and walking on the beaches. I also managed to go visit Hearst Castle for a morning. It was more impressive than I had remembered it.

The summer has slowed things down a little bit. At least that's my perception. If you talk with [REDACTED] you might get another one. But he's always afraid that when I say things are slowed down, they begin to speed up. As you might imagine, he believes that my word is the curse of death for himself and most other people around here! But we get along well and I'm very grateful still that he's the Provincial Secretary. You know how that is, Robert.

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Robert Van Handel  
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July 12, 1995

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██████ seems to be doing fairly well. I've talked with him about going to visit you and I'm sure that he's moving to arrange that as quickly as possible. I know that you and I had a very good visit and he is eager for the two of you to speak together. He had to go down south because his niece was having some difficulties. But he's returned now and seems to be in a fairly good space.

Not much other news. I'm still negotiating, would you believe it, with the bishop in Los Angeles over the property at St. Joseph's. That seems to go on and on. We thought we had it all wrapped up about a month ago but the diocese backed out of the plan over which we had labored for several months and to which they had previously agreed. It just shows that it's the big rock-little rock thing. As my brother told me years ago, little rocks --- that is, ourselves, don't play with big rocks -- that is the Archdiocese of Los Angeles because the ultimate result is that one or the other turns into powder. Well, I'm doing my best but we'll see what happens.

We've notified all the bishops now in places that we're going to pull out of in a year or a year and a half. Most of them have been very receptive to what we've had to say. It's my hope that the province can continue with its plan so that it can expand into more creative ventures in the future. Let's pray that this happens.

Robert, I want you to know how dependent we are on your prayers and support and really want to offer you mine. May God bless you.

Love,

██████



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

March 4, 1996

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
California Men's Facility - I215u  
P. O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696-2000

Dear Robert,

Peace and all good.

How wonderful to receive your last couple of letters in the last two weeks or so. I very much appreciate hearing from you. In addition, of course, I've talked to Fay and understand that the difficulties with your medicine have been worked out. At least, I hope so. That's wonderful. Please be assured always of my continued prayers and support.

I very much appreciate your referring to some of the things that I've done. I found this very supportive, Robert. I had forgotten about some of the things you mentioned. Certainly, when Monica called me up about the difficulty in receiving those materials from Santa Barbara, I was somewhat stunned and I was glad that she did call me up and that I was able to give her the advice simply to discard it. Robert, we have enough things to deal with. You and I don't have to deal with all this other nonsense created by people. Certainly, Monica is a great and faithful friend and loves you very much and I'm very, very happy for that.

The convocation went superbly, as you might imagine. Yours truly even did a song and dance at the end. That may have been the most stunning experience for most of the friars! They had never seen my personality come out in that fashion. Well, too bad! They've missed a great thing!! They don't know my Mom who has a real silly nature and my Dad who had a rather bizarre sense of humor. Couple that with my histrionics and you never know what's going to happen.

Things seem to be going along fairly well in the Province. I was very pleased, as I mentioned, with the convocation. Of course, maybe they're going along well because I'm looking forward to going to England. It will be good to see Monica

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and Anne and I anticipate a joyful reunion when I get off the plane. No doubt, we will spend some time talking about yours truly, but be assured it will be uplifting and supportive.

I still want to get up there for a visit. As you are aware, I do need to continue to talk to you about some issues. I am very sorry that my last visit was so disturbing to you. It's just very hard to know how to approach all of these questions. On the other hand, I want to assure you of my continued love and support always. And I do really believe that God's grace has been at work in this whole process, Robert, and good has been brought out of the harm that has been done. Good for yourself, good for the friars, good for families. In addition, there is all the good that has surrounded your work and ministry from the beginning. In the long run, when our dear God looks at us, He sees the good that we do and the good that we are. He does the same for you and I hope, and know, the same for me. We can all deal only in the best way that we can. I always remember one of the letters I read from Finbar after he died in which he wrote to the Provincial Minister and said: "I know that when I come before my Maker, He will not ask me what I accomplished or what I did. He will simply say, did you try? And I will be able to answer with all my heart, I tried". That quotation keeps coming back to me in my own work and I pass it on to you with the assurance that we remain brothers together.

Faternally,

  
Provincial Minister  




IL MINISTRO GENERALE  
DELL' ORDINE DEI FRATI MINORI

February 9, 1996

Robert Van Handel-J 30982  
California Medical Center-P230u  
P.O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696-2000  
U.S.A.

Dear Robert,

I noted your change of address in the recent issue of FRIARS NEWS and thought that I would drop you a line.

Please me assured of my prayerful support during your time of difficulty. Bob Karris has kept me informed of what's been happening, and he, too, sends his prayerful best wishes.

I know that you have the support of the brothers of your Province and that you are sustained by their love and concern.

For our part we take each day at a time as we prepare a major document on Evangelization for the entire Order and also make preparations for the General Chapter to be held in Assisi May 4-25, 1997. From Feb. 12-24 the General Council and I will be in session during what we call our tempo forte or days of intensive meetings when everyone must be present.

Let us continue to pray for one another.



Bro. Hermann Schalück, OFM  
Minister General



Third Party Privacy Rights

# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

May 23, 1996

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
California Mens Facility - I215u  
P.O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696-2000

Dear Robert,

Peace and all good.

Thanks so much for your letter of April 29th. Let me wish you with this letter a happy Ascension day and a most glorious Pentecost. I pray that the Holy Spirit who is, after all, God's gift of love to us, might continue to bind you more strongly to your sister, your family, your friends, the friars, myself, and all those who love you and want to support you. Thanks very much for your last letter, Robert, which I found most encouraging.

I know that the situation in which you find yourself is not easy, not easy at all. I can't imagine doing it myself. I want you to know that I want to be very supportive. At the same time, we know that there are certain things that we need to discuss and look at most directly. I know that we will be able to do this in the best way possible. I do think our situation at Santa Barbara has cooled down immensely. We are in the last stages of settling a few more cases and I think this has all been able to happen because of the prayers of so many people and the help of so many lay collaborators. At the same time, I want you to know that I think your own witness, in terms of prayer, perseverance and acceptance of your situation, also has contributed to our settlement. God works in mysterious ways, Robert, and we are all part of a piece. If we all died together, we also all live together. I want you to know this.

For myself, obviously I'm beginning to be a little bit in transition and the anxiety level is raising a little bit. Things are going along fairly well in the Province and I feel good about what we've been able to accomplish and the place in which the friars find themselves. Currently, I would ask for your prayers for Brother Bede who continues to decline from cancer, for Father

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Third Party Privacy Rights

██████ who has had his stomach removed because of cancer and is now awaiting further tests to see if the cancer has spread to other parts of his body. Right now the prognosis is fairly good, but we will know more about this next week. In addition, we have numerous other friars who are very sick. Father John Flajole is recovering from some chemotherapy which has made him very weak. Bob Williams is about the same. He showed up at the 7th Street end of the school year party this afternoon and looked pretty good. Father Sigmund Snyder, who we just moved to Arizona because of Alzheimer's disease, suddenly passed away on Friday. His funeral will be conducted by Finian on Monday. He was a good friar and did outstanding work, particularly in Sacramento and Los Angeles. One of the early ones to be bilingual in Spanish. I, myself, will be leaving early tomorrow morning for Provincial visitation in Tularosa, Mescalero. Fortunately, Warren's going along, so that will give us a chance to visit.

I'm thinking about doing a renewal course in Rome after I get out of office in January. In the meantime, between now and then, there's quite a bit to pick up. I'll keep you posted more in the future, Robert, and I do look forward to our next visit. Be assured of my prayers and support, always.

Love,

██████





COPY

# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

August 7, 1996

Robert Van Handel, OFM - J30982  
California Men's Facility - I215u  
P.O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696-2000

Dear Robert,

Peace and all good.

This is just a short note to thank you for your last letter. I very much appreciate your concern for me and your response to the situation. We're trying to handle the C.E. matter in the best way possible. The lawyer we had on the other cases, who was excellent, has agreed also to defend us in this situation. I cannot give you any update on it, as it's still too early. But, I'm sure that, if history is any indication, we will be able to move this in a constructive direction.

I am also sorry for the pain, obviously, that this is causing you. Please be assured always of my prayers and support.

I'm glad you had a good visit with your parents. I had a great lunch with Christine and it was so good for the two of us to meet again. I think when we're down at San Luis Rey [redacted] and [redacted] and I will call her up and see what we can do together. You have a wonderful sister.

Keep the faith, Robert. I hope sometime in the next six or eight weeks to get up to Vacaville to visit you. Obviously, there are some things we need to talk about, but I'm sure we can do this in the most personal and encouraging way possible. I thank you so much for your witness to the faith and your continued kindness and outreach to myself. As I have mentioned to you many times, yes, these are difficult situations; yes, they do cause a good deal

OFM VANH 1

0060

COPY

of suffering for everyone involved. I am grateful for the protection of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the support of the friars and for your cooperation and good will towards me. These far outweigh any of the disadvantages and pains that might occur. I'm glad that I am in this situation to be able to help, in some small way, a friend. God bless you, Robert.

Faternally,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



COPY

# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

October 8, 1996

Robert Van Handel - J30982  
California Men's Facility - I215u  
P.O. Box 2000  
Vacaville, CA 95696-2000

Dear Robert,

Peace and all good.

I'm off to Dayton for the Provincials' meeting, and from there to Minneapolis for the weekend, and then to the Southwest Regional. I'll be back in about 10 days. I did want to write you a short note to say how much I enjoyed seeing you. You look so much better than the last time and I was so grateful to hear that you feel pretty good about your situation. I want you to know that I continue to pray for you and am always concerned for your welfare.

I also appreciated the spirit with which we had our discussion. It was most helpful to me, Robert, and I will do my best, always, to support you and I can assure you that the friars will continue to care for you and support you in whatever way we can. The fact that we would be able to move forward to establish a solid base of friendship and fraternity, even if in a different way, is exceedingly important to me.

I just finished dedicating the center at Old Mission San Luis Rey. It's called the Junipero Serra Center and it holds about 1,200 people. It would hold 900 for a sit down dinner. It's beautiful. On either side of the huge auditorium, which is shaped somewhat like a gymnasium, but done extremely tastefully, are two murals - one representing the men of the Americas and the other representing the women of the Americas. Pictured among these peoples is Father Alfred Boeddeker, of course, and Junipero Serra, in addition to Martin

OFM VANH 1

0062

Luther King and Cesar Chavez and others. Unfortunately, they did not put up Francisco Palou. Among the women is Kateri Tekawitha and Mother Seton and Dorothy Day. I think you would love it. I was just really impressed when I had the first Mass there this morning.

I've heard from Monica. It looks like she'll be out the end of February, beginning of March. I do look forward to seeing her. She sounds like she's doing very well in Washington, DC.

God bless you, Robert.

Love,





# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

To: Robert Van Handel, OFM  
From: Finian  
RE: response to letter of Jul. 20, 1997

July 22, 1997

Dear Robert,

I hope this letter finds you well. Thanks so very much for your letter of July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Everybody's gone. I'm alone in the office and it's a good time to answer your letter. At times this life is calm and easy -- at others -- it is hectic and quite difficult. Tomorrow I leave for Santa Barbara for Theophane's funeral. Giles died. Bede is quite ill. So many of our heroes are aging and coming close to death!

On the other hand, the young friars are doing wonderful things. MarcoAntonio, for example, is the new pastor at St. E's and is really taking charge. He's painting the offices, landscaping the front of the house, and really making the place look different. The people are responding to him quite positively. It's good to see.

Mike D. got back from his world journey. He lost some weight and looks fine. He's genuinely happy with his new change. I will miss him. We played a lot of golf together and had many good talks.

At the end of September I plan to go to Ireland for the English Speaking conference. It'll be my first time so I'm planning to leave a little early to enjoy some of the sights and perhaps to touch "roots" there. I'll consider it my vacation.

OFM VANH 1  
0063

Robert, thanks for your tolerance in reading this stream of consciousness account of the life and times of [REDACTED]. Please know that I think of you and pray for you. Know, too, that there are many friars who ask about you with fraternal affection.

Take care. I enjoy your letters.

Fraternally,

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

20 July 1997

I hope this letter finds you well and not too smothered by work and the burdens of office. Various friends have written me about the splendid talks you have given.

I want to thank you and the province for the \$50. per month allowance which you have sent since Alberic is no longer able to do. I use the money for personal expenses, toiletries, snacks, etc.

After an 80-day lockdown, we are now more or less on a normal schedule. I get up at 5:30, have breakfast, and then go to the chapel at 8 AM to prepare music for Sunday and the week. At 4 PM, after rosary and Mass, I return to my "house" for count (a big item in the prison day). Then around 6 PM I get called for dinner. After that I write letters, read, or watch television. On my days off, Friday and Saturday, I try to get out to the yard for some exercise. I have been blessed with a good cellie, which is important as we spend so much time together in a small room. Hopefully in less than a year I will be out on parole.

Please give my greetings to [REDACTED] and the friars there.

OFM VANH 1  
nn64

Fraternally,  
Robert

Classified  
w Robert  
by letter  
9-22-97

Dear [REDACTED]

Sept 11, 1997

This is just a note to thank you for meeting with Pat McKinley. I was at my annual classification hearing today. As expected, the board decided to continue my program here without change.

My counselor said he had received a letter from Mr. McKinley stating that I would not be doing my parole in L. B. county, and that the fians would be taking care of housing expenses. Further he said Mr McKinley sent me greeting and good wishes. I did not get to read the letter, but this let me give a great sigh of relief. It seems to me that you have solved one of the major upcoming problems. I guess into which county I am going is not decided, but the counselor didn't seem too concerned by this.

I phoned Christine today and told her the news. She was very pleased, and said that you and [REDACTED] were going to meet with her before long.

Thanks again for working your wonders. I will sleep much better now.

My best to the PD staff and fians.

Fraturnally, etc.

Robert



Dear [REDACTED]

4 August 1997

Thank you very much for your letter of July 22. What a prompt response! I could hardly believe it. Take it easy. Such efficiency is bad for the organization. I always feel that letters need to age a bit before they should be answered.

I'm glad you are beginning to find your own pace in dealing with provincial business. You certainly are having a bevy of funerals. I understand Bill Dish just died. As you say, many heroes are passing away.

I didn't realize Marco Antonio was at St. E's. I thought he was studying in Mexico City. He certainly is a fine fellow. He will become a giant in his own right.

Mike Boherty came to see me before he went to Malibu, and he told me some of his stories <sup>about</sup> the great trek. I'm sure he has it all in notebooks and the tales will leak out for years. I know that trip was a fulfillment of one of his life-long dreams. He and Warren together in Malibu will be the Jordan-Pippin team of the retreat houses. Good move.

I know you will enjoy your trip to Ireland. I have been there a couple of times, and have ~~always~~ found the countryside enchanting. I'm not much of a Dublin man, but I like the south and west coasts. I have avoided northern Ireland. September should be a fine time to be there. I hope some day I can go

Third party privacy

There again, and to England also.

The last weekend in July my sister, Christine, flew up from San Diego for a visit. She came with my friend Peggy Jackson, whom you may have met some time at FST. I have been blessed with terrific friends, and Christine has helped me more than I would have imagined. Later she is going to get together with Joe C. and me to try to develop a short term plan for my future. Most men leave this prison with nothing, and nowhere to go. I am very fortunate to have the backing of the fians and the support of family and friends. Louie Vitale promises to keep a bed open at his shelter should I need one.

Please greet Mel and the P.D. staff for me.

Fraternally,  
Robert

Third Party Privacy Rights

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**VISITING QUESTIONNAIRE**

CDC 108 (5/87)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

**READ CAREFULLY.** Please print or type. The information requested will be used by officials of the Department of Corrections to determine whether your application will be approved or disapproved. The information provided will be maintained in a file pertaining to the inmate.

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (PL 93-579), providing your Social Security number is optional. Any omission or falsification on this questionnaire may be cause for denial of visiting. Please mail this form directly to the visiting office of the institution where the inmate is confined.

1. NAME OF INMATE YOU WANT TO VISIT <i>Robert Van Handel</i>		INMATE'S NUMBER <i>J30928</i>	
2. YOUR NAME (FIRST) <i>[REDACTED]</i> (MIDDLE) <i>[REDACTED]</i> (LAST) <i>[REDACTED]</i>		HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER/AREA CODE <i>[REDACTED]</i>	
3. MAIDEN NAME (if applicable)		3A. HAVE YOU EVER USED ANOTHER NAME? IF SO, PLEASE LIST.	
4. BIRTHDATE (MO/DAY/YEAR) <i>[REDACTED]</i>	AGE <i>62</i>	BIRTHPLACE (CITY, STATE, COUNTRY) <i>Phoenix, Arizona, USA</i>	
5. DRIVERS LICENSE NUMBER AND ISSUING STATE <i>[REDACTED] CALIF</i>		6. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (OPTIONAL) <i>[REDACTED]</i>	
7. PRESENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (NO. AND STREET) <i>[REDACTED]</i>		CITY <i>San Francisco</i>	STATE <i>CA</i> ZIP CODE <i>94110</i>
7A. IF DIFFERENT THAN RESIDENCE ADDRESS, PRESENT MAILING ADDRESS		CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
8. PREVIOUS ADDRESS (No. and Street) WITHIN PAST TWO YEARS <i>San Damiano Retreat PO Box 767</i>		CITY <i>Danville</i>	STATE <i>CA</i> ZIP CODE <i>94526</i>
9. RELATIONSHIP TO INMATE (Parent, Spouse, Friend, Brother/Sister) <i>I am the superior of the Franciscan Friars of Cal.</i>			
10. I VISIT (OR HAVE VISITED) ANOTHER INMATE(S) IN A CALIFORNIA PRISON. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES If Yes, complete Item 10A. Attach additional sheet if more than two inmates.			
10A. INMATE'S NAME	NUMBER	INSTITUTION WHERE YOU VISIT INMATE	RELATIONSHIP TO INMATE
11. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES			
If yes, complete Item 11A. List all arrests and/or convictions. Failure to list all arrests may result in denial of visiting. Attach additional sheets if necessary.			
11A. OFFENSE	APPROXIMATE DATE	DISPOSITION/DISMISSED, PROBATION, JAIL, PRISON	

CONTINUED ON BACK

OFM VANH 1

0069

Dear [REDACTED],

13 Oct 1997

I hope this letter finds you well. Actually you may be in Europe. What could be better?

I have had a recent letter from [REDACTED], who has been doing excellent work on my behalf with the district attorney in Santa Barbara, particularly toward moving my parole out of that county.

My sister, Christine, was here for a visit in early October. She told me of her informal meeting with you and [REDACTED] in Lencadia. Thank you for your support.

Mike Doherty has written that Rome has responded to my requests. I can't say that brings me any happiness, but I do think it is a necessary step for me to travel now on a different road. I will always be grateful to the friars, and I am most appreciative of their continuing friendship and support.

Fraternally,  
Robert



FILE

## Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
St. Anthony Seminary  
2300 Garden St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

May 18, 1990

Dear Robert:

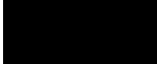
Peace and all good!

I hope that the Spirit blesses you in abundance during this Pentecost Season.

It was good meeting with you when I was down in Santa Barbara, Robert. Thanks very much for your support. I really appreciate it. I'm very happy that you're able to go to England this summer, as I think it will be good for the boys and I think the vacation will be excellent for you. Please give my love to our friends.

There were many issues which came up at our last Provincial Council meeting, and we had a long discussion with the finance council with respect to the education fund. I believe that our discussion certainly laid the groundwork whereby we would be able to make a decision with respect to the property at the Casa in Santa Barbara. At this time I would like to say that we have made no decision. I would like to discuss the issue of those properties with the finance council between now and July in detail, and then get back to you with a specific recommendation after the July meeting. I believe that the education fund now is completely depleted and we are deficit spending in that area. In addition, the costs are escalating. I think I've really got to come up with a single plan that is going to cover all eventualities, touching not only the property in Santa Barbara, but other properties which we have in order to maintain our current fiscal stability in the area of education. So, I ask you patience in this matter. I thank you for all the hard work you've done, and I'm sorry for any inconvenience that my latest vacillation has caused. The truth is that the situation is much more difficult than I had anticipated.

I hope to see you before you leave, Robert. Again, thanks for everything.  
Fraternally,



*for Bob Van Handel*

## **S.B.B.C. ITINERARY 1990**

### **18 JULY - WEDNESDAY (1)**

~~12:30~~ ~~1:00~~ PM arrive at St. Anthony's; load bus  
1 ~~1:45~~ leave for LAX  
3 ~~4:00~~ arrive LAX  
5:40 TWA #760, non stop to London

### **19 JULY - THURSDAY (2)**

12:00PM arrive London, Heathrow  
3:00 arrive Abingdon: **Our Lady's Convent School**  
**Radley Road**  
**Abingdon, Oxon OX14-3PS**  
**England**  
**telephone: 011-44-235-520075**

get settled, relax & play

5:30 tea  
6:30 choir practice  
8:00 showers  
9:00 bedtime

### **20 JULY - FRIDAY (3)**

8:00 breakfast  
9:00 choir practice  
10:30 play time  
12:00 lunch  
1:00 quiet time  
2:00 recreation: walk along Thames in Abingdon  
(small groups)  
4:30 choir practice  
5:30 tea  
6:30 recreation  
8:15 showers  
9:00 bedtime

**JULY 21 - SATURDAY (4)**

8:00	breakfast
9:00	choir practice
10:30	play time
12:00	lunch
1:00	quiet time
2:00	Leave for Oxford (small groups)
6:00	attend Evensong at Christ Church
7:30	supper
8:15	showers
9:00	bedtime

**JULY 22 - SUNDAY (5)**

8:00	breakfast
9:00	choir practice
10:00	Mass at Convent in Abingdon
12:00	lunch
1:00	quiet time
2:00	leave for Oxford
4:00	meet at Christ Church
4:15	vest in cassocks
4:30	choir practice at Christ Church
6:00	Evensong
7:00	coach to Abingdon
7:30	supper
8:15	showers
9:00	bedtime

## JULY 23 - MONDAY (6)

8:00 breakfast  
 9:00 coach to London (sack lunches)  
 tour London in small groups (supper)  
 7:00 meet coach at Westminster Abbey, return to  
 Abingdon.  
 8:15 showers  
 9:00 bedtime

## JULY 24 - TUESDAY (7)

8:00 breakfast  
 9:00 pack & clean school  
 9:30 load coach  
 10:00 leave for Lichfield  
 1:30 arrive in Lichfield - Lichfield Cathedral School

The Palace  
 Lichfield  
 Staffordshire, WS13 7LH  
 England

telephone: 011-44-543-263326

3:00 choir practice  
 4:30 vest & practice in cathedral  
 5:30 Evensong  
 6:30 supper  
 7:30 recreation  
 8:30 showers  
 9:00 bedtime

## JULY 25 - WEDNESDAY (8)

7:30 wake up  
 7:45 boys practice  
 8:30 breakfast  
 9:15 choir practice  
 10:30 play time  
 12:00 lunch



12:30	quiet time, followed by recreation
3:30	showers & snack
4:30	practice in cathedral
5:30	Evensong
6:30	supper & play time
8:45	bedtime

JULY 26 - THURSDAY (9)  
 SAME SCHEDULE AS ABOVE

JULY 27 - FRIDAY (10)  
 SAME SCHEDULE AS ABOVE

JULY 28 - SATURDAY (11)  
 SAME SCHEDULE AS ABOVE

JULY 29 - SUNDAY (12)

7:30	wake up
7:45	boys practice
8:30	breakfast
9:15	choir practice
10:30	Eucharist in cathedral
12:00	lunch
1:00	quiet time or recreation
2:15	choir practice
3:30	Evensong in cathedral
4:30	play time
6:30	supper & recreation
8:15	showers
9:00	bedtime

JULY 30 - MONDAY (13)

8:00	breakfast & clean school
9:30	load coach
10:00	leave for Wales

2:00 arrive Rhos-on-Sea: **St. Mary's College**  
**Rhos-on-Sea**  
**Colwyn Bay**  
**North Wales LL28 4NR**  
**Great Britain**  
**telephone: 011-44-492-44777**  
 get settled; play time

6:00 supper & recreation  
 8:15 showers  
 9:00 bedtime

#### JULY 31 - TUESDAY (14)

8:00 breakfast  
 9:00 choir practice  
 10:15 leave for Conway Castle (small groups)  
 4:00 meet coach at Conway Castle  
 4:30 arrive St. Asaph's Cathedral  
 6:00 Evensong  
 7:00 coach to Rhos-on-Sea  
 7:30 supper  
 8:15 showers  
 9:00 bedtime

#### AUGUST 1 - WEDNESDAY (15)

8:00 breakfast  
 9:00 seaside walks & shopping (small groups)  
 6:00 supper  
 7:00 choir practice  
 8:15 showers  
 9:00 bedtime

#### AUGUST 2 - THURSDAY (16)

8:00 breakfast; pack; clean school  
 9:30 load coach  
 10:00 leave for Holyhead, Wales

2:15 ferry boat to Dublin  
 6:50 arrive in Dublin; load coach  
 7:30 leave for Cork, Ireland  
 12:00 arrive Cork; lodging in  
       St. Fin Barre's choir school:  
       Rochelle House  
       Old Blackrock Road  
       Cork  
       Republic of Ireland  
 telephone: 011-353-21-964774  
              (or) 966460

#### AUGUST 3 - FRIDAY (17)

9:00 breakfast  
 10:00 leave for Blarney Castle & Woolen Mills  
 4:00 return to Cork  
 6:00 supper  
 7:00 attend Evensong at cathedral  
 8:15 showers  
 9:00 bedtime

#### AUGUST 4 - SATURDAY (18)

8:00 breakfast  
 9:00 choir practice  
 10:30 play time  
 12:00 lunch  
 1:00 quiet time  
 2:00 trip to Cobh Cathedral; sing Mass; coach back  
 7:00 supper  
 8:15 showers & bedtime

#### AUGUST 5 - SUNDAY (19)

8:00 breakfast  
 9:00 choir practice  
 11:15 Eucharist at St. Fin Barre's Cathedral

12:30	lunch
1:30	quiet time
2:30	play time
4:00	showers & practice
5:30	supper
6:15	cassocks & practice
7:00	Evensong
9:00	bedtime

#### AUGUST 6 - MONDAY (20)

8:00	breakfast
8:30	pack; clean school
9:30	load coach
10:00	leave for Limerick
1:00	arrive <b>Villiers House</b> <b>North Circular Road</b> <b>Limerick</b> <b>Ireland</b> <b>telephone: 011-353-61-51447</b>
2:00	play time; shopping, etc.
6:00	supper
7:00	recreation
8:15	showers
9:00	bedtime

#### AUGUST 7 - TUESDAY (21)

6:15	breakfast
6:45	load coach
7:00	leave for Shannon airport
9:00	Aer Lingus #142 to London
10:20	arrive London, Heathrow
11:30	TWA #761 non-stop to Los Angeles
2:35	arrive LAX; customs; coach to S.B.
6:00	arrive Santa Barbara



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

August 14, 1990

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
St. Anthony's Seminary  
2300 Garden Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93105

Dear Bob:

Enclosed please find a letter which I have sent to Mike Doherty, who has volunteered to chair a committee for an evangelization center at Old Mission Santa Barbara. I believe the letter speaks for itself. On behalf of the Definitorium, I would like to request your presence on this committee as I believe that you could contribute a great deal to it.

Thanks very much for considering this. I trust that you will contact Mike or that he will be able to contact you as to your participation.

Fraternally,

[Redacted signature]

ends.

*Letter sent to:*  
*R. Van Handel*  
*Sal Parisi*  
*Giuseppe Piccoli*  
*Pat Groves*

OFM VANH 1  
0077



FILE

## Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
St. Anthony Seminary  
2300 Garden St.  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105

Oct. 10, 1990

Dear Robert:

Peace and all good!

Enclosed, please find a memo which I have given to Lupe Aceves about the St. Anthony Seminary budget and different accounts. You will see my recommendations in there which I think are sufficient summary of what we discussed at that time. Again, Robert, I would like to thank you very much for your help in this matter, and for your cooperation. I think this will go a long way toward helping both the Province and keeping St. Anthony's on an even keel. We believe that you are managing the monies very properly, and I'm very grateful there is someone like you in the position.

Fraternally,



OFM VANH 1

0078



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## Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
St. Anthony Seminary  
2300 Garden St.  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105

Oct. 10, 1990

Dear Robert:

Peace and all good!

It was good talking with you last week, and I really want to thank you so much for the openness of the conversation, particularly about the financial situation at St. Anthony's. I want to congratulate you on getting the whole institution through a very difficult period. Really, Robert, I think the Province is tremendously in debt to you. Thank you very much.

I want to write a formal note giving approval to your request and that of the Middle School to extend the contract to the upper portion of the west wing, and to 1996. Thanks very much for arranging this.

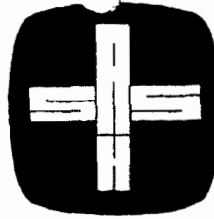
Fraternally,



OFM VANH 1

0079

st. anthony's seminary



high school

8 November 1990

Dear Members of the Definitorium,

I am coming to you with a familiar request at an awkward time. I would like permission to go to England in the late summer or early autumn of 1991. This is the occasion of Sister Monica Sheehy's twenty-fifth jubilee as a Sister of Mercy.

Just this past summer I was in England, Wales, and Ireland with the Santa Barbara Boys Choir. For myself, I would not request permission again so immediately. Certainly I would enjoy going to England, but I am really asking for Sr. Monica more than for myself. The jubilee is immensely important to her and the Abingdon community. It is seen not only as a major celebration of twenty-five years, but as an affirmation of her vocation as a Sister of Mercy. She has asked me to be the major celebrant at her Jubilee Mass when she will renew her promises. It would be difficult to overestimate how much this means to her. As Sr. Monica is one of my closest friends and has been a great support to me, I cannot refuse her. She would understand only that we did not care enough.

I do not know the exact date of the jubilee celebration. It will probably be in the late summer, or early autumn, perhaps at the school's midterm break in October. I would hope to spend my vacation in England at that time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Fraternally,

*Robert Van Handel*

OFM VANH 1

0080



# FRANCISCAN FRIARS PROVINCE OF SAINT BARBARA

## TRAVEL FORM

To help the Provincial and the Definitorium with regard to travel requests, please fill out this form and return it to the Provincial Office, Attn: The Secretary of the Province.

NB The Guardian can give permission to travel within the United States (PS, 21). This form is for travel overseas.

1. Name ROBERT VAN HANDEL
2. Destination ENGLAND
3. Dates: Departure \_\_\_\_\_ Return \_\_\_\_\_
4. Purpose of Travel: please see accompanying letter

<input type="checkbox"/> Jubilee Trip	<input type="checkbox"/> Visit to Family
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead a pilgrimage
<input type="checkbox"/> Central American Pilgrimage	<input type="checkbox"/> Member of a pilgrimage
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation outside the US	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Sister's Jubilee
<input type="checkbox"/> Assisi Experience	
5. Estimated Cost: \$1,000
6. Source(s) of funding: vacation allowance & private donations  
from family & friends
7. Travel History:
  - a. When was the last time you travelled outside the US? summer 1990  
Where did you go? England, Ireland  
For what purpose? Santa Barbara Boys Choir
  - b. Have you previously been to the place where you are asking to go?  
Yes
  - c. What has been your international travel in the last five years?  
List dates and places:  
1987 - Switzerland & England - SBBC  
1990 - England & Ireland - SBBC

(Rev. 2/89)

1500 Chicago - Fourth Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94601

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OFM VANH 1  
0081

Provincial Minister (415) 536-3722  
Provincial Office (415) 536-1266



FILE

## Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
St. Anthony Seminary  
2300 Garden St.  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105

November 20, 1990

Dear Robert:

Peace and all good!

Happy Thanksgiving. It's been good talking to you the last couple of days. Thanks so much for your support and understanding.

Robert, with this letter I would like to officially communicate to you the definitorium's permission for you to travel to England. Your petition was very well received, and I want you to go certainly with the Province's delegation and with my own greatest congratulations.

I know you are wondering about your future, Robert, and I talked to you a little about it on the phone. Certainly the definitorium has made the decision that we would definitely like you to move come this summer. We had a long discussion about where your talents might best be used, both for yourself and the good of the Church and the Province. I think at the moment I am seriously considering the possibility of your coming to Berkeley, helping Esther Soriano in the development work at the School of Theology, taking over the development of St. Anthony's Bread from John Hardin, perhaps attending some classes in pastoral theology and helping out in retreat work or parishes. Perhaps if you could do this type of work for a year, it would become clearer to you as to a future course of work to pursue. I know this is a time of transition for you, Robert, and I want to assure you of my prayers and support. Certainly the definitorium is not fixed on any particular thing, but most of our ideas revolved around what I am stating here. The issue of San Luis Rey came up, but I think given the fact of transition, it would be good for you to have a fine, solid and supportive community. I think you would certainly find that in Berkeley. Be assured that you have my prayers and support as we continue this conversation.

Fraternally,



OFM VANH 1

0082

3RD PARTY PRIVACY

*file  
Robert Van Handel*

3065 Marilyn Way  
Santa Barbara, Calif., 93105  
November 18th, 1990

The Definitorium,  
Franciscan Province,  
1712 Euclid,  
Berkeley, Calif., 94709

Attn., Joe Schwab, OFM

To the members of the Definitorium,

Today Robert Van Handel informed the greater Community at St. Anthony's that he will be transferred in August.

I want to share with you my opinions and feelings about his work at St. Anthony's since the school closed.

He has provided superb leadership through all of our grieving and has given a good example in his own healing in the matter. His homilies have grown increasingly inspiring and significant as the time has gone by. Since Robert does so much and gives so much to all of us, it must be that his homilies take precedence in his activities - a top priority with him.

Like other Franciscans I have known and worked with, Robert is absolutely amazingly versatile! He shows concern and really helps with families' crises and functionings within the greater community, yet so often he can be seen with Fabian, putting a battery in the truck, for example, or making sure that the cleaning crew has done a good job.

All of his work is done with a sense of unflagging enthusiasm, and an underlying feeling for the joy of living. I am always surprised to see how much energy he has for St. Anthony's.

Robert also shows ingenuity in dealing with situations as they arise. He has so many new ideas - this year we (members of the liturgy committee) worked through twice a new method or manner of presenting the Advent wreath. All of the logistics had been carefully considered by him before the meeting. He also is aware of the status of St. Anthony's and wants to keep it as it is. All of us are greatly relieved at that. We are so in hopes that we can still have St. Anthony's for Mass.

It seems to me that Robert is an innate administrator - he has the talent for delegating activities and tasks, knows how to choose the right people, has thought out each part of each situation, with attention to the minutiae thereof, without any visible strain. Nothing seems too small, if it is valid, for his concern.

OFM VANH 1

0083

There is a sense of family between Robert and the Religious at St. Anthony's - he functions well as a pastor for them .

Also, he has inspired a group of men to come and do repairs all over the campus, so that the plant itself has greatly benefitted, and the men (whose number continues to increase) have a feeling of solidarity - they have fun doing the work - I am often there on Saturday mornings and I see that Robert is there with them at least some of the time each week.

Speaking as one who has worked closely with Robert for a number of years, and especially since the school was closed, I would like to say that Robert's enterprising, enthusiastic approach to St. Anthony's in general has been consistent and very helpful to the greater community, as I see the situation. He is getting a higher degree in California history, managing the institution beautifully, running the Boys's Choir, evidently maintaining a sound spiritual life, and seeming to enjoy the whole process.

Since I work at the Peabody school as a volunteer, I have heard such good reports about the Boys' Choir! Some of the students with whom I have worked in a reading program, for a number of years, now, have been members of the Boys' Choir. I know the parents as well as the children, and can see clearly that the experience of membership has been of great value for the many families involved. I remember once that Robert had taken the family of a former member of the choir on a vacation camping trip, since the father of the family had been killed in an accident. His sensitivity and ability to put it to good use can often be seen in his work.

Once, years ago, Robert took my place in the library one night a week, so that I could take some library courses. He did such a good job - I had often thought that he would be a good librarian, even, perhaps, at the Mission, where there is a need for such a person. But I was not thinking of the present time.

As I sit here writing this letter, and feeling stunned to think that we have now been given this double loss in such a short time, I think of Robert as one who dealt with his own grief at the closing of the school, provided good strong leadership with his enthusiasm and imaginative leadership, and has created a new kind of community, really, without the students we all have missed so much. In addition, he deals expertly with the Waldorf school, as well as with the Middle School. The place seems to me to be building community (we have new members often, now) in an abiding sense of our value to each other. The leadership for these attitudes has come from Robert.

In Santa Barbara, the reputation of St. Anthony's, which was considerably tarnished by the closing of the school, has been being healed by Robert's willingness to, for example, allow certain groups to use the playing field, to present the Boys' Choir in concert as well as at churches and even, annually, at The Nutcracker .

Third Party Privacy Rights

-3-

I'm glad Robert has been Rector long enough to bring about this healing and enrichment of community relationship; it's a pity to take him away just when the healing is really taking hold.

I noticed that Brother Timothy Arthur was able to run St. Anthony's quite well during Robert's absence this past summer. I personally have always felt that that is the final proof of good management - indeed, of a job well done; when the job can be taken over by another person with no difficulty. Timothy remarked to me that the place ran itself, really.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the Community with its religious functions and their expressions in various fellowships has meant a great deal to me. I have been really glad to be a member of the greater community. A good deal of these feelings of gratitude have come from the good work that Robert has done at St. Anthony's, with his kindness, his sense of humor, and his perception.

Sincerely,

*Pat Livingstone*

Pat Livingstone



ALL COPY

# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
St. Anthony Seminary  
2300 Garden St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

April 3, 1991

Dear Robert:

Peace and all good!

Happy Easter! It was so good to visit with you a while back. I appreciate very much all the help you've given me, both there at SAS and your personal support. Thanks very much.

Robert, this is just a short note to say that at the Provincial Council meeting in March your appointment was affirmed to be in residence at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley to be an associate director in the formation program with particular charge of the students in the house at FST and to engage in some continuing education activities.

I'm also very glad that we will be able to work together in the office more. I know that Mel and I look forward to your presence among us.

Thanks very much for being open to this, Robert. May the Lord give you peace.

Faternally,

enclosure

PS: I think we can make it official that Albie will be taking your place at SAS. I'll leave it to the two of you to negotiate the timing on this.

OFM VANH 1

0086



FILE

# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
St. Anthony Seminary  
2300 Garden St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

April 4, 1991

Dear Robert:

Peace and all good!

This is just a short note to follow up on the decisions made at the definitorium in early March.

First of all, we would like to give you permission to replace the staircase on the northside of the kitchen building, the cost being from about 12,000 to 14,000.00.

Second, the definitorium agreed in principle to the renewal of the lease with Waldorf School. The following questions were raised: 1) do we have an escape clause? What will be the financial increase if we lease them two additional classrooms? You can proceed with the lease along the lines we talked about. I look forward to receiving it from you. Third, Waldorf has asked to lease two additional classrooms in the dorm above the kitchen. Certainly the definitorium agreed to this request. Fourth, in order to use the two classrooms as you indicated, it is necessary to build a staircase in the breezeway between the dining room and the main building. Waldorf would pay for this. The definitorium also approved the addition of the staircase. Fifth, with respect to the Casa, the definitorium received the report from the consultants who evaluated the use of the casa property. The definitorium accepts the idea that the casa be leased to a non-profit group. I look forward to working with you and the consultants in the near future.

I hope this answers the questions and gives a formal response to your inquiries. Thanks very much for your hard work.

Fraternally,



OFM VANH 1

0087



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

COPY

April 29, 1991

Most Reverend John S. Cummins, DD  
The Diocese of Oakland  
2900 Lakeshore Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94610

Dear Bishop Cummins:

I am writing on behalf of the [REDACTED] Provincial Minister of the Franciscan Friars, to request faculties of the Diocese for **Father Benedict Innes, OFM**, who is being assigned to our Formation Community located on Seventh Street in Berkeley as Formation Director, effective August, 1991. I attest to the fact that Father Innes is a friar-priest in good standing in the Province of St. Barbara, of which I am the Provincial Secretary.

✓ [REDACTED] is also requesting faculties for **Father Robert Van Handel, OFM**, who is being assigned to the Formation Community at the Franciscan School of Theology, Berkeley as Formation Director, effective August, 1991. I attest to the fact that Father Van Handel is a friar-priest in good standing in the Province of St. Barbara.

I would also like to inform you of some other changes involving the Franciscan Friars who will be leaving the Diocese:

**Father Josef Prochnow, OFM**, who has been the Province's Prefect of Formation in residence at St. Elizabeth's, Oakland; effective June 1991  
**Father Richard McManus, OFM**, who has been Director of Formation at the Franciscan School of Theology; effective June 1991  
**Father Rusty Shaughnessy, OFM**, who has been a retreat master at San Damiano, Danville; effective August 1991.

The Friars of the Province continue to pray for you and the well-being of the Diocese.

Sincerely yours in St. Francis,

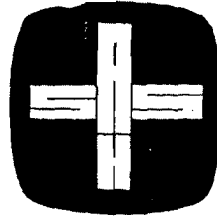
*Melvin A. Jurisich*  
(Rev.) Melvin A. Jurisich, OFM  
Secretary of the Province

OFM VANH 1

0088



st. anthony's seminary



pe 3014

May 1, 1991

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you are well and not too harassed.

I received a card from Monica. She is not sure they can do much of a holiday after the jubilee because they may have to entertain guests from Ireland. I don't think that makes very much difference to us. Did you find out anything more about the plane ticket, or should I make my own arrangements?

May 9 I take my Spanish exam. Should I pass (I probably will) I will have to turn the night oil to finish my thesis on time.

Work on the down staircase is nearing completion. They have done a very thorough job. Good people.

I am enclosing a memo on the Casa for your information.

Take care. All the best.

Robert

OFM VANH 1

0089



COPY

# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (415)536-3722 Fax (415)536-3970

Robert Van Handel, OFM  
St. Anthony Seminary  
2300 Garden St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

May 14, 1991

Dear Bob:

peace and all good!

Thanks very much for your letter of May 1st. I appreciate very much the information you have given me on the Casa. I wrote to Monica recently and said that I didn't see any need for us to take some time out and travel together if she would be busy with relatives. I have no problem with her having to stay in Abington and I'm sure you don't either. We can always find something to do, and I can always run over to the ? and get my work done. I think you should go ahead and probably make your own arrangements. In the past I've tried to align my arrangements with other people and it just doesn't work out. So, rather than mess up your life, why don't you just go ahead and make your arrangements.

I hope you did well in the Spanish exam. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally,



OFM VANH 1

0090

# FRANCISCAN FRIARS PROVINCE OF SAINT BARBARA

April 3, 1991  
(date)

To Robert Van Handel, OFM

From [REDACTED]

Provincial Minister

After prayer and consultation, and considering the many needs of the people to whom we minister, I am formally requesting that you accept a change of assignment from Santa Barbara to Berkeley, FST: to be in residence and as an associate director of the students.

For the convenience of all concerned, I ask that this change of assignment become effective August, '91 (date).

As a sign of your acceptance, please sign below and return to the Provincial Office.

N. B. Sign and mail back immediately upon receipt.

Fraternally, [REDACTED], Provincial Minister.

To the Provincial Minister:

In accordance with the promises I have made to the Lord and to our Brotherhood, I accept this new assignment.

Robert Van Handel  
(signature)

9 April 1991  
(date)



# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

*file*  
*Brit*  
*[Signature]*

April 17, 1992

[REDACTED]  
1500 - 34th Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94601

Dear [REDACTED]

With this letter I would like to ask permission to resign from my duties as local director of post-novitiate formation at the Euclid community, effective June 1, 1992. I came to Berkeley ten months ago with the intention of "helping out" with the formation students. There have been five, and then four of these students this year. While I have enjoyed working with Ben Innes, Brian Flynn, and the other friars in formation, in no satisfactory sense could it be said that I have been active in the formation process. The students have had very little formation direction from me these past months.

The reason why I have been inadequate as a formation director is quite clear: my other duties as your secretary and chairman of continuing formation have taken the majority of my time, energy, and interest. Post-novitiate formation has suffered the position of being a distant third. In the light of our recent discussions and planning for the next two years, it is apparent to me that this situation will become worse, not better. It is unfair to the students, the program, the Guardian, and the other friars to allow such an unsatisfactory situation to continue. Next year, with the additional numbers of friars in formation, this lack of attention to them will be far more evident and damaging. I do not have a sense of failure or frustration, just a realization that what we are now doing is in no one's best interest.

I do not know who could replace me as formation director, although we have discussed a few possibilities. Both Brian Flynn and Ben Innes are aware that I am asking permission to resign, effective June 1, 1992.

Thank you.

Faternally,

*Robert*

Robert Van Handel, OFM

cc Fr. Ben Innes, Director of Post-novitiate Formation  
Fr. Brian Flynn, Secretary of Formation and Studies

OFM VANH 1

0092

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9410

November 15, 1992

[REDACTED]  
1500 34th Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94601-3091

Third Party Privacy Rights

Dear [REDACTED]

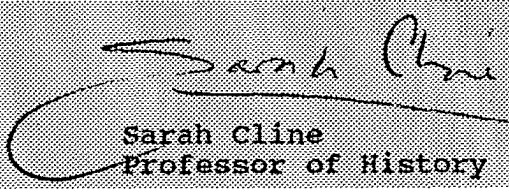
I am writing regarding Robert Van Handel, who wrote a master's thesis under my direction before his transfer to the Bay Area. I was of course distressed to hear of his conduct many years ago, but I have known Robert not only as an excellent student but also as a patient and discerning listener as I sorted through spiritual concerns following the deaths of my husband and of my mother.

I realize that it is unlikely that Robert would be allowed to function in positions such as the director of the Santa Barbara Boys Choir. But he has gifts of great value, and as the Order and he sort out his future, I would hope that the good is preserved so that he can then give his best.

I think that Robert would do well in an academic or archival setting, which would require further education. Should he wish to pursue further study I would be happy to aid him in finding appropriate programs and writing letters of recommendation. Should he return to UCSB in the doctoral program, I would be pleased to serve as his doctoral advisor.

Should you wish to contact me about Robert, please do not hesitate to write me at the above address or phone (805) 968-8782.

Sincerely,

  
Sarah Cline  
Professor of History

OFM VANH 1

0093



FILE

## Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

Professor Sarah Cline  
Department of History  
University of California,  
Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410

December 11, 1992

Third Party Privacy Rights

Dear Dr. Cline,

Peace and all good!

I want to thank you very much for your letter to me of November 15th., 1992 which I passed on to Fr. Robert. He is currently in a treatment center in Maryland, and he was very much supported and encouraged by the reception of your letter. I want to thank you so much for taking the time to write to him.

You are right, of course, about his abilities. He is a tremendous asset to our community and I know that he would do well in an academic or archival setting. I really do hope that he can pursue some of these areas and do it in the best way possible. Obviously the last several months have been extremely difficult for him as they have been for so many others, and he is very contrite and chagrined by what has happened. I ask you please to remember him and to continue to offer your support. It means a great deal.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Provincial Minister

OFM VANH 1

0094

Third Party Privacy Rights

Jeffrey Burton Russell  
Professor of History  
University of California  
Santa Barbara CA 93106 USA  
e-mail address: russell@hcfmail.ucsb.edu

November 12 1992

[REDACTED]  
Provincial  
1500 34th Avenue  
Oakland CA 94601-3091

Third Party Privacy Rights

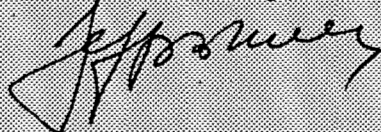
Dear [REDACTED]

May I add my voice to that my colleague Sarah Cline on the subject of Father Robert Van Handel? I have known Father Robert for at least six or seven years both as Director of the Santa Barbara Boys' Choir and as a graduate student in this department. I think extremely highly of him in both capacities.

I understand what has happened and why the Order would not wish to put him in charge of children again, but I hope and pray that no further action will be necessary. This is a fine man with excellent intellectual and (though admittedly he had a serious problem) I would say moral virtues. He is a bright man and a kind man, and my wife Diana joins me in praying that he will continue his valuable career in the Order and as a priest.

Thank you for your very kind attention.

Yours sincerely,





Third Party Privacy Rights

FILE

# Province of St. Barbara

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

1500 34th Avenue Oakland California 94601 (510)536-3722 Fax (510)536-3970

Professor Jeffrey Burton Russell  
Department of History  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

December 11, 1992

Dear Professor Burton Russell:

Peace and all good!

I want to thank you very much for the letter which you sent to me on November 12 with respect to Fr. Robert Van Handel. He certainly is a very fine person, and although he is in an extremely difficult situation for which he is responsible at the moment, I believe that he has the resources to move on with his life and to continue to do a great deal of good. I appreciate very much the way you have phrased this in your own letter as it is good to see that others can see that he is a fine man with excellent intellectual and even moral virtues. Robert continues to be very contrite about what has happened and is doing his best to move on with his life. We ourselves are trying to support the individuals involved in all ways possible.

I have over the years much admired your work, Dr. Russell, as I too am an historian with specialization in American religious history. Certainly you can understand the difficult situations that Christianity is experiencing at the present moment. I wish that all could be exposed to your fine thinking which deals so much with the difficulties of good and evil in our world.

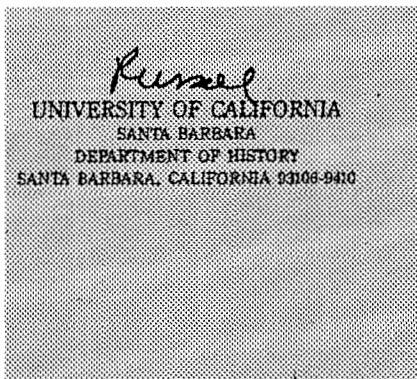
Thank you very much for your concern, especially for Fr. Robert.

Sincerely,

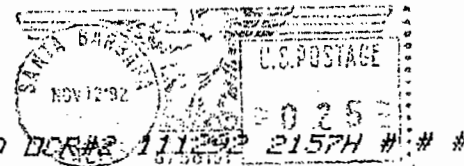
[Redacted Signature]  
Provincial Minister

OFM VANH 1  
0096





OXNARD, CA  
DROP SHIPMENT  
AUTHORIZATION 101  
PRESORTED MAIL



1500 34TH Ave.  
Oakland CA 94601-309,

OFM VANH 1  
0097

3RD PARTY PRIVACY

Dear [REDACTED]

This is the first Christmas card I'm writing. I am deeply grateful to you for being my friend, and for all the pain you have had to bear because of me. Thank you for helping Monica, and for all the things you have done that only God knows about. You know how sorry I am for all the harm I have done. I pray this Christmas that God will be able to bring some good out of even this evil.

---

Eczema is an irritating and occasionally disfiguring skin condition affecting an estimated one in ten of the UK population.  
The National Eczema Society works to improve the quality of life for people with eczema through funding research and providing information and support.

For more information contact:  
National Eczema Society,  
4 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RA  
Tel: 071 388 4097  
Charity Reg. No 1009671

---

With all good wishes  
for Christmas  
and the New Year

May God bless you and give you peace.

Love,

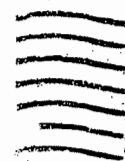
Robert

OEM VANH 1  
0098



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CANADA 14

Dear [redacted]

We couldn't find a 6-Motel so had to stay here. Bill follows - just give to Fr. Martial. We're saving gas by taking the cruise boat to Prince Rupert, B.C. - Scouting new provincial commitments.

Love

Robert + Mike

Made by Alex Wilson Publications Limited, Dryden, Ontario, Canada

(OFM??)

Wilson's  Superb

VAN HANDEL

1500 - 34th Ave.

Oakland, Calif.

USA 94601

20853R

OFM VANH 1  
0099



*The Empress Hotel on the Inner Harbour, Victoria, British Columbia*

*Photo by Marty Sheffer*

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