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April 23, 1992

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Dear Robert,

To begin, let me remind you that while I was recovering from my illness, I told you that I needed to talk to you. The time for the talk never came because I was still weak and you had the demands of a hectic schedule and move facing you.

Had that talk occurred, I would have told you that we had learned that a member of your Franciscan community, in addition to Phil Wolfe, had engaged in sexually inappropriate behavior with one of our boys when he was quite small that was upsetting to him at the time it was occurring. The memory remains with him.

I would have told you and I wished to tell _____ and the others of your organization that it is clear that many of the activities you men undertake are too dangerous to young people and yourselves to be continued. The risks are too great. The potential for damage to even one young person outweighs any good these may accomplish. The price of the life of even one child is too high.

I would have told you that the Boys Choir, as it is presently structured, should not be continued and you should not be involved in similar organizations in the future. There is too much opportunity for unsupervised time between one child and one greatly trusted adult. Tragically, we have all lived the danger inherent in the all male seminary high school boarding school, where authority, trust and love can and did become destructively mixed with drives for sexual power, satisfaction and institutional authority. Gender-segregated and therefore gender-imbalanced activities are simply too dangerous to continue. They are imbalanced and too easily lead to aberration.

I would have told you that solo visits to your residence, and "overnights" by youngsters must be stopped. They are too dangerous to you and the children.

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This is what we learned at Christmas time. When one of our boys was a little boy, on various occasions when you put him to bed you gave "back rubs." The "back rubs" involved stroking the back, chest, stomach, lower abdomen and thighs in the groin area. He recalls that the stroking occurred very close to and around the genitals. He recalls his discomfort and embarrassment on one occasion that his lightweight knit pajamas would reveal the erection that your "back rub" had stimulated. He remembers the color and style of the pajamas. I do, too. He was probably around ten years old when he wore them.

We also learned at Christmas that when he visited your office on certain occasions you and he played darts. The stakes were that if he won he would get money. If you won, you could give him a "back rub" as described above. He recalls you offered him a pair of "thin shorts" to change into during the back rub. He said he was not comfortable with that and refused to change into them.

There should be no need for further comment on the obvious inappropriate use of the child or the sexual seductiveness of this type of physical touching and game playing. It should be enough simply to say we have all suffered too much because of matters such as this to make frivolous charges of this nature.

Robert, you know how we have loved you and trusted you with our lives. We gave our lives and our love to support what you believed in and wanted. Everything we owned was yours. That couldn't extend to that which we as parents don't even own--that is the right to touch our children's bodies in a sexually seductive or using manner.

Our concern extends beyond our family to the wide opportunity you have for individual one-on-one time with many little boys. When I spoke to you about Phil Wolfe's terrible molestation of our sons, you must remember I told you your order must talk of these matters openly so that those with such inclinations can obtain psychological help before they destroy themselves and others. Robert, have you received such help? Adequate help? Are you refraining from these dangerous times alone with children? I should tell you I have lost confidence in the expertise and impartiality in this special area of concern of a mental health professional in Santa Barbara known to both of us. While he is good

in many ways, I don't believe his professional help in this particularly demanding area is adequate help.

Because we have shared our lives (and had hoped to continue this sharing) you know how much we have loved you. You must be able to guess the pain that surrounds this letter. We can only guess your pain in receiving it. We hope it will reinforce the desperate imperative you have to obtain help and remove yourself from potentially dangerous contacts with young boys.

Our purpose in writing this letter is to protect other children. A copy is being sent to _____ to help you and him as Provincial Minister to keep the seriousness of this matter and the obligation for appropriate follow up in treatment and assignment clearly defined for you both. We also carbon Bishop Ziemann. He must know the full scope of the problems in this area of concern. None of us can afford to live in a fool's paradise any longer in so far as these matters are concerned.

Sincerely,

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CONCUR

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cc: Bishop Patrick Ziemann
Rev.

Rev. Melvin Jurisich

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