



MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: January 26, 1988
FROM: Msgr. Curry
TO: Archbishop Mahony
RE: Rev. Nicolas Aguilar-Rivera

This concerns the Mexican priest who was assigned to St. Agatha and was accused of abusing children from Our Lady of Guadalupe. The police are making every effort to obtain the list of altar boys from St. Agatha's. Father Jim Barnes is very reluctant to give it to them, and I support that decision. We have no evidence that Father Aguilar-Rivera was involved with altar boys as such. All the boys involved were members of families he was friendly with in Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the alleged abuse took place while he was visiting these families or while they were visiting him.

Father Barnes has no knowledge of his being involved with boys at St. Agatha's, and his concern is that if the police come and interview the boys, the matter will spread around the parish. The parish there is a Black-Hispanic one, and he finds his situation as an Anglo pastor a very delicate one. He and I are also concerned about the police interviewing boys about this matter when we have no reasonable suspicion they know anything about it. If, in fact, nothing happened at St. Agatha's, such interviews may have a negative effect on the boys, their families, and the parish.

The whole issue of our records is a very sensitive one, and I am reluctant to give any list to the police.

We are being friendly but firm, and both Sister Judy and I are in contact with the police on this matter.

We ~~don't~~ give such a list for no cause whatsoever.

+ RMM

1-26-88