

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION - WESTERN PROVINCE

NAME: **RUHL, John Edward**

DATE OF BIRTH: **May 20, 1937**

PLACE OF BIRTH: **Chicago, Illinois**

NAME OF FATHER: [REDACTED]

MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER [REDACTED]

SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

Elementary: **St. Vincent de Paul** ..... **Chicago, Illinois**

High School: **De Paul Academy** ..... **Cape Girardeau, Mo.**

College:

Seminary: **St. Mary's Seminary** ..... **Perryville, Mo.**

ENTERED NOVITIATE: **July 18, 1955**

TEMPORARY VOWS: **July 19, 1957**

PERPETUAL VOWS: **July 19, 1960**

<u>ORDERS</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>PRELATE CONFERRING</u>
Tonsure:	May 26, 1961	Perryville	Glennon Flavin
Minor Orders:	May 27, 1961 (First)	Perryville	Glennon Flavin
	June 9, 1962 (Second)	Perryville	George Gottwald
Subdeacon:	May 25, 1963	Perryville	Glennon Flavin
Deacon:	October 7, 1963	Perryville	Glennon Flavin
Priesthood:			
First Solemn Mass:			
	DATE	CHURCH	CITY

(2)

<u>DEGREES OBTAINED</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>AT WHAT INSTITUTION</u>
B.A.	1960	St. Mary's Seminary - Perryville

LIST OF APPOINTMENTS SINCE ORDINATION OR VOWS

<u>HOUSE</u>	<u>YEARS THERE</u>	<u>KIND OF WORK</u>
House of Studies, Wahh	1964-	Student

DEACONS ARE ELEVATED TO PRIESTHOOD



Rev. James M. Seghers, C.M.



Rev. John C. Overkamp, C.M.



Rev. Louis Fortenberry, C.M.



Rev. August A. Melito, C.M.



Rev. Robert J. Roppel, C.M.



Rev. Thomas A. Grace, C.M.



Rev. Henry F. LeFevre, C.M.



Rev. John Ruhl, C.M.



Rev. William E. Hartenbach, C.M.



Rev. John A. Grindel, C.M.

Shown above are the ten young men who were ordained to the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary here Sunday by Bishop George Gottwald, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis.

Following the ordination ceremonies, a banquet was held in the seminary gymnasium for the newly ordained priests, their parents, relatives and friends.

Father James Seghers will be prefect of Discipline at St. Vincent's Seminary at Lemont, Ill., Father Louis Fortenberry and Father William Hartenbach will take advanced studies in English at Princeton University, Father John Overkamp will be Prefect of Dis-

cipline at St. Vincent's Seminary at Montebello, Cal., Father August Melito will be Prefect of Discipline at Regina Cleri Seminary at Tucson, Ariz., Father Thomas Grace will be Director of Students at St. John's Seminary at San Antonio, Tex., Father Robert Roppel will be Director of Students at Queen of Angels Seminary at San Fernando, Cal., Father John Ruhl will take advanced studies in mathematics at Catholic University at Washington, D. C., Father Henry LeFevre will take advanced studies in chemistry at Catholic University and Father John Grindel will take advanced studies in theology at Catholic University.

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST

649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007 • 213 719-1713

September 4, 1977

Very Reverend James W. Richardson, C.M.  
Superior General  
Via di Bravetta, 159  
00164 Roma, Italy

Dear Father Richardson,

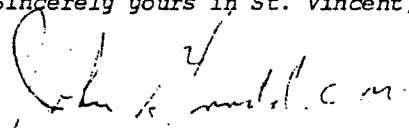
May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

Enclosed you will find a petition from the Reverend John Edward Ruhl, C.M., a member of the Province of the West, for an Indult of Exclusion ad experimentum in order to work in the Diocese of Orange for three years. Also enclosed is a supporting letter from myself and a letter from the Chancellor of the Diocese of Orange expressing the willingness of the Bishop of Orange to accept Father Ruhl ad experimentum for three years. I hope that the enclosed material is sufficient. If it is not, please let me know.

I believe that this is a very good decision on the part of Father Ruhl. He has never been a real "community man" as they say. He has always been a bit like a duck out of water in the Community. Most important he has finally come to realize his need for growth. This has become an important step in his life and I believe that his request ought to be granted. I do not think that he will return to the Community but I could be wrong.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

  
John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial

Ruhl-P00125

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0004

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST

649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007 • (213) 749-1865

September 4, 1979

His Holiness  
Pope John Paul II  
Vatican City, Europe

Your Holiness:

I, the undersigned, the Very Reverend John A. Grindel, C.M., am the Provincial of the Province of the West in the United States of America of the Congregation of the Mission. The Province of the West is the Province of the Reverend John Edward Ruhl, C.M., who is seeking an Indult of Exclaustration ad experimentum so that he can eventually be incardinated in the Diocese of Orange, California, U.S.A.

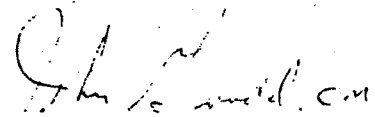
I have spoken several times with Father Ruhl concerning his desire to be incardinated into the Diocese of Orange. Living in the Community has become more and more difficult for Father Ruhl. It has been noticed by his superiors over the last few years that he needs to grow more psychologically and emotionally. Father Ruhl himself has now come to realize the need for such growth also but he does not feel that he can grow in the way that he needs within the Community. I believe that he is probably correct in this estimation. He feels too constricted within the Community context to change his ways of acting in conformity with his growing knowledge of himself. He does not feel that other Community members will accept him if he tries to grow and change. While I personally do not believe that this is true, Father Ruhl does feel this way and this is holding him back from the needed growth. Moreover, he feels constricted by the expectations of community living.

In the light of the above, then, I strongly recommend his petition for an Indult of Exclaustration ad experimentum. Father Ruhl is a good man with much talent and has much to offer the Church. He has mentioned to me several times that he believes strongly that he has a vocation to the Priesthood but not necessarily to the Congregation of the Mission.

The Most Reverend William R. Johnson, Bishop of Orange, is willing to accept Father Ruhl ad experimentum for three years within the Diocese of Orange.

Thank you very much for considering this request. I solemnly swear to the truth of the above statements and information.

Your Humble and Obedient Servant,

  
John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial

Ruhl-P00126

# Saint Vincent de Paul Church

8345 Talbert Avenue  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
Telephone: 714-382-2000

August 1, 1979

His Holiness  
Pope John Paul II  
Vatican City, Europe

Your Holiness:

I, the undersigned, the Reverend John E. Ruhl, C.M., a priest and perpetually professed member of the Congregation of the Mission of the Province of the West of the United States of America, hereby humbly petition that I be granted an Indult of Exclaustration ad experimentum, so that I may eventually be incardinated into the Diocese of Orange, California, U.S.A.

The Most Reverend Ordinary of the Diocese of Orange, William R. Johnson, D.D., has expressed his willingness to accept me into his diocese.

I am seeking this indult because of the difficulties experienced in living a community life structure. It has been noticed by my Superiors for a number of years now that I do not seem to be able to use the talents and gifts that God has given me in my present structure. They are supporting my prayerful conclusion that a change, at least for a number of years - or permanently, might give that opportunity to express these gifts and talents. I have chosen the Diocese of Orange, because it is near a disabled member of my family.

My Ordination to the Priesthood took place on May 24, 1964, in Missouri, U.S.A. Since that time, most of my work and experience has been in Seminary teaching. After a two year period of study at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and DePaul and Loyola in Chicago, I taught in the Minor Seminary of the Diocese of Los Angeles and in the Seminary of the Vincentian Fathers in Western United States. My present assignment is Associate Pastor of a newly forming parish in Huntington Beach, California.

I solemnly swear to the truth of the above statements and information.

Humbly and obediently in Christ,

Rev. John E. Ruhl, C.M.

Ruhl-P00127

http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-priest29may29,1,850019.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dpe%2Dcali

THE REGION

# Priest Suits Consolidated Into L.A. Court

## A judge overrules objections by the San Diego diocese. Sex-abuse litigation targeting priests from four dioceses is affected.

By Jean Guccione  
Times Staff Writer

May 29, 2003

Over the objections of the Roman Catholic church in San Diego, all civil lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by priests in Southern California were ordered Wednesday into a single courtroom in Los Angeles.

The ruling clears a roadblock in the case, but leaves several other issues unresolved, including the extent to which the church can withhold internal documents, and which judge will hear the case. It is expected to grow to more than 300 plaintiffs.

Giving a single judge overall jurisdiction provides "the big picture" of how many people were allegedly molested over many years by the same priests, said Venus Soltan, a lawyer representing clients in four dioceses.

"It's not possible for hundreds of cases to happen and no one knows about it," Soltan said.

The order "is recognition that [sexual abuse by priests] is a mass tort. It didn't just happen once. It happened a lot," said John Manly, another plaintiffs' attorney.

Micheal Webb, an attorney for the San Diego diocese, had asked Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Elihu M. Berle to assign as many as 20 potential lawsuits against the San Diego and San Bernardino dioceses to a San Diego judge.

"These cases originated in San Diego. We think they should be resolved in San Diego by San Diego courts and San Diego juries," Webb said Wednesday.

Instead, Berle ordered those cases transferred to Los Angeles, where the same judge also will oversee as many as 200 potential cases against the Los Angeles and Orange County dioceses.

The biggest issue, for now, is who will preside.

California Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed Berle to the Los Angeles and Orange cases. But Berle was disqualified by plaintiffs' lawyer Larry Drivon for unspecified reasons — an option held by all parties in the case.

Since then, attorneys in the clergy litigation have been awaiting his replacement.

J. Michael Hennigan, who represents the Los Angeles Archdiocese, said he continues to exchange information with the plaintiffs, but is frustrated without a trial judge in place.

"Right now, there is nobody home," he said.

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opportunity  
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to find a better job.

The cases got off to a fast start in Los Angeles, where Judge Peter Lichtman began mediating a possible settlement of hundreds of potential cases late last year before they had been filed in the courts.

A new state law that took effect Jan. 1 eliminated the statute of limitations in child molestation cases for one year, creating a potential avalanche of new lawsuits based on older abuse allegations. But plaintiffs' lawyers have agreed not to file new lawsuits while Lichtman is mediating claims against the church.

Hennigan said he believes that things are slowing because Lichtman, who was appointed before the cases were ordered coordinated, now thinks that he lacks the authority to proceed.

Raymond Boucher, a plaintiffs' lawyer with more than 200 clients suing the church, said a trial judge is needed to begin resolving some of the legal issues.

Among them is whether the church can assert its constitutional right of religious freedom to stop the exchange of documents, including admissions of child sexual abuse made by priests to their superiors, being sought by plaintiffs.

The resolution of such issues by a single judge will streamline the litigation process by eliminating conflicting rulings in various courts throughout California, Soltan said.

Some of the same issues are being litigated in criminal courts as prosecutors go head to head with the Catholic Church over access to priests' personnel files.

Both sides are awaiting a ruling by a retired judge over whether the Los Angeles Archdiocese must turn over "secret files" on priests who are charged with molesting children.

In Los Angeles, eight priests and a former seminarian have been criminally charged in the ongoing investigation of child sexual abuse by Catholic priests.

There are two pending criminal cases against priests in Ventura County, two in San Bernardino County and one in Orange County.

If you want other stories on this topic, search the Archives at [latimes.com/archives](http://latimes.com/archives).



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Hi Jerry -  
Didn't know whether you  
had seen this - a lot  
of gossip about it in  
Orange County - a Shame!  
Tom Mc

# Students Dismissed Over Sins of Parents

**Education: Catholic officials at St. Joseph School say it is 'morally impossible' to teach the 13 pupils. Outraged parents call it retaliation for their protests.**

BY LYNN SMITH  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

**PLACENTIA**—Catholic administrators have dismissed 13 children—including student body officers and straight-A students—from St. Joseph School, saying it is "morally impossible" to teach them because of the "uncooperative or destructive attitude" of their parents.

The parents, who said they were outraged, called the action retaliation for their protests about what they said were unsafe environmental conditions and intimidating behavior by the former pastor.

"We were trying to make things better at the school and this is what we get. They take it out on our children," said Susan Browne of Anaheim Hills, an active school fund-raiser who already had paid to register her children, 7 and 9.

Auxiliary Bishop Michael P. Driscoll denied the dismissals were related to the complaints of parents, some of whom picketed the school and filed a lawsuit against the Diocese of Orange in April. The suit, which is pending, claims children had become ill from light fixtures said to be leaking PCBs and that diocese officials ignored the problems.

However, Driscoll added, "The parents' attitudes were such that it would be for the healing process of the school and parish that the decision was made."

**'It's caused a great crisis of faith. They're not dealing in a way you expect from moral leaders.'**

**BART CAREY**  
*Parent of two dismissed students*

about 290 students. Tuition is \$1,740 per year.

Browne said she believes the toxic issue became a problem because Ruhl "was not able to relinquish power and sit down and explain to people what was going on. The diocese was aware of the problem, ignored it, and as a result had chaos."

Some events turned bizarre and theatrical. The day in May that Patzem was fired, she said, a private investigator hired by the diocese showed up with her letter of dismissal and gave her two hours to pack and leave. As parents began to gather in support, the investigator videotaped them. Police were called.

One officer jokingly asked a mother, "Are you the leader of this mad mob of mothers?" said parent Bart Carey of Placentia.

Attorneys said both they and the parent group videotaped public meetings to air the issues.

Carey, whose two children were among those dismissed, said the parents are putting together a mailer to be sent to other parents. He said they also plan to picket the school on registration day.

"They need to know," he said. "Even those who didn't get a letter are very upset and their kids are very upset. Basically these kids know retaliation when they see it. They have a well-developed sense of fairness."

"It's caused a great crisis of faith," he said. "They're not dealing in a way you expect from moral leaders."

Msgr. Lawrence J. Baird, a spokesman for the diocese, said: "Fairness is subjective. You have to try and be just. It's a matter of justice here."

"Life is not fair. Decisions have to be made in terms of all the families. Maybe their initiation in the beginning was unfair. . . ."

"I suggest parents should have thought of those consequences at the beginning."

## EXPEL: School 'Fires' 13 After Parent Protest

**Continued from B1**  
the attitude of parents; nevertheless, it is recognized that a situation could arise in which the uncooperative or destructive attitude of parents might so diminish the effectiveness of the school in acting *in loco parentis* that continuation of the child in the school might be morally impossible. . . ."

The letter told the parents that the registration of their children for the 1992-93 school year was "heretby declined."

Browne said she called the school administrator to ask why she was deemed uncooperative and destructive. She said she had spoken out in a public meeting with diocese officials, complaining that Ruhl was a "dictator" who had screamed at her more than once. "I said it was wrong and he needed counseling."

The administrator said "they had decided it was best for the school and the decision had been made. I said, 'I'm asking you a question and you're not answering it.' He said, 'That's the answer I'm going to give.'"

School officials did not return phone calls seeking interviews.

St. Joseph School, which includes kindergarten through eighth grade, has an enrollment of

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**Continued from B1**  
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School officials did not return phone calls seeking interviews.

St. Joseph School, which includes kindergarten through eighth grade, has an enrollment of

there that isn't going to be satisfied.

"This is not a public school," she said. "This is private school, private property, private personnel."

"It seems as though the parents' group wanted some control or some voice in the personnel assigned to St. Joseph, which is not appropriate."

In the letter, signed by the new school administrator and new principal, the parents were told that the action was authorized by the "Department of Education Administrative Handbook, Section 4330.E which reads . . . Under normal circumstances, a child is not to be deprived of a Catholic education on grounds relating to . . . Please see **EXPEL, B9**

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST



OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

October 1, 2002

[REDACTED]

COPY

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is a follow up to our telephone conversation this morning, October 1, 2002. I called you this morning to see how you were doing. Thank you for letting me know that you had not pursued our offer of counseling yet but that you would consider it in the future. The offer for counseling remains and I hope you will take advantage of it. But as we discussed this morning, people deal with abuse in their own way and in their own time. We stand ready to assist you in securing a therapist at the expense of the province when and if you consider it in your best interest.

As I stated in previous letters any assistance furnished by the province is not intended to influence any action that you might wish to undertake to pursue the province or Mr. Ruhl in any manner, in any form, civil or criminal, which you deem fit. In that regard I want to give you the name and number of a detective in the Los Angeles Police Department you can call to report the incident which we discussed. His name is Detective James Brown and his numbers are 213-847-5358 and 213-485-2883.

I hope that you will continue to recover and that you will find peace in your life. Please be assured of my prayers for you. Feel free to contact me at any time at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.  
Provincial Superior

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST



OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

COPY

August 2, 2002

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is a follow up to our telephone conversation this morning, August 2, 2002. As we discussed the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers, Province of the West (herein called the Province) is prepared to assist you in obtaining therapy in a manner consistent with its Guidelines for Pastoral Outreach. We are concerned for you and your health.

When any member or former member of the Province is alleged to have been involved in sexual misconduct, the Provincial Superior, presently me, with the advice of the Advisory Committee, investigates the matter and then determines how to proceed. Your case involves John E. Ruhl, an individual who left the Province in the early 80's and became a diocesan priest in the Diocese of Orange. The incident that you described occurred while you were attending St. Vincent's Seminary High School in 1973.

The Province will pay for your therapy and as we agreed this morning will supply you with a list of qualified psychologists and psychiatrists in your area. Even though you prefer to rely on our research into appropriate therapists you remain free to choose your own therapist and, if you do, the following information regarding your therapist must be furnished: 1, a copy of a valid California license to practice psychology or psychiatry; 2, proof of current malpractice coverage; and 3, experience in treating victims of professional abuse. Therapists in this area of the profession are at the doctoral level of training. He or she might be asked to attend an orientation meeting with the Province's psychological consultant and the expenses incurred by your therapist in connection with that meeting will be paid for by the Province.

The Province supports therapy that follows a weekly, individual, psychotherapy plan. The Province does not provide financial assistant for emotional or family problems beyond the weekly sessions. Your therapist will be asked to provide an initial treatment plan by the end of the third meeting with you, either by telephone or in writing. The plan should include, among other things: diagnosis; length of treatment; level of care; frequency of contact; and expected outcome. Your therapist will also be asked to provide progress reports on a quarterly basis to the Province's psychological consultant.

Once the initial treatment plan is developed, your therapist will ascertain the level of care required and the time for recovery. Therapy can last from six months to one year. If additional treatment is needed, a written request from you, a detailed written report by your therapist, and possibly, a third party evaluation, must be furnished to the Province.

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST



OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

The Province pays psychologists and psychiatrists at customary fee levels and may request a professional discount. Payment will be based on weekly individual sessions. No payment will be made for "no shows", late cancellation charges, or "telephone therapy".

Financial assistance will terminate if: recommended by your therapist because of non-compliance by you with the treatment plan or lack of beneficial impact from the therapy; progress reports are not provided by your therapist in a timely manner; legal action is initiated against the Province; or therapy is extended beyond the period established without prior approval.

Any assistance furnished by the Province is not intended to influence any action that you might wish to undertake to pursue the Province or Mr. Ruhl in any manner, in any form, civil or criminal, which you deem fit. Also, as you requested, the Province will keep all the information related to this matter confidential, subject to proper order or legal process of any court and will limit disclosure to agents and representatives of the Province and, then, only on a "need to know basis."

I will call you as soon as possible with the list of qualified therapists. I hope to have these referrals for you at the latest by Friday, August 16, 2002.

It is our hope that this financial assistance with obtaining therapy will be beneficial to you for your health and recovery. If you have any questions please call me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.  
Provincial Superior.



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**  
**MARYWOOD CENTER**  
2811 EAST VILLA REAL DRIVE  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92667  
(714) 974-7120

April 4, 1983

Very Reverend John Gridnel, C.M.  
Provincial  
Vincentian Provincial House  
649 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90007

Dear Father Grindel:

On behalf of His Excellency, the Most Reverend William R. Johnson, and the priests and people of the Diocese of Orange, I wish to thank you and the members of the Congregation of the Missions for allowing Father John Ruhl to be incardinated into the Diocese of Orange. We have chosen the date of March 15, 1983, the date of his dispensation from vows from the Congregation of the Missions, to be the same as his date of Incardination into the Diocese of Orange.

John is doing a very fine job in the Diocese and seems to be very happy living and working with the diocesan clergy.

I pray that all continues to go well with you and your ministry with your community. Please be assured of my continued prayers and I ask that you please pray for me and for all of us who serve within the Diocese of Orange.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor  
jr

enc.



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**

**MARYWOOD CENTER**

2811 EAST VILLA REAL DRIVE

ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92667

(714) 974-7120

Reverend John Ruhl  
Mission San Juan Capistrano  
Post Office Box 697  
San Juan Capistrano, California 92675

Dear Father Ruhl:

In view of the needs of our Diocese and in accord with the provisions of Canon Law, especially regarding your title of Ordination and officially advised that you have received a Decree of Dispensation from Vows in the

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONS

with assurance of your good character, your course of studies and your good example, and in view of your oath which I have received (personally or before a delegated priest) by which you declare and affirm that you wish to be permanently attached to the service of our Diocese of Orange in California, in response to your petition, we, by this present document, incardinate and declare you incardinated in our Diocese of Orange in California.

Given in Orange, California

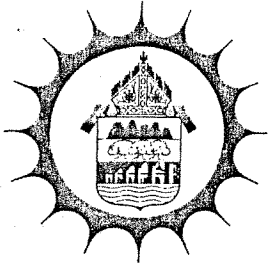
on *March 15, 1983*

With our Seal and the co-signature  
of our Chancellor

*William J. Schuman*  
Bishop of Orange in California

*Michael P. Duvall*  
Chancellor





**DIocese OF ORANGE**

MARYWOOD CENTER  
2811 EAST VILLA REAL DRIVE  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92667  
714-974-7120

INCARDINATION

I REVEREND JOHN RUHL hereby declare and affirm that I intend and do bind myself permanently to the priestly service of the Diocese of Orange, California.

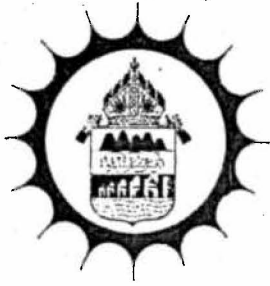
With the help of Almighty God and touching these His Holy Gospels.

John E. Ruhl

Orange, California

April 15, 1983  
Date

Michael J. Duvall  
Witness



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**  
**MARYWOOD CENTER**  
 2811 EAST VILLA REAL DRIVE  
 ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92667  
 (714) 974-7120

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I, JOHN EDWARD RUHL, with firm faith, believe and profess all and everything that is contained in the Symbol of Faith, that is:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. By Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And He became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: and was made man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of His kingdom there will be no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and Who spoke through the prophets. And one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come.

I firmly embrace and accept all and everything which has been either defined by the Church's solemn deliberation or affirmed and declared by its ordinary magisterium concerning the doctrine of faith and morals, accordingly as they are proposed by it, especially those things dealing with the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, its sacraments and the sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff.

John E. Ruhl  
 SIGNATURE (In presence of Delegate)

DATE: March 15, 1983

Michael P. Sullivan  
 SIGNATURE OF WITNESS/DELEGATE

March 22, 1983

Rev. John E. Ruhl  
Old Mission  
P.O. Box 697  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

Dear John:

Enclosed is the decree, dated March 15, 1983, and signed by the Vicar General, Michael Perez Flores, C.M., which dispenses you from your vows in the Congregation of the Mission. In his covering letter Father Flores points out that this dispensation will take effect upon your incardination into the Diocese of Orange. I have sent a copy of this decree to Monsignor Driscoll and informed him of the time that it takes effect.

So, John, that is it. It seems kind of cold. However, I wish you all the happiness in the world as a priest of the Diocese of Orange. Please be assured of my prayers for you and of my willingness to be of assistance to you in the future if such is needed. Take care of yourself and drop my if you are in the area. Please remember us in your prayers.

Sincerely in St. Vincent,

John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial

C  
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P  
Y

DISPENSATIO

VOTORUM



Michael PEREZ FLORES

VICARIUS GENERALIS CONGREGATIONIS MISSIONIS

DILECTO NOSTRO IN CHRISTO

D John E. RUHL

SALUTEM IN DOMINO

Perpensis rationibus allatis ad effectum præsentium, et consultis ac consentientibus Assistentibus nostris, tecum dispensare decrevimus, et per præsentem, vi Bullæ Alexandri PP. VII: EX COMMISSA NOBIS, dispensamus super vota quæ emisisti in dicta Congregatione, ex qua te dimissum declaramus.

In quorum fidem præsentem litteras, Nostra ac Secretarii nostri manu subscriptas, sigilloque nostro munitas, expedivimus.

Datum Romæ, die 15 mensis Martii anno 1983.



*S. P. Wypych* *Michael P. Flores*  
De Mandato

Rev.mi D. Vicarii Generalis.

OO164 ROMA  
VIA DI BRAVETTA, 159  
TEL. 62.23.241-62.25.941-62.29 597

March 15, 1983

DC 83/058

Very Rev. John A. Grindel, CM  
Provincial Superior  
649 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90007

Dear Father Grindel:

May the grace of our Lord be ever with us!

In the absence of Father McCullen, who is due to return to Rome tomorrow, may I answer your letter of March 1, 1983, in which you informed us of the case of Father John Ruhl.

You told us that Father Ruhl, who had received an indult of secularization, praevis experimento for three years, now wishes to be incardinated into the diocese of Orange. You and your Provincial Council agree with this decision, and Bishop Johnson is willing to receive Father Ruhl.

We discussed this question in our General Council this morning. As a result of our discussion, and the reasons you propose, I have dispensed Father Ruhl from his vows. This dispensation will take effect upon his incardination into the diocese of Orange.

Would you please assure Father Ruhl of our best wishes and prayers for God's blessings on him in his ministry.

It was good to see you in Bogotá. I think that God blessed the meeting we had.

My best wishes for many blessings as Lent brings us ever closer to the joyful feast of Easter.

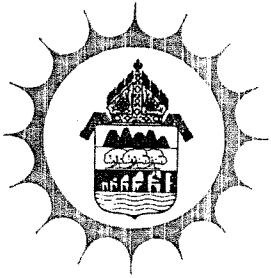
Your devoted confrere in St. Vincent,



Miguel Perez Flores, C.M.

Vicar General

Ruhl's file



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**  
MARYWOOD CENTER  
2811 EAST VILLA REAL DRIVE  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92667  
(714) 974-7120

December 22, 1982

Very Reverend John Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial  
Vincentian Fathers  
649 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90007

RE: REVEREND JOHN RUHL

Dear Father Grindel:

Father John Ruhl has been serving in diocesan parishes with the Diocese of Orange since September 5, 1979. At this time he is eligible to request incardination into the Diocese which he has done. After consultation with the priests with whom he has served these past three years, the Personnel Board and the Diocesan Board of Consultors have unanimously recommended to Bishop Johnson that he be accepted as a permanent member of the Diocesan clergy in Orange, California.

At this time I am writing to inform you of Father Ruhl's request and his acceptance by the Diocese of Orange. If it is agreeable to you and the members of the Congregation of the Mission that Father Ruhl be released from his religious commitment in order to serve permanently in the Diocese of Orange, I request that the necessary decrees and papers be drawn up in order that we may officially incardinate him into our Diocese. We would consider the official date of incardination to be the same as the date on which Father Ruhl would be officially exluastrated from the Congregation of the Missions.

I wish to thank you for your consideration of this request and I also wish to extend to you at this time my best wishes for a very Holy and Happy Christmas and New Year filled with all of God's choicest blessings.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor

Jr

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0022

December 13, 1982

Rev. John E. Ruhl, C.M.  
Mission San Juan Capistrano  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

Dear John:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

Thank you very much for your letter of December 1. It was good to hear from you. I keep asking about you and I hear that you have been doing well. I am happy to know that.

Thank you for informing me of your official petition to be incardinated into the Diocese of Orange. I have not heard from Mike Driscoll yet so ~~this~~ letter was the first indication that I had of your intentions. I am happy to hear that you have decided what direction you want to go in. I pray that you will be very happy in the Diocese of Orange and I hope that all goes well for you.

Thank you for your prayers. I will be remembering you in mine also. When you are up this way, please stop by. You are always welcome.

Sincerely,

John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial

C  
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# Mission San Juan Capistrano

FOUNDED 1776

San Juan Capistrano, California 92693

December 1, 1982

Very Rev. John A. Grindel, C.M.  
649 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90007

Dear John,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us  
always!

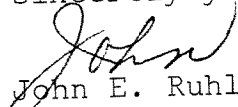
I just wanted to let you know personally that I have  
officially petitioned to be incardinated into the  
Diocese of Orange, now that my period of excla-  
stration ad experimentum has run the course of its  
three years.

Mike Driscoll told me he would be sending you an  
official notification of this (if he has not already  
done so.) As you can imagine, much prayer, time and  
consultation has gone into the process of making  
this decision; as far as I can discern, this is the  
direction that God is leading me.

In no way, John, does this decision lessen my love  
and admiration for Saint Vincent de Paul, his ideals,  
his teachings, and the many who faithfully follow  
them. And my love and feelings are just as strong  
for where I am and what I am doing, for the brother  
priests that I work and live with.

Thank you, John, for all your efforts and prayers on  
my behalf. I hope that you will keep me informed of  
the confreres, even if that can only be done by your  
regular newsletters - I pray for the Community on a  
very regular basis, and for you, its local leader in  
particular.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

  
John E. Ruhl, C.M.  
a brother-priest



October 23, 1979

Rev. John E. Ruhl, C.M.  
St. Anthony Claret Church  
1450 East La Palma Avenue  
Anaheim, California 92805

Dear John:

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

Enclosed you will find the rescript (Prot. N. 2278/79) from the Sacred Congregation of Religious granting you exclaustation for three years ad experimentum in view of eventual incardination into the Diocese of Orange. I have sent a copy of this document to Bishop Johnson. Please read this document carefully and note the conditions attached.

In communicating this rescript to me Father Richardson asked to be remembered to you.

I hope that things are going well for you, John. I pray that with this move you will find happiness. If there is anything that I can do for you at any time, please let me know. Also, John, if you should decide at some point in the future to return to the Community, you will always be very welcome. May the Lord bless you and your priestly ministry. Keep in touch and please remember all of us in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial



SACRA CONGREGATIO  
PRO RELIGIOSIS  
ET INSTITUTIS SAECULARIBUS

PROT. N. 2278/79

BEATISSIME PATER,

Sacerdos John E. Ruhl, e Congregatione Missionis,

a Sanctitate Tua humiliter implorat indultum saecularizationis, praevio experimento ad normam Can. 641, § 2, ob causas allatas.

Et Deus, etc.

Sacra Congregatio pro Religiosis et Institutis saecularibus, consideratis rationibus per Procuratorem generalem submissis - et attentis litteris testimonialibus Ordinarii Arausican. in California,

Eidem Ordinario benigne committit ut, pro suo arbitrio et conscientia, Oratori concedat indultum exclaurationis, durante experimenti tempore, deposita exteriori forma habitus religiosi et servatis ceteris servandis ad normam Can. 639 Codicis Iuris Canonici. Si forte, perdurante experimento, ab Ordinario, praemonitis Superioribus Congregationis, dimittatur, statim ad claustra redire teneatur. Transacto vero praefato experimenti tempore, vel etiam prius, si definitive recipiatur, Orator novo titulo canonico vel, ipsius Ordinarii iudicio, alio modo, congrua sustentatione provisus, maneat saecularizatus ideoque solutus a votis in Religione emissis, firmis oneribus Ordini maiori adnexis, ac ipso facto incardinatus dioec. Arausican. in California ad normam Canonum 640, § 1, nn. 1, 2 et 641, § 2 et 642 Codicis Iuris Canonici. Decretum autem executoriale huius Rescripti communicetur cum hac Sacra Congregatione et cum Superiore Generali dictae Congregationis.

Contrariis quibuslibet non obstantibus.

Datum Romae, die prima octobris 1979.

A. Poggi  
Ad. a ot.

Basil Heiser, ofm. conv.

Basil Heiser, ofm. conv.  
Subsecr.

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST

649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007 • (213) 749-1865

September 4, 1979

Very Reverend James W. Richardson, C.M.  
Superior General  
Via di Bravetta, 159  
00164 Roma, Italy

Dear Father Richardson,

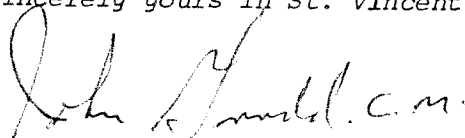
May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

Enclosed you will find a petition from the Reverend John Edward Ruhl, C.M., a member of the Province of the West, for an Indult of Exclaustration ad experimentum in order to work in the Diocese of Orange for three years. Also enclosed is a supporting letter from myself and a letter from the Chancellor of the Diocese of Orange expressing the willingness of the Bishop of Orange to accept Father Ruhl ad experimentum for three years. I hope that the enclosed material is sufficient. If it is not, please let me know.

I believe that this is a very good decision on the part of Father Ruhl. He has never been a real "community man" as they say. He has always been a bit like a duck out of water in the Community. Most important he has finally come to realize his need for growth. This has become an important step in his life and I believe that his request ought to be granted. I do not think that he will return to the Community but I could be wrong.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

  
John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST

649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007 • (213) 749-1865

September 4, 1979

His Holiness  
Pope John Paul II  
Vatican City, Europe

Your Holiness:

I, the undersigned, the Very Reverend John A. Grindel, C.M., am the Provincial of the Province of the West in the United States of America of the Congregation of the Mission. The Province of the West is the Province of the Reverend John Edward Ruhl, C.M., who is seeking an Indult of Exclaustration ad experimentum so that he can eventually be incardinated in the Diocese of Orange, California, U.S.A.


I have spoken several times with Father Ruhl concerning his desire to be incardinated into the Diocese of Orange. Living in the Community has become more and more difficult for Father Ruhl. It has been noticed by his superiors over the last few years that he needs to grow more psychologically and emotionally. Father Ruhl himself has now come to realize the need for such growth also but he does not feel that he can grow in the way that he needs within the Community. I believe that he is probably correct in this estimation. He feels too constricted within the Community context to change his ways of acting in conformity with his growing knowledge of himself. He does not feel that other Community members will accept him if he tries to grow and change. While I personally do not believe that this is true, Father Ruhl does feel this way and this is holding him back from the needed growth. Moreover, he feels constricted by the expectations of community living.

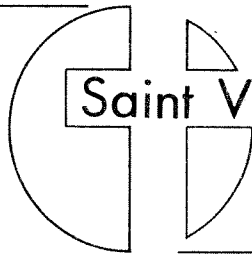
In the light of the above, then, I strongly recommend his petition for an Indult of Exclaustration ad experimentum. Father Ruhl is a good man with much talent and has much to offer the Church. He has mentioned to me several times that he believes strongly that he has a vocation to the Priesthood but not necessarily to the Congregation of the Mission.

The Most Reverend William R. Johnson, Bishop of Orange, is willing to accept Father Ruhl ad experimentum for three years within the Diocese of Orange.

Thank you very much for considering this request. I solemnly swear to the truth of the above statements and information.

Your Humble and Obedient Servant,

  
John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial



# Saint Vincent de Paul Church

8345 Talbert Avenue  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646  
Telephone 714/842-3000

August 1, 1979

His Holiness  
Pope John Paul II  
Vatican City, Europe

Your Holiness:

I, the undersigned, the Reverend John E. Ruhl, C.M., a priest and perpetually professed member of the Congregation of the Mission of the Province of the West of the United States of America, hereby humbly petition that I be granted an Indult of Exclaustration ad experimentum, so that I may eventually be incardinated into the Diocese of Orange, California, U.S.A.

The Most Reverend Ordinary of the Diocese of Orange, William R. Johnson, D.D., has expressed his willingness to accept me into his diocese.

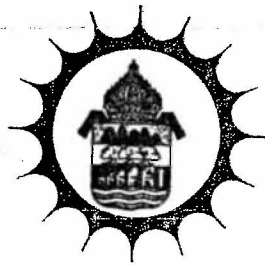
I am seeking this indult because of the difficulties experienced in living a community life structure. It has been noticed by my Superiors for a number of years now that I do not seem to be able to use the talents and gifts that God has given me in my present structure. They are supporting my prayerful conclusion that a change, at least for a number of years - or permanently, might give that opportunity to express these gifts and talents. I have chosen the Diocese of Orange, because it is near a disabled member of my family.

My Ordination to the Priesthood took place on May 24, 1964, in Missouri, U.S.A. Since that time, most of my work and experience has been in Seminary teaching. After a two year period of study at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and DePaul and Loyola in Chicago, I taught in the Minor Seminary of the Diocese of Los Angeles and in the Seminary of the Vincentian Fathers in Western United States. My present assignment is Associate Pastor of a newly forming parish in Huntington Beach, California.

I solemnly swear to the truth of the above statements and information.

Humbly and obediently in Christ,

*Rev. John E. Ruhl, C.M.*  
Rev. John E. Ruhl, C.M.



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**

440 SOUTH BATAVIA ST.  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92668  
714 - 639-8010 - 639-8011

July 18, 1979

Very Reverend John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial  
Vincentian Fathers  
649 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

RE: REVEREND JOHN E. RUHL, C.M.

Dear Father Grindel:

I wish to inform you that His Excellency, The Most Reverend William R. Johnson, is willing to accept Reverend John E. Ruhl, C.M. ad experimentum for three years within the Diocese of Orange. It is the plan of His Excellency to assign Father Ruhl as Associate Pastor on September 5, 1979 to St. Anthony Claret Parish in Anaheim. Reverend Monsignor James Nash is the Pastor.

His Excellency has asked me to thank you and the Vincentian Community for allowing Father Ruhl the opportunity to examine diocesan ministry. It is our hope that his experience will help him to make a decision as to where he wishes to exercise his priestly ministry in the future.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

jr

CURRICULUM VITAE

JOHN EDWARD RUHL

BORN: May 20, 1937 - Chicago, Illinois

BAPTIZED: June 6, 1937 - St. Vincent de Paul Church - Chicago, Illinois

CONFIRMED: October 12, 1947 - St. Vincent de Paul Church - Chicago, Illinois

SCHOOLS

ATTENDED: Elementary.....St. Vincent's Grammar School - Chicago, Illinois  
High School.....DePaul Academy - Chicago, Illinois

ENTERED NOVITIATE OF THE

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION: July 18, 1955 - St. Mary's Seminary - Perryville, Mo.

PERPETUAL VOWS: July 19, 1960

ORDERS RECEIVED:

Tonsure.....May 26, 1961  
First Minors.....May 27, 1961  
Second Minors.....June 9, 1962  
Subdiaconate.....May 25, 1963  
Diaconate.....October 7, 1963  
Priesthood.....May 24, 1964  
St. Mary's Seminary  
Perryville, Missouri  
Most Reverend George J. Gottwald  
Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Louis  
Ordaining Prelate

APPOINTMENTS:

1964	St. Stephen's Parish, New Orleans, Louisiana Summer Relief
	St. Vincent's Parish, Cape Girardeau, Missouri Summer Relief
1964 - 1965	Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Student
1965 - 1966	DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois Student DePaul Academy, Chicago, Illinois Teacher: Mathematics, Latin
1966 - 1971	Our Lady Queen of the Angels Seminary, San Fernando, California Spiritual Director Teacher: Mathematics, Latin, English
1971 - 1976	St. Vincent's Seminary, Montebello, California Vocation Director Teacher: Mathematics
1976 - 1977	Provincial House, Los Angeles, California Director of Foreign Mission Society
1977 - 1979	St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Huntington Beach, California Associate Pastor

Ruhl

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST

649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007 • (213) 749-1865

June 11, 1979

Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor  
Diocese of Orange  
440 South Batavia St.  
Orange, California 92668

Dear Monsignor Driscoll:

Thank you for your letter of June 4 regarding the Rev. John E. Ruhl, C.M., who is seeking acceptance into the Diocese of Orange. First of all I would say that the Vincentian Community has no difficulty with Father Ruhl staying in the Diocese of Orange. I do not see this in any way jeopardizing the relationship of the Diocese of Orange and the Vincentian Fathers. Thank you for your concern in this matter.

Father Ruhl's decision to leave the Community with the intention of seeking acceptance by a diocese so as to work as a diocesan priest has been building for several years. Hence, it is not a hasty decision. He is a very independent man and this has created difficulties for him in living a community life. He is a talented man, a good organizer and relates relatively well to people. From my discussions with him it appears that he has no question about his vocation to the priesthood. The problem for him has been his vocation to the Community. He believes that he will be happier living and working as a diocesan priest.


Though I was saddened by his decision, especially since he is also a classmate, I believe that this is probably a good move for him and he approached Bishop Johnson with my approval. I recommend him to you.

If Bishop Johnson does decide to accept Father Ruhl into the Diocese of Orange on an experimental basis for a three year period, I will need from the Bishop a document or letter giving Father Ruhl permission to exercise his sacred ministry in the Diocese of Orange ad experimentum. Once I have this document plus a written petition from Father Ruhl, I will forward this material to our Superior General in order that the decree of simple exclaustation ad experimentum for three years may be sought from the Holy See.

I apologize for not indicating the date of the appointment of Father Patrick J. Mullin, C.M., to St. Vincent de Paul Church in Huntington Beach in my letter of May 25. The date of the appointment is July 15, 1979.

If there is any more information that you need from me regarding Father Ruhl, please let me know.

Sincerely yours, in Christ,

  
John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0032



VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST

649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007 • (213) 749-1865

June 11, 1979

Rev. John E. Ruhl, C.M.  
St. Vincent de Paul Church  
8345 Talbert Avenue  
Huntington Beach, California 92646

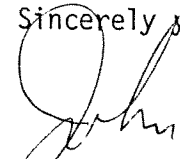
Dear John:

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

If the diocese of Orange decides to accept you for a three year experimental period, we will have to seek from the Holy See a decree of simple exclaustation ad experimentum. As a part of this process I will need from you a letter to the Holy Father along the lines of the enclosed form. Hence, I would appreciate it if you would please work up such a petition. Once the Bishop makes his decision and forwards it to me in writing, then I will send everything to Father Richardson so that the indult might be sought.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,



John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial

Ruhl

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS  
PROVINCE OF THE WEST

649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007 • (213) 749-1865

July 25, 1979

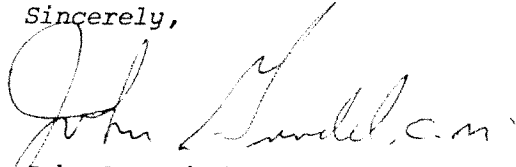
Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop  
Diocese of Orange  
440 South Batavia St.  
Orange, California 92668

Dear Monsignor Diriscoll:

Thank you for your letter of July 18 regarding the Reverend John E. Ruhl, C.M. For Father Ruhl's sake I am happy to hear that Bishop Johnson has accepted him ad experimentum for three years. I share your hope that this experience will help Father Ruhl make a decision as to where he wishes to exercise his priestly ministry in the future.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. When I hear from Rome I will let you know.

Sincerely,



John A. Grindel, C.M.  
Provincial

VINCENTIAN FATHERS  
649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007  
TELEPHONE: AREA 213 • 749-1865

January 16, 1978

Dear John,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always. . .

At the beginning of the Assembly I expressed my thanks to you and the Preparatory Committee. It was my intention to write you a letter of thanks shortly after the Assembly but unfortunately I have been under the weather with a bad cold. I am somewhat better now and don't want to delay any longer.

When we set up the Committee I told Fr. Persich that to a large extent how well the Assembly went would depend on how well you people organized your materials. In the judgement of everyone the Assembly went real smoothly and many have commented on how well everything was organized. You have every reason to take pride in that for you played a most important part in the whole proceedings.

Again let me thank you for all the labor that went into the Assembly. You did the whole Province a great service and we thank you.

Gratefully yours,

VINCENTIAN FATHERS  
649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007  
TELEPHONE: AREA 213 • 749-1865

December 16, 1977

Dear John,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

You already know what I am going to say but for the sake of the files and to make it all very official I am appointing you Chairman of the Election Committee to obtain for us a new Provincial. Today I have also written to Vic Roden and Gary Landry to ask them to serve on the committee. If I remember correctly this will be the same committee that handled the last election so well.

The Committee comes into being on January 1st and of course will set its own time table for conducting the election. Some time after the Assembly I will give you the folder with all the materials from the last election plus some things John Danagher drew up. There should be no great problem in getting things ready. I would suggest that you ask Mike Walsh to be able to use Helen for secretarial services.

After what you have been through with the Assembly this will be a snap but nevertheless I know it is an imposition on you and I want you to know that I do appreciate your accepting this role.

Gratefully yours,

VINCENTIAN FATHERS  
649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007  
TELEPHONE: AREA 213 • 749-1865

October 11, 1977

Reverend John E. Ruhl, C.M.  
649 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California - 90007

Dear John,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

You have already received your appointment to be Associate Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Huntington Beach. This letter carries with it an appointment to an office within the Community House of St. Vincent's.

It is the Provincial's responsibility to appoint the local Treasurer of every Community House. Even though St. Vincent's is not a canonical house it will have its own community accounts and books and therefore must have a local community treasurer. I am hereby appointing you to be the local community treasurer. This appointment has nothing to do with the accounts or books of the parish as such. That appointment is the right of the Pastor.

I would suggest in reference to your appointment that you consult with Father Pansini concerning the format of bookkeeping he would like. After consultation with the Pastor you can also work out with Fr. Pansini your schedule of payment for the Provincial tax.

John, I know you have had experience as a bookkeeper which will be most helpful in this matter and I also know you pay great attention to detail which will also be important. The job shouldn't really occupy much of your time especially if you don't allow things to pile up on you.

May I remind you of the Community regulations concerning Mass Intentions. These should be carefully entered in a special book and you should make sure that all obligations are fulfilled. The stipends are to be kept in a separate account and may not be used until the obligations attached to them are fulfilled. It is the duty per se of the Superior, in this case the Pastor, to handle the Mass intention books, etc., but very frequently this duty is delegated. It is up to Father Herff whether he wants to handle these things himself or to turn them over to you.

Again wishing you and the other confreres of St. Vincent's success in your new undertaking, I remain,

Fraternally in St. Vincent,

Joseph S. Falanga, C.M.  
Provincial

cc. Father Herff

Vincetian (Ruhl) 0037

VINCENTIAN FATHERS  
649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007  
TELEPHONE: AREA 213 • 749-1865

October 3, 1977

Reverend John E. Ruhl, C.M.  
Provincial House  
649 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California - 90007

Dear John,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

I thank you for your patience in waiting such a long time for this letter. It seems like ages ago that we first talked about your appointment to the new Parish. And indeed it has been a good three or four months. You have been all this time without any official letter of appointment and every confrere deserves such a letter.

You knew of course that I couldn't issue such a letter until the Bishop formally established the Parish. It wasn't until two weeks ago that the formal announcement appeared in the Tidings. Then as it turned out the Bishop had lost my letter of July asking for approval of the appointment of our confreres to the Parish. I sent him another copy of that letter and that produced immediate results, first by phone and then by letter. So now I am in a position to send you your official letter of appointment.

By means of this letter with the concurrence of Bishop Johnson I appoint you Assistant Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Huntington Beach. The Bishop has granted you the faculties of the diocese. Father Herff is appointed the Pastor and Father Owen Quigley is the other Assistant Pastor. Unless Fr. Herff makes some other arrangements I suppose you will continue to live at the Provincial House until such time as the Rectory is ready to be occupied.

For the time being the Vincentian House of St. Vincent de Paul is not a canonically erected house and therefore will be connected to the Community House of Miraculous Medal. Once things get a bit more settled in the new parish we can proceed to get the house canonically erected. But there is no special reason to hurry into that as there are a lot more important things to do.

I hope the opening day Masses were well attended. I know it has been rather frustrating to be waiting and waiting for things to happen. But now we have made the first big step and you can more readily feel part of the new beginning. In my Newsletter I have asked all of the confreres to remember the three of you in their prayers so that you can face courageously the frustrations of starting a new parish and you can be sure that I will give the three of you a special place in my prayers.

Fraternally yours,

Joseph S. Falanga, C.M.

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0038

VINCENTIAN FATHERS  
649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007  
TELEPHONE: AREA 213 • 749-1865

June 19, 1978

Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
8345 Talbert Avenue  
Huntington Beach, California - 92646

Dear John,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

Enclosed please find two checks for the Missions. The one is from Marian School forwarded to me by Father Watterson. The other as you can tell is a gift from Father Beutler personally. I have acknowledged the gifts in both cases. All you have to do is cash the checks and deposit them to the Mission Account. Please, let's not lose them. And I would ask that you cash them soon as that makes a bad impression on people if their check remains outstanding for any length of time.

I understand we will be going out to dinner together on the 30th - a little bird told me! Will be looking forward to it. John, I think I have to suggest that you turn back in your key to the Provincial House. We don't have many keys and there will be two men staying full time during the coming year. I know you have occasion to come and run stuff off on the machine and that having a key would be of some convenience to you but we can't have our keys spread all over God's creation. You are still perfectly welcome to come and use the machine but all you have to do is to call ahead of time to make sure someone will be here.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for all the help you were to me during my years as Provincial and most especially during the time you were living in this house. I appreciated everything you did even when I wasn't mindful enough to say so at the time.

Fraternally in St. Vincent,

Joseph S. Falanga, C.M.

VINCENTIAN FATHERS  
649 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007  
TELEPHONE: AREA 213 • 749-1865

February 8, 1977

Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
Provincial House  
649 West Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California - 90007

Dear John,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

Our Province is ready to begin its preparation for a Provincial Assembly. At the moment the target date is early January 1978 though we would like to move that up if possible. There is much work to be done by way of preparation and we would like to get the process started as soon as possible.

Every Assembly has a Preparatory Committee. As the name suggests this committee prepares for the Assembly. It gathers the data necessary; polls the confreres where necessary; and in general prepares the agenda for the Assembly. It does not set the tone of the Assembly in any sense but it does make it possible for the Assembly to get into its work quickly because of the organization of the material that has been done ahead of time.

I would as you if you would be willing to serve on this very important committee. You have many qualities that the committee will need - a good knowledge of the community and our works out here - your a good worker - and above all you have good organizational ability.

Father Roy Persich has already consented to Chair this committee. If you accept - you will be the Executive Secretary. We are using that designation deliberately taking it from the business world. It is a nice way of saying that you will do most of the paper work, etc.. The other members contemplated for the committee are Fathers Shiner representing the parochial ministry and Father Landry representing the younger confreres.

It is our intention to have Father Persich and yourself attend the next Council Meeting to go more into detail as to the work of the committee. Quite obviously the committee can set up sub-committees if it wants to do so but such sub-committees will be under its jurisdiction and control. The Preparatory Committee ceases to exist with the opening of the Assembly. Undoubtedly the Assembly will elect a Steering Committee to guide it through the actual assembly. And the Magna Carta of the Steering Committee will be the work of the Preparatory Committee.

We realize that asking you to be a member of the Committee is imposing still another task on you. Everyone can legitimately claim that he is already doing too much. We are asking you to take this extra responsibility on yourself because we feel that you have much to contribute for the good of us all and that you are interested enough in the welfare of the Province to make the sacrifice necessary.

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0040



You will notice that we have deliberately introduced new faces into this sort of thing. None of these men on the committee were at a previous assembly. Men with previous experience of assemblies will be available for consultation but we want a freshness of approach.

Time is important as I would like to get a Newsletter out very soon. I would ask you to inform me of your decision as soon as possible.

With prayerful good wishes, I remain,

Yours in St. Vincent,

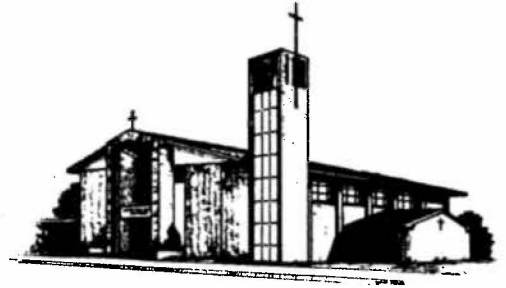
Joseph S. Falanga, C.M.

RUHL, John Edward

Date/Place Birth:	20 May 1937	Chicago
Date/Place Novitiate:	18 July 1955	Perryville
Date/Place Ordination:	24 May 1964	Perryville (+Gottwald)
Degree(s):	1960 - B.A. (Philosophy)	St. Mary's, Perryville
Appointments:	1964	St. Stephen, New Orleans Pastoral Year St. Vincent, Cape Girardeau Summer Relief
	1964-1965	Catholic University (student) Procurator
	1965-1966	DePaul University (student) DePaul Academy Teacher: Mathematics, Latin
	1966-1971	Our Lady Queen of the Angels, San Fernando Spiritual Director Teacher: Mathematics, English, Latin
	1971-1976	St. Vincent's Seminary, Montebello Vocation Director Teacher: Mathematics
	1976-1977	Resident at Provincial House - Director of Foreign Mission Society
	1977-	St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Huntington Beach Associate Pastor

# St. Vincent's Seminary

1105 BLUFF ROAD • MONTEBELLO, CALIFORNIA 90640



February 14, 1974

Dear Joe,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always!

Thank you for your kind note and check of this past week, and allow me to comment briefly on both.

First of all, in regard to the reappointment of Joe Haley for another three years as Superior and Rector of Saint Vincent's, my views are very positive. Joe has done a fine job here, gets along well with the men, has manifested a real concern for the welfare of all, and has been mainly responsible for the fact that we do have a very happy Community here. He has led us well, both by exhortation and example; and I see no reason why he would not or could not continue to do so in the years ahead.

My only reservation to a reappointment would be if Joe himself, for some reason, might not want to continue. If that would be the case, I think his wishes should be respected in the matter.

Secondly, thank you for the check. It came at just the right time. I have just ordered posters, envelopes, and pamphlets for this summer's Vocation Weeks. This is very expensive, but I see it as a very necessary expense. Once these bills all come in, your check will be mutilated and destroyed. But it's either that route, or I get an extended vacation (in jail) for non-payment. Things seem to be going well enough -- at least I'm very busy working at it.

One final matter and I hope that I am not out of place by mentioning it. I was at OLQA the other day and spoke at some length with Bill Ready. If possible, try to get him out of there - he's had it and needs a change of scenery. I know his first love is here in Montebello, especially with the Library; but any place would be a welcomed change for him.

Take care of yourself and come and see us again - I might even be home the next time (but I wouldn't count on it.)

In Saint Vincent,

*John, ISCM*

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0043

June 5, 1971

Rev. John Ruhl, C.M.  
Queen of the Angels Seminary  
P.O. Box 1071  
San Fernando, California 91341

Dear John,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

In accordance with decisions reached in deliberation with the Provincial and other Vice Provincial, I am appointing you as Vocation Director for the area of the Los Angeles Vice Province. You will be replacing Fr. Sansone who has been acting as temporary director of vocations.

This assignment is effective immediately though Fr. Sansone will continue to operate as vocation director until the end of the Vocation Week and will be in charge until such time. When you actually move over to St. Vincent's Seminary, which will be your headquarters, I leave to you in consultation with Frs. Ross and Housey. You will certainly be expected to participate in the Vocation Week.

John, in a very real sense the future of the Community is in your hands in this job. We want you to give your whole self to it and to make it a full time job as it must be if it is to be successful. You have no other official job or task at the seminary. Being a full time Vocation Director is job enough for any one man. I don't mean to imply that you can't or shouldn't take Sunday assignments and things of that sort but these do not take precedence over or in any way hinder your main function. The same thing would be true of your being spiritual director for any youngster who requests this of you. This is fine, but you are not being sent to the seminary to be a second spiritual director.

You will have ample opportunity to find out all about your job from Fr. Sansone. One of the principal things to keep in mind, for the sake of good order in the house, is to clear whatever you plan that might affect the house or the confreres in the house, with those in authority--the superior, prefect, and procurator. When the new budget starts in September we hope to put into effect a new system of financing the program. For the present though, follow the procedures that Fr. Sansone was using.

Page 2

I think it might be wise to pay a courtesy call on Monsignor Gibson at the Chancery Office. Perhaps Sansone could go with you. I am sure the Monsignor would like to point out to you a few do's and don't.

All of us have the greatest confidence in your ability to be a very fine Vocation Director, John. Give it your best and that will be more than enough. May Our Lord inspire you with new ways to appeal to the youngsters of today. Our prayers and the prayers of the whole community will surely be with you in your work.

Yours in St. Vincent,



Joseph S. Falanga, C.M.  
Vice Provincial, Los Angeles

cc: Frs. Ross, Housey, Parres, Degan, File

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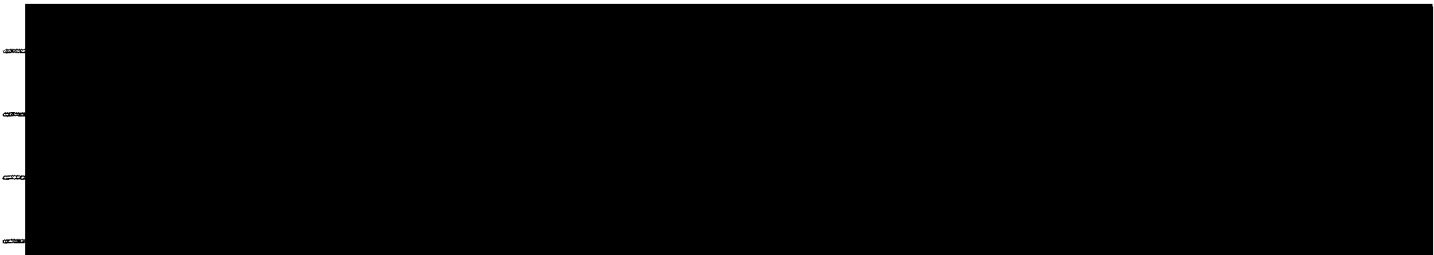
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PROVINCIAL

September - 1967

NAME: RUHL JOHN E.  
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

HOUSE: QUEEN OF ANGELS SEMINARY SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA

IN CASE OF SERIOUS ILLNESS INFORM: (Please give NAME, ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NO.)



HAVE YOU MADE A WILL:

ACADEMIC WORK done during the last year (i.e. since Sept. 1, 1966)

<u>UNIVERSITY</u>	<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SEM. HRS.</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
Loyola (L.A.)	Psych 454	Counselling methods	4	A

<u>DEGREE EARNED</u> (in past year)	<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIVERSITY</u>

TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS AS OF THIS SCHOLASTIC YEAR. ("Level" means elementary school, High School, College, Theology, Graduate)

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT</u>	<u>HOURS OR PERIODS PER WEEK</u>		<u>LEVEL</u>
		<u>1st. Sem.</u>	<u>2nd Sem.</u>	
English I	(Two Classes)	10	10	High School
Algebra I		5	5	High School
Theology		3	3	Novitiate (Sisters)

COMMUNITY DUTIES either in or out of the House as of September of this year (e.g. Provincial Consultor, Ass't. Superior, Dean, Admonitor, Spiritual Dir. etc., e .)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR of the Seminary  
BOOKSTORE MANAGER

NON-COMMUNITY DUTIES and/or title presently held (e.g., Secretary of Mo. Library Association, Committeeman in the NCEA, Diocesan Director of NCCM, etc., etc.)

PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED and appearing in print since last year:  
Title of Article or Book                      Publisher or Periodical                      Date of Publication

NON-CREDIT WORKSHOPS attended since last September:  
Title    University or Location    Dates

CONVENTIONS attended since last September:  
Organization    Place of Convention    DATES

MEMBERSHIPS in Learned Societies:

July 29, 1966

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
De Paul University  
2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear John,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

Sorry to have forgotten you in the rush about appointments. Having written you one letter, I was under the happy persuasion that I had told you everything. Please forgive my forgetfulness; it is terrible for a man to learn his fate from a sign on the board.

Well, you know the situation now. Fr. Lee was the Spiritual Director at San Fernando and a very good one, too. Now we need someone to take his place. Although you have not had a great deal of experience, I am convinced that you can establish that kind of rapport with students which is the first essential to this most important work. And then I know that you have sound judgment. The last ingredient is hard work. The only thing a spiritual director needs to do is to be available at all times. That is just about it. The work will make itself. But he needs to have a place and a time when the students know that they can see him, and he needs to be prepared to listen endlessly. After all, students must settle their own problems. The spiritual director can explain to them their problems and point out the proper bases on which solutions can be reached. But they must make the decisions.

At this high-school level there is also great need for instruction. These boys don't really know much about the spiritual life. They need to be given sound instruction about prayer, mortification, temptations, etc. Some of this can be done publicly. But it is amazing how much of public instruction doesn't get over in the right way. Sometimes there is misunderstanding and sometimes the instruction just doesn't fit the individual.

So it is a great work. I think it is one for which you are well fitted by nature. You will need to continue your professional training in this area in succeeding years. But the most important thing is to prove that you can establish the rapport.

May God bless you in this work. You will find it most rewarding if you work at it hard.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent.

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0048



June 1, 1966

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
De Paul University  
2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear John,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

Sorry to have delayed in answering your letter of May 21. I wanted to talk to you at De Paul this past week, but the arrangements do not quite work out.

Well, there doesn't seem to be any future in a M.S. degree in Math. For the coming year we will assign you to a minor seminary. The position will demand teaching Math but it will also involve your work in another field - spiritual direction. You should take some courses in Guidance during the present summer in order to begin qualifying yourself for that kind of a position. As you know, this is a very vital role in a seminary. Success in it demands that you attract the confidence of the students and that you give advice which is professional in character as well as soundly based on common sense. I have confidence in your common sense. And I hope that the enthusiasm for dealing with young men will also be present. So the present need is for professional qualification.

May I ask that you get in touch with Father Riley and work out a program for yourself during the coming summer. As soon as we have completed the arrangements for your new position, I will send you information on that.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.V.

June 5, 1971

Rev. John Ruhl, C.M.  
Queen of the Angels Seminary  
P.O. Box 1071  
San Fernando, California 91341

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John, in a very real sense the future of the Community is in your hands in this job. We want you to give your whole self to it and to make it a full time job as it must be if it is to be successful. You have no other official job or task at the seminary. Being a full time Vocation Director is job enough for any one man. I don't mean to imply that you can't or shouldn't take Sunday assignments and things of that sort but these do not take precedence over or in any way hinder your main function. The same thing would be true of your being spiritual director for any youngster who requests this of you. This is fine, but you are not being sent to the seminary to be a second spiritual director.

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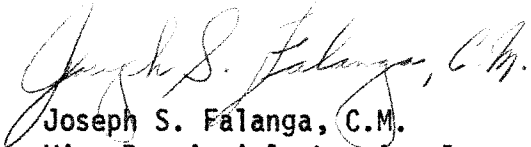
Vincentian (Ruhl) 0050

Page 2

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All of us have the greatest confidence in your ability to be a very fine Vocation Director, John. Give it your best and that will be more than enough. May Our Lord inspire you with new ways to appeal to the youngsters of today. Our prayers and the prayers of the whole community will surely be with you in your work.

Yours in St. Vincent,

  
Joseph S. Falanga, C.M.  
Vice Provincial, Los Angeles

cc: Frs. Ross, Housey, Parres, Degan, File

C

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Y

VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF DE PAUL UNIVERSITY

2233 N. Kenmore Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60614

Feb. 18, 66 - passed all courses

Ruhl, In - Jan 12, 1966

 - calculus is a problem for all, things will get easier & will be good.  
Miss Toth (Prof) - you are doing fairly well. You are weak in background. She thought he would get by - exam will be problem solving (at which he is good) not theory (at which he is weak)

Interest - Math on college level - as at least high school. Liturgy - doesn't think he has the background.

PREFERENCE:

1. I wish to return to my area of origin; namely,

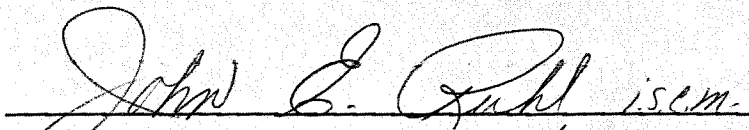
CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER PROVINCE  
\_\_\_\_\_ LOS ANGELES VICE-PROVINCE  
\_\_\_\_\_ NEW ORLEANS VICE-PROVINCE

2. I wish to be stationed in this area of my preference: namely,

CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER PROVINCE  
XXXXXXX \_\_\_\_\_ LOS ANGELES VICE-PROVINCE  
\_\_\_\_\_ NEW ORLEANS VICE-PROVINCE

3. I am indifferent and will serve without discussion in any area.

CHECK: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

N.B. PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME. Your vote for Provincial Consultor will be kept in complete secrecy. Your response to PREFERENCE IS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT A NAME.

I HAVE CHOSEN THE LOS ANGELES VICE-PROVINCE BECAUSE OF MY FAMILIARITY WITH THIS AREA NOW.

NOV 16 1968

July 29, 1966

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
De Paul University  
2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear John,

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June 1, 1966

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De Paul University  
2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

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Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.V.



VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF

DePaul University

2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614  
Lincoln 9-6900

*Ans 6/1/66*

May 21, 1966

Dear Father Fischer,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

Just a very brief note. You asked me to let you know towards the end of May how I am doing with my math courses, and whether or not I think I should continue in this field.

First of all, I managed to pass both of my courses for the first semester, one just barely. One of the courses I have now is based on last semester, and I am lost. And I understood some of the other course, until we concentrated on the theory, and now I am not getting it. In view of this, it would probably be prudent to stop my study of math. I am putting in more and more time and getting practically no results.

At present, I have about thirty hours of math to my credit. This qualifies me to teach math in any of our high school departments in any state where we have minor seminaries or high schools. I am doing very well with the one math course I am teaching in the Academy. It is the first group (scholastically) of Freshmen in the "New Math" and this has actually been my only enjoyment and consolation this year. If I didn't learn any advanced math this year, at least I have become very familiar with high school modern math.

I realize that you want all of us to get degrees, but to take another math course would be a waste of time. In fact, I don't know if it is just fatigue or a sense of frustration at not getting anywhere while 'beating my head against the wall,' but I've become disgusted with studying.

Please let me know what to do for the summer. If you want me to take another math course, I will sign up; or if you want me to pursue another field, I will register in that. Fr. McIntyre asked me if I would like to teach summer school, but I told him I didn't know if my schedule will allow the time. Thank you for your time and for listening to my problems, and I will wait for your reply before doing anything.

In Saint Vincent,

*John, i.s.c.m.*

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0056



VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF DE PAUL UNIVERSITY

2233 N. Kenmore Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60614

May 13, 1966

Dear Father Fischer,

I checked with [REDACTED] concerning John Ruhl. Evidently, John went in to see him some time ago for advice, but [REDACTED] was on his way to a meeting and didn't have time to talk. However, [REDACTED] did invite him by letter to make an appointment to see him and Ruhl did not follow up on it. Assuming that Ruhl did receive the letter, this action (or lack of it) seems to confirm your impression of John.

Sincerely in St. Vincent,

*Bob Schwaner, sm*

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
De Paul University  
2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear John,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

Enclosed is a letter from Father Riley to you concerning your course of studies in Mathematics.

I myself am much concerned and somewhat puzzled by the small amount of progress that you have made during the past year. I had hoped that once the difficulty at Catholic University was resolved, you would be able to cram in a good number of courses. I know that you are much interested in teaching and doing other work at De Paul. However, that is not your assignment and I had permitted it only the assumption that it was impossible for you to take more courses at I.I.T.

I know that this same temptation will exist for the coming year. Hence I shall make it clear to the authorities at De Paul that you are not to be considered as a possible teacher at De Paul Academy, but that you are to devote yourself full-time to study. This probably sounds a bit grim however, if you are going to live long enough to get a degree in Math, we better get you working on it full-time right now.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.V.

January 3, 1966

Reverend John Ruhl, C. M.  
2233 N. Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear John,

Gratia Domininnostri sit semper nobiscum!

For some time I have been meaning to talk to you about your degree program in Math. We would like to get a line-up on it here before the second semester begins.

John, you are too valuable a man for us to waste. I can understand the usual feeling of anyone getting into a degree program of any kind that it is going to be more than he can do. That is a fairly ordinary reaction of Confreres. And we try to help them over it by a bit of encouragement and a bit of goading.

But now that you have been in this Math program for a year and a half, we really ought to settle definitively whether you want to go on or not. If it is not simply a fear that you have, but a disinterest in the subject or a real impossibility of getting the degree, then we should take steps to use your abilities in better ways.

May I ask you to consider the matter, take what counsel you think good, and then get in touch with me?

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

*James A. Fischer cm*  
James A. Fischer, C. M.

*Now teaching 10 hrs. Freshman math  
Going to school 9 hrs at De Paul*

*Conference - Jan 12 - Decided to continue for 2nd sem. at De Paul. He is interested in math & likes high-school teaching, but has minimal interest in Theological subjects, including Liturgy because of scriptural, Patristic & Theological requirements.*

Vincenian (Ruhl) 0059



VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF

DePaul University

2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614  
Lincoln 9-6900

*Ans 8/26/65*

August 23, 1965

Very Reverend James Fischer, C.M.V.  
Camp St. Vincent  
Rt. #1  
Fredericktown, Missouri 63645

Dear Fr. Fischer,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper  
nobiscum!

Just a quick progress report on the results of  
my summer school course. I was hoping to be able to  
inform you of my grade for the course, but it has not  
come in as yet.

The head of the math department had me scheduled  
to take a course in analysis, as you mentioned in your  
letter of June 28th. However, when I arrived the first  
day of classes, the course had been cancelled (only  
four or five had signed up for it). In place of it,  
I tried the course in Modern Algebra, the first of the  
two course sequence which is the crucial part of the  
whole degree program.

This is the same course that I did not pass at  
IIT. Since I had just this one course, I was able to  
spend very much time working on it, averaging eight to  
ten hours per class. The professor assured me that I  
would pass, but I do not know by how much. It all was  
to depend on the final examination; I did not know what  
he was talking about for a good portion of the test.  
But I still had a chance to get some of the unknown  
material correct -- it was true-false in part (strange  
for a math exam, isn't it). At any rate, I am some-  
what optimistic about the results; let's hope that it  
is not a rash optimism.

As far as the fall is concerned, [REDACTED] has  
me scheduled for two courses, and I think that I can  
get a third one as well. If the published proposed  
schedule is not altered, they will occur on three days,  
Monday - Wednesday - Friday, from 10:00 to 1:00 on  
each of these days.

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0060



VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF

DePaul University

2233 North Kenmore Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60614

Lincoln 9-6900

-2-

When Fr. McIntyre arrived, he asked me if I was available for teaching at the Academy. In view of your letter of May 19th, I told him that I was not. The Academy schedule is made out and I am not included in it. In view of the fact that I will have three courses or nine hours of class myself, would it be all right if I asked to teach one class of math at the Academy. I would like it for review purposes of some basic material, especially advanced high school algebra and trigonometry. I am not sure if such an arrangement can be made, but if it can, is it all right to do so?

To be honest, I did have trouble with summer school, ~~but~~ I did pass the course. I imagine that I will continue to have trouble with advanced math, but am certainly willing to keep trying if you wish.

Right now, I am on vacation, but can be reached at DePaul. I am staying in town because my brother came home (I had not seen him in almost eleven years). My vacation extends to September 3rd, but I would like to save the final week if I am not remaining here to study. Please let me know what I will be doing in the fall.

I hope that you have been enjoying your summer at Camp. I had intended to pass by that way for a couple of days, but when my brother came in, I cancelled all other plans. Please give my regards to all the confreres out your way.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

*John, I.S.C.M.*  
John Ruhl, C.M.

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0061

August 26, 1965

Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
2233 N. Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago 14, Illinois

Dear John,

Gratia Domini nostri sit semper nobiscum!

Thanks for the letter of the 23rd. Glad to hear that you passed the course. What does [REDACTED] think of your prospects for passing the rest of the courses?

Unless he is completely pessimistic about it (and I don't see why he should be; you are a good student), take the courses which he has outlined. I leave it to you to decide whether you want to teach and to Father McIntyre as to whether he can use you. It might be helpful to you. On the other hand, you can understand that I will be somewhat voluble next year if you don't pass the courses and say that you didn't have time. So this decision is up to you.

May you enjoy the vacation.

Yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.

cc: Fr. Schwane  
Fr. McIntyre

June 28, 1965

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
De Paul University  
2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear John,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

Just for the record, you are enrolling at De Paul during this summer school of 1965 for a course in Analysis. Next fall you would take a course in Modern Algebra, which is the crucial course to the whole degree program. If you succeed it, the M.A. program would take approximately three years.

Let us proceed on this assumption for the summer and then we shall see what the situation looks like.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.V.

cc: Fr. Riley



VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF

DePaul University

2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614  
Lincoln 9-6900

June 16, 1965

Dear Father Fischer,

Gratia Domini Nostri sit semper nobiscum!

Thank you for your letter of mid-May and also for the one from Father Riley. I hesitated answering right away, hoping to be able to send you a little more definite information. Now I am able to do so.

When you visited us in Washington during the first semester, I informed you that I was having much difficulty with the theoretical aspects of mathematics. At that time you told me not to panic, but to keep going and see how things turn out. As you know, I have a great fondness for mathematics and do want to teach it some day. Despite this personal desire, it would not be fair to the Community, considering the situation financially and from the point of view of the time to prepare me, if I did not make the following quite clear.

My difficulty with mathematical theory is more obvious now than it has ever been. One of the courses I took at IIT this past semester was entirely theory, and the other was theory to a large extent, though it did include practical application. I was not able to comprehend the theory in either course. I recognized this very early in the one course -- all theory, and asked the professor if he could suggest some help. He first assured me that this is not uncommon, and suggested several supplementary sources; these I purchased and then studied. When this did not solve the problem, I went to him again, and he offered to meet with me for an extra private period on Tuesday evenings (my regular classes were Mondays and Thursdays). This also did not do much good, in spite of his efforts.

Towards the end of the course, he suggested that I do not take the examination because he was sure I could not pass it. Instead, he offered to record a 'withdrawal' even though the final date for a withdrawal with a passing grade had passed (this was the beginning of May). He also talked my other professor into doing the same thing, if I did not do well in the final examination; and I did not do well enough for the course to count for my degree. The reason he suggested the 'withdrawal' was so that I would not be disqualified for <sup>future</sup> mathematical work either at IIT or elsewhere by a failing or very low grade.

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0064





VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF

DePaul University

2233 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614  
Lincoln 9-6900

-2-

In view of my inability to get the theory, I asked him if there was any possibility in advanced mathematical study. He told me that it often happens that people do have trouble with mathematical theory, and many times everything just seems to fall in place and clear up. The only immediate suggestion he made was that teaching modern mathematics on the high school level has helped some, since this is approached in a very simplified, but nevertheless theoretical way.

With this as a background, do you want me to sign up for another course at IIT, as I had planned to do? In Father Riley's last letter, He had suggested that I check into DePaul's math program with the hope that it would not take so long for a degree. I have found that it would not take three years, as it would at IIT. This is supposing that I am capable of getting the material in the field. Should I enroll at DePaul and try their math department? There is a possibility that I could enroll in a correspondence course as well as take a course in residence at DePaul. Both schools begin classes on the 28th of June, with IIT's enrollment being on the 23rd. So there is time to get into either school right now. Or would you rather have me take some non-mathematical subjects somewhere?

In the couple days since Retreat and my exam, I have been helping out at St. Joseph's hospital and with the registration and tuitions at the Academy. I will continue to help out in this way until school starts and I hear from you. I am sending a carbon copy of this to Fr. Riley -- both by air mail and special delivery.

My greatest temptation in all of this was to try to work it out by myself, hoping that my inability would cease; but I realize that this would be satisfying only my own desire to teach math, and not really be looking out for the good of the Community. Please guide me in the direction that you want me to go, so that I can enroll for the summer session in whatever courses you think best. I know that you are busy, but thank you for hearing me out. At the moment, I just do not know what to do without your advice.

6/24/65

Told to go to De Paul for  
summer 65

Sincerely in St. Vincent,

*John, I.S.C.M.*  
John E. Ruhl, C.M.



ST. MARY'S SEMINARY  
PERRYVILLE, MISSOURI

Office of The President

May 15, 1965

Dear John,

Gratis Domini Nostri sit semper nobiscum.

I received your letter this morning concerning the math. courses. It would seem to me it could be summarized as follows:

Undergraduate work: Total hours needed 47 hours.

In first year of study, you have taken: 7 hrs at Catholic U.  
7 hrs. at IIT.

4 hrs at IIT to be taken this summer.

Since you state that you need to take 21 hours more next year, I presume that you have been given credit for 9 hours done elsewhere in undergraduate work.

Graduate work: 32 hours needed to be taken over a two year period.

To me there are a number of surprises in this:

1. That you are getting only 7 hours of work this semester. Perhaps I originally misunderstood the situation, but Fr. Fischer informed me that when you were moved from Catholic U it was to go to a university where you could get more course work in the second semester; and yet at IIT you are taking the same number of hours as at CU.
2. That the Master's program is a two-year program for only 32 hours.

My conclusions from this is that your total preparation in mathematics - full time from the Community viewpoint (though I understand that on your own you have been assisting the academy) - would be four years. At a time when the Community is so desperately in need of math teachers (qualified, that is) and when the accreditation and continuing accreditation of some of our schools depends in part on such, it seems to me that such a program becomes impossible. Therefore, I suggest that you inquire from De Paul what kind of a math program they can line up for you that is not going to take three more years. The hope originally was that after two full years of math. you would be well on your way to a Master's degree, and would complete the remainder of the work in summer school. Obviously the initial mistake was in not getting the calculus course in the second session last summer with Henry LeFevre as I had so strongly suggested; this I suppose is also the Visitor's mistake in giving you a second assignment after the weeks in New Orleans.

Sincerely in St. Vincent

Edward F. Riley, C.M.

VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF WESTERN PROVINCE  
1849 CASS AVENUE  
SAINT LOUIS 6, MO.

December 21, 1964

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
Vincentian House of Studies  
3901 Harwood Road, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20017

Dear John,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

It seems likely that you will not be able to reach a decision about what school to attend next year before I leave for the Orient. Consequently, may I ask that you refer this matter to Father Riley. He has my full authority to settle the matter in whatever way seems best.

May I wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas Season and may we hope that the next year will be more satisfying to you by way of accomplishment.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.V.

P.S. I just rediscovered your letter of December 14th. Better make application both to IIT and Cape. If you are going home for Christmas as I suspect, suppose you try to find out what you can about IIT while you are there.

*Ans 12/21/64*

Edward L. Doheny Memorial  
VINCENTIAN FATHERS HOUSE OF STUDIES  
3901 Harewood Road, N. E.  
WASHINGTON 17, D. C.

December 14, 1964

Dear Father Fischer,

Gratia DNJC sit semper nobiscum!

About 15 minutes ago, the mail came in with replies from two of the schools I had written with the hope of possible admission. The first was a regular form letter from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. They sent an admission application form and forms for three letters of recommendation. This was for entry to the Graduate School of any department. A catalog is on the way and should arrive in about a week.

The second reply was from the college at Cape. They do not offer the Master's Degree in Mathematics. They do have a master's program connected with Missouri University and do offer all of the undergraduate courses in the field, especially in the summer sessions.

Do you want me to fill in the applications for either or both of these schools? I will have to contact Perryville for my transcript. Also, would you like to send a letter of recommendation to IIT; I'll send the form if you wish.

As soon as any additional information comes in, I will let you know. Everyone here is well except for Henry LeFevre, and he is somewhat improved right now. Please let me know what step to take next.

In Saint Vincent,

*John, I.S.C.M.*

# MEMORANDUM

From the Visitor

Subject: Ruhl, John

Date: September 30, 1964

Fr. Riley

To: 1) Fr. Ruhl

2)

School: Catholic University  
Major: Mathematics - get an M.A. in Math.  
Academic Advisor: [REDACTED]  
Present Status:

Undergraduate:

13 hrs. accepted from De Paul  
12 hrs. additional required.

Graduate:

no set number of hours is specified, but it is probably 30 or 36. Most of the courses must be taken in a predetermined sequence, and the sequence is arranged by staggering between semesters so that it is virtually impossible to accelerate. Some may be done. It is estimated that with acceleration it will take 3 years to get the M.A.

Courses being taken this semester:

Undergraduate: Lower calculus (3 hrs.)

General Physics (3 hrs.) - not required for Math program but recommended as background.

Graduate: an advanced calculus course (3 HRS.) and another 500 course (3 hrs.) [REDACTED] thinks it impossible for Ruhl to get these courses; he advises taking them until just before the quarter. If it looks impossible then, drop out of the courses (so that a F will not appear on the transcript and make further progress impossible later.)

Difficulties: It would appear that the Math program is set up basically as a part-time course for teachers. Most of the courses are in the late afternoon or early evening. It is impossible to get more than about 3 courses in any one semester. Fr. Ruhl has been advised to speak to [REDACTED] about this and ask if this is really a course intended for part-time students; if so, what can be done for a full-time student.

Determination: John Ruhl will continue to the end of the first quarter. At that time he will inform the Visitor of his progress, and determine whether he should continue in the course which he is taking. At the end of the semester, he will inform the Visitor of his progress, and a determination will be made as to whether he shall continue at C.U. or transfer to some other school where he can pursue a part-time Math degree and be of assistance to the Community in other ways part-time.

September 12, 1964

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
St. Vincent's College  
201 Morgan Oak Street  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701

Dear John

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

The recommendation of Father Riley is that you take a minor in Educational Administration at Catholic University. However, we are most interested in that Mathematics degree and if you do not need to take a minor, try to concentrate on that as quickly as possible. It will be a long enough course as is, so we would to avoid any additional delays.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.V.

September 10, 1964

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
St. Vincent's College  
201 Morgan Oak Street  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701

Dear John,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

Thank you for your letter of September 8<sup>th</sup>.

It will be most convenient for you to fly to Washington on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The difference in price will not be great.

As to the minor, let me consult Father Riley. At the present time, all I know is that we hope you can get a degree in Math as quickly as possible. Along with this, some background in business administration would probably be valuable. However, let us not anticipate what Father Riley will recommend.

You may have permission to say the Breviary in English under the conditions laid down by the Constitution: namely, that you find it a grave incommodum to say it in Latin. This phrase has been interpreted by most of the Bishop to whom I have talked as including not only difficulty in translating the Latin but also a lack of full appreciation of the spiritual significance of the Breviary due to saying it in other than one's native tongue.

You may have permission to purchase a radio. May I recommend, however, that you be considered of others in the use of it. Sometimes Confreres disturb one another by demonstrating the excellence of the electronic equipment which they have.

Thank you for helping out at St. Vincent's College. I am sure that you can see how important it has been to have someone around during these past six weeks. I thank you for it and hope that your studies at Washington will go well.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.V.

Vincintian (Ruhl) 0071



# St. Vincent's College

201 MORGAN OAK STREET • CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI 63701 • PHONE 314 ED 5-6591

VINCENTIAN FATHERS

Ft Riley  
Ana 9/10/64  
9/11/64

RuHL

September 8, 1964

Dear Father Fischer,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

The other day, I contacted Father Henry LeFevre and found out that school begins in Washington on the 23rd of this month for all undergraduate classes, with registration taking place on the 21st and 22nd (Monday and Tuesday). I hope to leave here on Monday after classes if I am able to fly. If you would rather have me go by train (I don't know <sup>what</sup> the price difference would be), I will leave on the weekend.

OK

What do you recommend?

I suggest Administration  
EJR

Henry also mentioned that he thought I would have to have a minor. I mentioned it to Father Schulte and he suggested Adolescent Psychology, Guidance, Counselling, or Educational Administration. Since I will not be able to take too many math courses (courses I have not yet had are required for advanced courses), it is possible to take some of the courses for the minor. So please let me know what you would like me to do in this regard.

Finally, may I have permission to use the English BREVIARY? And once I get settled someplace, may I purchase a good AM-FM radio?

Well, tomorrow the boys come in for another school year. I hope that my short stay with them will be of some benefit for their future lives in the Community. Please keep me and my studies in your prayers.

In Saint Vincent,

John Gahl, L.S.C.M.



August 27, 1964

Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
St. Vincent's College  
201 Morgan Oak Street  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Dear John,

Gratia Domini nostri sit semper nobiscum!

May I ask that you stay on at Cape to help out with any tasks  
they may have until the time for registration at Catholic University.  
I have been told that registration begins on September 23rd.

Doctor Terry told me that Father Schulte would be back to full  
activity in 6 to 8 weeks, and that he would be able to carry out some  
limited activity before that time. So if we can get over the first  
few weeks of the school year, I am sure that there are enough young  
priests at Cape to be able to take care of the rest of the period.  
If you will stay until September 23rd or thereabouts, I am sure that  
this will plug the gap for them.

Thanks for your help at Cape this summer, John. It has been  
much appreciated. I hope that your school year will go well at  
Catholic University.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

James A. Fischer, C.M.

cc: Fr. Schulte  
Fr. Vohs

Father

I have asked Fr. Hastenbach to report  
in at Washington as soon after this  
coming Sunday as Kensick can spare  
him.

JAF

August 27, 1964

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The Reverend JOHN RUHL, C.M.

who is an applicant to the Mathematics Department of Catholic University of America is a priest in good standing of the Vincentian Fathers, Western Province, and has been assigned to study at Catholic University by his proper religious superiors.

The Vincentian Fathers, Western Province, will be responsible for the tuition and fees of Father Ruhl.

Sincerely yours,

*James A. Fischer, C.M.*

James A. Fischer, C.M.  
Provincial

cc: Rev. John Ruhl, C.M.

May 24, 1964

The Reverend John Ruhl, C.M.  
St. Mary's Seminary  
Perryville, Missouri 63775

Dear John,

Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

May I congratulate you on this wonderful day of your ordination. May the grace of God which is descended upon you in such abundance today grow within you through the years and spread itself to all who will come under your influence.

You are most interested in knowing what will be your assignment. I take it that you know fairly well already. At the end of your vacation you will please report to St. Stephen's, New Orleans on June 13<sup>th</sup> for the beginning of the Tirocinium. At the end of the Tirocinium I have suggested to Father Hymel that you might remain on in New Orleans, taking care of De Paul Hospital until August 1st when Father McDonald will return from his vacation. Your permanent assignment in the fall will be to study mathematics. Very likely you will be at Catholic University. As a matter of fact, it may be possible for you to obtain some courses in a late summer school in Washington. If this is possible, you will be able to go to Washington as soon as you have finished down in New Orleans. As you can see, these plans for the latter part of the summer are rather indefinite and we will have to work them out as we go along.

Father Hymel will obtain for you the Faculties of the Archdiocese of New Orleans during the Tirocinium. I hereby grant you Faculties in the Community for the hearing of the confessions of Conferreres and of those who live day and night under our roof. This grant of Faculties does not apply, however, to the Students and Novices at Perryville. This is in accordance with the wish of Father Slattery and I think may preserve you from some embarrassment. I also grant you Faculties and permission to use all of the privileges and blessings which are listed in our Book of Privileges. Where some number of times must be specified in the grant, I specify one thousand.

The work which you will be called upon to do in this first year of your priesthood will probably not be very exciting or rewarding from a purely pastoral viewpoint. Nonetheless, it is of the utmost value to the Community. The specialty which you are pursuing is one which has great demands but few takers. We have more definite plans for you in the future.

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent,

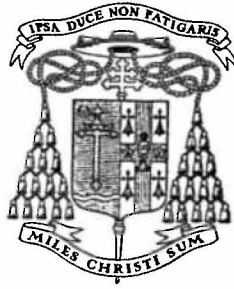
James A. Fischer, C.M.V.

cc: Fr. Hymel  
Fr. Riley  
Fr. A. Falanga  
Fr. Vohs

COPY

Ruhl, John

- 1) Application Form
- 2) Letter of Application
- 3) Testimonial from Chicago diocese
- 4) Testimonial from Pastor
- 5) Baptism record
- 6) Confirmation record
- 7) Certificate of parents' marriage
- 8) Physical Examination
- 9) Permission for Good Purposes
- 10) Permission for Vows
- 11) Personal data sheet
- 12) Various Letters (note the one from Fr. Ganel)



# JOSEPH CARDINALIS RITTER

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA

ARCHIEPISCOPUS SANCTI LUDOVICI

UNIVERSIS et singulis, ad quos praesentes litterae pervenerint testamur,

Exc.mum ac Rev.mum D.num Georgium J. Gottwald, Episcopum titularem Cedamusensem, et Auxiliarem Archiepiscopi Sancti Ludovici,

Perryville \_\_\_\_\_, in sacello Aedium Scholasticarum Seminarii S. Mariae \_\_\_\_\_,  
die 24a mensis Maii \_\_\_\_\_, Festo SS. Trinitatis \_\_\_\_\_, an. curr.


dilectum Nobis in Christo Dnum. Joannem RUHL, clericum e Congregatione Missionis \_\_\_\_\_,  
professum \_\_\_\_\_, cum dimissoriis proprii Provincialis \_\_\_\_\_,

praevis spiritualibus exercitiis ac praevio examine ad normam juris idoneum repertum et admissum, cum  
caeremoniis et solemnitatibus necessariis et opportunis juxta S. R. E. ritum ad Sacrum PRESBYTERATUS  
Ordinem \_\_\_\_\_ servatis de jure servandis, de Nostro mandato, in Domino promovisse.

In quorum fidem has litteras, a Nostro Vice-Cancellario subscriptas, sigilloque nostro munitas, expediri  
jussimus.

Datum Sancti Ludovici, ex Aedibus Curiae Archiepiscopalis, die 15a mensis Septembris  
anni 1964.

*De Mandato Eminentissimi ac Reverendissimi Archiepiscopi*



Vice-Cancellarius

Curiae Archdioecesis Sancti Ludovici

L. S.

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY  
PERRYVILLE, MISSOURI

September 7, 1963

Very Reverend James A. Fischer, C.M.V.  
1849 Cass Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri

Very Reverend and dear Father:

*Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper  
nobiscum!*

Having taken due consultation, I now  
humbly petition you to promote me to The Sacred  
Order of Diaconate.

In presenting this petition, I solemnly declare  
that I am actuated by no motive of fear, either physical  
or moral, that I am in no way coerced by parent,  
priest, relative or any other agency whatsoever, but  
make this request of my own free will. I further  
solemnly declare that I am fully aware of the grave  
obligations consequent upon the reception of The  
Sacred Order of the Diaconate.

Approved  
Sept 24, 1963  
JAF

Humbly yours in St. Vincent,  
John E. Pull, i.c.c.m.

JUSJURANDUM

Juxta Instructionem Sacrae Congregationis De Religiosis  
Die 18 Decembris, 1931

Ego subsignatus, *Johannes Eduardus Ruhl*.....alumnus  
Congregationis Missionis cum petitionem Superioribus exhibuerim pro  
recipiendo subdiaconatus ordine, diligenter re perpensa coram Deo,  
iuramento interposito, testificor: 1. Nulla me coactione, seu vi,  
aut nullo impelli timore in recipiendo eodem sacro ordine, sed ipsum  
sponte exoptare, ac plena liberaque voluntate eundem cum adnexis  
oneribus amplecti velle. 2. Fateor mihi plene esse cognita cuncta  
onera ex eodem sacro ordine dimanantia, quae sponte amplector, ac  
Deo opitulante propone me toto vitae curriculo diligenter servare.  
3. Quae castitatis voto ac coelibatus lege praecipuntur, clare me  
percipere testor, eaque integre servare usque ad extremum vitae,  
Deo adjuvante, firmiter statuo. 4. Denique sincera fide spondeo  
iugiter me fore, ad normam sacrorum canonum, obsequentissime ob-  
temperaturum iis omnibus quae mihi a Praepositis, iuxta Ecclesiae  
disciplinam, praecipientur, paratus virtutum exempla, tum opere,  
cum sermone, aliis praebere, adeo ut tanti officii susceptione  
retributionem a Deo promissam accipere merear. Sic testor ac iuro,  
super haec Sancta Dei Evangelia, quae manu mea tango.

.....die *20*..... mensis *Maji*..... anni *1931*.

*Johannes Eduardus Ruhl, C. M.*

Juramentum rite coram me emissum testor,

*Edward F. Kelly, C. M.*



# PROFESSIONIS FIDEI ET IURISIURANDI FORMULA

Praescripta in Motu Proprio "Sacrorum Antistitum" Pii PP. X. die 1. mensis Sept., anni 1910.

Ego, N.N.,

*Joannes Eduardus Ruhl*

firma fide credo et profiteor omnia et singula, quae continentur in symbolo Fidei, quo sancta Romana Ecclesia utitur, videlicet: Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem Patri: per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine, et Homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro nobis; sub Pontio Pilato passus, et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria iudicare vivos et mortuos; cuius regni non erit finis. Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vivificantem; qui ex Patre Filioque procedit. Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur, qui locutus est per Prophetas. Et Unam, Sanctam, Catholicam et Apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum Baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum. Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen. Apostolicas et ecclesiasticas traditiones, reliquasque eiusdem Ecclesiae observationes et constitutiones firmissime admitto et amplector. Item sacram Scripturam iuxta eum sensum, quem tenuit et tenet sancta Mater Ecclesia, cuius est iudicare de vero sensu et interpretatione sacrarum Scripturarum, admitto; nec eam unquam, nisi iuxta unanimem consensum Patrum, accipiam et interpretabor. Profiteor quoque septem esse vere et proprie Sacramenta novae Legis a Iesu Christo Domino nostro instituta, atque ad salutem humani generis, licet non omnia singulis, necessaria, scilicet, Baptismum, Confirmationem, Eucharistiam, Paenitentiam, Extremam unctionem, Ordinem et Matrimonium: illaque gratiam conferre; et ex his Baptismum, Confirmationem et Ordinem sine sacrilegio reiterari non posse. Receptos quoque et approbatos Ecclesiae Catholicae ritus in supradictorum omnium Sacramentorum sollemni administratione recipio et admitto. Omnia et singula, quae de peccato originali et de iustificatione in sacrosancta Tridentina Synodo definita et declarata fuerunt, amplector et recipio. Profiteor pariter in Missa offerri Deo verum, proprium et propitiatorium Sacrificium pro vivis et defunctis; atque in sanctissimo Eucharistiae sacramento esse vere, realiter et substantialiter Corpus et Sanguinem una cum anima et divinitate Domini nostri Iesu Christi, fierique conversionem totius substantiae panis in corpus et totius substantiae vini in Sanguinem, quam conversionem Catholica Ecclesia Transubstantiationem appellat. Fateor etiam sub altera tantum specie totum atque integrum Christum, verumque Sacramentum sumi. Constanter teneo Purgatorium esse, animasque ibi detentas fidelium suffragiis iuvari. Similiter et Sanctos una cum Christo regnantes venerandos atque invocandos esse, eosque orationes Deo pro nobis offerre, atque eorum Reliquias esse venerandas. Firmiter assero imagines Christi, ac Deiparae semper Virginis, nec non aliorum Sanctorum habendas et retinendas esse, atque eis debitum honorem ac venerationem impertiendam. Indulgentiarum etiam potestatem a Christo in Ecclesia relictam fuisse, illarumque usum Christiano populo maxime salutarem esse affirmo. Sanctam, Catholicam et Apostolicam Romanam Ecclesiam, omnium ecclesiarum matrem et magistram agnosco, Romanoque Pontifice, beati Petri Apostolorum Principis successori, ac Iesu Christi Vicario veram obedientiam spondeo ac iuro. Caetera item omnia a sacris Canonibus et Oecumenicis Conciliis, ac praecipue a sacrosancta Tridentina Synodo, et ab oecumenico Concilio Vaticano tradita, definita ac declarata, praesertim de Romani Pontificis Primatu et infallibili magisterio, indubitanter recipio atque profiteor; simulque contraria omnia, atque haereses quascumque ab Ecclesia damnatas et reiectas et anathematizatas, ego pariter damno, reiicio, et anathematizo. Hanc veram Catholicam Fidem, extra quam nemo salvus esse potest, quam in praesenti sponte profiteor et veraciter teneo, eandem integram et inviolatam usque ad extremum vitae spiritum

constantissime, Deo adiuvante, retinere et confiteri, atque a meis subditis, seu illis, quorum cura ad me in munere meo spectabit, teneri, et doceri et praedicari, quantum in me erit, curaturum, ego idem N. spondeo, voveo ac iuro.

Item firmiter amplector ac recipio omnia et singula, quae ab inerranti Ecclesiae magisterio definita, adserta ac declarata sunt, praesertim ea doctrinae capita, quae huius temporis erroribus directo adversantur. Ac primum quidem Deum, rerum omnium principium et finem, naturali rationis lumine per ea quae facta sunt, hoc est, per *visibilia* creationis opera, tamquam causam per effectus, certo cognosci, adeoque demonstrari etiam posse, profiteor. Secundo: Externa revelationis argumenta, hoc est, facta divina, in primisque miracula et prophetias admitto et agnosco tamquam signa certissima divinitus ortae Christianae Religionis, eademque teneo aetatum omnium atque hominum, etiam huius temporis, intelligentiae esse maxime accommodata. Tertio: Firma pariter fide credo, Ecclesiam, verbi revelati custodem et magistram, per ipsum verum atque historicum Christum, cum apud nos degeret, proxime ac directo institutam, eandemque super Petrum, apostolicae hierarchiae principem eiusque in aevum successores aedificatam. Quarto: Fidei doctrinam ab Apostolis per orthodoxos Patres eodem sensu eademque semper sententia ad nos usque transmissam, sincere recipio; ideoque prorsus reiicio haereticum commentum evolutionis dogmatum, ab uno in alium sensum transeuntium, diversum ab eo, quem prius habuit Ecclesia; pariterque damno errorem omnem, quo divino deposito, Christi Sponsae tradito ab Eaque fideliter custodiendo, sufficit philosophicum inventum, vel creatio humanae conscientiae, hominum conatu sensim efformatae et in posterum indefinito progressu perficiendae. Quinto: Certissime teneo ac sincere profiteor, Fidem non esse caecum sensum religionis e latebris *subconscientiae* erumpentem, sub pressione cordis et inflexionis voluntatis moraliter informatae, sed verum assensum intellectus veritati extrinsecus acceptae ex auditu, quo nempe, quae a Deo personali, creatore ac domino nostro dicta, testata et revelata sunt, vera esse credimus, propter Dei auctoritatem summe veracis.

"I . . . firmly hold and accept each and every definition of the unerring teaching of the Church, with all she has maintained and declared, but especially those points of doctrine which expressly combat the errors of our time. In the first place I profess my belief that God, the beginning and end of all, can be certainly known and therefore proved to exist by the natural light of reason from the things that are made, that is, from the visible works of the creation as a cause from its effects. Next I recognize and acknowledge the external arguments of revelation, that is, divine facts, especially miracles and prophecies, as most certain signs of the divine origin of the Christian religion, and I hold that these are altogether suited to the understanding of every age and of all men, also of our times. Thirdly, I likewise hold with firm faith that the Church, the guardian and exponent of the revealed Word, was proximately and directly founded by the true and historic Christ Himself, while He dwelt amongst us, and that she was also built upon Peter, the Prince of the Apostolic Hierarchy, and upon his successors to the end of time. Fourthly, I sincerely accept the teaching of faith as transmitted down to us from the Apostles through the orthodox Fathers in the same sense and even in the same wording; and, therefore, I wholly reject the heretical notions of the evolution of dogmas, which pass from one sense to another alien to that which the Church held from the start; and I likewise condemn every error whereby is substituted for the divine deposit, entrusted by Christ to His Spouse and by Her to be faithfully guarded, a philosophic system or the creation of a human consciousness, gradually refined by the striving of men and finally to be perfected hereafter by indefinite progress. Fifthly, I hold for certain and sincerely profess that Faith is not a blind religious sense making its way out of the hidden regions of the sub-liminal consciousness, morally tinged by the influence of heart and will, but is a true assent of the intellect to truth received from without by hearing, an assent whereby we believe to be true, because of the authority of the all-true God, whatever by the personal God, our Creator and Lord, has been spoken, testified and revealed.

Me etiam, qua par est, reverentia, subiicio totoque animo adhaereo damnationibus, declarationibus, praescriptis omnibus, quae in Encyclicis litteris "Pascendi" et in Decreto "Lamentabili" continentur, praesertim circa eam quam historiam dogmatum vocant. Idem reprobam errorem affirmantium, propositam ab Ecclesia fidem posse historiae repugnare, et Catholica dogmata, quo sensu nunc intelliguntur, cum verioribus Christianae religionis originibus componi non posse. Damno quoque ac reiicio eorum sententiam, qui dicunt, Christianum hominem eruditorem induere personam duplicem, aliam credentis, aliam historici, quasi liceret historico ea retinere, quae credentis fidei contradicant, aut praemissas adstruere, ex quibus consequatur dogmata esse aut falsa aut dubia, modo haec directo non denegentur. Reprobam pariter eam Scripturae Sanctae diiudicandae atque interpretandae rationem, quae, Ecclesiae traditione, analogia Fidei, et Apostolicae Sedis normis posthabitis, *rationalistarum* commentis inhaeret, et critice textus velut unicam supremamque regulam, haud minus licenter quam temere amplectitur. Sententiam praeterea illorum reiicio qui tenent, doctori disciplinae historicae theologicae tradendae, aut iis de rebus scribenti seponendam prius esse opinionem ante conceptam sive de supernaturali origine Catholicae traditionis, sive de promissa divinitus ope ad perennem conservationem uniuscuiusque revelati veri; deinde scripta Patrum singulorum interpretanda solis scientiae principiis, sacra qualibet auctoritate seclusa, eaque iudicii libertate, qua profana quaevis monumenta solent investigari. In universum denique me alienissimum ab errore profiteor, quo *modernistae* tenent in sacra traditione nihil inesse divini; aut, quod longe deterrius, pantheistico sensu illud admittunt; ita ut nihil iam restet nisi nudum factum et simplex, communibus historiae factis aequandum; hominum nempe sua industria, sollertia, ingenio scholam a Christo eiusque Apostolis inchoatam per subsequentes aetates continuantium. Proinde fidem Patrum firmissime retineo et ad extremum vitae spiritum retinebo, de charismate *veritatis certo*, quod est, fuit eritque semper in *episcopatus ab Apostolis successione*; non ut id

"I further, with all due reverence, submit and with my whole mind adhere to all the condemnations, declarations, and ordinances contained in the Encyclical letter *Pascendi* and in the Decree *Lamentabili*, particularly regarding what is called the history of Dogma.

"I also reject the error of those who aver that the Faith proposed by the Church may be in conflict with history, and that Catholic dogmas in the sense in which they are now understood cannot be harmonized with the more truthful "origins" of Christianity. Moreover, I condemn and reject the opinion which declares that a Christian man of better culture can assume a dual personality, one as a believer and another as an historian, as if it were permissible for the historian to hold fast what his faith as a believer contradicts, or to lay down premises from which there follows the falsity or the uncertainty of dogmas, provided only that these are not directly denied. Likewise I reject that method of estimating and interpreting Holy Writ, which, setting aside the Church's tradition and the analogy of Faith and the rules of the Apostolic See, adopts the rationalists' principles and with equal arbitrariness and rashness considers criticism of the text the one only supreme rule. Furthermore, I reject the opinion of those who hold that a teacher of the science of Historical Theology or the writer on the subject must first put aside the notions previously conceived about the supernatural origin of Catholic tradition or about the divine aid promised for the perpetual preservation of each revealed truth; then, that the writings of individual Fathers must be interpreted solely by the data of science, without any reference to sacred authority, and with that freedom of judgment where-with every profane record is usually examined.

"Finally and in general, I declare myself to be far removed from the error of the modernists who hold that in sacred tradition there is nothing inherently divine; or who—far worse still—admit it in a pantheistic sense; so that thus there would remain only a bare simple fact equal to the ordinary facts of history, viz., that the school started by Christ and His Apostles finds, in the ages that follow, men to carry it on by their energy, their skill, and their genius. Wherefore most firmly do I retain and to my last breath will I retain the Faith of the Fathers of the Church concerning the sure endowment of truth, which

teneatur quod melius et aptius videri possit secundum suam cuiusque aetatis culturam, sed ut *nunquam aliter credatur, nunquam aliter intelligatur* absoluta et immutabilis veritas ab initio per Apostolos praedicata.

Haec omnia spondeo me fideliter, integre sincereque servaturum et inviolabiliter custoditurum, nusquam ab iis sive in docendo sive quomodolibet verbis scriptisque deflectendo. Sic spondeo, sic iuro, sic me Deus adjuvet, et haec sancta Dei Evangelia.

is, has been, and ever will be in the succession of the Episcopate from the Apostles; not in such a way that what seems best and most fitting according to the refinement of each age may be held, but that the absolute and unchangeable truth preached from the beginning by the Apostles may never in any different wise be believed, never in any different wise be understood.

All this I promise that I will faithfully, entirely and sincerely keep and inviolably guard, and from this never in teaching or howsoever by word or writing in the least depart. So I promise, so I swear, so help me God and these His holy gospels.

Subscribitur Joannes Eduardus Ruhl, P.M.  
Ex loco Seminarii Sanctae Mariae Barrensis  
Die 20 mensis Maii A.D. 1963

Iuramentum rite coram nobis emissum testamur.

N. Edward F. Riley, C.M.

Episcopus (vel Delegatus Episcopi)

"Si quis autem, quod Deus avertat, iusiurandum violare ausus fuerit, ad Sancti Officii tribunal illico deferatur." (Motu Proprio "Sacrorum Antistitum.")

#### REMARKS

1. The Profession of Faith is made and the Oath taken before the *Ordinary* of the place or his *Delegate* by:
  - a) the Vicar General,
  - b) the Diocesan Consultors,
  - c) the Censor of books,
  - d) Pastors,
  - e) Confessors and Preachers before they receive the faculty to exercise their functions,
  - f) Clerics called to Subdeaconship,
  - g) Superiors and Professors in the Grand Seminary.(Cf. C. 1406 et Motu Prop. Pii PP. X., Sept. 1. 1910.)
2. When several take the Oath at the same time, one may read the formula aloud; at the end each one, placing his hand on the gospels reads the words "Haec omnia spondeo," etc., and signs his name. (S. C. Consist. Oct. 25, 1910.)
3. The document is to be kept in the safe of the diocesan curia.

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY  
PERRYVILLE, MISSOURI

March 22, 1964

Very Reverend James A. Fischer, C.M.V.  
1849 Cass Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri

Very Reverend and dear Father:

*Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper  
nobiscum!*

Having taken due consultation, I now  
humbly petition you to promote me to the  
Sacred Order of Priesthood.

In presenting this petition, I solemnly  
declare that I am actuated by no motive of  
fear, either physical or moral, that I am in  
no way coerced by parent, priest, relative  
or any other agency whatsoever, but make  
this request of my own free will. I further  
solemnly declare that I am fully aware of  
the grave obligations consequent upon the  
reception of the Sacred Order of Priest-  
hood.

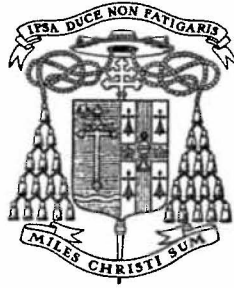
Approved

May 22, 1964

James A. Fischer cm ✓  
Visitor

Humbly yours in St. Vincent,

John Ruhl, i.c.c.m.



# JOSEPH CARDINALIS RITTER

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA

ARCHIEPISCOPUS SANCTI LUDOVICI

UNIVERSIS et singulis, ad quos praesentes litterae pervenerint testamur,

Exc.mum ac Rev.mum D.num Glennon P. Flavin, Episcopum titularem Joanninensem, et Auxiliarem Archiepiscopi Sancti Ludovici,

Perryville \_\_\_\_\_, in sacello Aedium Scholasticarum Seminarii S. Mariae \_\_\_\_\_,  
die 25a mensis Maii \_\_\_\_\_, Festo Sancti Gregorii \_\_\_\_\_, an. curr.  
dilectum Nobis in Christo Dnum. Joannem RUHL, clericum e Congregatione Missionis \_\_\_\_\_,  
professum \_\_\_\_\_, cum dimissoriis proprii Provincialis \_\_\_\_\_,  
praeviis spiritualibus exercitiis ac praevio examine ad normam juris idoneum repertum et admissum, cum  
caeremoniis et solemnitatibus necessariis et opportunis juxta S. R. E. ritum ad Sacrum SUBDIACONATUS  
Ordinem \_\_\_\_\_ servatis de jure servandis, de Nostro mandato, in Domino promovisse.

In quorum fidem has litteras, a Nostro Vice-Cancellario subscriptas, sigilloque nostro munitas, expediri jussimus.

Datum Sancti Ludovici, ex Aedibus Curiae Archiepiscopalis, die 14a mensis Junii \_\_\_\_\_  
anni 1963 \_\_\_\_\_.

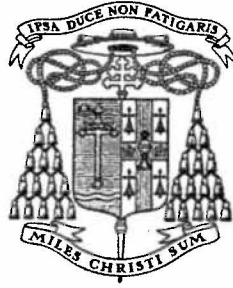
*De Mandato Eminentissimi ac Reverendissimi Archiepiscopi*

*Joseph E. Michalicki*

*Vice-Cancellarius*

*Curiae Archdioecesis Sancti Ludovici*

L. S.



# JOSEPH CARDINALIS RITTER

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA

ARCHIEPISCOPUS SANCTI LUDOVICI

UNIVERSIS et singulis, ad quos praesentes litterae pervenerint testamur,


Exc.mum ac Rev.mum D.num Glennon P. Flavin, Episcopum titularem Joanninensem, et Auxiliarem Archiepiscopi Sancti Ludovici,

Perryville, in sacello aedium Scholasticarum Seminarii S. Mariae,  
die 7a mensis Octobris, in Festo Sacratissimi Rosarii, an. curr.  
dilectum Nobis in Christo Dnum. Joannem RUHL, clericum e Congregatione Missionis,  
professum, cum dimissoriis proprii Provincialis,  
praevis spiritualibus exercitiis ac praevio examine ad normam juris idoneum repertum et admissum, cum  
caeremoniis et solemnitatibus necessariis et opportunis juxta S. R. E. ritum ad Sacrum DIACONATUS  
Ordinem servatis de jure servandis, de Nostro mandato, in Domino promovisse.

In quorum fidem has litteras, a Nostro Vice-Cancellario subscriptas, sigilloque nostro munitas, expediri  
jussimus.

Datum Sancti Ludovici, ex Aedibus Curiae Archiepiscopalis, die 9a mensis Octobris  
anni 1963.

*De Mandato Eminentissimi ac Reverendissimi Archiepiscopi*

  
Vice-Cancellarius  
Curiae Archdioecesis Sancti Ludovici

L. S.



*Congregatio Missionis Sti. Vincentii a Paulo*  
*Domus Principalis*  
*Provinciae Occidentalis Statuum Foederatorum*  
PERRYVILLE, MISSOURI

Die 28 mensis Maii anno 1963

Reverende Domne:

Ad praescriptum canonis 1011, Tibi per has litteras renuntiare velim, Rev. D. Joannem Eduardum Ruhl Congregationis Missionis, paroecia ex tua ortum ibique ecclesia in paroeciali die 6 mensis Junii anno 1937 baptizatum, ad sacrum subdiaconatus ordinem ab Excmo. et Revmo. D.

Glennon P. Flavin  
Sancti Ludovici

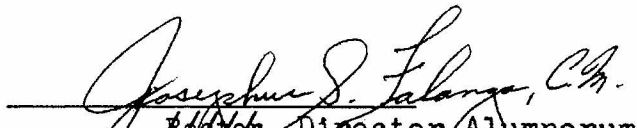
Episcopo Auxiliari  
, fuisse rite pro-

motum die 25 mensis Maii anno 1963

Interea Deum precor ut Te donis cumulet et diu sospitet.

Reverentiae tuae,

In Christo deditissimus

  
Rector Director Alumnorum  
(Rev.) Josephus S. Falanga, C.M.

Revdo. D.  
Ecclesiae  
Civitatis

, Parocho

Recorded in our records 8/31/63  
(Rev) Thomas J. Cannon Pm

Vincentian (Ruhl) 0088





ST. MARY'S SEMINARY  
PERRYVILLE, MISSOURI

March 27, 1963

Very Reverend James A. Fischer, C.M.V.  
1849 Cass Avenue  
Saint Louis, Missouri

Very Reverend and dear Father:

*Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit  
semper nobiscum!*

Having taken due consultation, I  
now humbly petition you to promote me to The  
Sacred Order of Subdiaconate.

In presenting this petition, I solemnly  
declare that I am actuated by no motive of fear,  
either physical or moral, that I am in no way  
coerced by parent, priest, relative or any other  
agency whatsoever, but make this request of  
my own free will. I further solemnly declare  
that I am fully aware of the grave obligations  
consequent upon the reception of The Sacred  
Order of Subdiaconate.

Seen and approved

April 21, 1963

James A. Fischer cmv

Humbly yours in St. Vincent,  
John E. Ruhl, c.m.



ST. MARY'S SEMINARY  
PERRYVILLE, MISSOURI

March 19, 1962

Very Reverend James A. Fischer, C.M.V.  
1849 Cass Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri

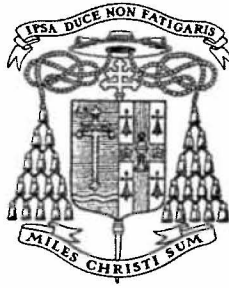
Very reverend and dear Father:

*Gratia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!*

Having taken due consultation, I now humbly petition you to promote me to The Minor Orders of Exorcist and Acolyte.

In presenting this petition, I solemnly declare that I am actuated by no motive of fear, either physical or moral, that I am in no way coerced by parent, priest, relative, or any other agency whatsoever, but make this request of my own free will. I further solemnly declare that I am fully aware of the grave obligations consequent upon the reception of The Minor Orders of Exorcist and Acolyte.

Humbly yours in St. Vincent,  
John E. Ruhl, S.C.M.



# JOSEPH CARDINALIS RITTER

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA

ARCHIEPISCOPUS SANCTI LUDOVICI

UNIVERSIS et singulis, ad quos praesentes litterae pervenerint testamur,

Exc.mum ac Rev.mum D.num Georgium J. Gottwald, Episcopum titularem Cedamusensem, et Auxiliarem Archiepiscopi Sancti Ludovici,

Perryville in Ecclesia Assumptionis, Seminarii Sanctae Mariae

die 9a mensis Junii, Vigilia Pentecostes, an. curr.

dilectum Nobis in Christo Dnum. Joannem RUHL, C. M., clericum e Congregatione

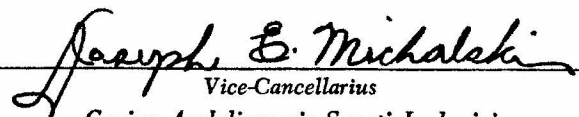
Missionis professum, cum dimissoriis proprii Provincialis

praeviis spiritualibus exercitiis ac praevio examine ad normam juris idoneum repertum et admissum, cum caeremoniis et solemnitatibus necessariis et opportunis juxta S. R. E. ritum ad EXORCISTATUM ET ACOLYTHATUM servatis de jure servandis, de Nostro mandato, in Domino promovisse.

In quorum fidem has litteras, a Nostro Vice-Cancellario subscriptas, sigilloque nostro munitas, expediri jussimus.

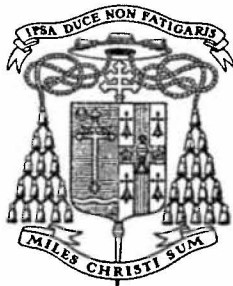
Datum Sancti Ludovici, ex Aedibus Curiae Archiepiscopalis, die 18a mensis Junii  
anni 1962.

*De Mandato Eminentissimi ac Reverendissimi Archiepiscopi*

  
Vice-Cancellarius

Curiae Archdioecesis Sancti Ludovici

L. S.



# JOSEPH CARDINALIS RITTER

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA

ARCHIEPISCOPUS SANCTI LUDOVICI

UNIVERSIS et singulis, ad quos praesentes litterae pervenerint testamur,

Exc. mum. ac Rev. mum. D. num. Glennon P. Flavin, Episcopum titularem Joanninensem, et Auxiliarem Archiepiscopi

Sancti Ludovici,

Perryville, in sacello Aedium Scholasticarum Seminarii S. Mariae

die 26a mensis Maii, Feria Sexta Quatuor Temp. Pentecostes, an. curr.

dilectum Nobis in Christo Dnum. Joannem RUHL, e Congregatione Missionis professum,

cum dimissoriis proprii Provincialis,

praevis spiritualibus exercitiis ac praevio examine ad normam juris idoneum repertum et admissum, cum

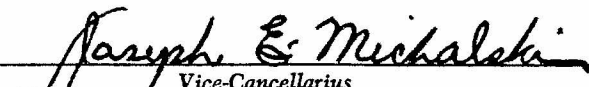
caeremoniis et solemnitatibus necessariis et opportunis juxta S. R. E. ritum ad Primam TONSURAM

clericalem servatis de jure servandis, de Nostro mandato, in Domino promovisse.

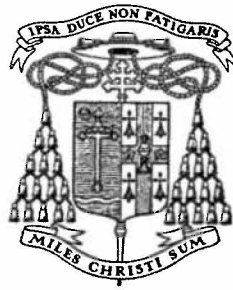
In quorum fidem has litteras, a Nostro Vice-Cancellario subscriptas, sigilloque nostro munitas, expediri jussimus.

Datum Sancti Ludovici, ex Aedibus Curiae Archiepiscopalis, die 5a mensis Julii  
anni 1961.

*De Mandato Excellentissimi ac Reverendissimi Archiepiscopi*

  
Vice-Cancellarius  
Curiae Archdioecesis Sancti Ludovici

L. S.



# JOSEPH CARDINALIS RITTER

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA

ARCHIEPISCOPUS SANCTI LUDOVICI

UNIVERSIS et singulis, ad quos praesentes litterae pervenerint testamur,

Exc. num. ac Rev. num. D. num. Glennon P. Flavin, Episcopum titularem Joanninensem, et Auxiliarem Archiepiscopi  
Sancti Ludovici,

Perryville, in sacello Aedium Scholasticarum Seminarii S. Mariae,  
die 27a mensis Maii, Sabbato Quatuor Temp. Pentecostes, an. curr.


dilectum Nobis in Christo Dnum. Joannem RUHL, clericum e Congregatione Missionis  
professum, cum dimissoriis proprii Provincialis

praeviis spiritualibus exercitiis ac praevio examine ad normam juris idoneum repertum et admissum, cum  
caeremoniis et solemnitatibus necessariis et opportunis juxta S. R. E. ritum ad OSTIARIATUM ET  
LECTORATUM servatis de jure servandis, de Nostro mandato, in Domino promovisse.

In quorum fidem has litteras, a Nostro Vice-Cancellario subscriptas, sigilloque nostro munitas, expediri  
jussimus.

Datum Sancti Ludovici, ex Aedibus Curiae Archiepiscopalis, die 5a mensis Julii  
anni 1961.

*De Mandato Excellentissimi ac Reverendissimi Archiepiscopi*

  
Vice-Cancellarius  
Curiae Archdioecesis Sancti Ludovici

L. S.



ST. MARY'S SEMINARY  
PERRYVILLE, MISSOURI

March 25, 1961

Very Reverend James H. Stakelum, C.M.V.  
1849 Cass Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri

Very Reverend and dear Father,

*Spacia Domini Nostri Jesu Christi, sit semper vobiscum!*

Having taken due consultation, I now humbly petition you to promote me to First Clerical Tonsure and the Minor Orders of Porter and Lector.

In presenting this petition, I solemnly declare that I am actuated by no motive of fear, either physical or moral, that I am in no way coerced by parent, priest, relative or any other agency whatsoever, but make this request of my own free will. I further solemnly declare that I am fully aware of the grave obligations consequent upon the reception of First Clerical Tonsure and the Minor Orders of Porter and Lector.

Humbly yours in St. Vincent,

John Ruhl, i.c.c.m.

Congregation of the Mission  
Of The  
Western Province of the United States of America  
"Vincentian Fathers"

(Please Print or Type Answers)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name Ruhl John Edward  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

Address 1006 West Dickens Ave. Chicago 14, Illinois Phone Lincoln 9-1581  
(Street) (City) (State)

Indicate cities where you have lived for six months or more since your fourteenth birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Only at present address for most of my life

Date of Birth May 20, 1937 City Chicago State Illinois

Date of Baptism June 6, 1937 Parish St. Vincent DePaul City Chicago

Date of Confirmation October 12, 1947 Parish St. Vincent DePaul City Chicago

Present Parish St. Vincent DePaul City Chicago State Illinois

Name of Pastor Rev. [REDACTED] Address 1010 West Webster Avenue

Father's Name [REDACTED]

Father living or d [REDACTED]

Father's Present Address [REDACTED]

Father's Religion [REDACTED] Convert? [REDACTED]

Father's Business or Occupation [REDACTED]

Father's Business Address [REDACTED]

Mother's Maiden Name [REDACTED] Date of Birth [REDACTED]

[Redacted] If deceased, give cause of death \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Present Address [Redacted]

Mother's Religion [Redacted] Convert? [Redacted]

Date of Parent's Marriage [Redacted] Parish St. Vincent DePaul City Chicago

Name of Guardian (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How many Brothers have you? [Redacted] Sisters? [Redacted]

Age of Brothers [Redacted]

How many of them are married? Brothers? [Redacted]

Give in order the schools you have attended and the length of time spent in each:

Elementary Headley Public School (Kindergarten) Chicago Sept., 1942 to June, 1943  
(Name) (City)

St. Vincent DePaul Chicago Sept., 1943 to June, 1951  
(Name) (City)

High School DePaul University Academy Chicago Sept., 1951 to June, 1955  
(Name) (City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (City) Sept., 19\_\_ to June, 19\_\_

College None Sept., 19\_\_ to June, 19\_\_  
(Name) (City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (City) Sept., 19\_\_ to June, 19\_\_

What was the last grade or class successfully completed? Senior-High School

Have you studied Latin? Yes In what school? DePaul Academy How long? 3 years

Have you studied Philosophy? No How long? \_\_\_\_\_ Theology? No How long? \_\_\_\_\_



Have you received Clerical Tonsure and any Orders? No

Have you ever been dismissed from any school? No Give name of school and reasons for dismissal

If you left any seminary voluntarily, give reasons for leaving

Have you been working since you left school? No Give particulars: where and in what capacity,  
number of years out of school

Have you ever been a member of a religious community? No How long?

Name and address of religious community

Give reasons for leaving

Has your Confessor advised you to study for the Priesthood? On occasion

Are you in that state of health necessary for a long course of serious study? Yes, to my knowledge

Have you ever had any serious illness? None State its nature, when, how long

Have you any physical defect, such as poor eyesight, deafness, lameness, heart ailment, defect in speech, etc.?

None

Is there any history of tuberculosis, epilepsy or insanity in your immediate family or relatives? None

If possible, give medical diagnosis of case

What is the relationship existing between the person or persons and you?

Are you acquainted with any Vincentian Priests? Several

~~Who will be responsible for your board?~~

Signed John E. Ruhl

HAVE YOU ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS? ANSWER YES OR NO:

- (1) Baptismal Certificate. Yes  No
- (2) Confirmation Certificate. Yes  No
- (3) Certificate of Marriage of Parents. Yes  No
- (4) Letter of Recommendation from Pastor. Yes  No
- (5) Physical Examination. Yes  No
- (6) ~~Have you enclosed your Eighth Grade Report Card?~~ Yes  No
- (7) Have you requested a Transcript of your High School (and College) credits to be sent to us? Yes   
No  To BE SENT

N. B. A Seminarian who has been adopted into any Diocese must secure permission from his Bishop to transfer to our Seminary.

Students at St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, are expected to pay ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>\$ 35.00 PER MONTH</sup> for board. This represents approximately one fourth of the actual cost to support each student a year. If family circumstances permit, parents are expected to pay more. All students are required to furnish their own travel expenses, clothing, books, medical, dental, laundry and other personal expenses.

There is no charge for board or tuition at the Novitate or Major Seminary.

REV. S. J. GANEL, C.M.  
Vocational Director  
DePaul University  
2233 N. Kenmore Ave.  
Chicago 14, Illinois

HOSPITALIZATION:

PLAN: Yes, but it expires on my eighteenth birthday

No:

VINCENTIAN FATHERS OF WESTERN PROVINCE

1849 CASS AVENUE

SAINT LOUIS 6, MO.

April 24, 1961

By virtue of the Privilege granted me in the  
Congregation of the Mission, I hereby dispense  
(ad cautelam) John E. Ruhl, C. M., from the  
irregularity of illegitimate birth (Can. 984, 1°).

*James W. Stakelum, C.M.V.*  
James W. Stakelum, C. M., Visitor

April 22, 1955

Dear Fr. Stakeburn:

This coming summer, it is my desire to enter the Novitiate at Perryville, God willing. During my entire life, I have attended schools and parishes under the direction of the Vincentians - De Paul Academy and Saint Vincent Parish and Grammar School. After watching these priests in action and visiting Perryville the two preceding Easter vacations, I am sure

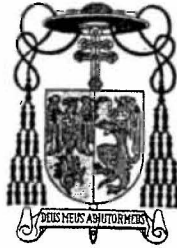
that this is my  
choice in life! My  
familiarity with the  
order, however, is  
limited to parish  
work and teaching,  
in which I hope  
to partake. My edu-  
cation in preparation  
for the Novitiate  
has been a Liberal  
Arts course of study,  
which is almost  
the same as that  
received at Cape.

I've had the desire  
of the priesthood most  
of my life, a very  
strong desire since  
leaving grammar

---

school. My greatest  
desire in life is  
to follow in the  
good works and  
practices of Saint  
Vincent De Paul.

Respectfully yours,  
John Ruhl



SAMUEL

TITULI S. AGNETIS EXTRA MOENIA S. R. E. PRESBYTER CARDINALIS STRITCH  
DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
ARCHIEPISCOPUS CHICAGIENSIS

Omnibus quorum interest praesentes litteras inspecturis, salutem et in Domino benedictionem.

Cum requisitum fuerit ut a Nobis darentur litterae testimoniales de John Luehl, ad finem eiusdem in religionem admittendi, post investigationem ad iuris normam diligenter peractam, de eodem his litteris testamur ad normam Canonis 545, § 4, nullum adesse canonicum impedimentum, irregularitatem vel censuram, nec quidquid obstare, quod Nobis notum sit, de eiusdem natalibus, moribus, ingenio, vita fama, conditione, scientia, vel propriae familiae indigentia, quominus in religionem admittatur.

In quorum fidem, et sub secreto ad normam Canonis 546 servando, has praesentes litteras sub sigillo et subscriptione Cancellarii Nostri dari iussimus.

Die XIII, mensis Julii, anni 1955

Geo. Casey  
Cancellarius

De Mandato Rev.mi Ordinarii  
Vicarius Generalis

St. Vincent's Church

1010 Webster Avenue

Chicago 14, Ill.

May 4, 1955.

Very Reverend James W. Stakelum, C. M.,  
1849 Cass Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Father Stakelum,

Gratia Domini Nostri sit semper nobiscum!

John Ruhl who will graduate from De Paul Academy in June desires to enter our Community. I have known John for the past six years and have always found him to be exceptional boy of strong character and good disposition. In his studies he is far above the average student. Also he is very regular in receiving the Sacraments. I highly recommend him as a worthy and deserving candidate for our Community.

Devotedly in St. Vincent,

*J. V. Flannery, S.M.*



# Certificate of Confirmation

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH, Chicago, Illinois

The Records of this Church Certify, under date of Oct. 12, 1947

that John Edward Ruhl SON  
DAUGHTER

of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

born May 26, 1937, and baptised June 6, 1937,

in St. Vincent's Church, located 1010 Webster Ave, Chicago, Ill.

was Confirmed by the Cardinal Samuel Stritch

with Sponsor [REDACTED]

Rev.

J. V. Flannery, S.M.

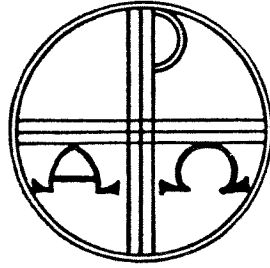
Date

March 15, 1955

SEAL OF  
CHURCH

THE A. J. EGGERS CO., CINCINNATI

# Certificate of Baptism



CHURCH OF

St. Vincent de Paul  
1010 Webster Ave., Chicago, Illinois

## THIS IS TO CERTIFY

that John Edward Ruhl

child of [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]

born in Chicago, Illinois

on the 26 day of May, 1937

was **BAPTIZED**

*According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church*

on the 6 day of June, 1937

by the Rev. S.P. Hueber C.M.

the sponsors being [REDACTED]

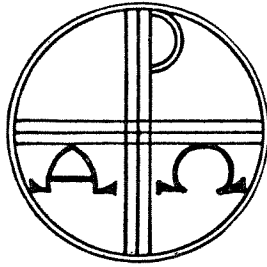
and [REDACTED]

as appears in the Baptismal Register of this Church.

Dated March 15, 1955

Rev. J. V. Flannery C.M.

# Certificate of Marriage



CHURCH OF

St. Vincent de Paul

1010 Webster Ave., Chicago, Illinois

## THIS IS TO CERTIFY

that

and

were united in the Holy Bonds of

## MATRIMONY

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church

on the 17 day of April, 1955

Rev. [redacted] officiating

in the presence of the following witnesses:

Dated March 15, 1955

Rev. J. W. Flannery, C.M.  
PASTOR

John Ruhl was born out of lawful wedlock, having been born while his parents were united only by a civil bond.

Father Ganel indicates in his letter that he investigated the matter and seemed to be satisfied that John was legitimized by the subsequent marriage of his parents.

I was not in office when John was received; hence, am not familiar with the details of any investigation.

I later asked Fr. Ganel about the matter, by way of assurance, but by that time his ~~xxxxx~~ memory of the matter was dim. Since there is no indication of a dispensation having been given at the time by the Visitor I supposed that the matter had been settled at the time. But I would feel more assured if I knew how precise Fr. G. was in the investigation.

*Fr. Ganel's letter is a bit  
bit vague.*

June 15, 1955

Mr. John E. Ruhl  
1006 West Dickens Avenue  
Chicago 14, Illinois

Dear John:

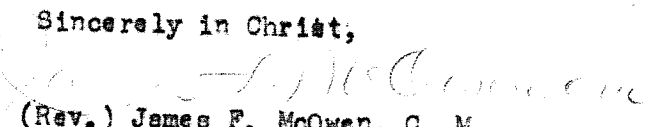
This letter is written to you at the request of our Provincial, Very Rev. James W. Stakelum, C. M. V., to inform you that since the time of your application on April 22, 1955 the regular investigation has been made and all your papers are in order for your reception which will take place July 18th. You have therefore been enrolled in St. Mary's Seminary, Ferryville, Missouri, as of this date.

Since it will be necessary for you to make a three day retreat prior to your reception we will be looking forward to meeting you on July 15th. Father Genel has informed me that three other young men will be coming from the Chicago area at the same time, so I would suggest you contact Father with a view of making final arrangements for your trip to Ferryville.

We are very happy to have you as a member of the Community, John, and pray that your years of preparation here at St. Mary's Seminary will be filled with many blessings and that you will in due time be ordained as a priest of the Catholic Church.

Looking forward to meeting you here in Ferryville in the very near future, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

  
(Rev.) James F. McOwen, C. M.  
Director

*St. Vincent's Seminary of Fournier Institute*

127th Street and Archer Avenue, Lemont, Illinois

<sup>7.</sup>  
6/30/55

Dear Father Mac,

Gratia Domini nostri Jesu Christi sit semper nobiscum!

Behold the new Lemont stationery! I'll still reside here most of the time, but am to have a room out there. Am supposed to handle vocational correspondence from Lemont. Takes two Superiors to hold Ganel down!

Mr. Ruhl will drive down the three Academy graduates, and I have instructed them to try and arrive between 3 and 4 on the afternoon of the 15th. -- The other fellow will probably go down by train, and I'll let you know about picking him up at St. Mary's.

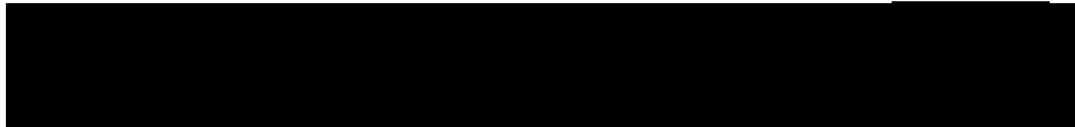
Checked with Flannery and he says the testimonials were sent back to the Chancery several days ago. Presume that they may have reached you by now. If not, let me know right away and I'll check with the Chancery. -- Signed up [redacted] nephew yesterday for the Novitiate, but guess it's too late for the July class. Will prepare him for September. Fine lad; spent one year at Notre Dame. Guess he can enter with the California lad in September.

*St. Vincent's Seminary of Fournier Institute*

127th Street and Archer Avenue, Lemont, Illinois

Page <sup>7.</sup>2

Think I have all the necessary information on the Ruhl case; if not, let me know what else is needed. Went over and spoke to the parents, and the Mother got out her papers which revealed the following information:



If I didn't sleep through all of Fr. John Zimm's Canon Law, and if I understand any of this subject (which I doubt), I think this boy was legitimized when the marriage was rectified.

My hat's not in the ring for your job..... According to the whisperings up here, Oscar Miller and Iggy Foley have the two jobs cinched, so why hope ??????????

P.S. AM ENCLOSED PICTURES  
OF NEW SEM. SO YOU  
CAN MAKE A "HIT"  
AT COMMON REC!!!

Yours in the patron of clerical kidnapers,

*Steve iscm.*

PETITIO PRO LICENTIA VOTA  
IN CONGREGATIONE MISSIONIS EMITTENDI

Tempore praeparationis Constitutionibus Congregationis Missionis praescripto fere elapso, ac tota re coram Deo diligenter perpensa, petitionem R. A. D. D. Visitatori nunc exhibeo pro licentia requisita ad emittenda vota ~~vel perpetua vel ad triennium vel ad completionem vigesimi primi anni aetatis.~~

Testificor in primis, nulla me coactione seu vi, nec ullo impelli timore in eisdem votis emittendis, sed licentiam praefatam sponte exoptare, ac plena liberaque voluntate eandem velle, cum experiar ac sentiam a Deo me esse revera vocatum tum ad statum clericalem tum ad Congregationem Missionis.

Fateor mihi plene esse cognitae cunctas obligationes e Regulis Communibus seu Constitutionibus atque e votis solitis ejusdem Congregationis dimanantes, nempe votis paupertatis, castitatis, obedientiae et stabilitatis, quae sponte emittere volo ac propono, eaque toto meae vitae curriculo, Deo adjuvante, diligentissime servare constituo. Fateor praeteres Regulas Communes, vota obligationesque supradicta a Directore Seminarii Interni mihi plene explicata fuisse.

Denique sincera fide spondeo jugiter me obsequentissime obtemperaturum iis omnibus quae mihi a Superioribus juxta Regulas seu Constitutiones Instituti nostri praecipientur, paratum virtutum exempla tum opere cum sermone aliis praebere, adeo ut retributionem a Deo promissam accipere merear.

In hac spe me Tibi profiteor, dum Tuam benedictionem imploro,  
addictissimum servum in Domino,

*Joannes Eduardus Ruhl, C.M.*

Visum et approbatum hac die 7<sup>a</sup> mensis Maii  
anni 1960, in quorum fidem manu Nostra subscripsimus.

*Jacobus W. Stahelium, C.M.*  
Visitator



STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Name RUHL JOHN EDWARD  
last first middle

Home Address [REDACTED]

City CHICAGO 14 State ILLINOIS  
Zone

Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Name of Parents [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED]  
Zone

Who should be contacted in case of Emergency ?

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone No. [REDACTED]

Date of your birth MAY 20, 1937

Vow Day JULY 19, 1957

What class are you in? PHILOSOPHY III--College 4

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION - WESTERN PROVINCE

Section I - Personal Data

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: RUHL, JOHN EDWARD Place of Birth: CHICAGO

Date of Birth: MAY 20, 1937 Name and Address of Parish of Baptism: ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CHICAGO 14, ILLINOIS

Name of Father:	[REDACTED]	Living	[REDACTED]	Catholic	[REDACTED]
		Dead		Non-Catholic	
Maiden Name of Mother:	[REDACTED]	Living	[REDACTED]	Catholic	[REDACTED]
		Dead		Non-Catholic	

NOVITIATE

<u>Dispensations Needed:</u>	<u>Date Granted:</u>
1. <u>Ex defectu natalium</u>	1. _____
2. <u>Parens a-catholicus</u>	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

N.B. If the dispensation "Ex defectu natalium" is granted prior to, or during the Novitiate, it is valid for all orders, even Major Orders. The dispensation from "Parens a-catholicus" once obtained prior to entering the Novitiate or during Novitiate is valid for Minor Orders.

4. Canonical Beginning of Novitiate (Date) JULY 19, 1955

5. Good Purposes (Date) JULY 19, 1956

N.B. If delayed, comment:

6. Departure from Novitiate (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Comment as to future clerical pursuit:

SCHOLASTICATE

1. Vows: Temporary (Date) JULY 19, 1957

Renewal (Date): \_\_\_\_\_

N.B. Comment on reason:

Perpetual (Date): JULY 19, 1960

Name: RUHL, JOHN EDWARD

Departure from Seminary:

Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason alleged for dispensation: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective date of dispensation: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment as to future clerical pursuit:

2. Dispensation for Major Orders:

Date Granted:

a. Parens a-catholicus

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Orders Received      Date      Place      Prelate Conferring      Dispensations

Tonsure      5/26/61      Perryville      Bishop Flavin

Minors I      5/27/61      Perryville      Bishop Flavin

    II      6/9/62      Perryville      Bishop Gottwald

Subdeacon      5/26/63      Perryville      Bishop Flavin

Deacon      10/7/63      Perryville      Bishop Flavin

Priesthood

First Solemn Mass:

Date:

Church:

Place:

**PRIESTHOOD**

List of Appointments Since Ordination To The Priesthood:

House

Years

Kind of Work (List Subjects)

Names and Addresses of Relatives to be Informed in Case of Serious Illness:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
--------------	----------------	-------------------------



Last Will and Testament Made:      Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Changed: \_\_\_\_\_.

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_.

<u>Funeral Mass:</u>	<u>Name of Church</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Date of Mass</u>
----------------------	-----------------------	-------------	--------------	---------------------

Celebrant:

Deacon:

Subdeacon:

Preacher:

Date and Place of Interment: \_\_\_\_\_.

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION - WESTERN PROVINCE

Section III - Medical Data

\*\*\*\*\*

N.B. On this part of the record there is to be listed only: 1) Hospitalization and its cause: 2) Consultation with a physician for a major ailment: 3) all consultation with a psychiatrist or psychoanalyst. Please give detailed comment covering each year of the Scholastic's life as Student.

(over)

Clergy Misconduct:

---

Complainant:

REDACTED

Birth date: October 24, 1954

Accused: (Fr.) John Ruhl, CM  
Former Vincentian  
Former Orange Diocesan Priest (Inactive 1998)

Incidents: Queen of Angels High School Seminary  
Current address Mission Hills, CA

Initial Call: September 25, 2002

██████████ called on Wednesday, September 25, 2002. He said, "I was a student at Queen of Angels seminary. It's Aleman High School now. It's in San Fernando. I live in Washington, now."

"It happened in 1970-71. I was a freshman." Asked his birth "It's ██████████ I graduated from eighth grade in ██████████ Then it's possible that you were a ██████████ in ██████████" "Yes, that's right. I left as a ██████████ I was in the dormitory on the Westside. Fr. John Ruhl was in charge of the dormitory on the Westside."

"He would call me into his office after I had taken a shower. I had my robe on. He said to sit on the couch. He'd open my robe and fondle me. This happened several times. It was like he's the Doctor and I'm a patient. He was my counselor. I was naive and trusting. I didn't think he would hurt me. I felt weird when he touched me."

Asked if told not to tell or keep secret? "No, he did not say not to tell". "I talked to my buddies. I wouldn't go past his door anymore. It stopped happening."

██████████ asked, "Did anyone else call about the seminary?" I responded, "You are the first person". ██████████ was surprised. I responded, "I received an e-mail but there was no victim named".

Asked if John Ruhl was a Vincentian? "No, he was a Jesuit. He was a big guy 6 feet easy and about 200 pounds or more. He was in his 30's or 40's then."

██████████ asked if there were other reports and was the priest alive? I said I would find out and let him know. ██████████ said that he had been encouraged by Sr. Louise a good friend

to report the abuse. He said that he knew Fr. Paul Albee, his former Pastor at Natvity in Torrance.

I asked if he needed counseling. He didn't think so but we decided he'd think about it for now. I gave my phone number. I gave Detective [REDACTED]'s name and number suggested calling when he's ready and explained the priest would be reported because it's the right thing to do to stop child abuse.

*Research begin with Vincentians and see if this person was also at Queen of Angels.*

**Follow up with Vincentians:**

1. Called Fr. Andy Bellasario to see if they had a record of Fr. John Ruhl's assignments. Was he at Queen of Angels in the year 1969-70? Answer: Yes.
2. Was he tall "easy 6 ft & over 200 pounds" ? "Yes." Is he alive?" " I don't know he left the Vincentians and joined the Orange Diocese. Then he left."
3. Fr. Andy was clear, he felt badly about this victim and that someone was harmed by a Vincentian. He said he would be away. He will be in the office on Monday.
4. Sr. Sheila gave [REDACTED] name and phone number. Said she call [REDACTED] and tell him this was a Vincentian call Fr. Andy.
5. Sr. Sheila will fax written report on Thursday, 9/26/02.
6. Suggest Fr. Andy initiate the call to the victim and apologize as a Pastoral outreach.

**Follow up with Shawn:**

1. Sr. Sheila called [REDACTED] home and left information with his wife who identified herself as his wife.
2. [REDACTED] has not yet reported to police.
3. Fr. Andy Bellasario's name and number. Fr. Andy will report to Police, also.
4. Fr. Andy will be in the office on Monday.

**Follow up in Diocesan System:**

1. The Seminary is a Diocesan sponsored institution. Is this a Diocesan and Vincentian case? Implications of responsibility?
2. Does Orange Diocese need to be informed? Do they also have Ruhl case?
3. This is the second Ruhl case. The previous case was at the Vincentian Seminary in Montebello.
4. Police jurisdictions - Fr. Bellasario is doing the reporting.

VINCENTIAN FATHERS & BROTHERS

PROVINCE OF THE WEST

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## Confidential Memo

June 15, 1993 --

I received a telephone call from [REDACTED] this morning. He said that he wanted to see me to speak about an incident, which occurred 17 years ago, involving one of our priests. I told him to come in as soon as possible, and he agreed to leave Tustin immediately.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived about 10:50 a.m. [REDACTED] said that she wanted to wait in the waiting area while [REDACTED] spoke to me.

The [REDACTED], is now a [REDACTED]. While doing this [REDACTED], he recall a situation which had occurred in his own life.

In 1976 [REDACTED] attended the Vocation Week at Saint Vincent's Seminary in Montebello. One day during the week, he had been directed to leave one of the playing fields and to go shower. Somehow the handle came off the shower and a "Father John R." came in and began to berate [REDACTED] for "breaking" the shower. [REDACTED] was naked at the time and Father John kept hanging around and staring at him. Finally he told [REDACTED] that, for his penance he had to kneel down. Father John, fully clothed, walked up to [REDACTED] and shoved his head in his crotch.

At the time, [REDACTED] did not know anything about sex or about molestation, so it was no big deal to him, but when he was doing the [REDACTED], he realized that he himself had been a victim. He was not terribly traumatized and has no desire to persue legal remedies, but his concern is that this minimal contact that "Father John R." had with him might have blossomed into full-fledged molestation of other children. He wants to be sure that this priest is never allowed to do this to other children.

I concluded that "Father John R." had to be John Ruhl, so I informed [REDACTED] that John had been removed from his job as Vocation Director that same year and that he had undergone counselling with [REDACTED] (now deceased), who approved his returning to ministry in 1977. I said that John had left the Vincentian Community around 1980 and had joined "a diocese", but that he had left active ministry about a year ago. I assured [REDACTED]



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that I would inform the <sup>PROVINCE OF THE WEST</sup> diocese to which he belongs that this report had been made. I also assured him that I would do what I could to see that John Ruhl was not allowed to return to active ministry, at least not without serious psychiatric treatment and approval of suitable experts.

I asked [redacted] to express my and the Community's apologies to [redacted] for this incident and to assure him that, if there is anything he needs as a result of this incident (e.g., counseling), he should contact me. [redacted] was satisfied with our session and, as he was leaving, told [redacted] that I had "been a big help" and that "everything was taken care of." I told them to phone me if anything else comes up.

June 16, 1993 --

I phoned Monsignor John Urell, Chancellor of the Diocese of Orange, at 9:00 a.m. and informed him of this report. He assured me that John Ruhl was on "inactive leave" and that there were no expectations that he would ever return to active ministry. He told me that John had been confronted with another case of similar inappropriate behaviour and that a lie-detector test had indicated that there was reason to suspect that there had possibly been other inappropriate behaviours.

I told John Urell that the Province of the West would be responsible for any other consequences of the incident with [redacted], if there should be any.

[redacted] live in [redacted]. They invited me to visit them and to stay with them if I am ever in that area. Their telephone number is: [redacted]

*James R. Heff, C.M.*  
6/16/93