

SSS.000717

101/71

March 22, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

→ 345-5297

Mr. Howard C. Leach
State of New Mexico
Secretary of Corrections
P.O. Box 2325
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dept Correction 827-8600 not there now

Dear Mr. Leach,

I have researched thoroughly the personnel file of the Rev. Edward F. Donelan, a priest of this Archdiocese who served as Chaplain to the New Mexico Boys' School at Springer from July 1, 1958 to July 1, 1970. The records contain information about Father Donelan from the time he was a theological student from 1952 through 1956.

I am pleased to advise that no evidence of homosexual behavior, nor even of homosexual tendency appears anywhere. On the contrary, he is reported to be very manly - open and forthright.

I have no record of any evaluation of Father Donelan's services at Boys' School from any source, nor did any complaint of this serious nature come to my attention prior to your visit.

In the light of what I know and have observed and what others have had to say about Father Donelan, I must suspect that some "political" chicanery is at the bottom of this matter.

I do know that Father Donelan on more than one occasion took exception to procedures and practices of the staff at Springer and insisted on due recognition of his responsibilities and the staff cooperation to be expected. I regret that I have no record of details and that my memory only serves only to recall the fact. The Instances reported by Father however were numerous and repeated. This was particularly true of the last four or

SERVANTS -4415

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five years of his service at the school.

I believe that Father's reputation should be cleared and I know that
I and he would welcome such a procedure on your part.

Sincerely yours,

James P. Davis
ARCHBISHOP OF SANTA FE

cc: The Rev. Edward Donelan

(dictated by Archbishop Davis March 20, 1971; signed by Rev. Monsignor
Francis A. Reinberg, Episcopal Vicar, March 22, 1971)