

February 20, 1976

Dear Archbishop Robert Sanchez,

I arrived at the Hacienda Boys ranch in the summer of 1969, to work as a volunteer staff member. My original intentions were to use my talents to help Father Ed manage the ranch and of course, work with boys. My talents and knowledge in photography, fine arts, and outdoor activities were all a part of an active schedule I maintained at the Hacienda Boys Ranch. (*)

My personal relationship with Father Ed started out great. I worked hard, gave alot of time, and alot of helpful suggestions. As time went by, I soon realized, both through personal experience as well as seeing this in others, that Father Ed was really overly dominating both as a boys ranch director and as a Priest. I soon began to find that our relationship was not gaining anything of depth, and to me it seemed that Father Ed was taking me for granted. Father Ed seemed to be satisfied with excepting me only as he saw me, without really looking for depth or allowing me to put into action the new awarenesses etc., which I was experiencing under him. We did not communicate well other than in generalities and ~~"chain of command"~~ ^{business} situations. Though I honestly feel I did not go to the ranch to "get" anything, and that it did not really offer any security for me, still being there really limited my contacts with other adult friends. Where their had been optimism for Father Ed's interests in me, by the end of the year, it was obvious that I needed to look elsewhere for more friendship. Finding that Father Ed did not care to relate with me, did not make life any less lonely for me. In time, I began to feel like I was withdrawing from people...the world, even my own faith was beginning to loose momentum. ³⁵ I found Father Ed more protective and selfish with his ministry rather than being open, giving, and willing to share. ^{9/12} If I could live with this personal disappointment, at least I had hope that the boys would be under the care and direction of a Priest. As I mentioned, I did not come to the ranch for help, and I was willing to see rather's attention (Priestly etc.) going directly to just the boys. feeling that it was so,

(1)

10

that his spiritual guidance was being given to the boys through personal and private sessions, I did not question him on it. One does not usually question a Priest on his morals,,,,,so I thought. Surely he is able to maintain a very high level of ethics with the boys,,,,so I thought. ~~RP~~

As time passed by, I began to see not only alot of mechanical problems, but also alot of psychological imbalance happening under his management. Boys who were troubled and mixed up came to the ranch only to be confused more. They were confronted more with learning how to satisfy and cope with Father Ed, then they were allowed to cope and understand themselves and their needs. Boys came into an environment where they soon were discouraged over everything they knew of in the past. The city life, excitement of youth, mistakes, adventures, all became something shameful, and they were not allowed to discuss "negative" pasts. A boys parents were most often outlined as being thoughtless, even mean....no good to the boys. Their past world now became all bad, too bad to hang on to. So I saw them striving in some cases, to make a new one.⁴⁰ Reality had struck (often hard!) and when it came to "what now", I began to realize that the future, as the ranch offered, was neather a healthynor honest answer for the boys. Father Ed's concerns were too possessive for his own self. Where the boys past was shattered and the future looked dismal, Father Ed took over. Realizing how inadequate this would be, prompted me to put aside my own feelings and needs, so I could "pitch in" and help supplement a healthier life for the boys. I worked hard to create active outlets for their needs. I talked and shared as much as I possibly could with the boys. This effort soon met with criticisms from Father Ed.³⁹ The possessiveness and jealousy often bore down heavily on the boys whom I was working closely with. So 31 34/39 Children began to feel insecure because of the way Father Ed pulled them off of staff who were trying to help a boy grow.³³⁻³⁴ (Possibly more so then Father Ed.) On the outside, his image took on even bigger proportion as new staff came to work under him,⁵⁻³⁷ yet as I know, each adult soon came to the same conclusion before they left the ranch. Mainly that, Father Ed, while saying he wants staff here to help, only wants them to satisfy his own ego needs, and that his possessive behavior with the boys excelebrates into negativism

(2)

for the boys, the more other people try to help out.

As a Priest he rightfully has title to "Father" as such, however as declared head of the "Hacienda family", he also establishes himself as ^{father} father also. The titles "Father and Son", do not mean as in the sense of Christian brotherhood, but take on a serious and intentional physical meaning. It is easy to say a boy who never knew his own ~~F~~ Father needs to relate with someone as his father, but it is not a rule. What about the reverse where a boy always hated his own father. Now the push is very different.

The basis for getting help at the ranch is all wrong, yet Father Ed insisted on his Father & Son position. ^{He one (staff at that time) have again} ~~card for this type of set up. 11~~ ~~it was alright to me, to feel stighted with Father, but I~~ did not like to see ^{the} boys lives complicated with this false love, false family, approach to their lives.

As the staff increased and their influence with the boys did also, Father Ed began to criticize the adults for minor mis-managings ~~of boys.~~ ^{35 36} While it was not too serious to start, it showed just the same to the boys, that he, Father Ed, could also control the staff just as he did them. ^{7 (see 11)} Soon the boys had no one who was safe to go to, so the only one was....Father Ed. Possesiveness brought control. So time went on, staff left, ³ but Father Ed's security continued strong. It would have been OK if the x-staff had been at fault, but ^{by the month} ~~it was not so.~~ ⁸⁻¹³ The only thing that let the situation go as is (or was), was that no adults felt the situation was so bad that it hurt the boys. Granted, it was difficult on them and certianly limiting to them, but no one could put pieces together enough to "buck city hall".⁹

By 1972, I was beginning to feel that perhaps I could try to involve myself directly with helping Father Ed see his short-comings with other adults. On many occasions I spoke out often against his attitudes.¹⁰ Slowly but insistantly I tried to ^{get} ~~bring himself~~ to see the need to change his behavior.¹¹ By the end of the year I had exhausted myself trying.¹² Obviously Father Ed realized how I was trying to affect him and took a negative stand.¹³ Of course, he won. I left the ranch, leaving the boys totally to his personal management. During that time at the ranch, from 1969 to 1973, I had lived in his backroom.⁶ (An area which no other staff could enter or see, because it was excessible only through Father Eds own locked quarters.) On my leaving the ranch, this inner room would be vacant for him to use himself.

(3)

During the early part of 1973, I went and confide my problems etc., with Father Casey, then in Socorro.¹⁴ Father Casey was extremely forward in asking questions about Father Ed's morality with youth. I was scarred to have to comment, for while I had seen some questionable behavior on Father Ed's part, still I did not feel sure enough to draw or even suggest conclusions. In the following months another staff member⁵ whom I was very close to, also confide with Father Casey. Same results...what to do! God, what to do? Since I was now away from the ranch living in Capulin N.M.. I had the opportunity to talk with Father Connally from Clayton. Soon he too ^{wanted} ~~wanted~~ to know more than I was wanting to answer. At least I began to feel like finally I would be able to air my thoughts and try to forget the issues, leaving it up to the judgement of God.

By the middle of the year, after having personal problems and bad luck with my new business adventure, I felt a tremendous desire to work once more with the boys that I had left at the ranch. So, I went back to working under Father Ed. Humiliating in a way, yet the boys were what mattered to me now.¹⁶ No more would I work against Father Ed. All I wanted to do is help the boys as they had to live under Father Ed's rule. When I got back to the ranch (late summer of 73) I was able to move into one of the new apartment buildings rather than back into Father's inner room. This satisfied me well, and also Father Ed, since he had already planned on the use of his now extra (private) room. In short time, the inner room was outfitted with fur rugs and a TV. It was established by Father Ed, as the "Skinroom" from then on. The boys had no TV anywhere else to watch. Their efforts to fix up a TV room, always failed, so Father Ed had quite a bit of excitement going when he began to let boys in his "Skinroom" at night to watch TV! Boys were excited, snacks were gotten, and the "Skinroom" was the focal point to which all boys worked.¹⁷ To be allowed in ^{meant} ~~meant~~ exceptance...rather Ed's attention. To be excluded meant no love,...not wanted. Boys would try to satisfy Father Ed just so they too could go in the "Skinroom". Rumor had it that things were pretty good in there. TV, snacks, even beer and liquor, were allegedly being offered to the boys.¹⁸ What was Father's point? What was he trying to do? If it was to impress the boys over the staff, he certainly seemed to be going overboard. 32

The pattern of boys behavior became noticeably complicated to me. Some who could go in Father's 'Skinroom' once, never could again. Some who were steadies, seemed to be granted position over others. Boys worried over the lists of those who could go in. Something seemed to become secret. Boys whispered about things.

One time during the spring of '74, while I was in charge of all the boys, I had a telephone call come in for Father Ed. I knew he was in his room (with boys) yet thought he'd want to answer the call, so I went and knocked on his door. I could hear music or TV (?) inside. Realizing that he probably could not hear me knocking, also considering that it was a long distance call, I opened the door and stepped in to tell Father Ed of the call. He immediately was mad at me for doing what I did. When I stepped into the room, I looked ahead into the 'Skinroom' and saw Father Ed naked on the fur rugs laying on his side, embracing one of the boys. Obviously he seemed embarrassed by my being there. The 'Skinroom' continued on through spring into summer, however it was evidently more after 9:00 AM then before. At any rate, it no longer interfered with other staffs hours or programs. (The staff were informed that if you were not in charge, you had no business in the 'quiet hall' part of the building. That is where Father Ed's room is. Since regular staff would be off-charge by 9:00 AM, we, or I, had no right to, (or way to) see what was going on at Father Ed's room door.)

During the winter of '74, we had another staff at the ranch (brother Carl Johnson) who repeated stories of how and what boys were doing in Father Ed's room at night! The only thing about believing them was that Carl himself was not very straight either! According to our dook at the time ^(Carl) who shared the same quarters as brother Carl, ^{Du}Carl had been involved in sexual acts before too, and threatened to expose Father Ed if he himself were ever put on the spot. Some of this I discussed with Father Ed hoping it would sober him up. The results was that brother Carl was shipped out that day, quietly and quickly...before the boys came home from school. What affect did this have on the boys? Well certainly it showed them that Father Ed ruled supreme and that no one messed with him! Things quieted down, and later on the antenna for Father Ed's TV, Blew down thus ending the TV and 'Skinroom'....least this is what we ⁴⁰naa hoped. It has become apparent even since ~~then~~ ^{then}, that if it

was the end of the TV, it still was not the end of the skinroom. Boys were allowed in to listen to records. So it continued. Perhaps less, certainly less obviously, but still continued.

During these years, boys would be switched from favored status to restricted status without apparent reason.¹⁷ Whether or not a boy could set up for class, go with father on a trip, get his allowance, go in father's room, were all evidently part of the way father worked things. Recommendations to father and by staff concerning boys placement, well being, even psychological testing were ignored or put down by him.¹⁸ New staff came...new staff left. Mostly due to lack of communication.¹⁹ Apparently father had had going, just that he wanted himself. Others were not necessary in the picture anymore. His attitudes about caring less over the staff and management of the ranch, were reason enough for me to leave in Oct. of '75. Though the picture is made up to look different by father, the fact remains that he no longer would help me establish my programs with the boys, and would not pay me an allowance to help sustain my own living costs. He told the boys that I would not make another year's commitment, which was false. /4.23

If that was how and why I left the ranch, still there may yet be unfolding before me, the ^{deeper} real reason. Years of concern by other staff over morals...years of seeing conflict in the boys management, then, the death of one boy Vaughn.²⁰ Shortly after the funeral, (at class in printer) father and I talked about the story of Job. "Do not question the wisdom of God for the way he handles human affairs!" I know God does nothing wrong. I know Vaughn's death will somehow serve a good purpose. I am wondering now, if it is the key that opens the door at the end of this dark tunnel of wrong doings at the boys ranch?

Though I left the ranch in Oct of '75, I have had contact with Mr. Tony Garcia (father's assistant) regularly, since we are friends, and I do now live ^{across the road from the} very close to the ranch. Just here in February, 76, I was able to take a boy out for the day. This was the last day that the boy would be at the Hacienda, as he was being transferred to Los Lunas ^{for schooling etc.}

(6)

talked of before
While out, we stopped and talked about secret things. *He + I had never*
I have inclosed the following copy of that conversation.

I It is the final straw, the reason...motivation of spirit
which commits me with faith to seek out the truth and
restoration of decency to the lives of children.

Robert R.

The following is a copy of a conversation between myself Pierre Nichols, and one 15yr. old boy on February 12, 1976. The boy had been at the Hacienda Boys Ranch for the past five years while I also was a volunteer staff member there. The boy was being relocated the following day away from the Hacienda in keeping with his own wishes. The conversation was held while alone with the boy, and prior to any questions, I discussed, and he understood that he had to answer my questions very honestly. The boy agreed to do so and after knowing him for the past years, I feel he was honest to me. During our talk, his face showed emotions of embarrassment, shame and sorrow. He seemed worried yet spoke with no hate about what had happened to him.

I questioned him on several light things first then went into matters which we had never talked of before. The following was put down on paper from my memory a few hours later that day. It is exact to the word, as I could recall.

Pierre (P)... "Does Father Ed still have boys into his room?"

boy (B)... "Yes"

(P)... "Like before when he called it the 'skin room'?"

(B)... "Yes"

(P)... "He used to have a TV in there..."

(B)... "The TV blew up."

(P)... "Then what reason does Father Ed have for having boys in his room?"

(B)... "They go in to 'listen to records!'"

(P)... "Do you believe it's just that or, alot more?"

(B)... "That's not all they do..."

(P)... "Do you think Father's playing around... I mean really jacking-off boys, or what?"

(B)... "I know he does!"

(P)... "Wait a minute, tell me, what are the conditions for a boy who goes into his room? I mean, how is he to dress?"

(B)... "Father says he can go in with only his undershorts or, without them on."

(P)... "You mean with no clothes on at all?"

(B)... "Yes"

(P)... "How is he dressed when you or a boy is in his room? Does he have clothes on all the time, or never, or what?"

(B)... "He doesn't have any clothes on either."

(1)

Robert (Raymond) McTeir

- (P) "I heard some things about this long time ago. Do you remember when the 'skin room' started?"
- (B) "Yes"
- (P) "Well I heard back in Dec. of 74, that one boy said that Father Ed made him get a hard-on then as he (Father) went to suck his dick, he said, "Now I'm going to show you how much I love you!". Do you think that such a thing really happened?"
- (B) "Yes! It does...I'm sure, I know!"
- (P) "Probably you could hear alot of things being said about Father once the lights go out at night. Did you ever hear them talk about this kind of stuff?"
- (B) "Yes, They'd call him a queer."
- (P) "Did everyone do it with him, or was it just his 'special pets'?"
- (B) "He had special boys he'd favor, and if one didn't do it he'd go and put him on restrictions or take his food away."
- (P) "That's not a very nice way to show love is it?"
- (B) "No"
- (P) "That really isn't love, that's dirty...shameful and wrong in the eyes of God. Children are to be helped by adults, not hurt. Do you feel you were hurt?"
- (B) "Yes. When I ran away and came back, Father just scolded me more and more. I wished I could run away again. But when other boys ran away, he hugged them when they returned and gave them things."
- (P) "Do you suppose maybe they were letting him do things to them?"
- (B) "Yes...but I wouldn't let him, I left and slammed the door one time, and he said I couldn't come in his room anymore."
- (P) "Do you remember... (another boy K)?"
- (B) "Yes, he didn't like Father!"
- (P) "Yes, I remember how Father would treat him cause he refused to call him his father, and didn't like to be called his son. Do you think Father played with him that way?"
- (B) "No, cause (K) he would say at night in bed, "That fag! He wants to fag me off, that queer!", and one night Father heard him and said "alright, you are off the vehicles, you may go nowhere down town after school, and you may not drive".
- (P) "There were others too that were involved in his 'skin room' that went along with it for a long time huh?"
- (B) "Yes" (names were discussed)

(2)

- (P) "Are you scared of Father Ed?"
- (B) "Yes."
- (P) "Have you always been scared of him?"
- (B) "Yes. He could take his belt off and hit you on the head with the buckle if you didn't do something for him, then say it was an accident."
- (P) "Did he ever hit you when you were in there?"
- (B) "No."
- (P) "This is very very serious talk you know. God is very unhappy with wrong and evil. We can not make things up or tell lies about this. Do you understand?"
- (B) "Yes, cause God is listening. I know, and I pray at night for God to help Vaughn cause maybe He'll say 'It's OK. Vaughn, now you're alright.'"
- (P) "Yes, that's good. Maybe Vaughn needs you and I very much to pray for him. Do you know if Vaughn was in his room that way?"
- (B) "I don't remember."
- (P) "Does Father still have boys in his room now?"
- (B) "Yes"
- (P) "When does he have them in there?"
- (B) "After the gym period at night."
- (P) "You mean after they are showered ready for bed?"
- (B) "Yes"
- (P) "About what time?"
- (B) "9 o'clock"
- (P) "How about during the day?"
- (B) "I don't know, I'm at school."
- (P) "Oh yes! I forgot! Does he have like a bunch of boys in his room at one time, or just a few?"
- (B) "No, one at a time, for a little, but then another boy. Sometimes he'll come down the hall at night asking for (T) a boy, saying "If you wanted to talk to me you can come to my room." ". I kept telling my younger brother not to go, but he does. He is scared that Father Ed will hurt him."
- (P) "Why do you think he gets to go into his room when just awhile back, say a year or so ago, Father didn't like him at all?"
- (B) "Maybe cause he's bigger now."
- (P) "You mean he has developed more?"
- (B) "Yes, before he didn't have much."
- (P) "You say Father still has boys in his room?"
- (B) "Yes"

(3)

- (P) "Do you think they are doing these things?"
- (B) "Yes"
- (P) "Which boys?" (he named all but the one oldest, himself, and the two youngest.) "Why do you suppose the two younger ones can't go in?"
- (B) "Cause they are still little. They haven't, what do you call them, developed."
- (P) "Your brother sure has huh?"
- (B) "Yes"
- (P) "Who do you think is doing the most with Father now?"
- (B) "My brother!"
- (P) "So far I think I know the kind of things you mean, but I have to ask you very carefully and detailed things, and I want you to answer very honestly for me. OK?"
- (B) "Yes, I will."
- (P) "Did you ever go in Father's room?"
- (B) "Yes"
- (P) "Did Father play with you any? I mean feel your body up and down or suck you or make you do things that weren't right?"
- (B) "I was in his room one time and he rubbed his hands up my legs and stuck his finger in my ass hole while he started to jack me off. I didn't like that, then he took and put my hand on his dick."
- (P) "Did either of you have any clothes on?"
- (B) "No"
- (P) "Did Father had have a hard-on when he put your hand on his dick?"
- (B) "Yes"
- (P) "Are you sure?"
- (B) "Positive he had a hard-on, yes! I didn't like that, that's when I ran from the room and slammed the door. I didn't want him to do that."
- (P) "What about your brother?"
- (B) "Yes, he does anything cause he's scared."
- (P) "Does he talk about it at all to you?"
- (B) "No. He won't talk at all about it with me. I tell him to say no. Father probably tells them not to talk."
- (P) "Do you think that Tony know these things?" Did he ever act that way?"
- (B) "Oh no! Father would never tell Tony!"

(4)

- (P) "When you went into the room, were you getting bigger?"
- (B) "I was just beginning to get hair." Are you going to do something about this?"
- (P) "I don't know. It is terrible...very wrong isn't it?"
- (B) "Yes. God is going to be very mad. Small boys will grow up and do what Father has taught them to do."
- (P) "What ever you may have done, you can say, you are sorry for and God will forgive you if you mean it. But do not feel too bad, for God knows you were the child...Father Ed, the adult, and the terrible wrong for leading you and others into that stuff, will be his responsibility to God. You are not a child anymore, and you know right from wrong. You can say 'no'...and that is what you say you said so many times. You are really lucky compared to your younger brother because he is not smart enough to know sometimes what is right and what is wrong. Oh yes, life is short! Look at Vaughn. Gone already! But we are alive right now and can make up for our wrongs. The part that Father will have to make up for or pay for, will certainly be great, for he was responsible for you children. Do not feel guilt for yourself. Life is ahead of you. Tomorrow, the past will be over."
- (B) "My poor brother! Father Ed will burn in fire for him won't he?"
- (P) "Perhaps, or maybe he will someday really say he's sorry. Maybe he is really a sick person, and doesn't realize these wrongs. But rather than for us to feel he is going to die in hell for what he has done, let's sometimes remember to pray for him. Yah! Causa his soul is sick and needs help so much."
- (B) "Yes, that's right."
- (P) "While at the ranch, I loved him! So do you! It is hard to face cause of how bad he really is. But we have loved him, and for that reason we can care a little more to help him by praying...to keep him away from hell's fire."
- (B) "Yes, like I pray for Vaughn, cause who knows, maybe God is hoping someone will pray...That's alright Vaughn, you can come to heaven, I forgive you, someone prayed for you..."
- (P) "That's right."
- (B) "I wish I could talk...I wish I could do something to help!"
- (P) "You can not, because you are not of age."
- (B) "Boy, wait till I'm old enough! Boy, I'll tell everything I know...like I told you!"
- (P) "Late hope for your brothers sake and others too. It won't go on much longer." (5)