

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

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Dear George and Carmen,

May I say first of all that this is a difficult letter for me to write. My pastor, Fr. DeGroot has talked with me and told me about the telephone conversation you had with him on Sunday concerning Nancy. Fr. DeGroot and I have since had a long and honest conversation with each other about what happened between Nancy and I while she was visiting me some weeks ago. He suggested that I write to you a letter of explanation about this matter.

First of all I must say that when I invited Nancy to come and visit with me in Lodi a few weeks ago it was not with the intention of taking advantage of her or doing anything to harm her while she was in my care. I have come to like Nancy very much and wanted to express my friendship and love for her by having her come stay with me. I also must admit that I feel very affectionate towards Nancy as I am sure I displayed many times even in your presence.

Now comes the difficult part. Did I touch Nancy in areas which I shouldn't have. I have to admit that I did on a few occasions. I guess I became over-affectionate and took advantage of the situation and went a little too far. I guess in weak moments one doesn't think of the consequences of their actions. There are times when one becomes selfish and is not aware of how the other person is reacting and I feel this is what happened to me. I became selfish and did not realize the harm that I could possibly do to Nancy. I guess when those moments had passed I forgot about them not thinking I had done any great harm. I now realize that I must have done a lot of harm and I deeply regret it.

I humbly apologise to both of you and to Nancy and ask you for your forgiveness for any wrong I have done to Nancy. I ask your pardon for the anxiety and worry which you must be experiencing over this whole matter. I realize that bringing up children in the world today is difficult enough without incidents like this occurring.

Fr. DeGroot has asked me to mention this matter to my Bishop and to ask his advice on whether I should seek help in discovering whether or not I may have a psychological problem which I need to attend to and which I may be unaware of. I have already written for an appointment with my Bishop.

I realize the big responsibility I have as a priest and the high ideals which I must uphold but I am also painfully aware of my own weaknesses and how

