

Box 353
Notre Dame
July 5, 1975

Mr. Kevin Ranaghan
Communication Center
Drawer A
Notre Dame, Ind.

Dear Kevin,

In ~~some~~ recent newspaper reports, you are quoted as saying ~~something~~ to the effect ~~that~~ the reason the SC made no report to the Bishop of some disorders occurring in a local charismatic community is that the priest who was acting as confessor and director to many of the members of this community insisted that it was his prerogative to communicate with the Bishop in such matters. I don't know whether you were correctly cited, as I have not seen your own statement, (which I would like to have). But if the citation is correct, I suppose that I am the priest you referred to. If that is the case, I find your statement quite incorrect.

1) I have never made any such statement, which in fact contradicts what I believe about the pastoral authority of the Bishop, and the right of anyone in the diocese to go directly to him for a case serious enough to warrant it.

2) Even if the Service Committee thought that was my opinion, it certainly would not have stopped them from going to the Bishop if they thought they should. Besides the fact that my opinions were ^{not} that decisive to any SC decisions, the Committee did in fact make an appointment with Bishop ~~P~~^Wrsley regarding the case in question, and later canceled it. You personally were involved in this step. The reason given to me later on by Bert Ghezzi for canceling this appointment was that on reconsideration, the committee felt that the evidence was not firm enough. In any case, the committee both made and canceled the appointment without consulting me at all.

3) The point that I made to you when I was informed about all this was that you ought not to have acted without conferring with me, which is altogether different from the statement attributed to you in the papers.

As long as I am on the subject, let me make another observation for your information, in case it should ever come up. That is that the so-called "break-through ministry" carried on by True House was carried on completely without any knowledge on my part. Only after it had ended did I first hear about it. And some aspects of it I never heard of until Steve Clark sent me the documents compiled by Bill Storey. I mention this, not as though you had said anything to the contrary, but just because people might suppose that I was in the know. My relationship with True House was personal with individual members of it, and never that of official counsellor for the community as such until, during the last year of its existence, Father McNally and I were both invited to sit in as advisors to their coordinating committee.

I would also add that Bill Storey's statement about events being canceled from the Bishop is factually inaccurate, since I personally gave Bishop Crowley a full report on the events of 1973 at the earliest opportunity available, which was shortly after my return from Europe at the end of the summer of 1973.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Edward D.O/Connor, CSC