

***REV. STEPHEN HERNANDEZ***

***ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES***

***DOCUMENTS PRODUCED 2013  
PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT***

**Vicar for Clergy Database**

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

**Rev Stephen Hernandez**

<i>Current Primary Assignment</i>	Living Privately	
<i>Birth Date</i>	1/25/1934	<i>Age:</i> 79
<i>Birth Place</i>	Long Beach, California, USA	<i>Deanery:</i> 0
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>		
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	2/6/1982	
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Archdiocese of Los Angeles	
<i>Date of Incardination</i>	2/6/1982	
<i>Religious Community</i>		
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin	
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Retired with No Faculties	
<i>Canon State</i>	Diocesan Priest	<i>Incard Process</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>		
<i>Home phone</i>	(626) 622-6885	
<i>Home phone</i>	(626) 359-3243	
<i>Seminary</i>	St. John's Seminary, Camarillo	
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Mexican	

**Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training***Date Background Check**Virtus Training Date***Virtus Recert Type**

1/1/1111 Virtus

**Assignment History**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Beginning Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
St. Basil Catholic Church, Los Angeles Resident, Retired with No Faculties	9/12/2002	12/31/2002
Living Privately, Retired with No Faculties	4/15/2002	
Administrative Leave	4/15/2002	
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (Rosehill), Los Angeles Resident, Retired	9/1/1997	9/10/2002
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (Rosehill), Los Angeles Hospitality, Active Service	2/1/1997	8/31/1997

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St. Camillus Catholic Center for Pastoral Care, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	7/1/1993	1/31/1997
St. Stephen Catholic Church, Monterey Park Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	7/1/1992	6/30/1993
St. Genevieve High School, Panorama City Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	7/1/1990	6/30/1992
St. Genevieve Catholic Church, Panorama City Resident, Resident	7/1/1990	6/30/1992
Queen of Angels Seminary, Mission Hills Education-Teacher/Faculty, Resident	7/1/1986	6/30/1990
Bishop Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School, Montebello Principal, Active Service	2/1/1985	6/30/1985
St. Stephen Catholic Church, Monterey Park Resident, Resident	2/1/1985	6/30/1986
Santa Clara High School, Oxnard Principal, Active Service, Assignment: Vice-Principal	9/1/1983	1/31/1985
Santa Clara Catholic Church, Oxnard Resident, Resident	9/1/1983	1/31/1985
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	3/1/1982	8/31/1983

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**St. Genevieve's Church**  
14061 Roscoe Boulevard, Van Nuys, California 91402, Telephone: 894-2261

April 9, 1992

Rev. Stephen Hernandez  
Teacher and Counselor  
St. Genevieve High School  
Van Nuys, California

Fr. Stephen,

The Principal of St. Genevieve High School REDACTED, has informed me that the high school will not be using your services next school year (92-93).

I concur with and approve of her decision as Principal.

This action is being formally communicated to the Superintendent of the Dept. of Catholic Schools.

Thank you for your services at our parish high school.

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

.....  
Pastor

Notes on a Meeting of Father <sup>REDACTED</sup> and Msgr. Loomis  
with Father Steve Hernandez

September 24, 1996  
1:30 PM

Father <sup>REDACTED</sup> and I presented the concerns of the gay support group expressed by <sup>REDACTED</sup>  
REDACTED

Father Hernández responded: <sup>REDACTED</sup> is under psychological care. He is committed to  
destroying the Missionaries.

- I can't accept that he thinks I am breaking confidence; he called me with his secrets! If he didn't trust me, how could he do that? The gifts I gave him were from old things in my closet. He became very dependent on me – he had a very hard family experience.
- He walked out of a meeting because two ex-<sup>REDACTED</sup>s arrived – supposed lovers of <sup>REDACTED</sup>
- I never presented the group as a “cruising place.” I am familiar with “Bienstar” and referred those cruising there. They give out condoms so you can go out!
- The young man who is an escort is now in immigration detention.

I gave him money so he won't go on street.

I took him with me to help take care of Mom.

He has stayed over-night at the rectory in the downstairs guest room with <sup>REDACTED</sup> permission.

I took a picture – not nude; he asked for one for his...*(Fr. did not finish the sentence.)*

I think about him every night – how can I save him from this escort business?

- At the SCRC Conference -- In bed? Never! We shared a room, but no contact – different beds.
- Yes, people come upstairs in the rectory to talk – no privacy downstairs – he's been up to help me in many ways. I don't do it any more. I started to use the common room after <sup>REDACTED</sup> talked to me.

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- West Hollywood – I went once, they said, “Let us take you!” We went to “Circus” to show me what it was like. It was nice!
- I am totally for my “kids,” and I will do anything for them. They call me “abuelo” or “tata.”

I ‘m new to this. I’m learning.

Father <sup>REDACTED</sup> said, “How could you think a shattered young man like <sup>REDACTED</sup> could go upstairs to your room?” This ministry needs great care, real caution. When the two other <sup>REDACTED</sup> arrived – red flags! You should have thought, “Keep your distance!” The hustler in the group – in your room? Picture? Going somewhere together? How could you even think of doing that?

Father Steve -- Nobody explained rules and boundaries. I’m learning.

000650

TOPIC: H. Steve Hernandez

DATE: 9/25/96

FILE UNDER:

PAGE: 130

REDACTED under psych care.

Can't accept breaking confidence. He called me w/ his secrets! If he didn't trust? Gifts were from old things in my closet. He became very dependent on me - very hard family experience.

Walked out of mtg. because two REDACTED arrived - supposed owners of REDACTED

Never presented group as "cruising place." Familiar w/ Finestart + referred those cruising there. They give out condoms so you can go out!

Escort - now in immigration detention. I gave money so he won't go on street. Ask him if me to help take care of Mom. He has stayed at restaurant REDACTED permission. Picture - not nude; he asked for one for his (pimp). I think about him every night - how can I save him from this escort.

! In bed? Never! We shared a room but no contact - different beds.

! Yrs. people come upstairs to talk - no privacy downstairs - he's been up to help me in many ways. I don't do it any more. I have the common room after REDACTED talked to me.

West Hollywood - once, let us take you! We went to Circus to show me. It was nice!

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I am totally for my kids & I'll do anything for them. They call me "abuelo" of "State."

I'm new to this. I'm learning.

REDACTED

+ How could you think shattered young man life REDACTED could go up stairs to your room? This ministry needs great care, real caution.

+ Two others arrived - red flags! Keep your distance!

+ Hostler - in your room? picture? going somewhere together?

Ms body explained rules & boundaries. I'm learning

000652





CONFIDENTIAL

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Cardinal Roger Mahony**

**From: Monsignor Richard Loomis** *RL*

**Date: Wednesday, September 25, 1996**

**Re: Father Stephen Hernandez**

Your Eminence,

I am sorry this is so long, but I thought it should be detailed since it involves the Ministry to Gay and Lesbian Catholics.

Father <sup>REDACTED</sup> and I met with Father Hernandez yesterday afternoon. The president of one of the gay support groups had come forward with concerns about Father Hernandez, who acts their chaplain. He said

- that members had visited Father's rooms in the rectory,
- that, while the policy of the group is firmly against using the group as a dating service, Father has encouraged members to "get together,"
- that he had gone with members to West Hollywood,
- that several members had shared a hotel room with him at the SCRC Convention,
- that one member of the group is an "escort" and is claiming Father Hernandez had him pose for almost nude pictures and has stayed overnight with him,
- that Father is overly affectionate with some members.

There were no allegations of specifically sexual activity. The president said he was presenting the concerns of five or six members, including his own personal experiences. His primary concerns were for

1. the integrity of their own group,
2. the good of Father <sup>REDACTED</sup>'s ministry and Church,
3. and the good of Father Hernandez.

When presented with these things, Father Hernandez made credible explanations of most and insisted on no sexual wrongdoing. However, his explanations showed very bad judgment on his part in that

1. he had indeed shared a room with members at the SCRC Convention;

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CONFIDENTIAL

2. he did know the one young man was an escort but was working to get him out of that situation; he had indeed taken a picture of him but a head shot, not posing and not almost nude; this same young man had spent the night in the rectory guest room (downstairs) with Father<sup>REDACTED</sup>'s permission,
3. he used to have members up to his room in the rectory to talk because there was no private place to meet with them at Saint Camillus; he stopped this practice when Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> objected;
4. he went to West Hollywood "once" with some members who wanted to show him what it was like;
5. he completely denied encouraging members to "get together" or that he had been overly affectionate.

The situation is somewhat complicated by the fact that the president of the group is the same person who accused Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> of wrongdoing in their Novitiate.

Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> and I both think (and told Father Hernandez) that, at the very least, he exercised very poor judgment. He did not take into account the sensitivity of the Ministry of Father<sup>REDACTED</sup>'s office. He did not take into account the perceptions which might be created by his actions and what the media or press might make of it. He did not take into account the effect of his actions on the people in the group who had become more and more distressed by what they perceived.

Father Hernandez apologized and said that he was new to this ministry and had had no idea he was crossing boundaries (which I find hard to accept taking into account his age and past experience in school work).

*yes!*

In the meeting, Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> told Father Hernandez that he was no longer chaplain to the group at Saint Camillus. The need to safeguard the Archdiocese and yourself made such action necessary. With your approval, I would like Father Hernandez to attend an educational group on boundary issues that Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> started with Sister<sup>REDACTED</sup> at Saint John's Seminary. It is primarily educational, but Sister will be able to give us an assessment if she believes further evaluation or therapy are warranted or would benefit someone of Father Hernandez's age.

Lastly, I am very impressed by the manner in which Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> dealt with this situation. He involved the Vicar's Office immediately, encouraged the young man to be open with me in presenting the group's concerns and collaborated on a solution throughout the entire process. I think we avoided a greater problem through his quick action. *indeed!*

*Thanks!*

*+RHK*

*9-25-96*

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COPY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fr. REDACTED  
FROM: REDACTED  
DATE: September 25, 1996

On September 24, 1996 Msgr. Richard Loomis and I met with Fr. Stephen Hernandez regarding certain complaints from some members of the Emaus community. In the course of our conversation, it became clear to us that Fr. Hernandez exceeded certain boundaries on several occasions and made some judgments that are imprudent and inappropriate. Unfortunately such actions create suspicions and rumors inconsistent with official ministry with gay Catholics. I was left with no alternative but to ask Fr. Hernandez to resign from any further ministry to Emaus. I felt obliged to inform you of my decision. If you have any concerns or questions, please call me or Msgr. Loomis.

cc: Msgr. Richard Loomis

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COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 251-3284

1531  
West Ninth  
Street

Los Angeles  
California  
90015-1194

October 10, 1996

Reverend Stephen C. Hernandez  
Saint Camillus Catholic Center for Pastoral Care  
1911 Zonal Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90033-1032

Dear Steve:

This is to acknowledge your letter regarding a transfer to St. John of God Residence. I will bring your request to the Personnel Board and see what is possible.

Please be assured that the matter will be handled as confidentially as possible.

PAX!

Reverend Monsignor Richard A. Loomis  
Vicar for Clergy

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10-24-96 10:33

REDACTED

001

Confidential

October 24, 1996

REDACTED

TO: Msgr Richard Loomis  
FROM: Father REDACTED  
RE: Father Stephen Hernandez

Yesterday morning I asked Stephen if we could have a meeting in the afternoon at 4pm. One of the things I was going to discuss was your request for him to help on Sunday at the other parish. We had discussed it last week after you called me but I had suggested we think about it. My plan was to contact you after the meeting.

My hope for the meeting was to:

- talk through your request.
- talk through our Senior Priest agreement in light of the recent "incident" and other administrative needs.
- find out what was the situation around his surgery and our schedule
- let him know that our accountant, Dean REDACTED was going to help me understand the \$1500+ bills of his doctors over the past six months that were not covered by insurance.
- work out a time for dinner at a priest house
- and I wanted to clarify the implications within the house of his not working with the Lesbian and Gay group

In the middle of the conversation, Stephen informed me that he had requested an immediate transfer. I was shocked. We had had a confrontation at the end of lunch regarding another chaplain but he said he had called early in the day. I asked why and he said he could not trust many of us on staff. He said he had spoken to you about this weeks ago and he was planning on moving ASAP. He said he had called in the morning and waiting for word from you. I asked when I was going to find out about this transfer. He remained silent. At that point the conversation ended. I suggested we might want to have a meeting with you to try to work things out—he said he would not agree to that. He was very angry that I wanted clarifying his ongoing conversations and "meeting" with members of the Spanish Gay and Lesbian group. He said I was like everybody else not believing him and listening to "allegations." "You are all the same..."

I was hoping things could work out. I am still open to talking but I do think his ongoing ministry here (or anywhere) needs to include some counseling on working with others and specifically with women. That is what our conversation in June with his doctor had involved along with the medical and early "incident".

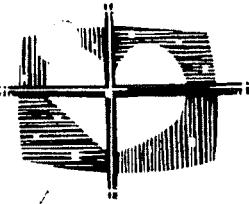
I am concerned for him. I am concerned about being here alone full time and REDACTED only part time. His commitment here has changed with the interim pastor "situation." I know that you have no priest to "go around". I would guess if Stephen is leaving soon I would work with REDACTED, so he could help with one addition night beeper coverage. I am already on four nights. I would hope—whatever happens—we might put out a request for priest to coming here for 2-3 year commitment. I would want to talk about your feelings on my speaking to religious communities.

I am sorry this is happening while you are so busy with other things....

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# SAINT CAMILLUS

CATHOLIC CENTER FOR PASTORAL CARE  
SERVING LAC+USC, NORRIS CANCER, USC UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS



*Sept*  
October 30, 1996

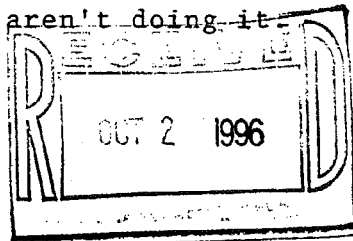
Dear REDACTED

To begin this letter I must tell you that my meeting with you and REDACTED was devastating. It only added to what is going on in my life. I have three doctors on my tail right now: my general doctor who is putting me through many test right now, pushing me to see a urologist who has done some tests and wants to do some minor surgery very soon, and my neurologist who has me going through more tests and medication to keep me from having anymore seizures. Thank God they have gone away. But, now this. It is too heavy to carry. I have laid it all in the hands of God and our Blessed Mother.

I can assure you that every waking moment and it is now all most all the time, I can't believe what has happened. Therefore, I am writing you to ask if I can be moved from St. Camillus? It is too painful being here. I have always been a loner and I have to get somewhere by myself. I spoke to one of the Brothers at St. John of God regarding their apartments. He invited me to come and see them. I have been told by others that it is a very nice place. You can be part of a group or you can be by yourself. This is what I need. St Camillus is just too painful. It is not that far from my doctors and pharmacy. It is also freeway close to REDACTED .

I know that REDACTED will not be happy but it will mean that he will have to spend more time here in the hospital and less on his personal projects(as good as they are). But, again, it is too painful to be here, it is tearing me apart and it hurts.

I hope you can get back to me as soon as possible, aspirin and Pepto-Bismol aren't doing it.



yours,  
*Stephen*  
Fr Stephen C Hernández

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1911 ZONAL AVENUE LOS ANGELES CA 90033-1032

TELEPHONE 213.225.4461 FACSIMILE 213.225.9096

**CONFIDENTIAL**

December 27, 1996

REDACTED

I want to thank you first for all you do for the Archdiocese but especially for the clergy. I can only image it is not only a thankless job but full of frustrations.

I hope the letter to Stephen is OK. It went through several drafts in my computer, to my spiritual director and back again. I feel very much used by him at this point. I do hope that he gets counseling before he goes on to something else.

I feel good about the match with <sup>REDACTED</sup> I wish we could put out the request to all the clergy before we finalize this deal. I have received news from the religious priest who was interested in coming here to help—his Provincial has said yes and he would be interested in coming in about 4 months. I will talk to him next week and then let you know who and what might happen.

I was not sure if you would be in during these days—I hope you are getting a break. I am sorry this is happening at this time—I felt Stephen forced the issue.

Peace and blessed New Years.

REDACTED

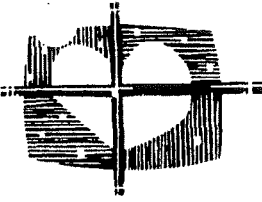
Sincerely, <sup>REDACTED</sup>

REDACTED

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# SAINT CAMILLUS

CATHOLIC CENTER FOR PASTORAL CARE  
SERVING LAC+USC, NORRIS CANCER, USC UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS



December 27m 1996

Father Stephen Hernandez  
St. Camillus

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Stephen Hernandez.

I understand from our conversation last night that you plan on leaving here on January 6<sup>th</sup> or sometime that week. After reflection, I will need to tell the Catholic chaplains next week of your decision and then work with them on coverage of our patients from January 6<sup>th</sup> forward. I will inform them that you wish no farewell and you will not be saying a final mass due to your commitment to Juvenile Hall.(Attached)

My understanding of your last week with us would be the following:

- Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup> 1pm-5pm
- Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> 9am-5pm
- Monday December 30<sup>th</sup> Off
- Tuesday December 31<sup>th</sup> 9am-til Noon Mass—off for New Year's Eve
- Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup> Off for holiday unless you tell me other wise\*
- Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:30am Mass until after lunch
- Friday January 3<sup>rd</sup> Off
- Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup> 1pm-5pm
- Sunday January 5th 9am-5pm

*\*Let me know which evening you would take the beeper next week.*

Please note that you had taken three days of vacation, all your 10 days of sick leave time plus an additional five weeks following the surgery.

I will plan on the January 13<sup>th</sup> week for cleaning the rooms.

I pray the concerns and issues we have brought up over the past years will be worked on in your counseling. I simply list them here but would be open to discussing them:

- your depression
- your lack of interaction with women in shared ministry
- your lack of visiting your mom
- your removal as Spiritual Director for the Gay and Lesbian Ministry
- your ongoing contacts with members of Emaus
- your removal from the Jail ward in context of rules/staff
- your refusal to anoint certain patients, such as on the burn ward
- your comments about the pain of "Irish" persons
- your lack of communication and trust with me and others on staff

REDACTED  
Blessings for you in the New Year. Wish you well and pray your health improves.

REDACTED  
(C) Msgr. Richard Loomis Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

*Monday December 30, 1996*

*Dear fellow Catholic Chaplains:*

*I wish to inform you that Fr. Stephen has requested to leave our ministry. He will finish up his commitment here next Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>. He has requested no farewell and due to his commitment at Juvenile hall he will not have a final mass. He asks that we not tell the hospital staff until after he leaves.*

*We shall need to talk about this change later this week and at our staff meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*Thank you for your consideration of this important transition. I know that our prayers go with Stephen. We wish Stephen blessings, good wishes and good health.*

REDACTED

*Sincerely,* REDACTED

REDACTED

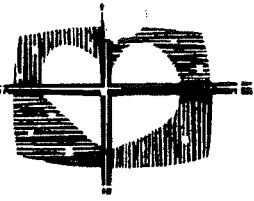
*Pastor/Director*

*cc Fr. Stephen Hernandez*

**000642**

# SAINT CAMILLUS

CATHOLIC CENTER FOR PASTORAL CARE  
SERVING LAC+USC, NORRIS CANCER, USC UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS



April 15, 1997

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Msgr. Loomis  
Vicar of Clergy

Dear Monsignor:

I have enclosed the requested third quarter Pension payment for Fr. Stephen Hernandez. I had not paid this because he left us so abruptly. In the middle of December he had told me of his discussion with you in October to retire immediately but that he would remain 'til February or March. He sat with me and set up the mass schedule into February. It was on December 26<sup>th</sup> that he told me he wished to leave on January 6<sup>th</sup>. He left me a note(enclosed) December 30<sup>th</sup> informing me he was leaving that night on vacation. I did not pay the quarterly since I thought he was in your hands the last day of the year.

I can only pray that he is getting support and help. I have been told by sisters who have seen him that he does not look like he is taking care of himself. I still am getting billing from all his doctor's in the last three months of the years. Doctors still call asking for him and I refer them to his new parish. They ask how he is doing and I simply say I have not seen the man since he left at the end of December.

He is still celebrating mass at Juvenile hall and when I asked about it I got a quick note from him.

I did not pay this since he walked out on us on December 30<sup>th</sup>. My real concern for him now is as a fellow priest of this Archdiocese.

REDACTED  
East of Peace.  
REDACTED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

APR 16 1997

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001 201 2002 11.97



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 637-72881424  
Wilshire  
BoulevardLos Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

July 23, 1997

Reverend Stephen C. Hernandez  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church  
4509 Mercury Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90032-1932

Dear Father Hernandez:

Thank you very much for your recent letter, and I certainly understand your desire to retire early because of your medical situation.

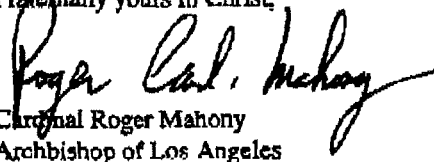
As you know, this is an unusual and exceptional case, and given all of these special circumstances, I am agreeable to grant you early retirement. This means that the Archdiocese itself will have to meet your salary and retirement benefits until you reach the age of 65 years, and we are happy to do so.

Although you will be in residence at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Rosehill, I would hope that you would make yourself available on a supply basis to the surrounding and neighboring parishes, insofar as your health and strength allow.

As is the policy of the Archdiocese, any involvement in any other pastoral or priestly ministries must be approved by the Vicar for the Clergy.

Asking the Lord's blessings upon you as you make this transition in your wonderful life and ministry here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+   
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

cc: REDACTED

Reverend Monsignor Loomis  
REDACTED

REDACTED ACTED

Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels San Fernando San Gabriel San Pedro Santa Barbara

1771

8/12/97

REDACTED

a few questions:

- I received payment letter for pension plan, who pays it? Archdiocese?
- who do I take care for maintenance? it is older & it does have some problems.
- who pays for maintenance? after years of droppings & trash, they are a disaster & probably unsanitary.
- now that I have a "company" car, who pays for gas? ~~000630~~

status of retirement  
 puts me under the  
 the obligation of the  
 archdiocese - therefore,  
 now that I'm not  
 under "hospitality"  
 here at O.L.S. -  
 shouldn't the archdiocese  
 pay now for the gas  
 & rep-keep?  
 where do I apply for  
 a gas card or should  
 I use my personal one  
 + send bills to whom?

thanks for time

Stephen

000626

REDACTED  
Sieg... Hernandez

*Union of Clergy  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles*

627



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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** REDACTED

**FROM:** Monsignor Richard A. Loomis *RAL*

**DATE:** August 14, 1997

**SUBJECT:** REVEREND STEPHEN C. HERNANDEZ

This memorandum is to notify you that the Cardinal has approved the retirement of Father Stephen C. Hernandez, effective September 1, 1997. However, due to Father Hernandez' age, and in accord with Cardinal Mahony's letter, the Archdiocese will pay Father Hernandez a Pastor's salary, with seniority, and [REDACTED] in lieu of stipends. The Archdiocese will also continue to pay for Father's medical insurance. Father Hernandez will reside at Our Lady of Guadalupe (Rosehill), Los Angeles. There will be no further collection of pension payments.

When Father Hernandez reaches the age of sixty-five, he will be on Medicare A & B and the Pension Board supplement will take over.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

000621



# COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

August 15, 1997

Reverend Stephen Hernandez  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
4509 Mercury Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90032-1932

Dear Steve:

I received a copy of the Cardinal's response to your request to retire. Father <sup>REDACTED</sup> will be in contact with you in the near future. As you may know, his ministry is to our retired priests.

The Archdiocese will continue your salary and benefits until age sixty-five, at which time the Pension Fund will take over. For a detailed understanding of your Pension benefits at that time, please contact the Pension Office.

In answer to your questions: You should submit the letter for payment to the Pension Plan to this office. We will make sure it gets paid. Also, this is the last such payment letter you will receive since you are now retired.

The automobile expenses for priests retired in a rectory are the responsibility of the parish of residence.

I hope this answers your questions. Please feel free to discuss any other points with REDACTED when he calls to see you.

PAX!

Reverend Monsignor Richard A. Loomis  
Vicar for Clergy

cc: Reverend <sup>REDACTED</sup>

Enclosure

000622



REDACTED

From: Loomis, Msgr. Richard A.  
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 1997 8:33 AM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Fr. Stephen Hernandez

This info from REDACTED is correct. We are paying a regular salary because of the wording of the Cardinal's letter to Fr. Hernandez.

*Per Vicar - there's no change since he has been ordained only 15 yrs.*

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 1997 2:54 PM  
To: Msgr. Richard Loomis  
Subject: RE: Fr. Stephen Hernandez

Monsignor,

This is additional information on Fr. Stephen Hernandez.

Thank you.

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 1997 2:41 PM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Fr. Stephen Hernandez

Since Fr. Hernandez is only 63 he will not receive any pension from my Department until 1000. Father Hernandez only has REDACTED months accrued. If he retires in the Rectory I would be paying REDACTED and outside the rectory REDACTED I hope this is of some help to you.  
Lupe

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 1997 2:27 PM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: Fr. Stephen Hernandez  
REDACTED

As you know, the Cardinal approved early retirement for Fr. Stephen C. Hernandez. The effective date of his retirement will be Sept. 1, 1997.

Please let me know what his monthly retirement payment should be.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

REDACTED

000620

TO: File  
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox  
RE: Reverend Stephen Hernandez  
DATE: 15 April 2002

-----  
This morning, Sister<sup>REDACTED</sup> informed me that on Saturday evening, LAPD detectives executed a search warrant at Our Lady of Guadalupe (Rosehill) searching the room of Father Hernandez. Apparently an inmate at Juvenile Hall accused Father Hernandez of misconduct.

Neither Father Hernandez nor Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> had informed me of this on Saturday night or Sunday.

Upon hearing from Sister<sup>REDACTED</sup> and in accord with our policy, I phoned the parish and asked for Father Hernandez, intending to remove him from the parish and ministry while the investigation was underway. He did not answer his phone and I left an urgent message with the secretary. I asked for Fr.<sup>REDACTED</sup>, the Pastor. He was away from the parish. The secretary agreed to page him. Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> called. He was out in the San Fernando Valley. Fr.<sup>REDACTED</sup> mentioned that he had been informed Father Hernandez had missed his assigned celebration of Mass that morning. He was not slated to be away and his secretary said that his car was there. I informed Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> that this was very troubling and I suspected a possible suicide attempt. I asked Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> to have someone he trusted at the parish go to the room of Father Hernandez to check on him, and suggested Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> return to the parish immediately. I gave him my cell phone number.

During the time I was celebrating the 12:05 Mass, Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> phoned and left me a voice mail message. I phoned him back at 12:35. Indeed, Father Hernandez had made a suicide attempt by <sup>REDACTED</sup>. The police and paramedics had arrived. Father Hernandez was able to converse and his blood pressure was reasonable. He was taken to <sup>REDACTED</sup> Hospital <sup>REDACTED</sup> ) located near the intersection of Main and Palm.

Father<sup>REDACTED</sup> promised to keep me posted.

000618

Apr 18 02 12:47p  
04/18/2002 11:24

REDACTED

REDACTED  
URLADYDFGUADALUPE F )

P. 2  
PAGE 01

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish  
4509 Mercury Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90032**

April 16, 2002

I am sorry that I must be the bearer of some difficult news for our parish. As some of you already know through reports in the media, a complaint about sexual misconduct with a minor was lodged with the civil authorities against Father Stephen Hernandez, who has been living here and assisting us in his retirement since 1997. We will continue to cooperate fully with the Los Angeles Police Department. I have no other information about the course of the police investigation at this time, other than to indicate that the alleged misconduct was not related to his ministry here at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

If any parents have any information to report that might assist the police in this investigation, please contact Captain REDACTED of the Juvenile Division of the LAPD at (213) REDACTED

In accord with Archdiocesan policy, Father Hernandez has been placed on temporary leave and will remain out of ministry until the charges are thoroughly investigated and the facts clarified.

I ask that you pray for the young person who has made this allegation, for Father Hernandez, and for the authorities of both our society and the Church that they may quickly and successfully uncover the truth. Finally, let me emphasize the commitment made by Cardinal Mahony in his recent pastoral letter to put the safety of our children first.

REDACTED

Fr. REDACTED  
Pastor

000617

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish  
4509 Mercury Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90032

April 16, 2002

I am sorry that I must be the bearer of some difficult news for our parish. As some of you already know through reports in the media, a complaint about sexual misconduct with a minor was lodged with the civil authorities against Father Stephen Hernandez, who has been living here and assisting us in his retirement since 1997. We will continue to cooperate fully with the Los Angeles Police Department. I have no other information about the course of the police investigation at this time, other than to indicate that the alleged misconduct was not related to his ministry here at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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Fr. REDACTED

THIS WAS PRINTED & SENT HOME WITH  
CHILDREN IN THE PARISH SCHOOL ON  
17 APRIL 2002.

*Ang Cox*

000616

no contest to felony counts as lawyers reached

But the 6-year-old told invest- their Yorba Linda house. Locked out the how had to use a restroom

# Size, Scope to Expand

# Suspect Ex-Priest Slits His Wrists



Associated Press

By RICHARD WINTON  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A retired priest living in the rectory at Our Lady of Guadalupe church in El Sereno apparently attempted suicide this week after learning that the Los Angeles Police Department was investigating him for alleged child abuse, authorities said.

Father Stephen Hernandez, 68, cut his wrists and took an overdose of pills, police said. The priest, who was found Monday morning, is listed in stable condition at an undisclosed hospital, police said.

"He is the subject of an ongoing investigation into sexual abuse of minors," said LAPD Capt. Sharyn Buck.

The investigation is one of several being conducted by the LAPD's Sexually Exploited Child Unit. Buck said investigators are examining about 50 reports of abuse from alleged victims or the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Some reports involve the same individuals, she said.

Hernandez, who was ordained in 1982, tried to take his life after police investigators contacted him while checking a tip, sources said.

The pastor of the parish was unavailable for comment Wednesday. Archdiocesan officials said they were aware of the probe. "The LAPD is conducting an investigation and we are cooperating with authorities," said Tod Tamberg, a spokesman for the archdiocese.

Hernandez retired from the ministry in 1997 at Our Lady of Guadalupe on Mercury Avenue, but continued to work at the parish. The church also operates a school with 425 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Wash., vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and among church leaders at the Vatican next week, called Mahony's proposals the "most specific" he has seen.

ances by abusers?"  
ere are several good  
grams that involve  
and their parents. He  
chdiocesan working  
ing at programs now  
ave recommendations  
ithin a few weeks.  
id his offer to create  
rams for sexual abuse  
not appeal to some,  
e believes it is impor-  
urch to make a "spir-

itual outreach."  
The Roman Catholic Church faces sexual abuse allegations around the country. The accusations, some new and some years old, first surfaced in Boston earlier this year when it was revealed that a priest had molested more than 130 boys and was transferred from parish to parish.

Mahony insists that his archdiocese is cooperating with law enforcement authorities and that he

has a "zero-tolerance" policy toward maintaining abusers in the church. He said he has turned over names of alleged abusive priests to the Los Angeles Police Department, and he is continually meeting with victims.

The LAPD has a special phone line for victims to report abuse by clergy, and detectives say they are receiving new tips nearly every day. The phone number is (213) 485-2883.

000608

# ITE: Deputy D.A. Named in Lawsuit

**Statement for Weekend Masses at St. Camillus, Los Angeles**  
**April 20-21, 2002**  
**Regarding Father Stephen Hernandez and REDACTED**

As you may have learned from recent press reports, there have been allegations of past inappropriate behavior with minors on the part of Father Stephen Hernandez and REDACTED. News of the abuse of our young people and the betrayal of the role of a priest is always very distressing.

REDACTED

Father Hernandez was only recently accused and, in accord with Archdiocesan policy, has been placed on administrative leave until an investigation can be conducted and a determination about the allegations made. He served here as Associate Pastor and Chaplain from 1993 until January of 1997.

If any parishioners have information to report that might assist in any police investigation, please contact the Sexually Exploited Child Unit of the LAPD, which you may do through our local police station. We encourage you to do so.

In light of the need to protect our children, I wish to make you aware of the steps the Archdiocese is taking to provide help in this difficult situation. First, I invite any other person who might have been mistreated by Father Stephen Hernandez or by REDACTED to inform me or to inform the Assistance Ministry Office of the Archdiocese as soon as possible. This will enable us to extend appropriate pastoral care to anyone harmed by them and also report that misconduct to the appropriate authorities. Next week at the conclusion of Mass, we will distribute copies of the brochure, *Respecting the Boundaries: Keeping Ministerial Relationships Healthy and Holy*. This brochure contains important information about sexual misconduct, and includes the telephone of the Assistance Ministry Office.

Additionally, we are making information available through the parish offices (rectory, school and religious education program) on child abuse prevention, counseling agencies and other community resources.

Our faith teaches that children are precious in God's eyes. Let's work together to make our homes, parishes and schools safe-havens for all our children.

Reverend REDACTED

000613

**Declaración para las Misas del Fin de Semana en San Camilo, Los Angeles  
20-21 de abril 2002  
Acerca de REDACTED y Padre Stephen Hernandez**

Quizás ya saben por los reportes de los medios de comunicación que se han hecho alegaciones de conducta inapropiada en el pasado de parte de Padre Stephen Hernández y REDACTED. Las noticias del abuso de nuestros jóvenes y la traición del papel del sacerdote siempre nos angustian.

REDACTED

El Padre Hernández fue recientemente acusado y, según las reglas de la Arquidiócesis, fue puesto en ausencia administrativa hasta el cumplimiento de una investigación y hasta la determinación sobre las alegaciones. Él sirvió aquí como Pastor Asociado y como Capellán desde el 1993 hasta el mes de enero del 1997.

Si algún parroquiano tiene información que quiera reportar y que pueda servir a las policías en alguna investigación, por favor comuníquese con la Unidad de la Explotación Sexual de Niños de LAPD lo cual hacerlo en nuestra estación de policía local. Les invitamos que lo hagan.

Con el propósito de cuidar a nuestros niños quiero hacerles saber los pasos que está tomando la Arquidiócesis para ayudar en esta muy difícil situación. Primero, si alguna persona fue maltratada por el Padre Stephen Hernández o REDACTED le invito a esa persona que me informe al respecto o le informe a la Oficina de Ministerio de Asistencia lo antes posible. Esto nos facilitará extenderles la ayuda pastoral mas apropiada a cualquier persona que haya sido dañada por ellos, y más, nos ayudará reportar la mala conducta a las autoridades apropiadas. En la próxima semana les repartiremos después de las Misas el folleto titulado *Respetar los Límites! Mantener las Relaciones Ministeriales Sanas y Santa*. Este folleto contiene importante información sobre el tema de abuso sexual, más incluye el número telefónico del la Oficina del Ministerio de Asistencia.

Además les haremos disponibles a todos ustedes información a través de las oficinas de la parroquia (rectoría, escuelas, y programas de catequesis) programas de prevención de abuso de menores, agencias de consejería, y otros recursos comunitarios.

Nuestra fe nos enseña que nuestros hijos son preciosos en los ojos de Dios. Trabajemos todos juntos para ser de nuestros hogares, parroquias y escuelas refugios seguros para todos nuestros niños.

Reverend REDACTED

000614

ARCHDIOCESE

JOB #346

DATE	TIME	TO/FROM	MODE	MIN/SEC	PGS	STATUS
001	4/19	15:35	REDACTED	EC--S	00' 50"	002 OK

**Statement for Weekend Masses at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Los Angeles  
April 20-21, 2002  
Regarding Father Stephen Hernandez**

As you probably have learned from recent press reports, there have been allegations of inappropriate behavior with minors on the part of Father Stephen Hernandez. News of the abuse of our young people and the betrayal of the role of a priest is always very distressing.

Father Hernandez was only recently accused. As soon as that information was reported to the Archdiocese, in accord with our policy he was placed on administrative leave and will remain away from any ministry until an investigation can be conducted and a determination about the allegations made. He has been here since February of 1997, briefly serving as Associate Pastor and then living here and assisting in his retirement.

If any parishioners have information to report that might assist in any police investigation, please contact the Sexually Exploited Child Unit of the LAPD, which you may do through our local police station. We encourage you to do so.

In light of the need to protect our children, I wish to make you aware of the steps the Archdiocese is taking to provide help in this difficult situation. First, I invite any other person who might have been mistreated by Father Stephen Hernandez to inform me or to inform the Assistance Ministry Office of the Archdiocese as soon as possible. This will enable us to extend appropriate pastoral care to anyone harmed by him and also report that misconduct to the appropriate authorities. Next week at the conclusion of Mass, we will distribute copies of the brochure, *Respecting the Boundaries: Keeping Ministerial Relationships Healthy and Holy*. This brochure contains important information about sexual misconduct, and includes the telephone of the Assistance Ministry Office.

Additionally, we are making information available through the parish offices (rectory, school and religious education program) on child abuse prevention, counseling agencies and other community resources.

On Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m., counselors will be available in our parish center for any parishioner who would like assistance in coping with this distressing news. The counselors will also be able to offer guidance to parents who wish some assistance in knowing how to talk to their children about child abuse.

Our faith teaches that children are precious in God's eyes. Let's work together to make our homes, parishes and schools safe-havens for all our children.

Reverent **REDACTED**

000609



**Statement for Weekend Masses at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Los Angeles  
April 20-21, 2002  
Regarding Father Stephen Hernandez**

As you probably have learned from recent press reports, there have been allegations of inappropriate behavior with minors on the part of Father Stephen Hernandez. News of the abuse of our young people and the betrayal of the role of a priest is always very distressing.

Father Hernandez was only recently accused. As soon as that information was reported to the Archdiocese, in accord with our policy he was placed on administrative leave and will remain away from any ministry until an investigation can be conducted and a determination about the allegations made. He has been here since February of 1997, briefly serving as Associate Pastor and then living here and assisting in his retirement.

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Reverend REDACTED

000610

**Declaración para las Misas del Fin de Semana  
en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Rosehill), Los Angeles  
20-21 de abril 2002  
Acerca de Padre Stephen Hernández**

Quizás ya saben por los reportes de los medios de comunicación que se han hecho alegaciones de conducta inapropiada en el pasado de parte de Padre Stephen Hernandez. Las noticias del abuso de nuestros jóvenes y la traición del papel del sacerdote siempre nos angustian.

Padre Hernández fue recientemente acusado. Pronto después que la información se reportó a la Arquidiócesis, según nuestras reglas él fue puesto en ausencia administrativa y permanecerá sin ningún ministerio hasta que se lleve a cabo una investigación y que se haga una determinación sobre las alegaciones. Él ha estado aquí desde febrero del 1997, donde sirvió brevemente como Pastor Asociado, y posteriormente, ha vivido aquí y ha asistido en su retiro.

Si algún parroquiano tiene información que quiera reportar y que pueda servir a las policías en alguna investigación, por favor comuníquese con la Unidad de Explotación Sexual de Niños de LAPD, lo cual puede hacerlo en nuestra estación de policía local. Les invitamos que lo hagan.

Con el propósito de cuidar a nuestros niños quiero hacerles saber los pasos que está tomando la Arquidiócesis para ayudar en esta muy difícil situación. Primero, si alguna persona fue maltratada por Padre Stephen Hernández, le invito a esa persona que me informe al respecto o le informe a la Oficina de Ministerio de Asistencia lo antes posible. Esto nos facilitará extenderles la ayuda pastoral mas apropiada a cualquier persona que haya sido dañada por él, y más, nos ayudará reportar la mala conducta a las autoridades apropiadas. En la próxima semana les repartiremos después de las Misas el folleto titulado *Respetar los Límites! Mantener las Relaciones Ministeriales Sanas y Santa*. Este folleto contiene importante información sobre el tema de abuso sexual, más incluye el número telefónico del la Oficina del Ministerio de Asistencia.

Además les haremos disponibles a todos ustedes información a través de las oficinas de la parroquia (rectoría, escuelas, y programas de catequesis) programas de prevención de abuso de menores, agencias de consejería, y otros recursos comunitarios.

El día martes, 23 de abril, a las 7:30 p.m., consejeros estarán disponibles en nuestro centro parroquial para cualquier parroquiano que necesite asistencia con estas noticias agobiantes. Los consejeros también podrán ofrecer consejería a los padres que piden ayuda para saber como hablarles a sus niños sobre el abuso de menores.

Nuestra fe nos enseña que nuestros hijos son preciosos en los ojos de Dios. Trabajemos todos juntos para ser de nuestros hogares, parroquias y escuelas refugios seguros para todos nuestros niños.

Reverend REDACTED

000611

Apr-30-02 02:52P

P.01

005V

REDACTED

April 30, 2002

REDACTED

General Counsel  
Archdiocesan Catholic Center  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90010-2241

RE: NOTICE OF LEGAL INTEREST IN FILES RE **STEPHEN HERNANDEZ**

Dear REDACTED

This letter will inform you that I have been retained to represent the above-named individual in all respects concerning an investigation of misconduct alleged to have occurred while he was a Priest within the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

It is possible during the course of any such investigation that government agencies, attorneys, or other people will request access to any copies of files that may be in the possession, custody, or control of the Archdiocese respecting my client, his personnel records, or any record of any discipline, investigation, or proceeding the Archdiocese conducted relative to my client.

My client has important legal interests in any such files, derived from his various Constitutional rights. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT HE OBJECTS TO THE RELEASE OF ANY INFORMATION THAT CONCERNS HIM OR ANY INVESTIGATION ABOUT HIM. So that his legal rights may be protected, please give me prompt notice of any request for such records, whether the request is informal, written or oral, or in the nature of a subpoena, discovery, or any other legal process. I will then be able to take appropriate legal action to enforce my client's many legal rights. Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Very truly yours,

REDACTED

000607

# Santa Clara Church

May 28, 2002.

To: <sup>REDACTED</sup> Rev. Msgr. Craig Cox  
From: ] REDACTED  
Re: Rev. Stephen Hernandez

Dear Msgr. Cox,

In response to your request I have thoroughly reviewed the files and records of this parish.

This communiqué is to inform you there are no personal files kept on Rev. Stephen Hernandez.

We have no such records. If you need any additional information or have any questions do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

REDACTED TED REDACTED  
REDACTED

RL-----

RECEIVED  
MAY 28 2002  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

323 South E Street • Oxnard, Ca. 93030 • (805) 487-3891 • Fax (805) 487-4733

1772

Rec ID  Color

# Confidential Database Clergy

Last Name

First Name

Mid Name

Title

Show  
Therapists

Show  
Victims



Find

Exit

Print  
Screen

Print Full  
Record

Print  
Reports



Victims

Creator

Date Created

Modifier

Date Modified

Therapist

09/24/1996 Msgr. Loomis and Fr. REDACTED, Director of the Gay and Lesbian Ministry, met with Father Hernandez. The president of one of the gay support groups had come forward with concerns about Father, who acts as their chaplain. He said that the members had visited Father's rooms in the rectory; while the policy of the group is firmly against using the group as a dating service, Father has encouraged members to 'get together', that he had gone with members to West Hollywood, that several members had shared a hotel room with him at the SCRC Convention, that one member of the group is an 'escort' and is claiming Father had him posed for almost nude pictures and has stayed overnight with him, that Father is overly affectionate with some members. There were no allegations of specifically sexual activity. The President said he was presenting the concerns of five or six members, including his own personal experiences. When presented with the above, Father made credible explanations of most and insisted on no sexual wrongdoing. The Cardinal approved that Father attend an educational group on boundary issues.

09/30/1996 He wrote to the Vicar to inform him that the meeting he had with him and Father REDACTED was devastating to him. He requests permission to be moved from St. Camillus. 02/03/1997 Father is in 'Hospitality' at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Los Angeles (Mercury Ave.) REDACTED - Beeper 07/19/1997 He wrote to the Cardinal asking him for an early retirement due to his medical situation. 07/23/1997 Cardinal Mahony granted him early retirement. He will remain in residence at Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Cardinal has asked him to make himself available on a supply basis to the surrounding and neighboring parishes, insofar as his health and strength allow. His effective date of retirement will be 09/01/1997. The Archdiocese will continue to pay for the priests' retreat in Camarillo, and priests' assembly fee. Private phone # (213) REDACTED 04/15/2002 Excerpts from Msgr. Cox's memo to file: This morning, Sister REDACTED informed me that on Saturday evening, LAPD detectives executed a search warrant at Our Lady of Guadalupe (Rosehill) searching the room of Father Hernandez. Apparently, an inmate at Juvenile Hall accused Father Hernandez of misconduct. Neither Father Hernandez nor Father REDACTED Pastor, had informed me of this on Saturday night or Sunday. Upon hearing from Sister REDACTED and in accord with our policy, I phoned the parish and asked for Father Hernandez, intending to remove him from the parish and ministry while the investigation was underway. He did not answer his phone, and I left an urgent message with the secretary. I asked for Father REDACTED. He was away from the parish. The secretary agreed to page him. Father REDACTED called. He mentioned that he had been informed that Father Hernandez had missed his assigned celebration of Mass that morning. He was not slated to be away and his secretary said that his car was there. I informed Father REDACTED that this was very troubling, and I suspected a possible suicide attempt. I asked Father REDACTED to have someone he trusted at the parish go to the room of Father to check on him, and suggested Father REDACTED return to the parish immediately. I gave him my cell phone number. During the time I was celebrating the 12:05 Mass, Father REDACTED phoned and left a voice mail message. I phoned him back at 12:35. Indeed, Father Hernandez had made a suicide attempt by both taking medication and slitting his wrist. The police and paramedics had arrived. Father Hernandez was able to converse and his blood pressure was reasonable. He was taken to the hospital. Father REDACTED promised to keep me posted. 04/16/2002

Excerpts from Father REDACTED's announcement at the parish: I must be the bearer of some difficult news for our parish. As some of you already know through the reports in the media, a complaint about sexual misconduct with a minor was lodged with the civil authorities against Father Stephen Hernandez, who has been living here and assisting us in his retirement since 1997. We will continue to cooperate fully with the LAPD. I have no other information about the course of the police investigation at this time, other than to indicate that the alleged misconduct was not related to his ministry here. If any parents have any information to report that might assist the police in this investigation, please contact Captain REDACTED of the Juvenile Division of the LAPD. Father has been placed on temporary leave and will remain out of ministry until the charges are thoroughly investigated and the fact clarified. I ask that you pray for the young person who has made this allegation, for Father, and for the authorities of both our society and the Church that they may quickly and successfully uncover the truth. 04/17/2002 Excerpts from Msgr. Cox's memo to Sister

REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED) 04/18/2002 The following statement was read during the weekend Masses at St. Camillus: Father Hernandez was only recently accused and, in accord with Archdiocesan policy, has been placed on administrative leave until an investigation can be conducted and a determination about the allegations made. He served here as Associate and Chaplain from 1993 until January of 1997. If any parishioners have information to report that might assist in any police investigation, please contact the Sexually Exploited Child Unit of the LAPD, which you may do through your local police station. 05/15/2002 File has been copied. 06/24/2002 REDACTED represents a minor who was molested by Father Stephen.

CMOB # 655  
 Considered by CMOB   
 Inactive Date 4/1/2006  
 Case Name Stephen Hernandez  
 Active Case?

Priest Name Hernandez, Stephen  
 DOB 1/25/1934  
 Ethnicity Mexican  
 Diocese Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
 Canon State Diocesan Priest  
 Religious Order  
 Incardination  
 Date Of Ordination  
 Clergy Status Retired with No Faculties

Clergy (Faculties)  
 Religious   
 Diocesan   
 Description

Deacon  
 DOB  
 Diocese  
 Ethnicity  
 Ordination  
 Status

Date Referred to Vicar 6/9/2004  
 Date Of Alleged Incident 1998  
 Alleged Victim Minor Male  
 Multiple Victims   
 Accusers  
 Investigation Complete   
 Investigator Name  
 Removed From Ministry   
 Date Removed From Ministry  
 Date Returned To Ministry  
 Case Disposition Substantiated  
 DispositionComments

Intervention   
 Description

Mexican, age 69; ordained 1982; inactive, early retirement in 1997. Identified in L.A. Times article of August 25, 2002. In April 2002, LAPD began an open investigation into allegation of sexual abuse of a teenage boy from 1998 to 2002 at the county Central Juvenile Hall. Father Hernandez denied allegations. There are other complaints. Father Hernandez attempted suicide in April 2002, and he is currently in a psychiatric hospital. Msgr. Cox to give status report.

Case Status

June 09, 2004	Mgr. Cox advised the Board that Fr. has been d without faculties and was arrested the week of June 7, 2004 with expected charges of 12 counts of child molestation. He was released on bail.
December 07, 2005	Father is living with relatives and he has a medical issue. The DA is still examining the case.
April 26, 2006	<b>REDACTED</b> <small>REDACTED</small> He has reached a plea bargain with the DA and pleaded guilty to a lesser charge. He has been placed on probation. Case will be moved to the inactive file.

*Follow Up*

*Follow Up Date*

*Legal Proceedings*

*Legal Proceedings?*

*Court Cases Settled*

*Response*

*Response Date*

*Sent To Rome?*

*Date Sent To Rome*

*Canonical Trial*

*Canonical Trial Date*

*Canonical Disposition*

*Page*



**Vicar for Clergy Database**

Clergy Assignment Record

**Rev Stephen Hernandez**  
REDACTED

<i>Current Primary Assignment</i>		<i>Age</i>	75
<i>Birth Date</i>	1/25/1934	<i>Deanery</i>	0
<i>Birth City</i>	Long Beach, California, USA		
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	2/6/1982		
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Archdiocese of Los Angeles		
<i>Date of Incardination</i>	2/6/1982		
<i>Religious Community</i>			
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Retired with No Faculties		
<i>Seminary</i>	St. John's Seminary, Camarillo		
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Mexican		

**Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training**

*Date Background Check*  
*Safeguard Training*

<b>Virtus Recert</b>	<b>Type</b>
1/1/1111	Virtus

**Assignment History**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
St. Basil Catholic Church, Los Angeles Resident, Retired	9/12/2002	12/31/2002
Retired with No Faculties	4/15/2002	
Administrative Leave	4/15/2002	
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (Rosehill), Los Angeles Resident, Retired	9/1/1997	9/10/2002
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (Rosehill), Los Angeles Hospitality, Active Service	2/1/1997	8/31/1997
St. Camillus Catholic Center for Pastoral Care, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	7/1/1993	1/31/1997
St. Stephen Catholic Church, Monterey Park Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	7/1/1992	6/30/1993

St. Genevieve High School, Panorama City Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	7/1/1990	6/30/1992
St. Genevieve Catholic Church, Panorama City Resident, Resident	7/1/1990	6/30/1992
Queen of Angels Seminary, Mission Hills Education-Teacher/Faculty, Resident	7/1/1986	6/30/1990
Bishop Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School, Montebello Principal, Active Service	2/1/1985	6/30/1985
St. Stephen Catholic Church, Monterey Park Resident, Resident	2/1/1985	6/30/1986
Santa Clara High School, Oxnard Principal, Active Service, Assignment: Vice-Principal	9/1/1983	1/31/1985
Santa Clara Catholic Church, Oxnard Resident, Resident	9/1/1983	1/31/1985
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	3/1/1982	8/31/1983

# Los Angeles

## Ex-Priest Facing Sex Charges

The 70-year-old cleric is suspected of molesting a teenage boy in Juvenile Hall. Probation official says he had no access.

By JEAN GUCCIONE  
Times Staff Writer

A retired Roman Catholic priest surrendered to police Wednesday and was booked on charges that he sexually molested a 15-year-old boy at a Los Angeles County juvenile hall, authorities said.

Stephen Hernandez, 70, was booked on suspicion of child molestation and released on \$240,000 bail.

He is the second priest facing criminal charges in L.A. County for allegedly abusing children sexually. The other, Michael Wempe, is in jail awaiting trial.

Hernandez's arrest comes a year after local prosecutors were forced to dismiss criminal cases against 10 priests and a seminarian when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the 1994 Cali-

fornia law allowing the retroactive prosecution of older sex crimes against children.

Hernandez is expected to be charged as early as today with as many as 12 counts of child molestation involving the incarcerated Eagle Rock youth in 2001.

"We are confident about our case," said Deputy Dist. Atty. William Hodgman, who leads the district attorney's sex crimes division. He declined to discuss details.

Although the case involves just one victim, Det. Jim Brown of the Los Angeles Police Department said authorities are trying to determine if other boys at the Eastlake Avenue facility or elsewhere were molested by Hernandez. Another person filed a civil lawsuit against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in October, alleging that Hernandez molested him in 1984 and 1985 while he was a student at Santa Clara



Father Stephen Hernandez in an undated photo from Archdiocese of Los Angeles 2002 Catholic Directory.

Catholic Church in Oxnard. Those earlier allegations are too old for prosecution but may be introduced in court.

Attorney Don Steier, who represents Hernandez, called the charges "bewildering." He said he doubted that a frail priest could use physical or spiritual intimidation to sexually abuse an incarcerated youth with gang associations.

"This is not your usual complaining witness-victim," he said, accusing the youth of being a "strapping gangbanger" and "streetwise kid."

But the boy's former criminal lawyer, Marc D. Wasserman, said his client is "by no means a hardened juvenile criminal." The boy was in Juvenile Hall for throwing bottles from a building with friends and hitting someone below, he said.

"He just had no chance or no choice in his life," Wasserman

said of the youth, whose older brother belongs to a gang and who has been shot seven times by rival gang members.

"This was the only guy this kid had to turn to... and he just completely reeled him in" and took advantage of their relationship, Wasserman said.

The attorney alleged that after the boy's release, Hernandez touched him at his home and at the priest's residence at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in El Sereno. The priest also took photos of the boys in various states of undress, Wasserman said.

Ken Kondo, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Probation, which runs the juvenile halls, said Hernandez "has no access to the facility." He said all volunteers, including priests, must go through "a thorough background check."

Tod Tamberg, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Archdiocese, said Hernandez was retired and his official assignment history does not indicate that he worked either as a chaplain or volunteer chaplain in juvenile hall. He said the archdiocese did not post Hernandez's bail.

6/18/02



Father Stephen Hernandez became a priest in 1982. Undated photo from Archdiocese of Los Angeles 2002 Catholic Directory.

## Abuse of Young Inmate Alleged

**Scandal: Teenager says he was molested by a priest who served as a counselor at Juvenile Hall. Cleric's attorney denies the accusation.**

By RICHARD WINTON  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

An El Sereno priest who is under investigation by Los Angeles police for sex abuse allegedly began molesting a teenager at Central Juvenile Hall, where the priest counseled incarcerated youngsters, according to the attorney for the teenager's family.

The alleged victim, 15, told a therapist in April that he had been molested by Father Stephen Hernandez several times since meeting the priest in 1998, said Marc D. Wasserman, the boy's attorney. The therapist notified police.

Hernandez, 68, attempted suicide by cutting his wrist and taking an overdose of pills after learning that the Los Angeles Police Department's sexually exploited child unit was investigating the allegations, police said. Hernandez is one of 34 priests under investigation by the unit.

Lt. Daniel Mulrenin said detectives investigated the allegations against Hernandez and forwarded the case to prosecutors for a decision on whether to file charges. He did have access to youths in Juvenile Hall, Mulrenin said.

Donald Steier, the priest's attorney, said Hernandez did nothing wrong. Hernandez, who retired in 1997, could not be reached for comment. He was living at Our Lady of Guadalupe church in El Sereno.

Tod Tamberg, the Los Angeles archdiocese spokesman, said Hernandez was retired and his official assignment history does not indicate that he worked either as a chaplain or volunteer chaplain at Juvenile Hall.

"We cannot divulge any information because of the confidentiality of the minor," said Ken Kondo, a spokesman for the county Probation Department, which runs Juvenile Hall. He confirmed that the department knows about the police investigation.

Wasserman said Hernandez met the Eagle Rock youth at the county facility on Eastlake Avenue.

"My understanding, he was conducting church services inside central juvenile and he started seeing [the boy] on a weekly basis," Wasserman said.

The boy developed a close bond with the priest and eventually Hernandez became his godfather, Wasserman said. Some of the molestations allegedly occurred in the sleeping area of the hall, Wasserman said.

The attorney also alleged that after the youth's release, Hernandez touched him at the boy's home and at the priest's home at Our Lady of Guadalupe church.

The priest, he said, also took photographs of the teenager in various states of undress. A search warrant was served on the priest's residence after the boy was interviewed by Los Angeles police.

Wasserman said the teenager is back in the juvenile system because of criminal allegations. Wasserman declined to say why he is being held.

Los Angeles police said they are seeking any other possible victims. "We need people to come forward," Mulrenin said. An individual who comes forward may be able to corroborate another victim's account, he said. "That second account can be vital to a prosecution."

Those seeking to report abuse by a cleric can contact the sexually exploited child unit at (213) 485-2883.

4/18/02

LOS ANGELES TIMES

# Suspect Ex-Priest Slits His Wrists

By RICHARD WINTON  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A retired priest living in the rectory at Our Lady of Guadalupe church in El Sereno apparently attempted suicide this week after learning that the Los Angeles Police Department was investigating him for alleged child abuse, authorities said.

Father Stephen Hernandez, 68, cut his wrists and took an overdose of pills, police said. The priest, who was found Monday morning, is listed in stable condition at an undisclosed hospital, police said.

"He is the subject of an ongoing investigation into sexual abuse of minors," said LAPD Capt. Sharyn Buck.

The investigation is one of several being conducted by the LAPD's Sexually Exploited Child Unit. Buck said investigators are examining about 50 reports of abuse from alleged victims or the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Some reports involve the same individuals, she said.

Hernandez, who was ordained in 1982, tried to take his life after police investigators contacted him while checking a tip, sources said.

The pastor of the parish was unavailable for comment Wednesday. Archdiocesan officials said they were aware of the probe. "The LAPD is conducting an investigation and we are cooperating with authorities," said Tod Tamberg, a spokesman for the archdiocese.

Hernandez retired from the ministry in 1997 at Our Lady of Guadalupe on Mercury Avenue, but continued to work at the parish. The church also operates a school with 425 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

STEPHEN HERNANDEZ - CMOB-033-01

Mexican, age 69  
Ordained 1982

Inactive, early retirement at age 63 in September 1997

CMOB-033-01: Stephen Hernandez – Mexican, age 69; ordained 1982; inactive, early retirement in 1997. Identified in L.A. Times article of August 25, 2002. In April 2002, LAPD began an open investigation into allegation of sexual abuse of a teenage boy from 1998 to 2002 at the county Central Juvenile Hall. Father Hernandez denied allegations. There are other complaints. REDACTED  
REDACTED  
REDACTED Msgr. Cox to give status report.