

REV. MICHAEL NOCITA

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PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Vicar for Clergy Database

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

Mr Michael S. Nocita

11237 Jellico Ave.
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Current Primary Assignment

<i>Birth Date</i>	5/4/1950	<i>Age:</i>	62
<i>Birth Place</i>	San Jose, California, USA	<i>Deanery:</i>	22
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	6/10/1977		
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Archdiocese of Los Angeles		
<i>Date of Incardination</i>			
<i>Religious Community</i>			
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	To Lay State		
<i>Canon State</i>	Diocesan Priest	<i>Incard Process</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>			

<i>Home phone</i>	(818) 363-3193
<i>Work phone</i>	310-515-0533, ex 672.
<i>Seminary</i>	St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
<i>Ethnicity</i>	American (USA)

Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training

Date Background Check
Virtus Training Date

Assignment History

Assignment	Beginning Date	Completion Date
Returned To Lay State, Rescript from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Prot. No. 656/2004.	5/8/2006	
Inactive Leave	3/25/1991	5/7/2006
St. Timothy Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	7/1/1989	3/24/1991
Bishop Alemany High School, Mission Hills Principal, Active Service	7/1/1987	6/30/1989
Queen of Angels Seminary, Mission Hills Resident, Resident	7/1/1987	6/30/1989
Paraclete High School, Lancaster Principal, Active Service	7/1/1984	6/30/1987
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lancaster Resident, Resident	7/1/1984	6/30/1987
American Martyrs Catholic Church, Manhattan Beach Resident, Resident	5/23/1983	6/30/1984

María Regina Catholic Church, Gardena Resident, Resident	7/1/1982	6/30/1984
Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	7/1/1982	6/30/1984
St. Bruno Catholic Church, Whittier Resident, Resident	7/9/1980	6/30/1982
St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	7/9/1980	6/30/1982
Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church, San Pedro Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	6/17/1977	7/8/1980

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 19, 1988

FROM: Monsignor Curry

TO: Archbishop Mahony

RE: Father Michael Nocita

Father REDACTED spoke to a Detective, REDACTED of the Sheriff's Department about a report that had been made to the police by a therapist concerning Mike Nocita.

A 23-year old woman named REDACTED told her therapist she had fallen in love with Mike while he was assigned to REDACTED in 1980-1982, and that he had been intimate with her, mostly in his car. She does not claim there was intercourse involved.

The Detective mentioned that the statute of limitations had run out, and that the police would not pursue the matter. The young woman does not wish to cooperate in any way with the police and is very upset that the therapist reported the matter. However, it appears that she may still be very much in contact with Mike, and she claims to be very confused by his periodic promises to leave and marry her. She has told Mike about the matter being reported. He met REDACTED at a meeting this morning and told him the police would be making a report. He claims to have hugged the girl, but says he did nothing else.

REDACTED was principal during the period in question and knows Mike was very friendly with this girl. The Detective is going for oral surgery and will come to see REDACTED and give him a report, probably early next week.

REDACTED Sister REDACTED, and I met this afternoon and decided we should probably wait for a written report before taking any action.

J concm -
+ RMM
4-19-88

MEMORANDUM

December 11, 1990

TO: Archbishop Mahony
FROM: Monsignor Thomas Curry
RE: Michael Nocita

Yesterday REDACTED spoke to me at the Priests' Council about a man who had complained to him about Mike's behavior and particularly his intimacy with women. I asked REDACTED to have the man call me, and he did so last night. He did not give me his name and said he was somewhat constrained in that he was protecting people who did not want to be known. He is a high school counselor.

His main concern is that he asserts Mike has been involved with women since before his ordination and that this involvement has continued. He went on about Mike's extravagant life style, Mike's belief that he is a ladies' man and that women find him irresistible. I found the man a bit obsessed about Mike, but could not say that he was unreasonable in any way or that he had any obvious problem that would cause him to make these allegations.

I checked back with REDACTED, and he vouches for the honesty of this man. REDACTED himself says he knows a family, in REDACTED, I think, whose daughter refused to have Mike perform her wedding because he had made advances to her and her sister. Apparently, her father, who is an influential man and a friend of Mike's, wanted him to perform the wedding. REDACTED claims there are rumors of drunkenness and sex on the beach surrounding Mike and that REDACTED went to Cardinal Manning to ask him not to ordain Mike because of his involvement with women. Certainly his ordination was delayed.

I am concerned about and uncomfortable with all of this and explained to both the man who called and to REDACTED how limited my action could be on this basis. Were it not for a larger context, I would not act on this at all. However, there is Mike's admitted very recent involvement with a young girl and, as the attached memo states, he was reported for as being involved with a minor girl, so there is cause for some alarm at this point. Given the possibility of three separate incidents, there is a good possibility that Mike may be obsessed with having relationships with young women about eighteen.

My recommendation is that the matter be pursued further before a decision is made about Mike's going to work in Vocations, and I would like to discuss the matter with you.

Yes - please!

Thanks!

+ RMH

31972

12-14-90



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
7213 75th Street

1531
West 15th
Street

Los Angeles
California
90015-1101

December 21, 1990

Rev. Michael Nocita
St. Timothy Church
10425 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Dear Father Nocita:

Thank you for coming to see me today and for your gracious and open response to my comments and concerns.

As I explained to you, before Archbishop Mahony could appoint you to the Vocations Department he would need definite assurances that some of the problems in your life are being taken care of. These problems have specifically to do with your relationship with young women, and I mentioned to you the Archdiocese's knowledge of a police report and REDACTED REDACTED

I also mentioned to you a persistent rumor and concern about your continued involvement with young women, and told you that I was unable to give you any specifics on that matter.

The Archdiocese asks that you see Dr. REDACTED for an examination and continuing therapy if that is recommended. As I explained, we do expect that Dr. REDACTED will send the Archbishop a report, but that you will be aware of the contents of the report and consent to it, and we certainly do not expect any violation of the doctor-patient privilege.

I thank you again for your cooperation in this matter, and you have my very best wishes for your future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry
Vicar for Clergy

cc: Dr. REDACTED
Rev. Timothy Dyer
Archbishop Mahony

31970



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 251-3284

1531
West Ninth
Street

Los Angeles
California
90015-1194

December 21, 1990

REDACTED

Dear Dr. REDACTED

I spoke to Father Michael Nocita today and asked him to see you, and he will do so soon. Father Nocita is forty years old and was ordained in 1977. Archbishop Mahony is planning to appoint him to a position in the Vocations Department, and since this is a very sensitive appointment, he wishes to have assurances regarding some incidents in Father Nocita's life.

The first incident involves a police report regarding Father Nocita's involvement with a young girl while he was teaching high school. REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

In addition, there have been persistent rumors and concerns about Father Nocita's behavior, his involvement with young women, an extravagant lifestyle, and the belief that some clergy asked that he not be ordained because of this problem. I do not have facts on these matters, but Father's ordination was delayed.

The Archdiocese would like to have an evaluation of Father Nocita. He has mentioned to me that he also was evaluated by the Hacker Clinic while he was in the Seminary, and while I do not have that report, I can request it from the Seminary if that would be useful.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call. My number at home is REDACTED

With thanks for your help, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry
Vicar for Clergy

31971



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 251-3284

1531
West Ninth
Street

Los Angeles
California
90015-1194

March 18, 1991

Rev. Michael Nocita

REDACTED
REDACTED

Plume REDACTED

Dear Mike:

I read the article in the La Canada paper indicating that you have taken a position with the Youth House.

I would like to see you as soon as possible.

If you will please call me as quickly as you can, I would very much appreciate it. If I am not in when you call, please speak to REDACTED and she will give you an appointment.

It is urgent that I see you, Mike, and if you cannot come in during daytime hours, I will arrange to meet you at some other time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev.) Timothy J. Dyer
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

31966

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 1991
FROM: Father Timothy Dyer
TO: Archbishop Mahony
RE: Rev. Michael Nocita

CONFIDENTIAL

I did get in contact with Michael Nocita and he is coming in to see me this Saturday at 9 A.M.

REDACTED

REDACTED

*Please keep me informed -
+ RMM
3-20-91*

MEMORANDUM

March 23, 1991

TO: Archbishop Mahony

FROM: Father Timothy Dyer ✓

RE: Michael Nocita

I met with Mike today and spoke to him first of our concern for him personally and our desire to support him. I stressed that it was a significant loss to the Archdiocese and that we had every hope that he might return to active ministry. He referred to his situation a couple of times as a "leave of absence," but the entire conversation made clear that there is very little likelihood of a return and that he would like to seek laicization so that he would be free to marry.

I then showed him the attached memo and gave him a copy -- asking that his employer send us a letter to that effect. He promised that would be done. I told him of our concern -- given his file -- over his taking a job with youth. He clarified that "youth" meant children under the age of eight, i.e. that the Center was for primary and preschool-age children. At any rate I asked that his employer send us a letter to correct the public record.

I assured him of your personal concern in his regard and, in that context, renewed the offer to go to Dr. REDACTED. He declined, saying he was already seeing someone of his own choosing. He said that he felt no anger toward the Church and that he would greatly miss presiding at the Eucharist. Says he has reached a point where he cannot see living in a rectory situation and feel fulfilled. He has an apartment and is living alone and says that he asks nothing of the Archdiocese at this time.

I urged that he stay in touch with us.

Very sad - keep me informed.

+ RMM

3-25-91

LA CANADA YOUTH HOUSE — COMMUNITY CENTER

Programs of Instruction and Recreation for All Ages



March 25, 1991

Reverend Timothy Dyer
Vicar for Clergy
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, Ca. 90015

Dear Father Dyer,

This is to inform you that Mike Nocita has notified me that the article in the La Canada Valley Sun dated February 28, 1991, which article stated that, "The Church was open about this (meaning Mike's present position), I left in good standing," is incorrect. It is my understanding that Mike's application for this position and his acceptance of this position was done without any knowledge by proper authority within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

REDACTED

Sincerely,
REDACTED

President
Board of Directors

31958

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 1991

FROM: REDACTED REDACTED

TO: REDACTED REDACTED - Director, REDACTED

RE: Rev. Michael Nocita

Last week we had a call from REDACTED, Young Adult Ministries, who was trying to contact Father Nocita because he is scheduled to be a participant in the Youth Congress at the Pasadena Center April 19-21. She said he had the material he needs, but has not responded to her attempts to reach him.

Father Dyer wanted me to let you know that due to his present status, Michael Nocita cannot give the talk or be listed as Father Mike Nocita, and that he presumes Mike doesn't plan to show up anyway.

Don't hesitate to call me if you need clarification.

Pls Call
REDACTED
REDACTED

tell her that due to
his present status -
he cannot give this
talk - listed as
- Fr Mike Nocito - &
that I would presume he
didn't plan to
show up
anyway

Rec Num	-02	Address	REDACTED	
Title	Rev.	City		
FirstNam	Michael	Country		
Midinit	S.	Address		
LastNam	Nocita	Home		Cont. File Yes
SSN		Work		Status Inactive-Leave
Familiar Nam	Michael	Private	REDACTED	Dio Appt No
Origin	U.S.	Tel Fax		Relg Appt No
BirthCit	California, San Jose	Seminary	St. John, Camarillo, C	Order
BirthDat	REDACTED	PPP	No	Ordin Yea 1977
Age	47	InCard	Yes	Incard Dio
		Will	No	Date Entere 04/01/91
				Inactive Date 3/25/91
		Date Updat	10/21/97	
Remark	Addr. #2 is his parents.			
Appoin	Mary Star of Sea, San Pedro - Associate 06/17/77 St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs - Faculty 07/09/80 St. Bruno, Whittier - Residence 07/09/80 Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance - Faculty 07/01/82 Maria Regina, Gardena - Residence 07/01/82 American Martyrs, Manhattan Beach - Residence 05/23/83			

BASIC INFORMATION FOR PAX CASES

Case Number: IA 0006/98

Name of Petitioner: Michael S. Nocita

Residence Address: REDACTED

City:

Mailing Address:
(if different)

City:

Home Phone: REDACTED _____ **Work Phone:** (____) _____

Pager: (____) _____ **E-mail:** _____

Date of Initial Contact: _____

Present status: No Prospect Fiancée Married Divorced

NOTES

- 1975 Jan, Disp 987,1 & 984,1 for Ordination to Deaconate
- 1976 Apr, called for Ordination to priesthood, but it is deferred. Indications of serious dissatisfaction on part of faculty and Rector. Mike is Deacon at Mary Star until Ordination
- 1977 June 11, '77 Ordained to priesthood
- 1978 Apr, REDACTED dies
- 1980 To St. Paul Hi as teacheer
- 1982 To Bp Montgomery Hi
- 1983 Assoc to American Martyrs
- 1984 Principal at Paraclete Hi, also police chaplain, inquires about military chaplaincy
- 1987 Principal at Alemany Hi
- 1988 request return to parish life, Assoc at St. Tim's, police report of intimacy with young woman at St. Paul in (80-82)
- 1989 REDACTED dies,
- 1990 Unhappy at St. Tim's, seeks military again (dating 20 yr old at St. Tim's is reported) In Dec rumors surface about his relationships with young women. He is asked to get a psychological evaluation, refuses.
- 1991 March, goes In Active. Seeks civil job with supposed support of Archdiocese. Made to recant that.
- No decree found removing faculties**

DECREE

As Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy duly appointed by the Archbishop of Los Angeles in California, acting in the name and at the direction of His Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahony, I hereby decree the revocation of all Archdiocesan faculties formerly entrusted to

REVEREND MICHAEL S. NOCITA


This revocation is made in recognition of the fact that Reverend Michael S. Nocita has left the active priestly ministry and no longer holds an ecclesiastical office or other Archdiocesan assignment. Therefore, the purpose for which the faculties were originally entrusted has ceased (canon 142).

In accord with the canon 50, in a letter dated March 26, 1996, Father Michael S. Nocita was informed of the Cardinal's intention to revoke the priestly faculties previously entrusted to him. Inasmuch as there has been no objection raised to this action, I formally issue this decree and direct that it be communicated to Reverend Michael S. Nocita.

Given this 23th day of October in the Year of Our Lord 2000 at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California.

ARCHDIOCESAN SEAL

REDACTED


Reverend Monsignor Richard Loomis
Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy

CONFIDENTIAL

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH REDACTED on April 26, 2002 at 9:35 a.m. by REDACTED, Pastoral Response Team, Diocese of Sacramento; REDACTED REDACTED 's phone no. is REDACTED ; her address is REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED called our hotline on April 25, 2002 at 2:31 p.m. I returned her call on April 26th. The following are the important points made during that telephone conversation.

- REDACTED is REDACTED years old; when she was fifteen years old, she attended REDACTED in Santa Fe Springs, CA
- During her sophomore year, a new priest came to the school - Fr. Michael Nocita who was approximately 30 years old at the time
- From 1981-1983, she had a relationship with Father Nocita; this relationship continued for a little while after she finished high school
- Father Nocita used to kiss the girls on the cheek and hug them; he told her he did this so that no one would find out about their relationship
- She was a shy person and Father Nocita came up to after Mass at the school (she went to Mass at lunch time with REDACTED) and asked her, "Did you pray for me?"; he called her REDACTED and she told that was not her name; he then asked, "Oh, what's your name?" and she told him; he asked her if she would light the candles for him before Mass everyday; he also gave her a huge hug everyday; at the time, she did not have a good family life
- Father Nocita was young, handsome and popular; after two months of hugs, he kissed her on the lips; she stood there frozen and he asked her, "Well, aren't you going to kiss me back?"; she kissed him on the cheek and ran away; she told her brother and her friend and they didn't believe her - she then started doubting herself
- Father Nocita wrote poetry to her and walked her to classes; he got her out of Spanish and Music classes so they could be together; they had a relationship; he said they were going to get married; she told him that she didn't feel good about it and it was making her sick; he said, "How dare you? Jesus gave us the love - you're spitting in His face."
- There was a lot of fondling; he took her to the rectory; he touched her breasts; they never had sexual intercourse; they kissed and "made out"; once he pushed her head down to his genitals, she kissed him there and stopped; he wanted her to touch his genitals

- There was a lot of kissing, groping, fondling; sometimes they were dressed, sometimes undressed; he liked her to take her clothes off and lay with him; they both had their underwear on except she took off her bra; he would lay on top of her; on one occasion, Father Nocita tried to have sex with her - maybe he could show her
- The relationship ended when she went away to college in REDACTED ; she wrote him a letter and told him that she wanted to move on and wished him well; he then called her (by then he was at Lancaster High School) crying and said, "No, you can't do this. Please let me see you."; she saw him - they hugged and talked; he was probably seeing other girls at the same time
- REDACTED started feeling suicidal when she 20, 21, 22 years old; she told Father Nocita that she wanted to see a counselor; he said she should talk to his good friend, Father REDACTED who was the REDACTED for the Diocese at that time; Father Nocita told her that Father REDACTED counseled people
- She saw Father REDACTED and told him everything and said that she was worried that it was molestation; Father REDACTED said, "Oh now, this is a once in a lifetime thing. He (Father Nocita) loves you."; he assured her that there were no other girls
- Father Nocita came to see her after this counseling session and asked her what she thought; he reassured her that he loved her and that they would be together
- She had a good friend from high school who had become a counselor; her friend referred her to another counselor in the same building by the name of REDACTED, who was a molest victim herself; REDACTED was initially protective of Father Nocita, but the counselor was pushing her for the priest's name because it needed to be reported to the police; told her she needed to report it; she said no; REDACTED filed a police report; REDACTED called Father Nocita to warn him; he said she didn't have to talk to the pounce and to say that the counselor misunderstood and that she was in love with him (i.e. don't bring his feelings into it)
- Later, Father Nocita and Father REDACTED, REDACTED were at a function together; Father REDACTED approached Father Nocita and asked him about the police report involving REDACTED ; Father Nocita said it was just a misunderstanding; Father REDACTED (who knew REDACTED very well) said "You mean to tell me you think she's lying." and walked away from Father Nocita; Father Nocita told her that Father REDACTED was rude to him
- Some of her friends told her that Father Nocita had kissed them while they were at the school; Father Nocita named other priest who had girlfriends, Father REDACTED (she knows this priest knows about their relationship), Father REDACTED, and others; there may be other girls who were involved with these priests; she has since had some

counseling (saw REDACTED from May 1996 to 2000, in Sacramento), but would like to start again if assistance can be provided.

I again to spoke to REDACTED on May 21, 2002. She told me that she was mostly interested in programs - assistance with counseling. I told her that I had called Msgr. Cox of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and left a message. She said these priests believed in having girlfriends. She recently heard a rumor from a friend from high school that Father Nocita had married a student from another school who was five years younger than REDACTED

I spoke to her again on May 23, 2002 and told her about my telephone conversation with Msgr. Cox. I said that both priests are out of ministry and that in fact, Father Nocita had left the priesthood and got married. I explained to her that I would be sending information about our initial phone conversation to Msgr. Cox. She would be hearing from Sister REDACTED regarding pastoral counseling and eventually from Msgr. Cox. She said she didn't want to be counseled by another Father REDACTED-type. I told her that she probably could have a Catholic or non-Catholic lay counselor. Finally, I said I would be sending her a confirming letter about the referral to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles very soon. She thanked me for our assistance.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2002 2:33 PM
To: REDACTED
Cc:
Subject: Fr. REDACTED from Sacramento REDACTED
Importance: High

Called for Msgr. Cox and would like to speak to him about Fr. Michael Nocita and Fr. REDACTED



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818-2541 • 916/733-0225 • Fax 916/733-0224

OFFICE OF
CANONICAL AFFAIRS

May 23, 2002

Rev. Msgr. Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Msgr. Cox:

This letter confirms our telephone conversation of yesterday regarding Father Michael Nocita. Enclosed is a summary of my telephone conversations with REDACTED who lives in the Diocese of Sacramento. As we discussed, I told her that I had spoken with you yesterday and that she should expect to hear from Sister REDACTED regarding pastoral counseling and eventually she would hear from you directly.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me. I appreciate your assistance in this matter. You and your staff are in my prayers as we face this crisis together. May God bless you in your work. Thank you.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Pastoral Response Team
Diocese of Sacramento

RECEIVED
MAY 28 2002
BY: _____

31946

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Michael Nocita
DATE: 3 June 2002

I spoke with Michael Nocita on the phone today and summarized for him the essence of the claims made by REDACTED. I had indicated to him that I expected no response. All Michael said is that he was "very surprised" to hear of this complaint.

He promised to stay in touch if he hears anything.



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

June 3, 2002

REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

Let me begin by thanking you for contacting REDACTED at the Diocese of Sacramento to pass on the information you imparted to her. Let me begin by offering my sincere apology for the suffering you endured. It is abominable for any priest to betray his calling and mistreat any person under his pastoral care. Please know that you are in prayers; may the Holy Spirit bring you healing and peace.

I have asked that REDACTED REDACTED, our REDACTED to get in touch with you to offer pastoral assistance to aid your inner healing.

I also wanted to inform you that Michael Nocita has been out of active service since 1991. He is suspended from any sort of priestly ministry.

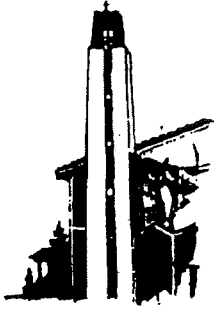
Again, I thank you for coming forward. I know that I pray that May God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

cc: REDACTED REDACTED
REDACTED

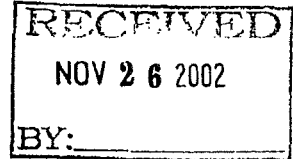
31944



St. Lawrence Martyr Parish

(310) 540-0329

1900 SOUTH PROSPECT AVE., REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277-6003



November 25, 2002

Rev. Msgr. Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90010-2241

Dear Msgr. Cox:

RE: REDACTED

I have just read the attached Journal from the above named REDACTED. It has taken me some time to digest the contents and the story is not pleasant.

I have known REDACTED for more than ten years but until I read the attached, I had never been exposed to the real problems that have occurred in her life as a result of her association with (Father) Mike Nocita while he was teaching at Bishop Montgomery High School. It is an experience that has left a beautiful young lady a physical and mental wreck.

This story of her life is directed to you at my encouragement and support. The incidents accounted in this experience occurred in a Catholic High School and certainly not unnoticed by the principal and others in authority at the time. The most of these people are still enjoying employment and the support of our Church but REDACTED on the contrary is suffering as a result of some negligence by many of these people.

REDACTED **is not adopting an adversarial approach by any means, but rather coming to the church for some simple love and concern and help in getting her life back together. With the permission of REDACTED I have discussed her situation with one of my attorney friends who does agree that it may be possible to build up a case of negligence against BMHS.**

REDACTED **is in need of some top-notch counseling and likewise some support to allow her to live rather frugally but sufficient to prepare her for a successful career. This young lady has much talent, is well educated and I've always considered her as the perfect teacher for the lower grades children in any of our schools. I personally know the principal where she was a teacher for one year, and she considered her to be a marvelous teacher.**

The attached is a very detailed but well written journal. It has taken a long time to put together, but hopefully you will be able to direct it to the proper person who will be able to take on the responsibility of giving it the attention it deserves. I will be very pleased to do all I can to help in this matter.

With personal regards,
REDACTED

Sincerely
REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

TO: Los Angeles Catholic
Archdiocese
"Sexual Abuse" Situation
REDACTED
Archdiocesan Personnel

REDACTED

REDACTED

**Report of "Sexual Abuse" Situation Perpetrated Against
REDACTED by Archdiocesan Personnel**

presented to:
Archdiocesan Office for the Redress of Sexual Abuse Cases

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References

Archdiocesan Office for the Redress of Sexual Abuse Cases

To Whom It May Concern,

November 5, 2002

Hello to you all. My name is REDACTED ; and I am writing to you to report a "sexual abuse" situation that was perpetrated against me by Archdiocesan school personnel, over a period of four years, when I was a minor attending Bishop Montgomery High School.

The enclosed pages detail the abuse and attempt to express why it was so damaging and what it has cost me. This year I experienced a life-threatening, complete collapse over it which I have not overcome; my life has been in a state of "911 – code blue" for almost a year now and I need your help. As this could be costly to you, I have included two letters from medical professionals who have been treating me, which substantiate my claim of abuse and which clearly link my current physical, emotional, financial and functional collapse to the abuse by Archdiocesan personnel.

Additional verification, in various forms, can be provided if necessary.

I am writing to you hoping to be healed. The wound in me is so overpowering not only because it was traumatic, but because I was never "loved through it." That is to say, to be really healed of this and lose the coping mechanism of "dissociation," which keeps me from being whole and therefore keeps me from being healthy, vital and successful, I need to re-experience the pain AND be loved in the midst of it. You can help do this by hearing what I have to say, by meeting my physical needs during this crisis, and by reviewing the actions and words of "my priest" and stating what the Church says today about that relationship and how it was handled.

I am writing to ask you for the necessary financial support to help me heal and re-build my life as this past abuse by Archdiocesan personnel and the Hierarchy has ruined my life and physical health to the point that my life has been at stake, my mental health attacked, my credit ruined and savings gone, my car on the verge of collapse, my natural, God-given ability to function taken away and I have been reduced to poverty—now barely getting by on Food Stamps of \$135.00/month and Welfare payments of \$221.00/ month. Additionally I am unable to pay my rent (even though it is a modest amount for a small studio apartment); my car registration is six months late, I have an unpaid traffic ticket and have been unable to file my taxes (these latter three, if unresolved, carry serious legal consequences.) I am only able to work here and there at \$8.00 to \$10.00/ hour since my mind is occupied with this abuse and my body so easily fatigued. In this state I am not worth much in the job market. To meet my needs I take the little income I do have and buy furniture and collectibles at garage sales which I then sell to a vintage furniture store at a small profit. I am continually "broke."

I feel bold to ask you for the financial support needed as I've done everything I could to cope with this abuse and build a decent adult life for myself, only to fail repeatedly and find this year that the burden is too heavy for me and I don't have the strength. My back is up against the wall. I have been completely incapacitated. In the early months of this year I was so ill over it, that I could not eat—barely subsisting on 1500 calories of food

per week, week after week for months, and for three dark days could not eat at all or even drink water; I lay at home, alone, (after having reached out to key ministers in my Catholic parish who did not help me as I needed) forcing myself to drink down even a tablespoon of water per day, as otherwise I thought I might die—my body was literally shutting down. Though I am in my early thirties, I felt 85 years old and broken. My joints quit working and I was wracked with pain.

I feel bold to ask you for the amount of money necessary to bring me back to the documented, high level of functioning and achievement that I developed and have enjoyed during my life, in those years when I was not experiencing or re-experiencing (through Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome and Major Depression) this abuse by my priest and the staff of BMHS, and from the Archdiocesan Hierarchy itself. It is not just for me to suffer to this degree when the responsible party, the Catholic Church of Los Angeles, acting in free will those years ago, was the perpetrator exhibiting abuse and gross negligence, and has the awareness, insurance and financial means to now make restitution.

Especially, I feel bold to ask, as Our Church, is not merely an organization subject to the laws of a secular and "un-saved" nation—but is the body of Christ and the ambassador of Jesus and of the Love to which He has called us; and even provided an abundance of Grace so that we would be able to love perfectly, as He loves.

He is sympathetic to our weakness, but always calls us to holiness and repentance, which includes making amends where we have wronged someone, and seeking reconciliation. It stands to reason that He especially asks this of His Church officials and Hierarchy. And he even calls us when we are wronged to "go (to our brother) and tell him his fault....if he listens to you, you have won your brother" (Matthew 18:15), which I am doing by coming to you now.

I don't know what the legal statutes hold you, the Archdiocese to, regarding the abuse I suffered. I don't know what the legal "Statute of Limitations" is, but I do know that I was emotionally unable to come to you before, that I won't make it without substantial help, and that God holds this Church and the specific persons involved accountable for the wrong actions they did to me. God's Statute of Limitations is our earthly lifetime and for the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese, that means that God still holds you accountable for what was done to me.

I don't mean to sound accusatory or condescending; I am a sinner saved by Christ and am called to repentance in areas of my life too. I'm just speaking to you as a sister in Christ and a broken sister at that. I pray that Christ works through you to heal me, and us all.

Sincerely,
REDACTED

Cost to My life and Health

It's difficult to express the cost, but I will try. And my attempt is still incomplete.

This abusive scenario took a highly functioning young person with a long record of demonstrated high intelligence, self-discipline and top honors across a broad range of subjects, to a dismal drop in ability and the verge of a nervous breakdown. I only averted it by "dissociating" my Junior year. That meant that I shut it out of my mind by concentrated effort. Sadly, doing so also shut down much of my intelligence and my ability to bond deeply with others. The energy required to block out emotional trauma is so great that the body becomes fatigued and tasks that were simple now take a tremendous amount of energy to accomplish. This effort to "forget the past" resulted in a Major Depressive Episode which has literally crippled me ever since.

Major Depression attacks the immune system, leaving you constantly weak and sick. It takes away restful sleep as the mind is always trying to wake up the trauma so you can be whole again. Your adrenal glands become exhausted and your organs begin to weaken. It shuts down healthy relating with other people so you lose the vital contact necessary for health and happiness.

In time it takes away your ability to function. Taxes, laundry, and keeping the car clean are a struggle. Earning a decent income becomes impossible. In the past seven years I've earned only \$6000.--/year. And these years have taken as much effort as Graduate School with nothing to show for it. I have been unable to build even a mediocre adult life.

Left untreated Major Depression can result in total isolation, suicidal desires and constant thoughts of death. Left untreated, it can bring you to death. This happened to me this year. I had reached out to people before but never got the sympathy and understanding I needed to process and heal. I was terrified of looking at the pain again and was too broke to go to counseling.

With severe depression, the bones ache, they feel like they are crying out and your body shuts down. That's what I experienced this year. I cannot begin to express the pain. It was beyond overwhelming; I was beyond comfort. I was in acute emotional and physical pain, 24-7, for months---no respite whatsoever. No sleep and for a long time no food. My body literally could not eat.

Simultaneously, I was experiencing the "woken trauma" from age 16 over Fr. Nocita. The pain was over his "mixed messages" where he would romantically advance and then tell me that our relationship was platonic. This was not only confusing, it was traumatic because I wanted our souls to be pure and felt we were facing mortal sin; I was also afraid for our hearts. School Administrators also sent conflicting data, alternately intimating romance and then acting like everything was on the level and later punishing me for showing my anger.

Also traumatic were the thoughts that he had singled me out because I was cute and successful, and in an unconscious way being unsuccessful has protected that part of me that felt targeted for being so impressive that I caught his attention. He used to tell me things that indicated that he chose me because I was so accomplished, bright, pretty etc... It's something like Pavlovian dog conditioning where if a stimulus is linked frequently enough with pain the dog will associate that stimulus with pain in later years. He has been conditioned to avoid the stimulus that when approached brought him pain.

Likewise, when I finally dared to be successful again and "let go" of my Fr. Nocita trauma late in 2001, the success "stimulus" which attracted him to me in the first place signaled the repressed pain inside me and the trauma broke out, crippling me to within an inch of my life.

So, you see, I must overcome this trauma somehow or resign myself to being a serious underachiever. This is what I have seen with painful clarity this year. And I am not able to do it on my own. Attempting to do so only gave me two glorious weeks of wholeness and then led me to being hospitalizable.

I have discussed this in greater detail in the Narrative section of this report. I have also attempted to give you a fuller picture of the cost of this from age 16 on, of the times in my young adult life when I rose above it to success again, but only for a few years. As I grew older it became harder and harder to suppress. I guess, as it began to take more energy the drain became too much to handle.

I don't expect you to comprehend it all, but I felt I should try to express this in my report to the Archdiocese.

It's probably worth noting that my other siblings, all younger, have achieved great to exemplary success as professionals. In other words, my failure does not reflect a pattern throughout my family.

Instead, I stand out in stark contrast, which is surprising to them because I was always their "golden child."

“In a Nutshell” (Abusive Scenario and Sources of Evidentiary Support)

I was romantically led on by a Catholic priest for four years when I was between the ages of 14 and 17, and I fell for it.

His romantic advances began when I was a 14 year old freshman at REDACTED REDACTED High School. Fr. Michael Nocita involved me in substantial physical and romantic affection that incited my feelings in ways that were over my head and that drew me in a provocative way, causing me to fall in love and eventually feel strong sexual desire for him, to my continual torment.

This romantic involvement took place in person for one year. After he was abruptly transferred, we continued our relationship through letters and phone calls through May of my Junior year, after which I broke contact with him to keep from losing my mind and purity. He contacted me Christmas and May of my Senior year.

Much of Fr. Nocita's romantic actions took place in full view of the staff. They were complicit. No one intervened to keep me safe that year, and by the end of that year the groundwork for serious damage had already been laid. Fr. Nocita told me that his romantic words and actions were normal and loving, and it was suggested that if our full relationship was laid “on the table” that he would lose the priesthood he loved. I protected him. Therefore my parents did not have the full picture, and as I was their first teenager, merely thought that I was suffering from infatuation in the first degree. My mother had threatened to “get him out of the priesthood” if something was “going on,” and Fr. Nocita had plead his case with me in class and out for a full year. I chose him, believing he was expressing the higher truth and did not disclose to my mother and father even though this induced the most painful separation from them.

Therefore, I lost the necessary guidance and support every child needs. Every place that was supposed to be safe for me was not. My parents were no longer safe, the school staff were not safe, my priest was not safe, even the Cardinal was not safe. All the people that normally nurture and protect a child were suddenly unsafe—not one lent me the support and psychological safety I needed. This is what makes the psychological impact so catastrophic. Alone and isolated, developmentally frozen, I took a nose dive in every area of my life, unable to succeed and grow.

Sources of evidentiary support of this abuse include: BMHS Staff members who observed us—notably REDACTED and REDACTED -- others available, Mike Nocita's own memory and testimony, students from my 1st period class, students who told me something was wrong, students whom I confided in during those years, including my own sister, and whose responses I recorded in my High School journals, the journals I kept, detailing what Fr. Nocita and staff said and did, and later adult journals where I wrote memories that surfaced (pages total 50-100+). These journals clearly show the abuse and its effect on my well-being.

Additionally Parish and Archdiocesan records should show that Fr. Nocita was reprimanded for his conduct with teenage girls and women. The Tom Schneider TV video tape will show Tom asking Fr. Nocita about relationships with teenage girls, and some person or persons asked him, to ask Fr. Nocita, based on things they observed.

INAPPROPRIATE VERBAL BEHAVIOR---- in class

Fr. Nocita publicly, in class, advocated physical affection, and presented it as an unmitigated "thing to be valued" without providing a clear structure for propriety or boundaries. This was a running theme for him. He said things like:

"A man needs 5-8 hugs per day to be healthy," and then he looked my way and said "even a man who's not married."

"Snoopy said 'people need 5-8 hugs per day.'" (yes, the Peanuts character)

Fr. Nocita said "People who don't hug people aren't loving. A couple weeks ago I had just finished saying mass with Fr. REDACTED, and we were near the front of the church and Fr. REDACTED reached to hug this woman and she pulled away. He tried to hug her and she said 'no, I was really hurt by a man and I'm not comfortable hugging.' Fr. REDACTED said 'Well that's in the past, let me give you a hug,' and then the woman got angry. Fr. Nocita said, "Something was really wrong with that woman; that's just not loving."

I remember thinking, "Fr. Nocita must know best. I need to make sure I'm loving so I need to hug if someone asks." So later when he started asking for hugs, I thought back to his story, and hugged him, even though I felt uncomfortable. I also thought, "Poor Fr. Nocita, he needs 5-8 a day and where will he get them? I guess I need to give him a hug—it'll help him." This is honestly what went through my mind. And then, because God has designed women to become emotionally attached to a man through physical affection, after a year of this I was romantically, emotionally bonded to Fr. Nocita!!!

Notably, Fr. Nocita never prompted me to hug anybody else, nor did he prompt the boys to hug him, nor the boys and girls to hug each other. He was the one who wanted hugs.

Fr. Nocita also said things, in class, that caused me to see him not as my teacher or even my priest, but to see him as a man with sexual/romantic desires. He said things like:

In response to a boy who called out and said "Fr. Nocita you have chalk on your butt." Fr. Nocita said "Some girl must have had chalk on her hands." I remember trying to understand what that meant and then feeling totally scandalized and ashamed when I realized what he meant.

He said "Studies show that men think of sex once every 8 seconds." I was really nervous hearing this and thought, "so he thinks of sex, and every 8 seconds!!"

He said his dad was a really good husband, very affectionate with his wife. He said that his mom would be doing dishes and his dad would come up and pat her on the butt and how this was a good thing. Then later that day I was standing at the office counter with him and he picked a box of Kleenex off the counter and patted my butt with it, smiled, and set it back on the counter. Well if you were me what would you have thought? I thought he was imagining/ hoping we could somehow be husband and wife.

INAPPROPRIATE VERBAL BEHAVIOR --- one-on-one

He said I would be his girlfriend

He repeatedly said he would marry me if things were different.

He said "If I was your boyfriend I would pick you up for a date in a Porsche"

He said my uniform skirt would be cute a little shorter and that it would still be modest.

He would whisper things in my ear, especially when other girls were around and say things like: REDACTED cute, but you have more depth." "You are the cutest girl." "You are the smartest girl" "You are my favorite" etc.. etc..

My Sophomore year when we had not seen each other for over 5 months:

We saw each other and I got up to hug him (this was the only time I ever initiated a hug with him) He hesitated and said quickly and urgently, "Not here!" "We can't hug here. I need to get some things from my old office in the first building. Let's hug somewhere else. You can walk with me there. When we got into the first building we walked towards the old office and through a door. I saw my mother driving her car. I said "Oh there's my mom she'll be glad to see you. Come and say 'hi'." "No, he said "let's go another way." He found a place we could hug where there was least chance of being seen by my mother or anyone else. We hugged for a long time.

Then he walked me back to my books, looked longingly at me and said "You have such a cute girlish figure." (I was wearing running shorts, he'd only seen me in my uniform skirt before. I was too naïve to even realize that those shorts would've been a turn on, especially for a man who was attracted to me. I remember feeling embarrassed that I wasn't in a nice dress.)

Things said to me over the phone when we lived far apart:

"I was in PV the other night after visiting some friends and on my way home as I was driving down the winding roads I missed you so much I wanted to drive off a cliff!"

"My arms are aching to hold you so much I feel like they're going to fall off."

"I'll tell you, I was really disappointed that the one day I thought I was going to see you I couldn't."

He said "How's your sex life?"

"Every now and then some wild, loose woman throws her body at me."

He asked me if I was dating anyone and then said "If there was a guy I would be jealous." "Well, if any guy ever touches you, I'll cut his hands off."

INAPPROPRIATE VERBAL BEHAVIOR ---continued---

Another time I remember he said "When I see you I'm going to give you a big smooch... right on the lips!"

"Well, the Pope wrote me a letter and he said 'REDACTED is not a hopeless case and he said she is pulcherima (pretty) and I said 'Boy you're right. Boy, if I were sixteen and eligible! When I see you I think six hours should be enough time for a hug.'"

When I see you there'll have to be some passionate smooches. I have a picture of myself in my desk drawer, would you like me to send it to you?"

If I had a picture of you I would put it on my desk and girls would come in and say 'who is that?' and I would say 'none of your business.'"

"Well it was so sweet of you to call" he said. "I'll have to write you a little note or something. So are we still in love?!"

"Why do you have to be in testing when I come to see you?!"

and "My arms are aching, I need to hug you."

and "Oh, I want to kiss you right now so much, it would be the longest, long-distance kiss in history."

"Well, I'll put (my picture) in the mail today, I've got to do that. Just today I was talking about you. This girl came up and she gave me a hug, and she said 'can I be your girlfriend?' and I said "No" and she says 'Why not?' and I said "because I already have a girlfriend." and she says 'Who?' and I said "None of your business, you don't know her" and she says 'What's her name?' and I said 'REDACTED and she lives in Torrance."

"No one could hold a candle to you." he said "I'd just show them your picture and they'd be jealous." He said that he was going to have to see me, but that he wouldn't have a chance until May and that he would most likely come on a Friday.

After I had broken off contact with him he called my house and he said I haven't received any letters from you. "I've been busy." I said. I'd sure like to get a letter from you he said. Silence. I didn't know what to say to him

Then he said, "It's so beautiful out here tonight in the desert. The stars are so beautiful. I want to get in my car and drive out to your house at 85 miles/hour and pick you up and drive back at 85 miles per hour and hold you under the stars."

INAPPROPRIATE VERBAL BEHAVIOR---in class---cont.

Fr. Nocita talked frequently about how if he were not a priest he would be married. He told us what kind of car he would drive and how he would be affectionate with his wife. He talked about fun things he would do with his children. He talked about a movie star he thought was so attractive—Rachel Ward—ironically star of "The Thorn Birds."

This caused me to see him more as a man with sexual/romantic desires. None of my other male teachers in High School talked about wanting to be married.

It was the girl's fault...

Once in class, some of the kids challenged him about the purity of the Church, because they had recently heard about a church in Wilmington where several parish priests had sex with a 16 year old girl. This was especially shocking for us at age 14. Fr. Nocita shook his head and said, "Oh!! There are girls like that. They want to be close to a priest. They hang out around the altar. We call them "altar girls." (this was before we had actual altar girls.)

The boys got upset and said something like "Fr. Nocita, that's not right. It was the priests' fault!" But Fr. Nocita had laid blame on the 16 year old, instead of on these grown men.

Fr. Nocita talked about being a teenage boy with desire.

He said there was a lipstick the girls used to wear called "kiss me pink" that he loved. He said he and his buddies, when they saw an ugly girl, would call her a "bagger" meaning she needed a bag over her head. Once he said, "Do you know what a two bagger is? That's a girl who is so ugly that you need two bags, one for her head and one for your head in case her bag falls off." Then he laughed and laughed. I thought this was really wrong.

He often referred to girls as "chicks" which I now see was demeaning. I think he must have had some deep wound from a teenage girl back when he was a young man, because once he said, "If I loved a girl and she became a "dirt bag chick" (meaning sexually immoral) I would never take her back.

He also said, "If a girl loved me and left me, I wouldn't go crawling after her like a pathetic little puppy dog."

Limits had already been placed

He said that the parishioners at his parish thought he was having sex with women he counseled and that this upset him. He said, "What do they think? Do they think I'd have the energy I have if I was up at night having sex with women?" I wasn't sure what he meant but guessed that he was saying 1) that he was pure and 2) that sex took a lot of energy and I wondered why that would be and thought I'd better not think about it.

INAPPROPRIATE VERBAL BEHAVIOR—in class—cont.

He also said that it was very hurtful being a priest when people would insinuate sexual misconduct. He said that once his friend Fr. REDACTED had a woman show up the rectory door with three young children, claiming that she and Fr. REDACTED were lovers and that the children needed taking care of. He said this was a lie and very hurtful to Fr. REDACTED

Fr. Nocita was our school counselor. Students and adults would meet one-on-one with him and talk about the pain in their life. He got angry once in class and said to us, "It's not right that when I'm counseling a teenage girl I need to keep the office door open. Here's a girl and she's crying her heart out, and the door has to be open!! What about her privacy? And I have to keep the door open because people are suspicious.

Defending our relationship in class:

As the year went on the kids in my first period started to fidget at the attention Fr. Nocita gave me. He said that it was "ok" for a teacher to have a favorite student. He said that people could be friends regardless of their age differences. He said Michael Jackson had a friend who was only five years old.

Conclusions I made from all this that influenced my actions:

What I took in from all this was that he was a very loving man, affectionate and able to get close to people and that other people who weren't like him accused him of misconduct and that he was innocent and that this wasn't fair to him. So later when he was close to me in ways that seemed romantic I remembered things he had said and didn't want him to be hurt by these "uncaring, unenlightened people."

He also talked about how he had felt called to be a priest from a young age, about how he had begged the cardinal to ordain him and he talked about how he loved being a priest. When he celebrated the mass he was so sincere. Watching him at the consecration convinced me Christ was truly present. Fr. Nocita seemed to be in love with God and so grateful to be a priest.

I really respected his feelings and the priesthood and throughout our relationship did my best to maintain our friendship without threatening his priesthood. Fr. Nocita often talked about how women and men could "just be friends." He told me he was my friend and that we would be friends forever. But in time we were walking such a fine line that I was afraid for both of us.

INAPPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT:

Within my first week of meeting Fr. Nocita, the first week of high school, when I was 14, he blew in my hair.

And his uninvited physical contact increased after that in this way:

Fr. Nocita asked me to hug him and stood with outstretched arms and waited about 20 seconds until I nervously hugged him. (This was the first time I hugged him, and took place in the classroom as I was on my way to my desk. It was before class started and I had to walk past him to get to my desk.)

Fr. Nocita ran his fingers through my hair (He stopped me in the doorway as I was entering the classroom, ran his fingers through my hair saying he loved how it looked "wind-blown", said that he had had a "REDACTED" once and I would be his new REDACTED)

He frequently held my hand for five minutes at a stretch. He would interlace his fingers with mine, relax and hold my full hand, and sometimes stroke the inside of my palm with his fingers.

He frequently kissed me on the cheek with a lingering kiss. (I remember the feel of his lips on my face, the feel of his face, whether smooth or with a five o'clock shadow. I knew the scent of his aftershave.)

He pressed his face against mine cheek to cheek and lingered.

Fr. Nocita held my hand for 5 minutes every day as I walked down the hall, kissed me on the cheek, would sing "Fairy tales can come true, it can happen to you, if you're young at heart." At the end of our walk he would give me a big hug. Sometimes he sang bits of contemporary love songs, instead of this "young at heart" song. This was after first period as he and I left the room, and I walked to my second period. (This went on from February till June) These were not attentions that he commonly shared with the other girls.

Frequent and uninvited daily hand-holding, hugging, kissing on the cheek, and pressing his face against mine. THESE WERE NOT ATTENTIONS THAT HE COMMONLY SHARED WITH OTHER GIRLS. I WAS PARTICULARLY SINGLED OUT.

He frequently whispered in my ear, flattering and endearing comments.

Fr. Nocita played with my hands and with my hair

Fr. Nocita would pop up all over campus and at various times and give me affection.

Repeatedly asked me to hit him in the stomach (and laughed when I said that wasn't appropriate) Fr. Nocita asked me to feel his biceps, and then flexed his arm.

INAPPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT —continued—

Fr. Nocita hung out after school almost every day, where I was waiting for my mom, put his priest collar in his pocket, touched me & talked to me romantically.

Fr. Nocita took me where he could hug me alone, without being seen by anyone and when he saw my mom looking for me, took me somewhere else to hug me alone.

While hugging him, I let go, and Fr. Nocita pulled me back to him and held my head to his chest (and when I sighed he laughed a laugh that made me uncomfortable.)

He came up behind me, leaned against me and laid his face in my hair for a minute.

He held me often in an embrace that was much more than a hug & gave me cards on Valentine's Day and gave me frequent prolonged hugs.

When we were alone together, after confession (in the gym), Fr. Nocita put his arm around my waist and drew me close to him and walked at a snail's pace while holding me close for about 10 minutes, then let go so people wouldn't see us holding as we walked out into the light. (He said, "We don't have to walk so fast it's nice just to hold." Then he walked so slowly as he held me that we were barely moving at all, his body was close against me and he quit talking and was totally silent. His black shoes moved so slow over the gym floor. I felt suddenly creepy as there was a "heaviness" to him. I fidgeted and then he picked up the pace and started talking again. When I asked why he was letting go (as we entered the schoolyard, he said "They wouldn't understand.")

Fr. Nocita put his arm around my waist and bumped my hip with his hip, and did this after school in the empty hallway, bumping me in a zig-zag pattern all the way down the long hall.

Towards the end of the year, Fr. Nocita often hugged me two times a day.

SPECIAL NOTE: When did all this take place?

Fr. Nocita taught my first period class. From there we walked holding hands as I went to my second period class. At lunch time I attended daily mass where he was the celebrant. We'd visit afterwards. During my fifth period class (right after lunch) He'd stop in the doorway of my classroom and look at me for a minute and wave—after a while my fifth period teacher started closing the door, and then Fr. Nocita would stop by and look at me through the small glass window in the door. Once I spotted him he would wave or make some funny faces and then leave. Then it was off to sixth period and then to wait in front of school, where, yes, Fr. Nocita was "hanging out," and a lot of our time together and romantic affection was there in full view of the office staff.

9:10-10:00

2nd Period

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED



BMHS STAFF RELATED WORDS AND ACTIONS

REDACTED

Fr. REDACTED and REDACTED, during my freshman year, almost daily saw Mike come walking down the hall with me. We would stop and talk with them. Often, in their presence, he would hug me and kiss me on the cheek. I wondered if all this was "ok" and I looked to them and they were always smiling.

REDACTED REDACTED had the room next to Fr. Nocita's and while he was flirting with me, in the hall before class, she was often watching. She smiled and sometimes she looked upset as she watched; her smile began to look very thin and troubled.

REDACTED often saw Mike and I visiting during lunch and after school, where much of his romantic affection took place.

After Fr. Nocita was transferred, REDACTED would tell me if she had just seen Fr. Nocita. Throughout the years she would ask if I had heard from him and if I was writing to him.

REDACTED witnessed my behavioral, emotional nose dive and looked very concerned. She eventually called Fr. Nocita and asked him to come see me. She never openly addressed me re: my relationship with Fr. Nocita. In later years, whenever she has seen REDACTED says that REDACTED asks "How's your sister REDACTED?" with a tone of questioning concern.

Fr. REDACTED EDACTED thought Fr. Nocita and I looked cute together. Early Sophomore year I was feeling really lonely for Fr. Nocita. I was walking down the congested hallway and Fr. REDACTED turned and stopped right in front of me. He was just inches away and he was big like Fr. Nocita. He looked at me with a twinkle in his eye, and said, in a teasingly scandalous tone, "Do you miss him?"

I felt nervous and ashamed and didn't like the suggestion so I said, "Who do you mean?" (knowing he meant Fr. Nocita)

"You know who I mean." he said, looking at me directly.

I was quiet.

"Mike." He said (meaning Fr. Nocita.) He seemed to think this was funny, and I thought it was very serious and heart-breaking.

Another time he said, as he was passing me in the hall, "Does he sing to you?"

Does who sing to me? I asked.

"Mike? Does he sing "I'll take you home again REDACTED"

BMHS STAFF RELATED WORDS AND ACTIONS cont.

Being Irish, I knew the song, and it's a love ballad, where the man is singing to his love ^{REDACTED} and one of the lines is "I love you as I loved you when you were sweet sixteen."

"No" I said, feeling embarrassed.

"Well he should." said Fr. ^{REDACTED} and he winked and walked off.

Unusual Emotional Desperation witnessed (and unaddressed) by BMHS staff:

Early Sophomore year, after not seeing him for 4 months, I saw his car and ran around campus to the teacher lounge and asked out of breath and in a desperate tone if he was there. Coach ^{REDACTED} cautiously said "No."

I then ran up the hill to the Franciscan's home and showed up winded and semi-desperate asking if he was there. Brother ^{REDACTED} answered the door and seemed to think it strange on my part. And it was. But for a school that had been in a hum, over Fr. Nocita and I just months before, resulting in an abrupt, early transfer of Fr. Nocita, our vice principal, this should have been a red flag that I needed help.

Junior year retreat—in a sharing time, I broke down sobbing and crying and told the two teachers in my group that I was broken hearted over a relationship with man whom I had met at Bishop, who was a teacher. I said that I couldn't share this with people and it was eating me up. I said that he moved to the desert and I couldn't see him. I said that I loved him and he had loved me and I didn't know what to do. I was shaking and sobbing so badly I couldn't see their faces through my tears just a blur of faint candle light in the darkness. They asked for his name and I was too afraid to tell them because I thought that Fr. Nocita could lose everything he loved, his high school administration career and even his priesthood. Later they would pass me in the halls, but never approached me, and no help came to me in return for "this cry for help." Those two teachers should've taken action, sought out teachers who could get through to me or knew my background. I was a minor talking about a romantic relationship with an adult man whom I had met at Bishop and who was actively employed as a teacher of other minors.

More adult actions/ inactions and words are in my narrative account and additional are available if needed.

Basically, no one openly addressed the situation or held Fr. Nocita accountable in way that would have returned intimacy between me and my parents and would have given me the truth and necessary resolution. I was not given counseling. I was left alone in this highly abusive, heart-breaking situation and when I became angry and "bent" over it was punished and insulted for having a "bad attitude."

Narrative Account
- in greater detail

Narrative Account of Abuse and Aftermath to Present Day

This is detail. More is available. Hopefully this narrative will give you what you need to see why this situation was so devastating. Hopefully some good will come from sharing.

CATHOLIC SEEDS THAT MADE ME MORE VULNERABLE

There were some seeds sown early in my Catholic life that made me vulnerable to Fr. Nocita and to his particular needs and psychological problems from his first approach and that left me with no life raft on which to scramble aboard, once the relationship with him became untenable.

Ideas were planted through Catholic education and catechism—ideas like the following: Educators told us that the Catholic faith was the one, true faith and that the rest of the world without the Church, was "going to hell in a hand basket" so to speak. And among Catholics, priests and nuns were better than the rest of us, the highest calling was to the religious life and they had made the ultimate sacrifice; the clergy were holier and knew better than the rest of us. I saw adult Catholics dote on the priests and nuns and almost fall in worship over the cardinal. The cardinal was just below the Pope and he was the Vicar of Christ on earth. Talk about power!! Married life was something for the lesser souls among us. The clergy were the generals and we were the privates. Almost every saint presented to us was a priest or nun or someone who lived that way.

We were told that every person in our life was sent by God. For me that worked out to God sending me Fr. Nocita and then just toying with my heart.

Priests represented Jesus Christ. Our catechism book even showed illustrations of a priest administering the sacraments, with the face of Christ super imposed over the priest's face. I took it on faith that Jesus was "in each priest." This was the kind of reverence I had for Fr. Nocita. At times I even felt Christ's presence through him. It was this maybe more than any other thing, that made this trauma too much for my body and psyche. If I and my family had not believed this way, being exploited by him would have been an isolated event of being hurt by "just some guy," but in actuality it was a betrayal of the highest magnitude imaginable — to a young, cradle Catholic.

It was betrayal by the best group of people in the world and by God Himself. If they didn't love me and weren't safe where in the world could I go?

There was a general consensus that we didn't have enough priests and that made our existing priests rarities and even more esteemed. It was as if they were more important than the rest of us. (In the case of Fr. Nocita and myself, and any other girls he "loved" in this way, it meant that he was such a "valuable player" to the adult Catholic staff and Cardinal that they were willing to sacrifice us on the altar of his priesthood.)

For me as a young Catholic, all these ideas and issues set up a dangerous inequality with Fr. Nocita and all Archdiocesan personnel, from the start. Not to mention the inequality that already exists between adults and children. I was no match for Fr. Nocita and corruption within the Church that had been my home for my whole life.

Another thing that made me vulnerable was that my parents didn't know that Catholic teachers — and I include much of the adult staff at BMHS during the years I attended, could be so bad. Could have such a "devil may care" attitude towards students who were not their own children, could consistently manifest such appalling passivity or at the very least, unpardonable ignorance of the basic needs and make-up of the young populace they were working with!

If my parents had witnessed the "affection" Fr. Nocita lavished on me, encouraged and asked me for, they would have whisked me out of that school within a matter of weeks. But they didn't see it because they weren't there. They were working at a job and home respectively and paying sacrificially for me to attend a "good catholic high School" while, unbeknownst to them, everything they had invested in me for years for my own benefit was daily, monthly, yearly stripped away until the girl whom they knew and raised was ruined and a stranger to them—and now, in her isolation and self-loathing, vulnerable to the "riff-raff" of the world, as she never would otherwise have been.

They TRUSTED in the school and in their church, as so many parents do, and sent me there to be educated in a safe, enlightened environment. They did not send me to fall in love with a priest or to be a temporary balm for his frustrated celibacy. I have to say that most of Fr. Nocita's affection for me was public and so "lover-like" that I began to get looks from students and teachers alike. And the Freshman boys in my class even thought he was out of line with me, which says something.

Important Background

To understand the impact of this abusive situation, to appreciate what I lost as a result, you will need a "snap shot" of who I was as I entered Bishop Montgomery, who I was when I met Fr. Nocita. To appreciate the domino effect of this abuse and how it hurt my parents, and cut me off from the support of my loving family, to their continual sorrow and my extreme detriment, you will need the following background:

Family Closeness and Love of "The Faith"

I was a cradle Catholic, born to devout Catholics. I was the oldest of REDACTED children.

I was the REDACTED to my parents. REDACTED and REDACTED and the REDACTED to her parents. They were thrilled to have me. I was born REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Because of this there was a special bond with each of them, that I always felt and that nourished me. The experience, I think had seared their hearts and when I looked into their eyes, I could see they had a special fondness for me.

I was close to each of them and to my brothers and sisters, but I had a special closeness with my father which I think every young girl needs in her development as a woman. A close, appropriate relationship with a father gives a young woman inner strength and security and protects her later from "bad men," promiscuity and pre-marriage pregnancy. There are a number of studies which show this to be true. And this is relevant to my story.

My dad would come home from work and we'd hear the front door open and he'd call out in an excited voice "I'm home! Kids where are you? And where's my darling wife?" He did this every night. I remember how we would run from all corners of the house to the front door and he'd set down his lunch pail and get down on one knee and open his arms wide and we would all rush into his arms and he would hug us, and we'd all laugh with delight.

We ate dinner as a family. My dad would sit on the couch and read to us every night. We'd take turns sitting on his lap. One night he told us that he had been thinking that we should pray together as a family, that God would want him to do this to be a good father. He and my mom chose some prayers we could learn. And after that we would kneel every night as a family to pray. My dad would offer his intentions first, then my mom would, then me and on down the line. They said that "the family that prayed together, stayed together." After we were all in bed, he would turn the light off and sing us songs, until we began to fall asleep. Some of our favorites were "Blow the man down" and "The Streets of Laredo." He did this every night too.

My dad would talk with me about our Catholic faith and about how precious it was. He spent time with me in the garage, making wood projects. These were times of bonding with my dad.

When I was in the first grade all kids at my school were invited to make a special hat with a parent's help for an Easter parade. I remember going to the garage with Dad and looking at our "raw materials." He had some smooth poster board. I had some Easter wrapping paper with bunnies dressed up like Beatrix Potter characters. He had some green spray paint. In the end we created a "Mad Hatter" shaped hat, like the hat the mad hatter wore in Alice in Wonderland. My dad took measurements and carefully sized the hat to fit my head. He painted the hat green and then "wall papered" the upright part of it with the bunny wrapping paper. The bunnies looked like they were walking around the hat in their own "Easter parade." I was delighted at the significance. Then Dad, in a last burst of inspiration, made a bird's nest on the top of my hat and we placed some plastic Easter eggs in it. (What a special dad, I always thanked God for him.) I believe my mother added a pink bow that came down under my chin and tied—just in case there was wind.

I remember the morning of the school parade, I was up early to talk to him, and we put my hat in a special box, and he told me he'd be thinking about me while he was at work. That day I was so nervous at the school assembly seeing all the classes out and all the big kids. And then our impressive principal, Mr. REDACTED called for the first grade and I donned my big hat and walked proudly around in a circle with my class as they played the song "Easter Parade." I pretended that I was an elegant lady dressed like one of the lady bunnies on my hat. Then the song ended and Mr. REDACTED announced me the winner and I remember that I got to choose a grand prize of either a big Cracker Jacks box or a giant Three Musketeers' bar. But the real reward that day was the deep love and security I felt inside from the wonderful love of my father. As I grew there were many, many such moments as these with my dad and we had a strong, mutual affection and respect for each other, that fed us both. I felt safe out in the world because of my dad and mom's love.

One day I was watching a TV show, Gentle Ben, where the young boy—star of the show— saw some men doing something bad in the woods where he liked to play. They grabbed him and told him that if he told his Dad about this, that they would hurt his dad. I was scared!! What could the boy do? He needed to talk to his Dad, because something wrong was going on, and because he was scared—but he couldn't because his dad would be hurt. The boy kept the secret and it was so sad to see how he couldn't look his dad in the eye anymore and how when his loving dad said "Son, what's bothering you?" he wanted to tell him but

couldn't and instead lied and said "Nothing." Then he wasn't eating like he should and he wanted to spend time away from his dad because the rift was too painful.

Oh! I was in turmoil watching this, because the dad and boy were always so close in other episodes and this was horrible!!! I wondered, "what could I do if some bad men did this to me?? What would happen to my dad and I?" Luckily, before the show ended, the dad found out, the bad men were captured and the little boy and his dad were close again. And the dad told him gently "Son, you can always tell me when something is wrong because I'm your dad and a problem that's too big for you is not too big for me."

I talked with my dad about the episode I had just seen and he gave me a similar assurance. And I remember hugging him and feeling emotional and being so relieved because being separated from the love of my dad was more than I could bear to imagine.

Sadly, this would happen to me and my dad through Fr. Nocita, but I have never experienced a happy ending with my father as the boy and his dad did in that TV show.

And while the boy suffered this for a week, I and my dad suffered this during all of my high school years, day after day after long day, where the weight of my relationship with Fr. Nocita reduced the closeness between my dad and I to a paper-thin shadow. And the alienation continued on into my adult life, where even now closeness between my dad and I is something we grasp for but never experience as we once did. For we are only loved to the degree that we are known. And since I had to keep my relationship with Fr. Nocita secret, for reasons which may become clear to you, my dad no longer knew me, so our closeness couldn't go deep down as it had all the years before I met Fr. Nocita. And even now my dad cannot fathom the depths in me or accept the appalling sin against he and I by the Church he still admires and loves. Recently, he has told me that he wonders if he was a failure as a father; he's about 75 now and he says he doesn't think he'll be around much longer, and sometimes I know he still loves me as deeply, but thinks that I just don't have the heart I used to. And truly, I don't have the heart I used to. The abuse I incurred at Bishop Montgomery was so extreme that it shut my heart down.

Folks, this is just ONE of the overwhelming, pathetic consequences of the abuse and negligence of Fr. Nocita, BMHS personnel and the Archdiocesan hierarchy. WHAT WAS DONE TO ME IS SERIOUS! And I write this with tears.

My parents worked hard for their children. They sacrificed for me. My Dad would be up at 4:30 am and out the door by 6:00 am. He left before it was light and got home when it was dark. He spent the evenings with us and our mother. And on weekends he took us to the park and to Sunday mass which was the highlight of his week. He later began working Saturdays to pay our Catholic school tuition-- and my parents put us in Catholic school, though it was a financial stretch, after I begged them to let me go to Catholic school.

My dad did carpentry work for the school and Church. He built and hung beautiful doors for Nativity school in Torrance, that were used for twenty years until they replaced them with steel, security doors. He built an altar for the nuns and their convent. He built a portable altar for the St. James Redondo Beach School when my younger siblings attended. I remember with what great care he made the altars, with different wood, specially chosen for its beautiful grains. I watched as he worked carefully mixing the stains and choosing harmonious tones for the altars. I watched as he put the smooth finish on and I've attended a mass at each altar that he built. He put his heart into it and considered it a great honor and I was proud of him. We were a Catholic family and the Catholic Church was our "safe" home.

Who I was before Abuse--- Success upon success, focus, peace and achievement

At age four I remember wanting to receive the Eucharist and taking a deep interest in my faith which I developed throughout grade school to the point, that upon entrance into Bishop Montgomery, my test scores placed me in the 99th percentile regarding knowledge of the Faith. I loved being Catholic and I had strived from an early age to be holy.

At age six, when I was in the first grade I remember getting my first report card and it was then that I found out that I had something called "B's" and that some kids were doing better than me and getting "A's" and I determined then, since I did love learning, that I would make sure I got A's. I was on honor roll every year through 8th grade and graduated Magna Cum Laude. I would usually get A's in everything except math. I remember being an extremely serious student and having a sound work ethic. I was a very high achiever.

I was on the honor roll each year with straight A's or occasionally one B. I developed my talents and won top honors in diverse subjects throughout my childhood, beginning at age 7 through age 14. I am not telling you this to "toot my own horn," but to impress upon you seriousness of the abuse done by my priest and Archdiocesan employees and to give you and myself a picture of what it will mean for me to be restored to my God given level of functioning.

At age 6 I entered a city wide art contest and won one of two spots for children enrolled in my public school. At age 8 I entered a city-wide coloring contest sponsored by Century 21, won first place in my age group and a cash prize. Century 21 invited all first prize winners from neighboring cities to an art "show down" at Del Amo Mall. There I was seated at a table with 8 other first prize winners. They gave us each a box of crayons and a deadline. My family, Aunt REDACTED and Granna and Papa sat in the audience area. The pressure was on, I sized up my competition, chose my strategy and won Grand Prize for my age group. The prize was a gift book of restaurant "meals out" for my whole family to five or six different restaurants. My family was thrilled and my little brothers and sisters looked up to me with reverence. My dad loved bratwurst and I felt so good being able to treat my family, that day, to a meal at a German restaurant.

In my grade school years I won Halloween costume contests a number of times for costumes I had created myself. I won first place in numerous reading contests within my class and through city wide reading contests. In a school wide bike rodeo put on by the Torrance Police I won first place for girls beating three years worth of upper classmen, and over 150 girls. In fifth grade I won first place for my class in the REDACTED and Grand Prize for the School.

In the standardized yearly grade school multi-subject tests (I think these were called CTBS tests) I consistently scored in the high 90's with some high 80's scores. If I remember correctly my overall average placed me in the 94th percentile. (I had lower scores in math, maybe mid 70 to 80's)

In sixth grade, on the reading portion of the CTBS test—I remember my mother gasping as she read the score—I scored at a twelfth grade reading level. That's right, in sixth grade I was reading at the same level as a high school senior.

I frequently won subject awards for various subjects each year, and often won the religion award for knowledge of the faith. I studied books on the faith beyond my age level and learned, I even tried to learn Latin from an old missalette when I was only eleven years old.

I was excited about the future and had a very high motivation level. I focused with laser intensity on getting excellent grades so I could get a full scholarship to college, and on discovering what specific talents I wanted to develop regarding a vocation. I was determined to do something important. The priests had said that Christ would ask an account of us and that as kids we were to look at school as our job and work "as unto the Lord." I did this. My dad said once to me, privately, that Christ said "From he to whom much has been given, much is expected," and then my dad would say that I had been given a lot more and that I shouldn't compare my accomplishments with others, but keep Christ's words in mind.

My parents taught us to be self disciplined and this was a true gift to me.

Aside from school, I was a motivated young person. I wrote plays for my family and taught the kids their parts. I made birthday cards and presents for family members in the weeks before their birthdays. During summer when I wasn't doing chores I would read book by book, almost every book on our numerous bookshelves. I also developed artistically, composing ambitious drawings.

Socially I chose "good" kids as my companions and I stayed away from the "bad" boys. My mom always asked us how school had been when we climbed into the van and I always shared. This kept things healthy for us. Also the few times that a "bad" boy accosted me or tried to accost me I went right to my teachers and parents. I was not vulnerable to these boys, I wasn't drawn to them as some girls were.

When I was twelve we moved to a new house that was better for our big family. I remember my mom said I could have my own bedroom and she let me chose which one. This was so exciting. I chose a room that had a little red leaf plum tree outside the window. It was a very sweet, unusual, little tree and I placed my study desk by the window where I could see the tree.

It seemed that, while I did work hard, almost everything I touched turned to gold.

MEETING Fr. Nocita, Freshman Year

My mom went to a consignment shop and bought seven pretty blouses for me to wear with my uniform skirt. She bought shoes for me and this was such a treat to buy nice leather shoes for high school instead of tennis shoes, I had neat pretty handwriting and was trim, feminine and happy being a girl. My grandma and aunt took my sister and I to Broadways at Christmas time and this was a treat.

The first year at Bishop Montgomery, the year Fr. Nocita was my teacher, I had straight A's except for math. In class I was all attention. I remember going home after school, doing chores for two hours, and then studying until 9:00 p.m. at night. I remember getting up in the morning, an hour early to study. I continually set very high goals for myself, worked hard and achieved them.

I remember being somewhat shy and yet growing well socially. I felt comfortable befriending students and teachers alike. I had a sense that I was special and that people in authority were trustworthy and really cared for me. At night after the little kids were asleep, my dad and I would sometimes sit up and talk about "the faith", Jesus, and about our own thoughts and hopes.

I met Fr. Nocita on the first day of my freshman year. He was my first period Latin teacher. I remember that, in the first few days, Fr. Nocita seemed a bit nervous with the class; some of the boys were outright rude, calling out in the middle of class.

I looked at him with respect and admiration whenever the boys were rude and I remember seeing Fr. Nocita look at me after a while, I would do this whenever a student was rude, and something seemed to register in him. I remember a look in his eyes that warmed my heart and gave me a feeling of connection with him.

I did not have a crush on him at that point but I was beginning to admire him. I remember feeling impressed that he had chosen to dedicate his life to God.

I remember walking down the hall to my class one morning and feeling something in my hair, I kept walking and brushed it back. I felt it again, and brushed in back. Then again, and I was irritated. The halls were tight, I was nervous being new to high school. I turned around and found Fr. Nocita right behind me looking straight ahead and trying to hide a smile. I gave him a look which he did not return, and resumed walking then I felt my hair and turned quick and caught him blowing on my hair. Oh he laughed and I didn't know what to make of it and that made him laugh even more.

I felt awkward and unsure of his attention.

As the weeks continued, the rapport I felt with him in class continued to grow. He was the best teacher I had ever encountered. He spent a lot of time talking about things other than Latin. The kids loved it he would field tough questions about God, suffering, family life, teen concerns etc.. Often he would share anecdotes from his own life, from his own youth.

Often when he was waxing philosophical, theological I would jump in to the discussion— I loved these times and he and I would go back and forth sharing ideas. I did not have a crush on him at this point but I was beginning to admire him. I remember feeling impressed that he had chosen to dedicate his life to God.

It was Halloween, freshman year, and I was dressed in a pale, pink dress with a soft pink jacket that was an Audrey Hepburn style. I was at my locker in the third building at the end of the day. It was crowded with students and suddenly there was Fr. Nocita at my locker saying "Hi. He said I looked "very, very cute." I felt kind of nervous— seeing him outside of the classroom. After all he was a grown man and I felt small next to him. And I felt in awe of him too. He talked to me for a while and some of the boys with lockers adjacent to mine seemed to tense up a bit. Then off he went a couple doors down to the activities office to see Ms. REDACTED, then director.

I remember that day so clearly. I loved what I was learning in high school— it was so much more stimulating than grade school. I felt like a young woman that day and that was an exciting feeling. I was so excited about life, even though I was afraid of all the impending changes and work of adolescence and high school. I remember the feel of fall in the air, the scent of October. I finished packing up my bag and walked out of the building and began the long walk to the front of the school where I would meet my mother.

There were eucalyptus trees lining the walk. Their leaves were scattered on the broad walkway. They were curved and soft pink beneath my feet. The way was little used which I liked, the other ways were always so choked with people and I liked this quiet path that closed my day at school. As I walked I would wrap up the day in my mind, and choose a study plan for that evening. Then I would think about the help my mom would need from me with the children she baby-sat, and with my own REDACTED all younger.

This day as I began my walk, Fr. Nocita suddenly appeared beside me smiling and in step with me. I felt nervous. We talked as we walked and it was kind of nerve wracking and kind of fun. I had never had a teacher come up and get to know me like this. He offered to carry my books and half-way down the walk he looked around a bit and then I felt his hand in mine.

Wow. It felt warm and strong, my own, small and hesitant, and I felt something stirring inside me. "Should I hold his hand?" I thought, "Is this appropriate? It must be or he wouldn't do it." It was so exciting and I'd never held hands with a boy or man before. It wasn't on any list of sins I knew about so I just blushed and held his hand as we walked.

He leaned close to me "If I was 17" he said, "I would be your boyfriend."

Wow.

I felt like the world was spinning.. "You would be my boyfriend?" I thought. "You've thought about this? You must really like me." And I had wondered if guys would find me attractive. "I must be attractive, I am becoming a woman! And you, of all men, so great, so high above me, so holy, you would choose me??? But wait!—you are a priest! What does this mean?"

It sank in, and a little voice said "This is not as things should be."

But another voice said "Well, you can't be a couple obviously, but isn't it a privilege to be so esteemed and after all there's no sin in thinking highly of each other."

We kept walking and holding hands

"I would be your boyfriend" Fr. Nocita continued and I would want so much to be near you that I would camp out at night on your front lawn."

"Oh my gosh" I thought. I could just picture myself, pulling the curtains aside and seeing him on my front lawn sitting in front of his tent.

"And your mother would look out the window, and say "What's that boy doing out there? I thought he wanted to be a priest!"

His face was closer to mine and he smiled wide and looked straight into my eyes, and I slowed and looked into his and I thought, "Well, I really like you. I've never thought of you in this way. Are you saying you would have denied being a priest if only you and I had been teenagers together, before you took your vows? My gosh. I must be very special. What are your intentions towards me?"

At Christmas I made him cookies and he seemed so deeply touched. It was after Christmas break that he first asked for a hug, and it was that first hug that really let him in through the tiniest crack, into my heart. Being held so frequently in his arms really bonded me to Fr. Michael. I was an adolescent not a little child, and I began to have stirrings of deep womanly love for him, of the strong type, only engendered by close affection with a man. (It had such impact on me that I wouldn't slow dance even one dance with my junior prom date, two years later.)

Fr. Nocita began to sink deep into my heart. I began to feel sympathy for him, being unable to marry. I began to wonder about his intentions towards me. And I became more vulnerable to him.

He talked about marriage in class. He talked about how he would be married if he wasn't a priest. He told us what car he'd drive if he wasn't a priest. About how he'd parent his kids if he was married. He frequently said he would marry me --to my future spouse and then he began to forget my future spouse and say instead that he would marry me "if things were different." Towards the end of the year I began to feel I was always appearing before him in a white dress. His eyes would light up and he would praise my purity and tell me I was good, etc

One boy, ^{REDACTED} told me to "watch out for him" and when I laughed, not yet perceiving any danger, he looked grave and said sharply, "I mean it. He's into you." I took note of what he said and felt uneasy.

Towards the end of my Freshman year, the affection Fr. Nocita showed me really caught my attention. I was still able to study, but I had a certain uneasiness regarding what was going on, that hovered quietly in my mind even when I was engaged in activity. I loved and admired Fr. Nocita. And I didn't know what it meant to be in love, but I thought maybe he was falling in love with me and that he must know something that I didn't. I thought that maybe priests were going to be able to get married and that when I was old enough he would want to date me. The good aspect of love which he gave me filled me up on the inside. I felt that I blossomed under his love like a flower beneath sunshine and gentle rain. I felt like he brought out the best in me and I loved him dearly. If only he had refrained from what was inappropriate!

I thought that he was probably going to bring this up soon because it was obvious to me that something beyond a normal teacher-student relationship was developing between us. I trusted him and thought that we would probably be getting married after I was eighteen. You see, Fr. Nocita seemed so good and pure to me that it didn't dawn on me that he would ever do anything wrong to me. So when I sensed romance afoot and applied his year long teaching on how intimacy was not subject to age difference, I thought that he wanted to marry me. I thought that this was a very unusual situation, but that since he initiated the relationship he must have a good plan for us. After all he represented Jesus Christ, and at every mass prayed, "wash me of my iniquities." So he was on the level with me, right?

Such were my thoughts.

The last week of my freshman year, after a year of romantic attention from Fr. Nocita, a freshman girl whom I liked, REDACTED, signed my yearbook. I didn't see her note where the other kids had written and was curious. I searched and searched to find what she wrote. Finally I found her note in the back pages of my yearbook. There was a half page picture of the interior of American Martyr's Church—her parish and where Fr. Nocita was in residence. The photo showed the aisle leading up to the altar with the big crucifix rising up towards heaven. The photo was sepia and grainy and there in the aisle at the base of the altar in the sepia haze she had written, "Dear REDACTED, Don't get it on too hot with Fr. Nocita. C'mon I've seen you two guys together. REDACTED" I remember being surprised, and strangely affirmed by her words, but nervous.

In May of my freshman year, when I came into the front office to give a birthday card to Fr. Nocita, some of the office ladies actually sneered at me and looked at me like I was a little whore, even refusing to take my card and exchanging looks and rolling their eyes. I felt shame when they looked at me this way, even though I didn't think I had done anything wrong. And yet would any one of them have allowed Michael to romance their daughter, all year, at age 14???! No, of course not, because she would have been their daughter. Why didn't they look out for me?

By the end of freshman year I was emotionally very bonded to Fr. Nocita and I considered him to be my best friend. I felt loved, cherished and safe.

I was shocked to hear one week before school was over that he was being transferred either to Rome or two hours away in the desert. Within a week he was gone.

I remember he almost cried as he told about his meeting with the cardinal, he laid his face in my hair, the kids mocked him, he tried to assure me, he seemed like he was using valiant effort to "hold it all together." He told me that, no matter what, we would always be friends.

Two days before school was out he took me into his office and told me that he didn't have romantic feelings for me and that he was sure I didn't have any for him, because I was "mature." I felt stunned and sick. What did he mean? It didn't make any sense, but I believed him since he was a priest and decided I'd better try to live up to his expectation. This lie, on his part, was like throwing a lit torch into a barn full of loose hay and then telling the hay that "he knew it wouldn't burn up because it wasn't supposed to." Nice try, Fr. Nocita, but a year too late. I needed the truth—from everybody, open acknowledgement. Yet even the Cardinal seemed to sponsor this "under the rug" dysfunction.

Fr. Nocita had pursued my heart and affection like a man interested in a woman for romantic love, then he got nervous and lied about it, and left me with this storm inside and no way to get it out. He was my superior. Everybody loved him. He was on radio and TV, for God's sake instructing us all, even all the adults above me were spiritually under his care. He represented Jesus Christ himself, who was I to challenge him on something so confusing? How could I think clearly with his repeated double messages, both verbal and non-verbal?

We are made to run on truth and love. We just don't make it without these. How is it that the adults involved didn't just "face the facts" and openly come clean with me?

On the last day of school, Fr. Nocita said he would write to me, he looked choked up and said he'd come to see me in about eight weeks. When I climbed into my mom's van that day I had a sick feeling inside about the emotions between Fr. Nocita and myself.

Sophomore Year -- Impact

After he left I missed him so much that I was in tremendous emotional pain. Within weeks I realized that going to my parents wasn't removing the pain. I was in such horrible pain I started carrying the rosary in my pocket wherever I went. I prayed it covertly just to make it through the day. After several months apart, I missed Fr. Nocita so much that I actually felt a pain in my chest. What was going on inside my heart? Why did it hurt so bad? When would I see him? What was to become of "us?"

Fr. Nocita had promised to see me within eight or ten weeks and he sent me letters. After a couple weeks of intense pain and confusion over this, I began to watch my calendar for this visit. I needed to talk to him about what was really going on. But he always delayed his coming and gave me more mixed messages, for two years, until I finally gave up.

Almost every where I went on campus was a place Fr. Nocita had held me or held my hand or said something endearing—Bishop Montgomery was full of memories of him.

The first semester of my Sophomore year I was in such pain and I was so confused that I remember having a hard time concentrating in classes. In particular I remember being in Mr. REDACTED Latin class and finding him looking at me and finding that I had just been staring at a blank wall.

I had been a good student all my life, and now it was requiring tremendous energy to focus. I managed to maintain my grades that year, but emotionally I began to slip. The reactions of Fr. Nocita and the staff at Bishop left me totally bewildered. I was constantly torn between an idea that this was a normal relationship and the idea that something odd was going on. This was a very heavy weight for me not only for my own heart but for my soul and his soul.

When I talked with Fr. Nocita on the phone, I hurt for him when he said things like, "I was in PV the other night after visiting some friends and I missed you so much I wanted to drive off a cliff!" and "My arms are aching to hold you so much I feel like they're going to fall off."

I thought that he was my sweet friend and a good man struggling with feelings for me. I prayed frequently that God would find a way for us to be close again in a pure way, and it seemed wrong to me for us to get so close and then just CUT A RELATIONSHIP OFF—to me that was exploitation and Jesus was all about loving people not using them. I thought the cardinal had sinned against love.

By the start of Sophomore year I was no longer openly sharing with my mother out of desire to protect Fr. Nocita. In my Junior year, Fr. Nocita's comments on the phone contained a lot of sexual innuendo that made me nervous. He continued to say over the phone and in his letters that he was coming to visit me. He'd say "definitely this month" or "definitely before Christmas," "I'll see you this May," "maybe summer?" etc... Meanwhile my feelings for him were still strong and I loved him and missed him as much as I loved my mom, dad and grandparents. I continued to feel grief over missing him and bewilderment as to what was going on. I believed that he had been transferred because the Cardinal felt that the relationship was inappropriate.

I lost closeness with my dad and peers at Bishop—how could I share something so scandalous with them. I reached out in ways to staff and was given the brush off. I had to hold it all inside.

How could I, at my age of 14-17—such a tumultuous and tender developmental time manage this relationship with a man in his thirties? With a man who was also a priest? First love is so overwhelming for many of us, by its very nature, add to this a man who was my teacher, in his thirties, my priest, vice-principal, then principal, speaking on TV and radio, add to this the fact that I was a cradle Catholic who at the time believed everything I'd been taught within our faith.

If he had come to see me after I realized what a pickle I was in I think I would have confronted him, but slender time on the phone wasn't enough for such honest disclosure. I needed to see him in person for such potentially devastating disclosure. I was worried about his feelings, which seemed so strong and about my own fragile heart. I thought we must talk in person. I used to imagine what it would be like to sit down together and have the heartbreaking discussion where we admitted we were in love and in an impossible circumstance. Then, sometimes when he seemed to be in love with me, I was afraid to tell him I was in love with him because I didn't want to lure him from the priesthood. I felt the only appropriate way for us to be together would be for him to either realize, independent of me, that he was in the wrong vocation and get an "honorary discharge" (and I didn't know that this was even possible) or for priests to be allowed to marry. Otherwise, I was afraid for his soul and didn't want to hurt God by tempting Fr. Nocita. The whole situation was impossible, especially at age 16.

Sometimes I thought "What if I let him know I like him and he leaves the priesthood and then I realize that he's not for me? He would be crushed! I thought it would be wise for me to grow and get to know other men before making such a choice. When I first thought about telling him I was in love with him, I realized that if he was drawn to me he might leave the priesthood and marry me, but that he might end up years later in a job he didn't like, that he might miss being a priest and feel guilty, that we might come to resent each other. I was determined to do the loving thing, but it was difficult for me to figure out what that was. If I really loved him, and I did, I would do what was best for him. My fondest thought was that priests would be allowed to marry, and that we would marry and help the poor and teach about Jesus together. This is the truth. I had fallen in love with a priest and a woman who loves her man wants him to be the man he is called to be and supports him, with her whole self in that endeavor. This is what was on my heart and mind.

As I struggled over the horrible pain of being away from someone I loved, I began to realize that none of the teachers were helping me over this, that they had let me get close to him, knowing how hard first love could be, and that someone had alerted the Chancery Office and that he was just moved, and that nobody gave a damn about the pain I was in, and that they didn't care about the inappropriate relationship that developed in front of them. That all they cared about was saving face — even the Cardinal himself.

This was an overwhelming shock to me as a young Catholic. Since this was an odd situation I kept it inside and I began to get really isolated. I couldn't get close to the other kids because my experience was so out of the park. I couldn't be truly close to anyone except for my REDACTED. I lost closeness with my parents, grandparents and aunt. I began to feel really different from my brothers and sisters.

The normal activities of high school seemed so juvenile compared to the emotional trauma and weighty moral dilemma I was in, that I couldn't really feel a part of things even when I did participate.

I was alone in overwhelming pain inflicted on me daily by the faith that from my infancy was boldly asserting it was the only true faith, the only way to God and that to leave it was everlasting damnation.

I was under this insane torture for three years, at the school, at home, or with my friends (99% of them catholic) and Sundays at mass, and in prayer time—for with God this was always before me and I was struggling to love Fr. Nocita without sinning. I couldn't stop missing him. I couldn't stop being in love with him. I couldn't address it openly with him because he didn't come to see me and on the phone he seemed to duck the subject just when I'd have a little courage to test the waters, then more romantic innuendo and seemingly genuine deep pain at being away from me. Oh how did I survive?

My extended REDACTED family consisted of ten families with about REDACTED kids a piece who were all Catholic. We had giant potlucks throughout the year and these were a blast. It was a nurturing family. My Grandma REDACTED had May crownings with rosaries for all and bonnets for the girls. She went to daily mass and visited the sick. In time I was alienated even from my REDACTED family because of this situation

JUNIOR YEAR

I began to ask friends what they thought about this. Some girls I knew said he was exploiting me and this was just too much to bear. Yet their logic made sense. I began to bounce between the thought that he loved me and was struggling and the thought that he was character flawed and toying with me; in the end this proved too much for me. I was beginning to believe both statements, because there was evidence in support of each and I thought I was going to lose my mind. I was desperate to talk to him in person as I thought this was the only way to straighten this out. I thought I'd have to be with him to really know the truth.

At Christmas during my period I experienced horrible pain, I mean horrible pain which I'd not experienced in the two years prior. This pain I mention to you because my long health journey seems to point to this pain being a result of being emotionally negated during this experience. This is pain, followed month in and month out ever since for about 16 years. (Two women friends of mine, both mothers, who witnessed me in pain and whom I described it to, said it reminded them of the pain they felt in labor.)

And by the end of my Junior year I got to the point where nobody knew me anymore, nobody understood. I was waking up at night with bad dreams about this. I would try to study and just end up dazed. Some friends thought Fr. Nocita was toying with me, some thought he loved me. By the end of Junior year I was in an almost constant state of emotional agony over the mixed messages I had received from Fr. Nocita and the staff.

My grades were slipping. And when it came time to take the very important AP test and SAT test I had a tremendously hard time focusing and got scores that were far lower than they should have been for someone of my aptitude and track record. It should have been apparent that I was going downhill given my grades the way I was looking off and lonely and out into space not as social. And there was a marked change in my appearance. I had always taken a lot of pride in my appearance and I was beginning to have a disheveled look.

The following is a sample phone conversation with Fr. Nocita, from this time, from actual journal entries.

Mon. Jan 26

The first thing he said after we greeted each other was "I'll tell you, I was really disappointed that the one day I thought I was going to see you I couldn't."

I said "What day?" and he says "the 23rd "(of Dec.)

"Oh yes," I said "you went shopping."

"Well on the 24th I always hear confessions all day and since I always wait till the last minute to do my Christmas shopping the 23rd was the only day I had to get gifts..."

"My mother does her shopping late too," I said "so do I. But what difference does it make as long as you get it done? Well" I said "I was really bummed that I didn't get to see you; I miss you so much."

Then he said "How's your sex life?"

(I shut down, I thought he was kidding and answered back in a joking way.) I said "My sex life? Boring. How's your sex life?"

"Boring. Every now and then some wild, loose woman throws her body at me."

I said "I know how it is; same thing happens to me, except it's guys, but I just say 'sorry this is not appropriate.'"

"Yes," he said "we have our principles. If there was a guy I would be jealous."

"Well, if there was some other girl, I would be jealous."

We laughed.

"Well, if any guy ever touches you, I'll cut his hands off"

Then I said "Were you talking about me when you said 'hopeless case?'"

"You? No. It's ^{REDACTED} (a student at his high school) Yes, ^{REDACTED} is a hopeless case and he will be passing on from Paraclete HS. But you are not a hopeless case. Do you know how I know that you are not a hopeless case?"

"No."

"Well, the Pope wrote me a letter and he said ^{REDACTED} is not a hopeless case and he said she is pulcherima (pretty) and I said 'Boy you're right. Boy, if I were sixteen and eligible! When I see you I think six hours should be enough time for a hug.'"

I said "Six hours? (why would he hold me for six hours? I was innocent and didn't know why we would hug for six hours—so I just passed it off and said)

"I think that would be sufficient."

"Yes" he said "and there'll have to be some passionate smooches. I have a picture of myself in my desk drawer, would you like me to send it to you?"

"Yes" he said "and there'll have to be some passionate smooches. I have a picture of myself in my desk drawer, would you like me to send it to you?"

"Yes!" I said "Sure, that would be great. Do you want a picture of me? I could send one to you."

"Great, I would put it on my desk and girls would come in and say 'who is that?' and I would say 'none of your business.'"

The operator came on the line and required more money to keep the line open. I felt the intrusion on our conversation and said "I'd call you from home but that would be totally..." I stopped as I felt really emotional about the whole situation and embarrassed about stating that my parents would not approve.

"I know" he said, "it would get you into trouble and it would be totally scandalous."

"Yeah," I said slowly.

"Well it was so sweet of you to call" he said. "I'll have to write you a little note or something. So are we still in love?!"

"Of course!" I said.

April 10, 1986

The first thing he said when I called him was, "Why do you have to be in testing when I come to see you?"

and "My arms are aching, I need to hug you."

and "Oh, I want to kiss you right now so much, it would be the longest, long-distance kiss in history." (I thought I would melt in his arms and was glad he was a hundred miles away)

I didn't understand the full statement so I said, "You'd just be really quiet for a while, huh?"

He laughed! I thought he was sweet--little did I know that this conversation was really not endearing but rather was inappropriately seductive for someone my age)

He also said "Did I ever send you that picture of me?"

And I said "no."

And he said, "Well, I'll put it in the mail today, I've got to do that. Just today I was talking about you. This girl came up and she gave me a hug, and she said 'can I be your girlfriend?' and I said "No" and she says 'Why not?' and I said "because I already have a girlfriend." and she says 'Who?' and I said "None of your business, you don't know her" and she says 'What's her name?' and I said 'REDACTED' and she lives in REDACTED."

I asked him if he still wanted a picture of me.

"No one could hold a candle to you." he said "I'd just show them your picture and they'd be jealous."

He said that he was going to have to see me, but that he wouldn't have a chance until May and that he would most likely come on a Friday.

Another time I remember he said "When I see you I'm going to give you a big smooch."

"You are?" I said.

"Yes, right on the lips!"

My friend ^{REDACTED} was nervous about me. He said flatly one day, "Fr. Nocita wants to have sex with you."

I said "Oh ^{REDACTED} no he doesn't, he's pure."

^{REDACTED} asked me about things Fr. Nocita had said on the phone and I said, "well he did say he wanted to kiss me but he must be joking."

When I told ^{REDACTED} exactly what Fr. Nocita had said ^{REDACTED} was very nervous. He said, "REDACTED you are a pure girl. What if he comes by school to see you and takes you down to the beach and kisses you on the lips? What would you do?"

I told ^{REDACTED} I didn't want to think about it.

"You need to think about it" he said. "He's a man and he said he wants to kiss you, now what would you do?"

I realized that I would kiss him back, because by now I had a strong desire to kiss Fr. Nocita. I began to feel sexual desire for Fr. Nocita after he began to talk about kissing me.

Noté, I was not a "run-around" girl. My parents wouldn't even let me date till I was 18. They said that at a younger age I would be too vulnerable. And they didn't let me watch "the thorn birds" though I snuck in part of a re-run during the year hoping it would shed light on my relationship with Fr. Nocita. I was so sheltered that my mom and dad would have not allowed me to watch anything on television that would have stirred my heart mind or body in a way that was beyond my age and that was not pure.

I also had my own personal relationship with God that was pure, my devotional life was pure and I spent hours in prayer over this praying for a happy ending—praying I could quit being in love or that priests could marry.

At the end of Junior year I was at my wits end over this. Based on some things Fr. Nocita said I felt like he was toying with me and that I couldn't trust him and that if he came and kissed me that I wouldn't have the strength to say "no" and by this time at age sixteen I was beginning to have sexual desire and my desire was for him, the man I had loved sacrificially all these years. This was very scary for me because I really wanted to be pure and he didn't show any signs of leaving the priesthood, there had been no papal announcement saying priests could marry.

Fr. Nocita's Television Appearance

One night in May of 1986, just a week or so after this conversation, I was in the living room cleaning with my mom and sister ^{REDACTED}

The ^{REDACTED} show was on and Fr. Nocita was a guest on the show. My mom was vacuuming and I asked her to please turn the vacuum off so I could hear Fr. Nocita speak. She grumbled and kept vacuuming, but then acquiesced and turned it off. My sister and confidante ^{REDACTED} was in the room too.

I turned my face away from my mother's so she wouldn't see the blush of happiness and longing on it as I saw the man I loved and missed, in living color on TV.

^{REDACTED} was asking him questions about faith, morality and Catholicism. But then he asked a question that seemed "odd."

He said, "Fr. Nocita do you have relationships with teenage girls?"

I was surprised he would ask this. I thought well, this is a perfect opportunity for Fr. Nocita to explain to everyone what he had explained to me, about how he could have a close, loving, edifying relationship with a teenage girl. I thought here is my cynical mother, she will hear his explanation of how a man and a teenage woman can be friends; maybe she'll be ok with our relationship. I thought he would say "Yes, I am friends with many of my students, some of whom are teenage girls. Age is not a barrier in true friendship." And based on our recent conversations I thought he might even say my name and say "hi" on TV! I fully believed he might say "In fact, I have one dear teenage girl who is my friend and her name is REDACTED"

But he didn't say anything like this at all. Instead, he hesitated and cleared his throat and said in a shaking voice, "My women friends are all...older."

Hearing him, my mom grumbled at me from behind the vacuum as the TV interview ended. She switched the vacuum on and REDACTED and I exchanged shocked looks. I choked back the deluge of feelings that were rising up in me like vomit.

I could hardly believe what I had just heard and seen. How did this fit with what he told me on the phone? Why would he lie on TV about something which he felt so passionate about? Wasn't this the perfect opportunity for him to share with adults what he had told us in class, what he had told me for years?

Shortly after this the feeling of betrayal hit me so hard I wanted to go to bed and never wake up again.

I felt I could not trust him, that he had indeed toyed with me and didn't really love me, and that I was still vulnerable to his charms and must somehow master my feelings and extricate myself. If he could tell me he wanted to kiss me on the lips and then lie about me on national television I was in big trouble!

Based on some things Fr. Nocita said I felt like he was toying with me and that I couldn't trust him and that if he came and kissed me that I wouldn't have the strength to say "no" and by this time at age sixteen I was beginning to have sexual desire and my desire was for him, the man I had loved sacrificially all these years. This was very scary for me because I really wanted to be pure and he didn't show any signs of leaving the priesthood, there had been no papal announcement saying priests could marry.

I made the agonizing decision to cut him out of my life without good-bye, without an explanation because I was afraid he might still be able to persuade me to stay in relationship with him.

I didn't respond to his letters and I didn't call him anymore. I didn't talk about him. gradually I stopped thinking about him after tremendous effort (the process of dissociation was now complete)

Senior Year

I tried to remain open to God. But I was moving away from him. I heard the song "Blasphemous Rumors" in the Junior department at Broadway one day. It started with little children singing in pure voices in a church and then led to stories of pain and then the lines "I don't want to start any blasphemous rumors but I think that God's got a sick sense of humor and when I die I expect to find him laughing..."

I thought "this is what has happened to me." When I returned to school in the Fall I was so vulnerable. I was in AP English and the two lady teachers who taught this and whom I respected brought our classes together to see a play called "Medea." They really built it up. But when they showed it to us I was in shock. The protagonist, a woman, Medea, was angry at her man. She had been exploited by him and no one supported her. To get even she murdered her children one by one, they seemed to be between the ages of 2 and 8. It was so sick. Then in a closing scene she ranted about the power of woman. My two

lady teachers said to our mostly female class that she was a suffragist for womens' rights and that she was heroic.

What?! I said, "That's wrong for her to murder her kids." My teacher replied "She had to do it to get their attention, women were treated like chattle back then. Men did not care about them!" Well, so much for "good, catholic education." Hearing this probably made Jesus throw up. Anyway, my point to you is, as children we have to sit in class and listen to our teachers. This evil outlook was poured into me day after day, after I had been seriously abused and I tried so hard to not become angry but I lost the fight and became a very angry, pathetic feminist.

I also blamed myself for my relationship with Fr. Nocita, gained twenty-five pounds and was angry all the time. I would come home and go straight to my room instead of visiting with my siblings.

At Christmastime, 6 months after the REDACTED TV interview I was at home in the evening and the phone rang. My Dad said "It's for you. It's some priest." I thought maybe it was my parish priest.

But it was Fr. Nocita. At first I was confused, then some feelings started to come back and I remembered him. He said "I haven't received any letters from you."

"I've been busy." I said.

"I'd sure like to get a letter from you" he said. Silence. I didn't know what to say to him.

Then he said, "It's so beautiful out here tonight in the desert. The stars are so beautiful. I want to get in my car and drive out to your house at 85 miles/hour and pick you up and drive back at 85 miles per hour and hold you under the stars."

I thought briefly about a long drive with him out to the desert on a quiet night and about being in his arms again and looking up at the beautiful stars, together. I almost caved in. Feelings I'd worked so hard to suppress started to lift their heads. I wanted to believe him. I wanted to believe that he really did love me, that there was some way for us to have a pure relationship and get married and have a holy love and be friends forever.

Yet he hadn't addressed how we could have a holy love. He was still a priest. And he was openly flirting. I wanted to be friends with him again to talk and exchange letters but then I remembered the agony of knowing him in a taboo relationship, and about how he denied me on national television, about how I couldn't trust him and would still be sexually vulnerable and if he wasn't pure, oh God, what would happen if I was with him?

All these thoughts raced through my mind as he waited for a response.

"Those must be nice stars" I said.

He was quiet and we said good-bye.

I dismissed the conversation from my awareness, and closed the door once more on my memory and love of him.

By the close of my senior year I was an emotional wreck. I had no respect for authority left. A number of teachers felt offended by my attitude and disregard for dress code. I didn't respect them because they had not respected me, they had let me be devoured by pain and left me dying by the side of the road for three years and I had to just take the abuse and obey them and there was no safe place left for me to go. I had no way to process my pain. I had no reason to feel special or valuable anymore for even God himself had abandoned me and exploited me. And what could fellow students do to help? We were all in subjection to the adults in our lives. I was completely alienated from my family. No one knew me anymore.

One night, while talking with my dad, I burst out crying. I was crying so heavily I was afraid. He was shocked and said "What's wrong?" I ran to my room and locked the door and laid on my bed and sobbed. He knocked at the door and begged me to open up, finally I let him in. "What's wrong he said in desperate tones, REDACTED, we've always been able to talk, tell me what's wrong." I couldn't tell him. All I knew was that there was this pain in me.

One night around this time I felt so exploited, my innocence taken from me that I went out in the yard to the little plum tree I loved and tore a branch off it and whipped the tree until there were welts on it and I was exhausted, crying and slipping to the ground, sitting in the dust. I had never hurt a living thing before and I felt horrible but I think I was trying to express what I felt had been done to me.

I gave up on my Catholic faith and told God to leave me alone. The only way I had to deal with the pain and shame was to eat when I was upset and listen to angry rock music. At least the writers of those songs would admit that abuse happens and that often nobody cares that it's happened to you.

By the end of Senior year I thought that Fr. Nocita had maybe done something wrong but I was fuzzy about what that was. I blamed myself for the pain I'd experienced and thought I had just been a stupid, infatuated, obsessive girl

Unfortunately what I did was in psychological terms called 'disassociation' and it did serious psychological damage by shutting off a part of who I was. I really went down hill after this. I quit going to daily Mass and told God to get out of my life because I felt God had let me be exploited. I no longer respected teachers since they no longer respected me. I could not trust them. My grades began to slide. I quit taking good care of myself and had more of a grunge appearance. I felt very abused, and I had a lot of anger. And since it wasn't possible to direct it at the adults who had been so reckless with me because I was under age and in submission to them, the anger had to go somewhere and I began to hate myself.

I began to have numerous dress code violations and referrals that should have been a red flag to the teachers who had known me for years. It's very unusual to have such attitude and action from such a good student.

I remember going home and just getting ice cream and going in my room and locking the door and eating to stop the pain. I quit playing sports. I quit extra curricular activities and I gained 30 pounds which was a lot for someone of my frame.

I remember often while I was walking instead of looking up and around at people, I would just look at the ground. My choice in friends changed almost over night to other students who had felt abused in some way. My handwriting changed radically. I remember feeling angry all the time and also terribly vulnerable. It was as if I had no protection from aggressive people anymore. It didn't feel like I was worth anything anymore. I became very confused about who I was. I felt truncated and split. Where, before all this I would've gone to my teachers or parents if something was wrong, I was cut off from them. REDACTED
REDACTED I didn't tell anybody. A boy one of my friends was dating pulled me from the class I was waiting to enter, yanked me outside and put my hand on his penis. When I tried to get away he laughed. When I finally got away and got into my class with Mr. REDACTED I didn't tell him nor my parents either. Why not? Because I didn't matter anymore.

Several Bishop teachers noticed the change in me and were concerned. Among them, REDACTED
REDACTED and REDACTED Ironically, REDACTED asked Mike Nocita to visit me. But what I really needed was for somebody in the know to honestly address my Nocita experience with me.

I should have had a competent psychologist and this should have been addressed during my Freshman year or at the very least at the end of my Freshman year.

Instead of serious, timely intervention in the form of top counseling and open, honest dialogue I was told by the asinine girl's dean that there was something wrong with me and that I had an attitude problem. I was required to come to campus on Saturdays and pick up trash as punishment for the lack of respect for

authority I was showing, yet to have shown a high level of respect for people who had let me be emotionally exploited and had let my heart be torn out and left me bleeding by the side of the road to die would have been to lie to myself and be even more messed-up. In the last weeks of my senior year they sent me to talk to Ms. REDACTED (who was a career counselor—not a licensed counselor or psychologist) who commented to me that teachers were noticing that I was acting in ways unusual for me and offensive to them. She wanted to know if there was something wrong at home or if there was something else bothering me. I thought about opening up to her but her manner was condescending. She even raised her voice and said with flashing eyes "If you told me that you didn't respect a (particular) teacher "I would slap your face."

Just weeks before graduation, one afternoon on a hot sticky day, I got a note to come to the office—the front office. Shoot. I had a sinking feeling (women's intuition) that Fr. Nocita was waiting. I ignored the summons. We were all on our way to a pep rally and I did not want to see Fr. Nocita.

I tossed the summons and walked with my friends to the Gym. It was noisy and packed inside. The bleachers were full. I chose a place against the wall to sit with friends and hoped no one from the office would come looking for me. Ten minutes passed and all was well. Then I spotted a front office secretary entering the gym. She stopped inside the doorway and quietly looked up and down the bleachers row by row. I assumed a blank expression and tried to look invisible. She looked for five minutes and didn't see me.

She traversed to the other side of the gym and then she spotted me. She gestured and I gestured back "no thanks." She was adamant though, so I followed her out into the light.

"You were sent a summons to come to the office" she said "Did you receive it?"

"I didn't want to come" I said

"Well you need to come" she said.

What could I do? I had to obey her or be thrown out before graduation—even though I felt Fr. Nocita was at the other end and that I might fall into his spell again after so much struggle to get out.

Are you beginning to see how this was abusive to me?

It was a long walk to the front office. As we neared the first building, I began to tighten up inside. Seeking safety I said "I have to go the bathroom."

She looked worn. "Ok and then you'll come to the office."

"Yes then I'll come." I said. Inside the bathroom I stared into the mirror dazed and tried to "freshen up" using the tap water as a rinse and trying to smooth my hair with my fingers. I hadn't shaved my legs. I'd gained 30 pounds. I felt embarrassed about how I looked.

She came back into the restroom and found me staring at the mirror "You need to come" she said, and with a wink "there's someone special to see you."

Well she walked off and when I came out and rejoined the main hallway there was silence all around—no students or teachers visible, except me and ...yes, Fr. Nocita.

He held his arms out to hug me and looked grave. I stopped before him offering no smile and no hug. He kept his arms out as he had before. He stood like that for a minute. Finally I stepped up against him and let him hug me, I put my arms around him limply and he waited a while for a response and then let go and led me into a private office.

Oh God, I felt like I was fighting to keep so much down. I don't have the time or energy to detail our conversation but basically he wanted to know why I had stopped writing, he wanted me to write again, he

wanted to be friends, he swore that he had not been in love with me. I felt I could not trust him so I remained closed and distant—though a part of me wanted to crawl into his arms and cry like a baby. When I said no—that I had been in love with him and could not be friends he tried over and over to reach me, to persuade me to know him again. Finally he came close and said "This pope is a dud. He's not going to let priests marry. I think priests should be able to marry." He warned me about pitfalls in young adult life and urged me to come back to the faith.

I was cold and sarcastic. My poor, confused "priest-love-friend"— what a saga. And for me, everything and every relationship I valued most blown to pieces before I was even eighteen.

He got up and headed to the door. "I'm looking forward to getting letters again from you" he said.

"I'm not going to write." I said.

As he closed the door he popped his head through the crack and looked me full in the eyes, "I'm looking forward to your next letter." Then he closed the door.

A week later, on my eighteenth birthday, I got a delivery of long stem red roses—right to class. They were from my mom—you know my mom who was unaware of my romance with Fr. Nocita. Attached was a sweet note saying that she loved me and was proud of me, and that she wanted me to receive my first roses and chocolate from someone who really loved me, so that I wouldn't be too vulnerable to the first guy who showed me attention. How thoughtful and how ironic. She had no awareness that I had already been emotionally trounced and was in a state where I was vulnerable to sexual predators, due to the nature of the abuse at BMHS.

She didn't know that inside I was full of self loathing instead of love and healthy self-worth.

I crawled out of Bishop barely alive, bitter, truncated and extremely vulnerable. There were only sardonic smiles from me on my graduation. Graduation only signified the end of a hideous long term abusive situation. I didn't have scholarships substantial enough to cover the costs of a decent college. I hadn't the energy or sense of worth to really pursue additional scholarships and the partial scholarships I received were not enough. My GPA was 3.75 and my SAT scores hadn't been enough to get me a full ride.

Aftermath—Adult Functional and Physical Degeneration

I graduated in the top 3% of my class of 400, and was accepted with partial scholarships to some great universities but with a lack of funding all there was for me was a junior college. In the course of that year I was repeatedly sexually assaulted—not rape— by a guy I met and remember thinking — this is all I'm worth. I remember looking at him one night and wanting to get away and feeling like a deer wounded and bleeding, standing before a wolf — and I couldn't get away. I didn't have the emotional or psychological strength to get away. Some years later I came across research that shows that not all women are vulnerable to sexual predators that predatory men "smell blood in the water" so to speak. I would not have been vulnerable to him if I had not been abused for three years by the church and adults who were there to educate and protect me. The message that I internalized from such abuse—that I was disposable and therefore worthless— was too strong for me to overcome, given the authority and potency of "the Church". I was away from God, so that didn't help me, and when this guy would be pressuring me and I'd say no he wouldn't listen and I could feel inside me that I had to bend to his will. These times with him were not mutually consensual.

I was so vulnerable in fact that I needed serious counseling to find a way to be safe around men. I was terrified for a year that I might have AIDS, I barely escaped rape and was suicidal. Thank God I met some evangelical Christians and had a non-catholic alternative for coming to Christ.

Coming to Christ and Able to Achieve Again

After I came to Christ I let my anger go and eventually began to regain focus and good school performance but never like I'd had prior to age 16. There was a purposefulness and motivation and self worth that just weren't there. Despite this, I had a good attitude and worked hard and in the following years good things came my way as a result.

I felt a taste of the success and self I'd known before. I was a Scholar Athlete, placed in the semi-finals my first year on swim team, built up a strong body, had a poem published, represented ^{REDACTED} in scholarly regional and national conferences, was an RA, was asked by a top professor to be his research assistant, and was accepted into a top internship program. I worked hard at part time jobs with weighty responsibilities, teaching and working as assistant director and saved up thousands of dollars. I was frugal, paid my taxes by January 15th and paid all my major expenses quarterly. I began to save for property of my own, and began learning about investment opportunities.

Socially, I felt comfortable with people and was able to go to mass without being moody. I was active as a competitive athlete during these years and enjoyed being strong. I trained with men in running and weights as I was beyond my girl friends in both of these. I placed in races, could leg press 400 pounds and curl 25 pounds. I swam about 20 miles per week and could outrun almost everybody I knew, including many of my male friends. I trained life guards and taught hundreds of people to swim. I never sat on couches because they felt "too soft." I remember those years of success of packed days and achievement, of activity and walking up at 5:30 am alert and rested.

My sights were set on becoming a professional. But in my last year of college as I was preparing for a masters' degree, I was going through my photos and came across a picture of Fr. Nocita. Suddenly I felt the most searing emotional pain and began to sob. I cried for about 40 minutes and felt bewildered. I took hold of myself and thought I just need to shut this out, there's no point thinking about it. I shut it out but soon after I began to wake up at night with sharp excruciating pain in my ears (years later this was diagnosed as TMJ) This pain would wake me at night suddenly. If I slept on my left side I'd wake up with it in my left ear. If I turned on my right side it would eventually go away but then I'd wake up with agonizing pain in my right ear. This would continue throughout the night. I began to be sleep deprived and my grades were affected. By Christmas my motivation was dropping seriously and I noticed I was losing my sense of value and was feeling a little uncomfortable with people. I went to the campus doctor several times and he said my ears were in perfect health. It would come and go and I accepted it as a cross. Then I noticed I had nasal drip that wouldn't go away. I was told I was fine in periodic physicals.

My grades dropped really low. I thought I was lazy and tried to get a hold of myself. I lost interest in a career, nothing seemed to matter to me. A top professor at the school asked me to be his summer research assistant and I was so flattered but when summer came it was as if "the air had been let out of my tires" I had lost much of my motivation/ ability to function and I totally let him down. Again I thought I was character flawed. I didn't know it was from my unresolved high school trauma.

But, in the next two years I struggled a lot at the jobs I had. I felt this pain in me, this disdain for organizations surfacing that I tried to handle but it really made it hard for me to "get on board at work" I often found myself daydreaming or wanting time alone. This didn't make sense to me as I wasn't experiencing anything traumatic and was meeting my financial needs and saving money. I was young and in good physical shape. I couldn't figure it out. I began having trouble functioning well at work which was surprising to me as for years I'd been happy in my jobs and didn't have a problem getting along with people—in fact I'd often been a favorite with my bosses because of my strong work ethic, and good way with people. Shortly after this I noticed that I was getting sick a lot even when no one around me had the flu or colds. I'd have what I now know are common physical symptoms of clinical depression. I began to miss days at work for these times and for my painful periods. My motivation was dipping extremely low and I was demotivated with clients. It was taking too much effort to continue at a job that only months before had been fun and manageable.

Well I couldn't continue like this. I decided that though I enjoyed the field I was in that I must not be in the best one for me so I saved my money and quit my job. I planned to write and pursue that and I was excited. Ministry was also calling to me. I taught Confirmation classes, attended daily mass, became a

Eucharistic Minister to the Sick, and was a Bereavement Minister for my Church. I ran two local races with 400-1000 participants each and won ^{second} place for women in each one and first place in my age group. I dressed well and felt good about myself and enjoyed the holidays, baking and making gifts.

I felt nervous but motivated. I began writing and looking for writing jobs and was really perking up. I met a man who was respectful and kind. We dated for two months and I was feeling pretty good, but then one night I realized I was falling in love with him. We were standing at his car in front of his parents house and suddenly I began to remember my feelings for Fr. Nocita. I tried to put Fr. Nocita out of my mind but as I got closer to ^{REDACTED} and began to fall in love with him, more feelings from my high school days began to surface.

Memories of Archdiocesan Personnel Abuse begin Seven Years of poverty and incapacitating illness

One day I had a long talk with ^{REDACTED} and the flood gates opened. Within a couple days I was experiencing full blown post traumatic stress syndrome over my relationship with Mike Nocita. I was unable to think clearly enough to write anything professional. I had heavy inexplicable feelings of low self-worth. I didn't feel worthy of getting a decent job. ^{REDACTED} noticed darkness under my eyes which I'd never had before. I would wake up at night with bad dreams about Mike Nocita. I began to suddenly have feelings I'd had at 16,17,18.

I was consumed with emotional pain and many days could not get out of bed till noon. The people I was working for lost respect for me as I was no longer reliable. I would burst out sobbing or in anger while driving or alone and I began to feel really isolated around people. I should have had the care of a good psychologist then but I thought this was just an issue of my being unable to forgive. I thought I was lazy, or in the wrong work. The pain I felt at night in my jaw became a nightly ordeal. I was never rested. The nasal drip became congestion that never really went away, yet I didn't show full blown allergy symptoms. My cramps became so bad that I was bedridden for one to two days monthly. I was tired all the time. I even had to quit my part time work as a swim instructor because my immune system was so low that I was continually infected from the pool.

My checking account dropped from \$6000.00 to \$14.00. I was no longer able to save money or earn enough.

I began to lose muscle and within 1 year of remembering my high school experience I lost my beauty. I dropped from a cute, healthy 127lbs to 110lbs. I lost so much muscle that I could see and feel all the ribs in my chest and back. Despite my knowledge and success as a fitness trainer and athlete I was unable to gain weight or regain my prettiness. I had heavy feelings of self-loathing that would not go away. I was constantly fatigued and got work as a waitress so I could rest during the day. Also I wanted work where I could be reliable so I'd be able to eventually have good job recommendations again, and with waiting tables if I was feeling really tired there were many people who'd pick up my shift.

I was so ill after a year of this that I looked totally different in pictures, I looked years older. My body was getting so small that I'd need an hour at ROSS just to find two or three shirts that didn't look huge on me. As an athlete I'd been trim but my chest and shoulders put me in a top that was size 10 but now even a 4 was too big. I had to wear petite smalls to avoid looking "clownish." That's a radical drop in size. In bikini tops where a year before I had looked gorgeous now I looked pale and emaciated. My appetite was low, but I wanted to eat. I couldn't digest food. I went to doctors who said I had no ear problem. I had no allergy problem. They couldn't find anything overtly wrong with me. I thought maybe I'd contracted some sort of giardia but the experienced mountain doctor I went to said I didn't show the signs of this. My teeth, which had always been healthy—I only had five fillings before I remembered Fr. Nocita, began to turn gray in spots. Three fillings leaked and 10 new cavities popped up.

I was continually working to save up a little money to go to doctors and be told I was "ok" and that maybe something emotional was making me sick. If only I'd have gone to a top psychologist then I could've

been diagnosed for what I was suffering from—severe clinical depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. I didn't have energy to workout anymore. It was then that I began to read all the books I could find on health and food allergies—thinking maybe this was the problem.

I also began to do serious soul searching to remove any emotional stress and "straighten myself out" by reading books on personal growth. All this time I was not experiencing any significant trauma — except for my overwhelming anger and confusion about my Fr. Nocita episode. I began to think that this was making me sick and one day I put all my journals away. I put pictures from that time period away and I shut it out of my mind.

Within weeks of shutting out the memory of Fr. Nocita I was able to digest food again, after a year of almost constant, serious indigestion.

Several weeks later, I returned to CA but I felt strangely vulnerable at my parish. The pastor asked me why I had been gone so long and I broke down crying. A couple weeks later I wrote him a letter telling him I was sorry that I was gone so long and that I felt strange at church and had pulled away from people due to serious pain over my past romantic relationship with a priest. I thought he would be shocked and would probably ask me to come in and offer to help me. Instead I got a letter from him saying that the best thing to do was "forget about it" and that it would probably happen to me again at least two times with other priests. I was in total shock. I had thought that maybe in him I'd have someone who would help me and be upset that at 14 my trust was betrayed to the point that I was severely compromised emotionally as an adult and unable to attend mass without pain.

After getting this letter I did try to "forget about it." I decided that all remembering it had done was render me ill and take away my youthful beauty. But sadly at the same time I felt deeply that no one really cared about the trauma I'd been through and further that no one knew me at all. None of my catholic friends had experienced anything like this with a priest or from the staff at their high school. Many had fond memories. For a year I worked part time as I slowly put on a couple pounds and gained a little strength back.

I took a job as an REDACTED This was my first full time job in three years. I was excited to be "back in business" I was excited to be making a difference. I was thrilled to have decent health insurance. Yet to my surprise, even though I had worked full time in REDACTED before, I became desperately ill with the workload. I was constantly sick. I lost my voice repeatedly. My throat was so damaged from illness that I lost my singing voice and never regained it. My body hurt all over REDACTED I was unable to sleep at night. My jaws were so bad that I couldn't sleep on either side and when I laid face down or face up I would wake up with pins and needles all up and down one leg or another from my hip down. On the way to work in the morning I had to slap my face as I drove to stay awake. I finished the year out because I was under contract and because I loved my REDACTED and wanted them to have stability. I went to ear specialists who said I was ok. Finally I went to a top guy who discovered that the "ear pain" was really jaw pain, and he said it was due to "emotional stress."

Well, since the medical doctors were saying I was basically ok I began to look towards better nutrition and personal growth books to root out any emotional stress. I was so ill by the end of my REDACTED year that REDACTED At REDACTED REDACTED a mother actually came to talk to me and said her son was afraid that I was going to die and that some of his little friends had said so too.

At year's end I had saved up \$2500. and I did not take another REDACTED assignment; I felt it would kill me! For six months I lived at a friend's house so I could live off my savings and tried to eat right and exercise but still I didn't gain the weight I needed and I was always tired. Finally I got a part-time job in a field I liked but to my dismay there were many days when I barely had the mental and physical energy to work in a satisfactory way. Even walking up one flight of steps winded me — and I had once been a runner who placed in races!! It took every ounce of energy to work. On my off days I would try to eat right and rest.

Well I wasn't earning enough money this way, so I looked around for a work option where I could work part-time and earn more. I found a great opportunity as a REDACTED. There were no minimum work days required and there were many people on staff. It was great for me as it was \$25/hr instead of \$8/hr. It was in REDACTED and allowed me to continue building my resume as I got stronger. I decided that I may always need such flexible work given the ill health I'd now experienced for 5 years, yet I was constantly striving to get well and would save my money for doctor/nutritionist visits and for various health supplements. I looked forward to being able to work full time again. I was working 3-4 days per week and was beginning to catch up on bills when I began to lose the strength in my speaking voice. Within 5 months my voice needed a 5 day rest after 3 days of teaching, then a rest after 1 day of teaching. I took two weeks off. My throat felt fine. Then I went in one day and my throat began to throb after just 4 hours. I took ten days off to rest it, taught another day and the same thing happened. I felt like a strong hand was squeezing my throat tightly. My throat was red and raw inside each time though I had no cold or flu or bad health habits. I moved home with my parents because I was not earning enough to keep a home of my own.

That winter I began to experience horrible emotional pain, but it was weird because it wasn't connected to any particular situation or person. And it was heavy, so heavy that I began to have suicidal thoughts. I was standing outside REDACTED after mass and was walking towards my car and I wanted to keep going and walk straight into traffic. I was really scared by such thoughts and thought I'd better get a "change of scene", fast.

A friend who saw me struggling offered to let me live with her for 3 months for \$100/month rent. I gladly accepted, but the heavy pain stayed with me and I felt sick all the time and was exhausted. I REDACTED only 10 days a month—it was all my throat would handle.

I was deeply embarrassed to be REDACTED and so ridiculous. Where was my career? What about the property and home I had planned for? Why could I bond with friends and then just leave? Why didn't I "snap out of it"? Why hadn't I filed my taxes? Why couldn't people count on me anymore? Why could I only afford clothes from the Goodwill? Why was I broke? Why was I so weak and out of shape when I had been such an athlete? Why didn't I visit my grandparents, when we had once been so close?

I needed health insurance but couldn't work full time and wasn't earning enough to pay for it on my own. I thought I must be seriously character flawed and began reading books by Christian psychologists in addition to prayer and confession. In January I attended a seminar and heard about clinical depression. The psychologist presenter said that there was an illness that looked like laziness but was not. He said people really sick with this literally could not get out of bed until 12:00 noon. I wondered if this could be me. Later I read in his book that the "JUST FORGET ABOUT IT" approach to emotional pain can induce such severe clinical depression that the person needs to be hospitalized. He wrote about how it takes tremendous energy to function and that the motivation to live can be taken away through unprocessed traumatic feelings and sorrow.

Was it possible that I wasn't a character-flawed flake making years of bad decisions but that I had lost my health and motivation through "forgetting" some trauma or grief? As I began to ponder this I noticed that I was feeling irritated at mass—I didn't know why. Maybe I should re-think my Christian life, I thought—review it for my self from the ground up.

Someone, who saw me continually sick, loaned me a video about health by REDACTED M.D. She shared her scientific findings and case studies regarding women with serious physical pain and illness who were not cured by medicine but were cured by addressing serious emotional issues. I was watching the tape hoping to find a cure for my painful periods and weak throat. Dr. REDACTED said that emotional negation especially in the teenage years can wreak havoc on a young woman's physical health years later. BINGO — at that moment I thought about BMHS and I felt angry and started to cry at the same moment—I had felt completely negated back then.

Later that week I was going through the What Color Is Your Parachute book to choose a new line of work because I realized that since I couldn't talk I couldn't teach. Inside was an exercise to find fulfilling

work. The method was to chart your life over the years in certain key areas to discern in high points your natural gifts and interests. It was after plotting out my life that I noticed a sharp drop and change from age 15 on.

I began to pray deeply about this and considered what I had read about how just "forgetting the past" can lead to serious depression. What was going on with me at age fifteen? — Fr. Nocita. I didn't want to look at it but I was desperate to be well and have a normal life again. So I journaled about my angry feelings and I chose to forgive completely. I went to a healing mass and when the priest laid his hands on me I prayed from the core of my being for Fr. Nocita and wished for him every good thing a man could want. When I opened my eyes my anger was gone.

However I was still ill. I was still too ill to work enough to get my own place and for 3 months I was quasi-homeless never knowing where I would stay next, keeping my clothes and things in my car, sleeping on couches, on floors, and in situations where I felt in danger all through the night. Sometimes I house-sat and was always sad to leave and just pack everything up into my car.

Finally in July 2001 I found a great place and moved in. Within weeks I found REDACTED _ work I could do that gave my throat a break. It was only \$10/hr but it was a start. I put up goals as I used to do in the days when I was so successful. I worked part-time and within 6 weeks was up to 32 hours per week, I was exhausted though and would need to nap on the days I didn't work. I continued to read books on emotional healing as I had no money for a psychologist. Why was I still sick?

A taste of Paradise---healthy and whole again

Suddenly one day in prayer I felt led by the Holy Spirit to look at my Fr. Nocita experience. I prayed and took out Fr. Nocita's photo. I thanked God that the anger I'd felt for him was gone. I remembered the good things about high school and about him and decided to keep these fresh in my mind.

I remember I was standing by a window looking outside at the time. Suddenly the sunshine outside seemed twice as bright! I felt a physical change in my body. It felt like every cell of my body was filling with energy. I felt healing move from the center of my chest through my whole body! I felt like a great weight was lifted from my heart and mind.

I drove towards church and was alert and full of energy. When I saw my boyfriend I felt twice as much love for him! Within the next two weeks I suddenly was able to sleep, and pain began to leave my body. I had energy all day! I felt naturally interested in other peoples' well-being, instead of having to work at it.

Within two weeks I couldn't feel my ribs anymore. My face filled out and I looked years younger and pretty. I was motivated and hopeful and was suddenly interested in my old hobbies. I thought "Never again will I shut out this part of my life. I'll just let it go and realize that I've got the rest of my life ahead of me." I was truly amazed at the physical health that was suddenly back. I felt "ok" at church again and began to reach out to parishioners. I didn't feel like they had to understand my "Catholic trauma" I had just let go.

At age 14, entering BMHS, I felt like a freight train. Years of discipline and focus had allowed me to develop talents that God gave me. Love had given me the security and temerity to succeed. I felt like a heavy freight train moving fast. Obstacles didn't stop me. Now I had all that back. I felt like, back then my train must have derailed and all these years I was just a lone person trying to move heavy loads without a train, but now I was back. Everything felt like it had before. My mind felt sharp and bright. I began to see the Latin roots in words and I was able to concentrate. I thought Yipee I'll be able to learn languages as I've wanted to. I felt whole and like I could choose a career that fit.

After 8 years of physical illness and no motivation and feeling isolated around people I was well! I was pretty! I was able to gain weight! I had hope! I would be able to work full-time and pull out of poverty! I'd be able to marry and have children! I'd be able to run and swim and skate again. I'd be able to be comfortably Catholic.

But It didn't last...

To my total dismay, this renaissance did not last.

Instead, one Sunday at mass, the priest was consecrating and I felt the most piercing pain like a lance through my chest. That night I woke up suddenly and "saw" Fr. Nocita's face. Suddenly I felt this download of feelings, memories and thoughts. I began to sob and shake without willing it. It felt like my head was a baseball and it was being slammed back and forth by two baseball bats. On the one side were all the romantic attentions of Fr. Nocita, on the other his platonic assertions and those of other adults in my life at that time. I sobbed and shook so heavily that the bed shook beneath me. I was alone and felt like I was drowning in the ocean.

The next day I tried to shake it off and go on with life. But in the next eight days I could not eat. I'd eat a little food and it would drop like a stone in my stomach and sit there undigested. I had to have soda with little bites of food to get anything down, and my teeth began to ache and hurt though they had been fine before.

Over the course of several weeks I would wake up in the night crying and at Sunday mass I would be happy focusing on the mass and then—POW—almost burst out sobbing in loud cries about Fr. Nocita.

Not a Conscious Process

This was not a conscious process. It was waking up inside me until I couldn't get away day or night. My body began to ache and hurt badly and sporadically all over in many different ways. By December, when I was at mass with my boyfriend, he laid three fingers very gently on my shoulder and a shudder of pain went through my whole body down to my feet. At the Christmas tree lot on PCH I had a thought again about walking into traffic. I was engulfed in pain and prayed for Christ to save me. By early January, I was unable to work at all, even my hands quit working. The following is a record from the time to give you an idea of what went on:

Note: This is a quick and rough statement dictated by REDACTED and typed by REDACTED late on Thursday night (January 17, 2002.) It is not intended to have perfect grammar or flow, but merely to simply convey some general circumstances.

REDACTED is in a severe life crisis. There are five main areas of concern:

1. **Emotional.** Feeling crazy, conflicting emotions, I experience frequent overwhelming grief that wells up in the midst of work, church attendance, and conversation with others. This is grief and confusion which I cannot seem to turn off. It comes out whether I'm thinking about that past episode of my life or not.
2. **Physical.** Extreme loss of appetite, often only one small meal per day. Interrupted sleep either through physical body pain in various joints, back or neck, or just wake up upset in the middle of the night.

Frequent bouts of extreme TMJ pain – sudden onset. Joints seem to be shutting down on me. Hips, knees, ankles, shoulders, wrists. Three times in the past three and a half weeks I've had to suddenly stop walking due to right hip joint suddenly in pain and not responding. Back and neck have frozen up requiring me to leave work for a day to two days, and has kept me up many nights with the same. For four weeks severely incapacitated use of left shoulder and eventually left wrist which rendered me unable to draw or write except briefly. Body feels very weak. Loosing strength to lift objects such as water containers, telephone.

Extremely painful periods since age sixteen and a half. Some relief if I can maintain a specific diet with magnesium and "Optivite" multi-vitamin supplementation. I'm having a lot of trouble doing this these past four months due to loss of income, loss of appetite, and therefore inadequate diet and extremely reduced supplementation.

Six years ago went through extreme emotional crisis that lasted eighteen months. During this period I lost most of my muscle strength which I had built up and during this time I first experienced many of the debilitating symptoms which I listed above. Over the years I have been gradually pulling out of this poor health, but with the reawakening of this emotional trauma, all these symptoms are back in full force and I am in even worse shape then back then.

Prior to this August, 2001 I had been gaining weight and feeling better overall with very little joint pain, very little TMJ pain and was enjoying good sound sleep until I woke up one night in August with a horribly potent remembrance of my high school days. Since that time I've been experiencing physical shutdown on a daily and sometimes nightly basis.

During the past five months I have not been getting good sleep. Out of the last 150 nights I've only had about thirty nights of sound restful sleep. Often Since the night when I woke up in August I've noticed a loss in physical beauty, a change in my skin tone, and frequently deep circles sometimes reddish under my eyes. Many comments from women I know who on seeing me look shocked and worried and ask what's wrong, or "you look so tired", "are you okay" things like that.

3. Financial. I haven't been doing that well in this area for the past six years, but in the past five months, this has reached a crisis level. I barely have enough money for food and rent and frequently eat with friends since I don't have enough money for groceries. I probably have averaged an income of \$800 per month by doing temporary work here and there. I've had financial assistance from family and friends in the form of small monetary gifts and loans to make up the deficit.

4. Functional. Between the lack of sleep and the ever-present emotional pain I'm not doing well in the work environment. I'm moody, forgetful, and now I'm having a hard time doing simple tasks such as telling time, remembering what month it is, etc. I've never had an auto accident in my eight years of driving and in the past five weeks I've had five close calls on the road. **Also twice I've been crossing the street and suddenly noticed a car heading right towards me. This has occurred in the Riviera Village which I am quite familiar with and both times I feel that I neglected unknowingly to look at all lanes before crossing the street.**

5. Relational. I'm noticing that I am withdrawing from family and friends. I'm trying not to do this, but I am just feeling so embarrassed in not being able to say, "Oh I'm fine. I'm good." Normally I have a healthy interest in others and enjoy spending time with them.

It is very clear to me that I am in over my head and that I'm not going to make it without very good professional care in several areas and without the financial and emotional support of friends.

In Summary

In January my boyfriend paid for a visit with a psychologist. REDACTED
REDACTED

I won't go into detail about January through today, but have alluded to it earlier in this report. I've come a long way but I'm not out of the woods yet.

I'm still quite malnourished and easily fatigued. I haven't been able to do decent exercise and my muscles are so weak that my feet and legs are often in pain from the imbalance that exists from my earlier birth defect and surgery. In all the years of my competitive sports I was ok but now the shoes I wear cause pain up into my ankles, and I don't have the means to get the shoes, physical therapy and orthotics I need.

My painful periods may have recently been cured by a healer who connected pain in that area with suppressed emotional pain from my Fr. Nocita episode. After years of trying traditional medicine and special diets etc.. maybe this was it all along? I don't know, but if it was, what a shame!

Thank you for reading my story. I hope you will give me the help I need. I hope that sharing with you so personally will help other people and our church and maybe even our priests. I really have done everything I could on my own and with God and friends to overcome this; coming to you is a cry for help.

I just want to be back to the high level of functioning I've enjoyed in my life. The way I have been living hasn't been "living" at all. I want to be healthy and young again.

in Closing

Hello.

I am writing this on behalf of my wife's friend and mine, REDACTED I have met and spoken with REDACTED on a number of occasions in social situations with my wife over the course of several years. I have always found her to be a bright and engaging person, although I suspected quite fragile. As I have seen her life unravel over the last year, as her personal struggles have increasingly become a concern for my wife and myself, and as the details of the things which have burdened her still young life become clearer to us, I am moved to make an appeal to all that is good and Christlike in anyone who is involved with REDACTED struggle today. I'm not a counselor or a lawyer, I'm an REDACTED I write as a husband, as a father of REDACTED and as a REDACTED I stand to gain nothing but the joy in seeing Godly justice and healing take place in REDACTED life and in the life of my church. My prayers are for every person who had a role in these events and for you, that you may have the same wisdom God bestowed upon Solomon.

I am certain that REDACTED narrative is as powerful and emotion wrenching for you as it is for me. What are we to make of it? The story of a charismatic young priest, too free in his thinking in a time when free thinking was the order of the day, not fully prepared for the challenges of priestly life; and an attractive young woman. Were that young woman to be 21 we would have the stuff of cheap dime store pulp romance. Perhaps it was such romantic flights that blinded people around them to the fact that this was a **14 YEAR OLD GIRL!!** As I read the statements Fr. Nocita made to this 14 year old girl the anger of an older man helplessly viewing the folly of a younger man rises up inside of me. His public teaching to his class about the unadulterated goodness of physical affection, devoid of any clear discussion of mitigating issues like age and social roles, accepted (with good reason) standards of propriety, sensitivity to the unique emotional structure of each person in each stage of their lives; in joy or in grief, in pain and in innocence, this particularly rankles me because it shows us the pure foolishness of the man when he is out in the open and not furtively trying to hide it. Believe me I know what it is to advocate an asinine view, and what it is to live long enough to cringe with regret. It is his practice of these wrongheaded beliefs that brings us this bitter fruit that we taste today, that REDACTED tasted then, and has been forced to taste ever since. Forced, you say, by what? By the merciless persistence of memory, by the stabbing pain of being dismissed as a troublemaker by people who can't possibly bring themselves to believe that a popular Catholic priest could in reality be a pathetically weak-minded and weak-willed man, by parents whose laudable devotion to their church blinded them to this tumor that was planted in the heart of their daughter's young life. Is there a father or mother or brother or sister among you that would wish such "priestly" affection for their daughters or sisters? Was there a time in your life when you ever thought such behavior would be "cute" or acceptable? If you're in such a position of responsibility as to be reviewing these pages I suspect the answer is no, not ever, not once. Do you know what it is like to not be able to get a bitter taste out of your mouth? To have an open wound that refuses to heal? To desire a wholesome and healthy, free and unfettered joyful relationship with your church and its people, and to have it always maimed on the field of fear and mistrust. What would it be like for REDACTED now to hear these words: "My God how we have wronged you and how bitterly

sorry we are. You were just a unarmed kid with no defense against the force of this man's personality. You had no way of knowing, but we should have known. We should have known better. We treated you as if you were the problem because your truth would upset all the tiny little lies we were comforting ourselves with, justifying ourselves with. We beg your forgiveness and we want you to know that what was made wrong will be made right again. We will move heaven and earth, but it will be made right."?

As I see it there are three major themes of importance in this tragic story. The first of course is the theme of a wayward young priest. One might reasonably argue that he was a bad apple and that we can't be always expected to figure that out before he does something bad. With some important reservations I could say fair enough. My understanding is that he is no longer in the priesthood. Fine. I pray that he has found peace with himself and with God. The second theme is of the adults around this situation at the time and their failure to recognize this abuse and their lack of moral courage, perhaps, and it amazes me to even say this of Catholic people, their lack of moral definition. It seems improbable, but true, that not one person stood up to shout loudly and say this stops right here and right now. And yet these failures too can be reasonably seen as isolated; regrettable, but unavoidable. Fine. Fair enough.

The third theme concerns how no one recognized the damage that was done to this young girl's life. No one picked up on the falling grades, the depression, the distantness. It never dawned on anyone that an impressionable girl who had been seduced by such an impressive man might need some extra attention or counseling or therapeutic intervention or something remotely human. Instead her crippled attempts to reach out for support and understanding were met with derision, suspicion and denial. Her own parents refused to take her seriously out of deference to the unassailable integrity of a Catholic priest. There was no one to pick her up and explain what had happened, what it meant and that she was not to blame. Fine? Fair enough? Never! One fact stands out about this theme over and above the others. These failures can still be redressed. It is not too late to be for ^{REDACTED} the church that personifies Christ's love and healing.

We read with great dismay the disturbing accounts of abuses of young people by Catholic priests in the papers every day. Personally I am one who still believes in Christ's power to redeem and forgive even the most lost souls. I am proud that the bishops of my church followed their Christian call to seek healing for these men through both spiritual and modern therapeutic approaches. The knee-jerk second-guessing that they should have immediately been "cast into outer darkness" is not something I agree with. Yet I must ask, while these men underwent their time of therapy and soul searching were they still expected to work a job 40 hours a week, pay the rent and utility bills, keep the car gassed up and in good repair, do the cooking and cleaning for themselves, do their own laundry, file their income taxes, etc.? ^{REDACTED} has been valiantly keeping it together for a long time, but of late the burden has simply become too much. I will leave it to her therapist to outline her present state in detail. The bottom line is that this young woman is in no condition to be carrying this load any longer alone. ^{REDACTED} on her own is trying to do all the right things for herself. She has sought and found a good therapist and is taking her part in it very seriously. She has found a modest and reasonably priced bachelor apartment. She drives a small economical older car. As far as I can tell she has eschewed any luxuries. She wants to get better. She needs help to do it. And really folks

she doesn't need just any help, she needs her church's help. She needs to know that the church that she loved as a young person is the church she always hoped it would be. She has been disillusioned and disappointed, but has never deserted her church. She continues to attend regular mass. Her commitment to keeping to the teachings of the church is rare I think. For her to know that the Roman Catholic Church finally sees and understands and reaches out in compassion with real help and real recognition might just be the most healing thing of all. How long will this take? How much will this cost? My question to you is: will you have faith the size of a mustard seed? Will you believe that God's will is that this daughter of the church should not be lost to despair and exhaustion? I have absolute confidence that God's will is that she should be returned to all of us as a productive, creative and inspiring witness to His goodness and mercy and to that of His church. I'm asking you to join me in this confidence. Pick up the torch. Lead the way.

with deepest regard and sincerity

REDACTED

Closing Prayer

Father God, we praise You for your goodness and sacrifice for us in your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for saving me this year when I thought I was going to die. I ask Your blessing on all who read this, that through my imperfect words You inspire them to do what You think is best.

Thank you for making me and Michael. Please take care of him. You have said you came to "bind up the broken hearted" and say "Behold I make all things new;" I endured the cross this year, doing what was pleasing in your sight. I claim these promises. Please give me a resurrection. I "sowed in tears of mourning," if it is your will, restore me as you did Job, let me "reap in sheaves of joy."

I am sorry for all my sin. I am sorry for not trusting You back then and turning to hatred instead. You are good God. Make our schools safe, heal all hurt in this way and show me your church.

We praise You and rejoice that you are sovereign. I praise You for the way you are going to redeem this situation, bringing something totally beautiful out of this, for me, for Michael, for all of us and for our priests. I pray all this in Jesus name, Amen.

Contact Information

REDACTED

Appendix, References

Appendix

- samples of pages from my high school journals that show what Fr. Nocita said to me & how troubled I was by the whole situation - how I was consumed by this overwhelming situation and on "high alert" and ~~some~~ ^{one} that specifically show psychological damage resulting. ~~page~~
- letter from chiropractor who saw me from Jan - Aug 2002 & treated me for physical collapse due to memories of Fr. Nocita

JUNIOR Year - age 16 - phone conversation

NO

DATE

1.31.86

"My mother that too, so do I! (we laughed) But, what difference does it make, as
as you get done! Well, I said, I was really bummed that I didn't get to see you,
I miss you so much."

Fr. Nocita

(I can't remember exactly what we said, but this is pretty close)

→ Sure says, "How's your sex life?" and I said "My sex life? Boring, how's
your sex life?"

"Boring. Every now and then some wild L- women throws
body at me."

(I said) "I know how it is, some things happen to me, except it's guys,
I just say, sorry."

"Yes, we have our principles ~~that~~ ~~For instance, I'm a virgin.~~
If there was a guy, I would be jealous."

(I said) "Well, if there was some other girl, I would be jealous." (we laughed)

"Well, if any guy ever touches you, I'll cut his hands off"
(I thought, Wow! I really like this man)

Me ~~Paraclete~~ ~~was the conversation~~ Then I said "Were you talking about
me when you said hopeless case?"

"You? No. ~~me~~ ~~(somebody)~~, ~~the~~ ~~is a hopeless case and he~~
will be passing on from Paraclete. But you are not a hopeless case. Do you
know how I know that you are not a hopeless case?"

I said "No"

Well, the pope wrote me a letter and he said ~~REDACTED~~
is not a hopeless case and he said she is putcher ~~me~~ and I said

you're ~~right~~ ~~Boy~~ if I were sixteen and eligible (I laughed)
I think six hours should be enough time for a hug"

(I said) Six hours? I think that would be sufficient."

"Yes and there'll have to be some passionate ~~smooches~~
Can I have a picture of you in your shirt, would you like me to send it to you?"

(I said) Yes! Sure, that'd be great. Do you want a picture of me? I could
send one to you."

"Great, I would put it on my desk and girls would come in and say 'who
is that?' and I would say 'none of your business!' ~~well, that's a good so~~
~~sure~~ I'd call you from ~~paraclete~~ bid that would be totally ~~stopped~~

"I know," he said, "it would get you in trouble and it would be totally scandalous."

(cont. 2-21) "Yeah," I said slowly, "well, it was so sweet of you to call, I'll have to write you a
little note or something, so are we still in love?" "Oh course!" I said.

Comments kids made to me @ this
Mar 29 '86 high school age 16

DATE
MAR 29

MAR 29

looking at the events of the past few days, where
do I stand? I want to keep an open mind and look
at the doubts presented by REDACTED
and I want to look at the faith shown in REDACTED
and REDACTED, and I want to look at REDACTED
faith in God and my own faith in God and I want
to look at God and at his message to me.

in him
life
Now
I'm con

REDACTED are very negative about
this although their views differ on the nature
of the situation they all agree that he does not
care a whole lot or miss me very much or
like me a lot, but rather I have made all this
up in my head and am suffering from
infatuation of a great degree. REDACTED

when
1 year or
to start
to move
Boy I'd
work too
like my
88 Olds
put aside

he wants sex, REDACTED thinks he's roving with me
for some reason, and REDACTED feels that I am
nothing more to him than an acquaintance.
REDACTED

for gas
much I
activities

REDACTED share the same view,
and believe that I am very special to him,
that he misses me and does not intend
on forgetting. REDACTED is much more firm
in this belief though. REDACTED believes

now I
and I'm
now - it
work. I

that if God says to have faith and trust
in this relationship then this relationship
is a thing of God and I should do what
God tells me to do. I believe that he cares
and that I am special to him and that he
misses me. I believe in him, I believe in me,
I believe in God. I do not believe the doubts
presented to me. I shall wait until he feels that
the time is right. Until then what else can I do

NO. _____

DATE _____

MAR. 29 '86 (cont.)

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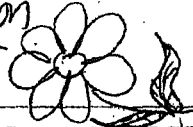
but bear the separation, pray and trust in God, and
 in him and prepare myself for greatest challenge in my
 life when he comes again, but this time, to me. OK.
 Now it is 10:33 am and ^(REDACTED) wants to know when
 I'm coming over to work; when I'm ready that's
 when. When I graduate from high school - about
 1 year and 2 months from this day I am going
 to start for my independence and I'm going
 to move away from home and go to college.
 Boy! It is with this in mind that I want to
 work today - I want to buy a car - an old one
 like my ^{REDACTED} or my ^{REDACTED} model
^{REDACTED} then I want to paint it, buy insurance,
 put aside money for repairs, and make allowances
 for gas money. * Then I want to figure out how
 much I'll pay for college = my clothes = social
 activities = food etc. I must be an adult - right
 now I am on the way to becoming an adult
 and I must make money and save it. I must go
 now - it's 10:45 am. Clean my room, then off to
 work. I love him!

NO.

* conversation

High school Journal
age 16

DATE MAY 6, 1986



I last wrote Mar. 20 huh, well things are looking up! God is good - God is watching! huh!
 I had a good phone call April 10, Thurs and then he sent the letter - get this post marked April 11! Boy was I excited - boy am I in love, infatuated, in a big crush!!
 Anyhow I haven't called him or done anything for his birthday but I don't want to call from school and I don't know if I could call from home at 3:00 - he might be gone from school - and I'd have to tell mother, it's no big deal but it might be to mother. So it seems I'd be smart to decide one way or the other and do something - know what,
 Princess Di was 17 yrs. old when she married Prince Charles who was at the time 33!
 That's me - hope springs eternal. Either way, things will turn out good, I trust in him, in God and not least in myself. I sure would like it if he comes though I'd like to see him (an understatement huh!) It sure would be fun to see what transpires, yeah! He said # as soon as I said hello "Why do you have to be in testing when I come to see you?"

Fr. N. said "My arms are aching, I need to hug you" and "Oh, I want to kiss you right now so much, it would be the longest long distance kiss in history" (Ok, so I know I'd melt in his arms - 100 miles away though is pretty safe)

He said "You'd just be really quiet for a while huh?" He laughed! The sweetheart. He also said "Did I ever send you that picture of me?" and I said "No" and he said "Well I'll put in the mail ~~right~~ today, I've got to

Love will find a way?!! (X)
5-6-86 (cont.) DATE

do that" and he said "Just today I was talking about you. This girl came up and she gave me a hug you know," and I said "yes"; and he continued "and she said 'can I be your girlfriend?' and I said 'no' and she says 'why not?'" and I said 'because I already have a girlfriend' and she says 'who?' "you know like that" and I ^{REDACTED} said "Uh huh"; and he continued, "and I said ~~important~~ ~~brother~~ 'none of your business, you don't know her' and she says 'what's her name' and I said REDACTED and she lives in REDACTED" Isn't he a blast!! So anyway he says "no one could hold a candle to you, (I'd asked him if he wanted a picture of me) I'd just show them your picture and they'd be jealous!" Oh, God I love him! he said he was going to ~~after~~ have to see me, but that he wouldn't have a chance until May and that he would most likely come on a Friday - so now my arms and shoulders are tan and the outside front of my calves - and I have four, 4, TV, blouses that I could wear good yes! Anyhow, I have more to write but I have no time see I have to write a paper on Integrity and Mom has to type it so I'd best finish it fast like right? Right! Cherri' Oh!

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high school journal - age 17 -> My 17th Birthday

May 19, 1986

NO

DATE



a
prayer to
God for
help

prayer to God asking for help

Ok God, what is happening to me? I am not crying, I am not shaking from fear, yet I am not jumping for joy. Oh, Jesus Christ if only you could hold me now - my brother and my savior and God my father if only I felt more to be your little girl you would take my hand and kiss my face; kissing away the tears that I fear will come more often in this my 17th year; kissing away the worried lines that cross my brow and darken my soul more now, as I see more clearly the trials that ~~are~~ lie before me; kissing my face and cleansing my heart and eyes of doubt and fear, and the felt darkness that moans and threatens to destroy me. Save me Jesus, save me God!! Oh help Jesus, I want to lay my head in your lap and cry and cry and cry and then may I sleep and when I wake, may I wake to see your face and as I raise my eyes to yours, may I hear you say - REDACTED darkness is past rise and fly with me, with us now, fly and let your heart soar ~~and~~ - your trials are past, leap with gladness and sing praises for I have set you free. Oh Jesus what am I to do about Father? ^{What} Oh God why did you create the love between a man and a woman - for I am caught up in it now and I am scared, I do not feel strong enough to survive the storms that it may look on my soul - my spirit sinks, my mouth becomes dry, my heart quivers for it anxious to love without question, yet is hit back by my mounting fear. My God I have

(cont)

prayed to you to help things between him
 and I work out smoothly, I would ask you to
 do what you will to help me and I thank
 you for the strength you have given me in
 my time of need, yet in my heart - in the
 core of my being I wish one thing - his love
 for me and our marriage. Can I not put this
 aside? In this marriage? The deeper I
 delve into my soul the more I see about
 him, and myself and love, and am I scared!!
 I could be torn apart by my love. - I don't want
 a broken heart, but my heart will not leave
 him, I cannot leave him!! I cannot leave.
 I must write now but is 12:30 am and I
 am falling asleep.

MAY 20, 1980

God is in his heavens and Jesus you are by my side now, as
 I write this I do not yet know why we humans are so
 important to you Jesus, why I am so important to you.
 And yet I know that I am important to you for you died
 for me, you suffered for me, and you are there for me
 everyday in communion if I want ~~it~~ you, and I feel
 your presence now in my room, next to me. Thank
 you Jesus Christ, my savior, my lover. I am
 contented now in a kind of peaceful quiet happiness.
 I am so glad that I talked to Mr. REDACTED tonight. Oh
 Jesus this night has been so good for me. I told
 Mr. REDACTED that I was feeling better tonight
 than I had been earlier today and yesterday
 my birthday, AND oh it was truly

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 say
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journal entry Senior year shows
serious psychological damage had taken place
erratic handwriting, thoughts blocked out, feeling
numb; this type of entry would alternate of ~~times~~
Mar 30 '87 ~~ed~~ ~~per~~ ~~and~~ extremely angry entries.

Happy day! I feel like it will be
pressure, yes, but I can't let it get
to me - the way I'm writing lately
must show that inside I'm going
through major change or something
of that sort - it has no real form
and is always differencing - inconsistent
I feel relaxed though - as though my
senses of relaxation and hope
and happiness are heightened and
all other thoughts are being blocked
out ham. So I want to go eat lunch
Yeah - that's what I want to do I need
to ask Mom about going with ^{REDACTED}
to USSB - both of her parents are going.
I'd love to go with her. She wants
to spend most of her time at
Santa Barbara - so Oh! I want to go
with her on Friday! I'd like to go on the
Senior Retreat next week as well.
#56. - 8, 9th and 10th, See - I'm in a
neat limbo mood. That's it! Limbo
mood Chew!

NO.
DATE 6-12-95

journal-adult years
shows the unresolved
pain & confusion still inside

what the hell was all that with
Father Nocita?

Thank God I ended that very
destructive relationship.

I am embarrassed at my gush
of emotion over a charlatan.

I am glad ~~to have another~~ I wrote
down his comments to me.

It was wrong of him to talk
about wanting to hold me in a lover's
embrace. It was wrong of him
to talk about wanting to kiss me.

I'm embarrassed to note in one
entry a desire that was sexual. I
remember being scared when I
felt that. I remember that I first
felt it later in my junior year.
Perhaps that prompted me to drop
the friendship.

How did I ever escape from
that grasp?

Was freshman year or?
What was freshman year?
Why did he hold me like he did?
Why did he look at me like

I
to
-after
am

at
get

(cont.)

NO. _____
DATE 6/12/95

he did?

Is he or was he a troubled man?

was I sick? - that's too strong

shh...

Why did he act the way he did?
I decided long ago that it didn't
matter - why.

I haven't told REDACTED yet.
It's embarrassing. It ought not to be maybe
- after all I was the junior - why
am I embarrassed?

I'm embarrassed at being a sucker -
at being taken - at not having the
guts to call him on his behavior.

with

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wrote

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lovers

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ear.

call?

REDACTED

February 12, 2002

REDACTED

REDACTED

F

Reference List

Books (and speakers) I have come across over the years or which friends have offered in this trying time that all substantiate, in specific ways, my claim. *of the impact of this abusive situation, and that how the situation was abusive*

Wegscheider-Cruse, Sharon; Learning to Love Yourself

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend; 12 "Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy—Relief From False Assumptions

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend; Boundaries—When to Say Yes, When to Say No, To Take Control of Your Life

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend; Safe People —How To Find Relationships That Are Good For You and Avoid Those That Aren't

_____ ; I Can't Get Over It —Help for Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome

Miller, Alice; _____

Townsend, John; Hiding from Love —How To Change the Withdrawal Patterns That Isolate and Imprison You

Lewis, Robert and William Hendricks; Rocking the Roles—Building a Win-Win Marriage

Bass, Ellen and Laura Davis; The Courage to Heal—A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

Dobson, James; Love for a Lifetime

Northrup M.D., Dr. Christianne; Women's Bodies. Women's Wisdom

Morter, Ted; Your Health. Your Choice

Walker D.C., Scott; "Mind Memory and Body Memory"—from a medical journal

Pert, Candace; Whole Earth Review, Summer 88, page 109

Dr. Devi — pioneering research in removing food allergies in part through addressing repressed emotional pain

Miscellaneous research which shows that emotional trauma leaches magnesium from the body which leads to an inability of the body to metabolize calcium, which leads to health degeneration.

Baroody, Theodore; Ph.D. Nutrition Alkalize or Die—Superior Health Through Proper Alkaline-Acid Balance

Miscellaneous research which shows that the negative emotions of fear, anger and distrust change the internal ph of the body. In long periods of such the altered ph allows plaque build-up on teeth, as the natural plaque repelling feature gives way.

*Liffaver, Florence; The Personality Tree + Personality Masks
Hegel*



COPY
Mr. Craig Cox

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424
 Wilshire
 Boulevard

Los Angeles
 California
 90010-2202

VIA FACSIMILE

December 8, 2003

Detective James Brown
 Los Angeles Police Department
 Sexually Exploited Child Unit
 150 N. Los Angeles Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Additional Reports of Possible Abuse by Clergy

Dear Detective Brown:

As I indicated in my telephone call last week, the Archdiocese is reviewing its internal records to confirm what reports have been made to law enforcement agencies concerning possible sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

In reviewing the files, we found four individuals on whom we could not confirm whether or not a report had been made. You indicated that, until recent years, your reports were not in an automated format. Accordingly, without reviewing numerous report books, you could not confirm or deny what had been reported.

However, you were able to confirm that a report had been received and included in the automated system for Father REDACTED. This letter is being sent to report the three other individuals, with the understanding that this report may duplicate earlier reports:

1. REDACTED

2. Michael S. Nocita - had assignments in various parishes and schools in the Archdiocese from his ordination in 1977 until he left the priesthood in March 1991. There were allegations of inappropriate conduct with young women, at least one of whom was a minor at the time of the incident (1980-1982). This matter involved REDACTED (now REDACTED) and was reported to law enforcement in 1988. The allegations related to a romantic involvement but no intercourse was asserted. In June 2002, REDACTED, (current address - REDACTED) reported the inappropriate conduct. In November 2002, REDACTED reported that she was emotionally traumatized by Michael Nocita in the mid 1980's. We do not have her address at hand. We will provide it supplementally if it is found.
3. REDACTED

If you need further information on any of the above, please feel free to call me.

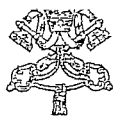
Yours very truly,
REDACTED

Enclosure

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Michael Nocita
DATE: 3 June 2002

I spoke with Michael Nocita on the phone today and summarized for him the essence of the claims made by REDACTED . I had indicated to him that I expected no response. All Michael said is that he was "very surprised" to hear of this complaint.

He promised to stay in touch if he hears anything.



CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Ufficio

11 April 2006

PROT. N. 656/2004 = 22738
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Eminence,

On 27 February 2006 you presented and supported the petition, dated 7 December 2004, of the Rev. Michael S. NOCITA, a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles who has been accused of multiple acts of sexual abuse against minors and has requested from the Holy Father the grace of dispensation from all the obligations of the clerical state, including celibacy.

This Congregation, after having carefully examined the documents of the present case and in light of the *votum* expressed by Your Excellency, decided on 6 April 2006 to forward the petition to the Holy Father for his decision. Subsequently, on 7 April 2006, Pope Benedict XVI granted the Rev. Michael S. Nocita the grace of dispensation *iuxta petita*, from all priestly obligations, including celibacy. Enclosed you will find two copies of the relevant Decree. Your Excellency is kindly requested to ensure that the priest is duly notified thereof. I would ask you also to return one of the signed copies of the Decree to this Office.

With prayerful support and every best wish, I remain

Yours fraternally in the Lord,

William Card. Levada

William Card. LEVADA
Prefect

-Enclosures-

His Eminence
Roger Cardinal MAHONY
Archbishop of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

409650



CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

Prot. N. 656/2004

Angelorum in California
(Los Angeles, U.S.A.)

D.nus **Michael S. NOCITA**, presbyter huius arcidioecesis, humiliter petit dispensationem ab omnibus oneribus sacrae Ordinationi conexis

Summus Pontifex Benedictus, Papa XVI

Die 7 m. aprilis a. 2006

habita relatione de casu a Congregatione pro Doctrina Fidei,
precibus praedicti sacerdotis annuit iuxta sequentes rationes:

1. Dispensationis Rescriptum a competenti Ordinario oratori quamprimum notificandum est:

- a) Eius effectum sortitur a momento notificationis;
- b) Rescriptum amplectitur inseparabiliter dispensationem a sacro coelibatu et simul amissionem status clericalis. Nunquam oratori fas est duo illa elementa seiungere, seu prius accipere et alterum recusare;
- c) Si vero orator est religiosus, Rescriptum concedit etiam dispensationem a votis;
- d) Idemque insuper secumfert, quatenus opus sit, absolutionem a censuris.

2. Notificatio dispensationis fieri potest vel personaliter ab ipso Ordinario eiusve delegato aut per ecclesiasticum actuarium vel per "epistulas praescriptas" (*registered*). Ordinarius unum exemplar restituere debet rite ab oratore subsignatum ad fidem receptionis Rescripti dispensationis ac simul acceptationis eiusdem praeceptorum.

3. Notitia concessae dispensationis adnotetur in Libris baptizatorum paroeciae oratoris.

4. Quod attinet, si casus ferat, ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, applicandae sunt normae quae in Codice Iuris Canonici statuuntur. Ordinarius vero curet ut res caute peragantur sine exteriori apparatu.

5. Auctoritas ecclesiastica, cui spectat Rescriptum oratori rite notificare, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruendi cum nova eius vivendi condicione, participet, aedificationem praestet et ita probum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum faciat ea quae sequuntur.

- a) *Sacerdos dispensatus eo ipso amittit iura statui clericali propria, dignitates et officia ecclesiastica; ceteris obligationibus cum statu clericali conexas non amplius adstringitur;*
- b) *exclusus manet ab exercitio sacri ministerii, iis exceptis de quibus in can. 976 et 986 § 2 CJC ac propterea nequit homiliam habere, nec potest officium gerere directivum in ambitu pastoralis neve munere administratoris paroecialis fungi;*
- c) *item nullum munus absolvere potest in Seminariis et in Institutis aequiparatis. In aliis Institutis studiorum gradus superioris, quae quocumque modo dependent ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo fungi nequit;*
- d) *in aliis vero Institutis studiorum gradus superioris ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica non dependentibus nullam theologiam disciplinam tradere potest;*
- e) *in Institutis autem studiorum gradus inferioris dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit. Eadem lege tenetur presbyter dimissus ac dispensatus in tradendo Religione in Institutis eiusdem generis non dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica.*

6. Ordinarius curet ne presbyter dispensatus, propter defectum debitae prudentiae, fidelibus scandalum praebeat. Haec pastoralis sollicitudo Ordinarium a fortiori gravissime urget si adest periculum quamvis remotum minoribus abutendi.

7. Tempore autem opportuno, Ordinarius competens breviter ad Congregationem de peracta notificatione referat, et si qua tandem fidelium admiratio adsit, prudenti explicatione provideat.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

Ex Aedibus Congregationis, die 7 m. aprilis a. 2006

William Card. Levada

Gulielmus Card. LEVADA
Praefectus

A. Amato

✠ Angelus AMATO, S.D.B.
Archiep. titularis Silensis
a Secretis

Dies notificationis _____

Subsignatio Presbyteri in signum
acceptationis

Subsignatio Ordinarii



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No.117.....

March 2, 2006

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your kind letter of February 28, 2006, with enclosure.

Rest assured that the sealed packet containing correspondence regarding **Reverend Michael S. Nocita, Prot. No. 25.830** will be duly forwarded through the diplomatic pouch to *Cardinal-designate William Joseph Levada, Prefect, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.*

With cordial regards and prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Pietro Sambi
Apostolic Nuncio

REDACTED

Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010-2202



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of the
Vicar for Canonical Services
Phone: (213) 637-7888
Fax: (213) 637-6888

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2021

28 February 2006

The Most Reverend Gabriel Montalvo
Apostolic Nunciature to the United States of America
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

RE: Prot. No. 25.830
Rev. Michael S. Nocita
Graviora Delicta and Petition for Dispensation
from Clerical Obligations

Your Excellency,

Enclosed is a letter, with attachments, from Cardinal Roger Michael Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles, addressed to Cardinal-Designate William Joseph Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, regarding the above-captioned case.

I would respectfully ask you to forward these items to the Congregation.

With gratitude for your kind assistance in this matter, and assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

REDACTED

(Enclosure)

409654



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

Re: The Reverend Michael S. Nocita
Graviora Delicta and Petition for
Dispensation from Clerical Obligations

27 February 2006

Cardinal-Designate William Joseph Levada
Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Vatican City

Your Eminence:

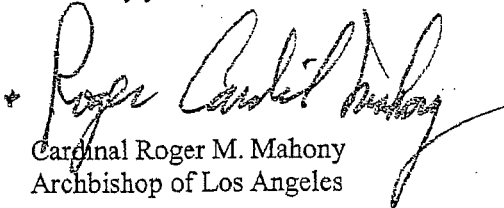
In a previous letter dated 19 November 2004, I had submitted the case of the Reverend Michael S. Nocita to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; Father Nocita is a priest of the Archdiocese who has been accused of *graviora delicta* which, in article 4 of *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela*, are reserved to the Congregation. At the time of that submission, I had not provided the necessary documentation to the Congregation, as the preliminary investigation had not been concluded, nor was there then any indication that Father Nocita — who had entered a civil marital union some years earlier — would petition our Holy Father for a dispensation from the obligations of clerical celibacy. However, the following December, Father Nocita did indeed address such a petition to the Holy Father, and said petition was duly forwarded to the Congregation through the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C. that same month of December 2004 (copy of petition included with accompanying documentation).

As noted in my previous letter, Father Nocita has been accused of multiple episodes of sexual abuse of minor girls. The initial evaluation of the claims advanced against Father Nocita showed that the accusations had the semblance of truth, wherefore a preliminary investigation was begun; I herewith transmit to the Congregation the results of that investigation.

Enclosed also is my *votum*, addressed to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, regarding Father Nocita's petition for a dispensation from clerical obligations. I respectfully seek the assistance of your good offices in forwarding this *votum*, which is definitively in favor of granting the aforesaid petition, to its high destination.

With gratitude for your kind help, and with the assurance of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Enclosures

409655



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

VOTUM OF THE ORDINARY OF INCARDINATION
CARDINAL ROGER MICHAEL MAHONY
ARCHBISHOP OF LOS ANGELES IN CALIFORNIA

Re: The Reverend Michael S. Nocita
Graviora Delicta and Petition for
Dispensation from Clerical Obligations

27 February 2006

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City

Your Holiness:

It is with sadness and a sense of urgency that I write with regard to the petition for dispensation from the obligations of Holy Orders and clerical celibacy made freely by the Reverend Michael S. Nocita, a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California. (The original petition was sent to Rome in December 2004, via the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC; a copy of that original document is attached hereto, together with a complete report of Father Nocita's situation.)

Father Nocita, even before his ordination to the sacred priesthood, was involved in romantic and intimate relationships with teenage girls, and after ordination this pattern of behavior continued, bringing harm to many members of God's people. An unspecified serious indiscretion committed by Michael Nocita before ordination to priesthood caused the Seminary faculty to recommend that his ordination be delayed. Although lingering doubts and reservations about his suitability for priesthood persisted, Michael Nocita was eventually ordained.

In 1988, the Archdiocese received the first report of imprudent contacts between Nocita and a teenage girl; the Archdiocese later came to learn that the relationship was intimate and continued for 2-3 years. In 1990, the Archdiocese received a letter from a mother complaining about a relationship between Nocita and her daughter that had begun when the girl was a 17-year-old student at the Catholic high school where Father Nocita was serving as principal.

The following year, 1991, Father Nocita left the active ministry and accepted a position with a secular employer. He was placed on inactive leave from the Archdiocese.

409656

*Votum of Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Regarding the Reverend Michael S. Nocita
Page 2 of 2*

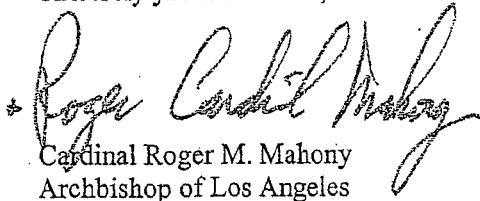
In December 2003, the Archdiocese was notified that two women had filed lawsuits against it, claiming damages for sexual abuse perpetrated against them by Father Nocita when they were minors. Some years prior to this, Father Nocita had entered a civil marital union; that union perdures to this day.

Given Father Nocita's past history of manipulative and abusive relationships with underage girls, as well as the fact of his current civil marital union and secular employment, his presence in the community as a Catholic priest runs the risk of causing confusion and scandal not only for our Catholic people but also for other citizens of good will. Moreover, he has no desire, nor possibility, of returning to active ministry, and the pending civil litigation in which he is involved may generate negative publicity. His laicization, therefore, could only redound to the good of the Church; moreover, Father Nocita is himself convinced that a return to the lay state would also be in his best interest, with a view to his spiritual welfare.

For these reasons, it appears imperative that the Church move promptly to protect the faithful from further danger of outrage and scandal by decisively terminating Father Nocita's status as a priest. Accordingly, I hereby offer my *votum* definitively IN FAVOR OF GRANTING THE AFORESAID PETITION.

With gratitude for your kind attention to this matter, and with the assurance of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Enclosures

DIOCESE	Los Angeles in California
NAME OF ORDINARY	Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
CDF PROT. No.	656/2004 – 21484
NAME OF CLERIC	Reverend Michael S. Nocita

PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE CLERIC	Date of Birth	4 May 1950	Age	55
	Ordination	10 June 1977	Years of ministry	14
ORIGINAL DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION		Los Angeles in California		
MINISTRY IN/TRANSFER TO OTHER DIOCESE		None		
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE CLERIC		REDACTED		
PROCURATOR (include original signed mandate)		None		
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE PROCURATOR		None		
ASSIGNMENTS				
Year	Parish	Location	Appointment	
1977	Mary Star of the Sea	San Pedro, California	Parochial Vicar	
1980	St. Paul High School	Santa Fe Springs, California	Faculty	
1980	St. Bruno	Whittier, California	Residence	
1982	Bishop Montgomery High School	Torrance, California	Faculty	
1982	Maria Regina	Gardena, California	Residence	
1983	American Martyrs	Manhattan Beach	Residence	
1984	Paraclete High School	Palmdale, California	Faculty	
1984	Sacred Heart	Lancaster, California	Residence	
1987	Bishop Alemany High School	Mission Hills, California	Faculty	
1987	Our Lady Queen of the Angels High School Seminary	Mission Hills, California	Residence	
1989	St. Timothy	Los Angeles, California	Parochial Vicar	
1991			Inactive Leave	

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE CLERIC				
Year	Victim	Age	Imputable Acts	Denunciation
1983	REDACTED	14	Engaging in sexual talk to encourage the girl to fall in love with him (including speaking of marrying her), holding in a sexual manner for extended periods, kissing of face and head and ears, stroking and massaging the girl's hair and body, holding hands and stroking the palm, romantic and sexual phone calls.	2002
1975		16	Digital penetration of the girl's vagina, mutual oral copulation, forcing the girl to masturbate him, masturbating the girl, fondling of genitals both over and under clothing, fondling breasts and buttocks, kissing and sucking of breasts, simulating intercourse and ejaculating on the girl, kissing of the body, French kissing, using hymns, prayers and religious articles while engaging in the abuse.	2003, although she claims to have informed another priest in 1976, there is no record of this.
1981		15	Pushed her head down to his genitals and attempted to have sex with her.	1988

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC

Year	Type/Case	Conviction	Sentence (include copies of civil documents)
2003	Civil lawsuit for damages (BC308295 REDACTED and REDACTED	pending	

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE

Year	
2000	Faculties of Father Nocita formally revoked. He had been out of service for many years, but previously there had been no formal revocation.

SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE TO THE CLERIC

Transitional assistance at the time he sought a leave of absence in 1991.

RESPONSE/RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC

Year	
2004	Petition addressed to Holy Father seeking voluntary laicization

BISHOP'S VOTUM

Given Father Nocita's history of manipulative and abusive relationships with underage girls, as well as the fact of his current civil marital union and secular employment, his presence in the community as a Catholic priest runs the risk of causing confusion and scandal not only for the Catholic faithful but also for other citizens of good will. Moreover, he has no desire, nor possibility, of returning to active ministry, and the pending civil litigation in which he is involved may generate negative publicity. His laicization, therefore, could only redound to the good of the Church; moreover, Father Nocita is himself convinced that a return to the lay state would also be in his best interest, with a view to his spiritual welfare.

For these reasons, it appears imperative that the Church move promptly to protect the faithful from further danger of outrage and scandal by decisively terminating Father Nocita's status as a priest. Accordingly, and since Father Nocita has voluntarily petitioned the Holy Father for laicization, the *votum* expressed is definitively **IN FAVOR OF GRANTING THE AFORESAID PETITION.**

REPORT

Results of Preliminary Investigation of *Graviora Delicta* Allegedly Committed by the Reverend Michael S. Nocita

SPECIES FACTI

The Reverend Michael S. Nocita was born on 4 May 1950 and was ordained a priest for service in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on 10 June 1977; his ordination to priesthood had been delayed because of serious questions about his maturity and readiness to undertake the sacred ministry.

After ordination, Nocita served as Parochial Vicar in Mary Star of the Sea Parish (San Pedro, CA, 1977-1980) and in St. Timothy Parish (Los Angeles, CA, 1989-1991). In the intervening years he served as a faculty member of St. Paul High School (Santa Fe Springs, CA, 1980-1982) and of Bishop Montgomery High School (Torrance, CA, 1982-1984), and as principal of Paraclete High School (Palmdale, CA, 1984-1987) and of Bishop Alemany High School (Mission Hills, CA, 1987-1989). In 1991, Nocita abandoned the active ministry and was placed on inactive leave.

In 1988, the Archdiocese received the first report of imprudent contacts between Nocita and a teenage girl; it was reported that in 1980-1982 Nocita was intimate with a young girl named REDACTED. Two years later, the Archdiocese received a letter from a mother complaining about a relationship between Nocita and her daughter, REDACTED, that had begun when the girl was a 17-year-old student at Alemany High School.

In December 2003, the Archdiocese was notified that REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED had filed lawsuits against it, claiming damages for sexual abuse perpetrated against them by Nocita when they were minors.

IN FACTO

Everything presented here is drawn from documents on file in the archives of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, copies of which are attached hereto as numbered Exhibits.

Alleged Victim No. 1. REDACTED born REDACTED 1958, 16-17 years old at time of alleged abuse

The victim claims that, while a parishioner at St. Bridget of Sweden Church where Nocita was assigned as a deacon, she was sexually abused by Nocita from about October 1975 until about September 1976. She met Nocita when she was upset and depressed at having broken up with her boyfriend; she was in her room crying and her mother, who was preparing an early dinner for Nocita (who was the new deacon at St. Bridget's), asked Nocita to go up and talk to the victim. The abuse started on that occasion.

The abuse allegedly occurred numerous times every week and included: digital penetration of victim's vagina by Nocita; oral copulation by Nocita and oral copulation performed on Nocita; victim being forced to masturbate Nocita; Nocita fondling victim's genitalia, breasts and buttocks; Nocita kissing and sucking victim's breasts; simulation of intercourse; Nocita hugging and kissing victim in a sexual manner. The abuse is reported to have taken place in various locations including: the victim's home, the sacristy at St. Bridget of Sweden

Church, Nocita's room at St. John's Seminary, Nocita's parents' house (see Exhibit 1, Mediation Document for REDACTED)

Alleged Victim No. 2: REDACTED birthdate unrecorded, 15-18 years old at time of alleged abuse

In 1988, a report was made to police by a therapist concerning allegations of sexual abuse by Nocita against REDACTED then 23 years old, who had told the therapist that she had fallen in love with Nocita and had been intimate with him in 1980-1982. The L.A. Sheriff's Department, to whom the report had been made, would not pursue the matter criminally because the statute of limitations had expired. An L.A. Sheriff's Department Detective spoke to archdiocesan authorities about the report (see Exhibit 2, Memorandum of 19 April 1988).

In May 2002, the Diocese of Sacramento contacted the Archdiocese of Los Angeles regarding communications with REDACTED in which REDACTED spoke of the sexual abuse she allegedly suffered from Nocita. REDACTED stated that when she was a 15-year-old sophomore at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, Nocita began a relationship with her that continued until shortly after she finished high school. The abuse included: Nocita touching REDACTED breasts; kissing her; pushing her head down to his genitals; lying on top of her while both were clad only in their undergarments, the victim without her bra; attempting to have intercourse with victim; Nocita stating that he loved the victim and that he wanted them to be together (see Exhibit 3, Letter of 23 May 2002).

The following month of June, Nocita was informed of the accusations made by the victim and he indicated that he was very surprised to hear of them (see Exhibit 4, File Memo of 3 June 2002).

Alleged Victim No. 3: REDACTED born REDACTED 1969, 14-15 years old at time of alleged abuse

REDACTED met Nocita when she entered Bishop Montgomery High School as a freshman at 14 years of age. She reports that he went to great pains to have her fall in love with him. Abusive actions included: holding her close, in a sexual manner; bumping up against her buttocks with the front of his pelvis; leaning his body against her body; kissing her face and head; moving his lips against her ears; stroking her hair, face and arms in a sexual manner; rubbing and massaging her body over her clothes; holding her hand; engaging in sexual and romantic talk with her.

After REDACTED freshman year, Nocita was transferred from Bishop Montgomery High School, but he continued to exchange phone calls with REDACTED, at times making romantic or sexual comments. By the time she was a senior, REDACTED had grown bitter and ambivalent towards Nocita, resenting him for having stolen her high school years (see Exhibit 5, Mediation Document for REDACTED).

Adminicula

After being ordained to the diaconate and subsequently called for ordination to the priesthood, Nocita's priestly ordination was delayed because of questions about his maturity and readiness for priesthood (see Exhibit 6, Correspondence regarding Nocita's Suitability for Ordination, September-December 1976). An unspecified "serious indiscretion" committed by Nocita raised grave concerns, and the Seminary faculty was unable to recommend Nocita for ordination to the priesthood (see Exhibit 7, Letter to Cardinal Manning, 16 February 1977).

Michael S. Nocita
Report of graviora delicta
Page 3 of 4

Cardinal Manning met with Nocita, was favorably impressed by him and recommended that he meet informally with some of the Seminary faculty to discuss their doubts in his regard (see Exhibit 8, Letter of Cardinal Manning, 2 March 1977). This informal meeting took place, but did not resolve the doubts that were present: after the meeting, the Rector found that "basic questions concerning his maturity, open-mindedness, prudence and self-perception" still remained; the Academic Dean opined that while Nocita "is far from a perfect candidate ... [he] probably has sufficient qualities to be ordained. This is my opinion, that is, a judgment coupled with fear of error. I am still convinced, however, that haste in ordaining him is not desirable. I think that December of this year should be the earliest time for ordination to the priesthood" (see Exhibit 9, Letters to Cardinal Manning, 19 April 1977). These doubts and reservations notwithstanding, Nocita was ordained to the priesthood less than two months later.

In October 1990, archdiocesan authorities received a letter from REDACTED who was outraged and alarmed that Nocita — 40 years old and a priest — had been dating her 20-year-old daughter REDACTED lavishing expensive gifts on her and saying he would marry her. The relationship between the two evidently began while REDACTED was a senior at Alameda High School and Nocita was the principal. REDACTED expressed great worry that Nocita "is emotionally destroying my daughter"; she judged him to be "very confused about himself, both as a priest and one who is in a mid-life transition". She concluded by saying: "this one priest has the power to destroy my family and my hopes and dreams for my daughter. She is no match for his convincing manner, analogies and powers of persuasion" (see Exhibit 10, Letter of Mrs. REDACTED 30 April 1990).

Later that same year, further complaints prompted great concern in archdiocesan authorities, who noted that there were reports of Cardinal Manning having been asked not to ordain Nocita because of his involvement with women; these same archdiocesan authorities voiced fears that Nocita might be obsessed with having relationships with young women (see Exhibit 11, Memorandum and Correspondence of December 1990).

The following year, 1991, Nocita left the active ministry and was placed on inactive leave (see Exhibit 12, Memorandum of 29 March 1991); Nocita had earlier accepted secular employment, and was quoted in a press report as saying — falsely — that "the Church was open about this [his secular employment], I left in good standing" (see Exhibit 13, Article from La Cañada Valley Sun, 28 February 1991). Because of the lack of truth in the statement as reported in the media, and because Nocita's new position had him working with young children, the Archdiocese insisted that Nocita inform his employer of the incorrectness of the statements he made and that a letter be sent by his employer to the Archdiocese acknowledging the inaccuracy of the statements made by Nocita; in this way the Archdiocese would be protected in the event of future allegations concerning Nocita and there would be a letter from Nocita's employer correcting the public record (see Exhibit 14, Memoranda of March 1991). Nocita did as had been requested of him, and his employer sent the Archdiocese a letter acknowledging that Nocita had accepted his new position "without any knowledge by proper authority within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles" (see Exhibit 15, Letter from La Cañada Youth House — Community Center, 25 March 1991).

In October 2003, a decree was issued revoking the faculties formerly entrusted to Nocita (see Exhibit 16, Decree of 23 October 2003), and at the end of that same year, REDACTED and REDACTED (Alleged Victims Nos. 1 and 3 above) filed a civil lawsuit against the Archdiocese claiming damages for the sexual abuse allegedly suffered at the hands of Nocita (see Exhibit 17, Record of Lawsuit Filed 23 December 2003 before the Superior Court of the State of California). Some years earlier, Nocita had entered into a civil marital union.

Michael S. Nocita
Report of graviora delicta
Page 4 of 4

In December 2004, Nocita addressed a petition to His Holiness Pope John Paul II seeking a dispensation from the obligations of the sacred order of priesthood and the related obligations of the clerical state. Said petition was transmitted to the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC, which then forwarded it to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome (see Exhibit 18, Petition for Laicization and Related Correspondence, December 2004).

CONCLUSION

From the evidence brought forth in the preliminary investigation it appears likely that delicts, as described in canon 2359 §2 and §3 of the 1917 Code, have been committed. However, since the 1983 Code has suppressed reference to the delicts mentioned in canon 2359 §3 of the 1917 Code, and as per the prescriptions of canon 6 §1, 4° and canon 1313 of the 1983 Code, these delicts are no longer to be imputed, but only the delicts mentioned in canon 2359 §2 of the previous Code, since these are maintained in canon 1395 §2 of the present Code.



CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Ufficio

25 July 2005

PROT. N. 656/2004 – 21484
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend and Dear Father Cox,

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has received your inquiry regarding the case of the **Rev. Michael S. NOCITA**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, who has been accused of the sexual abuse of minors. You have asked if this Dicastery has received the cleric's request for a dispensation from the obligations of priesthood, including celibacy.

I would call your attention to the letter sent to His Eminence, Roger Cardinal Mahony on 10 June 2005. The aforementioned request for dispensation was received by this Office. In order, however, to prepare a petition for presentation to the Holy Father the complete *Acta* of a case are necessary so that His Holiness is fully apprised of the particulars of the situation as he exercises his grave responsibility in making a decision in this most serious matter.

With prayerful support and best wishes, I remain,

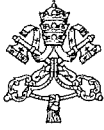
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Joseph Augustine DI NOIA, O.P.
Under-Secretary

Rev. Mons. **Craig A. COX**
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

409665

CCI 005165



CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Ufficio

13 June 2005

656/2004 – 21300

PROT. N.
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Eminence,

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received on 27 November 2004 the case regarding the alleged sexual abuse of a minor by **Reverend Michael NOCITA**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Your Eminence submitted a summary of the case and indicated that you would forward the evidence under separate cover.

On 18 December 2004, the Apostolic Nunciature in the United States of America forwarded to this Dicastery the signed petition of Rev. Nocita requesting a dispensation from the obligations of the clerical state.

In order for the Congregation to examine this case and submit to the Holy Father this request for dispensation, we request the complete *Acta* of the case. Though written summaries are helpful, actual documents are necessary and each element of the summary that you have already submitted should be supported by the relevant documentation either in the original form or in an authentic copy.

In addition to the requested information, it would also be important to the Congregation to have your *Votum* in the matter as this is essential in our study of the case.

With prayerful support and best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Angelo AMATO, SDB
Titular Archbishop of Sila
Secretary

His Eminence
Roger Cardinal MAHONY
Archbishop of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010-2202
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

25.830

December 13, 2004

No.

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Dear Monsignor Cox:

I acknowledge your kind letter of December 10, 2004,
with enclosure.

Rest assured that the petition of **Reverend Michael S. Nocita** for a dispensation from clerical obligations will be duly forwarded through the diplomatic pouch to His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo
Apostolic Nuncio

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

409667

RECEIVED
DEC 20 2004
BY: _____



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

December 10, 2004

REDACTED

Apostolic Nunciature
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

RE: Reverend Michael S. Nocita (Nunciature Prot. No. 25.830)

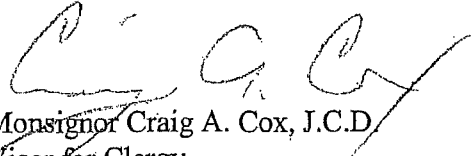
Your Excellency:

On November 21, 2004, you assisted us by forwarding to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith a packet of materials related to Reverend Michael S. Nocita. I am most grateful for the assistance you provided.

Enclosed, please find the petition of Father Nocita seeking a dispensation from clerical obligations. Would you please be so kind as to forward this to the Congregation on our behalf?

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this matter. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,


Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

enclosure

409668

Michael S. Nocita
REDACTED

His Holiness
Pope John Paul II
Vatican City State

Your Holiness:

I, Reverend Michael S. Nocita, hereby petition for a dispensation from the obligations of the Sacred Order of Presbyter and the related obligations of the clerical state.

I have now been away from priestly service for more than ten years. I have a wife and family and career. Given these realities and the discipline of the Church, it is evident that I cannot return to priestly ministry. Therefore, by means of this petition, I wish to regularize my official standing in the Church.

Thus, I present this petition for a dispensation from clerical obligations for my own spiritual welfare and to facilitate the full practice of my Catholic faith. I hope and pray that you will respond favorably to this request.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael S. Nocita

Reverend Michael S. Nocita

Date: December 7, 2004



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

December 10, 2004

Michael S. Nocita
REDACTED

Dear Mike:

Just wanted to let you know that I received your letter of December 7, 2004, and will be forwarding your petition to Rome. I will keep you posted of developments.

I very much appreciate your assurance of prayers and your words of support and blessing.

May God bless you and your family in these days of Advent, in the coming Christmas season, and throughout the New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

409670

Michael S. Nocita
REDACTED

December 7, 2004

Reverend Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, Ca. 90010-2202

Dear Craig,

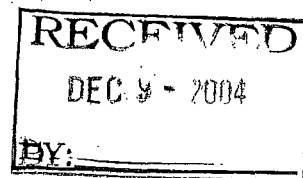
Enclosed is my petition for dispensation from the obligations of the clerical state.
Thank you for all your help in preparing it and for taking it to the Holy See.

You may be sure of my prayers for you as you exercise your ministry in this time.
You are a decent and good man. Stay positive. Be strong. God bless.

Yours in Christ,



Michael S. Nocita



409671

CCI 005171



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

25.830

November 21, 2004

No.

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Dear Monsignor Cox:

I acknowledge your kind letter of November 19, 2004,
with enclosures.

Rest assured that the correspondence concerning
Reverend Michael S. Nocita will be duly forwarded through the
diplomatic pouch to His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger,
Prefect, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo
Apostolic Nuncio

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

NOV 29 2004

409672



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

December 6, 2004

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, J.C.D.
Apostolic Nunciature
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

RE: Reverend Michael S. Nocita (Nunciature No. 25.830)
Taxa for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Your Excellency:

I am most grateful for the assistance you provided last month in forwarding a number of cases involving clerics accused of misconduct to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

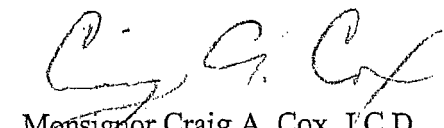
With regard to several of those cases, we were not able to enclose checks for the *taxa* at the time we transmitted the materials.

Please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$500.00 made out to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith as the *taxa* for the case of Father Nocita.

Would you please be so kind as to forward this to the Congregation on our behalf?

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this matter. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,



Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

enclosure

409673

176520

Check Date: 23.Nov.2004 ACCLA Check No.

Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Voucher ID	Gross Amount	Discount Available	Paid Amount
522 VC	18.Nov.2004	00119057	500.00	0.00	500.00

NOCITA

Vendor Number	Name	Total Discounts
0000002838	Congregation For The Doctrine	\$0.00

Check Number	Date	Total Amount	Discounts Taken	Total Paid Amount
	23.Nov.2004	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00

DO NOT CASH IF THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT HAVE A LARGE PRINT IMAGE OF THE SECURE DOCUMENT LOGO OVER A FADING PATTERN OF THE WORDS SECURE DOCUMENT



The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles
 (A Corporation Sole)
 3424 Wilshire Blvd.
 Los Angeles, California 90010-2241
 (213) 637-7691

Wachovia Bank, N.A.
 Greenville, South Carolina
 In Cooperation with & Payable if Desired at
 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 4759-613201 67-1/532

176520

Date November 23, 2004 Pay Amount \$ 500.00***

Pay ****FIVE HUNDRED AND XX / 100 US DOLLAR****

To The Order Of

REDACTED

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE
 of the Faith
 Piazza Del S Offizio II
 00120 Vatican City

REDACTED



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

November 19, 2004

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, J.C.D.
Apostolic Nunciature
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

RE: Reverend Michael S. Nocita

Your Excellency:

Enclosed, please find a letter from Cardinal Roger M. Mahony to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger at the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, regarding Reverend Michael S. Nocita. With his letter are copies of the completed summary pages requested by the Congregation. All materials are submitted in triplicate.

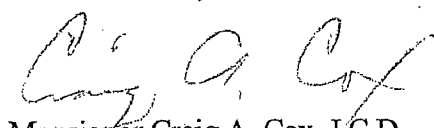
Cardinal Mahony is seeking the assistance of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in this matter.

Would you please be so kind as to forward this to the Congregation on our behalf?

I regret that I am unable to enclose a check to cover the usual *taxa* with this letter. I will forward a check in the near future.

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this matter. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,


Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

enclosures

409675



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

November 19, 2004

His Eminence,
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger,
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,
Piazza del S. Ufficio 11
00120 VATICAN CITY

Re: Reverend Michael S. Nocita.

Your Eminence:

I write with regard to the matter of Father Michael Nocita, a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California. He is presently domiciled within our Archdiocese. Father Nocita has been accused of *graviora delicta*.

Michael Nocita was born on May 4, 1950, in San Jose, California, U.S.A. He attended Our Lady Queen of Angels Junior Seminary, San Fernando, California, during the years 1964 to 1968. Then he entered St. John's College Seminary, Camarillo, California, and graduated from there in 1972. In that same year he began his theological studies at St. John's Seminary Theologate. In 1976 he was ordained to the Diaconate. Serious questions about Deacon Nocita's readiness for orders on the part of the faculty and rector of the seminary led to a delay of his ordination to the Priesthood. Eventually, on June 10, 1977, he was ordained to the Priesthood for service in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Father Nocita served in a number of assignments. In October 2000, it came to the attention of the Archdiocese that Father Nocita had, on his own initiative, sought civil employment. The faculties of the Archdiocese formerly entrusted to him were revoked on October 23, 2000.

In December 2003, the Archdiocese was notified that REDACTED and REDACTED had initiated legal action against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, claiming damages because of actions perpetrated against them by Father Nocita. Both, now adults, claim that when they were minors they were sexually abused by Father Nocita. REDACTED claims that in 1975 to 1976 Father Nocita performed acts of sexual abuse and molestation on her that included kissing, fondling of genitals over clothes, forced masturbation, forced oral copulation, and digital penetration of the vagina.

409676

*Letter to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Regarding Reverend Michael S. Nocita
Page 2 of 3*

REDACTED claims that Father Nocita sexually groomed, abused and molested her. This included kissing, rubbing or messaging of the body over the clothes, sexual talk, harassment, pre-sexual grooming. In addition to the allegations made in the suit, REDACTED wrote a forty-two page statement to the Archdiocese in which describes in great detail Father Nocita's inappropriate verbal and physical behavior toward her and his sexual abuse of her. That statement reads in part:

I was romantically led on by a catholic priest when I was between the ages of 14 and 17. His romantic advances began when I was a 14 years old freshman at Bishop Montgomery Catholic High School. Father Nocita involved me in substantial physical and romantic affection that incited my feelings.

In July, 2002, Dr. REDACTED Staff Psvchiatrist at San Pedro Mental Health Clinic, San Pedro, California, wrote tha REDACTED came to his Clinic for treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder purported to have been the result of Father Nocita's behavior with her. He wrote that REDACTED related symptoms back to age 14 at which time she was sexually violated by Father Nocita.

Allegations of abusive activity on the part of Father Nocita do not emerge in a vacuum. Other credible reports have reached the Archdiocese of imprudent contacts between Father Nocita and members of the opposite sex. In April 1988, a report was received that sometime between the years 1980 to 1982, while Father Nocita was assigned to St. Paul's High School, Santa Fe Springs, California. Father Nocita was intimate with a young girl named REDACTED On April 26, 2002 REDACTED spoke with a representative of the Archdiocese about that relationship. She said that from 1981 to 1983 she had a relationship with Father Nocita and that this relationship continued for a little while after she finished high school. The relationship began with kisses on the cheek and hugs. Soon it developed into fondling and touching her breasts. Once he pushed her head down to his genitals so as to have her touch them. Sometimes they were dressed; sometimes they were undressed. He liked for her to take her clothes off and lay with him. He would lay on top of her. On one occasion he tried to have sex with her.

In 1990, Mrs. REDACTED wrote a letter to the Archdiocese in which she claimed that while Father Nocita was principal of Alamany High School, he began a relationship with her daughter who was 17 years old at the beginning of the relationship. This relationship included promises of marriage. Mrs. REDACTED was terribly concerned for the well being of her daughter and indeed for the wellbeing of Father Nocita. Mrs. REDACTED appears to be a very credible person.

Thus far it has not been possible to conduct a preliminary investigation into the allegations that have been made against Father Nocita, and he has not been heard by a canonical auditor to learn of his response to these allegations. For that reason the precise nature of these allegations cannot

*Letter to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Regarding Reverend Michael S. Nocita
Page 3 of 3*

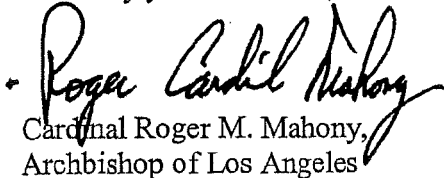
be determined. However, from the evidence available at this time, the allegations do seem to bear a semblance of truth and qualify as *graviora delicta*. Therefore, as mandated by the norm of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, I am referring this matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Father Nocita has, sometime within the past couple of years attempted marriage. He has given no indication that he intends to petition Our Holy Father for a dispensation from the obligation of Sacred Orders. His attempt at marriage suggests that he has no intention of returning to active ministry even if he could be rehabilitated. Given what is known about his behavior, his presence in our community as a Catholic priest runs the risk of confusing our Catholic people.

Furthermore, the pending civil litigation involving Father Nocita is bound to generate unwanted publicity. It will be imperative that, at an opportune time, the church move to determine what should be Father Nocita's status. In order to be found in compliance with your directive that cases of this nature be referred to your Dicastery prior to the Solemnity of Christ the King of this year, I respectfully request a dispensation from prescription so that appropriate action can be taken in this case. My intention is that when time and circumstances permit, I will commission the appropriate investigation, and then seek guidance from your Dicastery on how to proceed in this matter.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. Please be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Cardinal Roger M. Mahony,
Archbishop of Los Angeles

attachments

DIOCESE	Los Angeles in California
NAME OF ORDINARY	Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
CDF PROT. N. (if available)	
NAME OF CLERIC	Reverend Michael S. Nocita

PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE CLERIC	Date of Birth	4 May 1950	Age	54
	Ordination	10 June 1977	Years of ministry	14
ORIGINAL DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION		Los Angeles in California		
MINISTRY IN/TRANSFER TO OTHER DIOCESE		REDACTED		
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE CLERIC				
PROCURATOR (include original signed mandate)				
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE PROCURATOR				
ASSIGNMENTS				
Year	Parish	Location	Appointment	
1977	Mary Star of the Sea	San Pedro, California	Parochial Vicar	
1980	St. Paul High School	Santa Fe Springs, California	Faculty	
1980	St. Bruno	Whittier, California	Residence	
1982	Bishop Montgomery High School	Torrance, California	Faculty	
1982	Maria Regina	Gardena, California	Residence	
1983	American Martyrs	Manhattan Beach	Residence	
1984	Paraclete High School	Palmdale, California	Faculty	
1984	Sacred Heart	Lancaster, California	Residence	
1987	Bishop Alemany High School	Mission Hills, California	Faculty	
1987	Our Lady Queen of the Angels High School Seminary	Mission Hills, California	Residence	
1989	St. Timothy	Los Angeles, California	Parochial Vicar	
1991			Inactive Leave	

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE CLERIC				
Year	Victim	Age	Imputable Acts	Denunciation
1983	REDACTED	14	Engaging in sexual talk to encourage the girl to fall in love with him (including speaking of marrying her), holding in a sexual manner for extended periods, kissing of face and head and ears, stroking and massaging the girl's hair and body, holding hands and stroking the palm, romantic and sexual phone calls.	2002
1975		16	Digital penetration of the girl's vagina, mutual oral copulation, forcing the girl to masturbate him, masturbating of the girl, fondling of genitals both over and under clothing, fondling breasts and buttocks, kissing and sucking of breasts, simulating intercourse and ejaculating on the girl, kissing of the body,, French kissing, using hymns, prayers and religious articles while engaging in the abuse.	2003, although she claims to have informed another priest in 1976, there is no record of this.
1981		15	Pushed her head down to his genitals and attempted to have sex with her.	1988

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC			
Year	Type/Case	Conviction	Sentence (include copies of civil documents)
2003	Civil lawsuit for damages (BC308295) REDACTED and REDACTED	pending	

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE	
Year	
2000	Faculties of Father Nocita formally removed. He had been out of service for many years, but previously there had been no formal revocation.

SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE TO THE CLERIC
Transitional assistance at the time he sought a leave of absence in 1991.

RESPONSE/RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC	
Year	

BISHOP'S VOTUM	
<p>Since Father Nocita has been out of active priestly service for some time, and due to the need to investigate other cases of priests currently serving, it has not yet been possible to conduct a canon 1717 investigation into the allegations against Father Nocita. Since one of the alleged delicts was denounced in 1988, I hereby request a dispensation from prescription in order to be able to employ the appropriate canonical process should the preliminary investigation provide sufficient evidence.</p>	



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of the
Vicar for Canonical Services
Phone: (213) 637-7888
Fax: (213) 637-6888

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

28 February 2006

The Most Reverend Gabriel Montalvo
Apostolic Nunciature to the United States of America
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

RE: Prot. No. 25.830
Rev. Michael S. Nocita
Graviora Delicta and Petition for Dispensation
from Clerical Obligations

Your Excellency,

Enclosed is a letter, with attachments, from Cardinal Roger Michael Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles, addressed to Cardinal-Designate William Joseph Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, regarding the above-captioned case.

I would respectfully ask you to forward these items to the Congregation.

With gratitude for your kind assistance in this matter, and assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Thomas C. Anslow, C.M.
Vicar for Canonical Services

(Enclosure)

409682



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

Re: The Reverend Michael S. Nocita
Graviora Delicta and Petition for
Dispensation from Clerical Obligations

27 February 2006

Cardinal-Designate William Joseph Levada
Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Vatican City

Your Eminence:

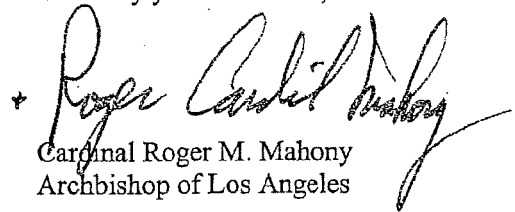
In a previous letter dated 19 November 2004, I had submitted the case of the Reverend Michael S. Nocita to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; Father Nocita is a priest of the Archdiocese who has been accused of *graviora delicta* which, in article 4 of *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela*, are reserved to the Congregation. At the time of that submission, I had not provided the necessary documentation to the Congregation, as the preliminary investigation had not been concluded, nor was there then any indication that Father Nocita — who had entered a civil marital union some years earlier — would petition our Holy Father for a dispensation from the obligations of clerical celibacy. However, the following December, Father Nocita did indeed address such a petition to the Holy Father, and said petition was duly forwarded to the Congregation through the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C. that same month of December 2004 (copy of petition included with accompanying documentation).

As noted in my previous letter, Father Nocita has been accused of multiple episodes of sexual abuse of minor girls. The initial evaluation of the claims advanced against Father Nocita showed that the accusations had the semblance of truth, wherefore a preliminary investigation was begun; I herewith transmit to the Congregation the results of that investigation.

Enclosed also is my *votum*, addressed to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, regarding Father Nocita's petition for a dispensation from clerical obligations. I respectfully seek the assistance of your good offices in forwarding this *votum*, which is definitively in favor of granting the aforesaid petition, to its high destination.

With gratitude for your kind help, and with the assurance of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Enclosures

409683



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

VOTUM OF THE ORDINARY OF INCARDINATION
CARDINAL ROGER MICHAEL MAHONY
ARCHBISHOP OF LOS ANGELES IN CALIFORNIA

Re: The Reverend Michael S. Nocita
Graviora Delicta and Petition for
Dispensation from Clerical Obligations

27 February 2006

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City

Your Holiness:

It is with sadness and a sense of urgency that I write with regard to the petition for dispensation from the obligations of Holy Orders and clerical celibacy made freely by the Reverend Michael S. Nocita, a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California. (The original petition was sent to Rome in December 2004, via the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC; a copy of that original document is attached hereto, together with a complete report of Father Nocita's situation.)

Father Nocita, even before his ordination to the sacred priesthood, was involved in romantic and intimate relationships with teenage girls, and after ordination this pattern of behavior continued, bringing harm to many members of God's people. An unspecified serious indiscretion committed by Michael Nocita before ordination to priesthood caused the Seminary faculty to recommend that his ordination be delayed. Although lingering doubts and reservations about his suitability for priesthood persisted, Michael Nocita was eventually ordained.

In 1988, the Archdiocese received the first report of imprudent contacts between Nocita and a teenage girl; the Archdiocese later came to learn that the relationship was intimate and continued for 2-3 years. In 1990, the Archdiocese received a letter from a mother complaining about a relationship between Nocita and her daughter that had begun when the girl was a 17-year-old student at the Catholic high school where Father Nocita was serving as principal.

The following year, 1991, Father Nocita left the active ministry and accepted a position with a secular employer. He was placed on inactive leave from the Archdiocese.

409684

Votum of Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Regarding the Reverend Michael S. Nocita
Page 2 of 2

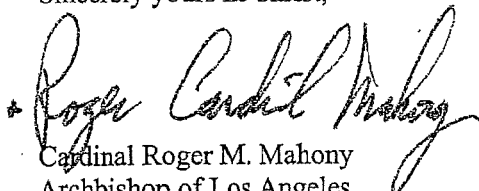
In December 2003, the Archdiocese was notified that two women had filed lawsuits against it, claiming damages for sexual abuse perpetrated against them by Father Nocita when they were minors. Some years prior to this, Father Nocita had entered a civil marital union; that union perdures to this day.

Given Father Nocita's past history of manipulative and abusive relationships with underage girls, as well as the fact of his current civil marital union and secular employment, his presence in the community as a Catholic priest runs the risk of causing confusion and scandal not only for our Catholic people but also for other citizens of good will. Moreover, he has no desire, nor possibility, of returning to active ministry, and the pending civil litigation in which he is involved may generate negative publicity. His laicization, therefore, could only redound to the good of the Church; moreover, Father Nocita is himself convinced that a return to the lay state would also be in his best interest, with a view to his spiritual welfare.

For these reasons, it appears imperative that the Church move promptly to protect the faithful from further danger of outrage and scandal by decisively terminating Father Nocita's status as a priest. Accordingly, I hereby offer my *votum* definitively IN FAVOR OF GRANTING THE AFORESAID PETITION.

With gratitude for your kind attention to this matter, and with the assurance of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Enclosures

CURIA OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES IN CALIFORNIA

RE: MICHAEL S. NOCITA

Report of Alleged *Graviora Delicta*

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DIOCESE	Los Angeles in California
NAME OF ORDINARY	Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
CDF PROT. No.	656/2004 – 21484
NAME OF CLERIC	Reverend Michael S. Nocita

PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE CLERIC	Date of Birth	4 May 1950	Age	55
	Ordination	10 June 1977	Years of ministry	14
ORIGINAL DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION		Los Angeles in California		
MINISTRY IN/TRANSFER TO OTHER DIOCESE		None		
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE CLERIC		REDACTED		
PROCURATOR (include original signed mandate)		None		
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE PROCURATOR		None		
ASSIGNMENTS				
Year	Parish	Location	Appointment	
1977	Mary Star of the Sea	San Pedro, California	Parochial Vicar	
1980	St. Paul High School	Santa Fe Springs, California	Faculty	
1980	St. Bruno	Whittier, California	Residence	
1982	Bishop Montgomery High School	Torrance, California	Faculty	
1982	Maria Regina	Gardena, California	Residence	
1983	American Martyrs	Manhattan Beach	Residence	
1984	Paraclete High School	Palmdale, California	Faculty	
1984	Sacred Heart	Lancaster, California	Residence	
1987	Bishop Alemany High School	Mission Hills, California	Faculty	
1987	Our Lady Queen of the Angels High School Seminary	Mission Hills, California	Residence	
1989	St. Timothy	Los Angeles, California	Parochial Vicar	
1991			Inactive Leave	

409687

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE CLERIC				
Year	Victim	Age	Imputable Acts	Denunciation
1983	REDACTED	14	Engaging in sexual talk to encourage the girl to fall in love with him (including speaking of marrying her), holding in a sexual manner for extended periods, kissing of face and head and ears, stroking and massaging the girl's hair and body, holding hands and stroking the palm, romantic and sexual phone calls.	2002
1975		16	Digital penetration of the girl's vagina, mutual oral copulation, forcing the girl to masturbate him, masturbating the girl, fondling of genitals both over and under clothing, fondling breasts and buttocks, kissing and sucking of breasts, simulating intercourse and ejaculating on the girl, kissing of the body, French kissing, using hymns, prayers and religious articles while engaging in the abuse.	2003, although she claims to have informed another priest in 1976, there is no record of this.
1981		15	Pushed her head down to his genitals and attempted to have sex with her.	1988

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC			
Year	Type/Case	Conviction	Sentence (include copies of civil documents)
2003	Civil lawsuit for damages (BC308295, REDACTED and REDACTED)	pending	

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE	
Year	
2000	Faculties of Father Nocita formally revoked. He had been out of service for many years, but previously there had been no formal revocation.

SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE TO THE CLERIC	
Transitional assistance at the time he sought a leave of absence in 1991.	

RESPONSE/RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC	
Year	
2004	Petition addressed to Holy Father seeking voluntary laicization

BISHOP'S VOTUM

Given Father Nocita's history of manipulative and abusive relationships with underage girls, as well as the fact of his current civil marital union and secular employment, his presence in the community as a Catholic priest runs the risk of causing confusion and scandal not only for the Catholic faithful but also for other citizens of good will. Moreover, he has no desire, nor possibility, of returning to active ministry, and the pending civil litigation in which he is involved may generate negative publicity. His laicization, therefore, could only redound to the good of the Church; moreover, Father Nocita is himself convinced that a return to the lay state would also be in his best interest, with a view to his spiritual welfare.

For these reasons, it appears imperative that the Church move promptly to protect the faithful from further danger of outrage and scandal by decisively terminating Father Nocita's status as a priest. Accordingly, and since Father Nocita has voluntarily petitioned the Holy Father for laicization, the *votum* expressed is definitively IN FAVOR OF GRANTING THE AFORESAID PETITION.

REPORT

Results of Preliminary Investigation of *Graviora Delicta* Allegedly Committed by the Reverend Michael S. Nocita

SPECIES FACTI

The Reverend Michael S. Nocita was born on 4 May 1950 and was ordained a priest for service in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on 10 June 1977; his ordination to priesthood had been delayed because of serious questions about his maturity and readiness to undertake the sacred ministry.

After ordination, Nocita served as Parochial Vicar in Mary Star of the Sea Parish (San Pedro, CA, 1977-1980) and in St. Timothy Parish (Los Angeles, CA, 1989-1991). In the intervening years he served as a faculty member of St. Paul High School (Santa Fe Springs, CA, 1980-1982) and of Bishop Montgomery High School (Torrance, CA, 1982-1984), and as principal of Paraclete High School (Palmdale, CA, 1984-1987) and of Bishop Alemany High School (Mission Hills, CA, 1987-1989). In 1991, Nocita abandoned the active ministry and was placed on inactive leave.

In 1988, the Archdiocese received the first report of imprudent contacts between Nocita and a teenage girl: it was reported that in 1980-1982 Nocita was intimate with a young girl named REDACTED. Two years later, the Archdiocese received a letter from a mother complaining about a relationship between Nocita and her daughter, REDACTED that had begun when the girl was a 17-year-old student at Alemany High School.

REDACTED In December 2003, the Archdiocese was notified that REDACTED and REDACTED had filed lawsuits against it, claiming damages for sexual abuse perpetrated against them by Nocita when they were minors.

IN FACTO

Everything presented here is drawn from documents on file in the archives of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, copies of which are attached hereto as numbered Exhibits.

Alleged Victim No. 1: REDACTED born REDACTED 1958, 16-17 years old at time of alleged abuse

The victim claims that, while a parishioner at St. Bridget of Sweden Church where Nocita was assigned as a deacon, she was sexually abused by Nocita from about October 1975 until about September 1976. She met Nocita when she was upset and depressed at having broken up with her boyfriend; she was in her room crying and her mother, who was preparing an early dinner for Nocita (who was the new deacon at St. Bridget's), asked Nocita to go up and talk to the victim. The abuse started on that occasion.

The abuse allegedly occurred numerous times every week and included: digital penetration of victim's vagina by Nocita; oral copulation by Nocita and oral copulation performed on Nocita; victim being forced to masturbate Nocita; Nocita fondling victim's genitalia, breasts and buttocks; Nocita kissing and sucking victim's breasts; simulation of intercourse; Nocita hugging and kissing victim in a sexual manner. The abuse is reported to have taken place in various locations including: the victim's home, the sacristy at St. Bridget of Sweden

Church, Nocita's room at St. John's Seminary, Nocita's parents' house (see Exhibit 1, Mediation Document for REDACTED)

Alleged Victim No. 2: REDACTED birthdate unrecorded, 15-18 years old at time of alleged abuse

In 1988, a report was made to notice by a therapist concerning allegations of sexual abuse by Nocita against REDACTED then 23 years old, who had told the therapist that she had fallen in love with Nocita and had been intimate with him in 1980-1982. The L.A. Sheriff's Department, to whom the report had been made, would not pursue the matter criminally because the statute of limitations had expired. An L.A. Sheriff's Department Detective spoke to archdiocesan authorities about the report (see Exhibit 2, Memorandum of 19 April 1988).

In May 2002, the Diocese of Sacramento contacted the Archdiocese of Los Angeles regarding communications with REDACTED in which REDACTED spoke of the sexual abuse she allegedly suffered from Nocita. REDACTED stated that when she was a 15-year-old sophomore at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, Nocita began a relationship with her that continued until shortly after she finished high school. The abuse included: Nocita touching REDACTED breasts; kissing her; pushing her head down to his genitals; lying on top of her while both were clad only in their undergarments, the victim without her bra; attempting to have intercourse with victim; Nocita stating that he loved the victim and that he wanted them to be together (see Exhibit 3, Letter of 23 May 2002).

The following month of June, Nocita was informed of the accusations made by the victim and he indicated that he was very surprised to hear of them (see Exhibit 4, File Memo of 3 June 2002).

Alleged Victim No. 3: REDACTED born REDACTED 1969, 14-15 years old at time of alleged abuse

REDACTED met Nocita when she entered Bishop Montgomery High School as a freshman at 14 years of age. She reports that he went to great pains to have her fall in love with him. Abusive actions included: holding her close, in a sexual manner; bumping up against her buttocks with the front of his pelvis; leaning his body against her body; kissing her face and head; moving his lips against her ears; stroking her hair, face and arms in a sexual manner; rubbing and massaging her body over her clothes; holding her hand; engaging in sexual and romantic talk with her.

After REDACTED freshman year, Nocita was transferred from Bishop Montgomery High School, but he continued to exchange phone calls with REDACTED, at times making romantic or sexual comments. By the time she was a senior, REDACTED had grown bitter and ambivalent towards Nocita, resenting him for having stolen her high school years (see Exhibit 5, Mediation Document for REDACTED)

Adminicula

After being ordained to the diaconate and subsequently called for ordination to the priesthood, Nocita's priestly ordination was delayed because of questions about his maturity and readiness for priesthood (see Exhibit 6, Correspondence regarding Nocita's Suitability for Ordination, September-December 1976). An unspecified "serious indiscretion" committed by Nocita raised grave concerns, and the Seminary faculty was unable to recommend Nocita for ordination to the priesthood (see Exhibit 7, Letter to Cardinal Manning, 16 February 1977).

Michael S. Nocita
Report of graviora delicta
Page 3 of 4

Cardinal Manning met with Nocita, was favorably impressed by him and recommended that he meet informally with some of the Seminary faculty to discuss their doubts in his regard (see Exhibit 8, Letter of Cardinal Manning, 2 March 1977). This informal meeting took place, but did not resolve the doubts that were present: after the meeting, the Rector found that "basic questions concerning his maturity, open-mindedness, prudence and self-perception" still remained; the Academic Dean opined that while Nocita "is far from a perfect candidate ... [he] probably has sufficient qualities to be ordained. This is my opinion, that is, a judgment coupled with fear of error. I am still convinced, however, that haste in ordaining him is not desirable. I think that December of this year should be the earliest time for ordination to the priesthood" (see Exhibit 9, Letters to Cardinal Manning, 19 April 1977). These doubts and reservations notwithstanding, Nocita was ordained to the priesthood less than two months later.

In October 1990, archdiocesan authorities received a letter from Mrs. REDACTED who was outraged and alarmed that Nocita — 40 years old and a priest — had been dating her 20-year-old daughter REDACTED lavishing expensive gifts on her and saying he would marry her. The relationship between the two evidently began while REDACTED was a senior at Alemany High School and Nocita was the principal. Mrs. REDACTED expressed great worry that Nocita "is emotionally destroying my daughter"; she judged him to be "very confused about himself, both as a priest and one who is in a mid-life transition". She concluded by saying: "this one priest has the power to destroy my family and my hopes and dreams for my daughter. She is no match for his convincing manner, analogies and powers of persuasion" (see Exhibit 10, Letter of Mrs. REDACTED 30 April 1990).

Later that same year, further complaints prompted great concern in archdiocesan authorities, who noted that there were reports of Cardinal Manning having been asked not to ordain Nocita because of his involvement with women; these same archdiocesan authorities voiced fears that Nocita might be obsessed with having relationships with young women (see Exhibit 11, Memorandum and Correspondence of December 1990).

The following year, 1991, Nocita left the active ministry and was placed on inactive leave (see Exhibit 12, Memorandum of 29 March 1991); Nocita had earlier accepted secular employment, and was quoted in a press report as saying — falsely — that "the Church was open about this [his secular employment], I left in good standing" (see Exhibit 13, Article from La Cañada Valley Sun, 28 February 1991). Because of the lack of truth in the statement as reported in the media, and because Nocita's new position had him working with young children, the Archdiocese insisted that Nocita inform his employer of the incorrectness of the statements he made and that a letter be sent by his employer to the Archdiocese acknowledging the inaccuracy of the statements made by Nocita; in this way the Archdiocese would be protected in the event of future allegations concerning Nocita and there would be a letter from Nocita's employer correcting the public record (see Exhibit 14, Memoranda of March 1991). Nocita did as had been requested of him, and his employer sent the Archdiocese a letter acknowledging that Nocita had accepted his new position "without any knowledge by proper authority within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles" (see Exhibit 15, Letter from La Cañada Youth House — Community Center, 25 March 1991).

In October 2003, a decree was issued revoking the faculties formerly entrusted to Nocita (see Exhibit 16, Decree of 23 October 2003), and at the end of that same year, REDACTED and REDACTED (Alleged Victims Nos. 1 and 3 above) filed a civil lawsuit against the Archdiocese claiming damages for the sexual abuse allegedly suffered at the hands of Nocita (see Exhibit 17, Record of Lawsuit Filed 23 December 2003 before the Superior Court of the State of California). Some years earlier, Nocita had entered into a civil marital union.

Michael S. Nocita
Report of graviora delicta
Page 4 of 4

In December 2004, Nocita addressed a petition to His Holiness Pope John Paul II seeking a dispensation from the obligations of the sacred order of priesthood and the related obligations of the clerical state. Said petition was transmitted to the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC, which then forwarded it to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome (see Exhibit 18, Petition for Laicization and Related Correspondence, December 2004).

CONCLUSION

From the evidence brought forth in the preliminary investigation it appears likely that delicts, as described in canon 2359 §2 and §3 of the 1917 Code, have been committed. However, since the 1983 Code has suppressed reference to the delicts mentioned in canon 2359 §3 of the 1917 Code, and as per the prescriptions of canon 6 §1, 4° and canon 1313 of the 1983 Code, these delicts are no longer to be imputed, but only the delicts mentioned in canon 2359 §2 of the previous Code, since these are maintained in canon 1395 §2 of the present Code.

TAB 1

409694

NOV 17 11

MEDIATION DOCUMENTATION

FOR

REDACTED

REDACTED

TAB 2

409712

CONFIDENTIALMEMORANDUM

DATE: April 19, 1988
 FROM: Monsignor Curry
 TO: Archbishop Mahony
 RE: Father Michael Nocita

REDACTED spoke to a Detective, REDACTED, of the Sheriff's Department about a report that had been made to the police by a therapist concerning Mike Nocita.

A 23-year old woman named REDACTED told her therapist she had fallen in love with Mike while he was assigned to St. Paul's, Santa Fe Springs, in 1980-1982, and that he had been intimate with her, mostly in his car. She does not claim there was intercourse involved.

The Detective mentioned that the statute of limitations had run out, and that the police would not pursue the matter. The young woman does not wish to cooperate in any way with the police and is very upset that the therapist reported the matter. However, it appears that she may still be very much in contact with Mike, and she claims to be very confused by his periodic promises to leave and marry her. She has told Mike about the matter being reported. He met REDACTED at a meeting this morning and told him the police would be making a report. He claims to have hugged the girl, but says he did nothing else.

REDACTED was principal during the period in question and knows Mike was very friendly with this girl. The Detective is going for oral surgery and will come to see REDACTED and give him a report, probably early next week.

REDACTED and I met this afternoon and decided we should probably wait for a written report before taking any action.

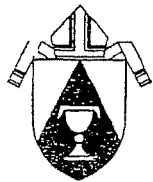
J concern -

+ RMM

4-19-88

TAB 3

409714



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818-2541 • 916/733-0225 • Fax 916/733-0224

OFFICE OF
CANONICAL AFFAIRS

May 23, 2002

Rev. Msgr. Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Msgr. Cox:

This letter confirms our telephone conversation of yesterday regarding Father Michael Nocita. Enclosed is a summary of my telephone conversations with Ms REDACTED who lives in the Diocese of Sacramento. As we discussed, I told her that I had spoken with you yesterday and that she should expect to hear from REDACTED regarding pastoral counseling and eventually she would hear from you directly.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me. I appreciate your assistance in this matter. You and your staff are in my prayers as we face this crisis together. May God bless you in your work. Thank you.

Sincerely,
REDACTED

Diocese of Sacramento

409715

RECEIVED
MAY 28 2002
BY: _____

CONFIDENTIAL

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH REDACTED on April 26,
 2002 at 9:35 a.m. by REDACTED Pastoral Response Team, Diocese of Sacramento. Me
 REDACTED her address is REDACTED
 REDACTED

REDACTED called our hotline on April 25, 2002 at 2:31 p.m. I returned her call on April 26th. The following are the important points made during that telephone conversation.

- REDACTED is 37 years old; when she was fifteen years old, she attended St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, CA
- During her sophomore year, a new priest came to the school - Fr. Michael Nocita who was approximately 30 years old at the time
- From 1981-1983, she had a relationship with Father Nocita; this relationship continued for a little while after she finished high school
- Father Nocita used to kiss the girls on the cheek and hug them; he told her he did this so that no one would find out about their relationship
- She was a shy person and Father Nocita came up to after Mass at the school (she went to Mass at lunch time with her brother James) and asked her, "Did you pray for me?"; he called her REDACTED and she told that was not her name; he then asked, "Oh, what's your name?" and she told him; he asked her if she would light the candles for him before Mass everyday; he also gave her a huge hug everyday; at the time, she did not have a good family life
- Father Nocita was young, handsome and popular; after two months of hugs, he kissed her on the lips; she stood there frozen and he asked her, "Well, aren't you going to kiss me back?"; she kissed him on the cheek and ran away; she told her brother and her friend and they didn't believe her - she then started doubting herself
- Father Nocita wrote poetry to her and walked her to classes; he got her out of Spanish and Music classes so they could be together; they had a relationship; he said they were going to get married; she told him that she didn't feel good about it and it was making her sick; he said, "How dare you? Jesus gave us the love - you're spitting in His face."
- There was a lot of fondling; he took her to the rectory; he touched her breasts; they never had sexual intercourse; they kissed and "made out"; once he pushed her head down to his genitals, she kissed him there and stopped; he wanted her to touch his genitals

- There was a lot of kissing, groping, fondling; sometimes they were dressed, sometimes undressed; he liked her to take her clothes off and lay with him; they both had their underwear on except she took off her bra; he would lay on top of her; on one occasion, Father Nocita tried to have sex with her - maybe he could show her
- The relationship ended when she went away to college in Irvine, CA; she wrote him a letter and told him that she wanted to move on and wished him well; he then called her (by then he was at Lancaster High School) crying and said, "No, you can't do this. Please let me see you."; she saw him - they hugged and talked; he was probably seeing other girls at the same time
- REDACTED started feeling suicidal when she 20, 21, 22 years old; she told Father Nocita that she wanted to see a counselor; he said she should talk to his good friend REDACTED who was the Communications Director for the Diocese at that time; Father Nocita told her that REDACTED counseled people
- She saw REDACTED and told him everything and said that she was worried that it was molestation; REDACTED said, "Oh now, this is a once in a lifetime thing. He (Father Nocita) loves you."; he assured her that there were no other girls
- Father Nocita came to see her after this counseling session and asked her what she thought; he reassured her that he loved her and that they would be together
- She had a good friend from high school who had become a counselor; her friend referred her to another counselor in the same building by the name of REDACTED who was a molest victim herself; REDACTED was initially protective of Father Nocita, but the counselor was pushing her for the priest's name because it needed to be reported to the police; told her she needed to report it; she said no; REDACTED filed a police report; Ms. REDACTED called Father Nocita to warn him; he said she didn't have to talk to the police and to say that the counselor misunderstood and that she was in love with him (i.e. don't bring his feelings into it)
- Later, Father Nocita and REDACTED St. Paul High School, were at a function together; REDACTED approached Father Nocita and asked him about the police report involving REDACTED Father Nocita said it was just a misunderstanding; REDACTED (who knew REDACTED very well) said "You mean to tell me you think she's lying." and walked away from Father Nocita; Father Nocita told her that REDACTED was rude to him
- Some of her friends told her that Father Nocita had kissed them while they were at the school; Father Nocita named other priest who had girlfriends, REDACTED (she knows this priest knows about their relationship), REDACTED and others; there may be other girls who were involved with these priests; she has since had some

counseling (saw REDACTED from May 1996 to 2000, in Sacramento), but would like to start again if assistance can be provided.

I again spoke to REDACTED on May 21, 2002. She told me that she was mostly interested in programs - assistance with counseling. I told her that I had called Msgr. Cox of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and left a message. She said these priests believed in having girlfriends. She recently heard a rumor from a friend from high school that Father Nocita had married a student from another school who was five years younger than REDACTED

I spoke to her again on May 23, 2002 and told her about my telephone conversation with Msgr. Cox. I said that both priests are out of ministry and that in fact, Father Nocita had left the priesthood and got married. I explained to her that I would be sending information about our initial phone conversation to Msgr. Cox. She would be hearing from REDACTED regarding pastoral counseling and eventually from Msgr. Cox. She said she didn't want to be counseled by another REDACTED -type. I told her that she probably could have a Catholic or non-Catholic lay counselor. Finally, I said I would be sending her a confirming letter about the referral to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles very soon. She thanked me for our assistance.

TAB 4

409719

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Michael Nocita
DATE: 3 June 2002

I spoke with Michael Nocita on the phone today and summarized for him the essence of the claims made by REDACTED. I had indicated to him that I expected no response. All Michael said is that he was "very surprised" to hear of this complaint.

He promised to stay in touch if he hears anything.

TAB 5

409721

NOTED

MEDIATION DOCUMENTATION

FOR

REDACTED

TAB 6

409732

+ A/B
NOCITA is at
Mary Star of the Sea
with Msgr. Karjal
VICE OF THE RECTOR

ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY
5012 EAST SEMINARY ROAD
CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA 93010

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 805
482-2755

2

September 29, 1976

His Eminence
Cardinal Timothy Manning
Archbishop of Los Angeles
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

Your Eminence:

Thank you for your letter of September 20 concerning the possible time for the ordination of the Reverend Mr. Michael Nocita to the priesthood. My understanding from our telephone conversation in May was that Mr. Nocita was to serve as a deacon for six months after completing his studies at the Seminary. As I reflect back upon our conversation I realize that it was not clear, at least in my own mind, whether Mr. Nocita was to be ordained at the end of six months or that at the end of six months his case was to be re-evaluated and if all appeared positive a date for ordination would then be set.

My own
recommendation
is approach
longest
wait
for
evaluation

My own recommendation would be the latter, namely, that at the end of November Mr. Nocita's pastor be requested to send an evaluation of Mr. Nocita to you in view of his readiness for ordination to the priesthood and that you speak with him concerning possible ordination. If all appears positive then a date for ordination could be set in January.

The other approach would be to ask Mr. Nocita's pastor for an evaluation now and if all appears positive then a date could be set for the end of November.

I recommend waiting until the end of November before seeking an evaluation or setting a date because I believe that a better judgment on Mr. Nocita's suitability can be made at the end of six months rather than after only four months.

I hope that above has been helpful.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
REDACTED

REDACTED

409733

MEMORANDUM

Michael Nocita called me some three weeks ago to ask if the Cardinal was now ready to give him a date for his ordination to the priesthood. The Cardinal consulted REDACTED and his reply is included in this file. His Eminence asked me to communicate his decision to Mr. Nocita since he himself does not have an opportunity in the immediate future to meet with him. Today I talked with Michael Nocita on the phone and explained to him that it was the Cardinal's decision after some consultation to sustain his previous decision and have an evaluation after six months from the original time of deferment. The six months will be up at the end of November. At that time the Cardinal will make a decision which will be duly communicated to Mr. Nocita.

He appeared to be confused by this decision since it was his understanding that the evaluation would be ongoing and he thought a decision would be made within the six month period. He was, however, very receptive and open to the Cardinal's decision. He asked me to assure the Cardinal of his deep personal thanks for the exceptional understanding and care which was accorded him by His Eminence. I get the impression that Mr. Nocita is very negative and suspicious toward REDACTED REDACTED and is apprehensive about his being consulted.

Mr. Nocita will expect some communication after November 30.

REDACTED

October 13, 1976

409734

CCI 005234

ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY
5012 EAST SEMINARY ROAD
CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA 93010

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 805
482-2755

OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

+HB
Recommendation to be delayed from ordination. Still Seminary Faculty can give a positive votum. fel 2

December 21, 1976

His Eminence
Cardinal Timothy Manning
Archbishop of Los Angeles
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

Your Eminence:

I was very happy to receive the positive report on the Reverend Mr. Michael Nocita by REDACTED and his positive votum. I brought this matter to the faculty at our meeting on December 17. In the discussion that followed it was pointed out by the Academic Dean, REDACTED that Mr. Nocita has not yet made up a failing grade that he received in the second semester of his fourth year in the course on the priesthood. He received this failing grade because he had not done any of the written work for the course throughout the semester. I know that he was reminded of his responsibility to make up this grade more than once by REDACTED who taught the course. However, Mr. Nocita has done nothing about removing this failing grade. We believe that he should before he is ordained.

In view of this fact and the fact that we at the Seminary have had practically no contact with Mr. Nocita since last May, the faculty does not wish to express a judgment about whether Mr. Nocita should now be ordained to the priesthood.

My own recommendation, with some hesitation, is positive. My basis for this positive recommendation is REDACTED s report and his recommendation that Mr. Nocita be advanced to the priesthood. My hesitation flows from the four years that I have known Mr. Nocita and the behavior patterns which I have seen in him over this period of time. My prayer is that he has learned the need to be totally open with others about what he is thinking and to be open to ideas other than his own and to take counsel in difficult situations.

Sincerely yours in Christ.
REDACTED

REDACTED

MEMORANDUM:

Re.: MICHAEL NOCITA

On December 22nd, on the occasion of a visit to the Seminary, I spoke to REDACTED about this letter.

I refused to accept the reply which they have given. I feel it is the duty of the faculty to give me a positive recommendation one way or the other. This he has subsequently done, as per the attached letter.

REDACTED

CARDINAL MANNING

December 28, 1976

409736

CCI 005236

ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY
5012 EAST SEMINARY ROAD
CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA 93010

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 805
482-2755

VICE OF THE RECTOR

AB

Return

December 23, 1976

*Recommend
this course of
action
J.P.
12/24 Dec 76*

His Eminence
Cardinal Timothy Manning
Archbishop of Los Angeles
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

Your Eminence:

Thank you for coming up last evening and sharing our Christmas dinner with us here at the Seminary. As always, we greatly enjoyed your visit.

Regarding the case of the Reverend Mr. Michael Nocita, I have consulted informally with the faculty and we have decided upon the following course of action. According to our policy we will not consider a petition for Orders if a student has an incomplete course on his record or has failed a course and not made it up. In accord with this policy we do not feel that we can make a recommendation to you on Mr. Nocita's case until he has made up the course on the priesthood which he flunked last year and never made up. Hence, I am going to write to Mr. Nocita and inform him of this fact and tell him that once the course has been satisfactorily completed we will take up his case and make our recommendation to you. While we are awaiting his completion of the course I am going to get together with REDACTED in order to discuss Mr. Nocita. I have some questions that I would like to ask REDACTED. I will also try to see the associates at the parish. Hopefully, through such interviews I will be able to get a better grasp of the situation and be able to clarify some of my own questions and those of the faculty about Mr. Nocita. I am doing this not because I do not accept REDACTED evaluation but because I believe it will help us to make an intelligent recommendation to you. Once all of the above has been accomplished I will present everything to the faculty in a formal meeting and we will make our recommendation to you.

I hope this course of action meets with your approval. We will follow through on it as quickly as we can.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
REDACTED

REDACTED

409737

TAB 7

409738

ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY
5012 EAST SEMINARY ROAD
CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA 93010

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 805
482-2755

OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

February 16, 1977

Handwritten notes:
+ AB I would recommend
to a bishop/ bishop see this
letter and then give a
further statement
K

His Eminence
Cardinal Timothy Manning
Archbishop of Los Angeles
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

Your Eminence:

At the faculty meeting on Thursday, February 10, the case of the Reverend Mr. Michael Nocita was considered once again by the faculty and a formal vote was taken on his advancement to the priesthood. Since my last letter to you on this case, Mr. Nocita has completed the work necessary for the course on the Priesthood which he had left incomplete when he departed from the Seminary last May. The paper he wrote to meet the requirements of the course is acceptable. Moreover, in January I had a good discussion with REDACTED concerning the Reverend Mr. Nocita. After a lengthy discussion the vote of the faculty regarding Mr. Nocita's advancement was: one positive, one negative, five doubtful, and two abstentions. In the light of this vote I am unable to recommend Mr. Nocita for ordination to the priesthood at this time.

The basic reasons for this vote were two: we have no substantial evidence that the immaturity reflected in the original problem last year has been grown out of; we are bothered by the fact that Mr. Nocita does not seem able to admit that he did commit a serious indiscretion a year ago and manifested a real immaturity in the way he handled the whole situation. The evidence for these two reasons is the following: his very immature response of January 3 to me (of which you have a copy); the fact that we are still picking up remarks of a disquieting nature about Mr. Nocita from various sources (remarks about the Seminary, the faculty, his training here, the wrongness of our decision last year, as well as remarks about his lack of maturity); that he does not seem to be open to the fact that there could be a doubt about his readiness for ordination; his real bitterness and anger towards the Seminary with no attempt to heal the wound, though we have attempted, in faltering ways perhaps, to reach out to him in order to heal the wound. From what I have just said it could sound like we are being vindictive because of injuries done to ourselves. After some soul searching, we do not believe that we are being vindictive. Rather, we are concerned about the closed-mindedness, the obduracy, the pride, the imprudence and seeming inability of Mr. Nocita to hold his tongue as reflected in these actions of his. None of these characteristics are new to us with respect to Mr. Nocita. I should point out that we are unable to substantiate fully the "remarks of a disquieting nature" that we have picked up. Being aware that remarks can be exaggerated as they are handed on in oral tradition, one must be careful about how much weight

His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Manning
 February 16, 1977
 Page 2

is given to what one hears. However, enough has been heard to lead us to believe that there is something to them and that is bothersome.

It seems from REDACTED's written evaluation and my conversation with REDACTED that Mr. Nocita has done a good job at Mary Star of the Sea. We are very happy about this fact and we accept the positive points made by REDACTED in his evaluation. However, REDACTED did point out to me in my conversation with him on January 27 that he saw Mr. Nocita as a complex person and one who still needs to grow in prudence. In view of these remarks we are wondering what the impressions of Mr. Nocita will be at the parish in a few more months. With all due respect for REDACTED evaluation, it has been our experience with Mr. Nocita that he impresses people favorably during an initial period of acquaintance with him but that doubt and questions come after one gets to know him better specifically because of his complexity. He can be a skillful manipulator.

I wish, Your Eminence, that we had more substantial evidence to present to you as a basis for our decision but we do not. In a sense we have a gut feeling that Mr. Nocita is not yet ready for ordination and may never be. What we have tried to do is to diagnose why we feel that way. As the result of such an analysis we believe that we have sufficient evidence for the judgment we have made, namely, a judgment that we are doubtful. We do not have the positive evidence of growth that could lead us to a positive judgment nor do we have the type of evidence that could lead us to a clear cut negative judgment. Hence, we can only say to you that we are in a state of doubt about whether Mr. Nocita should be advanced to the priesthood at this time.

However, we would also like to point out to you that perhaps we are not the best judges in this case at this time. We have had virtually no contact with Mr. Nocita since May, 1976. However, REDACTED and his associates have had close contact with him for eight months now and they do recommend him for ordination to the priesthood at this time. This is a very important point and we believe that their judgment needs to be seriously considered by yourself. The faculty and I would in no way feel slighted if you made a decision to ordain Mr. Nocita based upon their recommendation. They have lived with him on a more intimate level than any of the faculty here ever has and so their recommendation must be highly respected. Their judgment and recommendation becomes even more important in view of the fact that we do not see how we will be able to come to a positive judgment concerning Mr. Nocita unless we are able to re-establish a relationship with him. Such a relationship could be established by having him come to the Seminary once or twice a month in order to take part in theological reflection sessions and to have regular interviews with a couple of the faculty members. As I understand his present frame of mind, this may not be possible for him to do with any equanimity and openness. Hence, the judgment and recommendation of those with whom he lives and works must be taken very seriously.

I apologize, Your Eminence, for this quite lengthy letter but I believed it necessary. I wish that we could give you a more decisive response but we cannot

His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Manning
February 16, 1977
Page 3

at this time. May the Lord be with you as you make your decision in this case. We are willing to accept and cooperate in whatever decision you do make. The faculty has seen this letter and they concur with its contents.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
REDACTED

REDACTED

TAB 8

409742

March 2nd, 1977

REDACTED

RECTOR, ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY
5012 East Seminary Road
Camarillo, California 93010

Dear REDACTED

Today Monsignor Rawden and I had a lengthy and leisurely session with REDACTED. I explained to him the conscientious evaluation made by the Seminary faculty and the persistence of the doubt regarding his maturity and readiness for ordination to the Sacred Priesthood.

I am impressed with his reaction which was open and docile. He realizes that the validity of his desire for Priesthood must be substantiated by an official call. I am, likewise, impressed with his reflections on the doubts about his maturity and the question of his complexity of character.

I assured him that we had not arrived at a decision not to ordain him. He was advised of the wish of the faculty that they could have more contact with him to help them in their evaluation of him. For this reason, it has occurred to Monsignor Rawden and to me that it might be a good and profitable thing if Michael were given the opportunity to have an informal visit with some members of the faculty so that he might give his reactions to the existing doubts.

We felt that REDACTED might be an auditor at this meeting. Consequently, I am asking if you would be disposed to designate three members of the faculty who might sit down with Michael and REDACTED and dialogue about the difficulties that are at issue. I asked Michael if there was any particular member of the faculty that he would like present, and he mentioned REDACTED

I have prayed much over this matter, and I would be grateful for your response to the suggestion.

May I thank you and the members of your faculty for the discriminating response and analysis of the meeting held on Thursday, February 10th, at which his case was considered.

cc Msgr. Rawden

Very sincerely yours,

409743

TAB 9

409744

Handwritten initials

ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY
3012 EAST SEMINARY ROAD
CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA 93010

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 805
482-2755

OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

April 19, 1977

His Eminence
Cardinal Timothy Manning
Archbishop of Los Angeles
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

Handwritten initials

Your Eminence:

This is to inform you that REDACTED, REDACTED and I met with the Reverend Mr. Michael Nocita and REDACTED yesterday afternoon as you requested. Though we had an amicable meeting and discussed the faculty's doubts about Mr. Nocita's readiness for ordination to the priesthood, the meeting did not resolve these doubts, at least for me. The basic questions concerning his maturity, open-mindedness, prudence, and self-perception still remain. From my viewpoint it would take lengthy contact with the Reverend Mr. Nocita to solve these questions.

I have invited REDACTED and REDACTED to write to you and give you their own impressions of the meeting. I hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
REDACTED

REDACTED

+

ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY
GRADUATE DIVISION OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
Camarillo, California 93010

East Seminary Road

Area Code 805
482-2755

April 19, 1977

Cardinal Timothy Manning
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, Ca. 90015

Your Eminence:

At the request of REDACTED I am writing a response to our meeting yesterday with Deacon Michael Nocita and REDACTED. I believe in communication and I think that the meeting was a good idea. Following the meeting Michael did say that he felt better about the whole matter.

I am convinced that the delay in ordination, while painful, was needed and has helped him. The delay was, in my judgment, absolutely the correct decision. And I appreciate his anxiety in not knowing when or whether he would be ordained, but I think that the pain has been a necessary element in his maturing.

While understanding his hurt feelings, I told him that he was wrong in his vilification of the seminary, and that reparation was due. I said this in nice way, stressing that we were bound to silence while he felt free to say whatever he wanted. Very painful reports came back to me about what he was saying. I also emphasized my firm conviction that he must be a man of deep prayer especially because of his pride (to which he readily admits) and that he must always have a competent spiritual director to whom he reveals everything and whose advice he is willing to follow. Finally I made as strong as possible the lesson I have learned over the years that one component of a true vocation is not over-eagerness but rather reluctance to be ordained a priest.

What has swayed me in his favor is a remark made by REDACTED in a faculty meeting while we were agonizing over another candidate. He said that perhaps we are really looking for perfection in a candidate, and that such is not humanly possible to find. Michael is far from a perfect candidate but probably has sufficient qualities to be ordained. This is my opinion, that is, a judgment coupled with fear of error. I am still convinced, however, that haste in ordaining him is not desirable. I think that December of this year should be the earliest time for ordination to the priesthood.

Please be assured, Your Eminence, that I fully support your final decision in this very difficult matter.

Devotedly in Christ,
REDACTED

409746

TAB 10

409747

REDACTED

April 30, 1990

Dear Archbishop Mahony,

I am writing this letter to express my total outrage over a situation which is ultimately going to destroy my family.

This concerns Michael Nocita, a priest at St. Timothy's Parish in West Los Angeles. He has been dating my daughter, REDACTED who is twenty years old. He has told her that he loves her and is considering taking a leave of absence from the priesthood. He has also expressed a desire to marry her, whether he is released from his vows or not.

There are so many emotions on my part involved in this mess, that in order to keep this letter at a decent length I am going to state the facts as I know them from my daughter and my own conversations with Fr. Nocita.

REDACTED first met Michael Nocita when she was a Senior at Alemany High School, where he was principal. I know that after graduation she kept in contact with him. Just how often I am not certain of. However, during this past Christmas REDACTED was having problems with her boyfriend and she began calling Fr. Nocita frequently for advice, or just a friend to talk to. He began coming over to our house quite regularly, being very friendly to the entire family. Being he was a priest, none of us thought too much of this, until Christmas when he gave her a \$500.00 leather jacket. From that time, until now, he calls her every night and they talk for one to three hours. He sees her two to three times a week.

During the month of March he bought her another jacket and a blouse for a total amount of \$1,200.00. He takes her out to expensive restaurants and money is of no importance. I would like to remind you at this point that Michael Nocita is going to be forty years old in May, and my daughter turned twenty last December. He is definitely old enough to be her father.

When I confronted Michael with this, he assured me his leave of absence has nothing to do with REDACTED but his personal problems within the priesthood. One of them being the amount of homosexuality among priests. He also told me that he could not be relieved of his vows and was not free to marry REDACTED for this would be an adulterous relationship. However, he denied saying this to me when REDACTED confronted him. He told her that he would marry her anyway.

I consider this man to be very confused about himself, both as a priest, and one who is in a mid-life transition.

He is emotionally destroying my daughter. He is "dumping" on a twenty year old girl all his emotional problems. He has her believing that this love is good.

409748

CCI 005248

REDACTED is one of four children. She is the second oldest.
 Her father, REDACTED and I have been married for twenty-two years.
 REDACTED is not Catholic, but has always respected my religious
 beliefs. We have put all of our children through Catholic
 grammar school and high school. Currently we have two children
 at Alemany High School. There were three years that REDACTED
 worked two jobs to put the children in Catholic schools so I
 could stay home with the babies. This will be a tremendous slap
 in the face to him if he should find out the truth about Fr.
 Nocita and his daughter. At this moment he is completely
 unaware of the situation as it really is. I cannot say for sure
 what reaction my husband will have when he is told, but I do
 know for a fact that he will be at St. Timothy's Rectory, and
 anyone within hearing distance will know what happened. That is
 why I ask that you contact me only! No one else in our family
 knows anything about this mess.

Having given you just the bare facts, I will add one last
 thing. I explained to REDACTED that if she insisted on continuing
 this relationship with Fr. Nocita, that I couldn't bare to sit
 and watch. I know that our relationship would be destroyed, and
 that the gossip that would spread through Alemany High School
 would make life intolerable for her younger brother and sister.
 REDACTED said that she would move out of the house if that were the
 only alternative. She then let me know that Fr. Nocita said he
 would take financial responsibility for her.

It is on this note that I will close this letter. However,
 there is more. I do expect to hear from each person to whom this
 letter is sent, and I will answer any and all questions you may
 have at that time.

This situation cuts to the very core of my being and my
 beliefs in my religion. I love Jesus with all my heart, and
 always will. However this one priest has the power to destroy my
 family and my hopes and dreams for my daughter. She is no match
 for his convincing manner, analogies, and powers of persuasion.

I thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this
 matter.

Regretfully.
 REDACTED

Copy 1 of 3

409749

CCI 005249

TAB 11

409750

MEMORANDUMDecember 11, 1990

TO: Archbishop Mahony
 FROM: Monsignor Thomas Curry
 RE: Michael Nocita

Yesterday REDACTED spoke to me at the Priests' Council about a man who had complained to him about Mike's behavior and particularly his intimacy with women. I asked REDACTED to have the man call me, and he did so last night. He did not give me his name and said he was somewhat constrained in that he was protecting people who did not want to be known. He is a high school counselor.

His main concern is that he asserts Mike has been involved with women since before his ordination and that this involvement has continued. He went on about Mike's extravagant life style, Mike's belief that he is a ladies' man and that women find him irresistible. I found the man a bit obsessed about Mike, but could not say that he was unreasonable in any way or that he had any obvious problem that would cause him to make these allegations.

I checked back with REDACTED and he vouches for the honesty of this man. REDACTED himself says he knows a family, in Manhattan Beach, I think, whose daughter refused to have Mike perform her wedding because he had made advances to her and her sister. Apparently, her father, who is an influential man and a friend of Mike's, wanted him to perform the wedding. REDACTED claims there are rumors of drunkenness and sex on the beach surrounding Mike and that REDACTED went to Cardinal Manning to ask him not to ordain Mike because of his involvement with women. Certainly his ordination was delayed.

I am concerned about and uncomfortable with all of this and explained to both the man who called and to REDACTED how limited my action could be on this basis. Were it not for a larger context, I would not act on this at all. However, there is Mike's admitted very recent involvement with a young girl and, as the attached memo states, he was reported for as being involved with a minor girl, so there is cause for some alarm at this point. Given the possibility of three separate incidents, there is a good possibility that Mike may be obsessed with having relationships with young women about eighteen.

My recommendation is that the matter be pursued further before a decision is made about Mike's going to work in Vocations, and I would like to discuss the matter with you.

Yes - please!

Thanks!

R.M.C.

12-14-90

409751



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(713) 751-1264

1531
West Pico
Street

Los Angeles
California
90015-1121



December 21, 1990

Rev. Michael Nocita
St. Timothy Church
10425 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Dear Father Nocita:

Thank you for coming to see me today and for your gracious and open response to my comments and concerns.

As I explained to you, before Archbishop Mahony could appoint you to the Vocations Department he would need definite assurances that some of the problems in your life are being taken care of. These problems have specifically to do with your relationship with young women, and I mentioned to you the Archdiocese's knowledge of a police report and the correspondence from REDACTED which both of us have.

I also mentioned to you a persistent rumor and concern about your continued involvement with young women, and told you that I was unable to give you any specifics on that matter.

The Archdiocese asks that you see Dr. REDACTED for an examination and continuing therapy if that is recommended. As I explained, we do expect that REDACTED will send the Archbishop a report, but that you will be aware of the contents of the report and consent to it, and we certainly do not expect any violation of the doctor-patient privilege.

I thank you again for your cooperation in this matter, and you have my very best wishes for your future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry
Vicar for Clergy

cc: REDACTED

Rev. Timothy Dyer
Archbishop Mahony



CCF

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 251-3284

1531
West Ninth
Street

Los Angeles
California
90015-1194

December 21, 1990

Dr. REDACTED
9735 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 444
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Dear REDACTED

I spoke to Father Michael Nocita today and asked him to see you, and he will do so soon. Father Nocita is forty years old and was ordained in 1977. Archbishop Mahony is planning to appoint him to a position in the Vocations Department, and since this is a very sensitive appointment, he wishes to have assurances regarding some incidents in Father Nocita's life.

The first incident involves a police report regarding Father Nocita's involvement with a young girl while he was teaching high school. The second is a more recent involvement this past year, and I also enclose a copy of a letter from the girl's mother. I understand this situation has been resolved, but it did cause a lot of pain to the family.

In addition, there have been persistent rumors and concerns about Father Nocita's behavior, his involvement with young women, an extravagant lifestyle, and the belief that some clergy asked that he not be ordained because of this problem. I do not have facts on these matters, but Father's ordination was delayed.

The Archdiocese would like to have an evaluation of Father Nocita. He has mentioned to me that he also was evaluated by the Hacker Clinic while he was in the Seminary, and while I do not have that report, I can request it from the Seminary if that would be useful.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call. My number at home is REDACTED

With thanks for your help, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry
Vicar for Clergy

409753

TAB 12

409754

MEMORANDUM*F Michael Nocita 72*

DATE: March 29, 1991
FROM: REDACTED
TO:
RE: Rev. Michael Nocita

Effective March 25, 1991:

Father Michael Nocita went on Inactive Leave status effective March 25, 1991.

Accordingly, cancel health insurance coverage. Issue COBRA. Send me the necessary papers and I will mail them out.

Many thanks.

TAB 13

409756

Valente Quits as Youth House Head, Ex-Priest Takes Post

by Don Hazen

Major news in La Cañada Flintridge's youth-community center scope broke last week with the surprise announcement that Chris Valente had resigned as executive director of the La Cañada Youth, after nearly 20 years. His place was taken by Mike Nocita, 40, a former active Catholic priest, who has served in a number of capacities in the L.A. Archdiocese, both in parishes and at high schools.

Valente, who is mayor pro tem of the LCF City Council, said he decided to leave the Youth House so he can spend more time with his family. He cited too much of a schedule load with his many activities and responsibilities and hinted that he may make another change or two to accommodate his family.

But he stated that he will continue as a city council member (he's in the middle of his first four-year term) and as a part-time government teacher at local St. Francis High where he has instructed for the past 25 years.

Valente became Youth House head in 1971 after serving as operations director under the late Gilbert "Smitty" Smith for six years.

Valente's last day on the job was last Wednesday. Nocita started his new job the following day.

According to Valente, his resignation plans were in the works for a month.

He was responsible for introducing a number of youth programs at the Youth House during his tenure. They included girls' softball, girls' T-ball, girls' soccer, kickball, arts and activity classes, day care at the local elementary schools, the pre-school program and the after-school recreation program at the elementary schools. It was also Chris' idea to put on a Summer Science Workshop which has drawn over 1000 youngsters.

Meet Mike Nocita, Valente's Successor

After 13 years in the public ministry as an ordained Catholic priest, Nocita said he made the change because he wanted "more of a say in the direction of his life." He added: "I think I'll be more effective this way."

The new local youth leader, who has been a high school principal, teacher, counselor and coach, said he holds "the greatest respect for the church" but added that in his new career, he will still serve people while leading a life of a more per-



Chris Valente



Mike Nocita

mented.

Before coming to the Youth House, he was serving as an associate pastor at the St. Timothy parish in West L.A. Mike was notified of being selected on Feb. 19 by a member of the Youth House executive board. He had gone to an executive search firm in Pasadena to start him on his way to a new career.

He will move to Glendale in just a few days.

Born in San Jose, Calif., Nocita stated he entered the Catholic ministry because of "a love of the sacraments and a love of the church. I wanted to help people."

After graduating from Our Lady Queen of Angels Seminary High School in San Fernando and from St. John's Seminary College in Camarillo (with his BA degree in philosophy and Master of Divinity totaling eight years), Nocita joined the parish staff at Mary Star of the Sea in San Pedro.

He was there for three years followed by his faculty assignment at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs where he also coached cross-country.

In 1982, he joined Bishop Montgomery High in Torrance as vice principal, serving also as a counselor and harrier coach.

Two years later, Nocita became principal of Paraclete High in Lancaster for three years before taking a similar post at Alemany High for an additional two years. Then, he was assigned to St. Timothy's.

His archdiocese record includes seven years in administrative work and five years as a cross-country mentor.

Nocita has also been prominently involved with the news media as a church representative, having been a spokesman for the archdiocese in TV and radio appearances. In 1987 when Pope John Paul visited the U.S. and Southern California, Nocita handled the "color" duties for NBC-TV as the pontiff toured the Southland.

Media Spokesman
Nocita has also been a regular on KABC Radio's "Religion on the Line" and CBS-TV's "Today's Religion."

He says he is confident that he has the skills from his public ministry to carry out an effective community program at the Youth House, including both pre-school and senior citizen-age.

sonal choice.

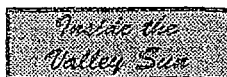
With his decision, Nocita has been placed on the church's inactive list but can come back at any time and be reinstated. "The church was open about this, I left in good standing," he com-

Y.H. DIRECTOR LIST SINCE '50

With his appointment, Mike Nocita becomes the ninth director of the La Cañada Youth House which was initially opened in 1950.

Those who have served, in order:

Charles Pritchard in 1950, Mark Doyle in early 1954, Gene Landy later that same year, Edwin Bozonier in 1955, R. Allen Spahr in 1957, Gilbert "Smitty" Smith in 1959, Joe Nola in 1970, Chris Valente in 1971 and now Mike Nocita.



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409757

TAB 14

409758

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 1991
FROM: REDACTED
TO:
RE: Father Michael Nocita

REDACTED

REDACTED

3-18-91

409759

MEMORANDUMMarch 23, 1991

TO: Archbishop Mahony

FROM: Father Timothy Dyer ✓

RE: Michael Nocita

I met with Mike today and spoke to him first of our concern for him personally and our desire to support him. I stressed that it was a significant loss to the Archdiocese and that we had every hope that he might return to active ministry. He referred to his situation a couple of times as a "leave of absence," but the entire conversation made clear that there is very little likelihood of a return and that he would like to seek laicization so that he would be free to marry.

I then showed him the attached memo and gave him a copy -- asking that his employer send us a letter to that effect. He promised that would be done. I told him of our concern -- given his file -- over his taking a job with youth. He clarified that "youth" meant children under the age of eight, i.e. that the Center was for primary and preschool-age children. At any rate I asked that his employer send us a letter to correct the public record.

I assured him of your personal concern in his regard and, in that context, renewed the offer to go to Dr. REDACTED. He declined, saying he was already seeing someone of his own choosing. He said that he felt no anger toward the Church and that he would greatly miss presiding at the Eucharist. Says he has reached a point where he cannot see living in a rectory situation and feel fulfilled. He has an apartment and is living alone and says that he asks nothing of the Archdiocese at this time.

I urged that he stay in touch with us.

Very sad - keep me informed.

+ RMM

3-25-91

409760

TAB 15

409761

LA CANADA YOUTH HOUSE — COMMUNITY CENTER
Programs of Instruction and Recreation for All Ages



March 25, 1991

Reverend Timothy Dyer
Vicar for Clergy
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, Ca. 90015

Dear Father Dyer,

This is to inform you that Mike Nocita has notified me that the article in the La Canada Valley Sun dated February 28, 1991, which article stated that, "The Church was open about this (meaning Mike's present position), I left in good standing," is incorrect. It is my understanding that Mike's application for this position and his acceptance of this position was done without any knowledge by proper authority within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,
REDACTED

REDACTED

TAB 16

409763

DECREE

As Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy duly appointed by the Archbishop of Los Angeles in California, acting in the name and at the direction of His Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahony, I hereby decree the revocation of all Archdiocesan faculties formerly entrusted to

REVEREND MICHAEL S. NOCITA

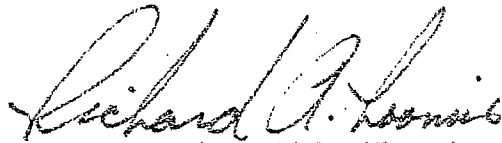
This revocation is made in recognition of the fact that Reverend Michael S. Nocita has left the active priestly ministry and no longer holds an ecclesiastical office or other Archdiocesan assignment. Therefore, the purpose for which the faculties were originally entrusted has ceased (canon 142).

In accord with the canon 50, in a letter dated March 26, 1996, Father Michael S. Nocita was informed of the Cardinal's intention to revoke the priestly faculties previously entrusted to him. Inasmuch as there has been no objection raised to this action, I formally issue this decree and direct that it be communicated to Reverend Michael S. Nocita.

Given this 23th day of October in the Year of Our Lord 2000 at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California.

ARCHDIOCESAN SEAL

REDACTED



Reverend Monsignor Richard Loomis
Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy

TAB 17

409765

REDACTED

2

FILED
LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT

DEC 28 2003

JOHN A. CLARKE, CLERK

S. Hall
BY S. GABB, DEPUTY

Case assigned to
Judge

Alan Buckner

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL COURT

REDACTED

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REDACTED

Plaintiffs,

v.

DEFENDANT DOE 1 ; DEFENDANT DOE 2 ;
DEFENDANT DOE 3 ; DEFENDANT DOE 4 ;
DEFENDANT DOE 5 ; DEFENDANT DOE 6 ;
DEFENDANT DOE 7 ; DEFENDANT DOE 8 ;
and DOES 9 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 00309295

COMPLAINT FOR:

1. CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE;
2. NEGLIGENCE;
3. NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION;
4. NEGLIGENT HIRING/RETENTION;
5. FRAUD;
6. FIDUCIARY/CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY;
7. BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY;
8. NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO WARN, TRAIN, OR EDUCATE PLAINTIFF;
9. INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS;
10. VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE § 32;
11. VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE § 11166;
12. VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE §§ 273a(a), (b);
13. RESERVED;
14. NEGLIGENCE PER STATUTORY VIOLATIONS;
15. RESERVED;
16. FRAUD AND DECEIT;
17. PREMISES LIABILITY; AND
18. RESERVED.

[Filed Concurrently With Certificates of Merit]
[Demand for Jury Trial]

CITICORP
RECEIVED
DATE PAID: 12/23/03
PAYMENT: 4844.00
RECEIVED
CHECK #
AMOUNT
DATE
CITICORP LEASING
RECEIPT # CCH000000000
01:11:55 PM
0312

1 Based upon information and belief available to Plaintiffs REDACTED and
 2 REDACTED at the time of the filing of this Complaint, Plaintiffs make the
 3 following allegations:

4 PARTIES

- 5 1.1 Plaintiff REDACTED is an adult female. Plaintiff was a minor at the time of the
 6 sexual abuse alleged herein.
- 7 1.2 Plaintiff REDACTED is an adult female. Plaintiff was a minor at the
 8 time of the sexual abuse alleged herein.
- 9 1.3 Plaintiffs REDACTED are some times
 10 hereinafter referred to as the "Plaintiffs."

REDACTED

11 2. Defendant Doe 1 ("Defendant Archdiocese") is a corporation sole, authorized to conduct
 12 business and conducting business in the State of California, with its principal place of business in Los
 13 Angeles, California. Defendant Archdiocese has responsibility for Roman Catholic Church operations
 14 in Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties, California. Defendant Archdiocese is the
 15 Archdiocese in which the sexual abuse occurred.

16 2.1 Defendant Doe 2 ("Defendant School/Parish 1") is a Roman Catholic school and/or parish
 17 located in Van Nuys, California. Defendant School/Parish 1 is the school and/or parish or other
 18 organization where Plaintiff REDACTED was a student or member during the period of her sexual
 19 abuse.

20 2.1.a. Defendant Doe 3 ("Defendant School/Parish 2") is a Roman Catholic school and/or parish
 21 located in San Pedro, California. Defendant School/Parish 2 is a school and/or parish where the
 22 Perpetrator was assigned when he abused Plaintiff REDACTED

23 2.1.b. Defendant Doe 4 ("Defendant School/Parish 3") is a Roman Catholic school and/or parish
 24 located in Torrance, California. Defendant School/Parish 3 is the school and/or parish or other
 25 organization where Plaintiff REDACTED was a student or member during the period of her
 26 sexual abuse.

27 2.1.c. Defendant Doe 5 ("Defendant Archdiocese Education Corporation") is a non-profit
 28 corporation authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State of California, with

TAB 18

409768

Michael S. Nocita
REDACTED

His Holiness
Pope John Paul II
Vatican City State

Your Holiness:

I, Reverend Michael S. Nocita, hereby petition for a dispensation from the obligations of the Sacred Order of Presbyter and the related obligations of the clerical state.

I have now been away from priestly service for more than ten years. I have a wife and family and career. Given these realities and the discipline of the Church, it is evident that I cannot return to priestly ministry. Therefore, by means of this petition, I wish to regularize my official standing in the Church.

Thus, I present this petition for a dispensation from clerical obligations for my own spiritual welfare and to facilitate the full practice of my Catholic faith. I hope and pray that you will respond favorably to this request.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael S. Nocita

Reverend Michael S. Nocita

Date: December 7, 2004



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

December 10, 2004

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, J.C.D.
Apostolic Nunciature
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

RE: Reverend Michael S. Nocita (Nunciature Prot. No. 25.830)

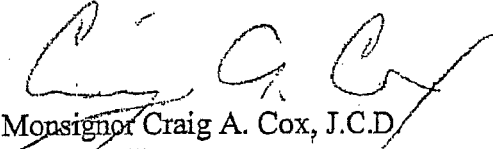
Your Excellency:

On November 21, 2004, you assisted us by forwarding to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith a packet of materials related to Reverend Michael S. Nocita. I am most grateful for the assistance you provided.

Enclosed, please find the petition of Father Nocita seeking a dispensation from clerical obligations. Would you please be so kind as to forward this to the Congregation on our behalf?

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this matter. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,


Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

enclosure



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

25.830

December 13, 2004

No.

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Dear Monsignor Cox:

I acknowledge your kind letter of December 10, 2004,
with enclosure.

Rest assured that the petition of Reverend Michael
S. Nocita for a dispensation from clerical obligations will be
duly forwarded through the diplomatic pouch to His Eminence,
Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect, Congregation for the
Doctrine of the Faith.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Gabriel Montalvo*
Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo
Apostolic Nuncio

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

409771

RECEIVED
DEC 20 2004
BY: _____



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

CASE: Michael S. Nocita
Report of Alleged *Graviora Delicta*

CERTIFICATE

By this instrument, I certify that the documentation herewith transmitted to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith regarding the above-mentioned case, beginning with the Table of Contents and ending with this Certificate, are either original writings or exact duplicates of documents on file in the archives of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Given at Los Angeles, California, this 24th day of February in the year of our Lord 2006.

REDACTED

409772

His Eminence,
 Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger,
 Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,
 Piazza del S. Ufficio 11, 00193,
 Rome, Italy.

Re: Michael S. Nocita.

Your Eminence:

I write with regard to the matter of Father Michael Nocita, a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. He is presently domiciled within our Archdiocese. Father Nocita has been accused of graviora delicta.

Michael Nocita was born on May 4, 1950, in San Jose, California, U.S.A. He attended Our Lady Queen of Angels Junior Seminary, San Fernando, California, during the years 1964 to 1968. Then he entered St. John's College Seminary, Camarillo, California, and graduated from there in 1972. In that same year he began his theological studies at St. John's Seminary Theologate. In 1976 he was ordained to the Diaconate. Indications of serious dissatisfaction on the part of the faculty and rector of the seminary led to a delay of his ordination to the Priesthood. Eventually, on June 10, 1977, he was ordained to the Priesthood for service in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He served in a number of assignments. In October 2000, it came to the attention of the Archdiocese that Father Nocita had, on his own initiative, sought civil employment. The faculties of the Archdiocese formerly entrusted to him were revoked on October 23, 2000.

In December 2003, the Archdiocese was notified that REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED had initiated legal action against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles claiming damages because of actions perpetrated against them by Father Nocita. Both, now adults, claim that when they were minors they were sexually abused by Father Nocita. REDACTED REDACTED claims that in 1975 to 1976 Father Nocita performed acts of sexual abuse and molestation on her that included kissing, fondling of genitals over clothes, forced masturbation, forced oral copulation, and digital penetration of the vagina.

REDACTED claims that Father Nocita sexually groomed, abused and molested her. This included kissing, rubbing or messaging of the body over the clothes, sexual talk, harassment, pre-sexual grooming. In addition to the allegations made in the suit REDACTED REDACTED wrote a forty-two page statement to the Archdiocese in which describes in great detail Father Nocita's inappropriate verbal and physical behavior toward her and his sexual abuse of her. That statement reads in part: "I was romantically led on by a catholic priest when I was between the ages of 14 and 17. His romantic advances began when I was a 14 years old freshman at Bishop Montgomery Catholic High School. Father Nocita involved me in substantial physical and romantic affection that incited my feelings".

In July, 2002, Dr. REDACTED at San Pedro Mental Health Clinic, San Pedro, California, wrote that REDACTED came to his Clinic for treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder purported to have been the result of Father Nocita's behavior with her. He wrote that REDACTED related symptoms back to age 14 at which time she was sexually violated by Father Nocita.

Allegations of abusive activity on the part of Father Nocita do not emerge in a vacuum. Other credible reports have reached the Archdiocese of imprudent contacts between Father Nocita and members of the opposite sex. In April 1988, a report was received that sometime between the years 1980 to 1982, while Father Nocita was assigned to St. Paul's High School, Santa Fe Springs, California, Father Nocita was intimate with a young girl named REDACTED. On April 26, 2002 REDACTED spoke with a representative of the Archdiocese about that relationship. She said that from 1981 to 1983 she had a relationship with Father Nocita and that this relationship continued for a little while after she finished high school. The relationship began with kisses on the cheek and hugs. Soon it developed into fondling and touching her breasts. Once he pushed her head down to his genitals so as to have her touch them. Sometimes they were dressed; sometimes they were undressed. He liked for her to take her clothes off and lay with him. He would lay on top of her. On one occasion he tried to have sex with her.

In 1990, REDACTED wrote a letter to the Archdiocese in which she claimed that while Father Nocita was principal of Alamany High School, he began a relationship with her daughter who was 17 years old at the beginning of the relationship. This relationship included promises of marriage. REDACTED was terribly concerned for the wellbeing of her daughter and indeed for the wellbeing of Father Nocita. REDACTED appears to be a very credible person.

Thus far it has not been possible to conduct a preliminary investigation into the allegations that have been made against Father Nocita, and he has not been heard by a canonical auditor to learn of his response to these allegations. For that reason the precise nature of these allegations cannot be determined. However, from the evidence available at this time, the allegations do seem to bear a semblance of truth and qualify as graviora delicta. Therefore, as mandated by the norm of Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela (no.13), I am referring this matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Father Nocita has, sometime within the past couple of years attempted marriage. He has given no indication that he intends to petition Our Holy Father for a dispensation from the obligation of Sacred Orders. His attempt at marriage suggests that he has no intention of returning to active ministry even if he could be rehabilitated. Given what is known about his behavior, his presence in our community as a Catholic priest runs the risk of confusing our Catholic people. Furthermore, the pending civil litigation involving Father Nocita is bound to generate unwanted publicity. It will be imperative that, at an opportune time, the church move to determine what should be Father Nocita's status. In order to be found in compliance with your directive that cases of this nature be referred to your Dicastery prior to the Solemnity of Christ the King of this year, I respectfully

request a dispensation from prescription so that appropriate action can be taken in this case. My intention is that when time and circumstances permit, I will commission the appropriate investigation, and then seek guidance from your Dicastery on how to proceed in this matter.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. Please be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

Cardinal Roger Mahony,
Archbishop of Los Angeles.

DIOCESE	Los Angeles in California
NAME OF ORDINARY	Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
CDF PROT. N. (if available)	
NAME OF CLERIC	Reverend Michael S. Nocita

PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE CLERIC	Date of Birth	4 May 1950	Age	54
	Ordination	10 June 1977	Years of ministry	14
ORIGINAL DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION		Los Angeles in California		
MINISTRY IN/TRANSFER TO OTHER DIOCESE		REDACTED		
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE CLERIC				
PROCURATOR (include original signed mandate)				
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE PROCURATOR				
ASSIGNMENTS				
Year	Parish	Location	Appointment	
1977	Mary Star of the Sea	San Pedro, California	Parochial Vicar	
1980	St. Paul High School	Santa Fe Springs, California	Faculty	
1980	St. Bruno	Whittier, California	Residence	
1982	Bishop Montgomery High School	Torrance, California	Faculty	
1982	Maria Regina	Gardena, California	Residence	
1983	American Martyrs	Manhattan Beach	Residence	
1984	Paraclete High School	Palmdale, California	Faculty	
1984	Sacred Heart	Lancaster, California	Residence	
1987	Bishop Alemany High School	Mission Hills, California	Faculty	
1987	Our Lady Queen of the Angels High School Seminary	Mission Hills, California	Residence	
1989	St. Timothy	Los Angeles, California	Parochial Vicar	
1991			Inactive Leave	

DIOCESE	Los Angeles in California
NAME OF ORDINARY	Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
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1989	St. Timothy	Los Angeles, California	Parochial Vicar	
1991			Inactive Leave	

409777

Spotlight Corner

Crime Acts Do Concern Us, A Boost for Gulf Troops

by Don Mazen

WHAT TO DO about crime in our community? Live with it as the lawbreakers have no intention of stopping despite the concerted efforts of the Sheriff's Department. We do get tired writing about all that bad news every week but it's part of our beat and the news has to be reported — it's our business. Some, we know, disagree with the attention given to such news. The best the community can expect about the crime problem is to control it a little better each year — and Capt. Mike Quinn and his gendarines at the local sheriff's facility are earnestly working at it. House burglaries here were down a little this past year.

In specific terms on local criminal activity, when is the school district going to take some better steps to halt the all-too-frequent burglaries and vandalism at the high school? There have been major occurrences there in the last three weeks.

Also, much to everyone's regret, a personal American flag of Mayor Jack Hastings and wife Mary was swiped one night last week while being displayed. If anything is sacred, it's the Stars and Stripes — and at this particular time of war. For what reason was it stolen?

And then there was the cruel hoax perpetrated on the Ted Banz family about their daughter being killed in a car accident.

The flag stunt and the Banz hoax were something I had never encountered before as a three-decade newsperson in La Cañada Flintridge.

Let's go positive. Local Charlie Plowman, former La Cañada High cage star and recent USC graduate, has closed out his most successful junior basketball program here. The young director expanded the league to fourth and fifth graders this season, who were in demand, which brought the participating player number to nearly 200. His concluding banquet on Feb. 10 drew 400 persons, also a new record. This is the kind of story that nullifies the youth "negatives" we have to report.

Spirited LCF citizen Robbie Robinson, who likes to get involved in many community efforts and is especially active in the Kiwanis Club and Chamber of Commerce-Community Assn., is doing fine, thank you, after having a full hip replacement on Feb. 13. He came home last Friday from Glendale Memorial Hospital and is getting use to a walker. Local Dr. Michael Pume did the hour and three-quarter surgery. According to Robbie, he'll be utilizing a cane by the end of March and he has promised his doctor that he won't be playing any golf until the end of April. With the initials of "T. J. B.," Robbie is a former 23-year member of the Canadian Consulate in Los Angeles (working out of Pasadena) and was with the Canadian Department of Defense Production before that. After he retired in 1977, he became a manufacturer's representative for Northrop Aircraft and made the company's first sale to a foreign country of its then new F-18 jet fighter — to Canada.

Did you know there is a street in North Glendale called Bagdad Place? It's off Verdugo Road as you approach Montrose on the way up to La Cañada.

Journalist Mike Pottage, who used to work for the late Don Carpenter at the old Ledger newspaper here as a reporter and political editor, is now employed in an editor's role at the Sacramento Union. He had been an aide to local State Assemblyman Pat Nolan in the state capital.

La Cañadan Alma Paige, who has made running an important part of her life for several years, is ready to go (Continued on page 6)

Temperatures in La Cañada Flintridge

	HIGH	LOW
	(C)	(F)
Wednesday, Feb. 13	82	43 (06.1)
Thursday, Feb. 14	89	48 (08.9)
Friday, Feb. 15	83	52 (11.1)
Saturday, Feb. 16	70	48 (08.9)
Sunday, Feb. 17	72	40 (04.4)
Monday, Feb. 18	81	44 (06.7)
Tuesday, Feb. 19	78	40 (04.4)
Wednesday, Feb. 20	84	52 (11.1)
Thursday, Feb. 21	86	44 (06.7)
Friday, Feb. 22	78	43 (08.1)
Saturday, Feb. 23	75	40 (04.4)
Sunday, Feb. 24	77	44 (06.7)
Monday, Feb. 25	80	42 (05.7)
Tuesday, Feb. 26	75	39 (03.9)

Valente Quits as Youth House Head, Ex-Priest Takes Post

by Don Mazen
Major news in La Cañada Flintridge's youth-community center scope broke last week with the surprise announcement that Chris Valente had resigned as executive director of the La Cañada Youth after nearly 20 years. His place was taken by Mike Nocita, 40, a former active Catholic priest, who has served in a number of capacities in the L.A. Archdiocese, both in parishes and at high schools.

Valente, who is mayor pro tem of the LCF City Council, said he decided to leave the Youth House so he can spend more time with his family. He cited too much of a schedule load with his many activities and responsibilities and hinted that he may make another change or two to accommodate his family.

But he stated that he will continue as a city council member (he's in the middle of his first four-year term) and as a part-time government teacher at local St. Francis High where he has been instructed for the past 25 years.

Valente became Youth House head in 1971 after serving as operations director under the late Gilbert "Smitty" Smith for six years.

Valente's last day on the job was last Wednesday. Nocita started his new job the following day.

According to Valente, his resignation plans were in the works for a month.

He was responsible for introducing a number of youth programs at the Youth House during his tenure. They included girls' softball, girls' T-ball, girls' soccer, kickball, arts and activity classes, day care at the local elementary schools, the pre-school program and the after-school recreation program at the elementary schools. It was also Chris' idea to put on a Summer Science Workshop which has drawn over 1000 youngsters.

Meet Mike Nocita, Valente's Successor. After 13 years in the public ministry as an ordained Catholic priest, Nocita said he made the change because he wanted "more of a say in the direction of his life." He added: "I think I'll be more effective this way."

The new local youth leader, who has been a high school principal, teacher, counselor and coach, said he holds "the greatest respect for the church" but added that in his new career, he will still serve people while leading a life of a more personal choice.



Chris Valente



Mike Nocita

With his decision, Nocita has been placed on the church's inactive list but can come back at any time and be reinstated. "The church was open about this. I felt in good standing," he commented.

Y.H. DIRECTOR LIST SINCE '50

With his appointment, Mike Nocita becomes the ninth director of the La Cañada Youth House which was initially opened in 1950. Those who have served, in order: Charles Pritchard in 1950, Mark Doyle in early 1954, Gene Landy later that same year, Edwin Bozonier in 1955, R. Allen Spahr in 1957, Gilbert "Smitty" Smith in 1959, Joe Noia in 1970, Chris Valente in 1971 and now Mike Nocita.

Along the Boulevard

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Before coming to the Youth House, he was serving as an associate pastor at the St. Timothy parish in West L.A. Mike was notified of being selected on Feb. 19 by a member of the Youth House executive board. He had gone to an executive search firm in Pasadena to start him on his way to a new career.

He will move to Glendale in just a few days.

Born in San Jose, Calif., Nocita stated he entered the Catholic ministry because of "a love of the sacraments and a love of the church. I wanted to help people."

After graduating from Our Lady Queen of Angels Seminary High School in San Fernando and from St. John's Seminary College in Camarillo (with his BA degree in philosophy and Master of Divinity totaling eight years), Nocita joined the parish staff at Mary Star of the Sea in San Pedro.

He was there for three years followed by his faculty assignment at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs where he also coached cross-country.

In 1982, he joined Bishop Montgomery High in Torrance as vice principal, serving also as a counselor and harrier coach.

Two years later, Nocita became principal of Paraclete High in Lancaster for three years before taking a similar post at Alernam High for an additional two years. Then, he was assigned to St. Timothy's.

His archdiocese record includes seven years in administrative work and five years as a cross-country mentor.

Nocita has also been prominently involved with the news media as a church representative, having been a spokesman for the archdiocese in TV and radio appearances. In 1987, when Pope John Paul visited the U.S. and Southern California, Nocita handled the "color" duties for NBC-TV as the pontiff toured the Southland.

Media Spokesman Nocita has also been a regular on KABC Radio's "Religion on the Line" and CBS-TV's "Today's Religion."

He says he is confident that he has the skills from his public ministry to carry out an effective community program at the Youth House, including both pre-school and senior citizen-age.

Burglary at Ralphs West VACANT SITE YIELDS \$2800 IN COPPER TUBING

In a mystery of how the scoured structure was entered, the former Ralphs West building, now set for remodeling for a new major business, recently was targeted by burglars who removed 20 sections of installed copper tubing worth \$2800.

The 31,000-square-foot building at 2111 Foothill Blvd. has been leased by Ross Dress for Less which is planning to make renovations, including a new storefront, starting in April. The project is expected to run about four months.

Investigating the recent copper tubing theft, the sheriff's department was unable to say how the vacant store was entered as there were no evidence of a break-in. The location was found locked after the crime, which, according to the Crescenta Valley station, occurred between Feb. 17-18.

While 20 sections of cut copper tubing had been stolen, there was evidence that the thieves had also intended to take another section valued at \$700 but left that portion behind stacked on the floor. Investigators said.

They reported that the thieves used some kind of a saw to cut the tubing which was part of a water line in the building, connected to the fire sprinkler system. The tubing was located on the second level of the building.

Ralphs manager Johnny Johnson came across the burglary on Feb. 14 when he visited the vacant site. Entering, he found numerous large water puddles on the floor and traced the water drainage to the second floor where the intruders had accidentally nicked the water line while cutting the copper tubing free.

He said the tubing theft took place near his old store office which, he told investigators, had its alarm sensors removed when the store closed. There are active sensors at various spots at the location, he added. Johnson told officers there had been one alarm call at the store on Feb. 10 but that it has been cleared.

Construction Trailer Hit

A residential construction site in La Cañada Flintridge was the scene of a vandalism last week with Zenimyer Construction Co. Inc. reporting two broken windows in its project trailer. The mischief occurred on the night of Feb. 18 at 1021 Fairview Drive.

ARSONIST KEEPS FIREMEN JUMPING IN 6-FIRE SPREE

Continuing dangerous — at five La Cañada Flintridge locations and one spot in La Crescenta during a three-hour period. None of the outbreaks, coming in as brush calls, was large and the damage they caused was minimal (\$500 and less), according to the County Fire Department. In two cases, a small shingle roof section was burned. In all six fires,

12:23 p.m. from 675 Wendover Rd. in the upper Flintridge hills near the Glendale boundary with a wooden retaining wall and shrubbery being burned. Estimated damage was \$500. The victim was Vartkes Najarian. A neighbor on nearby Stardust Lane saw smoke at 12:40 p.m. and heard a "puff" sound followed by flames as ivy and juniper in

on Avenue Engine flareup. minutes later, there was \$200 fire damage to an apartment roof here at 4470 Rockland Place. Tree serviceman Randy Smith was driving by and saw the fire and held off flames with a garden hose until Engine Co. 19 arrived. Two sheriff's deputies alerted apartment occupants and then had to withdraw, because of the flames. At 2:18 p.m., a small hillside near Briggs Avenue

and the Foothill Freeway on Caltrans property, was set afire by the arsonist. Three county and two Glendale fire units responded. Twelve minutes later, shrubbery at the side of 4502 La Granada Way near Foothill Boulevard was burned for a \$50 loss. The final arson act happened at 3:25 p.m. at 4550 Castle Rd. where brush was ignited and caused minor \$200 damage to the wood shingle house roof of Frances Randall. Neighbors held off the fire until Engine Co. 19's arrival.

PROFFER RE FATHER MICHAEL STEPHEN NOCITA

Date	Description
5/4/50	Born
6/16/75- 8/17/75	Deacon, St. Bridget of Sweden, Van Nuys
6/76	Deacon, Mary Star of the Sea Parish, San Pedro
2/16/77	Letter from Rector of St. John's Seminary to Cardinal Manning regarding Nocita's "immaturity" as evidenced by an unspecified "problem" that occurred in the prior year.
6/10/77	Ordained.
6/17/77	Associate, Mary Star of the Sea Parish, San Pedro.
7/9/80	Teacher, St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs. In residence, St. Bruno Church, Whittier.
7/1/82	Teacher, Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance. In residence, Maria Regina Church, Gardena.
5/23/83	In residence, American Martyrs Church, Manhattan Beach.
7/1/84	Principal, Paraclete High School, Lancaster. In residence, Sacred Heart Church, Lancaster.
7/1/87	Principal, Alemany High School, Mission Hills. In residence, Our Lady Queen of Angels Seminary, San Fernando.
4/19/88	Memo regarding police investigation. A 23 (S.S.) year old woman (S.S.) reported to her therapist that she was "intimate" with Fr. Nocita from 1980-82. Therapist reported it to the police against her wishes. No allegation of sexual intercourse. The Archdiocese will not contend that it lacked notice of Nocita's sexual interest toward minors following this report.
7/1/89	Associate, St. Timothy Church, Los Angeles.
3/25/91	Inactive leave.
10/23/00	Faculties Revoked.
4/26/02	Victim (S. S.) reports inappropriate conduct by Father Nocita in 1981-1983 to Pastoral Response Team at the Diocese of Sacramento.
11/25/02	Priest counselor to Plaintiff ^{REDACTED} forwards a long journal and related material to Vicar for Clergy on behalf of Plaintiff in which she alleges that she was abused while a student at Bishop Montgomery High School.

Rec Num	+02	Address	REDACTED	
Title	Rev.	City	Gardena	St CA ZIP 90248
FirstNam	Michael	Country	REDACTED	
MidInit	S.	Address	REDACTED	
LastNam	Nocita	Tel-Home		Conf-File Yes
SSN		Tel-Work		Status Inactive-Leave
Familiar Nam	Michael	Tel-Priv	REDACTED	Dioc Appt No
Origin	U.S.	Tel-Fax		Relg Appt No
BirthCit	California, San Jose	Seminary	St. John, Camarillo, C	Order
BirthDat	05/04/50	PPP	No	InCard Yes
Age	47	Will	No	Ordin Yea 1977
		Date Entere	04/01/91	Incard Dio
		Date Updat	10/21/97	Inactive Date 3/25/91
Remark	Addr. #2 is his parents.			
Appoin	Mary Star of Sea, San Pedro - Associate 06/17/77 St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs - Faculty 07/09/80 St. Bruno, Whittier - Residence 07/09/80 Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance - Faculty 07/01/82 Maria Regina, Gardena - Residence 07/01/82 American Martyrs, Manhattan Beach - Residence 05/23/83			

BASIC INFORMATION FOR PAX CASES

Case Number: IA 0006/98

Name of Petitioner: Michael S. Nocita

Residence Address: REDACTED

City:

Mailing Address:
(if different)

City:

Home Phone: REDACTED Work Phone: ()

Pager: () E-mail:

Date of Initial Contact:

Present status: No Prospect Fiancée Married Divorced

NOTES

- 1975 Jan, Disp 987,1 & 984,1 for Ordination to Deaconate
- 1976 Apr, called for Ordination to priesthood, but it is deferred. Indications of serious dissatisfaction on part of faculty and REDACTED at Mary Star until Ordination
- 1977 June 11, '77 Ordained to priesthood
- 1978 Apr, father dies
- 1980 To St. Paul Hi as teacher
- 1982 To Bp Montgomery Hi
- 1983 Assoc to American Martyrs
- 1984 Principal at Paraclete Hi, also police chaplain, inquires about military chaplaincy
- 1987 Principal at Alemany Hi
- 1988 request return to parish life, Assoc at St. Tim's, police report of intimacy with young woman at St. Paul in (80-82)
- 1989 Step father dies,
- 1990 Unhappy at St. Tim's, seeks military again (dating 20 yr old at St. Tim's is reported) In Dec rumors surface about his relationships with young women. He is asked to get a psychological evaluation, refuses.
- 1991 March, goes In Active. Seeks civil job with supposed support of Archdiocese. Made to recant that.

No decree found removing faculties