

Rev. Paul Peri
Archdiocese of Portland
2838 E. Burnside St.
Portland, OR. 97214-1895

May 8, 1997

Dear Fr. Peri,

It is with deep regret that I write this letter. This past Sunday evening I met, as I have often done, with two young adults who are currently discerning a religious vocation. They are both parishioners at St. Matthew Parish in Hillsboro. During the course of the conversation the young woman confided that Erasto Guzman Chavez has molested young girls in the parish. She was very surprised, as was I, to hear immediately from the young man present that Erasto Guzman had molested two of his sisters four years ago. I am aware that you have heard from both of these people and trust that you have heard the details of their experiences.

I have been in contact with _____ and am aware that an investigation is taking place. It is very upsetting to me to know that there was knowledge of this type of activity four years ago. I was told on Sunday night that an incident was reported to _____. The same young man who mentioned that also mentioned that _____ had rubbed his back in an uncomfortable way years ago. Behavior that I too have seen on another occasion. At the time I felt uncomfortable standing there, but I am unaware of how the young man felt. It concerns me now more than ever in light of the comment that this man made Sunday night.

We as a community need to call into question our own responsibility in what has happened since Erasto Guzman's inappropriate behavior was first reported. It is realistic to assume that there are more victims out there that have not come forward. It is my hope that there be some type of effort to visit the families that he visited on a regular basis. If I can be of any assistance please let me know.

I also took the initiative of informing _____. As a former employee of the parish I felt I had the responsibility of notifying him. If you need to clarify any part of my letter please don't hesitate to contact me at St. Patrick Parish: (541)475-0539; or at my home:

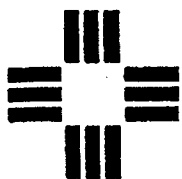
May God give all those involved the courage to seek the truth and the strength to respond with love.

Sincerely,

cc. Rev. Charles Lienert

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PD 0020



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

Vicar for Clergy

June 4, 1997

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Gentlepersons:

This is to inform you that Father Erasto Guzman Chavez, a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Huajuapán de León, Oaxaca, Mexico, has been serving as a priest in the Archdiocese of Portland since August of 1993. Since his arrival he has been assigned to St. Alexander in Cornelius first as a parochial vicar and then as an administrator. This assignment will continue indefinitely.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland is part of the Catholic Church in the United States and is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is listed in the Official Catholic Directory. See the enclosed memorandum.

It is our hope that Father Erasto Guzman Chavez will be granted permanent residence status as a religious worker.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Charles J. Lienert
Vicar for Clergy

CJL:gg

Enclosure

**SCHWABE
WILLIAMSON
& WYATT
P.C.**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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1211 SOUTHWEST FIFTH AVENUE • PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-3795
TELEPHONE: 503 222-9981 • FAX: 503 796-2900 • TELEX: 650-686-1360

THOMAS V. DULCICH

June 9, 1997

HAND DELIVERED
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable Michael D. Schrunk
District Attorney
Multnomah County
600 Multnomah County Courthouse
1021 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: Father Erasto Guzman-Chavez
Our File No. 00500-108978

Dear Mr. Schrunk:

This law firm represents the interests of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Portland in Oregon and successors, a corporation sole, also known as the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. Certain conduct has come to the attention of my client which it may have a duty to report, and I am reporting to you on its behalf pursuant to ORS 419B.015. The Archdiocese of Portland Pastoral Center is located in Multnomah County, and therefore, pursuant to ORS 419B.015, the report is being made to you, as the chief law enforcement officer within the county where the person making the report is located.

The conduct in question involves the Reverend Erasto Francisco Guzman-Chavez, a priest of the Diocese of Huajuapam DeLeon in Oaxaca, Mexico. Father Chavez has been assigned by his bishop to the Archdiocese of Portland since September 1993, where he has worked as the co-administrator of St. Alexander Parish in Cornelius, Oregon.

The Archdiocese initially received information from three women associated with the religious order known as the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon or St. Alexander's Church:

stated that several years before, Father Chavez touched her on the back, hugged her and, on one occasion, kissed her in a way that made her feel uncomfortable.

indicated that Father Chavez hugged her in a way that made her feel uncomfortable, once touching the side of her

REDACTED

PORTLAND SEATTLE VANCOUVER WASHINGTON
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503 222-9981 206 622-1711 360 694-7331 202 634-8901 (17/00500/108978/TVD/153333.1)

PD 0022

Honorable Michael D. Schruck
June 9, 1997
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breast, and that at one time he placed her 15 year old sister on his lap and held her. related that, while she was working with young adults at St. Alexander's two girls asked her why Father Erasto had touched their breasts during the sacrament of reconciliation. One of these individuals, described a very brief touching, of her outer clothing in the breast area, which may have been a sacramental gesture with which she was unfamiliar. These women may be reached through at the Sisters of St. Mary's in Oregon, 4440 S.W. 148th in Beaverton, telephone number (503) 644-9181.

The Archdiocese has not been able to confirm hearsay reports of similar touching or inappropriate behavior with other girls now living outside the state of Oregon.

The above allegations have been imparted to Father Chavez, who has categorically denied them. The Archdiocese has told Father that, regardless of whether it is legally permissible, the type of conduct reported is inappropriate and unacceptable. The Archdiocese is in the process of informing Father Chavez's bishop in Mexico of the situation and of taking appropriate action with respect to Father Chavez's duties here in Oregon. Father Chavez has been informed by the Archdiocese that this report is being made.

Serious questions exist about whether the conduct involving Father Chavez of which the Archdiocese of Portland is aware actually constitutes the type of activity which is required to be reported under ORS 419B.015. However, Archdiocesan officials want to be sure that they comply with all civil law requirements. Hence, preferring to err on the side of caution, the Archdiocese has instructed me to send this report to you.

Please call me with any questions you have or if you need additional information.

Very truly yours,



Thomas V. Bulcich

TVD:lgb

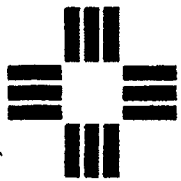
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Honorable Michael D. Schrunk
June 9, 1997
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bcc: The Reverend Charles Leinert
Vicar for Clergy Personnel
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Ms. Paulette A. Furness
Director of Business Affairs
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

The Most Reverend Kenneth Steiner
Acting Administrator
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

Vicar for Clergy

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Father Charles Lienert

SUBJECT: Meeting between Bishop Steiner, Father Erasto Guzman and Father Lienert

DATE: June 17, 1997

Bishop Steiner and I met with Father Erasto Guzman this morning concerning the allegations which have been made about him.

He told us that he has spoken with Father Gustavo and with an attorney, Angel Lopez, 621 S.W. Morrison St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR (241-4708). He asked the attorney to call me. I told Father Erasto that I would contact the attorney and give him our attorney's number (Tom Dulcich) and ask him to speak with Tom as well.

Bishop Steiner and I told Father Erasto the following:

- 1) He is restricted from any individual contact with women because of these allegations. (I will inform Father Martin Senko, the coordinator of his pastoral team, of these restrictions.)
- 2) Because of the needs of the people and the unavailability of any other Spanish-speaking priest at this time, we informed him that he is permitted to celebrate the Eucharist and the sacraments for the people.
- 3) He should speak to his Bishop about this matter and Bishop Steiner will also contact his Bishop. (We tried to call him during the meeting, but he will not be available until next Monday.)
- 4) We told him that we wanted him to take his vacation early beginning next week and return to Mexico. During his vacation we could pursue further with his Bishop what

MEMORANDUM

RE: Meeting with Father Erasto Guzman

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additional steps should be taken. We told him that if he wants to continue in ministry in this Archdiocese, he would need to undergo some psychological evaluation and we would have to make a decision based on that evaluation.

He informed us that he was scheduled to go on vacation the week of July 20th. Between now and that time he has numerous weddings, First Communions and sacramental activities scheduled. He does not have a replacement for vacation.

5) We asked him to inform Raul as soon as he had spoken to his Bishop.

CJL:gg

cc: Bishop Kenneth Steiner