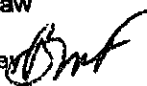


PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bernard Cardinal Law
FROM: Rev. Brian M. Flattery 
DATE: October 6, 1995
RE: Rev. John M. Picardi, Jr.

Enclosed is a response to Bishop Rodimer. Fathers Lennon and O'Flaherty, Neil Hegarty, Sister Rita and I have discussed this at length, and we feel that this is the appropriate response. Father Lennon points out that this is a complicated situation. Our files indicate that Father Picardi raped the 27 year old man and admitted that fact. However, we allowed him to return to ministry in Paterson after that incident, and after an assessment at the Institute of Living. Because of this, according to Father Lennon, Canon Law does not allow us to use this incident to keep Father Picardi out of ministry now. In light of the new allegation, and the results of a subsequent assessment, we may have grounds to keep him out of ministry. If Bishop Rodimer allows the investigation, and it clears Father Picardi, we may have to allow him to return to ministry. I am more and more convinced that this would be a mistake, and I am sure that the Review Board would agree. But since there was not a policy in 1992, and in light of the fact that we allowed him to do ministry in Paterson, we may not have a choice, as this incident would not be subject to the Policy.

I met with Fathers Fulton and Groeschel last week and clarified with them the position of this Office. I think they are now aware that Father Picardi will not be returning to ministry here in the foreseeable future.

The letter to Bishop Rodimer is dated Wednesday, October 11.

PICARDI, JOHN M.
1.0371