

DIOCESE OF MONTEREY
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October 21, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE

Mary Duan
Editor
Monterey Weekly
668 Williams Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

RE: Request for Interviews

Dear Mary:

I have received your emails and your hand delivered letter. We understand that you are preparing a story on discovery materials you received from the plaintiff's attorneys in the John RJ Doe v. Catholic Bishop of Monterey case which involved an allegation against Edward Fitz-Henry. As you know in 2011, the Diocese concluded that an incident that occurred twenty-five years ago led to Mr. Fitz-Henry's separation from the Diocese and his laicization.

You have asked to interview our current Bishop, the investigator in the 2005 incident and the Review Board President. None of whom had anything to do with the 1992 incident. Bishop Garcia and the other individuals associated with the Diocese of Monterey decline your invitation to interview.

Moreover, we decline to be involved in commenting on a story that is so out of date, was fully dealt with in 2011 and is not relevant to any of the policies or procedures the Diocese has in effect today.

As we have stated in our court responses, this story will do nothing but confuse members of the public and make them believe that there is another allegation against a man who is no longer a priest and that the Diocese is acting in a way that is inconsistent with its policies, its ethics or its morals. Nothing could be further from the truth and to imply otherwise is unfair, unethical and an abuse of the power of the press.

We have already provided extensive comment and transparency on the allegations that arose in 2011 as well as the investigation, the 1992 incident and our policies in effect in 1992 as well as those in effect in 2011. When the Diocese made the decision in 2011 that an allegation of priest misconduct from 1992 was credible, it followed its policies and was

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completely forthcoming in the information that it provided to its parishioners, the public and the press. In fact, we voluntarily disclosed the information prior to any press involvement. If you wish to rehash those matters, please refer to your archives; the Monterey Weekly covered that story extensively. There is no new story and so the Diocese declines further comment.

Considering that you are likely to proceed with this story in any case, I would like to point out some basic facts which seem to have gotten lost in your rush to intervene in the case:

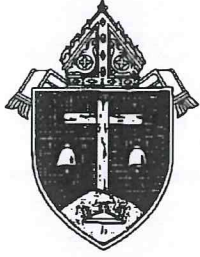
1. Edward Fitz-Henry is laicized, which means that he is no longer a priest – not just in the Diocese of Monterey but anywhere in the world. He left the Diocese of Monterey in March 2013. Accordingly, there is no need to “warn the public” about him as your attorney erroneously stated in your court documents.
2. In 2011, the media (including the Monterey Weekly) conducted a review of how the Diocese handled the 1992 allegation against Fitz-Henry. There is nothing new to report regarding this. It is also unfair to judge the events of 1992 by the lens of 2015. As we stated in 2011, this allegation arose ten years prior to the promulgation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and we have had a new set of policies in place since 2003. You can find our policies on our website; I also distributed them to you in 2011.
3. We take our policies and our responsibility to our parents, children and teens seriously. We train our priests, deacons, religious and lay ministers who work with children in our policies and procedures. We also conduct criminal background checks on all adults who work with children. Since 2003, we have conducted nearly 20,000 criminal background checks and trained the same number of people in our policies.
4. We deputize every parishioner, lay minister, priest, deacon and religious to report any suspected misconduct they observe to both the police department and the Diocese and we take such reports seriously.

Thank you again for your emails and letter, but as stated above, we decline further comment.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Riordan
Vicar for Temporalities & Administration



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TO: Mary Duan, Editor
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