

March 20, 2007

Most Reverend Richard Garcia
Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey
PO Box 2048
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Bishop Garcia:

My husband and I would like to join with others in welcoming and congratulating you on your installation as the Fourth Bishop of Monterey. We have been parishioners in this diocese for over thirty-five years, and we wish to express our best wishes and support in your new leadership.

I have a special reason for writing you this letter. It is a concern of mine that I would like to share with you. In the summer of 1990, my husband, our son [REDACTED] (14 years old), and I met with Bishop Ryan to discuss a problem that had occurred between our son and a priest in the diocese, Father Edward Fitz-Henry. After our meeting with the bishop, this priest was sent away for rehabilitation to a monastery in Pecos, New Mexico. We were assured by the attorney for the diocese, Mr. Albert Ham, that the priest would never be placed in an assignment where he would be around children again. Our son went to counseling paid by the diocese.

A year later, almost to the date, we heard that this priest was back from the monastery and assigned to a parish in San Luis Obispo. He then was promoted to a pastor at Mission San Juan Baptista. He is currently the pastor at Madonna Del Sasso parish in Salinas. When I heard about the first assignment, I wondered if he would be in contact with children. As he was promoted to pastor in San Juan Baptista, I knew he would certainly be in contact with children. Now that he is pastor at Madonna Del Sasso church and school, he clearly can be in daily contact with children. This has been heavy on my heart, sitting back knowing what happened with our son, and knowing what the legal counsel promised us in order that this could not happen again.

In view of Father Fitz-Henry's return to the Monterey Diocese and his assignments, my family feels betrayed that we were never contacted by the diocese to tell us of such actions. In addition, we have heard very questionable things about this monastery in Pecos, New Mexico. [REDACTED] (now 31 years old) is aware of all this, and he too has concerns and disappointments.

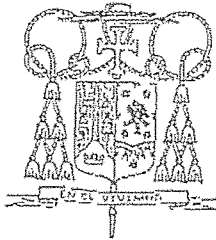
Three years ago, our son had been contacted by the Monterey District Attorney's office to see if he wanted to pursue charges against Father Edward Fitz-Henry. I am sure that this was because of the recent priests' scandals in the church. I do realize this all took place under the leadership of Bishop Ryan; however, our concerns are very strong, and I cannot be silent any longer. Bishop Garcia, my hope is that you can look into this matter and take the appropriate steps of action.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By CERTIFIED MAIL

c: [REDACTED]



MOST REVEREND RICHARD J. GARCIA, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey

(831) 373-4345
FAX: (831) 373-1175

RJGB@dioceseofmonterey.org
www.dioceseofmonterey.org

April 23, 2007

[Redacted]

Dear Mrs. [Redacted]:

Thank you for your letter regarding the incident involving your son and Fr. Ed Fitz-Henry.

Please accept my apologies in not getting back to you sooner. I am looking into the issues you raised with regard to Fr. Ed. Please be assured that I take what you say very seriously and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard Garcia, D.D.
Bishop of Monterey