



## DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

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LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70602  
(518) 430-7400

March 7, 1986

The Reverend William D. Perri, s.P.  
Villa Louis Martin  
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Father William:

This is to request admission to the evaluation process at Holistic Evaluation Services, and subsequently to Villa Louis Martin, for the Reverend Gerard C. Smit, a priest of this diocese.

Recently a complaint was received in the Chancery that Father Smit had been involved in some improper fondling of some small girls about twenty years ago. The incident had been reported to the pastor of the parish where he was an associate at that time, but the parties involved did not think that it was handled properly, because he was only transferred, and not sent into therapy.

Given the current atmosphere about pedophilia in Louisiana, and given the additional fact that I have reason to believe that some other activities may have gone on since then, I have spoken with Father Smit and told him that he should request a sabbatical leave for one year. He has done this.

The terms I have laid down for this are as follows:

- He is to be on sabbatical leave for one year.
- He is to undergo therapy for as long as the staff at Villa Louis Martin deems appropriate.
- At the end of the year, if the recommendation from Villa Louis Martin is positive, I shall be happy to support his application to another diocese; I do not judge it advisable for him to return to this diocese.

Father has not resorted to denial in this matter. He does not appear to want to be resistive to therapy.

If possible, I would like for the effective date for the beginning of the sabbatical leave to be Easter Monday, March 31, with date of arrival at Jemez Springs Sunday, April 6.

Please advise me as soon as possible if this is acceptable.

The Diocesan Insurance arrangement will cover the expenses.

With gratitude for your help, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jude Speyrer".

Jude Speyrer  
Bishop of Lake Charles