



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

8 July 8, 2006

His Excellency
Most Reverend Sergio Obeso Rivera
Archbishop of Jalapa
Apartado 359
Av. Manuel Avila Camacho 73
91000 Xalapa, Ver.
México

Dear Archbishop Obeso Rivera:

I am writing to seek your assistance with a priest who worked for a short period of time in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and who was found to have abused sexually children and young people while he was in this Archdiocese.

His name is: Rev. Nicholas Aguilar Rivera.

He was born in Puebla on September 10, 1941 and was ordained a priest in 1970 for the Diocese of Tehuacan. In January, 1987 Bishop Norberto Rivera wrote to me requesting that we offer Father Aguilar Rivera a priestly assignment in this Archdiocese "for family and health reasons."

From early 1987 through early 1988 Father Aguilar Rivera apparently molested several young people in both parishes in which he served. The police were notified, but before the police could speak with him, he had fled the United States and returned to Mexico.

Upon his return to his Diocese, he apparently told the Bishop that he planned to leave the priesthood and he then disappeared. None of us every heard anything further about him.

Today, while visiting with one of Father Aguilar's victims, that victim stated that he had heard that the same Father Nicholas Aguilar Rivera was working as a priest somewhere in the greater Vera Cruz area of Mexico. We had never received any similar information, but I wanted to make certain that you were alerted to this priest.

It would be helpful if you, as the Metropolitan Archbishop of that region, could forward copies of this letter to the Suffragan Dioceses of Jalapa to make certain that Father Aguilar Rivera is not functioning anywhere as a priest.

Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels San Fernando San Gabriel San Pedro Santa Barbara

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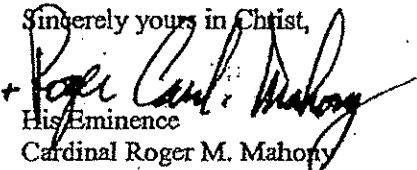
It would be best if Father Aguilar Rivera could be sent back to Los Angeles to face the criminal and civil charges which the authorities have brought against him. Also, Father Aguilar Rivera should be returned to the lay state canonically because of his past crimes against minor youth.

I am grateful to you for your willingness to share this information with the Suffragan Dioceses of your Metropolitan Archdiocese. The Bishop of Tehuacan should also be notified if Father Aguilar Rivera is found.

We all have a very serious responsibility to make certain that the Church is safe for everyone, but especially for children and youth.

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


His Eminence
Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles