



Most Rev. Leon A. Tharmaraj, D.D.
Bishop of Kottar, India

The 'Celebret'

Faculty is hereby granted to
Rev. Fr. *A. M. Hilary*
a diocesan priest of Kottar, to celebrate
the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to hear
Confessions, as per norms of the Code of
Canon Law and with the consent of the
Rectors of Churches.

I hereby permit him to reside
outside of his Diocese for *Three*

years at *Nagercoil*

May 30, 1998



Leon A. Tharmaraj
Bishop of Kottar

BISHOP'S OFFICE

Bishop's House
 P. B. No. 17
 NAGERCOIL-629 001
 INDIA
 Tel. 23452 & 26243

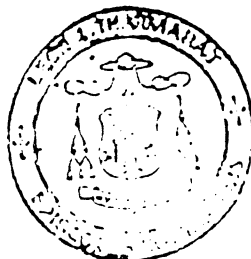
16 November 1994

Certificate of Priestly Ordination and Ministry

This is to certify that Rev. Fr. A. M. Hilary son of Mr. Anthony Muthu and Mrs. Marianthony ^{was} born on 29-1-1946 at Mylacode, Kanyakumari district, diocese of Kottar. He did his ecclesiastical studies at St. Aloysius Seminary (Nagercoil), and St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Alwaye, Karala. He was ordained priest at St. Xavier's Cathedral, Kottar, on 21-12-1970 by Most Rev. Dr. T. R. Agniswamy S.J., former Bishop of Kottar.

Fr. A. M. Hilary has served the diocese of Kottar as assistant parish priest for three years (Mulagumoodu, Puthenkadai, Thirithuvapuram) and later as parish priest for 21 years in the following parishes: Vencode (1973-'78); Manguzhy (1978-'84); Kuttakadu (1984-'89); Madathattuvilai (1989-'94) and Puthukadai (1994-).

He has served as a member in various pastoral commissions of the diocese. He has also rendered service as member of vicariate peace committee and vicariate project committee. Presently Fr. A. M. Hilary is a member of the General Body and the Executive Body of Kottar Social Service Society.



+ Leon A. Tharmaraj
 (+Leon A. Tharmaraj)
 Bishop of Kottar

BISHOP'S OFFICE

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14 February 1995

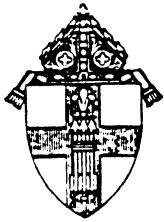
PERMISSION LETTER

This is to certify that Rev. Fr. A. M. Hilary is a Priest of good standing belonging to the Diocese of Kottar. Ordained a priest on 21-12-1970, he has been serving the Diocese as Parish Priest with zeal and dedication for the past 25 years.

I hereby grant permission to Fr. A. M. Hilary to visit USA to serve in any one of the dioceses there for a period of three years. During his stay in the USA he will do pastoral work in a parish.

I assure the authorities concerned that Fr. A. M. Hilary will return to the Diocese of Kottar and resume parish work here after three years of stay in USA.

+ *Leon A. Tharmaraj*
(Bishop Leon A. Tharmaraj)
Bishop of Kottar



Secretariat for Pastoral Services
Diocese of Manchester

3547

*Msgr. Christian -
Bishop has not
seen this.*

M E M O

*Please see
2. Don't we
have to send a
letter greeting
him families?
He done?
Action*

TO: Bishop O'Neil

FROM: Msgr. Bolduc *MB*

RE: 1.) Ecumenical Covenant
2.) Fr. Nicholas Rogers
3.) Fr. Richard Tetu
4.) Msgr. Philip Kenney

DATE: 30 June 1995

The following are four matters that I think should be brought to your attention:

1. On 10 June 1995 you received a short note from Mr. and Mrs. Fred and Jo-Anne Fraser of Tilton, NH inquiring about the status of the recent Ecumenical Covenant celebrated among Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Lakeport, Saint James Episcopal Parish in Laconia, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Parish in Laconia. I telephoned Mrs. Fraser that same day to discuss the matter, after having made some preliminary inquiries. I discovered that Father George Harvey, pastor in Tilton, does not know the family because they do not attend church there. In speaking with Mrs. Fraser I learned that she does not attend Mass in NH but when she can attends a Latin Tridentine Mass in Still River, MA.

We discussed the ecumenical covenant and indicated that the covenant was in complete keeping with the tenets of the Roman Catholic faith and in accord with the 1993 Ecumenical Directory issued by the Vatican. I also suggested that she and her husband considering the Holy Father's most recent encyclical, "Ut Unum Sint," of which she was unaware. The matter is settled.

2. Father Nicholas Rogers, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Manchester, has secure the full-time assistance of Father A.M. Hilary, a priest of the Diocese of Kottar, India. Father Hilary has presented papers from Bishop Leon A. Tharmaraj, Bishop of Kottar, indicating that Fr. Hilary has permission to serve in any Diocese in the USA for a period of three years. Fr. Hilary was ordained on December 12, 1970. Bishop Kottar writes, "I assure the authorities concerned that Fr. A.M. Hilary will return to the Diocese of Kottar and resume parish work here after three years of stay in USA."

Fr. Rogers intends that Fr. Hilary will live at St. Patrick Parish and assist him for a period of three years, if you have no objection. Attached are copies of the documentation.

3. Since Msgr. Philip Kenney who is retired will be attending the Fall 1995 Institute for Continuing Theological Education (ICTE) in Rome, there is

- 2 -

obviously no need to provide pastoral assistance for him in his absence. Fr. Tetu, who generally provides pastoral coverage for priests on sabbatical, while also working part-time in the Tribunal, has requested what arrangements might be in store for him for the fall. I assured him that there is plenty of work in the Diocese and that some arrangement will be forthcoming during the summer. Are you aware of any need or do you have any plans already for him?

4. Attached is a copy of a suggested recommendation to the ICTE from you on behalf of Msgr. Kenney. If it meets with your approval, I would ask that you kindly sign it on the reverse side and date it. I will mail it to Rome with a check and other documentation.

I trust you are getting some rest this summer. If you wish to speak to me about any of these matters, please let me know.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND LEO E. O'NEIL, D.D.

July 19, 1995

Most Reverend Leon A. Tharmaraj
Bishop of Kottar
Bishop's House
P. B. No. 17
NAGERCOIL-629 001
INDIA

Your Excellency:

Recently, Father A. M. Hilary, a priest from your Diocese, has presented himself to one of the pastors here in Manchester requesting parish ministry. This pastor would be of a mind to engage him.

However, it has been reported to me that Father Hilary has a serious problem with alcohol and a long history of serious drinking. I have also been told that, when he is drinking, there have been several occasions in which he was involved in molesting girls who went to his rectory. At least one of these instances allegedly has been verified by an investigation which you conducted.

Given the explosive situation in the United States at this time in regard to these problems, I can obviously not permit Father Hilary to serve here, if the reports made to me have any substance. Would you be so good as to respond to me at your earliest convenience to inform me whether or not these problems have in fact plagued Father Hilary, as well as any other information you feel that would be helpful.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness and assuring you of my fraternal best wishes, I am

Your friend in Christ,

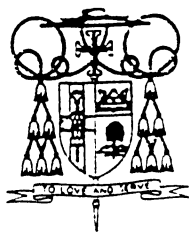
+ *Leo E. O'Neil*

Bishop of Manchester

I had my own
 letter on the table to
 alert me to any phone
 calls. As I walked
 into Lucille's office,
 seeing the letter, I
 remembered the priest's
 name & the memo from
 Mrs. Bollice concerning
 Fr. Roger's new priest.

Do you want to keep
 this with that memo?

D



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND LEO E. O'NEIL, D.D.

June 27, 1995

Fr. Benjamin M. Sebastian
Saint Mary Star of the Sea
Roman Catholic Church
467 Court St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11231

Dear Fr. Sebastian:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Father Anthony Hilary's coming to Manchester and his problem. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness in sharing the confidential information with me so that I may make the right decision if I am approached by Fr. Hilary.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Your friend in Christ,

+ *Leo E. O'Neil*

Bishop of Manchester



Saint Mary Star of the Sea
Roman Catholic Church

467 COURT STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11231

3552

an acknowledgment
of this letter.
F.Y.I.

(718) 625-2270

718-522-3700

522-6011

702-575-

4816
CP 11/01/95

To:

The Chairperson
Personnel Board
Diocese of Manchester
657 N. River Rd, Manchester
NH 03104

June 13, '95

Dear Father,

I am Father Benjamin M. Sebastian, a catholic priest, of the Diocese of Kottar, India. Bishop Leon Tharmaraj is our bishop. Presently I am doing my studies in Alcoholism Counseling while working for St. Vincent's Services, a child care agency of the diocese of Brooklyn, New York.

I would like to send you the following **CONFIDENTIAL** information regarding Father A.M. Hilary (Anthony Muthu Hilary) of our diocese. He was granted permission by our bishop Leon Tharmaraj due to pressure to come to United States. Father Hilary is an **alcoholic** known to the diocese. Two months ago he had a mild cardiac arrest due to his drinking and he was warned by the treating physician that he could die if he would relapse. He was twice arrested and fined in court for DWI (driving while intoxicated). He was a few times assaulted by his own parishioners due to his rude behavior resulting from his drinking. There were allegations that under the influence of alcohol he molested girls who went to his rectory. The diocese once investigated one of the allegations and found it to be true.

Fr. Francis Soosai Marian, a drinking buddy of Father Hilary, belonging to the same diocese, came to America a year ago and worked in Little Rock diocese where he was treated for alcoholism and sent back to the diocese of Kottar just last month.

Mr. Tony Epaphras, an ex-priest & good friend of Father Hilary, lives at 169 Lafayette Street, Manchester. Tony submitted sponsorship letter to U.S. Consulate in Madras, India, inviting Father Hilary to the United States. Father Hilary is scheduled to land in America on 25th of this month on a visitor visa. Tony and Father Hilary are likely to approach the diocesan office for Pastoral assignment for Fr. Hilary in Manchester diocese.

You may contact our bishop Leon Tharmaraj to know more about Father Hilary's drinking problem and you may contact the diocese of Little Rock to know more about Father Francis Soosai Marian of our diocese.

This **confidential** letter is just for your information confident that it would help you take the right decision if you are approached by Father Hilary. I can be contacted during day time at 718-522-6011.

With regards,

Fr. Benjamin Sebastian

Fr. Benjamin M. Sebastian

Saint Mary Star of the Sea
Roman Catholic Church

467 COURT STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11231

3553

(718) 625-2270

Rev. Msgr. Francis Christian
Diocesan Office,
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street, P.O. Box: 310
Manchester,
New Hampshire 03105-0310

August 9, '95

Dear Msgr Christian,

I am writing you this letter since you were interested to verify my report about Fr. Hilary's problems of alcohol abuse and his tendency to molest girls.

From my conversation with you I understand that the diocese of Manchester is not prepared to take any risk regarding matters of sexual abuse. You may contact the following two priests of our diocese now in this country in the following addresses. These priests are known to and in contact with Fr. Hilary. You may ask them for their honest and confidential report regarding their knowledge about Fr. Hilary's problem with alcohol and girls. These are the two issues which I highlighted in my letter to your bishop.

Fr. Juniper Jones Thomas
Infant Jesus Church
110 Myrtle Avenue
Port Jefferson, N.Y. 11777
Tel: 1-516-928-0139

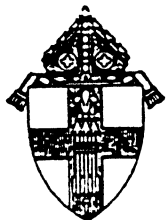
Fr. Venantius Fernando
954 Styvasant Avenue
Irvington, N.J. 07111
Tel: 1-201-375-8568 (church)
1-201-375-2427 (Personal)

Kindly keep my name confidential.

With regards and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Benjamin Sebastian



Secretariat for Pastoral Services
Diocese of Manchester

August 14, 1995

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

Fr. Benjamin M. Sebastian
Saint Mary Star of the Sea
467 Court Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11231

Dear Fr. Sebastian:

Thank you for your letter of August 9th. I appreciate the concern you have taken in assisting us in making an appropriate decision in regard to Father Hilary.

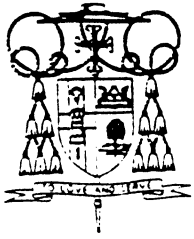
I would like to inform you confidentially that, because of your information and other information that we have managed to receive, I have informed Father Hilary that it is not possible for us to offer him a pastoral assignment. Since all of the information we have about him was kept confidential, the reason I offered to him was the fact that we will be ordaining seven priests in the spring and frankly will have a difficult time in finding appropriate pastoral assignments for them. For that reason, we simply would not have the need for his services at this time.

Again I thank you for your kind concern in this regard.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ;

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor



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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND LEO E. O'NEIL, D.D.

August 15, 1995

Most Rev. Leon A. Tharmaraj
Bishop of Kottar
Bishop's House
P. B. No. 17
Nagercoil - 629 001
INDIA

Dear Bishop Leon:

Thank you for your letter of July 27. I appreciate your openness in frankly sharing with me Father Hilary's history of problems. Please let me hasten to assure you that I have kept, in strict confidence, all of this information.

My Chancellor has informed Father Hilary that, given the number of priests we will be ordaining in the next year, we simply could not provide him with any full-time pastoral ministry in this diocese at the present time. Father Hilary was disappointed at this news but seemed to understand the fact that we simply do not have need of him at present.

Once again, thank you for your prompt response to my previous letter.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Your friend in Christ,

+ Leo E. O'Neil

Bishop of Manchester

DIOCESE OF KOTTAR

3556

BISHOP LEON A. THARMARAJ

Most Rev. Leo E. O'Neil, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
153 Ash Street
P.O. Box 310
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-0310

BISHOP'S HOUSE
P. B. No. 17
NAGERCOIL - 629 001
INDIA
Tel: 23452 & 26243

July 27, 1995.

CONFIDENTIAL

My Lord Bishop,

Greetings from Bishop Leon!

Thank you for your confidential letter asking my opinion about one of my priests requesting for ministry. Let me request you to keep these informations strictly confidential to the extent that nobody should know that you asked for my opinion.

I should like to tell you that there is some truth in what you are told. I knew that he had some problem with alcohol and I believed that he had corrected himself and stopped drinking. Now after he left for the States I am told he has not changed. The other allegation with girls was whispered to me here and there. But now after he left atleast one case was proved. Recently I was in the States and heard of so many cases ^{of priests}. Hence I am also trembling to recommend him, though he has a letter from me. So please keep this information confidential and do what you think best. There is a possibility that people misunderstand me if they come to know about my letter. So please keep it confidential.

I wished to meet with you when I visited the Precious Blood Monastery in Manchester. I was also sorry to learn that you were not keeping good health. Assuring you of my prayers and requesting yours for me and the missionary diocese,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ *Leon A. Tharmaraj*
Bishop of Kottar.

DIOCESE OF KOTTAR

3557

BISHOP LEON A. THARMARAJ

BISHOP'S HOUSE
P. B. No. 17
NAGERCOIL - 629 001
INDIA
Tel: 23452 & 26243

September 06, 1995

Rt.Rev.Msgr. Christian
153, Ash Street
P.O. Box 310
Manchester, N.H. 03105
U.S.A.
Fax: 001 603 669 0311

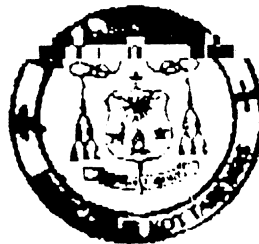
Dear Msgr. Christian,

I am sending today an urgent letter by aexpress post
about Fr. A.M.Hilary of my diocese. Kindly wait
for it for any decision with regard to giving
Pastoral ministry to him in your diocese.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ *Leon A. Tharmaraj*
Bishop Leon A. Tharmaraj
Bishop of Kottar



DIOCESE OF KOTTAR

BISHOP LEON A. THARMARAJ

BISHOP'S HOUSE
 P. B. No. 17
 NAGERCOIL-629 001
 INDIA
 Tel: 23452 & 26243

06 September 1995

His Excellency
 Most Rev. Leo O'Neil
 Bishop of Manchester

Your Excellency,

Hearty Greetings from Kottar, India. I am writing these few lines concerning Rev. Fr. A. M. Hilary of my diocese who is now in Manchester, N.H., with his friend Mr. Toni Epaphras, 169 Lafayette Street, Manchester, N.H. 03102. I have given him permission to go for the United States for a period of three years. I would be happy if he would be provided with the possibility of doing some pastoral work in a parish of your diocese. He had worked in my diocese for the last 25 years. He had been very active and doing lot of good to the people wherever he was.

Now I come to know from Fr. Hilary that certain complaints have been received by you about him. I know that he is used to take alcoholic drinks occasionally, but he is not an alcoholic. I have also never heard of any incident of child-abuse by him. Hence I am surprised that such complaints have been made against him.

I shall be happy and thankful to you if you give him an opportunity to serve in your diocese for three years. If he does not do his ministry to your satisfaction, you may at any time withdraw your permission to work in your diocese.

With kind regards,

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ *Leon A. Tharmaraj*
 (Leon A. Tharmaraj)
 Bishop of Kottar

C. C.:

Msgr. Christian
 Chancellor
 Diocese of Manchester

DIocese OF KOTTAR

3550

*Rep. Christian -
Do you
want them for
your file?
31*

BISHOP LEON A. THARMARAJ

Most Rev. Leo E. O'Neil
Bishop of Manchester
153 Ash Street
P.O. Box 310
New Hampshire 03105-0310
U.S.A.

My Lord Bishop,

Greetings from Bishop Leon!

By now you must have received a letter sent to you at the request of Fr. Hilary. Your chancellor seems to have remarked to him about these two complaints lodged against him by a priest of my diocese in the States. When I reported this to my curia, they asked me to give a letter as these complaints are not proved or tested here. Moreover he is given only three years' leave. Hence I have sent that letter to you.

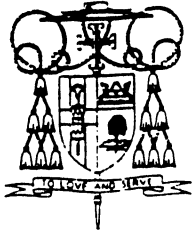
This is actually a problem for us now. Fr. Hilary has already decided to fight back against the priest who has written to your office. So I leave it to you to decide. Probably you must have taken a decision before this letter arrives. Whatever you decide I take it well.

I just wanted to inform you about what happened before I sent that letter. Hope you are improving. I am praying for your good health. May the Lord touch you and heal you completely.

With my warmest regards,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ *Leon A. Tharmaraj*
Bishop of Kottar.



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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND LEO E. O'NEIL, D.D.

September 13, 1995

Most Rev. Leon A. Tharmaraj
Bishop of Kottar
Bishop's House
P. B. No. 17
Nagercoil - 629 001
INDIA

Dear Bishop Leon:

I write to you to ask for a clarification, one that is extremely important.

In your confidential letter to me of July 27, 1995, you indicated that Father Hilary did indeed have "some problem with alcohol" and at least "one case proved" of problems with girls. Based on this information, I instructed my Chancellor, Msgr. Christian, to inform Father Hilary that we could not offer him ministry in the diocese that would be permanent because of the number of priests we will be ordaining next year. Obviously, the real reasons for our refusal of ministry were the problems mentioned above, but we wished to maintain your confidentiality in the matter, as requested.

Father Hilary began actively, with the help of Toni Epaphras, to attempt to find ministry in the area and even arranged certain interviews. At this point, Msgr. Christian met again with Father Hilary and told him that subsequent to their previous conversation, the diocese had become aware of allegations regarding his drinking and sexual problems. Msgr. Christian did not reveal the source of this information although Father Hilary assumed it was from other priests of your diocese currently working in the United States. He denied the allegations and Msgr. Christian told him that there was no way that we could offer him ministry unless he obtained a letter from you clearing his name.

Most Rev. Leon A. Tharmaraj
September 13, 1995
Page 2.

Obviously, it was our intention in this regard to have you corroborate the information in your previous letter. Since you have not done that and in fact have contradicted it, it puts me in a very difficult situation. On the one hand, I would like to respect your confidentiality, but on the other hand, I am very uncomfortable offering Father Hilary ministry in light of the allegations you confirmed.

Keeping in mind the seriousness of the situation in the United States, and the terrible scandal and perhaps civil liabilities that could come to the Church if Father Hilary is knowingly allowed to function with an unresolved history of these problems, could you please send me immediately some clarification of the apparent contradiction in your letters of July 27 and September 6.

Thanking you for your kind assistance in this regard, I am

Your friend in Christ,

+ *Leo E. O'Neil*

Bishop of Manchester

DIOCESE OF KOTTAR

BISHOP LEON A. THARMARAJ

BISHOP'S HOUSE
 P. B. No. 17
 NAGERCOIL-629 001
 INDIA
 Tel: 23452 & 26243

Confidential

Most Rev. Leo E. O'Neil, D.D.
 Bishop of Manchester
 153 Ash Street
 P.O. Box 310
 Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-0310
 U.S.A.

September 21, 1995.

My Lord Bishop,

Received your letter dt. September 13, 95 and I feel really sorry for the disturbance I have caused you because things were not clearly explained to you. In the mean time you must have received another letter posted on the 07th inst. Any way I should like to tell you in all sincerity my mind.

The first letter in response to yours is my personal letter confidential wherein I shared with you my opinion from the reports and complaints, received mostly after he left the country. This I have not shared with my curia members either as it was not opportune. However I did not want this my opinion be known to anyone except to you.

The second letter is an official one wherein I have explained what the curia members feel about him. Since we could not have any enquiry with him officialy I cannot say anything more than what I have mentioned in that letter.

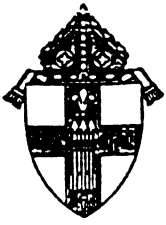
Having said this I would leave it to you to decide what is good for the moment. In case you decide against him I would only request you not to reveal my personal information as it would create unpleasant situation in my diocese. I do realise your delicacy. As a matter of fact I have given him permission only for three years. Kindly bear with me for the trouble I have given you in this matter. Only thing is I am afraid of the consequences if my first letter is known outside.

Thanking you for your respect for the confidentiality and your kindness, let me have a favorable reply from you

With my deep respect,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Leon A. Tharmaraj
 Bishop of Kottai.



Secretariat for Pastoral Services
Diocese of Manchester

3583

October 16, 1995

Rev. A. M. Hilary
St. Patrick Rectory
138 Coolidge Ave.
Manchester, N.H. 03102

Dear Fr. Hilary:

I am pleased to inform you that subsequent to the recent letter from your Bishop in India which has been received by Bishop O'Neil, the Bishop will be happy to permit you to serve as a priest in the Diocese of Manchester contingent on your ability to find a placement.

As I explained to you, the diocese is not able to assign you on a long-term basis because of the number of ordinations we anticipate in the spring. If, however, you are able to find a pastor, a hospital or any other institution who would be willing to employ you, the diocese will certainly confirm that personal arrangement.

Please be in touch with me if and when you arrange such ministry.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER



December 4, 1995

Father Hilary Antony Muthu
c/o St. Patrick's Rectory
138 Coolidge Ave.
Manchester, N.H. 03102-3298

Dear Father Hilary:

I have received your letter of December 1st. I am sorry that you have not been able to find appropriate ministry in the Diocese of Manchester. I must state, however, that I am surprised at the judgement you make that this fact is due to my "non-helping attitude" and the assumption that whatever assistance you felt I owed you was withheld because of the allegations from one of your fellow priests.

If you recall correctly, I told you from the very beginning that the Diocese had no ministry to offer you because of the number of priests that we would be ordaining this spring. I further indicated that it would be unfair to you or to any parish or institution to assign you there for a short time knowing that we would have to remove you from that position in the near future. The allegations raised by the priest from your Diocese had nothing to do with the reasons why the Diocese of Manchester could not offer you ministry.

When those allegations became known to us, it was of course necessary for us to check with your Bishop in regard to them. When he vindicated you in regard to them, this then freed you to look for ministry on your own since the original position of the Diocese, in terms of our need, remained the same.

While it is true that I did not share the name of the priest from your Diocese with you, I did share with you the specific allegations and Bishop O'Neil wrote about those specific allegations to your Bishop. Since you knew what the allegations were, since you have been vindicated of them, and since in any case the allegations had nothing to do with your receiving a priestly assignment from the Diocese, I do not feel it necessary to reveal to you the name of the priest in question, who, in any case, requested confidentiality.

Francis J. Christian
December 4, 1995
Page 2.

I can understand your disappointment in not finding appropriate ministry here in New Hampshire, but I tried to make the position of the Diocese clear to you in regard to our needs from the very beginning. I once again indicate to you that if you can find a pastor or an institution that can use your services, we will be more than happy to confirm whatever arrangement you make in that regard.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

December 1, 1995

From: Father Hilary Antony Muthu
c/o St. Patrick's Rectory
138 Cooledge Ave
Manchester, NH 03102-3298

To : Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis Christian
Chancellor, Diocese of Manchester
155 Ash Street
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Dear Msgr. Christian,

Thank you for your letter dated October 16, 1995. In your letter, you have left to my ability to find a placement in the Diocese of Manchester. I thought that it would be easy to find a parish to work since there have been a few openings due the illness, retirement, death of a few priests. However, now I realize that it is almost impossible for me to find a place to work without your personal interest.

I think that I am duty bound to highlight the following facts. I have been under the realization that the United States of America is a country committed to peace and freedom of people in and outside the country. In my case, I am made to feel insecure and helpless.

I arrived at Manchester on June 24, 1995. The same day I was introduced to Father Nicholas Rogers of St. Patrick's. He showed much interest in my service to his parish.

On two occasions, (on July 10, & August 7), I had met with Msgr Quinn who had given me positive signs of hiring me in this diocese.


I was introduced to you and I had a meeting with you as the Chancellor of the diocese. On August 31, you have called me over the phone and said that you have a place for me and asked me to meet with you on September 5 and get the appointment order.

When I met with you on September 5, you informed me that you had received a negative report from a priest of my home diocese with two specific charges. At your request, the matter was clarified to your satisfaction by my bishop Leon Tharmaraj of Kottar, India.

I believe that I have all the right to know the name of my accuser and the content of the communication you have received against me. The false allegations against me as well as your non-helping attitude based on those allegations have caused me unspecified damages to my personal and professional life.

Therefore, I request you to send me a copy of the communication with false allegations against me in your possession by December 11, 1995.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Hilary A.M.

3587

INT. PATRICK RECTORY
138 COOLIDGE AVENUE
MANCHESTER, N. H. 03102-3298

Rt. Rev. Msgr Francis Christian
Chancellor
The Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street P.O. Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310



December 26, 1995

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that Bishop O'Neil has sent to Bishop Tharmaraj, who is Father Hilary's bishop. I trust this letter, which was accompanied by a copy of your statement, will enable Bishop Tharmaraj to deal appropriately with the situation

I am grateful to you for coming forward with this matter, painful as it was to do so. If you or your husband have any further questions or concerns, please be in touch with me.

In closing, may I wish you and your family the holiest of Christmas Seasons.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

Enclosure

December 26, 1995

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

* Most Reverend Leon A. Tharmaraj
Diocese of Kottar
* Bishop's House
P.B. No. 17
NAGERCOIL-629 001
INDIA

Your Excellency:

Enclosed please find a letter that I am sending to you to register a complaint made against Father A. M. Hilary. Since it is necessary for me to provide a copy of that letter to the complainant, I did not want to mention in it our previous correspondence about Father Hilary, nor give any indication of the questions that had been raised about his activities in the past.

Given those allegations, however, it is all the more likely that the complainant's story is absolutely accurate. I am sorry to burden you with this problem, and know that you will deal with it in the appropriate manner.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Leo E. O'Neil
Bishop of Manchester

Enclosures

December 26, 1995

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Most Reverend Leon A. Tharmaraj
Diocese of Kottar
Bishop's House
P.B. No. 17
NAGERCOIL-629 001
INDIA

Your Excellency:

I write to you in reference to Father A. M. Hilary. As you know, he has been looking for ministry in the Diocese of Manchester for a period of several months. Since he was unable to locate any suitable ministry, it is my understanding that he has now returned to India and to his own diocese.

I have the unpleasant duty of notifying you that shortly prior to his departure from the Diocese of Manchester a serious complaint was lodged against him in regard to his behavior with a woman. That woman, [REDACTED] has written a detailed account of this problem, a copy of which I enclose for your information. [REDACTED] is a very sincere and dedicated Catholic whose allegation, I believe, must be taken very seriously. She is an honest woman, happily married, with a good family, and would have no reason not to tell the truth in such a matter.

While [REDACTED] statement speaks in detail about the incident, I feel I should highlight several points of concern. First, it appears that when hearing confessions Father Hilary often stood outside the confessional so that he knew who the people were who came in to go to confession. Even if they chose to confess behind the screen he had previously seen them. Given [REDACTED] allegation, I would wonder whether he did this in order to highlight certain people for improper advances.

Secondly, it is clear from previous times when [REDACTED] had gone to confession to him that after hearing her confession he would come around the screen to engage her in conversation and in inappropriate signs of affection. Since she believed this was an Indian custom, she raised no objections to these previous situations.

-2-

Thirdly, in the case at hand, it is clear that Father Hilary attempted intimacies with her that are totally inappropriate for a priest, and are compounded by the fact that he did this immediately after hearing her confession.

You will certainly get a better understanding of the situation from [REDACTED] statement, and I know that you will treat this matter with all the seriousness that it deserves.

After this complaint was made known to the Diocese, Msgr. Francis J. Christian, the Chancellor, attempted to meet with Father Hilary to discuss the matter. Father Hilary, however, was away from Manchester and returned only a day before he departed for India, so such a meeting proved to be impossible.

In closing, I thank your Excellency in advance for dealing with this matter in an appropriate fashion. [REDACTED] because of her love for the Church and the priesthood, is content in knowing that I am writing to you about this matter and that you will give it your every consideration.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Leo E. O'Neil
Bishop of Manchester

Enclosure

cc: [REDACTED]

Father Christian:

I'm writing this because I get flustered when I talk about such things. I feel it is my duty and also I feel God wants you to know about this incident. I have no intention of taking this to the Civil Authorities as I feel it would do more damage than good to the Church.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, 1995 at approx. 3:45 PM, I went to Confession to Father Hillery, (the Indian Priest staying at our Parish). It was at St. Patrick's Church in Manchester. We, my two daughters - ages 13 & 16 - and I were waiting about 15 min. to go to confession. We go to confession every 2 weeks if possible.

Father Hillery came in and turned on the heater in the Confessional because it was ice cold in there. He stands outside the Confessional till someone wants to go in and Confess. Since the girls get impatient, I went up and asked to go. He asked if I was in a hurry or could I wait till the Confessional warmed up. I said I could wait and did so.

After a few minutes he went in, then I went in and knelt at the screen while he sat on the other side and I made my Confession. As soon as I finished he came around the screen

and asked if I would miss him (because he had to go back to India). I said yes, (because I knew Father Rogers needed all the help he could get). Then he asked if I would write to him. I said yes (because Fr. Kaminsky S.J., who was at our Parish for a while had asked the same thing. He sent Christmas cards and different notes to us on the Rosary).

Father Hillery then gave me some paper and a pen. I wrote down my name and address. He then asked for my phone # and I wrote that down. When I finished he asked me again if I would miss him. (Thinking he was insecure) I said yes. Each time I said no more than just yes.

After that yes he took my hands and rubbed his cheeks on my cheeks. He had done this other times when I went to Confession and also once outside our Sacristy. I had thought it was an Indian custom and did not want to offend him, so I let him do that.

After that, he held me in a bear hug, one arm over my shoulder and one arm under my arm. (This I am accustomed to ~~when~~ my brother-in-laws doing before they leave to go home to New Jersey.) So I hugged him good-bye, then tried to get loose and he wouldn't let me go.

While holding me firm with his right hand he kept pressing me up against himself as I tried to get away. With my hands I

tried to propel myself backward toward the door. (I was not inclined to punch or kick the person of a Priest of God.) Each time I tried to get away, he would move his left hand up and down the back of my body pressing me harder against him and himself against me. He was also with his face constantly rubbing my face. His cheeks to my cheeks. He also said I was very beautiful (which made me feel sick and bad).

When he tried to kiss my lips I lunged backward as hard as I could, caught the knob of the Confessional door and threw it open. As soon as it opened he dropped both of his hands to his sides and stood there as I ran out as fast as I could.

I was upset but didn't want to expose the Church in a bad light to my children. I also knew my daughters would be very quick to exit the Confessional because they get embarrassed when the Priest does see them. So I told them to go to Confession but run out as soon as they were done. Both of them did because Fr. Hillery had tried to come out from behind the screen on them before.

I told my Husband when he joined us for Mass. (He is not Catholic but attends Mass with us every week.) He thought it was the cheek brushing bit, so he told me if I was concerned to go tell Fr. Rogers. When we came home I explained it to my Husband in detail. He felt helpless and said to tell Fr.

Rogers. He also told me to stay away from St. Pat's (I go to Mass daily) until Fr. Hillery leaves.

After I made supper, I needed to talk to [REDACTED] because it bothered me. That is how [REDACTED] came to know of it and here I am.

I beg your pardon Father, for having to present you with this problem. [REDACTED] said you would notify Fr. Hillery's Bishop. I have prayed for Fr. Hillery but now I want to forget about it because when I think of it I have difficulty sleeping and it upsets me very much.

BISHOP LEON A. THARMARAJ

BISHOP'S HOUSE
P. B. No. 17
NAGERCOIL - 629 001
INDIA
Tel: 93349 & 33452

10.05.1996

Most Rev. Leo E. O'Neil,
Bishop of Manchester
153 Ash Street, P.O.Box 310,
Manchester, NH 03105-0310,
USA

Your Excellency,

Hearty greetings from Kottar. How are you?

I am sorry that I am very late in acknowledging and answering your letter, dated December 26, 1995, about Fr. A.M.Hilary of my diocese. I could not meet Fr. Hilary immediately to get his explanations.

I am very sorry at the whole episode. It must have caused you quite a bit of embarrassment and anxiety. [redacted] must have got very much upset at this unpleasant event. I regret for the whole episode, especially for the mental agony it has caused to [redacted]

I called Fr. Hilary for his explanation. But he does not even remember such an incident and tells me that he does not know a person in St. Patricks with the name [redacted]. He speaks of gross exaggeration of a farewell gesture of hugging. But I told him that I take the letter of the Bishop and that of [redacted] seriously, because of similar complaints in the past and I warned him severely not indulge in such activities any more. I hope and pray that Fr. Hilary will take my warning seriously and will behave properly in the future.

May I thank your Excellency for having brought this incident to my attention. Once again I am sorry for this unpleasant episode and for the embarrassment and anxiety it caused to you and to [redacted]. Kindly inform [redacted] about my regret for what has happened and I will keep her in my prayers.

Wishing Your Excellency all the best,

ALFO-FOLEP HZ [redacted] remain

Devotedly Yours in Christ

+ Leon A. Tharmaraj
(+Leon A. Tharmaraj)

Bishop of Kottar