



DIocese OF PITTSBURGH

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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August 26, 1994

Dear Bishop Walsh:

On August 16, 1991, the Reverend Ernest C. Paone, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh who has been on an indefinite leave of absence since 1966 requested permission to accept a priestly assignment in the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas. On November 4, 1991, I granted Father Paone's request and you assigned him as parochial vicar at Saint Anne Parish, Las Vegas.

Very recently, an allegation was made by a woman who claims that more than 30 years ago her brother was molested by Father Paone. Thus far, this allegation has not been substantiated. Since I have only become aware of this matter, I want to share it with you even though, I understand, he has returned to his private residence in Oceanside, California. I am not aware of any information which would suggest that Father Paone was involved in any improper behavior during his brief visit in the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas, Nevada.

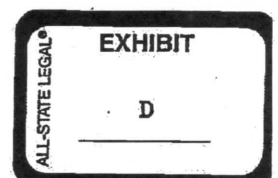
Had I been aware of this allegation in Father Paone's past I would not have supported his request for a priestly assignment in your diocese. Nor would I have written to you indicating that he was a priest in good standing. To address this situation, the Reverend David A. Zubik, Director of the Department of Clergy Personnel of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been in touch with Father Paone to invite him to meet and examine the entire situation.

With every personal good wish and prayer, I am

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh, D.D.
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