

DIOCESE OF MARILLO
P. O. BOX 5644 AMARILLO, TEXAS 79107

February 11, 1980

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr & Mrs -----

AMARILLO TEXAS 79109

Dear Mr. and Mrs. -----:

Pope John Paul II's personal Representative and Apostolic Delegate to the United States, His Excellency Archbishop Joan Jadot, January 23, 1980 has asked Msgr. L. T. Matthiesen, Administrator sede vacante of the Diocese of Amarillo "to initiate a process . . . examine . . . facts . . . serious allegations . . . according to canon law . . . to determine what further action, if any, should be taken " in regards to one, Father Terrence Burke of the Diocese of Amarillo.

Archbishop Jadot has forwarded to us your communications to him in this respect. He asks us to treat the situation according to norms and stipulations of Church law. Allegations made may either be substantiated and Fr Burke will be subject to canonical equity, or, conversely, his innocence will be vindicated.

Msgr. Matthiesen has delegated me to act in his name and conduct a strict fact finding investigation and to make recommendations after having sought and obtained the recommendations of two more experts in these related matters. This is not a trial, and, therefore, no one is being named Plaintiff or Defendant.

While I hope to meet your full personal acceptance as operator of this investigation, I have to seek your full and unconditional cooperation at all times.

Allow me to enjoin strict confidentiality in this matter at all stages of its development – penalty: discreditation of your allegations and of your own credibility. You are to observe absolute silence about the current process, refraining from divulging the very existence of the investigation itself, the identify of the Personalities onvolved in any degree, the requirements we will be making on you, and the statements you make to us. You are not free to consult or discuss this subject, whether in part or in full, directly or indirectly, with anyone except on my written request or permission or that of my Superiors.

Let God be your Witness as you pursue with us this investigation, seeking only the establishment of truth and the good of souls.

Typewritten, double-spaced and on legal size paper, in duplicate form, please: move to make your allegations formally and to substantiate your statements with facts (Personalities involved, dates, places, circumstances, exhibits in your possession). Do not write on the back of your type sheets: nor will you leave empty spaces unnecessarily (to avoid interpolations); nor will you make any correction in your text without initialing it accordingly to prove authenticity. Every element you include has to be true and burden of proof lies with you. You will further indicate what is personal experience, impression or surmise, what is commonly believed and what is jury hear say. For your convenience, I am enclosing a photo-copy of your personal letters to Archbishop Jadot or to the late Bishop DeFalco to refreshen your memory re the allegations you have heretofore made. You will, however, discard that document and proceed to produce a fresh one as outlined in this letter from me.

You are further requested to call and ask for an appointment with me at 383-2244 or 383-2261 between February 20 and March 2, 1980. During our meeting – and not outside of it – you will be administered the oath of truth and promise of secrecy and you will sign, in my presence, every sheet of your depositions. I will proceed to notarize your signature at my Office. You will be asked to produce personal identification.

Should my requirements clash with your schedules or understanding of procedure, please, feel free to communicate your reactions to me in writing. If geographical distances, or poor health impede our personal conference, please, submit the full name and mailing address and telephone number of any Catholic Priest in your neighbourhood whom I may instruct to notarize your signature.

Please, submit the Names and mailing address and telephone numbers of four persons who hold Public Office (e. g. Priests, Ministers, Lawyers, Bank Executives) whom I will, at my discretion, ask for a character reference for you. You will inform them of the fact that a reference of reference 'might' be forthcoming to them from me. They need not and should not become acquainted with the nature of these proceedings.

Always start your descriptive document to me by stating your Name, Street address, telephone number, date of birth and quote an I. D. (e. g. Driver's License). Make allegations and make specific proofs. State your willingness or reluctance to allow or disallow a true copy of your writing to be shown to Father Burke, or to leave it to the discretion of the investigative Body to produce a summary of your statements and offer it to Father for reaction. We do not insist on divulging your identity. However, you will be given an advance copy of the summary for your approval.

You will be duly informed of the closing of the investigation. But, until then, always feel free to communicate with me in writing, to make additions, modifications or deletions of your original statements. Repetition of the oath of truth, the promise of secrecy and the notarization of signatures in my Office will, once more, be imperative.

In the hope that this present letter clarifies the nature and procedure in case, I beg to vouch to you and to my Superiors my full and impartial fact finding mission.

With every grace and blessing!

Respectfully,

(Reverend) Joseph Peter Tabone, J. C. D.

Enc. Your communications to Archbishop Jadot
cc. Archbishop Jadot
cc. Msgr. Matthiesen