

March 24, 2000

Memo to the files
From Father Robert Wilson

In re: Complaint against Father Rudy Rentería

On March 20 I received a phone call from Ms. Mary Edholm, chancellor of the Diocese of Dallas. A complaint had been made against RR, who for ten years has been one of the chaplains at St. Paul's Hospital in Dallas, although he is a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

The complainant was _____ although ME did not know his name. The report was made to her by Father _____ who withheld the name at that time. According to ME _____ was presenting at the Pre-Cana Conference in Dallas the previous day, March 19. He apologized for any hurt that anyone present had received from the Church or Church personnel, and asked anyone to whom anything had happened to see him privately.

_____ came to _____ and alleged that RR had sexually abused him while he was an altar boy at _____. ME asked when RR served at St. Philip's, and I looked up and gave her the dates. She reported this to _____ who in turn spoke to _____. The dates did not check out with the altar boy scenario, but he then remembered a different set of facts. He states that he was with two other young men, and that RR took all three drinking before the abuse happened. ME related this much to me, and I obtained more details when I interviewed _____.

On March 21, _____ came to my office at the Catholic Center. I invited him to bring someone with him, and he chose his fiancé. They arrived in different cars. He lives near _____ and she lives in _____. They will be married in _____. It was interesting that she did not know that the dates did not check with his time as an altar boy. In the interview, _____ told me that he, _____, _____, and _____. He said that he did not remember how RR encountered him and two other boys, but that he took all three of them home with him where there was much drinking. Eventually RR "threw out" the other two. When _____ saw them later, they said they thought it was strange _____ they were not Catholic. _____ says that he passed out but not entirely. As a matter of fact he states that he feels guilty because he knew what was happening. He says that he spent the night in RR's bed, and was sexually abused. The next morning RR took him home (or somewhere - I am not sure just where he said).

I asked _____ now well he knew RR. He said that he just knew him as the priest in the parish. He encountered him one other time at dinner at a friend's house. RR was a friend of that family. _____ states that he never saw RR again after the occasion of the drinking and sexual abuse.

_____ exhibited great shame, and guilt. He found it difficult to talk about the event, and did not want to go into detail. He does not want _____ to hear the details that he tells the committee of three. He said she can come along, but wait outside for him.

10-04-04 Order
0192

Complaint against Fr. Rudy Renteria, page 2

I referred [redacted] to [redacted] for counseling. I had called [redacted] earlier to tell him that I intended to do so. [redacted] promised that he would call [redacted] for an appointment. I stated that the diocese will pay for the counseling. [redacted] seemed grateful.

On March 22 I called [redacted] Father Joseph Scantlin and [redacted]. All three agreed to serve on the investigating committee. [redacted] agreed to act as chairperson, and to gather the group. I called [redacted] later that day to tell him that I would be calling him later in the week to set up an appointment for the following week.

On March 23 I called RR at St. Paul's Hospital in Dallas. I gave him the bare bones of the accusation, and the names of the committee members. I told him that [redacted] will be calling him to set a time for him to respond to the charges. He stated that he does not remember [redacted].

Priests assigned to St. Philip's Lewisville, and their tenure:

Father Joseph Scantlin, Pastor	October 26, 1972 to April 26, 1981
Father Thomas Hauser, Assoc. Pastor	June 25, 1976 to July, 1980
Father Dave Wallace, Assoc. Pastor	July, 1980 to July 15, 1982
Father Lawrence Breedlove, Pastor	April 26, 1981 to July 3, 1985
Father Thomas Craig, Assoc. Pastor	July 15, 1982 to January 1, 1986
Father Rudy Renteria, Pastor	July 3, 1985 to June 19, 1987
Father Jonathan Scalone, Pastor	June 19, 1987 to present

Note: Because of the confusion about dates, I asked [redacted] to describe RR to me. He did so to my satisfaction, dark, swarthy, mustache. (RR does not wear a mustache now, I do not think). He never had a doubt about his name.

Father Rudy Renteria (214) 902-9106 (St. Paul's Chaplain's Office, Dallas)

10-04-04 Order
0193

Rev. Bob Wilson
 c/o Catholic Center
 800 West Loop, 500 South
 F.W. TX 76105-2919

Continued Payment by
 The Diocese 6-9-00

DATE				BALANCE
3-28-2000	90806	Instr. Bishop	90	90-
4-29-2000			90	180
5-10-00	90806-1/2 session		135	315
4-1-00	90806-1 session		90	405
1-24-00			90	495-

PE 84

-We have completed the sessions, none further scheduled at this time.

10-04-04 Order
 0195



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.

2701 Burchill Road North
Fort Worth, Texas 76105-3012
(817) 534-0814 • Fax (817) 535-8779
TDD (817) 332-6579

United Way Here

April 6, 2000

Father Robert Wilson
The Catholic Center
800 West Loop 820 South
Fort Worth, TX 76108

Dear Father Wilson:

The committee assigned to evaluate the allegation of sexual misconduct against Father Rudolf Renteria consisted of: [redacted], Father Joe Scantlin and myself.

We met on the following dates with the following people:

Monday, March 27: [redacted] and [redacted]

Wednesday, March 29: Father Rudolf Renteria

[redacted] accompanied by [redacted] entered the interview room carrying a Bible. Using the information provided to us by your office regarding the allegation we began the session with [redacted] asking him to relate the incident in question. Essentially he shared the same information with us that he had with you earlier. He told the committee that he had met Father Rudolf Renteria (RR) at a friend's house where they had both been invited to dinner. At the end of that evening RR kissed [redacted] and his friend on the mouth. Later that same summer, the summer following [redacted]'s graduation from high school, he and 2 other young men, all employees at [redacted] at the time, went to RR's house and began drinking. He said that RR had a "great" stereo system and a lot of CD's. When one of the committee members questioned him about the CD's that weren't available at that time, he said he didn't remember what kind of recordings were there. He also described RR as being "cool", a "big blue Cadillac". While he felt no undue pressure from RR to consume alcohol, he and his friends apparently did so and became intoxicated. Initially he said that he had "a couple of beers" although admitted under questioning that he had consumed considerably more, enough, in fact to "pass out on the couch". His friends left and he felt himself being helped into the bedroom by RR. He said that he became aware of waking up in RR's bed and being sexually aroused. He was on his stomach with RR attempting to sodomize him. [redacted] told RR to stop and he did stop. Following questioning he said that he had been aware of some "touching and kissing" prior to this particular event. He did not respond to a direct question asking if oral sex had been involved. [redacted]

[redacted] indicated that he has [redacted] in two occasions: The first when he was in the [redacted] the second following his [redacted]

10-04-04 Order
0196

discharge when he sought help with _____ His first experience was not particularly helpful; he did not follow through on his second effort.

_____ appears to be angry, and he seems to project this anger on his experience with RR. It is the opinion of the committee that his anger, in relation to the incident, is over stated. _____ was born _____ the incident took place in the summer of _____ at which time _____ was 18 years of age. He readily admits that he was neither coerced to drink nor have sexual relations with RR. Under questioning he related that RR ceased sexual contact upon his request. One of the committee members asked: "You're saying he stopped right away, you didn't have to shove him away or hit him in the jaw or anything?" _____ said: "Yes".

For the most part, _____ was cooperative although seemed angry. Interestingly he decided to tell of the incident because he "found out he (RR) was still a priest". This caused _____ to begin thinking of "all those other little boys who might have been hurt". _____ was clearly not a little boy at the time of this incident. _____ stated hostility against the Catholic Church. At one point he quoted the Bible as saying: "Call no man father ...". He said he has found God in another setting that he declined to identify. He also declined giving the names of the two friends who had accompanied him to RR's house by saying: "I'm not at liberty to disclose that".

RR stated that he did not remember _____ of the incident. He did not deny it but said the time he spent in Lewisville was best characterized by excessive drinking and other related destructive behaviors. He described periods of alcohol related black outs that were present to the degree that he would sometimes find himself at home with no recollection of how he arrived there, or sleeping in his car with no memory of having been driving. When questioned directly about the attempted sodomy he indicated that such would have been impossible.

RR was cooperative during the interview. He appeared to answer questions thoughtfully. He became tearful on several occasions as he described _____ his isolation and self-deprecation. He is clearly depressed; in fact the committee is concerned about his level of depression. RR suffered a "heart attack" in May of 1999; he was treated at St. Paul's where he is employed _____

The committee expressed concerns regarding his current depression with RR. He indicated that there was help available to him through the hospital; that he had been there before and that he was welcome to return.

10-04-04 Order
0197

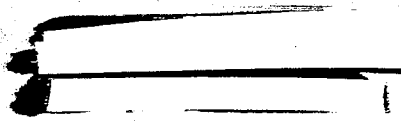
Currently RR is a hospital chaplain at St. Paul's. He does well there. He has a strong relationship with his supervisor there; in fact he discussed this situation with him prior to coming to meet with us. He has made a life for himself outside this diocese, and although it may seem isolated, even bleak, it is an environment where he is functional in regard to his work. He has purchased a "fixer up" home and is in process of working on it. In his own words: "I can drive home Friday night, put my car in the garage and not see or talk to anyone until Monday." He does occasionally fill in for absent pastors, and is sometimes on weekend call for the hospital.

It is the opinion of the committee that RR poses no threat to anyone as long as he does not drink. He described himself as an "alcohol abuser not an alcoholic". He indicated that he did keep alcohol at his house for relatives or visitors and that he had a small glass of brandy around Christmas because he had the flu. Otherwise he indicates that he is alcohol free. Due to his admitted history of alcohol-related black outs we would recommend that he not ever drink at all. It stands to reason that his judgment is impaired when drinking. If the incident did take place with [redacted] and his friends RR would have provided alcohol to minors. We would also recommend that he be involved in treatment for depression. His coping method of "staying away from others so I won't hurt them, and I won't be hurt" is a very restrictive and personally punitive existence.

RR was very cooperative during the interview. He answered questions thoughtfully and did not even give the appearance of trying to skirt an issue. The committee is hopeful that RR be able to continue in ministry at the hospital. Since he expressed his anxiety regarding the situation several times during the interview it would seem in his best interest for a final decision be made known to him as soon as possible.

Please contact me if you have further questions or comments.

Sincerely,



10-04-04 Order
0198

May 10, 2000

Memo to files
From: Father Robert Wilson *R. Wilson*

In re: _____ s and Father Rudy Renteria

_____ came to see Bishop Delaney May 5. I sat in on the meeting. The bishop explained that the recommendation of the three person investigating committee was that RR be allowed to continue working as a chaplain at St. Paul's Medical Center in Dallas. The Bishop of Dallas is in agreement with this (both the diocesan bishop and the coadjutor).

The bishop described to _____ a phone conversation that he, the bishop, had with RR. The latter did not deny the allegations made by _____. He just did not remember. He was drinking a lot at the time, and much of what happened in his poor relationship with the parishioners in Lewisville is a blank to him. Although RR does not remember, _____ he was in tears on the phone with the bishop, and asked him to tell him he was sorry if he hurt him in any way. The bishop related all this to _____.

He also explained to _____ that RR _____ is now dry, i.e. he does not drink. He has done well as a chaplain, first in Fort Worth, and for the past ten years at St. Paul's. There have been no complaints about him. He will probably not do parish work again, but this is a good setting for him.

_____ seemed to accept the information given him, and asked to pray with us, which we did, holding hands. _____ then asked to see me in my office where he requested the name of a priest that could help him with his difficulties with the Catholic Church (he is marrying a Catholic _____). I recommended Father _____ since _____ lives near _____.

I called _____ and the three committee members this date, and said the matter is closed. A copy of this report and the report of the committee is being sent to Mary Edlund, the chancellor of the Dallas Diocese, and to Father F. Patrick Hanser, CM, chief chaplain at St. Paul Medical Center.

10-04-04. Order
0199



Diocese of Fort Worth

File Copy

May 10, 2000

Rev. F. Patrick Hanser, CM
St. Paul Medical Center
5909 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75235

Dear Father Hanser:

Enclosed is the summary of the investigation done by our three person committee on the complaint against Father Rudy Renteria. I spoke to you about it on the phone. Also enclosed is the record of the conversation Bishop Delaney had with the complainant.

Bishop Grahmann and Bishop Galante are in agreement with the committee's recommendation that in view of his excellent ten year record at St. Paul's that Father Renteria not be penalized. I was grateful for the apology from Father Renteria made through Bishop Delaney, and seemed in agreement with the decision of the bishops.

The decision of the bishops was about faculties. We are aware of course that St. Paul's as the employer has the final decision about employment. We do hope that you will continue to support him as you have in the past.

Please be assured of my prayers.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert W. Wilson
Chancellor, Moderator of the Curia

Cc: _____ (copy of the record of Bishop Delaney's interview with _____ enclosed)

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10-04-04 order
0200

The Catholic Center

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In re: Renteria, Rudy

Date: June 19, 2002

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

To: Files
From: Bishop Delaney
Date: June 19, 2002
Subject: Father Rudy Renteria - Incident with

I spoke by telephone today with _____ the father of _____, about an incident involving Father Rudy Renteria (RR) that took place before I arrived in the Diocese—probably in May, of 1981. He had emailed me yesterday reminding me of what had happened years ago.

These are the facts as _____ recalled them: _____ were active in parish in _____. RR was an associate in the parish; Father Al Tyl was the pastor. _____ were very friendly with RR, who came to their house on occasion. One Saturday evening, RR was invited to dinner since there were relatives of the visiting. Because there was a shortage of space, RR offered to take _____ to spend the night in the rectory. The parents assumed that this meant a guest bedroom. In fact, RR had _____ take a shower and then took him to bed with him. According to _____ RR fondled him during the night, putting his hand into underwear. The next morning, Sunday _____ recalls that is was _____ was to serve Mass. When the father, _____ arrived at church _____ he found _____ very angry and upset with what had happened during the night. RR called _____ into the sacristy to explain that there had been a misunderstanding between him and _____ and that he [RR] may have done something in his sleep that he didn't remember. _____ recalls _____ telling him that he had shouted at RR: "What kind of a priest are you?" _____ also remembers that RR had been drinking a lot during the evening before.

_____ went to Fr. Tyl to tell him about the incident, but he didn't want to do anything. _____ then went to Fr. Dan Williams, the chancellor, met with him and told him what had happened. [He recalls DW saying that RR had some problems in his past, but that he had stuck up for him and he was sorry that this had happened.] But "because there was no bishop in office"—_____ words—Bishop Cassata was already semi-retired and I had not yet been appointed—nothing was done. _____ then called me after I arrived in the diocese—I remember talking with him on the phone, but I have no notes about the conversation or the date—and demanded that RR be removed from the parish. I discussed the issue with some of the priests—Frs. Williams, Wilson and Schumacher—and decided to move RR to Vernon.

10-04-04 Order
0201

Confidential Memo—Rudy Renteria—June 19, 2002

I told [redacted] about RR's history, that he had been a pastor, had difficulty with alcohol and some sexual acting out—but never with minors—went to therapy, left parish ministry and has been a successful hospital chaplain for over 10 years. I admitted that I had been thinking about this past history during recent weeks, and was very grateful to him for getting in touch with me. I explained that I remembered him calling me, but that I had no notes about the incident and did not even know his name. I also told him that although RR was apparently doing good work as a hospital chaplain, the guidelines that the bishops have adopted will require that he leave ministry entirely.

[redacted] is willing to meet with an investigative board if that is necessary or would prove helpful.

I asked about [redacted]. He is married with [redacted] children living in [redacted]. He is the [redacted] for [redacted] there. He [redacted] seems to be doing well now. [redacted] is unsure of whether the abuse was the cause of these problems. I suggested that [redacted] might want to talk to [redacted] about it. They have talked about it over the years, but not lately. I offered counseling for [redacted] if he felt it would be helpful.

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10-04-04 Order
0202

Bishop Delaney

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2002 11:38 AM
To: Bishop Delaney
Subject: Private Message to Bishop Delaney

Dear Bishop Delaney,

You may recall an incident that took place at the beginning of your term involving then Father Rudy Renteria, and my family, at

I have no desire to resurrect the details (given the current public embarrassment in the Church.) However, since I have no knowledge of Mr. Renteria's current location or present occupation, so I would appreciate an assurance that this man is not serving as a priest in any diocese, anywhere. For many years, as my understanding of these matters has (unfortunately) broadened, I have carried the burden of concern that all we did was transfer this particular problem to other parishes and other innocent persons. I would appreciate a reply.

Most Sincerely,

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10-04-04 Order
0203

In re: Renteria, Rudy

Date: June 21, 2002

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

To: Files
From: Bishop Delaney
Date: June 21, 2002
Subject: Father Rudy Renteria

I met this afternoon with Father Rudy Renteria to tell him that by the standards set by the bishops last week at the meeting in Dallas, he can no longer continue in ministry. Father Wilson was present.


It was a very difficult meeting. I tried to affirm RR in the good ministry that he has done during the past 12 years as a chaplain at St. Paul's hospital in Dallas. But I gave him a copy of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" and went over the section that requires that anyone who has had even a single case of misconduct with a minor in the past cannot continue in ministry. I allowed him to read the memo I had written after my conversation with [redacted] earlier in the week. I also mentioned the misconduct case that we dealt with in March of 2000, that involved a young man who has just turned 18.

RR was very contrite about his past offense, which he admitted freely. He was also very sad about losing his ministry, which has been the center of his life. I offered to assist him financially with counseling or in other ways if he finds himself in need.

I asked him to tell the folks at the hospital about his leaving on Monday, and to let me know when he had. I will call Bishop Grahmann on Monday. I will tell the priests' personnel board members on Thursday, and put a memo in the mail to all the priests that afternoon. I will issue a press release on Friday covering the issue as succinctly as possible.

I urged him to seek professional assistance immediately in working through the grief that this news will bring.

10-04-04 Order
0204

 Diocese of Fort Worth
Bishop's Office

June 24, 2002

Rev. Rudy Renteria
3860 Constitution Dr.
Dallas, TX 75229

Dear Rudy:

Thank you for coming to see me on Friday. I know that the notice was very short and the news was very bad. I am truly sorry that it was necessary for me to tell you that you cannot continue in priestly ministry. I am writing now to give both of us a record of that meeting, at which Father Robert Wilson was also present.

The American bishops adopted a "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" a week ago in Dallas. I gave you a copy of the Charter and of another document entitled "Essential Norms." Included in those documents is the following provision:

"Diocesan policy will provide that for even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor—past, present or future—the offending priest or deacon will be permanently removed from ministry. In keeping with the stated purpose of this Charter, an offending priest or deacon will be offered professional assistance for his own healing and well-being, as well as for the purpose of prevention."

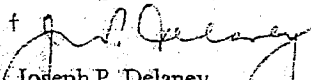
Because you were involved in an incident in 1981 which is covered by this provision, it was necessary for me to tell you that you will have to cease to perform priestly ministry and no longer to present yourself as a priest anywhere. We discussed the incident and I showed you my memorandum written after hearing a few days earlier from the family involved. Although the incident was long ago, the memory of it is still very fresh. I also told you that it would be necessary to make a public announcement of your leaving ministry, since the press was already asking about such cases, and it would be better to meet the challenge directly, than have the press ferreting it out in the weeks ahead.

I have spoken by telephone to Bishop Grahmann explaining the situation. I assured him that I have had no doubt about the fine ministry you have done as a hospital chaplain in Dallas, and that the incident in question took place before you entered therapy and were able to change the direction of your life. In view of this reality, I know that it is particularly difficult for you to face the loss of ministry. You and I talked about how valuable it would be for you to have professional counseling at this critical time in your life, and that our Diocese would assist you with this as needed.

The question of your canonical status remains open. For the time being, you remain legally a priest of this Diocese but without faculties and unable to engage in any kind of ministry. I think it would be best to leave things this way until the American bishops receive a response from the Holy See to the "Norms." When that response comes, we can deal with the issue of canonical status. However, if in the meantime you decide that you would want to request the Holy Father for permission to return to the lay state, I will be able to help you with that process.

I will continue to keep you in my prayers as you begin a new phase of your life. Please keep in touch and let me know how you are doing. I want to be of assistance in any way that I can.

Sincerely in Christ,


Joseph P. Delaney
Bishop of Fort Worth

cc: Most Rev. Charles Grahmann

10-04-04 Order
0205

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Private Matter

Page 1 of 1

RENTERIA, R.
6-28-02

Bishop Delaney

From:
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2002 5:12 PM
To: Bishop Delaney
Subject: Re: Private Matter

Thank you, Bishop.

— Original Message —
From: Bishop Delaney
To:
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2002 3:55 PM
Subject: Private Matter

I am writing to tell you that Rudy has been removed permanently from priestly ministry effective last Monday. He can no longer serve in any kind of ministry, wear the collar or identify himself as a priest. I will be making a public announcement of this within the next day or so. Thanks for getting in touch with me. I hope that . . . is doing well. Please let me know if I can be of any help.

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10-04-04 Order
0206

RENERIA, RUDOLF
6-29-02

For Immediate Release
June 29, 2002
For More Information, Contact Jeff Hensley
(817) 560-3300

**Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth permanently
removes priest from ministry**

**Bishop Delaney responds to 'Charter for the Protection
of Children and Young People'**

Bishop Joseph Delaney announced today that as of June 24, he has permanently removed Father Rudolf Renteria from ministry and has forbidden him to present himself as a priest in any capacity.

"The provisions of the 'Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People' are stringent and clear," said Bishop Delaney. "They reinforce the words of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, namely that there is no place in the priesthood or religious life for anyone who would abuse a child."

Renteria, who was ordained a priest for the diocese in 1979, has served as a chaplain at several Fort Worth and Dallas hospitals since 1987. He had been accused of sexual misconduct with a minor in 1981. The behavior reported to the diocese was of improper sexual touching of a 14-year-old boy, a parishioner of St. Matthew Parish in Arlington, where Renteria had been assigned following his ordination. Although confronted by Bishop Delaney about the accusation at the time, Renteria was unable to either confirm or deny the incident because of the influence of alcohol.

10-04-04 Order
0207

No further allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor had been made against Renteria during his subsequent service in parishes in Wichita Falls, Vernon, and Lewisville.

Following a series of incidents at St. Philip Parish in Lewisville involving disruptive behavior and alcohol abuse, Renteria was sent to The Southdown Institute, a treatment facility for priests in Aurora, Ontario, Canada.

On his return to the diocese, and based on the recommendations from therapists at the treatment facility, it was determined that though Renteria should not be involved in parish work, he could do effective ministry as a chaplain of some kind. As a result of these recommendations Bishop Delaney allowed him to serve as a hospital chaplain in the Fort Worth and Dallas areas where he has functioned effectively for the past 15 years according to reports of Renteria's supervisors.

"The history of this case is one which was inadequately handled by today's rigorous standards, particularly in terms of transparency and openness," said Bishop Delaney. "However, our commitment, which is enshrined in the Charter, is to ensure that we never repeat the pattern of response which was followed in the past. Instead, we will ensure that even one act of sexual abuse of a minor will not be tolerated."

"Although this action is tough, especially in light of Fr. Renteria's effectiveness as a hospital chaplain, our priorities are with the victim," added Bishop Delaney. "I am deeply sorry for what happened to this young person over two decades ago, and I deeply regret that I did not act more firmly and decisively in dealing with Fr. Renteria at that time. Although this action may be late, it is never too late to do the right thing."

Bishop Delaney

From:
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2002 2:51 PM
To: Bishop Delaney
Subject: Renteria

Bishop,

Renteria's removal marks the end of a long period of burden for many of us. My son _____ was involved with Rudy on several occasions. However, _____ said Renteria did not molest him. _____ left the church many years ago, and I believe this incident was a principal factor in his decision.

_____ has been a friend for many years. I suspect this event affected several families that you may never hear from. It is good to put some closure on this, as it has troubled me since _____

I wish no harm for Renteria, and pray he is able to salvage his spiritual welfare. It had to be done, and I want you to know I fully support your action.

Peace of Christ be with you,

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10-04-04 Order
0209

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