

[Jesuit Logo]
CURIA PRAEPOSITI GENERALIS
SOCIETATIS IESU
ROMA – BORGO S. SPIRITO, '5

25 August, 1960

Alask. 60/3

Rev. Father in Christ [and]
of the Father of Christ

Although I recently wrote letters to the R.V. pertaining to the rules of conduct that must be followed by Father Poole in dealing with girls, nevertheless again I have received another letter which has made it clear to me that Father Poole has in no way followed them but rather has perpetrated further serious conduct which can easily, unless I am mistaken, bring irreparable damage to the good reputation of our Society and Our good works. It is said that Father Poole keeps girls for an hour or half-hour not only in confessional but also in his own office, questioning them beyond what is appropriate about sins, after the hour of six o'clock; that he holds conversation with some of them even into late night; also that he permits girls to go into our domestic chapel (that is, not during the recitation of the Litanies)¹; and finally, that he has visited the girls' dormitory in order to arrange their beds, without the Sisters' knowledge; he even abrogates some of the Sisters' responsibility to himself, with the result that many of the Religious [Sisters] are even now seriously considering leaving the mission, since discipline among the girls has become excessively lax through Father Poole's influence. When more that one of Us [the Jesuits], who are expert through long experience in that particular region, is recounting these things, there can be no doubt that they are a cause of concern for me. If what has been related is true, then the matter is more serious than it first appeared from the reports that have been conferred. The R.V. therefore ought to investigate this matter thoroughly and send to Rome the

¹ Which would be normal and appropriate - JFE

results of the investigation. If these reports are true, the Father in question ought to be admonished as quickly as possible concerning the imprudent acts he has committed and effective means ought to be applied as a precaution against any scandal.

Giving thanks to the R.V. for sending the information and praying, paternally, for the R.V., I commend myself to your Holiness.

Servant in Christ
of the R.V.
[signature of John L. Swain, S.J. (= Soc.
of Jesus)]
Vic. Gen. [Vicar General]

B.P. Henrico O Hargreaves

Sup. Reg. Miss. Alaskae Bor.

Bethel