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Bishop of Fairbanks

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January 23, 1998

Very Rev. Robert B. Grimm, S.J.
Provincial
2222 N.W. Hoyt St.
Portland, OR 97210

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Dear Bob,
P.C.

I really hate to bring up a sore subject again, but I don't think I have much choice. To get right to the point, I spoke with Brad Reynolds the other day concerning Jim Poole and his various activities.

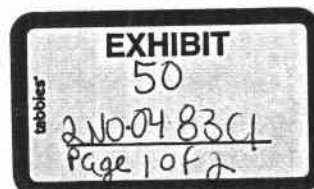
As you know, I wrote to you sometime ago with the concern that there are many more folks involved in this thing than I was aware of. I also mentioned that I was a bit perturbed that Steve Sundborg did not share some of the findings (specifically those dealing with the Alaska scene) with me at the time he became aware of them. I did not appreciate getting broadsided recently. You responded with a very sensitive letter, including an apology for Steve's failure to communicate. Thank you for that.

My concern now is that Jim still seems to be very operative, and, if this continues, either you or I (or both) are going to end up with a public scandal and a possible law suit. Let's put the brakes on things while we still can.

I am asking that you specifically relate to Jim Poole the following:

- a) no more broadcasting, even of old tapes (he is presently on EWTN--I am not sure of his involvement with KBVM). I am also presuming that he has contacted other stations, Catholic and Protestant.
- b) no involvement in the "cassette ministry" (loaning, selling, trading, etc. to Catholic or Protestant stations, or to any individuals). You never know where his name will appear, given such a ministry.
- c) Absolutely no use of the names of KNOM benefactors, either for his own personal apostolate or to help other good and needy causes.

In short, while the above is not an exhaustive list, the intent is to keep Jim out of the public eye. It is my fear, and one shared by Tom Busch that if the wrong person hears Jim's voice anywhere, it might just be the straw that breaks the camel's back, as it were.



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Secondly, we have tried to be sensitive and "retire" Jim very charitably and sensitively, but if it becomes known that he has "retired" from KNOM, and yet is now going hot and heavy, or even lightly, into the radio apostolate in other areas, it could appear like a big cover-up job to those who know the full story--and there is a sufficient number of folks who know to cause real concern.

Bob, while it is beneficial to both the Diocese and the Society to have Jim totally cease and desist, I really believe you have more to lose than we. It almost appears as though the Society is encouraging his recent endeavors, and knowing the entire story, you are more responsible than the Diocese. (You and I both know you are not encouraging such a program, but we still have to deal with reality, and the fact is, Jim seems to be promoting a definite apostolate of the "word.")

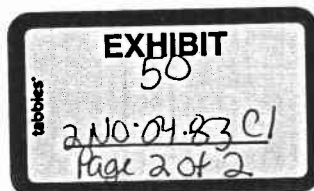
Thanks for your help, Bob. I am enclosing a few recent E-mails from Tom Busch, so that you can see his concern. Tom is a very loyal Catholic and a good man, who has been a wonderful friend to Jim Poole over the years. That's the reason his concern is not to be taken lightly.

Again, I appreciate your help, and the Lord bless you in your wonderful work!

Your brother in Christ,

Michael J. Kaniecki, S.J.
Bishop of Fairbanks

cc: Mr. Tom Busch
Encl.



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