

Sacred Heart Church

1917 Eleventh Street

Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14305

August 30, 1989.

Dear Parish Council Member,

It has come to my attention that you have received a letter from Theresa Kasper concerning her brother-in-law, Remi Gonzalez. I am very sorry that she has made public her feelings about him. I have great respect for both her and Remi. However, since she has decided to involve the Parish Council in her family's affairs, I feel that I have to express my point of view.

Theresa mentions events that happened eleven, sixteen and eighteen years ago, a period of time when Remi was under the influence of drugs. Remi has made no secret that he once was affected by drugs and may have done terrible things. This is one of his points in his drug talks to teenagers. He's been through it. He knows the terrible things that drugs can make you do.

I don't think it's fair to bring up things that happened years ago. Remi has been our Youth Minister for nine years and I have never heard any complaints against him, as are hinted at in the letter. Theresa has also made certain allegations against Remi to the Police Department. The Police have investigated them and have found no case. *Plausible*

The danger of a letter of this kind is that it can undermine the whole Parish and particularly our Youth Ministry which has an excellent reputation. They are even called upon to give talks to the youth of other parishes. As Parish Council members, you should realize that this is a time to pull the Parish together. My prayers go out to Theresa and Remi and their families. I hope you will pray for them as well.

Jesus has told not to judge anyone. In this spirit let us work and pray for their welfare and for the good of the Parish.

Sincerely,
Jim Streng
Fr. Jim Streng.

*NOT
Licensed*