

May 28, 1964

Dear Father

I wish to thank you for your letter of May 26 informing us as to the present address and activities of Reverend Richard Hatch. We have not heard of him since he left Via Coeli Retreat House several days after Easter. I have informed our Bishop of the present whereabouts of Father Hatch, and we will certainly pray for this unfortunate priest. We will hope and pray also that his present activities will not do too much harm to the People of God. Bishop Fitzgerald is very grateful to you, Father, for the information directed to this office.

Father Hatch was a problem here in our Diocese during the years of his service. He is a person capable of much good work. It is reported that he was a very good teacher and a very fine preacher of the Word of God. He was, however, constantly incurring bad debts and was accused of many indiscretions and much imprudence. In view of these indiscretions, which were denied by Father Hatch and never definitely proved, His Excellency Bishop Fitzgerald directed that Father Hatch go to Via Coeli for correction. From that time on, that is, since last June, Father has been under the supervision of the Paraclete Fathers.

Your letter indicates that you have all information that we have in our possession. I am truly sorry that I am not able to add to this in order to help you meet this problem. As you mention in your letter, Father Hatch is a very disturbed man and he has refused help that has been very kindly offered to him. Our Bishop regrets much that he is not able to do more for him.

Praying God to bless you, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Msgr. Emmett F. Tighe
Chancellor

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