

BA.

App. 3
9

FRANCIS MULVIHILL, O.Praem

D-5300 Bonn, den 1 November 1974

Euskirchener Str. 78

Tel Bonn (0.22.21) 01 24 89

Most Reverend Francis McKiernan

Bishop of Kilmore

Bishop's House

Cullies,

Cavan

IRELAND

Dear Bishop McKiernan

When we met briefly at the celebrations for the Golden Jubilee of Kilnacrott as a religious house, I was quite taken aback that you brushed me aside when I wished to discuss a matter with you which concerns your jurisdiction as diocesan bishop, namely the state of Kilnacrott as a religious house. While I respect that you do not want to interfere with the area of jurisdiction of Abbot Smith (whom you know, as you said, since common days in "St Pat's"), it is a matter of conscience for me to bring to you a matter which affects YOUR area of jurisdiction. Forgive me for approaching you by letter, but it is important that the matter be well documented.

Ever since 1964 I have known that a member of the community, Fr

144

Brendan Smyth, is misbehaving - he is molesting children who attend Bingo sessions. Two of them who are superficially known to me have told me of their troubles. I have brought the matter to the attention of the Abbot but to no avail. Seeing that all members of the people of God are subject to your spiritual jurisdiction and that this is a very serious matter, I was disappointed at your telling me that you did not want to discuss this matter with a young priest.

Should you wish to contact me at any time regarding this matter, I am quite willing to be of assistance.

With the expression of my esteem and kindest personal regards, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

This transcript of my letter is authentic and true.

James E. Mulvihill

*Dublin
8.17.1995*

BB. App. 2
10

BRUNO E MULVIHILL, O.PRAEM

D-5300 BONN, DEN 1 NOVEMBER 1974

EUSKIRCHENER STR 79

TEL (0.22.21) 61 24 89

The Most Rev Gastano Alibrandi

Archbishop of Binda &

Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland

The Apostolic Nunciature

Phoenix Park

Dublin

IRELAND

Your Grace

When we met in Kilnacrott last summer I tried to approach you regarding the state of Kilnacrott Abbey as a religious house but alas to no avail. I must say it was offsetting for me to be told by you that it would be better if I were to study in Rome where I would learn real theology and not anymore in Germany. Whilst I do not doubt the authenticity of Roman institutions, I assure you that the quality of theological research in German universities is truly excellent. One of the reasons I wished to speak to Your Grace was because of the corruption and decadence that has set into Kilnacrott - more a hotel for priests not very true to their Praemostratensian vocation than a well functioning abbey. Choir Office leaves about everything to be desired these days, the Abbot has done the medieval 'thing' and been out on the hunt and of course that is not all, there is the case of a

146

priest member of the community (Fr Brendan Smyth) whose penchant for abusing and molesting children is no secret. This could one fine day bring disgrace on the house and the order, even the diocese. But even the diocesan bishop, Bishop McKiernan, was not willing to lend me an ear. Therefore I appeal to Your Grace to bring the matter up with the Abbot who has told me that Father Smyth has been penalised enough.

Should Your Grace at any time wish to speak to me, I am quite willing to present myself in the Nunciature when I am in Ireland again, for the moment however I am bringing this matter to Your Grace's attention as a matter of conscience on my part.

With the expression of my esteem and all kind personal regards, I remain, Yours in Christ,

*This transcript of my letter
is accurate and authentic*

Dublin

9.11.1995

James E. Marshall

147