REV. BERTRAND HORVATH, O.F.M. CONV.
(Order of Friars Minor Conventual, Conventual Franciscans)

DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES 2013
Pursuant to JCCP 4286 Settlement Agreement
20+ years ago, I was an altar boy at St. Kilian's. The pastor then was the... I have to talk.

51800008
O 000339
REDACTED

Parents: REDACTED

REDACTED, Pastor @ St Kilian

Father Horvath (can't remember much about him)
- tall, sandy, trying to be "hip",
- no foreign accent;

Redacted

going to give you a titty twister

Redacted

had been asked by dad about this:

Church: to serve Mass, Father Horvath would ask
about "have you masturbated yet" - and
get titty twisters in the church up close on.

REDACTED: "Seems that I have heard that he had some
problems" (re: Horvath)

Q I will call Dr. REDACTED
Q I will call Dr. REDACTED
Q I will call Dr. REDACTED

O 000340

51800009
1924/00 Phone conversation 10/REDACTED

yes "Fr Ben Howath"
worked at paint - can't remember

(at this point, Magv wandered a lot
in remembering priests, paciffs,
hospitals, etc)

Doesn't remember how he got here
Doesn't remember how long he was
here.

Did call him a "fly by night"

Doesn't remember REDACTED

"Yes", then "No", then "Yes", then "No" - REDACTED
"Do you remember family?"

"No", then "yes", then "I have to go to the
hospital"

Doesn't remember very well... not very much. Very
confused. Even forget he was talking
with me.

51800010

O 000341
I called and spoke to [REDACTED] in the Vicar for Clergy Office regarding information on Reverend Bertrand Horvath, OFM Conv., who might have worked in the Archdiocese in the early 1970's. She looked in all their paper files, since the computer information on clergy didn't begin until the early 1980's. She was unable to find any information on Father Horvath, even in their oldest card file.
Called 10/21/00 12:4 pm
Mr. REDACTED (lives in Oregon) REDACTED answered, but
called in morning, weekday @ 8am or so.
REDACTED

- 0 10/21/00 12:45 pm
- left message to REDACTED who will get a message to him

- 10/21/00 12:50 pm
- left message asking him to call me next week.

Called Mr. REDACTED 9:45 REDACTED
- told me recently that
- told me about “fatty twins” - would go to work @ plant to work outside. Would have known about them before ’80s - ’70s

- J. Horvath, “Bertie” “fatty young” ”’70s” / was assigned to plant, I think
- was in 1970s - moved here in 1968 - Jacob was established
- doesn’t recall ever telling his
- I heard about any other actions
- no comments about J. Horvath.

51800012
O 000343
10/24/00 REDACTED

11:30am

called - not in at the moment.

3:15pm called again. In meeting. Will call back.

3:20pm Call REDACTED

Left message on his voicemail.

4:30pm REDACTED

has dementia - bad bladder - will have surgery soon.

writes with
she takes care of him.

perhaps he would know.

Redacted

51800013

O 000344

....

10/24/00 REDACTED

I'm a friend of his. It's been very hard for him hearing what people are saying.

He's a founding member of the church.

*Remember, it's Best Howard.

Radical behavior on edge all the time.

he didn't last too long.

Call REDACTED

he might know Fr Howard.
10/26/00  9:30AM
Left message

(might have been a coaxed)

YES, I knew of him—
was there about 2-3
years. (71-72-73 or ??)

I think he was a
from out east coast.

nice enough

a little on the crude
side (jokes)

never any allegations
of any behavior
(except of heard about
his jokes)

check ideas of baptism records at the parish—
(as to when he came & left)

REDANCED

Was deacon there? (94)

might know him??—probably not.

REDANCED

Would be glad to chat chat up.

51800014
O 000345
Diocese of Amarillo

(Diocese Amarillense)

Erected a Diocese by Pope Pius XI, 1931
Square Miles Approximately 122

Comprises that part of the State of Texas interior, and extending thence northwest, the east by Oklahoma, and by the eastern Children's and by the southern boundary of the State of New Mexico south; southern line of Polk County, Texas, near the northwestern corner of the Panhandle of 25 counties.

For legal titles of parishes and dioceses consult the Chancery Office.

Diocesan Pastoral Center: 1900 N. Spring St., P.O. Box 544, Amarillo, Texas 79124-7884. Tel: 1-806-372-2575. Fax: 1-806-383-4847.

Catechism/Religious Education:
High School Students:

Total Students Under Catholic Instruction:
Teachers in the Diocese:
Sisters:

Catechism/Religious Education:
High School Students:

Total Students Under Catholic Instruction:
Teachers in the Diocese:
Sisters:

Vocational Training:

Infant Baptism Tolsals:
Adult Baptism Totsals:

First Communications:
Confessions:

Marriage:
Catholic:

Interfaith:

Total Marriages:
Total Deaths:

Total Catholic Population:
Total Population:

30

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Diocesan Officials

Diocesan Pastoral Center: 1900 N. Spring St., P.O. Box 544, Amarillo, Texas 79124-7884. Tel: 1-806-383-2543, Fax: 1-806-383-4847.

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Vocational Training:

Catholic:

Interfaith:

Total Marriages:
Total Deaths:

Total Catholic Population:
Total Population:

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CLERGY, PARISHES, AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

CITY OF AMARILLO (Potter County)

1. Sacred Heart Cathedral. Closed. This parish ceased to exist 1/1/78. For inquiries contact the Diocese of Amarillo, P.O. Box 6644, Amarillo, TX 79117-5444, 806-332-2255.


Catechetics/Religious Programs—Students 20.


7. St. John, Rev. Patrick Carrabba, 1104 N. 10th St., 806-325-0188.


Our Lady of Guadalupe—Students 20.

Sacred Heart—Students 55.

St. John—Students 55.

Sacred Heart—Students 55.

St. Joseph—Students 55.

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Sacred Heart—Students 55.

St. John—Students 55.
I spoke with Father REDACTED
of the Diocese of Amarillo, today.

Yes, Father Bert Horvath is priest of their
diocese. He will get his assignment background
to me so I can see if he is the same Father
Horvath who was at St. Kilian in Mission Viejo
in the early 1970s.

Amarillo Diocese

REDACTED

October 30, 2000
I spoke with Father REDACTED of the Diocese of Amarillo, today.

Yes, Father Bert Horvath is priest of their diocese. He will get his assignment background to me so I can see if he is the same Father Horvath who was at St. Kilian in Mission Viejo in the early 1970s.

Amarillo Diocese REDACTED

REDACTED

October 30, 2000
November 4, 2000

REDACTED

Diocese of Amarillo
1800 N. Spring Street
P.O. Box 5644
Amarillo, Texas 79117-5644

Dear Father REDACTED

Thank you for your time by phone when we spoke on Monday, October 30, 2000 regarding Father Bert Horvath.

As I mentioned, I am trying to determine if this is the same Father Bert Horvath who served here in southern California (specifically at St. Kilian Parish in Mission Viejo) in the early 1970’s. There is no formal record of his being assigned here (we were then part of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles), but perhaps his personnel records would indicate such.

If Father Horvath is the one who was here, I will be in contact with him about the matter we discussed. I will also send you any copies of correspondence.

With gratitude for your assistance, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

COPY

REDACTED

51800020

O 000351
I phoned Father REDacted today at 11:30am...left a message that I have yet to hear from him and would appreciate a response to my inquiry regarding Father Bert Horvath.

Fr. REDacted

REDacted

Nov. 13, 20XX

51800021

O 000352
From: REDACTED
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2000 9:45 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Father Bert Horvath history

Father REDACTED from Armadillo, Texas REDACTED called regarding Father Horvath. Their records indicate that he was ordained in 1970 and served in California between 1970 - 1980, his resume does not specify Orange, CA. He was a Conventual Franciscan Friar at the Ml St. Francis Province in Indiana REDACTED the Provincial there 10 years ago was Father REDACTED.
called

how are things going for him?

nervous, worried - anxious.

I told him if would be writing, because of the mail.

I told him that I was available for him if he needed

help to talk.

Also, if he needed a counselor, I would provide it.

REDACTED

PHONE CALL

REDACTED

MESSAGE

TELEPHONED

RETURNED YOUR CALL

PLEASE CALL

WILL CALL AGAIN

CAME TO SEE YOU

WANTS TO SEE YOU

REDACTED

would be glad

to work up him if he'd like.
November 22, 2000

REDACTED

Diocese of Amarillo
1800 N. Spring Street
Amarillo, Texas 79117-5644

Dear Father REDACTED

Thank you for your recent phone call in which you verified from personnel records that Father Bert Horvath, a priest of the Diocese of Amarillo, did indeed serve in California between the years of 1970-1980. Our diocese (formed in 1976) has no official record of his assignment at St. Kilian Parish, Mission Viejo. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles (from which we were formed) has no record of him at all. The only reference I can find is in the dedication booklet of St. Kilian Church (October 22, 1982) in which Father Bert Horvath is listed as one of the concelebrants.

Be that as it may, this must be the same priest about whom I have received an official complaint from a 43-year-old gentleman who remembers “Father Bert” from the early 1970’s at St. Kilian. On October 20, 2000, I met with this gentleman REDACTED who has experienced much stress over his memories of certain actions and words attributed to Father Bert in the early 1970’s. The summary of the complaints is:

Fr. Bert would invite REDACTED and other young boys to the rectory for gardening. He would have them remove their shirts; then he would grab them by one of their nipples and shake them; this is what Fr. Bert would refer to as a “titty twister”. This happened on many occasions both at the rectory and in the sacristy prior to Mass.

While the boys were working outside, REDACTED remembers Father Bert staring at them all through the windows of the house. REDACTED remembers that he thought this was very odd.

Fr. Bert would continually ask REDACTED about masturbation; “had he masturbated yet?” “Why hadn’t he masturbated yet?” While asking these questions, Father Bert would be touching himself in the genital area (over his clothing). These questions and this action were repulsive to REDACTED at the time, yet he didn’t know what to do, as “Father Bert was a priest”. This questioning and this action took place both at the rectory (during the gardening times) and in the sacristy (before

51800024

O 000355
Mass as serving to serve Mass. has no memories of indecent exposure nor of being touched other than on his nipple during these “titie twisting” moments.

At this time, for some reason or another, these memories are quite painful for I have suggested some professional counseling in order to help him deal with the distress and then work through it. As of now, has not gone into counseling.

I am writing this to you to officially inform you of this complaint; I presume you will follow your diocesan policy in handling this. At this time, does not wish to speak with Fr. Bert; he might, however, wish to speak with you about this. main concerns at this time: has Father Bert done this (or worse) to others? Is he a danger to young boys?

will be staying in contact with me and will let me know what he wishes to do in the future.

If you can enlighten me on your policy/procedure in this type of matter, I would be pleased to hear from you. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to establish that the Father Bert Horvath of your diocese is most probably the same Father Bert Horvath who served here in the early 1970’s.

With prayerful best wishes to you, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

COPY

C: Reverend Monsignor Richard Loomis
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

51300025
O 000356
Thank you for calling me on Monday afternoon to discuss the progress that I have made regarding finding the current whereabouts of Father Bert Horvath. As I told you, he is living in the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas. I have written a letter to that Diocese letting them know of our conversation on October 20, 2000 and the issues that you raised.

Should you wish to speak with the appropriate diocesan official in that Diocese (who would serve in similar capacity as I do in the Diocese of Orange) let me know and I will arrange for that.

Once again, should you wish to speak with a professional counselor about the distress you are experiencing, I would be happy to refer you. I have already spoken with a specialist in this area who would be pleased to speak with you. The purpose of this counseling would be to assist you; it has nothing to do with Church affiliation or participation.

You are in my daily prayers, especially in this holiday season.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

COPY

51800026

O 000357
REDACTED

Diocese of Orange
P.O. Box 14195
Orange, California 92863-1595

Dear REDACTED

I am in receipt of your correspondence with Father REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED of the Amarillo Diocese with respect to Reverend Bert Horvath.

Our Bishop's Advisory Committee with respect to complaints and allegations met this afternoon and I convey to you the recommendations of that committee.

Rev. Bert Horvath soon to be seventy years of age was a Conventual Franciscan of the Province of St. Francis, Indiana assigned to California at the time of the actions alleged in the complaint.

I will be in contact with the Provincial Superior of Father Horvath's former religious community to advise them of your communication. I in no way mean to say by this that we are passing the buck on this situation; only that they also need to be advised. Since 1986 Father Horvath has been an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Amarillo but at the time of the alleged action he was a religious and it is necessary that his community of origin be informed and be kept informed.

Father Horvath has participated in a therapeutic program for priests at the recommendation of our now Bishop Emeritus and our current Diocesan Bishop has been insistent on the
supervision and monitoring of any priest in Father Horvath's position.

Please be advised that our first response is just as yours, always pastoral. Also be advised that our legal counsel is intimately involved in this response and counsel.

In speaking with Father Horvath about this matter he brought to my attention a serious discrepancy in the time sequence noted in the first paragraph of your letter: "the only reference I can find is in the dedication booklet of St. Kilian Church (October 22, 1962) in which Father Bert Horvath is listed as one of the concelebrants." Father Bert Horvath of Amarillo was not ordained until 1970.

Please convey our deepest regrets to Greg for the pain he has suffered and for all that he is having to work through. We are most sympathetic and willing to do whatever we can to be of assistance to him. I await your reply and response and remain at your service.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Msgr. Harold Waldow
Vicar of Clergy
Diocese of Amarillo
December 5, 2000

Reverend Monsignor Harold Waldow
Vicar for Clergy  Diocese of Amarillo
1800 N. Spring Street
Amarillo, California 79117-5644

Dear Msgr. Waldow,

Thank you for your letter, dated November 29, 2000, which arrived in my office today. I appreciate your update and the process that you are following in the situation described to you regarding Father Bert Horvath.

Please excuse the “typo” in my letter to you; the reference to the dedication booklet at St. Kilian Church in Mission Viejo should have been October 22, 1972 (not 1962). I apologize for any confusion this might have caused.

Should [redacted] contact me, I will let him know that you will be willing to speak with him.

Let us pray for one another in this particular area of church ministry…and pray for any who have been hurt by actions of our brother priests.

Have a blessed Advent Season.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

COPY

[Redacted]
Rev. Bertrand Horvath
REDACTED

April 10, 2001

Dear Bert:

I light of an accusation lodged against you, which is currently being investigated by the Diocese of Orange, California and as per your discussion with Msgr. Harold Waldow on January 9, 2001, at this time, retroactive to January 9, 2001, I must withdraw all of your faculties for priestly ministry. However, in light of your request, I grant you limited faculties to care for the sacramental needs of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate, where you are currently in residence.

May God bless and strengthen you during this time of transition.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John W. Yanta
Bishop of Amarillo

REDACTED

RCALA 005510

51800031

O 000362

CCI 008049
May 14, 2001

REDACTED

Diocese of Orange
Box 14195
Orange, California 92863-1595

Dear REDACTED,

I enclose a copy of Father Bert Horvath’s limited faculties in the Amarillo Diocese. Father Horvath retired from active ministry January 9th with twenty years of vested ministry here in our diocese.

Father Horvath was granted limited faculties to minister to the Franciscan Sisters here in Amarillo. The Franciscan Sisters provide a home on their property for Father Horvath which adjoins the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Msgr. Harold Waldow
Vicar of Clergy/ Moderator of the Curia
June 23, 2001

Dear [REDACTED],

I wanted to get back to you (as promised) to let you know the status of Father Bert Horvath, who has served for the past twenty years in the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas.

I received a letter from Msgr. Harold Waldow of the Diocese of Amarillo, dated May 14, 2001, in which Msgr. Waldow informed me that Father Horvath has retired from active ministry and now serves as a chaplain to a convent of Sisters in Amarillo. It appears that his limited ministry is as a result of the complaint you made to me in October 2000.

I hope that you are doing better these days; once again, should you desire to receive any counseling assistance to deal with the pain you were feeling, please don't hesitate to contact me or Msgr. Waldow in the Diocese of Amarillo [REDACTED].

I wanted you to know that I will be away from my office for a theological study program from July 3 through August 6. I will be here following that time should you wish to speak with me.

With prayerful best wishes to you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]

C: Msgr. Harold Waldow
Vicar for Clergy/Moderator of the Curia
Diocese of Amarillo

51800032

000363
I spoke with REDACTED by phone today. REDACTED He had called on Friday.

From my letter to him (dated June 23, 2001), he is confused and is very angry that perhaps Fr. Horvath had hurt other young people and maybe had been shuffled all around various places while no one addressed any problems. This comes from the fact that the letter I send states that he is retired and in limited ministry. I read him the letter from Msgr. Waldow (dated Nov. 29, 2000) and REDACTED asked about the part of “therapeutic program” and what that meant (I told him I didn’t know), but that Msgr. Waldow would be the one to speak with about this.

REDACTED really doesn’t know what to do…but he is angry and trying to decide what to do.

He has the phone number of Msgr. Waldow in Texas….he might call him.

He knows that I will be gone til August 4th and that I will call him REDACTED when I get back to see what he wants to do. He told me that he would rather work with me on this…I told him that I would support whatever he does.

We will talk again in August on my return.

REDACTED

July 2, 2001
July 2, 2001

Reverend Monsignor Craig A. Cox  
Vicar for Clergy, Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90010-2241

Dear Msgr. Cox,

I am enclosing some documentation to keep you up on an allegation made by a Mr. about inappropriate behavior by Father Bertrand Horvath (formerly a OFM Conventual; now an incardinated and retired priest of the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas).

The November 22nd letter (copy of which I sent to Dick Loomis) summarizes the allegation. I had done some investigation myself ...first of all, to try and find out who this Father Horvath was. I spoke with REDACTED by phone on October 24, 2000...and, in his confused state, he really had nothing clear to say. (As you know, he is now deceased). I had spoken with REDACTED (he was a seminarian at St. Kilian at the time and the family knew him) and REDACTED did say he remembered him and that he was "a little crude...when it came to jokes"...but had never heard any allegations. A phone call to your office on October 24, 2000 (REDACTED from here speaking to REDACTED from there), shows no record of Fr. Horvath anywhere.

I received a response from Msgr. Waldow, Vicar for Clergy of Amarillo, on November 29, 2000 (copy enclosed). I responded on December 5, 2000 (copy enclosed). Then, on May 14, 2001, I received another letter from Msgr. Waldow (copy enclosed) with a copy of a letter to Fr. Horvath from Bishop Yanta of Amarillo (copy enclosed). I wrote to REDACTED on June 23, 2001 (copy enclosed) and spoke with him by phone today.

REDACTED is very angry that perhaps Father Horvath has hurt other people and that no one has ever gone after him. He is also frustrated that perhaps he should have come forward earlier...and angry that he didn't. I assured him that he is doing the right thing; and I am willing to assist him to get the "full story" on Father Horvath (whatever it is) and to help get some peace and closure. REDACTED knows that I am leaving tomorrow for one month (I return on August 4) and he might wait to speak with me at that time...or he might contact Msgr. Waldow during this month.

51800034

O 000365
I am sending you this information for your files and knowledge. I don't know of any further allegations (than what have been made by \[redacted\] in our initial meeting), but you ought to have this in the event that the Archdiocese might be asked to assist \[redacted\] with counseling in the future.

I don't think you need to contact \[redacted\] about this now; there might be some contact needed in the future. I will be speaking with him again in August and will keep you updated.

Naturally, if you find any materials on Father Horvath in contradiction to your secretary's information, it could be of further help to \[redacted\] and his concerns.

Thank you, Craig. Let us pray for all who have been hurt by priests.

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

COPY

\[redacted\]

enclosures
4/1/01
Msgr. Waldow 806-383-2243

left message. 7 pm.

she called 10:30 am.

1. with Victim Assistance Program in Diocese
   REDACTED
   - she will call me

   back.

2. Diocesan attorney has called check w/t after
   his vacation.

   msgr W:
   I have known the client since early 80's.
   His difficulty has never been with minors.
   He was sent for ty - former bishop let
   matter back in 70's. Follow up. Current
   bishop won't do this.
8/14/01  REDACTED

Contracted: Murray Waldorf - referred to a woman - no response

Wants to know about father. How are you?

I will call and see what is happening.
From the desk of.... REDACTED

Provincial of the
Conventual Franciscans
of the Province of St.
Francis, Indiana

REDACTED

REDACTED

I called 8/21/01 2:30 pm. Left message on tape to call me back.

51800038

0 000369
3:15 pm 8/24/01 left message.

(9:30 am) 8/24/01 called him back - left message.

(4:10 pm) 8/24/01 called him back - left message.
DIOCESE OF AMARILLO

AUG 22 2001

FAX TRANSMISSION

FROM:  DIOCESE OF AMARILLO  FAX NO:  (806) 383-8452
NAME:  REDACTED  TOTAL PAGES 3

MESSAGE:  From religious community of [Redacted] and correspondence with... will try to contact you today. I spoke with [Redacted]

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS RECEIVING THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE

51800040

O 000371
Conventual Franciscan Friars
PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
Office of the Minister Provincial
101 Anthony Drive
Mount Saint Francis, Indiana 47146

December 11, 2000

Rev. Msgr. Harold Waldow
Vicar of Clergy
Diocese of Amarillo
P.O. Box 5644
Amarillo, Texas 79117-5644

Dear Msgr. Waldow,

I received your letter of November 30, 2000 about the allegations related to Father Bertrand Horvath, formerly of our Community. While I am saddened about the nature of the communication, I appreciate your contacting me about this situation. I particularly regret the hurt and turmoil that can be caused by misconduct and abuse.

Know that we will cooperate with you and the Diocese of Orange in anyway that we can to provide healing as well as prevention. Please contact my Vicar, Father Richard Kaley, or me if there is any way we can assist in this situation.

Sincerely yours,

REDACTED
November 30, 2000

REDACTED

Mount St. Francis
101 St. Anthony Drive
St. Francis, Indiana 47146-9999

Dear REDACTED,

I regret to inform you of allegations made in the form of a complaint dating back to the 1970s about one of your priests at that time: Reverend Bert Horvath. Father Horvath is an incardinated priest of the Amarillo Diocese now since 1985.

I have enclosed copies of correspondence between the Diocese of Orange and the Amarillo Diocese.

Our Bishop's Committee which deals with allegations and complaints is working on this issue and I will keep you informed of activity with regards to this situation.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Msgr. Harold Waldow,
Vicar of Clergy
Diocese of Amarillo

51800042
REDACTED

Father called Friday 3/24/81 9:00 am

Tract
• would have been on loan to our Calif. province
  at that time (1920-30)

• I explained situation and I want to know
  1. Why he was in California
  2. Any background
  3. Any other info.
called 9/13/01 as well - left message

I returned call - all circuits are busy

9:00am > Monday 9/17

9:00am I called [REDACTED]

Capacity is agency's Advisory Committee
for Restoring Just. Investigate any allegations.
She has called

> les main concerns were whether
there were any allegations about
it needed a referees group
> couldn't disclose any details due
to confidentiality rights.
> tried to defuse her pain/distress
by offering

51800046
O 000377
September 17, 2001

Dear [REDACTED],

I hope that this note finds you at peace, especially in view of the tragedies of the past week.

Not having heard back from you since late August, I wanted to let you know of my concern for you and hopes that you are doing all right. When last we spoke, you were still considering some counseling to assist you in dealing with the distress you were experiencing. Again, if I can be of help to you in this regard, I will be happy to do so.

With prayerful regards for you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]