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Title: Letter to St. Mary Magdalen Parish by William James

Date: October 7, 1971

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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Oct. 7, 1971

After 3 weeks I've decided it was time to make a statement concerning the American O. Church. Especially after receiving the Stonewall weekly newsletter of Sept. 30, 1971., and the many phone calls I'm receiving.

I have not been affiliated with the American O. C. since Sept. 13, 1971. I could not accept Lawrence N. Hanis, (Decon Hanis), (Father Neumann) as Pastor of ST. Mary Magdalen Parish. My reasons will not be printed as I believe that matters of religion should not become street gossip. Anyone seriously interested in my reasons may call at my address, 14 W. Ross St., Wilkes Barre, Pa

I called the Curial Administrator, Father Robert Clement, at the New York parish and informed him of the situation. Fr. Clement said he would be in to Wilkes Barre on Sept. 22, 1971. As to my knowledge he did not come to our city. Now a month later the gay people of our area have found that this parish in Wilkes Barre is a NO NO. Last Sunday, Oct. 3, the 2 oclock service found not many souls in attendance. (By their fruits ye shall know them).

I apologize to the gay community of Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Lehigh Valleys for having assisted "THE DECON" in forming this parish.

P. S. ...I have gone back to the Roman Cath. Church where I can be sure the Sacraments are properly administered by dignified clergymen.

When in Scranton make it a must to visit THE NEW JIMMYS LOUNGE, 140 Penn. Ave

And in Allentown dont miss THE STONEWALL. Say hello to the newest bartender Kenny (the dithers), formerly out of Wilkes Barre.

Wash. D. C. ---A major victory for gays. U. S. District Judge John H. Pratt ruled that government security evaluators cannot subject homos. to "probing personal questions" about their sex lives or withhold security clearances when persons refuse to answer such questions. Thanks to DR. Kameny of Mayyachine.

Wash. D. C.----Senator George McGovern (D. - S.D.) has become the first major (declared) Presidential candidate to speak out on behalf of sexual civil liberties in general and homos. rights in particular. A letter was sent to Julie Lee of the Daughters of Bilitis by Senator Mc Govern.

Wash. D.C.-On September 9th, the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) Fundfiled a challenge to the D.C. sodomy statute, on behalf of four Washington homosexuals, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The suit asked the court "to declare that the D.C. sodomy statute may not constitutionally be applied to private sexual acts involving consenting adults."

Because sodomy ststutes are the cornerstone of discrimination against gays, this may be the most significant homosexual court case to date in America.

William James

