

Coughlin

May 22, 1939

Dear Mr. Bunim:

I am in receipt of your letter of May 19 in which you make the suggestion that the Pope should be invited to make an investigation of the truth and propriety of Coughlin's assertions. I shall submit your suggestion to some of my associates of the American Jewish Committee, but frankly, I do not believe that anything will come of such a request. The Papacy has in the past made pronouncements in favor of the Jews when they were charged with blood libel, but that was done in the Middle Ages and was in connection with a matter of ritual. The Popes strongly defended the Jews against the charge.

You will probably realize that Cardinal Mundelein strongly chastized Father Coughlin, but it did not stop him. A priest has a good deal of independence; he is only subject to the supervision of his Bishop and if he does not make statements which are in opposition to the dogmas of the Catholic Church, he is allowed to proceed unmolested. Many things have been tried in this direction which I do not care to go into in a letter.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

CYRUS ADLER

Mr. Irving M. Bunim
5224 15th Avenue
Brooklyn, N. Y.

SBH