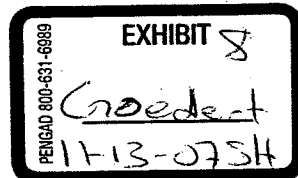


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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690



Vicar for Priests
800 North Clark Street, Suite 311
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Off: (312) 642-1837
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TO: File
FROM: T. Ventura TV
RE: Rev. Robert Mayer

CONFIDENTIAL

6-09-87

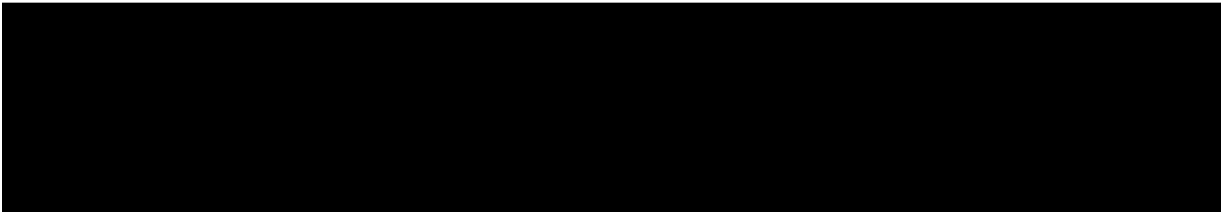
- 5-11-87 Call from Fr. John Smyth stating that Police Chief of Des Plaines informed him that they were concerned that Fr. Mayer may be serving liquor to minors. The police are investigating this and are concerned about other inappropriate activities. They may go to the State Attorney about this.
- 5-12-87 Call to Chief Joseph Kozenczak (391-5450) who said a Tribune reporter informed the Des Plaines police about an anonymous call he received from a 15 year old boy who said he was invited by another 15 year old to a party given by Fr. Mayer at which liquor was served to minors and Fr. M. engaged in oral sex with him. The police conducted surveillance on the rectory for the past 3 weeks and have identified 3 teens who frequent the rectory. They also have been in contact with an adult who has expressed concern about Fr. Mayer's activities. At this point, there is no formal complaint.
- 5-12-87 Call to Fr. Mayer at his family cottage (587-0215) to inform him of the accusations. He denied any wrongdoing. He said that no persons under 17 are allowed in his room, that no liquor is served to minors and there is absolutely no inappropriate activity. He said that a group of four teens, age 17 or older, visit him regularly after school. They are: [REDACTED]. They can confirm what he says. Fr. Mayer was informed that since these are serious and sensitive charges, he is to leave the rectory and take a leave of absence from his duties until they can be investigated. He agreed and left the rectory the next day (ie., May 13). He can be reached at his family cottage.
- 5-12-87 Conversation with Fr. Mazydlo, pastor. [REDACTED] He said that four boys around age 17 or 18 visit Fr. Mayer regularly, but never anyone younger than that. Sometimes they are noisy and get into roughousing, but there is no indication of anything inappropriate. Liquor is served only when other adults are present. He has never seen it served to minors. Sometimes they watch movies on a VCR but there are no indications that they are inappropriate films.
- 5-12-87 Conversation with [REDACTED] She feels there is no substance to the allegations since she is present in the rectory a great deal and would know what goes on. The only regular younger visitors to Fr. Mayer are 2 Mundelein seminarians who are 20 or 21 and 3 or 4 high school seniors around 17 or 18. She said that Fr. Mayer has made a tremendous contribution to the vitality of the parish and to transfer him because of rumors or unsubstantiated charges would be unfair to the people

Ex 8

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as well as to Fr. Mayer. She said that he is not perfect, that he can be arrogant and is sometimes his own worst enemy with his comments to people, but that there is no basis for accusations that he serves liquor or engages in sexual activities. She said there are people who spread rumors about everyone in the parish and in the town. She reiterated her belief that after a long period of unrest and instability in the parish, Mayer has brought strong leadership and should remain unless there is clear evidence to substantiate the charges.

5-13-87



5-17-87

Call from Fr. Bob Banzin, a close friend of Fr. Mayer. He said Fr. Mayer is very depressed by these accusations. He said Mayer is a "character" but he is hard-working and effective. He has often been present when young people are visiting Mayer, and has never seen any sign of alcohol, sex or anything amiss. He said Mayer just enjoys "sitting around and blabbing." He hopes the matter can be resolved quickly. If there is evidence, deal with it. If not, Mayer should be cleared and reinstated. He is concerned about the anonymity of the charges and the third or fourth hand reporting.

5-20-87

Visit to Chief Kozenczak by Fathers Kealy and Ventura at the Des Plaines Police Station, 1420 Miner St., Des Plaines. We stated that our inquiries had surfaced no information to support the charges and asked if he could provide more data. He said that a) they had conducted surveillance for 3 weeks from suppertime to 9:00 or 10:00 PM on Tuesdays near the Rectory. They observed 3 youths around 17 years of age who visited regularly. At one time a youth was observed through the window drinking from a green bottle which the observing officers said might have been beer. Also in the course of the investigation they came in contact with an adult, a reliable person, who expressed concern about Fr. Mayer. They had promised to keep this person's identity confidential. The Chief said that youth officers hoped to develop rapport with the teens and learn more about it. When asked about [redacted] or Fr. Mezydlo, the Chief said that neither had been involved in this case. When asked about the original contact, the Chief said it was Pat Curry of Channel 5 News who contacted an officer on his staff about a month ago.

5-22-87

Call from [redacted] who had heard that Fr. Mayer was in trouble. He has known Mayer for 10 years. Back at [redacted] he used to hang around the rectory. He said Mayer was an excellent influence on him and many others. In fact, he was a big reason for [redacted] entering the Seminary. He said Mayer was controversial and has an impatient temperament, but he never witnessed any illegal or immoral or harmful behavior. He said he would send a letter to express all of this on paper.

5-22-87

Meeting with Fr. Mezydlo. He said the matter of a 15 year old's involvement with Mayer is a mystery to him. The only persons that young who were around

the rectory in recent months were two eighth graders watering the plants as part of a Confirmation project. He said Mayer is brilliant, and a superb speaker and organizer. He can be abrasive and sometimes seeks to "grab power" in the parish, but when the pastor addresses this he will back off. Bob gets depressed once in a while, especially when these accusations surface. The most recent tension between himself and Mayer concerned the Finance Committee, but that seems to be resolved. The parish will survive if Mayer leaves, but some people will be upset and disappointed.

5-24-87 Conversation with Cardinal Bernardin who was in Rome the past week. There are two values: first, investigate these charges thoroughly since this is a serious matter. The television reporter seems to be the key person since he is the only link with the anonymous accuser. Second, we must be fair to Fr. Mayer especially if these prove to be ungrounded charges. However, if he remains at the parish there should be a professional evaluation and strong supervision to be doubly sure nothing is amiss.

5-26-87 Call from [redacted] from [redacted] who heard from a friend that Fr. Mayer was in trouble. She knew him since she was 13 and worked as a [redacted]. He never did anything dishonorable, but served as a male role model for many youngsters whose fathers traveled a lot due to business. She feels that Mayer's style of ministry was to challenge the affluence and status quo of a wealthy community. This ruffled some feathers, but helped many people. This may be a context in which people may want to cause him trouble. She will write a letter expressing her observations.

5-29-87 After a number of attempts to contact Pat Curry at Channel 5, I reached him at [redacted]. He said he received an anonymous call from a teen boy who said Fr. Mayer of Des Plaines showed porno movies to teen boys on a regular basis in his home. The caller was concerned about a friend, another teen, who attended these. He wasn't sure whether there was any sexual activity or not. Mr. Curry said they get anonymous calls all the time. People don't realize that the media won't make a story out of such information unless it is substantiated and newsworthy. Just in case there was something to it, however, he phoned a Des Plaines detective who said he would look into it and, if anything checked out, would call him back. He never did so. Mr. Curry said that if he learns anything more he will contact me.

5-29-87 Meeting with [redacted] born [redacted] and [redacted] born [redacted] and [redacted] were unable to be present as planned. When informed of the accusations, they said they were ridiculous and "garbage." They said Fr. Mayer has had a very important positive influence on their lives, that they have never experienced any bad behavior on his part and that, if the accusations had not caused so much trouble for Fr. Mayer, they would be a joke. They said the only criticisms they hear about Fr. Mayer is that he is "too modern" and "too direct."

6-2-87 Meeting with Fr. Bob Mayer, Fr. Len Mezydlo, Fr. Ray Goedert, and Fr. Ventura to discuss the conclusion of the investigation and the plan for the future which involves a) continuance of his present assignment to

its conclusion next June b) complete psychological evaluation by Dr. Cavanaugh c) mandate to avoid all unsupervised contact with people under 21 d) supervision by pastor and Vicar for Priests. A copy of the summary is included.

addendum: 6-30-87 after repeated efforts over the past 2 weeks I contacted Chief Konyewych to inform him that I had completed my inquiry & reported to my superiors & the decision was to allow Fr. Mayer to complete his last year of this assignment & transfer him in June. We are also taking other measures to address the concerns raised. He thanked me for keeping him informed.