



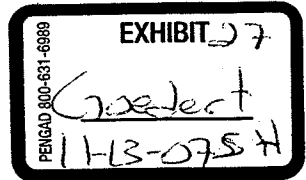
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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

VICAR FOR PRIESTS

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TO: Cardinal Bernardin

FROM: Rev. Raymond Goedert *RG*

DATE: June 23, 1990

RE: Rev. Robert Mayer

1. As you are probably aware, Bob Mayer has applied for the pastorate of St. Odilo. I was asked by Ray Cusack if I had any objections, in the light of all that has happened over the last 8 or 9 years. My response to Ray was somewhat noncommittal, as I really am not sure just what ought to be done. Part of me would welcome Bob being named a pastor, but there is also the concerns I have for the risks involved. Ultimately, the decision to appoint Bob a pastor or not will be yours, but I thought I should offer some input.

2. As you well know, Bob is a very talented but controversial person. I do think that he has been humbled a bit by all that he has gone through with the litigation and subsequent investigations. I have no doubt that he would be a very dynamic pastor, and were he to be named to St. Odilo, you can be sure Berwyn would never be the same again.

3. As I see it, the risks involved can be reduced to three, all somewhat related:

A. The original allegations against Bob were that he was guilty of inappropriate sexual behavior toward minors. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As Tom Ventura used to say, "There has always been a lot of smoke surrounding Bob, and there is no guarantee that the allegations of sexual misconduct won't surface again."

B. Bob does have a history, and unfortunately this history has been recorded, whether truthfully or not, in the book "Assault on Innocence" by Hilary Styles, supposedly the pseudonym used by [REDACTED] the mother of one of the boys involved with Bob. [REDACTED] has a real vendetta against Bob, and rumor has it that Hollywood is producing a movie based on her book.

C. This same [REDACTED], according to John Hurley, the pastor at St. Edna, is currently working towards a law degree. John is convinced that once she passes the bar, she will offer her legal services to anyone who has been mistreated by priests. This same woman is supposed to be connected with the

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██████████ and was quoted in the Baltimore Sun article at the time of the Bishops' meeting in 1989. So obviously, she is not adverse to going to the press with her crusade.

4. Having said the above, I am not thereby opposed to Bob's appointment. Bishop Jakubowski strongly supports it, and I presume his judgement is based on the very successful way in which Bob handled his role as administrator at St. Dionysius and in the manner in which he prepared the people for the closing of that parish. Moreover, I don't think it is fair to hold him hostage, as it were, to what this woman or others may or may not do. And if someone does go public and digs up the past, the possibility of scandal can be minimized if we are able to counter such an attack with the data revealed in ██████████

5. In all honesty, I am ambivalent on just what you ought to do. But I do think the time has come to decide whether or not Bob will ever be a pastor. In fairness to him, we cannot let him dangle indefinitely. He has to know once and for all whether or not he will ever be permitted to become a pastor in this Archdiocese.

6. Perhaps it would be worth having a staffing of sorts on this before you make a final decision. If this seems advisable, I would suggest Tom Ventura, Jim Roache, Jim Serritella and I be included in the discussion.