

LEO F. GRAHAM
CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGIST

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT.

P.O. BOX 11677
2935 N. OAKLAND AVE.
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53211
TELEPHONE 964-7520
AREA CODE 414

29 January 1976

Reverend Robert G. Sampon, Chancellor
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
345 North 95th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226

Dear Father:

I can fully understand the concerns which you outline in your recent note to me. I will try to explain the situations to you.

for Waup
se } Father [redacted] was referred to me by a local psychiatrist to whom he had been sent by his gastroenterologist. Father was suffering from chronic colitis which was seriously interfering with his digestion of food. As a result of this he was undergoing an increasing weight loss; at one time about a year ago he was hospitalized in Trinity Hospital because of the threat of dehydration. The way back for [redacted] has been slow and painful. The alternative to intensive care I feel sure would have been a severe ulcerative colitis of the type that his classmate Father [redacted] suffered through when he was critically ill a couple of years ago. At the present time Father's condition is much improved. His visits have been cut (as you will notice on the statements) from twice weekly to once weekly and I can foresee the time when they will be spaced even further.

Father Widera presents a completely different picture. He is, as I am sure you know, on probation for child molestation. It was a stipulation of the sentencing judge that the supervision be strict. It appears as though the judge was unusually harsh and severe in the sentencing. This is especially true since we have tried to have the probation reduced from three years to two but without success.

I am the de facto probation officer. The actual probation officer, who is a member of St. Andrew's Parish in Delavan, has been content to have virtually no contact with Father Widera except written forms which Father must fill out under State statute. In the event that Father Widera should encounter any type of difficulty, real or imagined, his probation can be suspended almost capriciously and he can be remanded--without even so much as a court hearing--to the penitentiary at Waupun. In his case

Ex 114

CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend Robert G. Sampon, Chancellor

-2-

29 January 1976

I insist on weekly meetings since the publicity and incarceration would bring incalculable harm to Father and extreme embarrassment in the press to the Archbishop and the Diocese.

*not
Fru* { All of this is in preamble to whether either of the priest patients could personally afford to underwrite part of the therapeutic expenses. Frankly, I do not know. I suspect Father [redacted]'s folks are a slight cut above the average working man in income but Father has been stationed in a large parish where I would suspect there has been an above average amount of revenue for a priest ordained as many years as he.

While Father Widera's folks are probably much wealthier, Father himself appears to have little of the material. I would suspect he has had less income since ordination and also that the legal expenses incurred were great.

Over a period of the last fifteen years it has been my privilege to have had in therapy many priests of the Archdiocese. I have never totalled the amount but I am sure that it has been more than substantial. Priests seem to do better therapeutically with psychologists than they do with psychiatrists. Perhaps this is because we come out of a broad spectrum liberal arts background rather than the more austere pre-medical training; I suspect it is even more so because psychologists do not want or require the tacit admission of being "sick" that one must give when one enters any physician's office.

The problem has been that psychologists have ordinarily not been able to recover payment from insurance companies as have psychiatrists. At the present time there is a bill before the Wisconsin Assembly which would make it mandatory for psychologists to be paid in the same way as psychiatrists. I am taking the liberty of enclosing an additional sheet of paper explaining the bill. Obviously the savings to the Diocese and to many of the religious communities would be great if the bill were enacted. While I fully understand that the Chancery cannot take a position supporting one profession against another at least you might cheer us on silently.

Again, I wish you would take the time to personally reassure the Most Reverend Archbishop that we attempt to waste no time in the resolution of problems; human beings are simply too complex to do it as quickly as any of us would like.

With every best wish,

Cordially,

Leo
Leo F. Graham
Consulting Psychologist

LFG/mgs

Enclosure