

June 26, 2012

Most Rev. John C. Nienstedt  
Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis  
The Chancery  
226 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Archbishop Nienstedt,

I am unfortunately writing to you with regard to the recent news of Fr. Curtis Wehmeyer. I have chosen to write to *you*, and copy Bishop Piché and Andy Eisenzimmer as my efforts to use 'the appropriate channels' eight years ago in my opinion sadly failed.

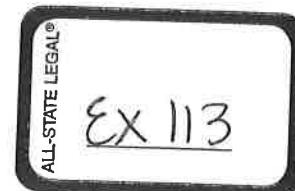
In the spring of 2004, my brother-in-law's two friends were both indirectly 'propositioned' by Fr. Wehmeyer at a Barnes & Noble store in Roseville; the two young men had naively found themselves in a location where homosexual men were looking for activity. When they later learned that the individual that approached them was a Catholic priest, they were quite shook up.

I was asked to meet with these young men to hear their stories, and agreed to bring the situation to the appropriate parties within the Archdiocese. At the time, one of the individuals was dating a young woman whose family were parishioners at the Church of St. Joseph where Fr. Wehmeyer was assigned at the time. I regret today encouraging the young woman's father to *not* 'storm the rectory' to take justice in his own hands - assuring him that I would bring the facts of this situation to the right parties, and it would be properly addressed.

I first spoke with Fr. Kevin McDonough after the incident and sent to him two sworn statements from the young men. I expressed to him my concern that not only was there an actively homosexual priest with issues at The Church of St. Joseph, but that he was very involved with the young people within this Church - and my 15 and 17 year old sons at the time knew him through their participation with the youth group.

I expressed to Fr. McDonough that even though the two young men approached by Fr. Wehmeyer were 19-20 year old 'adults' - they easily could have passed off as high school students - the very age group of my sons. These were very young looking men. Fr. McDonough tried to ease my concerns by suggesting the many studies that disassociate homosexuals and the abuse of minors - perhaps a quiet reference to the John Jay study which was publicly released during this same time frame.

Fr. McDonough informed me that Fr. Wehmeyer was sent away for a week of evaluation, officials within the local Church were notified, and other efforts were being made to address the situation. I specifically asked about any possible restrictions that might be imposed to his ministry. I orchestrated a personal meeting between Fr. McDonough and one of the young men to hear the story first hand. The young man



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graciously said to Fr. McDonough that perhaps it was God's hand that they had this encounter so that Fr. Wehmeyer would be able to get the help he needs.

As the next months unfolded, I grew increasingly concerned that life was 'back to normal' at The Church of St. Joseph; my wife and I were both shocked to hear of his continued involvement with the youth group (i.e. chaperoning trips). I contacted Fr. McDonough a few months after the initial assessment to get an update. I was deeply concerned at this time that the situation was quietly going away - and I specifically wrote to Fr. McDonough that I feared I would 'never hear of anything more, until God forbid, I read a police log, or hear of another individual being approached'. He expressed to me in writing, 'I accept your perception that we might be trying to sweep all of this under a rug. Nonetheless your perception is inaccurate. I expect still to be working on this a year from now, and probably beyond, until this priest has a demonstrated track record of greater maturity, spiritual, moral and psychological.' This was the last exchange I can recall with Fr. McDonough on this subject.

Today as I see Fr. Wehmeyer's photo in the newspaper, I'm deeply saddened and I'm angry. Assuming these allegations are true, I cannot but question my own actions. Why didn't I contact others in the Archdiocese, especially when I perceived Fr. McDonough's actions as dismissing and inadequate? Why didn't I speak up when Fr. Wehmeyer was appointed to his own parish, or when you became Archbishop, or when Bishop Piche was installed as auxiliary?

I'm also left with a range of other questions: What follow-up was ever done after my last conversation with Fr. McDonough? Was he continuing to work with this priest toward 'greater maturity, spiritual, moral and psychological'? Will these allegations be isolated? Is my correspondence and the statements even a part of Fr. Wehmeyer's personnel file? Does the Church reevaluate its posture with regard to the John Jay study, now that potentially another young person's life will be destroyed at the hands of an unhealthy homosexual priest?

I have enclosed copies of my correspondence with Fr. McDonough from 1984; I no longer have the emails. I look forward to visiting with somebody about my correspondence.

With all this being said, please still know of my love for the Church (in its imperfection) and my personal support and prayers for you in your important role as shepherd of the local Archdiocese.

Respectfully,



Patrick Menke

cc: Most Rev. Lee Piché, Auxiliary Bishop  
Mr. Andrew Eisenzimmer, Chancellor