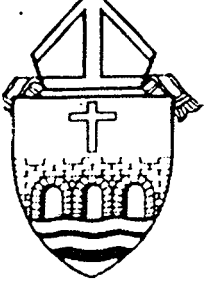


Scroll down to next page to view exhibit.



DIOCESE of BRIDGEPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT TO COURT ORDER

OFFICE OF
CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS

March 21, 1994

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Louis Padovano, S.J. M.D.
905 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Padovano:

As promised I am enclosing documentation concerning Reverend Martin J. Federici who, I understand, will be meeting with you on Wednesday of this week.

Please find enclosed a summary of the pertinent background which I had originally prepared for our attorney. The only portion of the summary which has not been shared with Father Federici himself is the last paragraph of the summary because the pastor, Reverend Monsignor Joseph J. Kohut, preferred that I not discuss it with Father Federici since it had come from Monsignor Kohut's conversation with Bishop Egan. All of my persuasive skills could not change the pastor's mind.

I met with Father Federici on March 14, 1994, to review the enclosed background as well as discuss a recently reported incident involving an eighth grade boy in All Saints' School in Norwalk where Father Federici goes on Mondays to lead discussions in the three eighth grade classes, a fact of which I was not aware until the incident came to my attention on March 11, 1994. It seems that Father Federici had a conversation with an eighth grade student, M-010, whom he had baptized. The talk took place in the principal's office. Since the subject of the class discussion that day had been the way kids deal with their anger, they continued to discuss the topic, and in the course of the discussion Father Federici apparently asked M-010 about his fighting ability in light of the fact that M-010 takes karate lessons. Mrs. F-005, the boy's mother, became upset when she found out about the conversation and also because she is aware of past accusations involving Father Federici.

CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT TO COURT ORDER

page 2

When I met with the M-010's family on March 17, 1994, they insisted that there be no further contact between Father Federici and their son. Father Federici will not be returning to function at All Saints' School. One other important feature of the conversation between the priest and the boy is that, as Father Federici himself told me, he hugged or embraced M-010 at the conclusion of their talk.

The alleged incident in 1978 involved a teenage boy, M-011 (Father Federici's suggested spelling), whom the priest had met prior to the alleged event. It was raining and the priest offered him a ride. The young man, according to the priest, had some form of cancer and expressed his fears to Father Federici, who placed his hand on the boy's knee during the ride. Some days later the police interviewed the priest who denied any inappropriate conduct. He was not arrested. There was no further contact between the young man and Father Federici.

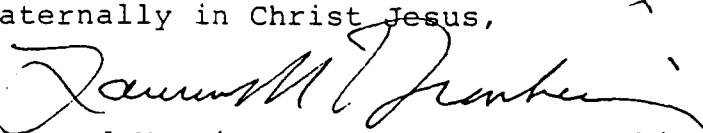
The 1983 incident involving a teenage male is one to which the priest has admitted. The boy was Hispanic, and the incident occurred in early March of that year. The boy had gone to Father Federici with concerns about his own masculinity and suggested oral sex which took place. There has been no further contact between the priest and the teenage boy.

Concerning the F-008 accusation, Father Federici recalls being close to a F-007 (his spelling), a student at Notre Dame Girls' High School in the early 1970's. He admits to having become emotionally, but not sexually involved with her: giving her rides home, hugging, meeting her at the library, and counseling her--she also had concerns about her own sexuality.

Please find enclosed various documents which I hope will be helpful to you in preparing for your meeting with Father Federici.

In gratitude for your willingness to be of service to one of our priests and to the Diocese itself, I remain

Fraternally in Christ Jesus,


Reverend Monsignor Laurence R. Bronkiewicz, S.T.D.
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Religious

enclosures

Summary

CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT TO COURT ORDER

The Reverend Martin J. Federici, a fifty-four year old priest of our Diocese who was ordained May 21, 1966, has been accused several times of inappropriate conduct with minors and once with a person whose age is not known.

In 1968 while assigned as a full-time member of the faculty of Central Catholic High School, a Diocesan school which no longer exists, Father Federici was accused of "homosexuality" presumably by a member (unnamed) of the student body. The only record of the allegation is contained in the November 16, 1978 psychological evaluation of him by Reverend Monsignor James P. Cassidy, Ph.D., a priest of the Archdiocese of New York to whom Father Federici was referred. The evaluation indicates that in response to the allegation, Father Federici did undergo "therapy once a week for a year and received medication"; billing statements in Father Federici's file show that he received professional services from William O. Sires, M.D., a Fairfield psychiatrist, from December of 1968 through April of 1970. There is no indication in our files of any threat of legal action in connection with this first accusation. Father Federici was removed from his teaching assignment and was appointed an Assistant at Assumption Parish in Westport.

The second accusation, found in the same evaluation, came from a lieutenant of a local (unnamed) police force and is described as homosexuality involving a young boy (unnamed) which allegedly occurred on October 2, 1978. Father Federici was then serving as Associate Pastor of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in East Norwalk. Our files contain no record of any threat of legal action regarding this allegation. It appears that the priest remained in his East Norwalk assignment for nearly three more years.

On July 1, 1981, Father Federici became Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Shelton, and in the spring of 1983, was accused by a sixteen or seventeen-year-old male (unnamed) of having oral sex with him. The priest who has admitted to the incident told me that it took place in the rectory. My predecessor, Reverend Monsignor Andrew T. Cusak, Ph.D., remembers the father of the boy coming to the Catholic Center in an extremely angry state and threatening violence. Father Federici was subsequently removed from his Pastorate and assigned to Saint Edward the Confessor Parish in New Fairfield as an Associate. Enclosed documentation from Trinity Retreat in Larchmont, New York, indicates that Father Federici spent approximately seven weeks there under the supervision of Reverend Benedict J. Groeschel, O.F.M.Cap, Ed.D., whose name, I know, is familiar to you. There is no other record of any additional help provided to him during this period. If the father of the minor victim did make a legal threat, there is no indication of such in our files.

Another misconduct report came to my attention in a phone call I received two or three years ago from Mr. M-012 (office - 518 [REDACTED]), a law professor at the University of Albany and a former Federal prosecutor. He told me that his wife, a 33-year-old graduate of Cathedral Girls' High School in Bridgeport to which Father Federici had been assigned from January 15, 1970 to June 25, 1977, had recently revealed that the priest had made sexual advances on her during her student years. He claimed that there were incidents of inappropriate touching, and that he had moved her head to his groin area on at least one occasion in addition to other inappropriate behavior. According to her husband, Mrs. F-008 graduated from high school in 1972. He further explained that his call was motivated by concern for other possible victims, and he did not seem to want or expect me to raise the matter with Father Federici himself. The priest is unaware of this accusation.

On February 20, 1990, Ms. Ruth Scofield (office 348-9346), a child abuse victim advocate at the Rape and Sexual Abuse Crisis Center in Stamford, telephoned to report that an adult female told her in a confidential session that a young male had been approached by Father Federici on an Emmaus weekend. As you may recall, Emmaus is a weekend retreat program for high school-age people. Ms. Scofield did not identify the young male as a minor. Since Emmaus weekends normally involve many adult supervisors, the allegation may refer to a young adult supervisor rather than to a minor. At the time of the report, Father Federici was serving as Parochial Vicar of Saint Matthew Parish in Norwalk where he continues to work. Because Ms. Scofield could not identify the source of the report nor the young male who had allegedly been approached, the report has never been presented to Father Federici. Ms. Scofield has never pursued the matter with me.

The only other item of information which needs to be mentioned is a visit to Bishop Egan by Reverend Monsignor Joseph J. Kohut, Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish, who came to report the use of the parish phone by Father Federici to call "sex hotline" numbers. Apparently Monsignor Kohut confronted Father Federici with the issue and told him to stop.