

22 April 1983

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
Archbishop of Chicago
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Your Eminence:

It is with great sorrow and troubled minds that we write you to inform you of the misconduct of a priest at our parish, Five Holy Martyrs, 43rd and Richmond. This particular priest is in charge of the alterboys.

On March 23, 1983, at approximately 7:45 a.m., Father Chestra Przybylo, struck seven children in the sacristy. These children, who consisted of 6 alterboys and 1 little girl who was to be a commentator, were struck because Father Chestra said they were talking. They were struck as follows:

- 1) [REDACTED] - struck once on the right side of head.
- 2) [REDACTED] - struck once on the right side of head.
- 3) [REDACTED] - shoved against the wall causing child to hit his head on the wall.
- 4) [REDACTED] - punched once on the left side of face by his eyes, which caused his glasses to be knocked off his face and broken. Cost of glasses \$66.00
- 5) [REDACTED] - kicked from behind into the cassock locker, pulled out by his hair, turned about face and thrown back into locker, causing laceration on his right leg.
- 6) [REDACTED] - struck 3 times in and around head area causing child to fall to the ground.
- 7) [REDACTED] - struck once over the head with priest's prayer book.

At this point we have spoken personally to our Pastor Alfred L. Abramowicz, and he has made Father Chestra apologize to the children only after the children were made to apologize to him. Bishop stated to Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED], that we should be forgiving, because this was his first offense, and also Bishop has no other priest to put in charge of the alterboys.

We as parents feel that this priest needs help. We cannot allow our sons to serve because when this incident occurred, we were made aware of similar incidents that took place at alterboy meetings. We fear for the safety of our children and feel this priest should not be allowed to have charge over the alterboys.

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Not to be gossip carriers, but we were also made aware of the fact that this priest was already removed from another neighboring parish because of his eccentricities.

Our last hope to find a solution to this dilemma is you!

We understand that you have a shortage, but you also must understand our very deep concern. We have given our Pastor one month to resolve this matter, but now we feel that we must bring this to your attention for further investigation and resolution.

Please understand, we wish to harm no one, but we do not want any child to get seriously hurt.

If you feel that you must contact any or all of us, we have furnished information below.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Only speaks Spanish

Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

cc: Most Reverend Alfred L. Abramowicz
Five Holy Martyrs Church
4300 S. Richmond
Chicago, Illinois 60632

Father Chestra Przybylo
Five Holy Martyrs Church
4300 S. Richmond
Chicago, Illinois 60632

Frank Fiorite
Attorney At Law
127 N. Daerborn
DE-2-1376

Jermoe T. Murphy
Attorney At Law
11750 S. Western
239-6800

All Parents involved who signed.

Sister Emily Marie
Principal of Five Holy Martyrs School
4300 S. Richmond
Chicago, Illinois 60632
521-6161

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