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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Reverend Chester Przybylo

March 28, 1996

Letter from Bishop Joseph M. Zycinski (Bishop of Tarnow) to Bishop Roger Kaffer: "I'd appreciate your kind assessment of the present situation and your opinion about the necessity of possible (possibly) using sanctions against Fr. Chester because of his illegal if any, actions in the territory of the diocese of Joliet." (In reference to his celebration of traditionalist liturgy in spite of protests of ecclesiastic authorities.)

April 17, 1996

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Bishop Joseph M. Zycinski (Bishop of Tarnow). Father Przybylo has no authority to celebrate Mass at the Shrine of Christ the King. "My own opinion is that he should be asked to return to his diocese of Incardination."

August 14, 1997

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo requesting that he call for an appointment.

October 21, 1997

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo stating that he did not respond to the previous letter and asked to call for an appointment.

February 18, 1999

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo requesting that he call for an appointment.

April 13, 1999

File memorandum from Bishop Imesch regarding his meeting with Father Przybylo. Father, a native Chicaguan, studied theology in Poland and later received permission from his bishop in Poland to return to the United States. Worked in Archdiocese for 15 years, was not incardinated, went to Madison, WI for three years, then in approximately 1993 went to the Shrine of Christ the King in Winfield. (He was told by Fr. Al Kunz in Madison that he needed no permission to celebrate the Tridentine Rite.) Fr. Przybylo told Bishop Imesch he wanted to become part of the Joliet Diocese.

April 22, 1999

Bishop Imesch sent a letter to Father Thomas Paprocki in which he enclosed the memo regarding his meeting with Father Przybylo.

May 17, 1999

Letter from Bishop Imesch in response to Bishop Kazimierz Gorny's letter of May 5, 1999. Bishop Imesch stated that Father Przybylo had made no attempts to contact him; that Father has no faculties and functions without his permission; that he should be required to return to Poland.

May 26, 1999

Confidential file memorandum from Bishop Kaffer regarding a conversation held with Bishop Alfred Abramowicz about Father Przybylo's alleged abuse on August 14, 1968 of a young man (age 17) who was sent back to Poland by his older brother who did not believe he had been abused.

May 26, 1999

Letter from Bishop Imesch to a [REDACTED] in which he said that Father Przybylo does not and never had faculties from the Joliet Diocese; that he was ordained for a diocese in Poland; that the reason for Bishop Imesch visiting the Shrine was to make certain that the people understood they were not part of the Catholic Church.; they are worshiping without approval of the Bishop.

July 23, 1999

Memo from Bishop Kaffer to Bishop Imesch stating that the revised date from Bishop Abramowicz was 1968 but August 26, 1982.

CB5/PRZ 00037

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August 27, 1999

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo in which he was told he was misleading people by advertising the Shrine as celebrating a Roman Catholic Mass; that he is "not in union with the Church in Rome through the local bishop."

December 15, 1999

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo that people need to be informed that they are not in union with the Roman Catholic Church.

March 13, 2000

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo stating that he called several times over the past 10 days and left messages but no response. Asked to call for an appointment.

August 27, 2001

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo saying that he is not a priest in good standing; that he is not authorized to present himself as such and is being deceptive to his people.

August 27, 2001

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Bishop Gorny stating Father Przybylo continues to present himself as a Catholic priest and asking his assistance.

September 27, 2001

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Bishop Gorny saying he could not permit Father Przybylo to function as a priest in the Diocese of Joliet because he wants to be a priest "without any relationship to the diocesan bishop."

January 22, 2002

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo reminding him that he received no response to the Bishop's letter of August 27, and that he is not in good standing with the Catholic Church and is still deceiving his people.

July 18, 2002

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Bishop Gorny saying that Father Przybylo has not contacted him in response to Bishop Gorny's letter nor responded to letters from Bishop Imesch in August of last year and January 2002.

July 18, 2002

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Mr. Thomas Vall regarding the fact that Father Przybylo does not have faculties from the Diocese of Joliet, is not in good standing, etc.

November 22, 2002

File memo from Bishop Imesch saying that according to a Father Milek at St. Helen Church in Chicago, Bishop Gorny was supposed to come to Chicago in May and at that time there would be a meeting with Bishop Gorny, Father Przybylo and Father Milek.

April 2, 2004

Memo from Bishop Imesch to Father Tapella stating that Father Siedlecki was trying to get Father Przybylo to return to the Church and asked Father Tapella to meet with Father Siedlecki.

April 9, 2004

Memo from Bishop Imesch to Father Tapella re meeting with Father Siedlecki to state why he is not recognized or accepted by the Church.

April 26, 2004

Memo from Father Tapella to Bishop Imesch regarding a suit filed concerning the assets of the Shrine (over one million dollars). Father Tapella suggested that any reconciliation efforts with Father Przybylo ought to be placed on hold because of the invalidity of marriages he performed, his unwillingness to be subjected to any bishop's authority, etc.

CB5/PRZ 00038

May 19, 2005

Letter from Father Tapella to Father Siedlecki. Father Tapella had spoken with Bishop Kaffer about his conversation with Bishop Abramowicz regarding an allegation of sexual abuse against Father Przybylo. Bishop Kaffer confirmed what he had written in a memo; and stated that Father Przybylo not be Incardinated and not be given faculties.

June 7, 2005

Memo from Father Tapella regarding a conversation with a [REDACTED] from Michigan possible misuse of funds belonging to his aunt. Mr. [REDACTED] was informed that Father Przybylo does not accept the authority of Bishop Imesch or his bishop in Poland.

July 1, 2005

Decree issued that Father Przybylo does not have faculties from Bishop Imesch and that the Shrine of Christ the King is not authorized by the Diocese and enjoys no canonical status.

November 14, 2005

E-mail forwarded to Sister Judith Davies for Bishop Imesch from [REDACTED] alleging abuse by Father Chester Przybylo.

December 15, 2005

File memo in which Bishop Imesch spoke of his conversation with [REDACTED] that morning. He alleges having been raped six or seven times and suffering other abuse while Father Przybylo was at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago. [REDACTED] was age 12. The Bishop sent [REDACTED] a letter that day in which he advised [REDACTED] to report to the States' Attorney at to DCFB.

December 19, 2005

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Bishop Gorny in which he enclosed an e-mail sent by [REDACTED] who alleged abuse by Father Przybylo between 1986-1987, and a copy of the letter sent to [REDACTED] Bishop Imesch asked Bishop Gorny to suspend Father Przybylo.

January 27, 2006

Letter from Father Przybylo to Bishop Imesch stating that he and the Board are willing to work with the Bishop.

March 2, 2006

A letter was sent to Bishop Imesch from the law firm of Klenen & Pietsch stating that the Board of Directors of the Shrine voted to establish the Shrine as an independent entity, and stated that Fr. Przybylo does not have the right to negotiate with the Diocese about faculties.

March 22, 2006

The Diocese issued a formal statement regarding that Father Przybylo never had faculties with the Diocese, and is not connected with the Diocese in any way.

May 12, 2006

Letter from Bishop Imesch to Father Przybylo regarding his suspension and asking him to make that penalty known to his people.

May 15, 2006

In a file memo, Bishop Imesch stated he spoke with Father Przybylo who said he received the information from Bishop Rzeszowski and told parishioners of his suspension.

September 26, 2006

Letter from Bishop Sartain to Mr. Tim Hallett stating that it would not be possible to establish a canonical relationship between the Shrine and the Diocese.