

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.

PRZ-CB1-00259

Document

1



Mr. & Mrs. 

---


---

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

Father Chesta 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

PRZ-CB1-00261

Rev. Joseph Janicki, Milwaukee Vicar

July 13, 1984

RE: Chester PRZYBYLO

COPY  
of 0220747 (Rev. 3/6/83) the files of  
VICAR FORAFORENCE OFFICE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

June 1980 - Came to Milwaukee  
Nov. 1980 -

... feelings of grandeur ...  
Polish priest characteristics ...

[REDACTED]

We told him he could not return to Milwaukee ... Fr. Pajda took over.

[REDACTED]

- Fr. Stanislaus GOWVIN, Society of Christ, was go-between for U.S. and Polish Bishops on finding priests.
- Marquette Diocese had him for a while.
- Bishop B. Talked

Of the record, I think Chester is paranoid; I think he is crazy. I think he should go back to Poland because he wanted to walk around in cassock & biretta and preach in Polish.

He got quite heavily in debt. He bought an unusually large car on a shoestring. It may have been repossessed (\$10,000 Oldsmobile in 1980. First payment check bounced. GM tried to repossess the car when he was at Guest House.)

rumors about immorality, homosexuality. A priest who lived in the Rectory claimed Chester tried to proposition him.

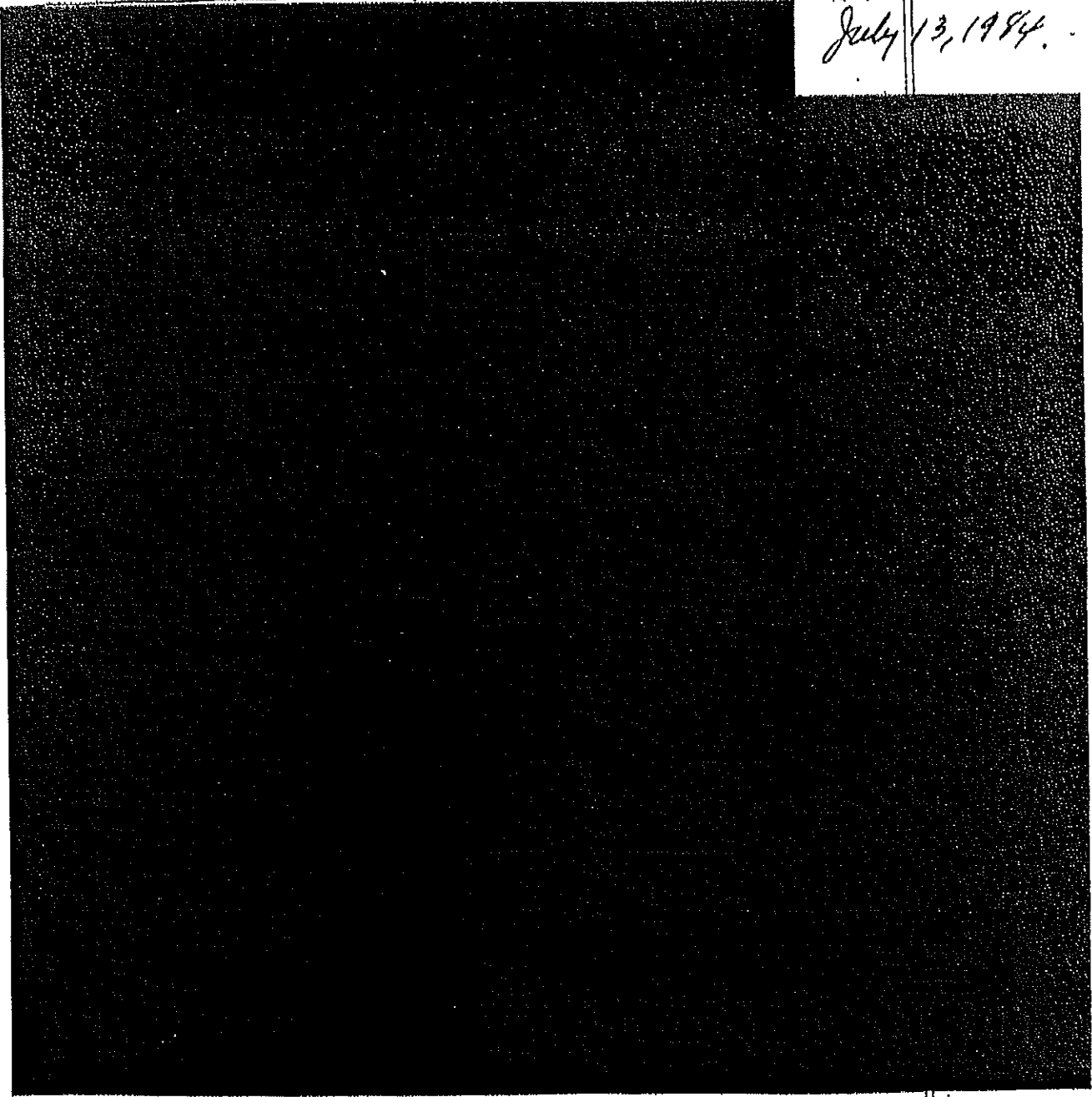
- In Milwaukee, he would come to a parishioner's home and ask for [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] & they would have to drive him home.

(over)

CB3/PRZ 00118

- Has he been faithful to [redacted]?
- Has he [redacted]?
- Also [redacted]

July 13, 1984.





Off: (312) 642-1837

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
VICAR FOR PRIESTS  
800 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 311  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

APR 13 2006

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**COPY**

of an original document from the files of  
**VICAR FOR PRIESTS OFFICE**  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO**

TO: File (R. Goedert)  
DATE: April 27, 1990  
RE: Chester Przybylo

This is a red ink stamp!  
**DO NOT COPY**

Ed [redacted] called (254-3636). He was at a loss as to what to do about rumors, gossip, and innuendo concerning Chester. [redacted] but that is not the real issue at this time. The gossip seems to be more of a sexual nature. Ed has been hearing things such as Chester taking young boys up to his room and in the parish office. The organist also said that he took a "highlander" to some hotel or apartment. Ed does not know the age of the "highlander", nor is he sure of any of this. I told Ed that I would make a notation that he had called, but that it would not be fair to Chester to move on him if all we have is gossip and innuendo. I suggested that Ed watch Chester very carefully and document any information or events that he thinks are important. I suggested that he get back to me in a week or so and just let me know how things are going.

PRZ-CB20-0078

Document  
3



Off: (312) 642-1837

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

VICAR FOR PRIESTS  
800 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 311  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

**COPY**  
of an original document from the files of  
**VICAR FOR PRIESTS OFFICE**  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO**

This is a red ink stamp!  
DO NOT COPY

TO: File (R. Goedert)  
DATE: May 4, 1990  
RE: Chester Przybylo

1. Ed [redacted] called. [redacted]. Ed said that he confronted Chester with the stories that were circulating about him and Chester just said that they were not true. But he didn't seem to react at all the way a normal person would when accused of such things. However, the following day he did express anger at what Ed had told him.

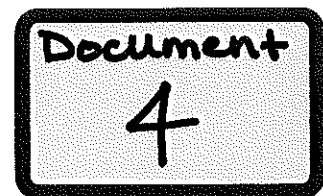
2. I asked Ed what are some of the things that he observes. He said that the most serious complaint is with regard to a young man by the name of [redacted] who is around the rectory frequently. He will come sometimes after 10 P.M. Ordinarily he would be in the office with Chester, but Ed made it very clear to Chester that no young person is to be on the second floor at all. And if he has someone coming to the office after 9 o'clock, he has to keep the office door open. Ed said that this same young man has borrowed Chester's car. He is only 16 years old. One day the police found him riding around the parking lot at 1 A.M. Evidently Chester had gone to a wedding and must have let this young man use the car and then [redacted] went to pick Chester up and eventually brought him home.

3. With regard to this young man, Ed said he has never seen anything improper. However, Ed has heard different priests who were either stationed with Chester or know about him refer to him as "Chester the molester".

4. Ed says that the above concern is the major one, but there are all sorts of other kinds of problems that Ed has with Chester and the way he deals with things. For instance, a funeral came in and the family specifically said they wanted the entire liturgy in English. Chester got into a big huff, didn't preach a homily and did the whole funeral in less than 20 minutes. Naturally, people complained.

5. I suggested to Ed that he simply keep a log and observe Chester carefully and if anything untoward happens, he should get back in touch with me.

CB3/PRZ 00054



██████████

May 26, 1999

Today I spoke with Bishop Alfred Abramowicz at his residence at St. Blase Parish in Argo, Illinois for about an hour about Father Czeslaw Przybylo. I began by reading the letter of May 5, 1999 from Bishop Kazimierz Gorny of Rzeszow to Bishop Joseph Imesch and Bishop Imesch's reply of May 17, 1999. Bishop A. Said Bishop Gorny would not know Father C.

Bishop A. Then told me he knew of one only incident. On August 14, 1968, the vigil of the Assumption, a 17 year old young man told Bp. A. That Fr. C. Had sodomized him. Bp. A. Confronted FR. C., who did not deny it. Bp. A. Told me: "It's, so sickening -- on the vigil of the Feast of Our Lady!" He was on the verge of tears.

Within that week, the older brother of the 17 year old sent him back to Poland. The kid was not the sharpest and the older brother did not believe him and said he imagined it. Bp. A. believed it -- because Fr. C. Did not deny it.

"Despite that incident, I kept him but watched him like a hawk. I was consecrated in June -- this happened in August." Bp. A. And I discussed the mentality at that time. This was considered a sinful action for which confession and repentance was needed. He did not tell anyone -- not Cardinal Cody, nor anyone at the Chancery. Bp. A. continued: "I feared it might happen again. He was in charge of the altar boys. He had friends who outwardly had the characteristics of homosexuality, which I didn't like. At times he would stay out all night and come home at 6:00 a.m. Some mothers would complain he'd keep kids out until late at night. He would take them out caroling in the Christmas season and keep them out until 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. -- to which I objected. Chester had ██████████ They would go caroling from home to home and ██████████ Basically, that's why I told you to steer clear of him."

"When he went to Madison, ██████████ came to ask me about him. I didn't tell Cody or the Chancellor at the time (1968)."

"To take him in today!! I'm sure someone would come forward."

I observed: "We'd be opening ourselves to terrific problems that we don't need!" With which Bp. A. agreed.

Bp. A. Was not asked a thing about him. "I think it was ██████████ Bp. A.'s successor at Five Holy Martyrs) who asked Chester to leave. Chester had terrible fights with the Sister who was a sacristan. Ed ██████████ did not need that. Neither did I!"

"I see nothing to do but to do nothing" (for Bishop Imesch). Bishop Gorny should be told that in our opinion Chester would not pass the ██████████"

Document

5



CONFIDENTIAL

001100

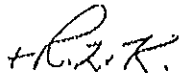
Page 2

"He (Chester) is a super Polish patriot. His mother can't speak Polish! He picked it up from his grandparents. Poor Chester has a sister with [REDACTED] She was [REDACTED] He comes from a very devout family."

Bp. A. Could not remember the name of the victim. He just remembers that within a week, he went back to Poland, sent back by his older brother, with whom he was staying. The older brother was embarrassed that his kid brother was talking about a priest. I said: "So he didn't believe the kid, but you did?" He replied, "I don't know whether he believed him or not but he was embarrassed because he was talking about a priest. I believed it because Chester did not deny it when I confronted him."

After we finished talking, I asked Bp. A. For his blessing and gave him mine. He was most gracious. He was dressed but lying in bed as we spoke, occasionally wincing in pain. At one point, I could not understand him, so he got up and went into another room to get his false teeth.

He warmly asked me to give Joe his best regards. I told him [REDACTED] was downstairs waiting for me and asked he would like to greet him -- or rather not. He graciously said to bring him upstairs, so I did and, we very briefly visited, then left.



Bishop Roger L. Kaffer



Diocese of Joliet  
The Tribunal Office

310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

00 169

815-722-2256  
Fax 815-722-6692

May 16, 2005

[REDACTED]  
Cardinal Stritch Retreat House  
P.O. Box 455  
Mundelein, IL 60060

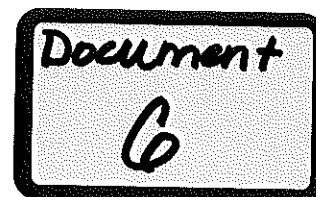
Dear Father [REDACTED]

I spoke with Bishop Kaffer about his conversation with Bishop Abramowicz regarding an allegation of sexual abuse on the part of Father Przybylo. Bishop Kaffer confirmed what he had written in a memo and expressed much concern that Father Przybylo not be incardinated into the Diocese of Joliet and that he not be given faculties. I believe at this point, we encourage Father Przybylo to be reconciled with his own bishop.

Thank you for your kindness. I enjoyed visiting with you last week. With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Responsibility





P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org


MEMORANDUM

To: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 












Re: Pryzblo, Rev. Czeslaw/Doe, John (identified as )

Date: April 2, 2006

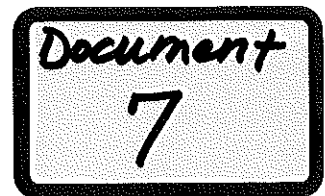
This memorandum is in response to the attached e-mail as well as to provide a summary of information of the matter concerning Rev. Czeslaw Pryzblo and John Doe, who has since been identified at .

PRA placed a call to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Hotline on March 24, 2006 after learning of the allegations of sexual misconduct with minors against Fr. Pryzblo as reported in the Chicago Sun-Times and Tribune newspapers on March 23, 2006.

PRA spoke with Ms. Janet Headen of the DCFS Hotline on March 24<sup>th</sup> and provided the information reported in the aforementioned newspapers. Ms. Headen informed PRA that she would take a report at that time and that she would forward the matter to the Du Page County Child Advocacy Center for follow-up. PRA also provided Ms. Headen with the name and contact information of Jeff Anderson, the civil attorney representing the alleged victim.

PRA informed Ms. Headen of a phone call received the same day from  of  Chicago. Mr.  contacted PRA about the aforementioned matter after reading the articles in the March 23<sup>rd</sup> newspapers. Ms. Headen was informed that Mr.  told PRA that he  at Five Holy Martyrs at the time of the alleged abuse. She was also informed that Mr.  was able to identify the "Jon Doe" in the newspaper articles as  and that he (Mr. ) was concerned about Fr. Pryzblo's behavior with young boys at Five Holy Martyrs. When asked, PRA provided Ms. Headen with Mr.  contact information at . It was agreed that PRA would contact Mr.  to inform him of the call made to the DCFS Hotline and that he should expect a phone call from a DCFS investigator.

CB5/PRZ 00067



COPY

After ending the March 24<sup>th</sup> phone call with Ms. Headen, PRA contacted Mr. [REDACTED] and informed him of the phone call to DCFS. Mr. [REDACTED] expressed his willingness to cooperate with the DCFS investigation. He then informed PRA of his knowledge from his time at Five Holy Martyrs that Fr. Pryzblo "...took an interest in him [REDACTED] as well as [an interest in] other polish boys..."

To date, PRA has spoken with Ms. Peg Mayer, the DCFS investigator assigned to this matter. PRA has shared all of the aforementioned information with Ms. Mayer. During a phone conversation on March 31, 2006, PRA provided Ms. Mayer with the name and contact information for Sr. Judith Davies, Chancellor of the Joliet Diocese. PRA is also in the process of obtaining Fr. Pryzblo's history of assignments while serving in the Archdiocese of Chicago, so that the information may be forwarded to Ms. Mayer.

Cc Rev. Jeremiah Boland, Director Extern and International Priests  
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Office of Assistance Ministry  
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General  
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor  
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Dr. Nicholas Wolsonovich, Superintendent of Schools

CB5/PRZ 00060



RECEIVED

FEB 1 1 2007

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 worshipping 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

Document

9

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 Klenlen & 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.