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<td>7-5-61</td>
<td>Our Lady of Solace</td>
<td>Asst.</td>
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<td>St. Clotilde</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vicariate-Administrator</td>
<td>8-2-72</td>
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<td>8-2-72</td>
<td>Holy Angels Parish, Chicago, Ill</td>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>Eff: 1-1-78</td>
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<td>Our Lady Help of Christians</td>
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5/25/06 Deceased

**COPY**

of an original document housed in the
ARCHIVES OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
This is a red ink stamp, DO NOT COPY

AOC 000656
Feb. 28, 1972

Your Eminence,

This is to inform you that I am accompanying Fr. Kenneth Brigham on Tuesday, Feb. 29th, to St. Augustine's Monastery at Nassau in the Bahama Islands. Fr. Brigham asked me to travel with him because he feels he needs to get away from many pressures that he is under here in Chicago. It is my understanding that you spoke with him today, Feb. 28th, and that you are aware of his plans and of his condition.

I spoke with Bishop Dempsey on Feb. 27th and informed him of Fr. Brigham's plans. He stated that in all likelihood Fr. Brigham "would be treated just like any other Priest who is sick in the Archdiocese". I am using my funds to pay for the airfare and to give Father enough to live on while he is down there. The round trip fare is $188.00. I plan to give Fr. Brigham $300.00. The total amount is $676.00.

Since my funds are extremely limited I sought advice from Fr. Rollins Lambert and he suggested that I take this step of writing to you for reimbursement. Thanking you for your kind attention to this matter, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. George Clements
March 1, 1972

Reverend John P. Griffin, Pastor
St. Bede the Venerable Rectory
Chairman, PRMAA
8200 South Kostner Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60652

Dear Father Griffin:

The enclosed communication was received by the Cardinal from Father George Clements and he has asked me to refer it to you for your consideration.

It is our understanding that Father Brigham will be in residence at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi for a period of convalescence lasting about one month.

With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

RJH:JPC:dmv

Rev. Msgr. Robert Hagarty
Comptroller

6/29/72 ack. from Rome - told Brigham to call Dan for an app't.
March 9, 1972

Macea R. Ellison, M.D.
Bel-Air Internists, S.C.
8501 S. Cottage Grove Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60619

Dear Doctor Ellison:

This will acknowledge your undated communication to Cardinal Cody regarding Reverend Kenneth M. Brigham, in which you have given your medical advice that he should take an immediate vacation to protect his health.

It is our understanding that he left about a week ago to spend some time at Bay St. Louis, Louisiana.

Thanking you for your gracious letter and with all good wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Reverend David E. Franzone
Secretary to the Cardinal

cc: His Excellency
The Most Reverend Michael R. Dempsey, D.D.
His Eminence, John Cardinal Cody
Archbishop of Chicago
Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Your Eminence,

In accordance with our conversation on Wednesday, July 13, 1972, I am hereby submitting my resignation as Administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vicariate. My decision has come after much prayer and serious thought.

My prayers will continue to be for the people of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Trusting that you will accept my resignation, I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth M. Brigham
His Eminence, John Cardinal Cody  
Archbishop of Chicago  
P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois  60690

Your Eminence:

Tried unsuccessfully to reach you through your secretary today. I am writing this letter in order that I might comply with what you directed in our most recent conversation. I have thought and prayed about what you proposed and have chosen a course of action guided by your suggestions.

Secondly, regarding the continuance of my priestly apostolate in the Archdiocese, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to suggest where I might best serve. Father George Clements has been most kind to me in these last several months, and you seemed well disposed to my remaining here with him, having suggested it yourself. In gratitude to Father Clements and respecting your opinion, I respectfully request to be assigned to Holy Angels.

Heretofore, I have not had the opportunity to thank you for the letter from Rome in which you alerted me of your remembrance in your Mass at St. Peter's Tomb. I appreciate this momento as well as your patience and kindness in the matters contained in this letter.

Yours very truly in the Peace of Christ,

[Signature]

Rev. Kenneth M. Brigham

July 18, 1972
His Eminence, John Cardinal Cody
Archbishop of Chicago
Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690

For His Eminence Only
Matter of Conscience
July 20, 1972

Reverend Kenneth M. Brigham  
c/o Holy Angels Rectory  
607 Oakwood Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Dear Father Brigham:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 13, 1972 in which you offered your resignation as Administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vicariate, in accordance with our previous conversation. Because of your illness I feel that it would be to your own advantage to be relieved of the responsibility and the pressure of the burdens at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vicariate and I am accepting your decision to be relieved of that assignment.

In accordance with our conversation and the request of Father Clements, I am appointing you as a Vicarius Cooperatus at Holy Angels Church.

Wishing you every blessing and success in that priestly work, I am, dear Father Brigham

Very truly yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago
Ms. Ellen Harris
1239 Taylor, #305
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Dear Ms. Harris:

At the request of His Eminence, I wish to thank you for your report on the unhappy incident involving your jazzercise class.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Francis A. Brackin
Vicar General

bcc - Rev. Kenneth M. Brigham

FAB:cfb
February 4, 2005

Most Reverend Joseph A. Pepe, D.D., J.C.D.
Diocese of Las Vegas
P.O. Box 18316
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114-8310

Dear Bishop Pepe,

Enclosed you will find the inquiry form you requested concerning Rev. Kenneth Brigham who intends to move to your diocese upon retirement. Should you have further questions or if I can be of additional assistance, please feel free to call me at 312-642-1837.

I wish you well and pray that God’s blessing be with you and the people of your diocese.

Sincerely, in Christ’s peace,

Rev. James T. Kaczorowski
Vicar for Priests

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

JTK:maz
This is to certify that Reverend Kenneth M. Brigham is a priest in good standing of the Archdiocese of Chicago. After reviewing his personnel file and from my personal knowledge, I am able to certify without qualification that Reverend Brigham has:

1. Never been suspended or otherwise canonically disciplined;

2. Never had criminal charges brought against him;

3. Not manifested behavioral problems in the past that would indicate he might deal with minors in an inappropriate manner;

4. Never been involved in an incident which called into question his fitness or suitability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of his priestly ministry due to alcohol abuse, substance abuse, or other causes;

5. No other particular mental or physical attribute, condition, and/or past situation which would adversely affect his performance or priestly ministry.

6. Although an allegation of sexual misconduct was brought against Reverend Brigham in 2002, it was declared false due to lack of sufficient data.

I am able to state without qualification that Reverend Kenneth M. Brigham is of good character and reputation and qualified to perform his priestly duties in a ministerial position in any diocese that welcomes him.

[Signature, Date]

(Vicar For Priests)

cc: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Steve Sidlowski, Professional Fitness Review Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago, of Victim L’s statement, given to Mr. Sidlowski on or about May 24, 1994, formalizing his allegation of sexual abuse against an unidentified priest. The alleged abuse consisted of one incident of fondling and oral sex in the rectory at St. Clotilde’s parish when Victim L was 17 years old.
Phone Call to 800# from Mr. [redacted]

At about 6:15 p.m. tonight, [redacted] called the Office on the 800#. He informed me right away about the purpose of his call. Mr. [redacted] stated "Well, I finally was able to make a very positive identification - it is in fact Fr. Brigham for sure. As a matter of fact, I went by the Church or school he is at."

Mr. [redacted] then called Our Lady Help of Christians Parish and asked to speak with Fr. Ken Brigham. Mr. [redacted] explained "I didn’t see him, but with speaking with him over the phone, I knew it was him by his voice." Mr. [redacted] stated he could clearly remember the voice of the priest who had allegedly sexually abused him as a minor and this was the voice. (He had previously described the voice to R.B. and I in May, 1994).
In any event, Mr. re-stated "but I'm absolutely positive sure that Fr. Ken Brigham is the man" who allegedly sexually abused him when he was seventeen years old.

I inquired of Mr. as to whether anyone had assisted him in obtaining this information and he responded "I took it upon myself on my own...to do what I could" to find out Ken Brigham's whereabouts, voice and/or face.

Mr. rejoined that "his voice and his face I would never and could never forget, and as soon as I heard" Rev. Brigham's voice, Mr. said he no longer had a doubt that Rev. Brigham is indeed the alleged priest perpetrator.

I noted to how he has previously noted that he would not want to identify the wrong priest in this matter and that if he should still desire to attempt to obtain a photo of Rev. Brigham somehow on his own or to try to see Rev. Brigham in person and if that would all the more confirm for him Ken Brigham's identity, I certainly would understand if he pursues that option. I inquired as to whether he intends to pursue one of those options. Mr. responded "His face and his voice are the two main things that I always kept in storage in my memory bank." Further, in "the same way I recognized his face" on the bus at St. Columbanus, Mr. concluded that Ken Brigham probably had served at St. Columbanus as a priest at some point and when he called there today the secretary confirmed that Ken Brigham had been there (please note that I had not ever confirmed for Mr. that I had learned Rev. Brigham had indeed spent several years at St. Columbanus Parish right before his current assignment). In any event, Mr. said "No," that at this point he does not feel it necessary to actually see Ken Brigham's face in person or by photo. He re-iterated that "If I see his face and that was the person that would appear before him with the voice he heard today, "I know that would be" Ken Brigham - i.e. the face would just confirm for him the voice that he states he knows was the priest perpetrator's voice from memory.

I also noted how originally he had apparently thought that the priest's first name was almost definitely a Fr. John and I inquired as to how at this point apparently the voice of this priest, moreso than his first name, has apparently clarified the matter for him. Mr. responded "The name itself, Ken Brigham," upon hearing it from me recently, "superseded the name I thought that I had" remembered previously. To Mr. it was more important to either see the priest or hear his voice because he stated he has no doubts about either of those two factors.
However, regarding the possibility of confronting Ken Brigham in person about the matter, Mr. [redacted] stated "I could" but for now he has mainly decided to inform me formally that he is now certain of Ken Brigham's identity.

Next, I explained to [redacted] if he is indeed certain that the priest involved in this matter is Rev. Ken Brigham, as I have noted to him previously, I will be contacting Rev. Brigham shortly, he will have the opportunity to obtain an attorney, and that I will be scheduling a meeting with him to request a response to Mr. [redacted] allegation and that I will, of course, also explain to Rev. Brigham how Mr. [redacted] had arrived at his identity. I then reminded Mr. [redacted] that following Rev. Brigham's response, the matter will be brought to the Review Board for a formal First Stage Review, the initiation of which can be continued for a good reason. I re-explained to him further that the Board may consider other information which it believes helpful in making its formal determinations and recommendations to Cardinal Bernardin, the final decision-maker in the matter. I again went over the possible options available to the Board. I then told Mr. [redacted] that the Board is meeting this coming Saturday morning, 9-17-94 and that it was not probable that the Board would be in a position to conduct a First Stage Review at that time in that matter might be quite rushed between Thursday morning and Friday afternoon in terms of informing Rev. Brigham formally of the allegation and his right to obtain an attorney for a response. I noted to Mr. [redacted] that the Review Board does next meet on Oct. 15, 1994 and depending upon Rev. Brigham's response, there is a reasonable possibility the matter could be continued to that time.

[redacted] confirmed, as he had before, that he will respect the Review Board's and Cardinal Bernardin's decision(s) in this matter. However, "I'm most sure that if Fr. Brigham is truthful, then he will confirm that what I have said is true and factual."
In closing, Mr. [redacted] thanked me and stated "I’ll wait until the October meeting and then to hear from you" following the meeting in terms of the Board’s determinations and recommendations. I explained that I would typically send him a letter on the outcome of the First Stage Review and that was satisfactory with Mr. [redacted]. I added that in the interim that we’ll be notifying Ralph Bonaccorsi about this situation and that he might also want to contact Ralph should he so desire, although I said I expected that Ralph might want to await the outcome of the First Stage Review before determining how he will proceed with this situation as well.
Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim M's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey's on December 6, 2007, about alleged information learned about Fr. Kenneth Brigham and another priest. Victim M reported that his abuser, Fr. Stewart, told him that Brigham and the other priest belonged to a club that would pick up little boys and sexually abuse them. Victim M did not allege that he was personally abused by Fr. Brigham or the other priest.
Ms. Leah McCluskey  
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review  
P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, IL 60690-1979

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note of September 17, 2007 in response to your letter of that same date, regarding the matter of Reverend Kenneth Brigham, a deceased priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the allegations of sexual misconduct that were made against him by [redacted]. This matter was discussed in a request for a Supplementary Review by the independent Review Board at their meeting of September 15, 2007.

In accepting the Review Board's determination that this matter should not be reopened to a Supplementary Review, I am satisfied that there is not sufficient evidence to warrant a further investigation into this alleged incident.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Ecclesiastical Notary

cc: Very Reverend John F. Canary, Vicar General  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate  
Rev. Patrick R. Lages, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services  
Reverend Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Mr. Matthew Hunnicutt, Assistance Minister  
Mr. Jimmy Lago, Chancellor  
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services
Ms. Leah McCluskey  
Office of Professional Responsibility  
676 N. St. Clair St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note in response to your letter of July 18, 2005, regarding the matter of Reverend Kenneth Brigham, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago who is currently retired, and the allegation made following the Supplementary Review conducted by the Professional Responsibility Review Board on July 16, 2005.

In light of the Board’s consideration of the information presented in this matter, I accept the Board’s determination that the information does not create a reasonable cause to suspect the abuse occurred, and that the conclusions of the Review for Cause, made on February 1, 2003, should be upheld.

I ask that if Father Brigham has not already been informed of these allegations that he be informed and presented with the conclusions of the Review Board and my acceptance of its findings.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

Ecclesiastical Notary

cc:  Reverend George J. Rassas, Vicar General  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal’s Delegate  
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services  
Reverend Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Minister  
Mr. Jimmy Lago, Chancellor  
Mr. John C. O’Malley, Director of Legal Services

[Stamp: RECEIVED  SEP - 6 2005  OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR]
RECORD OF CASE DISPOSITION

The Professional Fitness Review Board met on February 1, 2003 to conduct a (check one) First Stage Review □ Second Stage Review □ Supplementary Review □ Status Report regarding the allegation of ____________________________

(enter name of alleged victim)

against ________________________________________

(enter name of accused priest or deacon)

(enter name of alleged victim)

(enter name of accused priest or deacon)

(enter brief description of misconduct or inappropriate behavior)

In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that

(enter the option here)

□ there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

□ there is not reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

□ there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

If there is a finding of reasonable cause to suspect, the Board recommends that

(enter the option here)

□ the priest or deacon be immediately withdrawn from ministry (or that his withdrawal from ministry continue) and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

□ no further action be taken because the accused priest is resigned or deceased, except to provide appropriate outreach to those affected by the alleged misconduct.

The Board further recommends: _______ in a vote of 6 (no reasonable cause to suspect...) to 2 (abstain); due to the lack of any new definitive info. since 1994, the Board upholds original recommendation of no reasonable cause to suspect.
RECORD OF CASE DISPOSITION

The Professional Fitness Review Board met on October 19, 2002 to conduct a ___ to conduct a (check one:)

First Stage Review  Second Stage Review  Supplementary Review  Status Report

regarding the allegation of (enter brief description of the alleged misconduct or inappropriate behavior)

against (enter name of alleged victim)

(check one):  

A priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago  a deacon of the Archdiocese of Chicago

an extern priest or deacon of (enter name of Archdiocese)

a religious priest or deacon of (enter name of religious community)

a resigned priest or deacon of (enter name of diocese or religious community)

d a deceased priest or deacon of (enter name of diocese or religious community)

which claims as follows: fondling face, kissing lips, oral sex performed by

In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that

(check one):  

d there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

d there is not reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

d there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

If there is a finding of reasonable cause to suspect, the Board recommends that

(check one):

the priest or deacon be immediately withdrawn from ministry (or that his withdrawal from ministry continue) and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

no further action be taken because the accused priest is resigned or deceased, except to provide appropriate outreach to those affected by the alleged misconduct.

The Board further recommends: that FFRA contact

and request that he come in for a second face to face interview to further clarify his allegations.

This was a unanimous 6-0 decision.
Review Board Mtg.

Dr. Kenneth Brigham - 1st Stage Review

Based on questionable identification of K. Brigham, the Dr. Bd. unanimously concluded that there is no reasonable cause to suspect; case closed.
October 17, 1994

Your Eminence,

Please be advised that the Review Board met on October 15, 1994. The Board fully considered my verbal and written reports in the matter regarding Rev. Kenneth Brigham. The Board completed a First Stage Review pursuant to Article 4.9 of the Review Process For Continuation of Ministry.

The Board determined that there is no reasonable to suspect that Rev. Brigham engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor.

As a result, the Board recommends that Rev. Brigham should continue in his ministerial assignment and no restrictions should be imposed upon him. The Board further recommends that Rev. Brigham's file should be closed.

The Board has requested that I communicate its determination and recommendations to you.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Steve Sidlowski
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

cc: Members of the Review Board
Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
MEETING OF THE REVIEW BOARD OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
(Minutes)

DATE: October 15, 1994

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Thomas Paprocki
Steve Sidlowski

* The Review Board formally approved the Meeting Minutes for the Review Board Meeting of September 17, 1994.

Matter of PFR-51 (K.B.):

1. The Board conducted a First Stage Review in the PFR-51 matter pursuant to Article 4.9 of the Review Process For Continuation Of Ministry.

2. Determination: There is no reasonable cause to suspect that K.B. engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. Basis: Alleged victim’s manner of identification of K.B. (through his voice over phone) after 26 years is not reliable; also, the alleged victim was unequivocal in May, 1994 that the accused priest’s first name was a "Father John," and K.B.’s first name is not at all close to John.

3. Recommendations to the Archbishop: K.B. should continue in his ministerial assignment and no restrictions should be imposed upon him; the PFR-51 matter and file should be closed.

Matter of [Redacted]
Discussion Between Victim Assistance Ministry’s Rev. Michael Bland and Review Board:

- Rev. Michael Bland of Victim Assistance Ministry was introduced to the Review Board and discussed with the Board the general guidelines and approached which VAM takes in its work. Michael Bland answered all of the Board’s questions as part of the ongoing dialogue between the Board and that ministry.
- Other Miscellaneous Information:
- The Administrator reminded the Board that its next Board meeting was scheduled for 11-19-94.

Respectfully
Submitted By
Steve Sidlowski -
Administrator

These Minutes Unanimously
Approved By
Review Board
MEETING OF THE REVIEW BOARD
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
(Minutes)

DATE: August 27, 1994

Board Members Present:

Others Present:

Thomas Paprocki        Steve Sidlowski


Matter of
Article 4.7(c) Report on

Article 4.7(c) Discussion in

The Administrator informed the Board that an alleged victim of sexual abuse as a minor against an unidentified priest who had already detailed his allegation to the Administrator in May, 1994, would be requesting that the Board submit a photo of Rev. Kenneth Brigham to him if there were no clear records from St. Clotilde's Parish referring to a different African-American priest who might have either worked with youth in the late 1960's there and/or supervised the program apparently connected to the parish. The Administrator informed the Board what he discovered in records from St. Clotilde's Parish pertinent to the program from 1968 and how there was not an identification of a priest supervisor of that program at the time at St. Clotilde's Parish. The Board resolved that in an effort to be objective, fair, and impartial in these matters, particularly at such a delicate stage in the proceedings, the Administrator should inform that it respectfully declines his request for the Administrator to submit the photo of Rev. Ken Brigham. The Board further noted that its policy in general should be to not provide requested photographs of priests to alleged victims in order to maintain its objectivity and in the interest of fairness. The Board also directed the Administrator to inform that it of course respects his right to proceed however he chooses on his own to attempt to identify the name of his alleged priest perpetrator. The Board further suggested that Rev. Brigham's file with the Chancellor be reviewed for indications of any past sexual misconduct with minor information or inferences, as well as that
the Administrator check with the Vicar for Priests as to whether he has that same type of information in an open file.

Article 4.7(c) Report:

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[AOC 000685]
* The Administrator reminded the Board that its next two regularly-scheduled meetings are September 17, 1994 and October 15, 1994. The Board then adjourned.
4.7(c) Report to Board 8-3-94

Respectfully
Submitted By
Steve Sidlowski -
Administrator

------------------------------------------------------

These Minutes Unanimously
Approved By
Review Board
MINUTES

Professional Fitness Review Board
Saturday, January 11, 2003

Review Board Members Present:

Members absent:

Non-members present:
Leah McCluskey, Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator [PFRA]

Non-members absent:
Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2002

II. Case Reviews

First Stage Review:

A. In the Matter of
B. In the Matter of

C. In the Matter of
D. In the Matter of
Second Stage Reviews:


The Review Board conducted a First Stage Review regarding the allegation of
KB kissing [redacted] on the mouth and performed oral sex on [redacted].

The Board was unable to make a recommendation in regards to the allegation due to the following vote: 4 [no reasonable cause to suspect that misconduct occurred] – 2 [votes abstained]. The Board also voted 5-1 [one abstaining] against Kenneth Brigham participating in a psychological assessment. It was recommended that this matter be reviewed at the Board meeting scheduled for February 1, 2003.

III. Other

- The next Review Board meeting will take place on February 1, 2003 and there will also be the regularly scheduled meeting on February 15, 2003.

- The April, 2003 Review Board meeting will take place on April 26, 2003 due to the third Saturday of the month being April 19, 2003 [Holy Saturday]. [Redacted] will be available via phone on April 26, 2003.

- The Review Board requested a revised yearly schedule for Board meetings due to the numerous changes.
June 13, 2002

Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of Professional Fitness Review
Chicago, IL

Dear Members of the Fitness Review Panel:

The following information has previously been shared with the Archdiocese of Chicago and also with the Cook County States Attorney's Office, but I am forwarding it to you at this time so that it might get a fresh look, and more appropriate action than that taken previously. This information is second-hand, but may be useful in obtaining further facts to address a number of great injustices.

[Redacted name] an inactive Chicago priest [Redacted name] reported the following to me on several occasions, from the 1980s to the present. I have been friends with [Redacted name], a classmate, since 1965. I presently work at [Redacted] where I can be reached at the above work number. As a Catholic father and grandfather, I am bound to report this information again in the hopes the Archdiocese takes definitive action in the case of the alleged misconduct of the Rev. Kenneth Brigham.

During the 1980s, [Redacted] spoke with me of the many frequent male visitors kept overnight by then St. Columbanus pastor Rev. Kenneth Brigham at the same rectory. The ages of the visitors ranged in age from pre-teen to adult male. One child was a pre-teen provisional adoptee of Rev. Brigham, placed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services under the "One Church, One Child" program for a very short period. Some had been sent to the rectory, according to [Redacted], by a certain [Redacted] and by others. By questioning the boys sent to St. Columbanus, the then Rev. [Redacted] surmised that these same boys had been visitors at several other rectories, and were part of a sex-ring in which Rev. Brigham was a participant with other priests in the African American ministry.

To make a long story short, based upon [Redacted] account, which included descriptions of the screams of the visiting males that came from Rev. Brigham's bedroom, Rev. Brigham was engaged in flagrant and regular sexual activity, both of a homosexual and a pedophile nature. The then Rev. [Redacted] reported his concerns at the time (1980s) to the then dean, Rev. Howard Tuite, and to Msgr. Ignatius McDermott, and to a number of other priests, who according to [Redacted] did nothing.
At the time of his departure from the active priestly ministry, the then Rev. informed Cardinal Bernardin personally and directly of Rev. Brigham's behavior. Cardinal Bernardin assured then Rev. that he would take action, but subsequently Rev. Brigham was promoted for a time to dean, so appropriate action was not taken.

Rev. Brigham's alleged compromise of the "One Church, One Child" adoption program to meet his own sexual desires indicates that an investigation into the integrity of that program is warranted. Every grown child adopted by or placed in foster care with the Revs. Brigham, and others, should they still survive (some are dead), should be interviewed. It appears that the late Cardinal Cody's opposition to priests adopting children was absolutely right in the case of Rev. Brigham.

If the accounts are true as I suspect them to be, Rev. Brigham's flagrant sexual activity, and the inaction by Cardinal Bernardin himself, helped to destroy the priesthood of a fine man. If found to be true, the brazen and continuous nature of Rev. Brigham's actions make him most unworthy of representing the Catholic priesthood.

Please contact me should you need further information.

Thank you for the time you are spending on this important work.

Sincerely in Christ,

Cc. Cardinal Francis George
June 18, 2002

Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of Professional Fitness Review
Chicago, IL

Dear Members of the Fitness Review Panel:

On June 13, 2002, I transmitted to you by fax a letter containing a summary of the reports I received from [redacted], an inactive Chicago priest [redacted] concerning alleged serious sexual misconduct on the part of Rev. Kenneth Brigham

[redacted] is aware I have contacted the Archdiocese and the States Attorney, and is willing to speak with Cardinal George and members of the Fitness Review Panel. [redacted]

Sincerely in Christ,

[redacted]

Cc: Cardinal Francis George
6

April 7, 1966 - requested unofficial with Card. today.
April 14, 1966 - Card. left him. Reassignment that day.

May 26, 1966 -
Feb. 1972 - Leave parish due to mental physical exhaustion.

Physician sec. long vacation.
July 1972 - Reassignment for reasons of illness.

July 1971 - Complaint regarding personal re. behavior.
Dec. 1971 - ordered not to adopt a child.
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATION

Name of Alleged Victim: 

D.O.B. (Date of Birth): 

Address: 

City: ______________ State: ___ Zip: ____________

Telephone: ____________________________

If a minor, Name, Address & Telephone Number of Parent/Guardian: 

Initial contact made by: ____________________________

Interviewer: Ralph

Witness(es): ____________________________

Date Allegation Taken: 7-11-02 Time: 1:50 PM

Other: had come forward in 1994 and made a formal allegation. The allegation was found not credible by the Review Board.

Revised 2/22/00
1. a. In your own words, describe what happened, what the priest allegedly did to you/said to you.
   b. Were pictures taken? (Circle One) 
      YES    NO
   c. Threats for secrecy made by the priest? 
      YES    NO

2. a. Do you recall the identity of the priest? 
      YES    NO
      If "Yes", Name: 
      Kenneth Brigham *The original name was taken*
   b. Can you describe physical appearance?

3. Do you recall what Parish the priest was assigned to?
   Parish Name: St. Clotilde
   Pastor to this Priest: [White haired older priest]
4. a. When did incident(s) happen (be as specific as possible)?
   
   b. If more than once, over what time period?
   
   c. Were incidents same? YES NO If "No", please describe.
   
5. Alleged victim's age at time of incident(s): 
   
6. Was there a witness(es) to incident(s)? Are you willing to share? Specify:
   
7. Did you tell anyone? YES NO If "Yes", Who?
   
8. Has this happened to you before with anyone else? YES NO If "Yes", When and with Whom?
   
9. Did you know if priest allegedly engaged in same/similar misconduct with others?
   Source of Knowledge:
   
   YES NO If "Yes", Who When # of Times
   
10. Once again: Where did priest touch you?
   
11. Did you touch him? YES NO If "Yes", Where on his body?
   
12. Did he ask you to touch him? YES NO
13. Did he hurt you? **YES**
   If "Yes", how? ________________________________

14. a. What were you wearing? **Blue jeans - Red battens**
   ________________________________

   b. What was he wearing? ________________________________

15. Why are you reporting this now? ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

16. Is the alleged abuse you are describing conscious memory or has therapy uncovered some or all of your recollection? ________________________________

   If therapy, would you be willing to disclose name and phone number of Therapist and allow me to speak with him/her?

   (Consent needed) ________________________________
   How long have you been seeing therapist? ________________________________
   What type of treatment? ________________________________

17. Client work status:

**POINTS TO SHARE WITH ALLEGED VICTIM**

- VAM availability
- Process/Policies
- D.C.F.S. Form and Information
- Other

Revised 2/22/00
I would like to put this over a solicitor closure with matter
August 23, 2007

Dear Mr. [Redacted],

I am in receipt of your July 19, 2007 letter regarding [Redacted] and his allegation of sexual abuse against Rev. Kenneth Brigham.

As per our policies, the request to reopen a matter is presented to and decided by the Review Board. Therefore, I will forward your July 19th letter to the Review Board members and will notify you of their decision.

If you have any questions please contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Enclosure

Cc John O’Malley, Legal Services
Ms. Leah McCluskey  
Office of Professional Responsibility  
676 N. St. Clair St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

July 22, 2005

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note in response to your letter of July 18, 2005, regarding the matter of Reverend Kenneth Brigham, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago who is currently retired, and the allegation made following the Supplementary Review conducted by the Professional Responsibility Review Board on July 16, 2005.

In light of the Board’s consideration of the information presented in this matter, I accept the Board’s determination that the information does not create a reasonable cause to suspect the abuse occurred, and that the conclusions of the Review for Cause, made on February 1, 2003, should be upheld.

I ask that if Father Brigham has not already been informed of these allegations that he be informed and presented with the conclusions of the Review Board and my acceptance of its findings.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

Rev Richard Lander  
Ecclesiastical Notary

cc: Reverend George J Rassas, Vicar General  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal’s Delegate  
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services  
Reverend Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Minister  
Mr. Jimmy Lago, Chancellor  
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services
Ms. Leah McCluskey  
Office of Professional Fitness Review  
676 N. St. Clair St.  
Chicago, IL 60611  

Dear Ms. McCluskey,  

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note in response to your letter of January 6, 2003, regarding the matter of Reverend Kenneth Brigham, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the allegation made by [redacted] following the Second Stage Review conducted by the Review Board on February 1, 2003.

In light of the Board’s consideration of the information presented in this matter, I accept the Board’s determination that there is no reasonable cause to suspect that Father Brigham engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago  

Rev. Richard Landor  
Ecclesiastical Notary  

cc: Most Reverend Raymond E. Goedert, Vicar General  
Most Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal’s Delegate  
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services  
Reverend James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests  
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Minister  
Mr. John C. O’Malley, Director of Legal Services
January 14, 2003

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Fitness Review Board met on January 11, 2003. The Board fully considered all oral and written reports in the matter of Kenneth Brigham [Active] in the allegation made by [Redacted]. A Second Stage Review was conducted pursuant to Article §1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

The Board was unable to make a recommendation in regards to [Redacted] allegation due to the following vote: 4 [no reasonable cause to suspect that misconduct occurred] -2 [votes abstained]. The Board also voted 5-1 [one abstaining] against Kenneth Brigham participating in a psychological assessment. It was recommended that this matter be reviewed at the Board meeting scheduled for February 1, 2003.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

Cc: Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar
John O’Malley, Legal Services
October 21, 2002

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Fitness Review Board met on October 19, 2002. The Board fully considered all oral and written reports in the matter of Rev. Kenneth Brigham in the allegation made by [blank]. A First Stage Review was conducted pursuant to Article §1104.8 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

The Board determined that there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

The Board further recommends that Professional Fitness Review Administrator contact [blank] and request that he come in for a second face-to-face interview to further clarify his allegations. This was a unanimous 8-0 decision.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator

LM:inp

cc: Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Pat Lagges, Judicial Vicar
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Minister
John O’Malley, Director of Legal Services

A /George Notification Letter
October 25, 1994

Reverend Kenneth Brigham
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
832 North Leclaire Avenue
Chicago, IL 60651

Dear Father Brigham:

As the Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board, I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation of today in which I informed you that Cardinal Bernardin has accepted the determination and recommendations of the Review Board following completion of the First Stage Review at the Board's meeting on October 15, 1994. These recommendations were communicated to you in writing on October 17, 1994 by Steve Sidlowski, Professional Fitness Review Administrator.

Specifically, Cardinal Bernardin accepted the Board's determination that there is no reasonable cause to suspect that you engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. Moreover, the Cardinal accepted the Board's recommendations that you should continue in your ministerial assignment and no restrictions should be imposed on you. Accordingly, the file on this matter is now closed.

Ken, as you seek to put this concern behind you, please know of my prayers for continued blessings in your ministry. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me or Steve Sidlowski. I am sure that our Co-Vicars for Priests, Fathers Pat O'Malley and John Canary, would also be most willing to assist you as needed.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki
Chancellor

cc: Cardinal Bernardin
Reverend Patrick J. O'Malley, Vicar for Priests
Mr. Steve Sidlowski, Professional Fitness Review Administrator
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Minister
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services
Mr. Patrick Reardon, Attorney at Law
July 25, 2005

C/o Mr. Steven A. Denny
33 N. LaSalle Street
Suite 2125
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear [Redacted],

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on July 16, 2005 and conducted a Supplementary Review regarding your allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Kenneth Brigham pursuant to Article §1104.11 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

At a Supplementary Review, the Review Board considers new information presented to it about a determination or recommendation made in connection with a prior review. The Board may make the same kinds of determinations and recommendations as in a prior Review and make such other determinations and recommendations as it deems appropriate.

In the Supplementary Review of this matter on July 16th, the Board determined that in light of the additional information presented, to uphold the February 1, 2003 Review for Cause determination of no reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. Cardinal George has accepted the Board’s recommendations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I may be reached at [312] 751-5205. Also, please know that the Office of Assistance Ministry continues to be available to you. They may be reached at [312] 751-8267.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board
    Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a letter to Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office of Professional Responsibility, from Victim L, dated December 4, 2007, seeking reconsideration of the Review Board’s decision of October 1, 2007, declining to reopen Victim L’s sexual abuse allegation against Fr. Kenneth Brigham for Supplementary Review.
Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a letter to Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, from Victim L, dated August 7, 2005. In the letter, Victim L seeks reconsideration of the Review Board's previous recommendation of no reasonable cause to suspect the alleged abuse occurred regarding his claim against Rev. Kenneth Brigham.
Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a letter to Cardinal George, from Victim L, dated September 2, 2008. In the letter, Victim L alleges that he was sexually abused by Rev. Kenneth Brigham at St. Clotilde's parish in 1968, when he was 17 years old. Victim L seeks reconsideration of the Review Board's previous decision regarding his claim.
Summary of discussion from Professional Fitness Review Board, October 15, 1994:

The Review Board conducted a First Stage Review Board in the PFR-51 matter pursuant to Article 4.9 of the Review Process For Continuation Of Ministry and their determination is that there is no reasonable cause to suspect that Father Brigham engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. Basis: Alleged victim’s manner of identification of Father Brigham (through his voice over the phone) after 26 years is not reliable; also, the alleged victim was unequivocal in May, 1994 that the accused priest’s first name was a "Father John," and Father Brigham’s first name is not at all close to John.

Recommendations to the Archbishop: Father Brigham should continue in his ministerial assignment and no restrictions should be imposed upon him; the PFR Administrator-51 matter and file should be closed.
ARCHDIOCESAN PRIESTS' PERSONNEL BOARD

MINUTES
Meeting No. 38 - Third Board

Meeting: Friday, May 19th, 1972

Present: Lynch, Upton, Adams, Scheid, Ventura, McDonagh, O'Malley, Kinane and Keating

Place: Priests' Personnel Board Office

1. Minutes of Meeting No. 37 were approved.

2. Reports
(O'MALLEY) M. Dempsey recommends that we hold off on any final action concerning K. Brigham, until the situation becomes more clear.

3. Agenda approved with additions: K. Brigham,

4. 

5. Big Change

A) 

---2---
F) Ken Brigham - In residence at Holy Angels, will not return to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vicariate. This is a very complex situation. At this point Bishop Dempsey recommends that we do nothing. Ken is under many pressures -- family, parish, cluster, etc. Ken will be seeing a Doctor, and until we have some reports, we will not do anything.
Meeting: Friday, December 11, 1981


Place: Clergy Personnel Board Office.

1. Opening Prayer: Very Reverend John R. Keating

2. Minutes: Approved 8-0

3. Reports:
   
f. Ken Brigham and [redacted] are reported to be about to become adoptive parents.

g. [Redacted]

4. Agenda 9-0. Add [Redacted]

5. [Redacted]
Minutes, Meeting No. 12, The Eighth Board, Clergy Personnel Board Office, Friday, Dec. 11, 1981

6.

AOC 000718
Minutes, Meeting No. 12, The Eighth Board, Clergy Personnel Board Office, Fri. Dec 11, 1981

7.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

10. Adjournment: 4:15 P.M.