

May 25, 1993

Bishop Donald E. Pelotte
Bishop of Gallup
P.O. Box 1338
Gallup, NM 87305

Dear Bishop Pelotte:

I am writing this letter on behalf of [REDACTED] a member of the St. Johns Catholic Church parish, and a client of mine for the past 13 years. It is my understanding that she has talked with you concerning her alleged sexual abuse by both former Father [REDACTED] and Father Burns, currently a pastor in New Mexico. It is also my understanding that such allegations against priests take time to ferret out the truth and to make decisions/judgments concerning the charges brought against them.

I would suggest that you give your full attention to these allegations. They warrant your concern.

I am a Nationally Certified Counselor, a licensed Arizona Certified Professional Counselor, and a K-12 Certified School Counselor. I have been in the area of counseling in the mental health profession for seven years and in school counseling for nine years. During the time I counseled with [REDACTED] was under the clinical supervision of [REDACTED] Director of the Little Colorado Behavioral Health Center.

[REDACTED] has attested to the dissociative states experienced by [REDACTED] and to the integration of these states into a solid personality as memories were dealt with through the years of therapy. Fracturing of the personality or dissociative states are the result of extreme sexual/physical and/or ritualistic abuse. These dissociative states hold the memories of the abuse leaving the original personality to function on a daily basis. In therapy, each ego state releases the memories in order to heal and push toward integration.

As [REDACTED]'s therapist for over 13 years, I can attest to her honesty and integrity in what she remembers to be true and to the lack of malice behind her allegations. During the course of her therapy, we have explored the notion that she was lying and making up the memories which came to her. However, several factors negate this idea:

1. [REDACTED] had intense body memories prior to having visual/auditory memories. The body, as far as I know, does not lie.

2. Her memories were consistent over the years. Nothing was ever added other than to clarify details.
3. [REDACTED] healed as a result of remembering suppressed information and dealing with memories on several different levels.
4. In testing whether or not the power of suggestion could be used by her therapist. to "put ideas in her head," we found that she wouldn't accept what we suggested but would accept only her inner reality.
5. Her therapists could have never made up the insane reality of her memories.
6. The dissociative parts of her personality integrated after they dealt sufficiently with the memories they held.
7. The therapy could not be pushed any faster than she was ready to deal with the trauma she remembered.
8. Memories came when the time was right to remember them and when she had healed or stretched her frame of reference enough to deal with them.
9. [REDACTED]'s life was associated with the Catholic Church, her family and her career. She didn't read books that were pornographic or satanic. However, her memories are clearly those of one who has been victimized by pornography and ritual abuse.
10. [REDACTED] continually questioned these memories concerning their truthfulness. She had no reason to make up the memories.
11. People cannot heal from trauma based on lies.
12. During a good portion of her therapy she never read books such as "The Courage to Heal," that would have suggested other people's experiences. Later in therapy when she could tolerate this type of reading material, the experiences of others validated her own experiences.

Currently, [REDACTED] is remembering the abuse from these aforementioned priests because the support and the time is right to remember this suppressed information. Such information could not have been dealt with when it happened because of where she was in her therapy and her dissociative state at that time. That's one of the reasons the abuse could take place at that particular time and she wouldn't have remembered it.

This information is extremely confidential. Please treat it as such. I share it with you with [REDACTED]'s permission so that you may make the best choice concerning Father Burns.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and your patience in reading this long letter. If I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to call or write to me.

Sincerely,





DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

P. O. Box 1338 • Gallup, New Mexico 87305 • Telephone (505) 863-4406

COPY

May 26, 1993

[REDACTED]

Albq., NM 87106

[REDACTED]

Just a brief note to send along these letters which arrived today. As you can see [REDACTED] is determined to prove herself truthful. I'm not sure how many other counselors she intends to have write to me.

Her letter to me was delivered to my attorney who in turn, gave it to me this afternoon. He intends to respond once we can definitely indicate what has happened with Father Burns. I'm still waiting for the formal letter from Father Peter Lechner in this regard. I hope this can be taken care of prior to my departure to Rome on **Thursday, June 3, 1993**. I look forward to being in contact with you.

Sincerely,

**Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS, Ph.D.
Bishop of Gallup**



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

P. O. Box 1338 • Gallup, New Mexico 87305 • Telephone (505) 863-4406

COPY

November 1, 1993

Rev. James Burns
PO Box 2155
Wickenburg, AZ 85378-2155

Dear Jim:

Just a brief note to accompany a copy of this letter which [REDACTED] sent to Jay Mason. It speaks for itself and I thank you for being so cooperative in accomplishing its results. I'm sure you'll be happy about it.

I know you don't have a phone as yet, but I would appreciate hearing from you occasionally, just to know that you are OK. Should you need anything don't hesitate to call. Know that I keep you in prayer very often.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup

Encl. (1)
XC: File Copy

[REDACTED]
CERTIFIED POLYGRAPH EXAMINER
110 2nd Street SW, Suite 608
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87102

(505) 247-9914

October 24, 1993

James J. Mason,
Attorney at Law
101 West Aztec Avenue, Suite B
P.O. Box 1772
Gallup, New Mexico 87305

Re: James Burns

Dear Mr. Mason:

On October 16, 1993, your client, James Burns, voluntarily came to this polygraph suite for a polygraph examination.

The main issue under investigation is whether or not Mr. Burns was telling the truth when he denied ever witnessing, or participating, in any type of sexual activity at St. John's, in Arizona.

A control question polygraph examination was conducted. The examination consisted of three polygraph charts. The questions were reviewed in advance with Mr. Burns, and he approved of each question. The following relevant questions were included and evaluated:

1. Did you ever see, or observe, [REDACTED] or any female engaging in any type of sexual activity at St. John's in Arizona?
Answer: "NO"
2. Did you ever witness or participate in any type of sexual activity at St. John's?
Answer: "NO"

The polygraph charts were subjected to a detailed numerical evaluation. On a scale where scores of +6 or higher indicate truthfulness, scores of -6 or lower indicate deception, and scores of less than 6 in either direction are inconclusive; Mr. Burns received a score of +11. That score is highly consistent with truthfulness toward the relevant questions.

Therefore, it is my opinion that Mr. Burns was telling the truth when he answered "NO" to the above listed relevant questions.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Certified Polygraph Examiner (Polygraph License # [REDACTED])



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

P. O. Box 1338 • Gallup, New Mexico 87305 • Telephone (505) 863-4406

COPY

June 29, 1993



Dear :

This is to inform you that Fr. Jim Burns has resigned as pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, in Blanco, New Mexico and has asked for early retirement effective June 15, 1993. This was primarily prompted by his present health situation. But most surely the allegations you directed towards him provided an additional factor for his decision.

His resignation is not to be interpreted as an admission of guilt. In fact, Father Burns refuses to admit to the accusations you have made against him and his therapists concur. Nonetheless, rather than put everyone through a painful investigation of all the facts, I think we should be content with his withdrawal from the ministry where he will no longer be placed in a situation of trust. I hope this will meet the expectations you expressed to me and my attorney.

For the future, I offer once again to do anything I can to assist you in your recovery including the payment for your counseling. You should know that not a day passes without my remembering you in prayer. Your entire story is extremely painful and I ask that the Lord will continue to bless you with renewed life and strength.

Fraternally in Christ,

**Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, SSS
Bishop of Gallup**



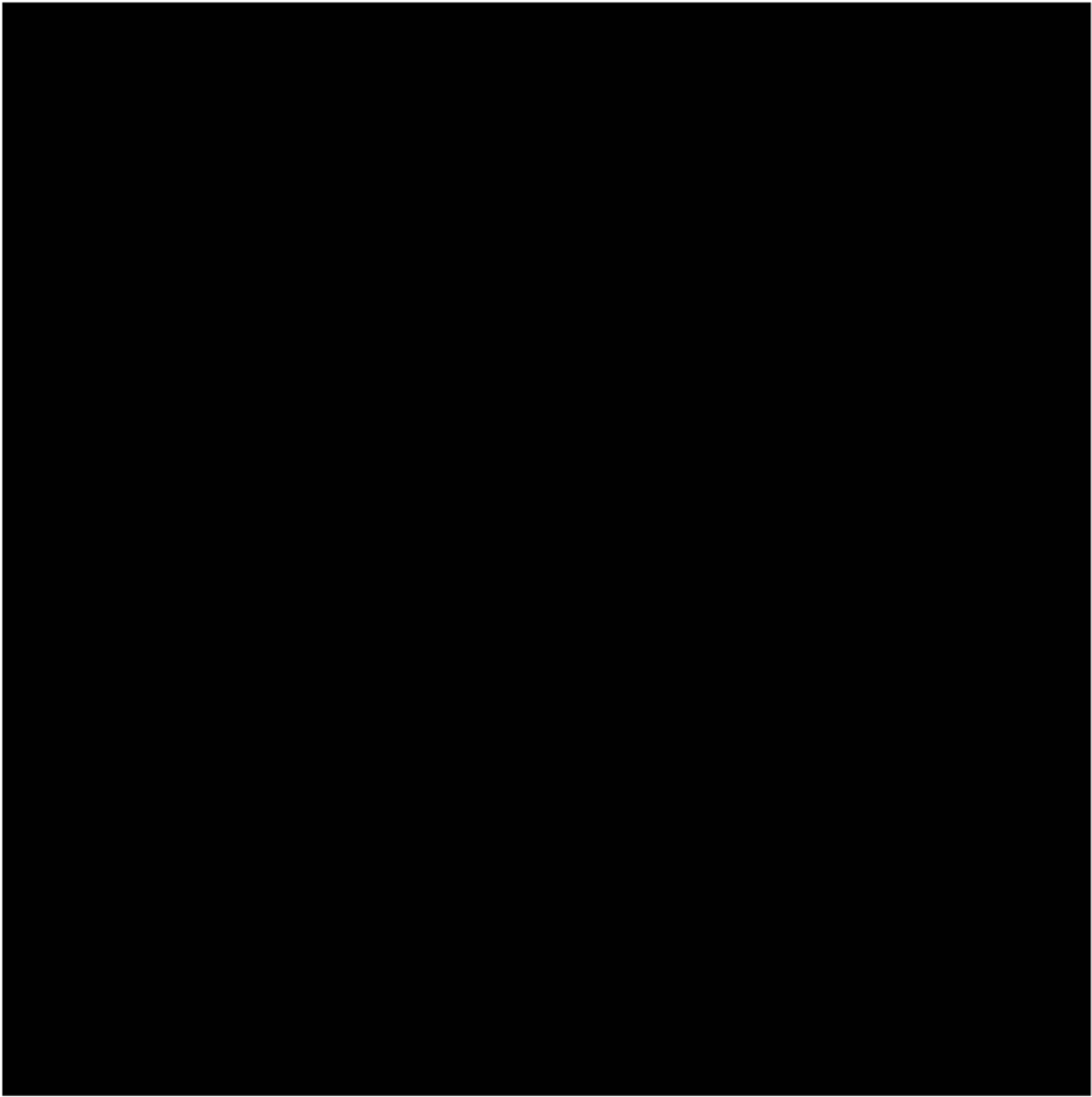
DIOCESE OF GALLUP

711 SOUTH PUERCO DRIVE

P. O. Box 1338 • Gallup, New Mexico 87305 • Telephone (505) 863-4406

COPY

March 27, 1993



1993

REV. JAMES BURNS (CURRENT

Monday -
10:30 am

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
April 20, 1993

- Talked to Jim last Wed. - Does not know the woman. Doesn't know what it is all about. Never done anything sexual with a woman.

- He said the woman traveled with For [REDACTED] Jim knows them. He suspected was involved with the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was hoping for more clarity from Jim.

Is she confusing him with someone else?

He claims he has never had sex with a woman.

[REDACTED] find Jim believable.

Through [REDACTED]
Get permission from [REDACTED] to
speak to [REDACTED] Tivens.

Jim talked to Hesse about
"allegations" on his way
down.

[REDACTED] informed Jim
I was going to be called &
would continue to investigate.

May have problems with
"multiple personality".

What becomes clear - She
is not as healthy as she
appears.

[REDACTED] (Home)

11:10

April 8, 1993

Just checking in -

[REDACTED] had further memory recall. At situation that happened to young Jim, tied her to a chair & raped her to yr old son.

[REDACTED]
Hard to imagine something like this happening - & she is not recalling skepticism. Possible the woman is a multiple personality - This is being over-diagnosed. just now. Multiple pers. do not go with healthy personalities.

He'll speak to Jim ~~at~~ on
Wed & ~~not~~ keep him overnight
because of risk.

[redacted] will ask [redacted]

[redacted] & see who she sees
Talk to [redacted] therapist.

[redacted] is feeling v. desperate.

"She was in therapy while
this happen!" seems
unavoidable -
Lots of questions

By Thursday eve - can call
[redacted] at [redacted]

April 21, 1993

[REDACTED] Re. [REDACTED]

8:45 PM.

Jim claims he never had
sex with anyone else but
boys - never women.

Not a question marks -
sounds so implausible!
Don't feel gd about this -
Dig out memories that are
most real.

My personal opinion → Don't

Challenge her story now.
Normally not how healthy
memory works -
Either she's not healthy or
her memory is not accurate.

Makes her a bit dangerous.

If the story is true - I make
no demands of me or Jim -
I still have some serious
to make re Jim -

I just ever because a story -
Potential for all hell breaking loose
For disaster -

Don't think he is a risk
or a setback in many ways.
Not an ideal situation -
but it is workable.

[REDACTED] well contact [REDACTED]

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR +DEP
DATE 04.02.93 TIME 2:20pm A.M.
M. [REDACTED] P.M.
OF Jemez Springs, NM
PHONE [REDACTED] His Home Phone No.
AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION

TELEPHONED	XXX	PLEASE CALL	XXX
CAME TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		RUSH	
RETURNED YOUR CALL		SPECIAL ATTENTION	

MESSAGE Call after 5PM this evening; he'll
be in-out during the weekend and
this is best # to reach him.

Re: J. Burns

SIGNED bdt

LITHO IN U.S.A.

TOPS  3002-C

[REDACTED]
Peter Lechner - April 2, 1993 11:30

[REDACTED] - moved
in the wrong way. His
concern is about Jim's
situation - suicide -
Waw →
Would never recommend
him to be pastor or pastor
& would not recommend
Malkman - as supervisor.

Peter feels very uncomfortable.
If this story ever got out -

Jim seems to be doing fairly
well. He is living with
anxiety. If it ever got
into newspaper -

Talk to [REDACTED]
about "Healing" St. Johns
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

re Burns

She has never been
in touch with Fr. Burns.
She is remembering
that back then they had
a pact that if she was
sold - he would keep
himself & she would
have God's too.

[REDACTED]

D.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR **+DEP**

DATE **04.08.93** TIME **10AM** A.M.
P.M.

M. [REDACTED]

OF **Jemez Spgs**

PHONE [REDACTED]

AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION

TELEPHONED	XXX	PLEASE CALL	XXX
CAME TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		RUSH	
RETURNED YOUR CALL		SPECIAL ATTENTION	

MESSAGE _____

**Call him when you have some time
to talk.**

SIGNED **bd**

LITHO IN U.S.A.

TOPS  3002-C

Peter Lechner - re [redacted]

March 31 - 10:45 am

He is being supervised.
Bi-weekly meeting.

Meeting 1 1/2 ago. Things are
going well. Still has
concerns about that situation.

[redacted] picks this up - &
Jim is v. uncomfortable about
Jim's reaction -

Need to bring this to Jim's
attention. If Jim has
not talked to Lechner or
[redacted] - that is a
problem -

I should talk to lady, then
to Jim & they will make
recommendation for on-going
care situation.

He's more concerned about
[redacted] - Hospital ministry
would probably be helpful
for [redacted] - as opposed to
parish ministry -

Diocese in Kentucky is in
a vulnerable position.

Peter advises them in some way.
Brings an element of balance.
Needs to be up-proud + honest.

May 19, 1993 9:45.

Supervisor of [redacted] Therapist -

States that as of 3 yrs ago. was completely cared
& completely healthy. But forgets 7 yrs ago
about rape - The letter is not that compelling.

She doesn't seem to be as healthy as Lucy Clavin.

Disturbance: Multiple personality & borderline personality.

Having a strong dependency - is
normal for borderline personalities.

Meeting with the twins might provoke her.
Don't say anything that will show ~~any~~ ~~any~~
suspicion.

Jim is in fairly good spirits - when he
talked ~~at~~ with her today.

Will continue to see Jim every other week.

