

# MEMO

# CONFIDENTIAL

**TO: Bp. Pelotte, S.S.S.**

**FR: Fr. O'Keefe**

**RE: Telephone Conversation with [REDACTED]**

**DT: 04/03/02, 11:10-11:53 am (mst)**

- (1) At the request of Bp. Pelotte (transmitted orally via Deacon Timoteo), I telephoned [REDACTED] this morning and we talked for about 45 minutes. He seemed surprised and grateful for the call. He told me that I had "been on his mind" for many years, but that he just "couldn't approach me" about his experience with JB because it was too embarrassing for him to talk about. The only person he had ever talked to about his encounter with JB was a friend from Springerville, [REDACTED]. This man was a friend of [REDACTED] and on one occasion, when he had had too much to drink, he recounted an episode in which he had been molested by JB. In response to this revelation, [REDACTED] shared his own experience with him. As I understand it, this took place several years after both incidents. AM was emphatic in saying that this was the only time he ever mentioned his own experience, until he recently relayed it to his therapist.
- (2) [REDACTED] who presently resides in Columbus, Ohio, has worked as a computer programmer for [REDACTED] for all but a few months since the late 1970's. In December, 1997 he began getting psychological/psychiatric therapy in Springfield, Ohio, to treat chronic depression. This therapy continued when he was transferred to Columbus. He has been on medical sick leave from the [REDACTED] since September, 2001, when he was hospitalized for eight days. In December, the psychiatrist prescribed two anti-depressant medications (Zolton - sp? & Serazon - sp?), which caused "decompensated liver damage" (apparently akin to sclerosis of the liver). This condition is now so serious that [REDACTED] might need a liver transplant. He is scheduled for an appointment with a liver specialist on April 8, 2002 to undergo blood tests, and may have to have a transplant procedure done at the University of Pittsburgh in the near future. He has applied for permanent disability retirement from Bank One, and is currently engaged in some type of litigation with the bank over disability retirement & benefits. All of his medical expenses to date have been covered by bank insurance - "Cobra" - which, however, is due to expire at the end of June, 2002. [REDACTED] emphasized that - even though there is a history of sclerosis in his family - his liver condition has not been caused by excessive drinking, but by the prescribed medication.
- (3) With regard to the incident with JB, [REDACTED] states that it happened in the summer of 1974, when he was 19 years old. He had met JB at the San Juan Fiestas in June, '74, and JB asked him to meet him after work to discuss a possible job offer in his parish in "Thatcher." [In reality, at the time, JB was in some stage of transition from being pastor of Springerville to being released for chaplain work in the Arizona State Prison system. He left Springerville some time in the summer of 1974, but I'm not sure just when]. They were to go out to dinner and then to a movie. [REDACTED] is still upset that a priest lied to him (by telling him he was stationed in Thatcher) and that the movie they went to was "disgusting." It was during the

movie that the alleged molestation (consisting of fondling ■■■'s genitals, unzipping his pants and performing oral sex on him) took place. I believe ■■■ said it was an outdoor movie, and that the molestation took place in JB's car. On the way back to St. Johns, JB attempted to pull the car over into a rest area, but ■■■ informed him that he did not want to do anything more with him. When they arrived in St. Johns, JB told ■■■ that he had a room at a local motel and invited him to spend the night with him. ■■■ declined. This was the first and only encounter with JB.

- (4) Even though this happened almost 28 years ago, ■■■ claims that he still has a "vivid memory" as to the incident. He was too shocked, intimidated and embarrassed to offer any resistance while the molestation was occurring, but definitely spurned JB's offers to continue the contact after the first incident. For many years ■■■ tried to put this out of his mind, only to have the memory persist. He felt the need to speak of it in light of the many stories of alleged molestation by priests currently surfacing: "After hearing about this every day, I had to call [*sic*] and get it out."
- (5) ■■■ remains a practicing Catholic (attending both Latin-rite and Byzantine-rite parishes in Columbus). He gave no indication of wishing to hurt either JB or the Church, although he was relieved when I informed him that JB no longer can function as a priest. There was no indication (at least at this time) that he was seeking any kind of financial compensation. We ended the conversation by my making a general offer to help him through prayer, and counseling (via telephone) whenever he felt the need. He thanked me once again for the call.