

March 16, 2002

Mrs. June Kellen, Chancellor
Diocese of Tucson
P.O. Box 31
Tucson, Az. 85702-0031

Dear Mrs. Kellen:

This is in response to letter received on 03-15-02 dated 03-08-02 in regards to a sexual experience confronted by Father Burns in the Summer of 1974.

I am a past resident of St. Johns, Arizona, graduating from St. Johns High School on May, 1974.

Apparently Father Burns contacted someone in St. Johns as to where I was working my summer job. He did find the work site I was at and asked if he could see me after work inviting me to dinner and a movie in Show Low, Az. and to discuss about attending Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, Az. and about the possibility of working at his parish. I agreed and he picked me up about 6:00 p.m. and we went to Show Low for dinner and then to a movie at a movie (drive-in) theater.

of some foul language and at times showing breasts of women. He did make remarks ~~as~~ to such I would never expect from a priest, I being an alter boy under Father Alfred Tachias and Father Lawrence O'Keefe for many years till about June, 1974 when we celebrated our annual fiestas under Father O'Keefe, serving as MC as a special honor for the many years I served as an alter boy and for the invited priests and bishop from the Diocese of Gallup for a special mass for our fiestas celebration, having so much respect for priests.

During the movie, he began fondling me causing me to have an erection and at that time began giving me oral sex after unzipping my pants.

I felt VERY NERVOUS, which went on for about 5 to 10 minutes and zipped my pants back up.

After the movie, we left back toward St. Johns and after leaving the city limits of Show Low, he pulled over to a rest area. I told him I didn't want to do anything and felt very uncomfortable and then began our drive back to St. Johns. When we arrived in St. Johns, he drove through the back street of our home and asked me if I would like to go to his motel room located at Trail Riders Inn in St. Johns.

I was very confused by the actions by a priest and knew that this just can't be true and did feel very uneasy about his behavior.

I told him that I couldn't because my mother would be upset about me getting home late having to get up at 6:00 a.m. in the morning the next day for work using that as an excuse not to go with him.

Ever since, I lived with the vivid memory of my past, especially hearing about situations of this type happening through out the nation and feel I do need to somewhat release my past experience to someone.

I have regular appointments with a therapist, [REDACTED] located at Southeast, Inc. Recovery and Mental Health Care Services since the latter part of year 2000 and constantly there after which is located at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His phone number is [REDACTED] if you need to contact him. I also have had several appointments with a Psychiatrist with [REDACTED] and do have appointments scheduled with [REDACTED] and another Psychiatrist by the name of [REDACTED] since [REDACTED] has left the agency, both appointments on March 26th, 2002. I have been diagnosed as having Major Depressive Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress disorder and have not been employed since September 17th, 2000, along with other complications

and have been placed on long term disability from [REDACTED]

I believe this is something that I will be living with ~~this~~ for the rest of my life. This will never leave my mind. I have been diagnosed as physical / sexual abuse survivor and other chronic health issues I have to deal with on a daily basis.

Mrs. Kellen, I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to write this letter to you. I will also give a copy of this letter to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I feel that I did have to let you know about this situation and at the time of writing it gave me time to release a little stress built within.

You do have my permission to contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I have my phone number and address if you do need to contact me for any more information.

I am still a practicing devout Catholic attending St. Johns Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Columbus.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]