



DIOCESE OF TUCSON

192 SOUTH STONE AVENUE

P.O. Box 31 • Tucson, Arizona 85702-0031

520-792-3410 FAX 520-792-0291

MRS. JUNE KELLEN
CHANCELLOR

March 8, 2002



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your call late this afternoon informing me of the inappropriate sexual behavior toward you in the summer of 1974, by a priest that you knew as Father Burns. You had stated that the priest you had known as Father Burns had been the pastor at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Springerville, Arizona in 1974, but went to Thatcher, Arizona in the summer of 1974.

I informed you that we did not have a Father Burns listed in Thatcher, which is a mission church of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Parish, Safford, Arizona, during the period of time in question nor had we shown a Father Burns at any time being assigned in the Safford area.

During our telephone conversation, I assured you that we would make every attempt to find out who this Father Burns could be.

I had asked you to document your experiences with this Father Burns and what had occurred in the summer of 1974. I await your documentation.

[REDACTED] I want you to know how truly sorry we are for what you have gone through and pray that our Lord will be with you and help you in your healing and recovery process.

Please be assured that we are looking into this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Mrs. June Kellen
Chancellor

cc: Rev. Van A. Wagner, Vicar General
Deacon Tim Lujan, Chancellor, Diocese of Gallup
Mr. Thomas Murphy, Esq.

**F
A
X**

Timotes @

DIOCESE OF GALLUP

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

P.O. BOX 1338

GALLUP, NM 87305-1338

(505) 863-4406/4407

(505) 722-9131 FAX

DATE: *March 22, 2002*

TIME: _____

TO:

FROM:

COMPANY NAME:

ATTENTION:

FAX NO:

ADDRESS:

Chancellor - Diocese of Tucson

Mrs. June Keelen

[REDACTED]

MESSAGE:

attached is **CONFIDENTIAL**
for Mrs. June Keelen.

Thank you.
Dean Timotes Luper

2

Total Number of Pages Transmitted Including This Page _____ (Let us know if you do not receive all pages.)

☐

Please Confirm Receipt of FAX By:

LA_2013_10_09_Burns_000450

☐

PHONE

☐

FAX

☐

MAIL

Dear June:

[REDACTED]

Since he addresses this last letter to you, as a reply to your letter to him, could you please answer him and include the following:

Father. James Burns is a priest of the Diocese of Gallup. The Diocese of Gallup expresses deep regret that this was done to you by one of their priests. They offer their prayers and ask your forgiveness. While Fr. Burns was assigned to the Arizona portion of the Diocese of Gallup, St. Peter's Church in Springerville, they have no record that he was officially assigned in any capacity to any parish or agency in or around Thatcher, Arizona which is in the Diocese of Tucson. Fr. Burns was removed as an active priest, by Bishop Pelotte, in the early 1990s. He has been denied the right to practice as a priest anywhere for any reason at any time.

We will then wait to see if [REDACTED] contacts us, if/when he does, we will deal with those issues as they arise.

Thanks.

Timo

Dear June:

[REDACTED]

Since he addresses this last letter to you, as a reply to your letter to him, could you please answer him and include the following:

Father. James Burns is a priest of the Diocese of Gallup. The Diocese of Gallup expresses deep regret that this was done to you by one of their priests. They offer their prayers and ask your forgiveness. While Fr. Burns was assigned to the Arizona portion of the Diocese of Gallup, St. Peter's Church in Springerville, they have no record that he was officially assigned in any capacity to any parish or agency in or around Thatcher, Arizona which is in the Diocese of Tucson. Fr. Burns was removed as an active priest, by Bishop Pelotte, in the early 1990s. He has been denied the right to practice as a priest anywhere for any reason at any time.

We will then wait to see if [REDACTED] contacts us, if/when he does, we will deal with those issues as they arise.

Thanks.

Timo



Diocese of Tucson
192 South Stone Avenue
P.O. Box 31
Tucson, Az. 85702-0031

Attn: Mrs. June Kellen, Chancellor

85702/0031



MAR 18 2002

BY: _____

March 16, 2002

①

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, graduated 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 theater).

LA_2016_00_09_Burns_000455 The movie was some what of a PG movie consisting

DOG.BURNS.00463

③

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]

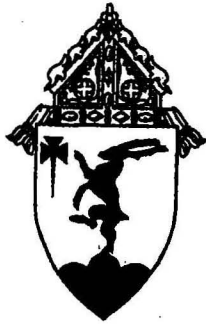
I believe this is something that I will be living with ~~this~~ for the rest of my life. This will never leave my mind. I have been diagnosed as physical / sexual abuse survivor and other chronic health issues I have to deal with on a daily basis.

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. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Columbus.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



DIOCESE OF TUCSON

192 SOUTH STONE AVENUE

P.O. Box 31 • Tucson, Arizona 85702-0031

520-792-3410 FAX 520-792-0291

MRS. JUNE KELLEN
CHANCELLOR

March 26, 2002

[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

Easter greetings to you.

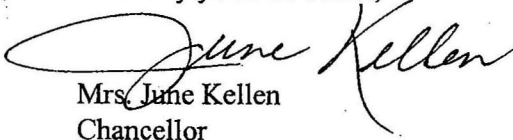
[REDACTED] as I promised to you, I was able to find out the name of the priest that is believed to be the person whom you had spoken and written about who had caused you great emotional pain for his unwanted sexual advances toward you in the summer of 1974.

Since the Diocese of Tucson had no record of a Father or Monsignor Burns in the Safford/Thatcher, Arizona area, I had solicited the help of Deacon Timothy Lujan, Chancellor of the Diocese of Gallup.

The Diocese of Gallup has shared the following message and information with me to pass along to you. **"Father James Burns is a priest of the Diocese of Gallup. The Diocese of Gallup expresses deep regret that this was done to you by one of their priests. They offer their prayers and ask your forgiveness. While Father Burns was assigned to the Arizona portion of the Diocese of Gallup, St. Peter's Church in Springerville, they have no record that he was officially assigned in any capacity to any parish or agency in or around Thatcher, Arizona, which is in the Diocese of Tucson. Father Burns was removed as an active priest by Bishop Pelotte, in the early 1990's. He has been denied the right to practice as a priest anywhere for any reason at any time."** You may also want to contact the Diocese of Gallup on this issue.

On behalf of the Diocese of Tucson, again I express to you our deep sadness and regret of what had happened to you. Please be assured of our prayers for you that God will help to wipe this experience from your heart and mind and that the Holy Spirit may come into your heart to allow you to feel his love and grant you the peace that only he can give.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Mrs. June Kellen
Chancellor

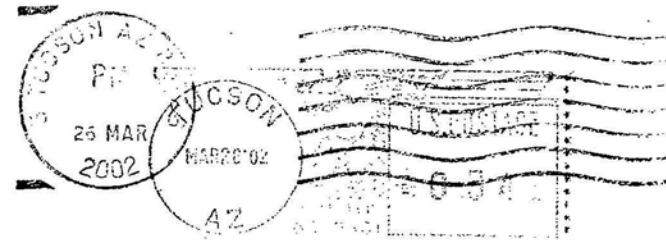
cc: ✓ Deacon Timothy Lujan, Chancellor, Diocese of Gallup
Rev. Van A. Wagner, Vicar General, Diocese of Tucson

Office of the Chancellor

DIOCESE OF TUCSON

P.O. Box 31

Tucson, Arizona 85702-0031



CONFIDENTIAL

Deacon Timothy Lujan
Chancellor
Diocese of Gallup
P. O. Box 1338
Gallup, NM 87305-1338

87305+1338 12



Dear June:

[REDACTED]

Since he addresses this last letter to you, as a reply to your letter to him, could you please answer him and include the following:

Msgr. James Burns is a priest of the Diocese of Gallup. The Diocese of Gallup expresses deep regret that this was done to you by one of their priests. They offer their prayers and ask your forgiveness. While Msgr. Burns was assigned to the Arizona portion of the Diocese of Gallup, St. Peter's Church in Springerville, they have no record that he was officially assigned in any capacity to any parish or agency in or around Thatcher, Arizona which is in the Diocese of Tucson. Msgr. Burns was removed as an active priest, by Bishop Pelotte, in the early 1990s. He has been denied the right to practice as a priest anywhere for any reason at any time.

We will then wait to see if [REDACTED] contacts us, if/when he does, we will deal with those issues as they arise.

Thanks.

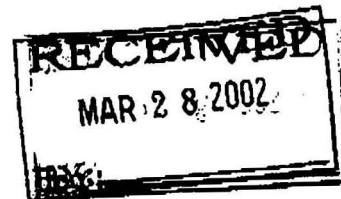
Timo

MEMORANDUM

To: +DEP [signature]
From: Tim [signature]
Date: March 5, 2002
Subject: While you were away, 2/28/02-3/11/02

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] do

- Mrs June Kellen, Chancellor for Tucson, called. It seems a certain [REDACTED] a graduate of St. Johns High School, St. Johns Arizona has indicated that he was a victim of sexual misconduct by Fr. Burns at St. Peters in Springerville in 1974. However, [REDACTED] He is currently in Columbus, Ohio. I advised [REDACTED] who is in contact with our attorneys. [REDACTED] has not contacted us yet regarding this. The reason June called is that [REDACTED] also said Fr. Burns was in Thatcher, AZ. We have no record or knowledge of this as Thatcher is in the Diocese of Tucson. If he calls we will take a message until the attorney advises us what to say.



March 16th, 2002

Az State Attorney General Office
Janet Napolitano, Attorney General
1225 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007



Dear Attorney General:

I am sending this in writing on a past experience involving a Priest who at that time did say his assignment was in Thatcher, Arizona of an incident involving him in the summer of 1974.

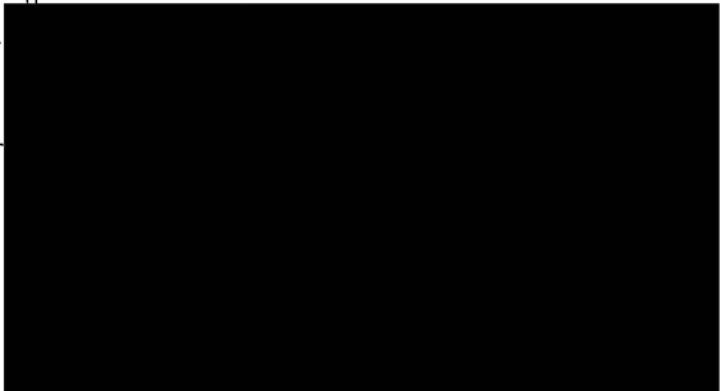
I have contacted the Diocese of Tucson and have received a response back from the office of the Diocese Chancellor.

I have since responded back and would like to pursue a lawsuit in this individual, known as Father Burns who was also previously assigned to the parish of St. Peter's Catholic Church located in Springerville, Arizona.

Please find enclosed correspondences in regards to this matter.

I would like to receive more information, forms,
etc on filing and proceeding with these charges,

Sincerely Yours,



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

Personel File

MAR 18 2002

BY: _____

March 16, 2002

①

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



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LA 2010-10-19-0010-00464 The movie was some what of a PG movie consisting

DOG.BURNS.00473

(2)

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 altar 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 altar 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.

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You do have my permission to contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 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. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Columbus.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]