

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014
EDWARD R. KIRBY
1919-1991



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November 9, 2009

OF COUNSEL
GLENN P. EIDEN
U.S. CUSTOMS RET.

Mr. James Byrne
Attorney at Law
Spesia, Ayers, & Ardaugh
1415 Black Road
Joliet IL 60435

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]
File: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Per your request, I undertook an assignment to interview [REDACTED] concerning whether or not he had any knowledge if anyone in authority was notified, by himself or anyone else, of his being sexually abused while he attended St. [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] IL during the 1970's by Father James Burnett. You provided a home address of [REDACTED] and a telephone number of [REDACTED], for Mr. [REDACTED].

On Thursday, August 20, 2009 I left a message for [REDACTED] on his voice mail. No return call was received.

On Wednesday, August 26, 2009 I left a message for [REDACTED] on his voice mail. No return call was received.

On August 26, 2009 I traveled to [REDACTED]

Upon arrival, at approximately 7:10 PM, I met with and briefly interviewed a male who identified himself as [REDACTED]. It is noted that the interview took place with [REDACTED] standing in the doorway and myself standing on the front porch. Throughout the interview, [REDACTED] repeatedly stated that he wanted to put all of this behind him and didn't want to discuss the matter now or in the future. He stated that while he appreciated "Peter's" (Bishop Sartain) willingness to meet with him he did not wish to rehash any of this situation. He stated that he wanted nothing to do with the Catholic Church.

During the course of an approximate 10 minute interview he related the following:

- He attended St. [REDACTED] School through 3rd grade.
- He was sexually abused by Father Burnett on several occasions in his office when he was in 3rd grade.
- He never reported the abuse to anyone in authority with [REDACTED] or the Catholic Church.

To: James Byrne, Esq.

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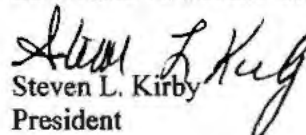
November 9, 2009

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- The only person he ever confided to at that time was his mother who didn't believe him [REDACTED]
- He does not know whether or not his mother ever informed anyone of his complaints.
- As a result of his complaints to his mother, his parents removed him from St. [REDACTED]
- He has had no contact with Father Burnett since that time.
- To his knowledge, when he was being abused by Father Burnett no one ever walked in on it or otherwise became aware of the abuse.
- The only person who he knew was aware of his even being alone with Father Burnett was a woman (identity unknown) who let him into Burnett's office on one occasion.
- He is unaware of any other person (student) who may have been abused by Father Burnett but thinks that a former classmate, [REDACTED], may have been abused; based upon a gut feeling. He said that neither [REDACTED] nor anyone else at Charles Borromeo ever told him that they had been abused by Father Burnett or anyone else and he did not know of anyone else ever abused.
- [REDACTED] said that he was contacted by phone in the past by a female who said she was investigating this matter and he told her about [REDACTED]. She stated she was going to try and locate [REDACTED] in Joliet. [REDACTED] said that he did not recall her name or know who she actually represented. He assumed that she was working for the Diocese.
- In conclusion, he stated that he had no further information that he wished to discuss and reiterated that he wanted to put all of this matter behind him and did not want to be contacted by anyone representing the Diocese in the future.

I then thanked Mr. [REDACTED] for his time and patience and departed the area.

Respectfully submitted,
EDWARD R. KIRBY & ASSOCIATES


Steven L. Kirby
President

SLK:klb

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RT. REV. MSGR. JOSEPH A. WAGNER
117 WEST MAPLE AVENUE
ROSELLE, ILLINOIS

000000-I

Blumberg No. 0114
DEFENDANT'S
EXHIBIT
-A-

April 12, 1960

Rev. Roger Kaffer
310 Bridge St.
Joliet, Ill.

Dear Father Kaffer

This will introduce James Raymond Burnett, a member of St. Walter's parish, Roselle. He spent two years at this grade school, and 4 years at St. Edward High School, Elgin. He has just informed me that he would like to study for the diocesan priesthood.

I can recommend him unhesitatingly as an excellent candidate. He has never given us any trouble. He is quiet, studious, and his behaviour is excellent. His parents are both good Catholics, and provide a good home for their two boys. I sincerely believe that with good seminary training he will develop into a good priest.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph A. Wagner

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 20

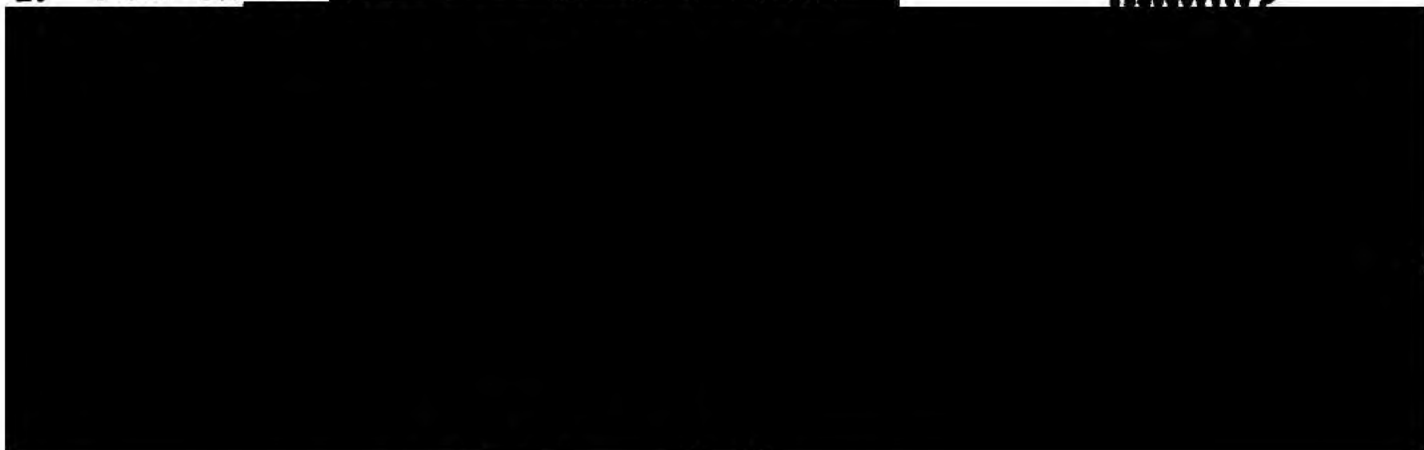
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SEMINARIAN INTERVIEW - DIOCESE OF JOLIET.

Date April 18, 1960.

1. Name: JAMES RAYMOND BURNETT

000002



- 12.a) Name of parish: *St. Walter's - Roselle*
- b) Address:
- c) Name of pastor: *Msgr. Wagner*
- 13.a) Education (Indicate schools and years of graduations)
1-6 - St. Mel, Chicago; 7-8 St. Walter, Roselle; 1-4 St. Edward's High, Elgin, Ill.
- b) Did you participate in any athletic activities at school? *no.*
- 14. Indicate amount of Latin studied: *3 yrs - about C avg average.*
- 15. Indicate college and seminary courses already covered: *—*
- 16. Were you ever dismissed from any school? *no* If so, explain on reverse side.
- 17. Have you earned any degrees? *no* If so, explain:
- 18. Have you ever been a candidate for priesthood or brotherhood in any diocese or religious order? *no*, If so, name seminary and your immediate superiors.
- 19. Have you ever been refused admittance to such institutions? *no*, Explain on reverse.
- 20. Have you worked since you left school? *Just summer.* Explain: *In summer, has worked at church + in Greenlawn.*
- 21. How long have you wanted to be a priest? *3 yrs.*
- 22. Why do you want to be a priest? *Wonderful life; to be close to God + do His work + help people.*
- 23. Why do you want to study for the Joliet diocese? *Prefer work of diocesan priest; some dioc.*
- 24. Name and address of priest friend who knows you well:
- 25. Any priests or sisters among close relatives? *no*, Explain: *—*
- 26. What is your draft status? *none yet.*
- 27. Are you a convert? *no*, Explain: *—*
- 28. Can you pay your school expenses? *Parents can.*

REMARKS: *His* [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Letter of recommendation from Pastor: From School: Medical Report:

Baptismal record:

Confirmation record:

Marriage record of parents:

Seminary assigned: *Accepted. R.L.K.*

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000003


April 18, 1960

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Wagner
St. Walter Church
Roselle, Illinois

Dear Monsignor Wagner:

Jim Burnett was here with his mother and brother today.
I told him we will accept him for the diocese, and will arrange
for a college when his transcript of credits arrives.



With sincere thanks and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK: jr



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January 27, 1990

000094

Bishop Imesch
St. Francis of the Woods
Mokena, Il. 60448

Dear Bishop Imesch:

It has recently come to the attention of the St. Mary's of Mokena Parish, via the grape vine, that Father Burnett's days here at St. Mary's are numbered. This news has saddened a great many of us, for a good many reasons.

We have also heard that Father Jim's fate will be decided some time in April, which is the reason for this letter. Please Bishop, see that this is shown to those who hold Father Jim's fate in their hands.

We may not always see eye to eye with Father Jim, but the man is a wonderful priest, and he is there for his people. He has done so much for this parish, especially with the young. The teens of the parish think the world of him, and so too do the very young.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Father Jim has always been there for me, and my family, as he has been with a great many other families. He has a wonderful repore with the young, and the youngsters of today need someone to look up to. He was instrumental in getting us our new and beautiful church, and it just doesn't seem fair for him to be taken away.

Please, if there is just a slim chance that Father Jim could just stay a little longer. I am sure that there is much more in store for Father Jim to accomplish here in Mokena - can't you please give him that chance?

Sincerely,
Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]

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000095

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 13, 1990



Dear Friends,

I received the letter of commendation on behalf of Father James Burnett that you sent me recently. I could not agree more with your estimation of Father Burnett and his ministry.

The policy of transferring pastors every 12 years was adopted by the Presbyteral Council several years ago. Since that time almost 40 pastors have been transferred. To my knowledge, no pastor has ever received an extension beyond 12 years. However, I will see that the Personnel Board hears of your request, although I am not optimistic that an extension will be granted.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JLI".

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

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000096

January 29, 1990

Reverend James Burnett
St. Mary Parish
19517 115th Avenue, #2
Mokena, IL 60448-3203

Dear Jim:

I did try to see you after the meeting with your parish council, and was delighted to find out you were gone. I hope it was for some relaxation or an evening out! I wasn't delighted to miss you, but I was delighted to think and hope that you might be taking an evening off. I wanted to tell you all the wonderful things your parish council had to say about you, and they were reiterated by every staff member I happened to run into. I also would like your own views on the profile of your successor, and would like to talk with you about the kind of parish you would next hope to go to.

I did warn the parish council that your transfer will be traumatic for both them and you, a death and dying experience. It will be difficult for you to leave and for them to have you leave, as it will be difficult for your successor to leave his parish and come into a new situation. Both pastor and people must be aware of that so they can minister to each other's hurts, instead of augment them by resenting the change for both.

They asked when it should be publicly announced, because most of the parish is as yet unaware. I told them they should talk to you because it really must be your decision. I admitted in my own case that my impending transfer from Providence was announced twelve months in advance. That made the bridging very easy, and I put up a bold front, laughing on the outside, but I was crying on the inside, and felt like I was attending my own wake - and I wasn't sure I wanted to be at my own wake! Nevertheless, the J.O.B. that will come out this week will contain the anticipated vacancies. Moreover, if it is announced fairly soon, both you and the parish council can help your people start the grieving process and get through some of that to begin to get ready psychologically to welcome your successor.

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Reverend James Burnett -2-

January 29, 1990

Be assured of my prayers and support. If I can help you in any way, let me know.

With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet
Vicar General

RLK:bjd

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March 12, 1990

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo re: Father Jim Burnett

What a delightful priest! We talked about the death and dying for both the individual and the parish that Jim can expect. He already is experiencing it. I told him it is right now as though he were attending his own wake, and he might not be sure he wants to be at his wake. He said he laughs on the outside, but feels some of the tug on the inside. However, he is ready and willing to move - no problem.

I told him we would expect to assign him in DuPage County. He really has no preference. He likes school, so that would be no challenge. I pointed out that all the parishes in DuPage would have a school probably. Jim's first and only real comment was that he likes to be directly involved and would like smaller rather than larger. I told him that we were thinking larger rather than smaller, and I just wanted him to know that. I told him we feel that he could probably go to any of the parishes that are open, that we have great confidence in him, and that we feel that he has a great deal of ability and, therefore, will probably recommend a larger place. I did indicate that his direct involvement would be perhaps a little more with staff as well as with people. He just said he hears horror stories about people not getting along on staff, but then that would just be something he would have to work with. He expressed no preference, said he knows nothing about any of the parishes, and jokingly said if it didn't work, he would come in for a change. I said that would be the thing to do, and he quickly said he would not want to do that. It would be his job to make things work. I believe it was when I said do you have any preference more rather than less in living in the house, and that is when he said that he prefers smaller rather than larger, and it was at that point that I said we were thinking of larger rather than smaller for him, and I wanted to be upfront about that. I then ran down the list of all the parishes that are open in DuPage County, and he gave no indication of anything by way of preference. He said he knows our job is difficult and he will not make it more difficult. I am sure he will go wherever we ask him to go, and I would be awfully suprised if he doesn't say yes to whatever is our first offer to him. He is a great priest.

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch

January 31, 1991

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo re: Father James Burnett

Jim looks tired, older and maybe a bit heavier, but I didn't tell him any of those things. His attitude is beautiful, as it always is. He is a little concerned about some of the "kooks" who are drawn to Ss. Peter & Paul. He feels that some come there simply to get away from other parishes that they don't like. He is also a bit distressed when his parishioners keep saying they do not want to be like St. Raphael, and he himself feels they need a little bit of updating.

Jim is evidently working on collaboration with the staff, and feels that is immensely important. Though it wasn't said, I got the underlying impression that [REDACTED] was a little more vertical and Jim Burnett is a little more horizontal, and it will take some time and effort to bring the staff and parishioners from a more vertical to a more horizontal mode. Jim likes the staff and is working with them.

I asked him specifically about [REDACTED]. He said [REDACTED] is doing well, but is very headstrong, and absolutely garners his free time. When he has free time, he is always gone. Apparently he is also headstrong about his own ideas. Jim indicated that he does not fight him. He also indicated that Frank Vitus is a wonderful gentleman, a wonderful priest, a dedicated worker and that he absolutely relies on him. [REDACTED] He is a joy to live with and work with. Frank gets angry or upset at times because I gather [REDACTED] doesn't always carry his share of the load. I urged Jim to confront [REDACTED] pointing out that many times young priests are late adolescents and need guidance and help.

Jim said they need a little more space for the grand piano, and he wanted to remove part of the communion rail, but parishioners almost had a stroke. He still thinks they might remove just two or three feet of it, and that's okay with Jim. Though he would just as soon see the whole communion rail gone, he will not remove it.

[REDACTED]

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Memo re: Father James Burnett -2- January 31, 1991

[REDACTED]

I commended him for his fidelity in visiting his parents, but also told him that is not the same as a day off or recreation for himself. He said he would work on that. He has seen "Phantom of the Opera."

Jim is a real gentleman and a wonderful priest. I commended him and thanked him not only for what he does, but for who he is. I told him we knew we were giving him a big job, but had recommended him for Ss. Peter & Paul because we were confident he could handle it.

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch

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000104

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 16, 1991

Reverend James Burnett
SS Peter & Paul Parish
26 N. Ellsworth Avenue
Naperville, IL 60540-4697

Dear Jim,

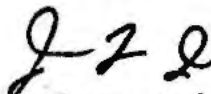
I had the opportunity to speak with Larry Gibbs about his place of residence while he serves as chaplain at Elmhurst College and North Central College. I had some question about whether there would be room for Larry at SS Peter & Paul, given the understanding that [REDACTED] might be living there.

Would you be agreeable to having Larry in residence at the parish, assisting you with daily and Sunday Masses, as well as providing you with other assistance as mutually agreed upon. Larry and I proposed that the compensation for his ministry in the parish would be the payment of his benefits, namely retirement, health insurance and automobile insurance. His salary would be paid from the Campus Ministry budget of the diocese. If this arrangement is agreeable to you, or if you would wish to propose some other arrangement, I would appreciate it if you would contact me by phone or by mail.

Larry would plan on coming to the parish on August 19th if everything is favorable.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Reverend Lawrence Gibbs

the Bishop Roger Kopper

November 10, 1992

CONFIDENTIAL

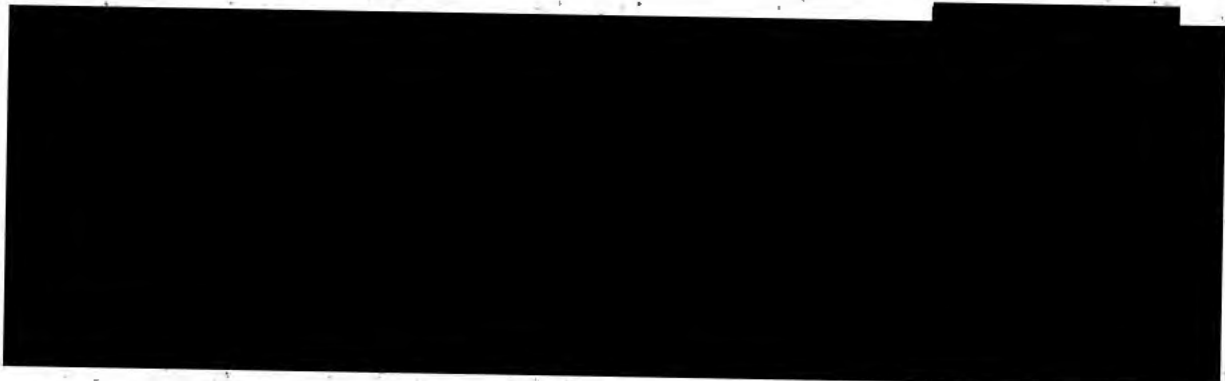
Memo re: Father Jim Burnett

Jim and I began by discussing Larry Gibbs, but I rather quickly changed the focus to Jim Burnett himself.

Jim really seems to be doing a fine job as pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul. He said it is a bit difficult following [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] tended to be much more directive and Jim Burnett tends to be much more collaborative. Moreover, Jim Burnett points out to the staff that they have been there for a long time and know more than he does, and so everyone must work together. I gather that some of the people look for him to make more decisions than he cares to do.

Confirmation is a donneybrook. Last year, due to the protests of some parents, Jim did allow about 20 to be confirmed in eighth grade at the Cathedral. This year about 67 eighth graders want to be confirmed in eighth grade. Jim himself really believes in high school confirmation, and asked me if the bishops couldn't make up their minds for high school, but he fears that if we do agree on anything, it would be at eighth grade anyway.

Two added difficulties are the desire of people to have their people in Catholic school, and the physical inability of Ss. Peter & Paul to accommodate more. People want Jim to build more classrooms and he refuses. He tells them to talk to their own pastors. The pastors traditionally have blamed the Bishop, even though they know it's not true. Jim said [REDACTED] would not start a school simply because he is about to leave, and [REDACTED] won't because he doesn't believe in Catholic schools evidently. Jim Burnett said that [REDACTED] is a very unusual man, and he made it clear that he was saying that in a positive and not in a negative sense. He seems to admire him.



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Memo re: Father Jim Burnett -2- November 10, 1992

He did mention that [REDACTED] is very sensitive and melancholic, and feels he is always a bridesmaid and never a bride as far as becoming a pastor.

Jim likes [REDACTED] but finds him to be of a different generation. He has twice confronted [REDACTED] on "chopping people's heads off" when the people come to Jim Burnett. He does think that [REDACTED] is improving and also admits a difference in understanding of ministry and styles of ministry. But Jim said his own parishioner, [REDACTED], and he have totally different styles of ministry. I guess I am pleasantly surprised that Jim Burnett is as confrontative with [REDACTED] as he apparently is. Having seen him at several diocesan functions recently, having worked with him on the Gibbs' situation and just getting more of his philosophy and watching him a bit in action, it struck me today, I think for the first time, that he may well have the qualities of a wonderful bishop, pastoral and collaborative, gentle but firm.

At the very beginning, we talked about Larry Gibbs. Jim said [REDACTED] had a problem at first, living in the house with Larry, and not knowing much about him. Then a good friend of Sister Theresa Fry, told her that he had called Larry [REDACTED]

Bishop Roger Raffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch

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000115

June 23, 1993

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Bishop Inesch has asked me to acknowledge your recent letter. I am glad you sent Father Burnett a carbon copy. It seems to me that your complaint is about the telephone manners of the parish secretary. We do have annual days for the parish secretaries, but any of us can get swamped on a given day, I am sure.

I cringed when you mentioned your expectation of a reply phone call from Father Burnett within 24 hours. It is sometimes days before I physically would be able to return phone calls, unless I were to do it between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., at which time I am sure the people would not appreciate being called.

I just returned from a meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and there are some bishops whose dioceses do not have a lot more Catholic members than does Ss. Peter & Paul Parish. Hence, Father Burnett does have tremendous responsibilities. To the best of my recollection, yours is the first complaint I have ever heard about Father Burnett, though I have heard countless compliments of him, his pastoral concern and ministry over the last several decades. It is unfortunate that you had an unhappy experience. I am sorry you did.

Enclosed is a prayer I composed on Calvary after saying Mass there on my favorite feast, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, in 1984. It helps me through a lot of tough situations and, hopefully, will be helpful to you too.

With cordial best wishes, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet
Vicar General

RLK:bjd
Enclosure

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Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

00 163

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

February 21, 2000

Reverend James Burnett
Ss. Peter & Paul Parish
36 N. Ellsworth
Naperville, IL 60540-4697

Dear Father Burnett:

As an associate pastor, Father [REDACTED] was assigned to Ss. Peter & Paul in Naperville from June 18, 1984 to June 21, 1989. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior of [REDACTED], including inappropriate computer contacts, please contact the parish and/or the Chancery, so that it may be investigated and that pastoral assistance may be provided.

Please place this announcement in your next Sunday bulletin. Thank you.

With cordial personal regards and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RLK:bjd

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Memo re: Father James Burnett

-2-

August 25, 2001

He said that [REDACTED] But Jim said when he was in the seminary, there were some eccentric monks who even talked to trees. But he said the day will probably come when he himself will be talking to trees, and he hopes that somebody will be understanding of and patient with him! But [REDACTED] is helpful, and I guess periodically Jim will call [REDACTED] on something, but apparently it is working out pretty well. He doesn't know how his successor will handle it.

He does go to cluster meetings, prays the Breviary, makes a retreat, and does think that there are a number of good prospects for the priesthood in Ss. Peter & Paul Parish. He would guess there are about five right now, but he said so many of them want to go on to college before they consider priesthood.

I then brought up with him his own transfer at the end of this year, and asked if he has any preferences. We went over the list of parishes that will be open, and though he did not mention any one in particular, I simply came away with the impression that he would probably be pretty open to St. Petronille's in Glen Ellyn. I simply told him to think about it and we would be talking, and he said he has been thinking about it.

I don't think we even traded blessings because he was in a hurry to get to the wake before the funeral. (He lamented that every funeral is different. This person died sometime ago, and it will be a wake with the ashes and then a Mass, I guess also with the ashes.)

Jim tried to find [REDACTED] who didn't seem to be around, so he took me to [REDACTED] room upstairs, and was going to look for [REDACTED] on his way to the wake and funeral.

It was really a pleasant visit.

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

Released April 2014
Diocese of Joliet

00 206

Released April 2014
Chancery



425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

June 11, 2004

Very Reverend James Burnett
Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N. Raynor Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Father Burnett,

As part of our safe environment efforts toward protecting children, priests were asked to complete a form acknowledging they had received and had reviewed the *Pastoral Policy Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors*, as well as the *Standards of Behavior for Those Working with Minors*. All priests were also asked to send the results of their background check to the Chancery.

In reviewing our records, I noted that we do not have the following information on file for you:

- Acknowledgement form (If this is checked, a copy of the form is enclosed. Please complete the form and fax it to the Chancery by next week.) Fax (815-722-6602)
- Background check information (If this is checked, please fax your background check results to the Chancery by next week.) Fax (815-722-6602)

Thank you for your efforts in helping to keep the children of our Diocese safe.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor



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Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

00 208

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

September 3, 2004

Very Reverend James Burnett
Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N. Raynor Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Father Burnett,

As part of the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, each diocese will be audited once again as to its compliance with the *Charter* and the *Norms*.

Our Diocese will be audited the week of September 19, 2004. Members of the audit team assigned to us have indicated that they might like to interview you, as a pastor, either in person at the Chancery or by telephone.

For that reason, I am requesting that you inform me in writing as to any and all of the times you might be available for an for an interview either on September 20 (afternoon), September 21 (morning and/or afternoon), September 22 (morning and/or afternoon) or September 23 (morning). Although I do not know how long the interview will be, it will probably not exceed one hour. Please send me this information by fax (815-722-6602) or by mail no later than September 9, 2004.

May God bless you and your work for the Church!

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
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Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

00 209



Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

February 17, 2005

Very Reverend James Burnett
Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 North Raynor Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435-6099

Dear Father Burnett,

Bishop Imesch would like to invite you to be an honored concelebrant at the Chrism Mass on Monday, March 21, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral. As the Rector of the Cathedral, you will be seated in the sanctuary along with the other concelebrants who are being honored.

Please respond to this invitation no later than Tuesday, March 8 by calling 815-722-6606. Your response is important so that preparations may be made for the dinner preceding the Chrism Mass as well as for seating arrangements in the sanctuary. Please note, this year's dinner will be held at St. Mary Nativity Parish, not at the Cathedral.

A chasuble and a stole will be provided by the Cathedral. Please bring your own alb.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, O.S.F.
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 210

March 22, 2005

Reverend James Burnett & Staff
Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N. Raynor Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Jim,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter Lily. I still have your poinsettia in my chapel! It is much better this year than it was last year - last year it was gone before Christmas. This year, I keep watering it and it is still there.

Also, I don't think the Chrism Mass was ever more beautiful than it was this year. Congratulations to you and your staff for the wonderful, wonderful job in every way.

With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet (Retired)

RLK:bjd

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 211

CONFIDENTIAL FILE MEMORANDUM

December 20, 2005

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Allegation


This afternoon, I spoke with Sister [REDACTED], OSF, Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph Parish in Lockport. Sister [REDACTED] contacted me because she received an allegation against one of our priests last night and knew she had to make a report.

The gentleman who spoke with Sister [REDACTED] said he was giving her the information "in confidence." Sister stated that he had called her three times yesterday. The second time he called, Sister was just sitting down to dinner so she told the gentleman to call back later. During the next call, the man alleged that while he was in second grade at St. Mary School in Mokena, Father James Burnett had abused him in the confessional. The man said that when he entered the confessional, Father told him to pull his pants down, then touched his penis.

The man told Sister [REDACTED] that afterwards, Father Burnett was his "champion." Father protected him from playground bullies and defended him whenever he got in trouble with any of the teachers.

Because he had asked that the matter remain confidential, Sister [REDACTED] said she could not reveal the man's name but unknowingly gave me his first name when she said that on the second call she had asked [REDACTED] to call back later. When questioned, Sister gave the priest's name. She said that the man (who lives out of state) said that Sister was the first person he had ever told about the abuse. The man told her that he was not after money, did not want Father removed from ministry, did not want the matter to be made public, but was only concerned that no one else be hurt because if Father abused him it was likely others had been abused also. When I asked about counseling, Sister said something similar to 'he had his life together.'

Sister [REDACTED] said that she was going to provide the man with a copy of our policy. I told her to tell him that he was certainly welcome to speak with Bishop Imesch or me at the Chancery, or with Sister [REDACTED] the Victim Assistance Coordinator. I then provided Sister's phone number to Sister [REDACTED]


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
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CONFIDENTIAL FILE MEMORANDUM

December 21, 2005

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

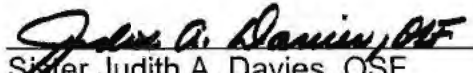
RE: Allegation

When it was learned that the man's name was [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] from the Herald News had spoken with him, I called Sister [REDACTED] to obtain [REDACTED] address and phone number: [REDACTED]

I called [REDACTED] told him that I understood he had contacted the *Herald News* with an allegation of sexual abuse by one of our priests. I said that the Diocese takes allegations very seriously and that a Mr. Steve Kirby, who is a representative of the Diocesan Review Committee, would like to speak with him regarding the allegation. [REDACTED] was very nonchalant when he responded that he would speak with Mr. Kirby.

[REDACTED] said he had not called the *Herald News* but that instead, [REDACTED] called the newspaper. I asked the connection with [REDACTED] and how it was that [REDACTED] spoke with him. The response was that [REDACTED] number was given by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had found [REDACTED] name and phone number on the internet, then contacted him.

The conversation ended with [REDACTED] saying that he should have called someone years ago because others were probably abused.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
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00 213

Sister Judith

Please call [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. He left two messages on my voice mail last night one at 6 and the other at 6:04. He is [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and says that he was sexually abused by Fr. Burnett from first grade thru 4th grade. He graduated from St. Mary Mokena in [REDACTED]. He has talked to [REDACTED] and was interviewed by him for over a half hour about 3 weeks ago. He has heard nothing further. He talked to [REDACTED] yesterday who said they were working on it. He has not gone public with this even though he has been called by the Joliet Herald. He has talked to a couple of attorneys who want his case but has not signed with anyone yet.

He said he attempted to call Fr. Burnett 7 times over the years but he has never returned his calls. He called him in Naperville and at the Cathedral.

He said that when all this happened Fr. Burnett told him not to tell anyone that it was secret between him and God.

He said that he learned that his brother [REDACTED] was molested by Fr. Bill Virtue. He said that Fr. Virtue picked them up at home and took them to the woods. He told [REDACTED] to stay and that he walked ahead with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was afraid so he hid behind a tree. He can remember seeing his brother with his pants down to his ankles and he was naked. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
1-6-05

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Released April 2014

Sister Judith

00 214-

Please call [redacted] of [redacted] He left two messages on my voice mail last night one at 6 and the other at 6:04. He is a [redacted] and says that he was sexually abused by Fr. Burnett from first grade thru 4th grade. He graduated from St. Mary Mokena in [redacted] He has talked to [redacted] and was interviewed by him for over a half hour about 3 weeks ago. He has heard nothing further. He talked to [redacted] ^{STEVE} yesterday who said they were working on it. He has not gone public with this even though he has been called by the Joliet Herald. He has talked to a couple of attorneys who want his case but has not signed with anyone yet.

STEVE KIRBY

He said he attempted to call Fr. Burnett 7 times over the years but he has never returned his calls. He called him in Naperville and at the Cathedral.

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He said that he learned that his brother [redacted] was molested by Fr. Bill Virtue. He said that Fr. Virtue picked them up at home and took them to the woods. He told [redacted] to stay and that he walked ahead with [redacted] [redacted] was afraid so he hide behind a tree. He can remember seeing his brother with his pants down to his ankles and he was naked.

[redacted]

[redacted]

1-6-05

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 215

FILE MEMORANDUM

January 6, 2006

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: [REDACTED]

This morning I spoke with [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] regarding the process used with his allegation of abuse.

I told him that:

- His phone messages were received at the Bishop's office and I was responding for the Bishop since he is out-of-town at a meeting.
- His allegation was received just prior to the diocesan offices being closed for the holidays. Offices re-opened this Tuesday and that is why there was somewhat of a delay.
- The Diocese takes all allegation seriously, appreciates that he had come forward.
- The fact that an interview was conducted so quickly with him shows that the Diocese does take allegations very seriously.
- We realize this can be a very difficult time for him because the process that the Diocese uses does take time, can be difficult for the one who has made the allegation and that we do appreciate his patience.

I then asked [REDACTED] if he would be interested in knowing the process that the Diocese uses whenever an allegation is received. On hearing a positive response, I told him that a person conducts interviews on behalf of the Review Committee, i.e. gathers information from the one making the allegation. With that, [REDACTED] interrupted, saying that he had already been interviewed. I acknowledged his comment, continued with stating that information is also gathered from family members and that the time in which this can be achieved depends on the cooperation of those being interviewed, then asked if we could interview any members of his family, and asked whether he wanted to give me a list of his family members and phone numbers now or if he wanted to fax it later on. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I said we'd need a list so he took down our fax number: [REDACTED] I said that I'm not sure where things are right now, don't have any information as to who might have been interviewed but I do know the process is going forward and asked once more for his patience.

Next I told [REDACTED] that the Review Committee composed of volunteers, (i.e. therapists, women attorneys, etc.) reviews the allegation

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00 216

January 6, 2006

RE: [REDACTED]

and all information received, then determines if more information is necessary, decides if there is need for the temporary removal of the accused and makes a recommendation to the Bishop as to what ought to happen. I proceeded saying that the next meeting of the Review Committee is scheduled for mid-February. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

agreed that I could give the [REDACTED] Diocese his telephone number so there could be communication with him.

When I asked [REDACTED] how he was affected by what happened, he responded "fighting." When asked when he realized there was a connection between what happened to him and his problems, he said it was "right away." After the abuse first happened he began fighting and that the abuse continued to 5th grade. He became a bully, would "throw everyone off" because he didn't want anyone to touch him. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I mentioned that in the message left at the Chancery, [REDACTED] said that he spoke with two lawyers. He said they were a [REDACTED]

I told [REDACTED] that things really cannot proceed until we receive more information. He said that Mr. Kirby can call him at anytime.

[REDACTED] said that he would never forget the priest's hands. They were white, "like ghost hands, really clean fingers, like professional", 'and business and soft.' [REDACTED] said he attempted to contact the priest for 10 years while he was in Mokena, Naperville and Joliet. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The messages he left with secretaries and answering machines did not say anything about sexual abuse. He wanted to "know why you did what you did." He said that the priest did not have the courage to return his all eve though he left six or seven messages.

Other information about [REDACTED] He is age [REDACTED] The abuse happened 20 years ago. [REDACTED]

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00 217

January 6, 2006

RE: [REDACTED]

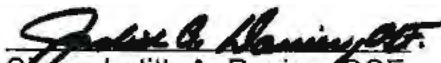
The conversation ended with my telling [REDACTED] that I would contact the Diocese of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I told [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that if he ever wanted to talk, please call me at [REDACTED]. If I was not available, leave a message and I would call him back as soon as possible. He was also welcome to speak with Sister [REDACTED] said that he had already talked with her and she suggested he might wish to take advantage of counseling provided for by the Diocese.

I spoke with [REDACTED] Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of [REDACTED]. I asked that she call Mr. [REDACTED] today if she would be delayed [REDACTED] so that he would know there was follow-up.

[REDACTED]


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

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00 218

Sr. Judith Davies

[REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 08, 2006 11:11 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: sexual abuse

Sister Judith I am very disappointed and ashamed that I am or was a part of the Joliet Diocese. A school and parish that I attended for 8 years, [REDACTED] along with many of my friends and attended many funerals [REDACTED] St. Mary's, the same school that I now know my brothers were sexually assaulted at. You already know all of this because I spoke to you about my brother [REDACTED] with father Bill Virtue. What you don't know is the horrific and morally disgusting things that he did in order to protect our other brother [REDACTED]. All of that was in vain because it was happening to [REDACTED] also with another priest father Burnette, whom I would have considered a friend of the family. Now I consider him a pedifiler and unworthy person to be addressed as a priest and anyone associated with Jesus. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I forgot that you and Sister [REDACTED] are both well aware of these abuse but I still understand that Father Burnette is still at St Ray and Father Bill is still in Peoria. I think you both have forgotten your position to help the victims. I have failed to see how either of you have helped my family. You both have ignored that sexual abuse allegations which in your heart you believe is true, I feel saddened for both and all of this so call review board. I am forwarding you my recollections of how you have treated my brother [REDACTED] in case you needed some reminders. [REDACTED]

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Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

00 219

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2006 12:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: sexual abuse

Dear [REDACTED]

This is a response to your message of January 9.

The Diocese of Joliet takes all allegations of sexual abuse very seriously. When the allegation of abuse by Father Virtue was made, I contacted the Diocese of Peoria since Father is a priest of that diocese. It is appropriate that the Peoria Diocese handle [REDACTED] allegation and deal with Father Virtue since the Diocese of Joliet has no jurisdiction whatsoever over Father.

When the Joliet Diocese became aware of your brother [REDACTED] allegation, we took immediate action. [REDACTED] was interviewed on behalf of the Diocesan Review Committee as soon as possible prior to the Christmas holidays. The process of information gathering is continuing so that when the Review Committee convenes in mid-February, it will be able to review the allegation and all information received to date, then determine if more information is necessary. If the Committee decided more information is needed before proceeding, more will be gathered. Otherwise, the Committee will make a recommendation to Bishop Imesch regarding the accused priest.

[REDACTED]

You said in your message that you were forwarding your recollections of how [REDACTED] has been treated. Would you please resend? The forwarded message never arrived.

I am available to speak with you by phone [REDACTED] or in person should you wish.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith Davies, OSF



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Released April 2014

JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60438

00 220

JAMES C. BYRNE

J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

FAX (815) 744-7170

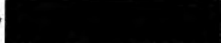
January 23, 2006

Mr. James Glasgow
Will County States Attorney
121 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Re: Allegations of 

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

This letter is pursuant to the Diocese policy to inform State's Attorneys of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

At the end of December the Diocese first received an allegation by  that he was sexually abused in approximately 1985 while a student at one of the Diocese parishes.



The priest that he has accused is presently in ministry assigned to one of the Diocese parishes.

The Diocese Review Committee is in the process of obtaining as much information as possible in order to make a determination whether or not the allegations is credible or not credible.

During the pendency of an allegation dating back this number of years, the Diocese ordinarily does not remove a priest from ministry, until the Review Committee has made a determination.

During this period of time the priest is obviously instructed to have no contact with children and in this particular instance there is another priest in the Rectory who is aware that allegations have been made and is monitoring the priest in question.

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Y

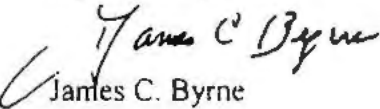
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. 00 221

Mr. James Glasgow
January 23, 2006
Page 2

The Diocese is committed to furnish whatever information you may request which will obviously include the full identifying information of all parties. However, before doing so I would respectfully request that you would have a Grand Jury Subpoena issued.

I understand that it is your opinion that the Freedom of Information Act would not entitle the media to this type of data furnished by the Diocese. However, your predecessor in office had a contrary opinion and there is a concern that a newspaper may be willing to litigate this issue and/or a subsequent State's Attorney at a future date may release the information if it is not provided subject to a subpoena.

My Best Regards,

James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

C
O
P
Y

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00 222

SECOND DRAFT (January 25, 2006)
Recommendations of Bishop Imesch incorporated.

When the Diocese first learned of the allegation against Father _____ about conduct that was alleged to have occurred 20 years ago, prompt action was taken. The accuser, Mr. _____, was interviewed by an outside private investigator. The same investigator interviewed other family members in an attempt to gather more information about the accusation. The priest was also interviewed and denied any inappropriate conduct with Mr. _____.



In accord with diocesan policy, the Will County States Attorney's Office was notified that an allegation had been made. The Diocese offered to assist the States Attorney's Office, if further information was needed.

At the time, there was not sufficient information at the time to remove the priest from ministry. Another priest in the rectory knew that an allegation had been made and was asked to monitor Father _____'s activity. Father _____ was asked at the outset to avoid any contact with young children. Both parish and school staffs had participated in training sessions of Protecting God's Children and would have been aware of any warning signs.

The allegation was brought to the Diocesan Review Committee. Once the Committee reviewed all of the information at hand,

- A. it determined that further verification was needed before making a recommendation to Bishop Imesch.
- B. it made a recommendation to Bishop Imesch that

Fr. Topella { Are aware of warning signs and have learned to communicate any concerns they might have had. }

FILE MEMORANDUM

January 26, 2006

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: [REDACTED] Case

Bishop Imesch spoke with Sister [REDACTED] OSF, Director of Religious Education for the Cathedral of St. Raymond this morning. She agreed to monitor Father James Burnett.

Sister [REDACTED] stated when [REDACTED] was a student at St. Mary School in Mokena, [REDACTED] (Sister [REDACTED] the principal, was out of the country at the time.)


When asked about confessions, Sister [REDACTED] said that confessions for students might have been held during Lent and Advent. The confessional was used on Saturdays. The office door had clear glass.

In a later conversation with me, Sister [REDACTED] said since she was looking back 20 years, she was not sure if confessions were heard during Advent and Lent for classes of students.

Sister [REDACTED] recalled that if many confessions were heard, i.e. at the time of First Confession, they took place in an office, in the sacristy and in the confessional. The ordinary place for confession including confession on Saturdays was the confessional located at the rear of the church, not the office nor the sacristy.

Sister [REDACTED] described the office as having a glass brick wall with a door having a clear glass panel. Anyone walking by could have looked into the room. For the times that confessions were heard in the sacristy, a kneeler would have been set up in the sacristy itself and students would have lined up in the sanctuary.

When I asked Sister [REDACTED] if she knew the age difference between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] she said she had a yearbook at her convent that would have the information. Sister will contact me sometime tomorrow.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 228 *Burnett*



MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2006

TO: Priests of the Diocese of Joliet
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
RE: Reverend James Burnett

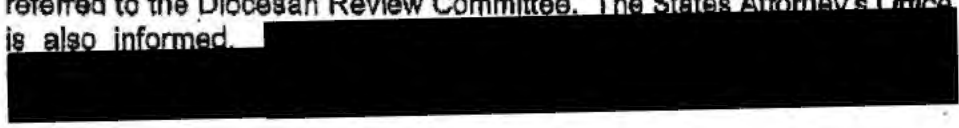
Following is the text of a press release regarding an allegation made against Father James Burnett. Please keep Father Burnett in your prayers.

Sister Judith A. Davies
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As soon as the Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett regarding inappropriate conduct that was to have occurred over 25 years ago, the following steps were taken: The man who made the allegation was interviewed within 24 hours [redacted] Father Burnett was interviewed and denied any wrongdoing. Two persons were designated to monitor Father Burnett. He was told not to have contact with children. The County States Attorney's Office was informed that an allegation had been made. Information relating to the on-going investigation will be discussed by the Diocesan Review Committee.

Although Father Burnett continues to deny the allegations, Bishop Imesch has placed Father Burnett on administrative leave until the matter is resolved.

Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the Diocese that the priest remain in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible. However, the priest is monitored while the investigation is being conducted, is told not to have any contact with children, and the matter is referred to the Diocesan Review Committee. The States Attorney's Office is also informed. [redacted]



MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2006

TO: Priests of the Diocese of Joliet
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
RE: Reverend James Burnett

Following is the text of a press release regarding an allegation made against Father James Burnett. Please keep Father Burnett in your prayers.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As soon as the Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett regarding inappropriate conduct that was to have occurred over 25 years ago, the following steps were taken: The man who made the allegation was interviewed within 24 hours [REDACTED] Father Burnett was interviewed and denied any wrongdoing. Two persons were designated to monitor Father Burnett. He was told not to have contact with children. The County States Attorney's Office was informed that an allegation had been made. Information relating to the on-going investigation will be discussed by the Diocesan Review Committee.

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00 231

Cathedral of St. Raymond School

*713 Douglas Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435*



The KINGDOM of GOD is among US

February 7, 2006

Dear Parents and Students,

This morning I received word that Father Burnett has been placed on administrative leave by Bishop Imesch. The reason for this action regards alleged inappropriate conduct that transpired over twenty-five years ago.

Father Burnett denies any wrongdoing. The allegations are being processed by the Diocesan Review Committee.

I will make every attempt to keep you informed on this important issue. I ask for the prayers of everyone for our parish and school during this most difficult of times.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Principal

Hi there - [redacted] asked me to forward this to you.

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Released April 2014

00 233

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2006 7:46 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Clergy abuse victim wants his abuser removed

Clergy Sex Abuse Victim Wants His Abuser Removed

Allegation Was Reported Months Ago But Priest Is Still in Ministry

He's Now Rector At Joliet's Catholic Cathedral

Bishop Imesch Urged To "Act Now To Protect Kids"

What:

At a news conference, a clergy sex abuse victim and his attorneys will urge Joliet Catholic officials to suspend a priest who was reported as a child molester two months ago but remains in active parish ministry today

When:

TODAY, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m.

Where:

At the law firm of Kerns, Pitrof, Frost & Pearlman, Three First National Plaza, 70 W. Madison (Suite 5350) in downtown Chicago IL

Who:

One of the priest's victims, [redacted] and his attorneys

Visuals:

Photos of the offending priest and the victim as a child will be available.

Why:

Two months ago, [redacted] reported to Joliet Catholic officials that he was repeatedly sexually abused as a child by Fr. James Burnett from roughly 1978-82. The crimes took place when [redacted] was a roughly 8-12 years old and a member of St. Mary's parish in Mokena.

Fr James
Burnett

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Released April 2014

Burnett is now the rector of the Cathedral of Raymond Church in Joliet.

00 234

Church officials have written Shanahan that they won't be able to "process" his report "until at least mid-February."

Concerned about the safety of other children today, [REDACTED] and his attorneys will publicly call on Joliet Bishop Joseph Imesch to remove the cleric now, and every other cleric who's been accused of child molestation, pending further investigation.

[REDACTED] has spoken by phone with Imesch about the matter. The bishop says he personally knows Burnett and doubts [REDACTED] allegations, though he has never met personally with him or his family.

Ordained in 1968, Burnett worked at parishes in Bensenville (St. Charles Borromeo 1969-1975), Mokena (St. Mary's Church 1976-1990), and Naperville (Sts. Peter and Paul Church 1991-2002). He has been assigned to the cathedral since 2003.

No civil lawsuit is being filed today but one may be filed in the near future.

Contact:

Attorney Jeff Anderson of St. Paul 612 817 8665 cell

Attorney Marc Pearlman of Chicago 312 261 4550, 773 368 0142 cell



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Released April 2014

00 235

Sr. Judith Davies

From: Thomas E. Kerber [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2006 4:53 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: DIOCESE OF JOLIET: STATEMENT CLARIFICATION

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Contact: Mr. Thomas Kerber
[REDACTED]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As clarification to our earlier statement: The Joliet Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett just before Christmas. He was monitored by a priest in the rectory and by a staff member at the parish. Father Burnett was placed on administrative leave effective today meaning he left the rectory and may not function as a priest. This is commonly understood as not wearing the Roman collar nor functioning in a visible manner at Mass (Holy Eucharist) and other sacraments. Father Burnett earlier served at St. Charles Borromeo (Bensenville) June 1968 -Feb 1974), St. Mary (Mokena) Feb 1974 - June 1990, and Sts. Peter and Paul (Naperville) June 1990 - June 2002, before being assigned to the Cathedral of St Raymond.

Draft

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Contact: Mr. Thomas Kerber
[REDACTED]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As soon as the Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett regarding inappropriate conduct that was to have occurred over 25 years ago, the following steps were taken: The man who made the allegation was interviewed within 24 hours by a private investigator. Father Burnett was interviewed and denied any wrongdoing. Two persons were asked to monitor Father Burnett and his interaction with children. The County States Attorney's Office was informed that an allegation had been made. Results of the on-going investigation will be made known to the Diocesan Review Committee when it meets this week to determine the credibility of the allegation.

Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the Diocese that the priest remain in ministry, is monitored while the investigation is being conducted to determine the credibility of the allegation, and that the matter is referred to the Diocesan Review Committee. The States Attorney's Office is also informed. [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 237

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Contact: Mr. Thomas Kerber
[REDACTED]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As soon as the Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett regarding inappropriate conduct that was to have occurred over 25 years ago, the following steps were taken: The man who made the allegation was interviewed within 24 hours and was offered counseling. Father Burnett was interviewed and denied any wrongdoing. Two persons were designated to monitor Father Burnett. He was told not to have contact with children. The County States Attorney's Office was informed that an allegation had been made. Information relating to the on-going investigation will be discussed by the Diocesan Review Committee.

Although Father Burnett continues to deny the allegations, Bishop Imesch has placed Father Burnett on administrative leave until the matter is resolved.

Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the Diocese that the priest remain in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible. However, the priest is monitored while the investigation is being conducted, is told not to have any contact with children, and the matter is referred to the Diocesan Review Committee. The States Attorney's Office is also informed.
[REDACTED]

00 238

Redacted April 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

From: Thomas E. Kerber [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2006 10:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Age of Fr. Burnett



Good Morning Sr. Judith,

2 reporters have asked for Fr. Burnett's age.

Several have asked for the date the States Attorney was notified of the allegation against Fr. Burnett.

Sister, you asked me to remind you about paragraph #3 of the first statement which includes the line "that the priest remains in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible."

On a Personal Note, if we could have gotten together to socialize before going home, this is what I might have said: I liked that line, "credible." What I didn't like about the statement was paragraph 2, removing Fr. Burnett from ministry. Remember, I don't know him from most of the other priests in the Diocese, so there is nothing personal between us. Those closest to me know that I act more to reason than to emotion, and yes, I realize the sexual abuse of a minor is an emotional issue. Still, I am wondering why Fr. Burnett was removed now? There is a part of me which wanted the Review Committee to meet quickly, and find him innocent of the allegation. Then, I wanted to tell the reporters that our policy was tried and not found wanting. To me, we caved under the scrutiny of SNAP, rather than because he was found guilty. Of course, "if removal from ministry as soon as an allegation is levied" has become the new policy, that makes sense and I can support it.

Hoping tomorrow is a better day, good night for now.

TOM

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 240

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop Roger L. Kaffer
Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF


RE: Reverend James Burnett

The following, with appropriate dates inserted, was sent to all of the parishes where Father Burnett was assigned including the Cathedral:

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

An allegation of sexual abuse has been made against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from ____ of 19__ to ____ of 19__. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]

Thank you.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 241

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

TO: Reverend Martin Gabel
FAX: [REDACTED]
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
RE: Reverend James Burnett

FAXED

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

An allegation of sexual abuse has been made against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from June of 1968 to February of 1974. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]

Thank you very much.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 242

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

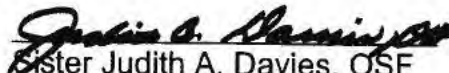
TO: Reverend Joseph Tapella
FAX: [REDACTED]
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
RE: Reverend James Burnett

FAXED

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

An allegation of sexual abuse was brought against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett has been stationed at our parish since June of 2002. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]

Thank you very much.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 243

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

TO: Reverend James Dvorscak
FAX: [REDACTED]
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
RE: Reverend James Burnett

FAXED

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

An allegation of sexual abuse has been made against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from February 1974 to June of 1990. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]

Thank you very much.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 244

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

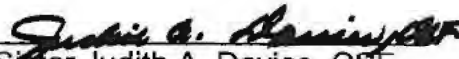
TO: Reverend James Nowak
FAX: [REDACTED]
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
RE: Reverend James Burnett

FAXED

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

An allegation of sexual abuse was brought against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from June of 1990 to June of 2002. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]

Thank you very much.



Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Family
Club members boost
brains with board games

00 245

Page D1



S **WEDNESDAY**
February 8, 2006
50 cents

Rector is placed on leave

■ **Cathedral of St. Raymond:**
Rev. James Burnett faces allegation of sex abuse

By **Ted Slowik**
STAFF WRITER

JOLIET — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet placed the rector of the Cathedral of St. Raymond on administrative leave Tuesday after [redacted] went public with a sexual abuse allegation.

The Rev. James Burnett denies [redacted] claim that the priest molested him about 40 times beginning when he was 8 years old in [redacted] at St. Mary Church in Mokena. Some of the abuse happened in a confessional at the church, [redacted]



Burnett

“He told me that this was a secret between me, you and God,” [redacted] said during a press conference at an attorney’s Chicago office.

[redacted] said he broke his silence by telling his sister

◆ Turn to **PRIEST, A7**

Redacted April 2014
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Released April 2014

News

The Herald News Wednesday, February 8, 2006 A7

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PRIEST

From page A1

in December and first contacted the diocese shortly before Christmas. His sister, [redacted]

[redacted] said she was frustrated by how Joliet Bishop Joseph Imesch handled the claim when they spoke by phone about eight weeks ago.

"His first response was: 'I've known Father Burnett for many years. He's my friend. I doubt it happened,'" [redacted] said. "He should have been able to be a little bit more supportive of my brother."

[redacted] also contacted The Herald News in December about the claim, which the newspaper chose not to report at that time because the diocese had not restricted Burnett's public ministry. When told of Shanahan's allegation five days before Christmas, Burnett said, "That never happened."

The priest said he recalled the [redacted] family from Mokena, and that [redacted] him in 1990.

The priest replied with a letter, but said he hadn't heard from [redacted] for the past 15 years.

[redacted] was asked Tuesday if he had ever confronted Burnett about the allegations.

"No," he said. "I didn't ask anything. I wanted to know if I could contact him. He wrote back, (but) I didn't write back."

He decided to go public, he said, out of "guilt" that other children might be at risk and in hopes that others might come forward with information about Burnett.

The diocese said in a statement that it began an investigation upon learning of the claim. Another priest at St. Ray's was told to monitor Burnett during the investigation, and Burnett was told to not have contact with children. [redacted]

and the

Will County state's attorney's office was contacted.

"We did receive a referral, and it's under investigation," State's Attorney James Glasgow said Tuesday.

[redacted] said she reported the claim to the state's attorney's office because she believed the diocese would not.

The diocesan review board will consider the allegations when it meets in mid-February.

Burnett has served at four parishes since he was ordained in 1968: St. Charles Borromeo, Bensenville (1968-74); St. Mary, Mokena (1974-90); Ss. Peter and Paul, Naperville (1990-2002); and St. Raymond, 2002-present.

Parents of children at St. Raymond School learned of the allegations from a letter sent home on Tuesday. The parish was said to be planning a prayer service for Burnett to be held tonight at St. Ray's.

"I ask for the prayers of everyone for our parish and school during this most difficult of times," Principal [redacted] said in the letter.

Parishioners and parents on Tuesday reacted with shock and disbelief, and some pledged support for their suspended pastor.

"I know the character of the man, and I know he's not capable of the action," parent [redacted] said.

Other Joliet Diocese priests have been reinstated to active ministry after investigations determined that allegations were not credible. Minneapolis attorney Jeff Anderson, who sat beside [redacted] at Tuesday's news conference, questioned Imesch about false accusations during a deposition for a lawsuit last year. A judge's ruling made the bishop's testimony available to the public last week.

Anderson: "How do you determine when an allegation of sexual misconduct by a priest is made what is credible and what is not?"

Imesch: "The review committee now makes the decision.

There have been nine cases of false allegations against priests in the diocese."

When asked for names of priests who were falsely accused, Imesch cited the Rev. Thomas White and the Rev. James Murphy, both of whom were reinstated to active ministries in recent years. He also cited the late Rev. Michael Foley, a onetime principal of St. Francis High School in Wheaton, who was found not guilty after a criminal trial, and the late Rev. David Stalzer, a popular Joliet priest whose accuser dropped his claim.

Imesch told Anderson he prepared a list of falsely accused priests "for his own information."

"There's a list of those who were accused and a list of those who were falsely accused," Imesch said.

The Archdiocese of Chicago, facing criticism for leaving the Rev. Dan McCormack in ministry for several months despite a report that he had sexually abused a boy, said this week that it would revise its policy to immediately remove a cleric from ministry pending the outcome of an investigation.

"Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the diocese that the priest remain in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible," the Joliet Diocese said in a statement issued Tuesday.

[redacted] attorneys said they were considering filing a civil lawsuit about the allegations concerning Burnett.

At the news conference, [redacted] said Burnett was his "best friend" when he was younger.

"I think about it on a daily basis," he said. "I feel a lot of pain every day of my life. I want to make sure no other children get abused."

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 277

CANTS 5
Rev. 10/00

State of Illinois
Department of Children and Family Services

WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REPORT:
MANDATED REPORTERS

DATE: February 9, 2006

ABOUT: _____
Child's Name Child's Birth Date



Address (if different than the child's address) abuse

This is to confirm my oral report of Feb. 9, 2006 of alleged sexual abuse made in accordance with the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5 et seq). Please answer the following questions. (If you need more space, use the back of this page.)

1. What injuries or signs of abuse/neglect are there?
Unknown
2. How and approximately when did the abuse/neglect occur and how did you become aware of the abuse/neglect?
In approximately the early 1980's at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois. I became aware of the allegation from a Sister _____.
3. Had there been evidence of abuse/neglect before now? Yes No
4. If the answer to question 3 is "yes," please explain the nature of the abuse/neglect.
Not Applicable.
5. Names and addresses of other persons who may be willing to provide information about this case.

6. Your relationship to child(ren) None
7. Reporter Action Recommended or Taken:

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE:

- I saw the child(ren)
- I heard about the child(ren) From whom? _____
- I have have not told the child's family of my concern and of my report to the Department.
- I am willing NOT willing to tell the child's family of my concern and of my report to the Department.
- I believe do NOT believe the child is in immediate physical danger.

person
Sister Judith Davies _____ X James E. Slavin, M.F.
(Name Printed) (Signature)
Chancellor _____ of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet
(Title) (Organization/Agency)

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

1-800-252-2873

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF, Chancellor

Not a mandated reporter

Learned of alleged abuse by a [REDACTED] alleges sexual fondling by Father James Burnett in the early 1980's that was to have taken place at the parish of St. Mary in Mokena.

~~Shortly before Christmas (Dec 21, 2005), I learned that a person may have been abused back in the early 1980's .~~

[REDACTED]

Father James Burnett
Last known address & phone number:

[REDACTED]

FILE MEMORANUM

February 10, 2006

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

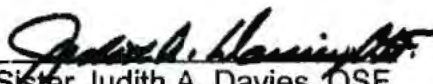
Received a follow-up call today from DCFS regarding yesterday's report.

When asked about Father's involvement in the school, I said there were two other priests stationed at the Cathedral. With the size of the parish, I doubted that he had much to do with the school.

The next question was about him administering the school. My response was that there is principal who operates the school. With the size of the parish, he would have been busy with it. Any connection with the school would have been when teachers would have been present.

While at Sts. Peter & Paul and at St. Mary, the principal operated the school. In the brief absence of the principal at St. Mary, his only involvement would have been for serious disciplinary reasons such as if there was need for a suspension or expulsion.

Regarding opportunities for being alone with children. I responded that the Cathedral usually has two servers if not three or four, for Masses; that there would also be an adult present because that person would do the Scripture reading for Mass.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Burnett

00 288

February 10, 2006

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

All of us were shocked to hear of the allegation of sexual abuse against Father James Burnett this past week.

When an allegation of sexual abuse against a priest is made public, the priest is placed on administrative leave and removed from active ministry. Removal from ministry is not a judgment, it is a precautionary necessity.

The States Attorney's Office has been notified of the allegation against Father Burnett and the Diocesan Review Committee is still in the process of gathering information.

In times like this our faith is tested. Now, more than ever, we need to trust in the Lord and His wisdom and pray that justice will be served.

I know that you will keep Father Burnett in your prayers. I ask you also to pray for the young man. Pray also for all victims of abuse. Your prayers are needed especially, for the Church in this difficult time. Each day I pray for all of the people of the Church of Joliet. During these days, my prayer, like yours, takes on more meaning. We realize more deeply how all of us are affected by the lives of others. May the Lord bless all of us in this difficult time.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Sr. Judith DaviesRecorded April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, March 04, 2006 6:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hello Sister this is [REDACTED] I was told a month ago that the review committee would be meeting in middle of february and someone would let me know whats going on about me coming forward about beign abused when I was a child. I have not heard from anyone and I keep noticing more and more people coming forward. I do not know how serious the diocese feels about sexual abuse but if it has not happened to you it is very hard for you to believe it could have happened to someone else.

I know The Lord says to forgive and that is fine by me but I can never forget what happened to me and how it has affected my life.

One problem I see right now is that some of the parishoners who feel sexual abuse does not happen some of these people it probably happened to their parents and their parents are to scared embaressed to come forward. I have gotten emails from other parishoners who really said how courageous I was to come forward but that they do not have the courage to do it themselves for fear of embarassment scared about who will believe them and other reasons. This is such a terrible thing to happen to anyone and me beign a victim I know exactly what most of them are going through and what the ones that have not come forward are going through.

I know you have a big job ahead of you and I pray that it can stay together but with very strict screening snd investigations before employment and also during investigators should show up in classrooms and ask the kids has anyone ever touched you in any of your private areas and if so who when and why didnt you tell your mom or dad or teacher or friend you will see the power of a priest when most all of the kids will deny it because of secrecy. I will bless all of us. Please respond to my email.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 4:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Sister, as far as anymore allegations against father Burnett they would not tell me what priest but 2 of them said they were abused at the cathedral of St. Raymonds in Joliet. Let me ask you this if God was standing before you and he asked you in order for you to make it to heaven that you had to tell him about every incident that you know of about any sexual abuse by any priest would you tell him? I am guessing you would have said yes. My next thing I want to say is why are so many PRIESTS able to go into the ministry and worship the Lord in front of every man woman and child and behind closed doors do the pedophilia things the sexual abuse. The church and the public recognizes that PRIESTS AND NUNS are the backbone of the church. people that didnt believe father Burnett could have done that are feeling sorry now that so many other priests have done something to someone and they are finally believing there is a huge problem within the priesthood with sexual abuse. Richard Sipe an x priest and now author says that 10-20 percent of males that join the priesthood are either gay or have their first gay experience in the seminary, that is outrageous and also that they the priests can hide behind all of the faithful parishoners forever until now when it is going to keep coming out with more and more victims like myself that we NEED to come forward for the sake of the children.

Sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 2:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Since the Chancery is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, I am responding to your message today. The Diocesan Review Committee has deferred making any decision about Father Burnett pending the outcome of investigations into your allegation by State agencies. You said in your mesage that "other parishioners" not only commented on your courage in coming forward but have also told you that "they do not have the courage to do it themselves for fear of embarrassment..." Have any of these "other parishioners" alleged that they were sexually abused by Father Burnett? The answer to that question is very important to any investigation by law enforcement agencies and for any decision by the Review Committee. Please reply as soon as possible. May God bless you. Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2006 6:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hello Sister this is [REDACTED] I was told a month ago that the review committee would be meeting in middle of february and someone would let me

know whats going on about me coming forward about beign abused when I was a child. I have not heard from anyone and I keep noticing more and more people coming forward. I do not know how serious the diocese feels about sexual abuse but if it has not happened to you it is very hard for you to believe it could have happened to someone else.

I know The Lord says to forgive and that is fine by me but I can never forget what happened to me and how it has affected my life. One problem I see right now is that some of the parishoners who feel sexual abuse does not happen some of these people it probably happened to their parents and their parents are to scared embaressed to come forward. I have gotten emails from other parishoners who really said how courageous I was to come forward but that they do not have the courage to do it themselves for fear of embarassment scared about who will believe them and other reasons. This is such a terrible thing to happen to anyone and me beign a victim I know exactly what most of them are going through and what the ones that have not come forward are going through.

I know you have a big job ahead of you and I pray that it can stay together but with very strict screening and investigations before employment and also during investigators should show up in classrooms and ask the kids has anyone ever touched you in any of your private areas and if so who when and why didnt you tell your mom or dad or teacher or friend you will see the power of a priest when most all of the kids will deny it because of secrecy. god will bless all of us. Please respond to my email.
Thank you



Sr. Judith Davies

Received April 2014
TMJA
Revised April 2014

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 10:05 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your response saying that you do not know of any other individuals who have alleged sexual abuse by Father Burnett. Regarding the individuals who have informed you that they were sexually abused by other priests, please strongly encourage them to disclose their abuse to whatever official source they are most comfortable with in doing so. May God bless you.
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

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Sincerely
[REDACTED]

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enforcement agencies and for any decision by the Review Committee.

Please reply as soon as possible.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Released April 2014

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Thank you

Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 11:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister I have been trying to convince them that this is a very major problem and if they do not come forward than other children like we were are going to keep getting abused. It is the hardest thing for someone to do. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As much research as I have done I truly believe there are hundreds of more victims but I do not know how many with father Burnett but I will say that there is a small chance that I may be the only one he abused and then he said to himself well I got through it this far with one person but is it worth it to try it with someone else. I think the chances are much greater that he didnt stop with me nor do I think I am the only one he abused. The sad thing about all of this is Father Burnett denies this happened along with countless other priests that say they never did it. God knows Father Burnett knows and i know what happened to me with sexual abuse from Father burnett. this has had such a huge impact on my life and I know it has with all of the other victims too. The other victims I talk to I want to come forward for them as well but I cannot do that they want to do it but like I said they are scared embarrassed its a shame. I will close for now.

[REDACTED]

---Original Message---
From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 9:05 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subj [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]
I received your response saying that you do not know of any other individuals who have alleged sexual abuse by Father Burnett. Regarding the individuals who have informed you that they were sexually abused by other priests, please strongly encourage them to disclose their abuse to whatever official source they are most comfortable with in doing so.
May God bless you.
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

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Subj [REDACTED]

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TMA
Released April 2014
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keep coming out with more and more victims like myself that we NEED to come
forward for the sake of the children.
Sincerely

[Redacted]

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Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 2:31 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subj: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]
Since the Chancery is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, I am responding to
your message today.
The Diocesan Review Committee has deferred making any decision about Father
Burnett pending the outcome of investigations into your allegation by State
agencies.
You said in your mesage that "other parishioners" not only commented on your
courage in coming forward but have also told you that "they do not have the
courage to do it themselves for fear of embarrassment..."
Have any of these "other parishioners" alleged that they were sexually
abused by Father Burnett?
The answer to that question is very important to any investigation by law
enforcement agencies and for any decision by the Review Committee.
I hope you can
Please reply as soon as possible.
God bless you.
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

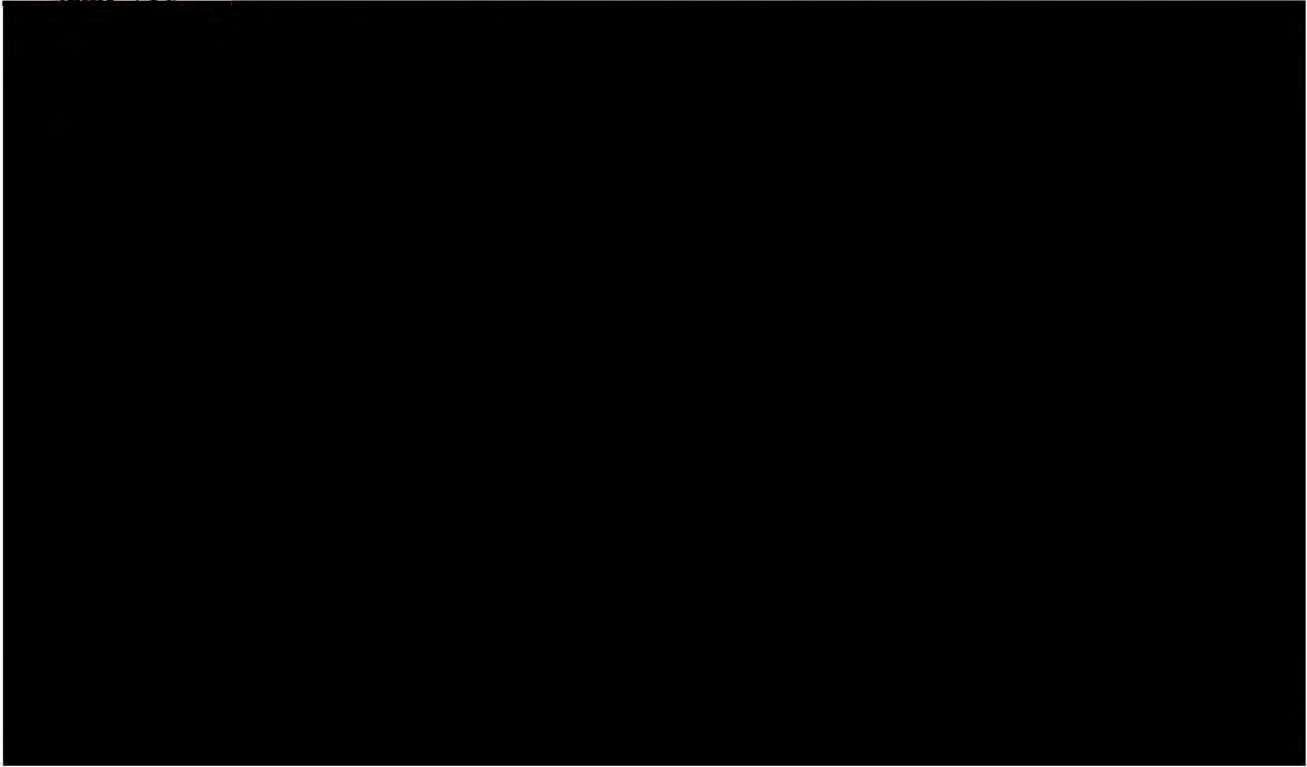
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2006 6:42 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subj: [Redacted]

Hello Sister this is [Redacted] I was told a month ago that the review
committee would be meeting in middle of february and someone would let me
know whats going on about me coming forward about beign abused when I was a
child. I have not heard from anyone and I keep noticing more and more people
coming forward. I do not know how serious the diocese feels about sexual
abuse but if it has not happened to you it is very hard for you to believe
it could have happened to someone else.
I know The Lord says to forgive and that is fine by me but I can never
forget what happened to me and how it has affected my life.
One problem I see right now is that some of the parishoners who feel sexual
abuse does not happen some of these people it probably happened to their
parents and their parents are to scared embaressed to come forward. I have
gotten emails from other parishoners who really said how courageous I was to
come forward but that they do not have the courage to do it themselves for
fear of embarassment scared about who will believe them and other reasons.
This is such a terrible thing to happen to anyone and me beign a victim I
know exactly what most of them are going through and what the ones that have
come forward are going through.
I know you have a big job ahead of you and I pray that it can stay together
but with very strict screening and investigations before employment and also
during investigators should show up in classrooms and ask the kids has

anyone ever touched you in any of your private areas and if so who when and why didnt you tell your mom or dad or teacher or friend you will see the power of a priest when most all of the kids will deny it because of secrecy. God will bless all of us. Please respond to my email.
Thank you

00 387

Released April 2014
TMA
Released April 2014



00 389

Redacted April 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014
Sr. Judith Davies

From: Fr. Joseph Tapella [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2006 8:38 AM
To: Judith
Subject: FW: disappointment

What do you think?

-----Original Message-----

From: Father James Dvorscak [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2006 8:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: jtapella@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Re: disappointment

Dear [REDACTED]

I am very sorry to hear of your pain and disappointment. Because your message is so important, I am forwarding it to the Bishop's Office for instructions. You are in my prayers. Please keep the parish in your prayers as well.

Fr. James Dvorscak

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: fatherjames@stmarymokena.org
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2006 10:08 PM
Subject: disappointment

I am writing this letter because of my disappointment that I have in a parish that I once considered to be my home and one of the best. You are in a position to rectify all of this blindness that has come out. People have so much faith in this institution that they can't fathom the concept of sexual predators living in its walls. I have been in such turmoil after learning that my brothers were fondled, sexually molested, raped and sodomized that it has taken me away from the church. This has no way swayed me away from my belief in God. I think it has made me even a stronger person who is more focused on what is important. God and my family are it. What I do have pity on is your parish. How your parish and school has handled this is despicable. Are you aware that I called St. Mary's Church to speak to you about Bill Virtue. Your Ast. Pastor acted like he knew nothing about his removal of his collar. I told him he was removed because of sexual abuse that happened in this parish. In Gods most sacred home. His arrogant response was to question who I was and I told him I was [REDACTED]. I told him that one of my brother has remained a John Doe and his response was "well of course he is a John Doe he is lying" There have been other boys that came forward from other parishes before my brother did. I am so disgusted in all of you that I am having a difficult time putting my thoughts to words. My pain is continuing to be hurt by St. Mary's lack of effort to help one of their fellow alumnus. I am not sure if you think God's plan is just to let it be, I can assure you that it is not. I truly believe that my brothers will be able to help other people now. This was an awful thing to have happened to them. They are getting the help that they need and this is the first step to healing. God works in mysterious ways. If you do speak to father Burnett let him know that repenting to his fellow priest who was aware of the abuse is not going to get him into Heaven. I don't think he wants to go or he never would have done those atrocious acts on children. Bill Virtue he is going straight to hell. Did you know that both Brunette and Virtue were at St. Mary's at the same time, both of them sexually abusing boys from the same family. How ironic is that. How a man in a position that is trying to imitate Jesus and his way of life abuses his role in our religious life is evil. God is very wise and I trust that He will give just punishment on judgment day. I am not sure why you as Pastor would not have a prayer vigil for the victims of abuse. I hope that you can pray and ask God for direction in how you can help victims that came forward and who are continuing to come forward so that their families don't feel the hurtful reaction that we have felt by a parish and community that we had so much history in. Again God works in mysterious ways because we have received so much support from people who we didn't expect it from. Letters, and phone call and prayer vigils from other churches and that it is a blessing. Maybe you can put some faith back into your congregation

3/12/2006

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014
and let them know that Jesus is very sad.

00 390

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

March 24, 2006

00 410

My very dear friends,

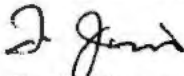
It has been too long since I have communicated with you. It was, naively, my hope that I would be back at St. Raymond's by now. But it seems that that is not to be, as of yet! I am innocent of all the accusations that have been made against me and I know that that innocence will prevail!

I do want to thank you for your many notes, cards and letters that have been so supportive of me. The many days since my departure have been dark, some darker than others. When I find myself unable to find the tunnel with the light, I re-read your messages and I am hopeful. I cannot express to you in any words the consolation, strength, and courage they have given me. Please know that, although responding to each of you as I would like is not possible, I hold all of you in my heart and in my prayers as you too must go through this devastating journey. I do believe deeply in the power of prayer and I do believe that your prayers will bring this situation to a happy conclusion.

I also want to thank Fr. Brad for his leadership, Fr. Joe Tapella, our Deacons and the dedicated Parish Staff for working so hard to "keep the ship afloat". St. Raymond Parish has a wonderful and loving spirit, as I soon discovered when I first arrived. I pray that nothing will ever diminish or damage that. It is your spirit that keeps me "afloat" right now!

Please continue to pray for my family and myself. This has been trying times for them also. It is my deepest hope that one day we will be together in person as we are now in prayer. My love and thanks to all of you!

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Jim Burnett

Redacted
TMJA
Released April 2014
Gloria McConnell

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 9:51 PM
Subject: [REDACTED]

Good Evening, My name is [REDACTED] and I am a victim of sexual abuse from father Burnett as you all have heard. Father Burnett continues to betray the Lord when he says he is innocent. Another thing comes to mind is that I do not have anything against all the parishoners who support father Burnett because he was my hero too. I gave ALL my TRUST TO HIM. He abused me and he knows it and God knows it. One of the hardest things for me to accept now is that the church is always asking for prayers for the priests and I really never hear about please let us pray for the victims too. It is sad but true. I wanted to let the parishoners know that more and more victims will be coming forward, and maybe then they will see how very true sexual abuse by priests are. Some of these supporters of the priests may not be aware but some of their parents were abused and they have not come forward. I personally know of some that told me about their childhood and one of them just told his wife but does not want his children to find out. It is such a powerful secret to keep. I do feel that 80-90 percent of priests are Righteous and 10-20 percent are like hyenas preying on the weak and the starving for attention type of people. The ones whos families they know are having problems and going through divorces and fighting. I do really pray for all of the victims the priests who have done abuse and for those who have not. What I would like to do is come before your parish with Father Burnett present and have a question and answer about what he did to me at st. Marys in Mokena Illinois as a vulnerable child. The problem is if he asks for forgiveness from god then he is supposed to be fine. I think that since I have come forward I have helped other children from either getting abused again or stopped some of the ones who were getting preyed on. Well I am going to close for now and I hope you can publish this in the bulletin so people can read this.
thank you

HomeFront

Contact City Editor Matt Cappelloni at (815) 729-6011

Production: April 2014
TRAJA
Release: April 2014
Ideas, comments, suggestions
FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 431

Pastor claims he didn't molest boy

■ **Rev. James Burnett:**
Accused of sexual
abuse 25 years
after incident

By **Ted Slowik**
STAFF WRITER

JOLIET — A popular Joliet pastor is publicly declaring he is innocent of a claim that he sexually abused a boy at a Mokena parish more than 25 years ago.

The Rev. James Burnett wrote to parishioners at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in a letter distributed in parish bulletins during the weekend.

"I am innocent of all the ac-



Burnett

"The many days since my departure have been dark, some darker than others."

Rev. James Burnett
rector of St. Raymond

cusations that have been made against me and I know that that innocence will prevail," Burnett wrote.

Joliet Bishop Joseph Imesch placed Burnett on administrative leave on Feb. 7, the day

went public with his claim that Burnett repeatedly molested him beginning when [redacted] was [redacted] years old in 1978. [redacted] claims the abuse included incidents in a confessional at St. Mary Church in Mokena.

The review board of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet continues to investigate the

claim. Through a diocesan spokesman, Burnett has denied the accusations all along, but the weekend's letter was his first direct declaration of his innocence.

"It was, naively, my hope that I would be back at St. Raymond's by now," Burnett wrote. "The many days since my departure have been dark, some darker than others."

Burnett wrote that he is encouraged by the many letters he has received from supporters, and that he re-reads the letters when he feels discouraged.

"I do believe deeply in the power of prayer and I do believe

that your prayers will bring this situation to a happy conclusion," Burnett wrote. "It is my deepest hope that one day we will be together in person as we are now in prayer."

Burnett, 63, has been rector of St. Raymond since 2002. He was ordained in 1968 and has also served at St. Charles Borromeo in Bensenville (1968-74); St. Mary, Mokena, (1974-90) and SS Peter and Paul, Naperville (1990-2002).

[redacted] first told the diocese of the alleged abuse on Dec. 20, but went public six weeks later while Burnett was still serving in active ministry. An attorney for [redacted] said Monday that a lawsuit concerning the alleged abuse would likely be filed in April.

Contact **Ted Slowik** at [redacted]

00 412

Redacted April 2014

TMJA Sr. Judith Davies

Released April 2014

00 422

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2006 2:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

You are invited to meet with the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at the Chancery. This meeting will provide you with the opportunity to speak directly with Review Committee members about your allegation against Father James Burnett. It will also give the Review Committee a chance to ask any questions it may need for clarification.

Please contact me at [REDACTED] regarding your attendance at the meeting. I ask that you respond no later than Friday, April 28, 2006.

Thank you very much.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 11:02 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Hello Sister Davies,

This is [REDACTED] in response to your email. I personally would really like to attend this meeting and as long as my counsel (attorneys) will be there with me I will be there.

The diocese investigator who interviewed me on a couple of occasions I wanted him to get back to me and to this day he has not called me back, but he continues to try and ask other classmates questions about my life. Mr. Kirby is his name. I do not want to talk to him again because he is very SNEAKY and you can tell him I told you this. I do not want to communicate with a SNEAKY investigator. I would love to be able to attend this by myself but my attorneys want to be present and that is their job to fight for me.

After reading Bishop Imesch's deposition I cannot believe that this man can honestly think it is ok to swim naked with little boys. He answered a question about if sexual abuse had happened to any of his kids and Bishop Imesch answered that he did not have no kids. To me this is not someone I trust at all. I am so sorry but this man is as guilty as all of the others who abused us victims.

Please let me know as soon as you read this. The diocese is going to have all these people there and I want my family and attorneys there.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2006 12:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

You are invited to meet with the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at the Chancery. This meeting will provide you with the opportunity to speak directly with Review Committee members about your allegation against Father James Burnett. It will also give the Review Committee a chance to ask any questions it may need for clarification.

Please contact me at [REDACTED] regarding your attendance at the meeting. I ask that you respond no later than Friday, April 28, 2006.

Thank you very much.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 9:40 PM
To: j [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

00 424

Sister Judith davies,
I am very excited about meeting the committee with my attorneys I would like your response by april 28th 2006 thank you. [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2006 12:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]
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Please contact me at [REDACTED] regarding your attendance at the meeting. I ask that you respond no later than Friday, April 28, 2006.

Thank you very much.
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

00 426

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2006 5:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt response to my message sent on behalf of the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee.

I can understand your concern and possible apprehension about meeting alone with the Committee. However, the Committee does not permit attorneys or family member to attend its meetings.

The purpose for inviting you to attend a meeting was to provide you with an opportunity to address the Committee about your allegation. (By the way, Committee members are not in the employ of the Diocese. Their names and qualifications are listed on the diocesan website, www.dioceseofjoliet.org. Go to Protecting Children. Click on Important Links, then Review Committee.) The Committee may ask questions for clarification. If there are any questions, only one member will ask them on behalf of all of the members.

The meeting is not audio taped and proceedings are not transcribed. Meetings are confidential with the understanding that statements made by the person would never be adversely used against him or her at any time.

You are welcome to attend but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Thank you very much. I will be awaiting your reply.

Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 9:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Sister Judith davies,

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From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2006 12:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting

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Thank you very much.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

but all the abusers since they are priests must be perfect and they could not have done anything wrong. It is very frustrating for me but I am making it and also pray for all of you people who really keep shutting your eyes and doors to all of us victims. It is a shame.
Sincerely
[Redacted]

00 429

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2006 3:58 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your prompt response to my message sent on behalf of the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee.

I can understand your concern and possible apprehension about meeting alone with the Committee. However, the Committee does not permit attorneys or family member to attend its meetings.

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Subject: Meeting

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TMJA
Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

00 430

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 2:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Sister Judith,

Hello again. I really want to come on my own. Unfortunately my attorneys feel that if they will not let attorneys in then they told me that Mr. Kirby interviewed me two times and everything stayed the same there is no need for them to ask you further questions without representation. In my heart I should be there but it is very selfish for the diocese to refuse my attorneys and family from going.

There has been so many lies and cover ups I do not trust the diocese anymore. Not everyone but some who have worked there for years and years. If the diocese had nothing to hide than why don't they let family and attorneys go to the review committee to support us victims of sexual abuse. The church is supposed to be open to EVERYONE so why would you not let family and attorneys in. THIS IS WRONG. REALLY WRONG. YOUR LETTING ALL THE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN BUT NOT PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT ME. I still have not gotten any support from any of you at the diocese yet you continue to support the sexual abuser (father Burnett) now doesn't that sound like a thing the devil would be proud of. Because Christ wouldn't like it. You let father Burnett write a column in the church bulletin why can't I write a piece on what he did to me for 4 years. The answer is because you want everyone that has been abused to look like they are not telling the truth but all the abusers since they are priests must be perfect and they could not have done anything wrong. It is very frustrating for me but I am making it and also pray for all of you people who really keep shutting your eyes and doors to all of us victims. it is a shame.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

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From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2006 3:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

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You are welcome to attend but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Thank you very much. I will be awaiting your reply.
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

4/27/2006

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 5:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I strongly disagree with some of your statements. The Diocese does care about victims. That the Diocese cares about you is evident in that an invitation was extended to you to meet with the Review Committee.

As I said, you are welcome to attend the Review Committee meeting but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and will rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Thank you very much.
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 2:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

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Sincerely
[REDACTED]

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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

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Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 9:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Sister Judith davies,
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Thank you very much.
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

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Thank you very much.
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

00 433

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 2:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Sister Judith,
Hello again. I really want to come on my own. Unfortunately my attorneys feel that if they will not let attorneys in then they told me that Mr. Kirby interviewed me two times and everything stayed the same there is no need for them to ask you further questions without representation. In my heart I should be there but it is very selfish for the diocese to refuse my attorneys and family from going.
There has been so many lies and cover ups I do not trust the diocese anymore. Not everyone but some who have worked there for years and years. If the diocese had nothing to hide than why don't they let family and attorneys go to the review committee to support us victims of sexual abuse. The church is supposed to be open to EVERYONE so why would you not let family and attorneys in. THIS IS WRONG. REALLY WRONG. YOUR LETTING ALL THE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN BUT NOT PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT ME. I still have not gotten any support from any of you at the diocese yet you continue to support the sexual abuser (father Burnett) now doesn't that sound like a thing the devil would be proud of. Because Christ wouldn't like it. You let father Burnett write a column in the church bulletin why can't I write a piece on what he did to me for 4 years. The answer is because you want everyone that has been abused to look like they are not telling the truth but all the abusers since they are priests must be perfect and they could not have done anything wrong. It is very frustrating for me but I am making it and also pray for all of you people who really keep shutting your eyes and doors to all of us victims. it is a shame.
Sincerely
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2006 3:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt response to my message sent on behalf of the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee.

I can understand your concern and possible apprehension about meeting alone with the Committee. However, the Committee does not permit attorneys or family member to attend its meetings.

The purpose for inviting you to attend a meeting was to provide you with an opportunity to address the Committee about your allegation. (By the way, Committee members are not in the employ of the Diocese. Their names and qualifications are listed on the diocesan website, www.dioceseofjoliet.org. Go to Protecting Children. Click on Important Links, then Review Committee.) The Committee may ask questions for clarification. If there are any questions, only one member will ask them on behalf of all of the members.

The meeting is not audio taped and proceedings are not transcribed. Meetings are confidential with the understanding that statements made by the person would never be adversely used against him or her at any time.

You are welcome to attend but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Thank you very much. I will be awaiting your reply.
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

COMMUNICATION WITH [REDACTED]
REGARDING HIS PRESENCE AT THE MAY 24TH MEETING

SJ – April 24, 2006: [REDACTED] invited to meet with Committee May 24, 2006.

[REDACTED] – April 25, 2006 (11:02 a.m.) Will be present as long as his attorneys can be present. Described investigator as being sneaky. Wants family and attorneys present.

[REDACTED] – April 25, 2006 (9:40 p.m.): States he is excited about meeting the Committee with his attorneys.

SJ – April 26, 2006: Purpose of meeting to address Committee. Committee members are not in the employ of Diocese. Meetings are not taped and are confidential. Statements made by a person would not be adversely used against him/her anytime. Welcome to attend but without attorneys or family members.

[REDACTED] – April 27, 2006: His attorneys feel that there is no need for Committee to ask questions without representation by attorneys. Diocese does not care about victims.

SJ – April 27, 2006: Diocese cares. Welcome to attend without attorneys and family members.

[REDACTED] – April 29, 2006: Wants to come but thinks it is unfair that attorneys cannot be present. Wants Review Committee to go to Mokena to see the facility.

April 28, 2006: Phone conversation. [REDACTED] said that he wants to come to the meeting even though his attorneys think he ought not to attend without them. I told him that the Diocese would pay reasonable airfare; ground transportation his responsibility.

SJ – May 1, 2006: Confirmed phone conversation of April 28 with e-mail. Diocese will pay airfare, information about booking a flight. Attend without attorneys or family members.

May 2, 2006: Letter to Mr. Byrne from Mr. Anderson.

Redacted April 2014 **New Clergy Child Sex Abuse Cases Filed**

TMJA
Released April 2014 **Two Predator Priests Worked in Three Illinois Dioceses**

Brothers Were Repeatedly Molested By Different Clerics

Joliet, Rockford and Peoria Dioceses Are Involved

What:

At a news conference, two new child sex abuse lawsuits against two priests will be disclosed and discussed. Both clerics were suspended just this year.

When:

TODAY, Wednesday, May 24, 1:00 p.m.

Where:

At the law firm of Kerns, Pitrof, Frost & Peariman, Three First National Plaza, 70 W. Madison (Suite 5350) in downtown Chicago IL

Who:

One of the victim's sister, [REDACTED] the attorneys, and the founder of a support group called SNAP, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

Visuals:

Photos of both victims as children will be available.

Why:

In February, [REDACTED] publicly disclosed and reported to Joliet Catholic officials that he was repeatedly sexually abused as a child by Fr. James Burnett from roughly 1978-82. The crimes took place when [REDACTED] was roughly 8-12 years old and a member of St. Mary's parish in Mokena.

At that time, Burnett was the rector of the Cathedral of St. Raymond Church in Joliet. Then-Bishop Joseph Imesch suspended the cleric.

For the first time, today [REDACTED] is reporting his victimization by another priest, Fr. William D. Virtue. The crimes took place in 1981-82, in the rectory, confessional, and other places, when [REDACTED] was a 7th grader. [REDACTED]

Both [REDACTED] are filing civil child molestation lawsuits today.

Virtue was ordained in 1975 worked in three dioceses. He was initially in four Joliet diocese parishes: St. Mary Magdalene (Joliet, 1976) St. Dominic (Bolingbrook, 1978-79), St. Mary Nativity (Joliet, 1980-81) and St. Mary (Mokena, 1981). He then worked in the Peoria Diocese at Sacred Heart (Campus, 1982-87), Sacre Coeur (Creve Coeur, 1990), St. Joseph's Nursing Home (Lacon, 1991), Sacred Heart (Granville, 1992), Sacred Heart (Campus, 1993-95), St. Mary (Loretto, 1993-95), St. Theresa (Earlville, 1996-98), & Sacred Heart (Farmer City, 2001). In 2003, he handled three Rockford diocese parishes (St. Flannen in Harmon, St. Patrick in Marytown and St. Mary's in Walton) His last two assignments were in the Peoria Diocese: St. James (Lee, 2004) and St. Teresa (Earlville, 2006), where sex abuse allegations forced his suspension in February 2006.

Burnett, who was ordained in 1968, worked only in the Joliet Diocese: Bensenville (St. Charles Borromeo 1969-75), Mokena (St. Mary's Church 1976-90), and Naperville (Sts. Peter and Paul Church 1991-2002).

Contact:

Attorney Jeff Anderson of St. Paul 612 817 8665 cell
Attorney Marc Pearlman of Chicago 312 261 4550, 773 368 0142 cell
Barbara Blaine of Chicago, SNAP founder 312 399 4747

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2006 11:17 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of Friday, April 28, 2006. The Diocese will pay your reasonable (\$300 or less) airfare to and from Chicago for a meeting with the Review Committee on Wednesday, May 24, 2006. If you plan to attend the meeting, please book a direct flight, 21 days in advance, on either Southwest or United for travel on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 with a return flight on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 or Thursday, May 25, 2006. Ground transportation, etc. will be your responsibility. You are welcome to attend the Review Committee meeting but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Please advise me at your earliest convenience if you will be present. Thank you.
Sr. Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2006 6:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Sister davies, I have been thinking more about this and I cannot have family members or my attorneys present so I do not feel that this is a just way of doing this. As much as I want to come by myself I still feel this is not at all fair because you can dictate who you can have there and I cant have nobody there it sounds like a communist thing to me. if you allow my family and my attorneys to attend we will proceed with this. [REDACTED] his isnt right. Then you say you will pay for my flight but not my rental car gas hotel food. This investigation should be between me father burnett and where and when it took place. So why cant we go to the school and show the review committee what happened where? I noticed that back in 2002 father Barrett got reinstated because no other allegations came forward so that means he didnt do it. So if father Burnett doesnt have anymore allegations against him it means ok he got away with it this time but if it happens again then we will have to remove him.
Thank you
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 3:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

I strongly disagree with some of your statements. The Diocese does care about victims. That the Diocese cares about you is evident in that an invitation was extended to you to meet with the Review Committee.
As I said, you are welcome to attend the Review Committee meeting but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and will rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Redacted April 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014 June 14, 2006

Diocesan Review Board
Diocese of Joliet

Dear Review Board Members,

At the May Review Board Meeting I was asked if I knew a [REDACTED] I said I did and I do know him as a student at St. Mary Mokena School. He was there several years ago. I really have no recollection of him during that time, but I do know he was a student there. But there is an odd event that happened with [REDACTED] about eight months ago.

[REDACTED] called me and asked for an appointment. Quite frankly I thought he was someone else who has a similar name. But he came for the appointment. The conversation with him was a bit disjointed. He seemed nervous. [REDACTED]

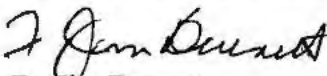
[REDACTED] I figured he has come for financial help. He seemed to be in need of money. Instead he abruptly ended the conversation and asked for prayers.

As he left, Sister [REDACTED] was standing in the hall outside the office. She met him and I showed him to the door, reassuring him of the prayers he asked for and told him to keep in touch and that was it. When I returned to Sister Dominic I mentioned how odd the meeting was and how I thought he was looking for money.

I have since learned that [REDACTED] is a friend of [REDACTED] and may be working for [REDACTED]

I don't if this has anything to do with anything, but given recent developments, it might so I pass this information on to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Fr. Jim Burnett

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

00 446

[Redacted]
From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2006 12:01 AM
Subject: [Redacted]

Good morning my name is [Redacted] I am one of the people abused by father james Burnett when I attended St. Marys in Mokena. The reason I am writing this is because I have found out that you published an article from father burnett to post in your bulletin. I hope you would be fair and post my article in the bulletin.what most of the parishoners have a hard time believing is that a priest couldnt do such a thing especially Father Burnett. I asked the review committee if we could go to St. Marys and I would show them exactly where the sexual abuses happened but they said we do not need to do that our review committee will make that decision.Now if this was a neighbor who did this to your child and the police told you we do not need to go to the seen of the crimes we are just going to interview people who lived nearby or were classmates friends relatives, wouldnt you think that it was totally unjust and a cover up.I know of another person who is 2 years younger than me at st. Marys when i was there was abused by father Burnett too. Apparently his lawyer told my lawyer that he will be coming forward soon. What I want to say is that priests are human beings too and yes some sexually abuse boys like myself and yes do kill like the priest who killed the nun 25 years ago and nobody ever suspected it.Parishoners can support whoever they feel like supporting but if they were not there during the times it happened how can they say it never happened.I feel people should not take sides until all the facts are present and then they should voice their beliefs.thanks for your time and please let me know if you will publish this. thank you
God bless

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

SPESIA, AYERS

&

ARDAUGH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

00 458

Redacted April 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

1415 BLACK ROAD
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435
PH 815.726.4311
FX 815.726.6828
WEB WWW.SPESIA-AYERS.COM

August 7, 2006

Mr. James Glasgow
Will County State's Attorney
121 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, Illinois 60432

DOUGLAS F. SPESIA
E. KENT AYERS
JOHN R. ARDAUGH
JAMES C. BYRNE
JOHN M. SPESIA
CHRISTIAN G. SPESIA
JEFFREY S. TAYLOR
MARTIN J. SHANAHAN, JR.
MARK A. LICHTENWALTER
GABRIEL G. ORENIC

Re: *Allegations of*

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

This letter is pursuant to the Diocesan policy to inform the State's Attorney of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

The Diocese has recently received an allegation against Father James Burnett, by a [REDACTED] who is now age [REDACTED]

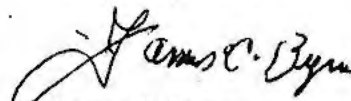
[REDACTED] alleges that he recalls being sexually abused by Father Burnett on one occasion many years ago when he made his first confession at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois.

[REDACTED] is represented by an attorney in Chicago who is:

Terrance M. Johnson
North Pier Chicago
455 East Illinois Street
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 922-4022

Father Burnett was previously the pastor of St. Raymond Cathedral, and in the early part of the year was put on administrative leave because of similar allegations by a [REDACTED] who is now [REDACTED] years old.

Very Truly Yours,



James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

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