

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

## SPESIA &amp; AYERS

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August 22, 2011

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.  
North Pier Chicago  
455 East Illinois Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Douglas F. Spesia  
(1940-2010)

Re: *Rudofski vs Diocese of Joliet**Father Dedera*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As per a Court Order, I am enclosing Diocesan records of Father Dedera consisting of the following:

- 1.) **Priest file of Father Dedera** (total pages 1,045)
- 2.) **A Privilege Log**, for documents in this priest file.
- 3.) **Review Committee Minutes** from six meetings.

**Names of Accuser**

The only accuser whose name has been disclosed to the public is [REDACTED] who had filed suit under his actual name.

Due to the considerable length of this file and a conflict in schedule, this is the only file being sent this week.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA &amp; AYERS

By:   
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

Enclosure

cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD  
The Honorable Michael Powers  
Mr. Patrick Bradley, Esq.  
Mr. Joseph M. Laraia, Esq.  
Mr. Stuart L. Bressler, Esq.

# PRIVILEGE LOG

(August 22, 2011)

Re: Father Dedera  
 Priest File

<u>Page</u>	<u>Document</u>		<u>Privilege</u>
000135-A	Letter dated 03/12/70	From Alice Fehrenbach, Ph.D. Father Persich	<u>Mental Health</u>
000136 thru 000137	Letter dated 03/13/70	From Rector Persich to Father Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000138	Letter dated 03/17/70	From Father Kaffer to Members of the Seminary Board	<u>Mental Health</u>
000151	Letter dated 05/05/70	From William McCaw, Jr., M.D. to Father Persich	<u>Mental Health</u>
000155	Note dated 05/11/70	By Bishop Kaffer regarding telephone conversation with Persich	Mental Health
000158	Letter dated 05/14/70	From Father Kaffer to Members of Seminary Board	<u>Mental Health</u>
000159	Letter dated 05/15/70	From Bishop Vonesh to Father Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000160	Letter dated 05/15/70	From Chancellor Ryan to Father Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>



000189 thru 000191	Psychological Report dated 07/13/70	By Wilma Inskip, Ph.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>
000192 thru 000193	Letter dated 07/29/70	From William Cusick, M.D. to Father Ryan	<u>Mental Health</u>
000289 thru 000290	Letter dated 06/01/95	From Barbara Brickner-St. Michael's Therapy to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000291	07/01/95 Invoice	From Linda Soroos, St. Michael's Therapy	<u>Mental Health</u>
000410	Letter dated 04/24/95	From Cynthia Power, M.A., CSC Judge Orenic	<u>Constitutional Right of Privacy as to part identifying alleged victim</u>
000411 thru 000414	Summary of Evaluation Session Undated	By Cynthia A. Power, M.A., CSC	<u>Constitutional Right of Privacy as to part identifying alleged victim; Privacy of third parties as to part of documents. (Third party information removed.); Mental Health</u>
000415 thru 000420	Fax dated April 21, 1995	From Behavioral Medicine Institute of Atlanta with The National Network for the treatment of professional sexual misconduct program description	<u>Mental Health</u>

000422-A Letter dated 05/10/95  
thru 000423

From Cynthia Power, M.A., CSC to  
Judge Orenic

Constitutional Right of  
Privacy as to part identifying  
alleged victim; mental health;  
Privacy of third parties as to  
part of documents (Third  
party information removed)

000424 Summary of Evaluation  
thru 000458 dated 05/17/95

By Gene Able, M.D. to  
Bishop Kaffer

Mental Health; Constitutional  
Right of Privacy as to part  
identifying alleged victim;  
Privacy of third parties as to  
part of documents (Third  
party information removed)

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All mental health privileges relating to Father Dederda from pages 463 to 781 are primarily with therapist at a facility known as St. Michael's Community in St. Louis, MO, and the Servant of the Paraclete.

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000463 Letter dated 06/14/95

From Rev. Paul of St. Michael's to  
Bishop Kaffer

Mental Health

000473 Letter dated 07/10/95  
thru 000482

From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed.  
with enclosure of progress notes

Mental Health

000490 07/27/95 Letter  
thru 000497

From Michael Foley, LCSW to  
Bishop Kaffer with enclosure  
07/19/95 Psychological Evaluation  
of Phillip Dederda

Mental Health

000498 Mental Health Records  
thru 000500

For Philip Dederda

Mental Health



000501 thru 000505	Mental Health Records dated 08/09/95	Evaluation by F. Timothy Leonberger, Ph.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>
000508 thru 000514	08/17/95 Letter	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Progress Report for period beginning 05/30/95	<u>Mental Health</u>
000517	Letter dated 09/18/95	From Bishop Kaffer to Dr. McAuliffe	<u>Constitutional Right of Privacy as to alleged victim</u>
000518 thru 000526	Letter dated 09/26/95	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Progress Report for period beginning 05/30/95	<u>Mental Health</u>
000527	Letter dated 09/27/1995	From Michael Foley, LCSW to Bishop Kaffer	Mental Health
000530 thru 000538	Letter dated 10/10/95	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Progress Report for period beginning 05/30/95	<u>Mental Health</u>
000539 thru 000546	Letter dated 11/15/95	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Progress Report for treatment beginning 05/30/95	<u>Mental Health</u>
000547 thru 000552	Psychiatric Evaluation dated 12/01/95	By Joseph Callahan, M.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>



000553 Letter dated 12/04/95  
thru 000560

From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed.  
to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure  
Progress Report for treatment beginning  
05/30/95

Mental Health

000568 Letter dated 01/24/96  
thru 000581

From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed.  
to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure  
Progress Report for treatment beginning  
05/30/95

Mental Health

000582 Psycho Social History  
thru 000584 dated 02/01/96

By Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed.

Mental Health; Constitutional  
Right of Privacy as to part  
identifying alleged victim;  
Privacy of third parties as to  
part of documents (Third  
party information removed)

000585 Letter dated 03/04/96  
thru 000596

From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed.  
to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure  
Progress Report for treatment beginning  
05/30/95

Mental Health

000598 Letter dated 03/21/96  
thru 000608

From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed.  
to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure  
Progress Report for treatment beginning  
05/30/95

Mental Health

000609 Letter dated 03/25/96  
thru 000611

From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed.  
to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure  
Progress Report for treatment beginning  
05/30/95

Mental Health

000612	Letter dated 03/28/96	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Progress Report for treatment beginning 05/30/95	<u>Mental Health</u>
000613	Letter dated 03/28/96	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000619 thru 000633	Letter dated 04/22/96	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Progress Report for treatment beginning 05/30/95	<u>Mental Health</u>
000634	Invoice dated 05/31/96	From Servants of the Paraclete to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000635	Letter dated 06/11/96	From Bishop Kaffer to Rev. Foley	<u>Mental Health</u>
000636 thru 000648	Letter dated 06/17/96	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Progress Report for treatment beginning 05/30/95	<u>Mental Health</u>
000649 thru 000652	Letter dated 06/21/96	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Imesch	<u>Mental Health</u>
000654 thru 000657	Letter dated 07/08/96	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000658 thru 000660	07/10/96 Letter	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer including enclosure	<u>Mental Health</u>



000662	Invoice dated 06/30/96	From Servants of the Paraclete to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000663	Invoice dated 06/05/96	From Timothy G. McAuliffe, Ph.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>
000664	Invoice dated 05/13/96	From Timothy G. McAuliffe, Ph.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>
000672	Invoice dated 07/31/96	From Servants of the Paraclete	<u>Mental Health</u>
000673	Invoice	From Timothy G. McAuliffe, Ph.D. for services provided in June of 1996	<u>Mental Health</u>
000674 thru 000680	Letter	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Progress Report for treatment beginning 05/30/95	<u>Mental Health</u>
000681 thru 000682	Letter dated 08/09/96	From Bishop Kaffer to Servants of the Paraclete bookkeeper with enclosure – invoice date 07/31/96	<u>Mental Health</u>
000683	Invoice	From Timothy G. McAuliffe, Ph.D. for services rendered June of 1996	<u>Mental Health</u>
000687	Invoice dated 08/17/96	From Scott Radiological Group, Inc. to Phillip Deder	<u>Medical</u>
000689	Invoice dated 07/31/96	From Servants of the Paraclete to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000690	Invoice dated 08/31/96	From Servants of the Paraclete to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>



000691	Invoice dated 08/08/96	From Timothy G. McAuliffe, Ph.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>
000692	Letter dated 10/16/96	From Sister Lampton to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000693 thru 000697	Letter dated 10/16/96	From Sister Lampton to Father Dederda with enclosure	<u>Mental Health</u>
000699	Letter dated 11/25/96	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.d. to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000700	Dec. 2 -6, 1996	After Care Workshop Program	<u>Mental Health</u>
000701 thru 000706	Letter dated 12/9/96	From Barbara Brickner, M.S.Ed. to Bishop Kaffer with enclosure Summary of re-entry workshop	<u>Mental Health</u>
000707 thru 000710	Letter	From Sister Lampton to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000713	Invoice dated 01/31/97	From Servants of the Paraclete to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000714	Invoice dated 12/26/96	From William Perri, Ph.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>
000716 thru 000721	Letter	From Sister Lampton to Bishop Kaffer with enclosures	<u>Mental Health; Medical</u>
000725 thru 000728	Letter dated 06/04/97	From Sister Lampton to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>

000729	May 12 -16, 1997	After Care Workshop Program	<u>Mental Health</u>
000731	Invoice dated 06/30/97	From Servants of the Paraclete to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000734 thru 000739	Letter dated 09/03/97	From Sister Lampton to Bishop Kaffer with enclosures	<u>Mental Health; Medical</u>
000740	Letter dated 09/15/97	From Bishop Kaffer to Sister Lampton	<u>Mental Health</u>
000743 thru 00746	Letter date 11/12/97	From Sister Lampton to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000747	Oct. 20-24, 1997	After Care Workshop Program	<u>Mental Health</u>
000748	Letter dated 11/19/97	From Bishop Kaffer to Sister Lampton	<u>Mental Health</u>
000750	Invoice dated 12/01/97	From Servants of the Paraclete to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000751	Invoice dated 10/25/97	From Michael Foley, Psy.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>
000755 thru 000760	Letter dated 01/21/98	From Sister Lampton to Bishop Kaffer with enclosures	<u>Mental Health</u>
000777 thru 000780	Letter date 03/31/98	From Sister Lampton to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000781	March 9-13, 1998	After Care Workshop Program	<u>Mental Health</u>



000791	Invoice	From Michael E. Foley, Psy.D.	<u>Mental Health</u>
000792	Invoice dated 04/30/98	From Servants of the Paraclete to Bishop Kaffer	<u>Mental Health</u>
000834	Memo of 12/15/2000		Constitutional Right to Privacy of Third Parties as to Part of Documents
000878	Letter of 05/24/2002	From Bishop Imesch to Victim	Constitutional Right to Privacy as to identity of victim.
000942	Memo of 12/09/2002		Constitutional Right to Privacy of Third Parties as to Part of Documents
001016	Memo of 06/13/2006	Re: Pension	Constitutional Right to Privacy of Third Parties as to Part of Documents
001002	Letter of 10/04/2006	From Attorney Byrne to Bishop Sartain	Attorney-Client
001012 thru 001013	Letter of 03/28/2007	From Attorney Byrne to Bishop Sartain	Attorney-Client
001014 thru 001015	Letter of 01/12/2007	From Attorney Byrne to Bishop Sartain	Attorney-Client
001018 thru 001023	Letter of 05/04/2007	From Attorney Byrne to Bishop Sartain and evidence	Attorney-Client



001035 thru Summary of invoice  
001036 for medical and mental  
health services

Medical/Mental Health

001041 thru Letter of 03/04/2020  
001043

From Attorney Byrne to  
Bishop Sartain

Attorney-Client

001044 thru Letter of 10/26/2010  
001045

From Attorney Byrne to  
Insurance Appraiser and copy  
to Bishop Sartain

Attorney-Client

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

## MINUTES OF THE JOLIET DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 10, 2002

PLACE Conference Room, Chancery Building

TIME 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Others: Mr. James Byrne, Sr. Judith Davies

OPENING

The meeting opened with prayer.

DEDERA

A man claimed that he was abused back in the 70's. He [REDACTED] went to see the priest who abused him. He [REDACTED] will be coming to meet with Bishop Imsch. When the man learned that the priest has limited ministry in a nursing home he seemed satisfied with that, however now he does not want the priest to function. The priest denies anything happened saying that he cannot remember the person. The priest who had been removed from parish ministry because of a previous allegation, [REDACTED]

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Released April 2014

MINUTES OF THE JOLIET DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 23, 2002

PLACE Conference Room, Chancery Building

TIME 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT [REDACTED] Others: Bp. James Fitzgerald, James Byrne, Sr. Judith Davies

OPENING The meeting opened at 8:00 with prayer by all in attendance.

DEDERA Mr. [REDACTED] alleged abuse by Fr. Phillip Dederer. [REDACTED] attempted to contact him, but he did not return her call.



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Released April 2014

## CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOLIET DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

November 19, 2002

PLACE Conference Room, Chancery Building

TIME 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT [REDACTED]

EXCUSED [REDACTED]

OPENING The meeting opened at 7:30 a.m. with prayer.

DEDERA/  
IRVINE

No report was available regarding a follow-up letter to Mr. [REDACTED]

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOLIET DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

March 26, 2003

PLACE Conference Room, Chancery Building

TIME 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT

EXCUSED

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IRVINE

Mr. [REDACTED] did not wish any follow-up to his case.



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Released April 2014

## CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOLIET DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

November 10, 2004

PLACE Conference Room, Chancery Building

TIME 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT [REDACTED]

EXCUSED [REDACTED]

OPENING The meeting opened at 7:30 a.m. with prayer.

GRECO

In March of 2004, Mr. [REDACTED] alleged abuse by Fr. Philip Dederer. Later, Mr. Byrne received a letter from Mr. Jeff Anderson stating that Mr. [REDACTED] is also alleging abuse by another priest. Mr. Byrne immediately requested additional information. After a considerable amount of time, Mr. Byrne received a response including a copy of an e-mail sent from Mr. [REDACTED] to Attorney Finnegan of Mr. Anderson's office. In line with diocesan policy, the State's Attorney (DuPage County) was advised of the allegation, was given the priest's name, and was informed that the priest is in ministry.

An investigation on behalf of the Committee will depend on steps taken by the State's Attorney.

A motion was made and carried, that the Bishop is to use his judgment in advising the priest about having contact with children.

ORDERS  
TONSURE  
FIRST MINORS  
SEC. MINORS  
SUB-DIACONATE  
DIACONATE  
PRIESTHOOD  
DATE APPOINTED

DATE  
CONFERRED

ORDAINING BISHOP

PLACE

DATE  
CONFERRED

EXTRAORDINARY APPOINTMENTS

DATE  
DELIVERED

4-12-71 R.J. Jonesh  
4-16-71 R.R. Blanchette  
11/1/72 R.R. Blanchette

St. Charles, Lockport  
Cathedral of St. Jay

6-22-88 Dean Ford, Progenos County

000001

11 1 72  
1 27 76  
7 7 78  
2 28 79  
6 18 84  
4 3 86  
6 22 88  
6 21 89  
7 15 96  
4 15 98  
" " "

Romeoville, St. Andrew  
Lombard, St. Pius X  
Elmhurst, Visitation  
Roselle, St. Wafar's  
Woodridge, St. Scholastica  
St. Mary, Naperville  
Dean Ford, Progenos  
Mokenca, St. Patrick  
St. Patrick Residence, Naperville  
Edward Hospital, Naperville  
St. Thomas, Naperville

Asst. 1 27 76  
Asst. 7 7 78  
Assoc. 2 28 79  
Assoc. 6 18 84  
Assoc. 4 3 86  
Pastor 6 21 89  
Pastor 6 21 95  
Chaplain  
In Residence



DEDERA, Rev. Phillip

DATE  
OF BIRTH

HOME  
ADDRESS  
HOME  
PARISH

NATIONALITY

FATHER'S  
NAME

MOTHER'S  
MAIDEN NAME

READING KNOWLEDGE OF  
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

SPEAKING KNOWLEDGE OF  
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

PUBLIC SPEAKING  
RATING

PREPARATORY  
EDUCATION

DEGREES

REMARKS:

PLACE  
OF BIRTH

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Downer House Public Schools; St. Thomas Seminary,  
Kenosha, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary



DEDERA PHILLIP Joseph

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FR. DEDERA SCAN FROM DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 19

000007

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

1012 E. FRANKLIN STREET  
DOWNERS GROVE  
ILLINOIS

August 2, 1963

The Reverend Roger Kaffer  
The Cahnery Office  
Joliet, Illinois.

Dear Father Kaffer:

Philip Deder, a young man from our parish, has expressed his intention of studying for the Priesthood for the Joliet Diocese. Phil graduated from Downers Grove High School this past June. He is an excellent young man. What is our next move?

With kindest regards, I am  
Sincerely yours

*R. J. Kelly*



Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014

## SEMINARIAN INTERVIEW - DIOCESE OF JOLIET.

Date 8/6/63 26

000003

1. Name: *Philip Joseph Dedera*
2. Address: [REDACTED]
3. Phone: [REDACTED]
4. Date of birth: [REDACTED] Place: *Chicago, Illinois*
5. Church of baptism: *Our Lady of Holy Mount* Confirmation: *St. Joseph - D.C.*
- 6.a) Father's full name: [REDACTED]
- b) Father's age: *59* c) Religion (convert?) *RC* d) Living? *Yes*
- 7.a) Mother's maiden name: [REDACTED]
- b) Mother's age: *58* c) Religion (convert?) *RC* d) Living? *NO - 1950*
8. Were your parents married by a priest? *Yes* When, where?
9. Are your parents living together? *No* If not, explain on reverse side.
10. Any insanity in family or relationship? *No* If so, explain on reverse side.
11. Brothers' and sisters' names: Agnes? Marital status? At home?

- 12.a) Name of parish: *St. Joseph*
- b) Address: *D.C.*
- c) Name of pastor: *Mrs. Kiley*
- 13.a) Education (Indicate schools and years of graduations) *Samuel H. Lombard - 1 year*  
*D.C. - public school - 7 years*  
*4 yrs. Comm. High - D.C.*
- b) Did you participate in any athletic activities at school? *Football, wrestling track -*
14. Indicate amount of Latin studied: *None*
15. Indicate college and seminary courses already covered: *NO*
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? *NO* Explain: *Too many h's to do at home*
21. How long have you wanted to be a priest? *for a long time - esp. last 2 years*
22. Why do you want to be a priest? *hard church work - want to help people as a*
23. Why do you want to study for the Joliet diocese? *no priest serving God -*
24. Name and address of priest friend who knows you well: *none - want parish work*  
*Father Holup - Glendale Heights*
25. Any priests or sisters among close relatives? *Yes* Explain: *Cousin - Dominican*  
*Uncle & Fr. Dedera*  
*Abbot Ondewh*
26. What is your draft status?
27. Are you a convert? *No* Explain:
28. Can you pay your school expenses? *No*

\*\*\*\*\*

## REMARKS:

Letter of recommendation from Pastor: ☒ From school: Medical report:

Baptismal record:

Confirmation record:

Marriage record of parents:

Seminary assigned:

Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014

had been unemployed  
now works for brother in food market.

Scholastic : H.S. - 1<sup>st</sup> - 2 years - D's and C's



000003

August 7, 1963

The Reverend Marcian O'Meara, O.S.B.  
Immaculate Conception Seminary  
Conception, Missouri

Dear Father Marcian:

I am trying to hold the fort with regard to our seminarians in Father Kaffer's absence. We have received a late application from a nephew of the late Abbott of St. Procopius, Ambrose Ondrak, Mr. Philip J. Deder, 1634 West 63rd Street, Downers Grove, Illinois. Philip comes to us highly recommended by his pastor and the other priests of the parish.

As you will note, in the early part of his high school career, especially, he has not been outstanding. However, he seems to have improved somewhat in the last few years. You will note also the indication of his I.Q., which is not outstanding either.

The difficulty with Philip is that he has had no Latin at all. Immediately, of course, our thoughts turned to the possibility of his enrollment at Conception. I realize the problems with your enrollment. However, I am wondering if, since your last conversation with Father Kaffer, the picture might have changed, and you might find a place for Philip for the fall term.

This, of course, assumes that you feel that he should enroll in the seminary, given his scholastic and intellectual background.

I would appreciate your reply at your earliest convenience.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Ecclesiastical Notary

DLR/cc

PS I am enclosing a copy of the transcript of credits for Philip.

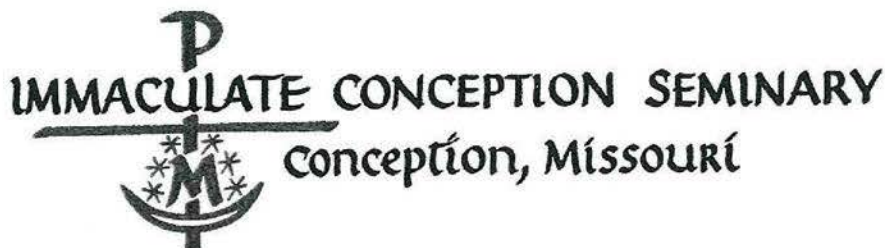


Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000010



Office of the Rector

August 9, 1963

Rev. Daniel L. Ryan  
The Chancery Office  
Diocese of Joliet  
310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois

Dear Father Ryan:

Father Marcian has referred <sup>to me</sup> your letter to him of August 7 requesting some response to the application of MR. PHILIP J. DEDERA.

We could not possibly enroll Mr. Dedera here this fall inasmuch as we are absolutely filled.

Further, on the basis of his past record, I doubt very much that the young lad will ever be able to qualify for college work.

However, if you think fit, I might suggest a year at Benet Lake Latin School in Benet Lake, Wisconsin. This should give some indication as to whether the lad can qualify for seminary training.

It was so nice meeting you again a few weeks ago. Greetings to all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Maur Burbach, O.S.B.*  
Very Rev. Maur Burbach, O.S.B.  
Rector

MB:mo

FR. DEDERA SCAN FROM DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO.

31

AREA CODE 815  
TELEPHONE 722-6613

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

*Chancery Office*

310 BRIDGE STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS

000012

M E M O

TO: Father Kaffer  
DATE: August 14, 1963  
RE: Philip Dederá

You will note from the enclosed correspondence that Conception was unable to consider the application of Mr. Philip Dederá. After some discussion with Father Brendan McGrath and Monsignor Blanchette, I was instructed by Monsignor Blanchette to see what I could do about enrolling Philip at the Benet Latin School, Benet Lake, Wisconsin.

DLR



# Benedictine Fathers

ST. BENEDICT'S ABBEY FOR HOME MISSIONS

BENET LAKE, WISCONSIN

ach-8/16  
000013

RAILWAY STATION  
ANTIOCH, ILLINOIS  
PHONE: 396-4350  
AREA CODE 414

August 14, 1963

Rev. and dear Father,

Received your letter re Philip Deder. On the strength of your recommendation we will accept him for the coming school year in Benet Latin School. Total cost for the year, including tuition, room, board and laundry is \$750, which may be paid in any installments that are convenient (roughly \$100 per month of attendance), in advance. School supplies, personal needs, etc. are extra.

The application form is going out to Philip today. We will be glad to at least give him a chance, though his record does not look too promising.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Henry, O.S.B.*

Rev. Henry Nurre, O.S.B.



## M E M O

DATE: September 5, 1963

RE: Philip Dedera

I discussed with Philip Dedera the financial arrangements for his entrance to the seminary. After consulting Monsignor Blanchette, he told me that we would loan half of the expenses to this young man, but that there is no rush about his paying us back --- he can pay us back after ordination if he wants. I told Philip that the parish<sup>\*</sup> has agreed to assume half the financial responsibility, and we will forward to him the other half, but he need not worry about repayment --- he can do it at his convenience --- after ordination, if he so desires. He seemed relieved.

I had quite a lengthy discussion with Philip. The initial impression is one of a boy not too sharp. As time goes on, he seems to have a lot of basic good common sense. He has done all the cooking and the housework for the last five years. In addition to this, he did go out for football, track, and wrestling during his first two years of high school, and football and wrestling during his third year, and just wrestling during his fourth year. He found the athletics were a wonderful outlet for the responsibilities and burdens at home. He also told me that his senior year in high school, his average was about B. It may be that the boy has more ability than is evident, but simply had too many responsibilities to do much with it. In any case, I am very much in favor of seeing what he can do. He might have great potential as a parish priest.

\* parish in grant  
ours is loan

RLK

R. Z. Kaffer

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

## Benet Lake Latin SEMINARY

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR TO THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP OF JOLIET CONCERNING  
HIS ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS

Philip Dedera

Name of Student

Date

Domicile

I College

Scholastic year completed

Last Order received

## I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best: not strong in any

## II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
2. Ability as a leader: a) Inspiring leader; b) Average; c) No leadership ability.
3. Obedience to authority: a) Obeys with alacrity; b) Merely obeys; c) Disobedient.
4. Amenability to correction and advice: a) Docile; b) Fails to amend; c) Incurable.
5. Ability to cooperate: a) Very Cooperative; b) Negative; c) Uncooperative.
6. Sociability: a) Gracious and kindly; b) Shy and silent; c) Anti-social. d) Satisfactory
7. Conduct in Chapel: a) Exemplary; b) Average; c) Careless about ceremonies.
8. Fidelity to spiritual exercises: a) Faithful; b) Frequently tardy; c) Frequently absent.
9. Observance of seminary rules: a) Faithful; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
10. General Demeanour: a) Becoming; b) Frivolous; c) Worldly.
11. Humility: a) Humble and submissive; b) Average; c) Proud and haughty.
12. Mortification: a) Satisfactory; b) A grumbler; c) Lacks spirit of mortification.
13. Silence: a) Faithful observer; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
14. Attitude in general: a) Tactful; b) Cheerful; c) Reverent; d) Tricky; e) Irascible.

## III. GENTELMANLINESS

1. Personal appearance: a) Neat and clean; b) Average; c) Slovenly and unkempt.
2. His own room: a) Neat and clean; b) Careless; c) Disorderly.
3. Table manners: a) Good; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
4. Courtesy: a) Well mannered; b) Average; c) Poor.
5. Impression he makes on others: a) Virile and manly; b) Effeminate; c) Disagreeable; d) Negative personality.
6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions:



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Released April 2014

## IV. VOICE

1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
3. Defects of speech (if any): .....
4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

## V. PHYSICAL REPORT

1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
2. Surgical operations (if any): .....
3. Mental attitude: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; c) Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
4. Physical defects: .....

## VI. ABILITIES

1. His abilities seem to recommend him for the following occupation: a) Journalism; b) Work in the chancery office; c) Work among young people; d) An assistant pastorate; e) Work as a teacher; f) A position in which public speaking plays a major role; g) Athletic work.
2. He is able to speak a language other than English, viz., a little Slovak
3. He seems to have a natural aptitude for ....., and therefore the faculty can safely recommend him for higher studies in this matter.

## VII. REPORT ON HIS VACATION LETTERS

1. Vacation letter received and a) The pastor recommends him favorably or highly; b) The pastor has the following adverse criticism to make: .....

## VIII. OPINION OF THE FACULTY

1. The faculty feels that: a) He should be allowed and urged to continue; b) That he should be admonished of his faults and given an opportunity to amend; c) That he should be given another opportunity but should not be allowed to receive further Orders until he amends; d) That he should be dropped from the seminary.

## IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

*Scholastic background poor - will find higher studies difficult.*

*Rev. Henry Turner OSB*



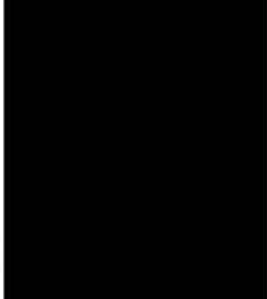
000034

C O P Y

April 14, 1964

Dear Father Kaffer,

Grades for the second quarter, New Year to Easter:  
St. Benet Latin School, Benet Lake Wisconsin.

	Lenczycki		Dedera
Latin (9)	86		80
Religion (3)	93		82
English (3)	92		90
Logic (3)	2 (82-92)		F

Sincerely yours in Christ,

/s/ Fr. Henry, O.S.A.

Rev. Henry Nurre, O.S.B.

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# Benedictine Fathers

BENET LAKE, WISCONSIN

RAILWAY STATION  
ANTIOCH, ILLINOIS  
PHONE: 396-4311  
AREA CODE 414

June 10, 1964

The Very Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Assistant Chancellor  
310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Ill. 604 35

Very Rev. & Dear Father Kaffer:

I am not personally acquainted with Philip Joseph Dederas as I took over the job of Rector at the very end of the school year. His grades indicate average and below average intellectual ability. His teachers rated him as a poor student but having tenacity and a plugger. They say that he would pass but with difficulty.

Morally, he is very highly recommended. He got along well with the other students and apparently was quite popular.

Healthwise, he had no trouble whatsoever until the very end of the school year when the pressure of exams seemed to make him a little nervous which is probably quite natural.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

*Rev. Alcuin Almasz O.S.B.*

Rev. Alcuin Almasz, O.S.B.  
Rector, Benet Latin School



July 13, 1961

Mr. Phillip Dedera  
[REDACTED]

Dear Phil:

I am pleased to advise you of your acceptance as a candidate for the priesthood for the Diocese of Joliet. It is our desire that you enroll at Lewis College. You could either live at home and commute, or reside at the College, if accommodations would be available, this first year. Next year you would live at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Please get in touch at once with: [REDACTED] Registrar, Lewis College, Lockport, Illinois, to obtain a registration blank. Mr. [REDACTED] will be expecting you to contact him. If you would prefer residence on the campus, Brother [REDACTED] is the one you should talk to. I am not sure if accommodations on campus will be available, but I know Brother Jude will do his utmost to help you.

If you have difficulty meeting the financial obligations, perhaps we could make some such arrangement like the one we had last year while you were at Bonet Lake. Consequently, you may advise the authorities at Lewis College to send us the balance of your bill after you have paid as much as you can.

I wish to welcome you aboard officially, Phil, and to assure you of my willingness to help you in any way I can at any time.

With best cordial personal regards, and a plea and a promise of mutual prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Roger L. Kaffer  
Assistant Chancellor

RLX/bl

cc: [REDACTED]



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

June 17, 1964

[REDACTED]

Dear Brother [REDACTED]:

Philip Dedera of [REDACTED] Downers Grove, Ill., was born on [REDACTED]. He graduated from Downers Grove Community High School in 1963, and has spent the last year at St. Benedict's Seminary in Benet Lake, Wisconsin, at our suggestion, where he tried to bolster his not-too-impressive high school record. Though his scholastic record leaves something to be desired, his character recommendations are quite high, and his ability to get along with people and his consideration for others is very high. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he himself did the cooking and housework from the time he was in eighth grade until he graduated from high school. In addition to this, he went out for football, track, and wrestling during high school days. He found the athletics were a wonderful outlet for the responsibilities and burdens at home.

I asked Phil to come to meet with our Seminary Board in plenary session last Friday afternoon. He really handled himself very well. The Board unanimously decided that he would be a good parish priest if he can make the grade on the studies, and we have accepted Phil.

Monsignor Blanchette suggested we see if Phil could attend Lewis College, enrolling in first year this coming September, and then would be in the first second-year college class at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in September of 1965.

I am enclosing transcripts of his credits from high school and Benet Lake. I would appreciate your evaluation and decision.



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Released April 2014

Brother [REDACTED] F.S.C.

-2-

June 17, 1964

At this time, too, I wish confidentially to mention that we hope the same arrangement might be worked out for another student, [REDACTED] who has been studying for a religious order, but wishes to transfer to the diocese. I am quite sure we will accept him. I believe he has had his first year of college, but himself wishes to repeat this, and probably we would favor the same, so he would have a firm foundation. I have not yet interviewed him, but his pastor highly recommends him. I hope to interview him later this week, and will get in touch with you as soon as I know something more definite.

With sincere thanks and cordial personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Roger L. Kaffer  
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:jr  
Enc.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000057

October 19, 1965

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. L. J. Kiley  
St. Joseph Church  
1012 Franklin Street  
Downers Grove, Illinois - 60515

Dear Monsignor Kiley:

I believe Phil Dedera told Father Frederick you had indicated a willingness to assume some of his expenses here at the seminary, which amount to \$1000 for the year. Would you be kind enough to indicate how much you think you would be able to handle, so that we may bill him for the rest? Phil seems to be doing a good job. He is one of the moderators for the high school residence area. He has certainly been a much more promising student than his high school record would have indicated, but then he was carrying a terrific load at home over and above his school work.

With a plea and a promise of mutual prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Roger L. Kaffer  
Rector

RLK: jr



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

12/16/65  
000064

Phil had a whole list of complaints + suggestions. He thinks there are into too many affairs; that we are not taking advantage of staying with Lewis.

I hit Phil pretty hard, after hearing him out patiently. I told him I was disappointed in him - he should watch rebelliousness. Work on his own faults instead of worrying about other people's. I also recorded my displeasure at all the privileges he is constantly ~~off~~ seeking (permission to go home, to Chicago, etc.), his poor observance of our minimal seminary rules, and I noted my impression of suppressed hostility.

Phil maintains he is all for us, prays for us, etc.

tried to end on a note of encouragement.

R.R.K.

5/16/66

Night before last, Phil was one of a large group (10-15?) whom I encountered in the hallway at 2:00 A.M. They scattered. His explanation was that everyone involved had been studying at one time or another, everyone had worked very hard, had "given" getting ready for Dedication - "because they wanted to, of course." Phil said there was nothing malicious or evil, and he didn't seem to think it was so serious. I told him I considered it a great harm to the common good + the spirit of the house. He said it was one ~~more~~ incident, but I countered it is not isolated, though it was the first time I personally became aware of it. I told Phil he will hear further.

Phil has improved somewhat in some ways, but in others has not in my opinion. He seems to have a disregard, giving an appearance at least of contempt for the minimal rules we have. I intend to discuss this at the next meeting + to note the results. L.L.R.



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

DATE: May 18, 1966

000085

Faculty meeting comments on Phil Dederer are as follows:

- (1) SNEAKY. NOT OPEN. OILY. APPLE POLISHER.
- (2) ID DON'T FIND HIM SNEAKY AT ALL, BUT OLD WOMANISH, MEDDLESOME.
- (3) I AGREE WITH THE FIRST OBSERVATIONS. I MEET HIM EVERYWHERE AT STRANGE TIMES --- IN BOILER ROOM, IN HALLWAY, IN GARAGE --- BUT IN THE STRANGEST PLACES AT THE STRANGEST TIMES.
- (4) I HAVE HEARD IT SAID: "THAT'S A STRANGE ONE". HE DOESN'T SEEM WELL ACCEPTED, THOUGH I WOULDN'T SAY HE IS NOT ACCEPTED. HE IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE WHO IS ALWAYS COMING FOR SPECIAL PERMISSIONS. HE HAS BEEN FAITHFUL IN HIS ASSIGNMENT AS A GYM INSTRUCTOR AND IN HIGH SCHOOL STUDY HALLS..

I had the regular conference with Phil on the above date. Phil was much more open and candid than I anticipated. He told me how deeply disturbed he has been because of an insistence of the letter of the law by me and seeming disregard of spirit. He said he is much more concerned about observing the spirit of the law and thinks that he has been growing in this spirit, but he finds it frustrating to have all sorts of restrictions that keep the seminarians from making mature decisions. He said that for years he simply told his father when he would be going to go someplace, and he finds it very difficult to come and seek permission to do something that is reasonable to be done. He would like to come and simply state that he has work to do and so is going to the public library in Chicago -- or better yet, he would simply like to sign out. He feels that seminarians should be going to morning prayers and to Mass because they want to, and that any attendance check or insistence that they do is wrong. He said one spiritual director had told him he was a "letter of the law Bohemian". Phil said he has thought a great deal about this and has been trying to correct it ( I am sure he was referring to Father Jogues).

I commended Phil on his openness in discussing this, and pointed out that the observance of the letter of the law does not stop one from observing the spirit, and he asked me if there was anything he should be working on and I told him this is one thing he should work on. I told him I had been quite disappointed at his placing himself above the law in so many ways, refusing to observe the little things that were asked of him. I likewise pointed out the significance this has for the common good. Secondly, I noted that at the faculty meeting it had been recommended he be again told about his meddlesomeness, and so I wished to bring this to his attention, though I told him I myself had thought there had been a great deal of progress in this regard. I did tell him he has done a fine job in the gym program.

After the conference, because I felt I had hit him rather hard -- and I think I did when he was in in December -- I sought him out in chapel and told him that our discussion had been centered around negative matters, but he had certainly made a lot of progress in many ways. He has been a fine student, apparently has been growing in his spiritual life at least by external observance: I have noticed him doing extra spiritual reading, making private visits, etc.

## FR. DEDERA SCAN FROM DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO.

86

000066

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

On several occasions this year, I have been on the verge of placing Phil on probation or giving him an official warning to shape up or he would be asked to ship out. Because the faculty as a group did not seem to be as songly against him, I said nothing to him in this interview about such things.

R.L.K.

DATE: May 25, 1966

After Mass, Phil asked to see me today. He seemed very sincere and very candid. He does not understand my insistence on observing the letter of the law when Father Jogues, whom he said he fights interiorly and exteriorly in class at Lewis, because he does not buy everything Father Jogues says, but who also has a lot of good things to offer --- his constantly telling all the students that they must constantly break from the letter of the law and live its spirit. Father Jogues feels this is one of the big evils in Catholic society today, and is convincing the students of this, including Phil.

We talked for about ten minutes on a place of the letter of the law in our approach to God and our love of Christ. Phil, as he understands it from Father Jogues, seems to think that the observance of the letter of the law is a hindrance to the observance of the spirit. I pointed out that this regard of small things in the letter of the law may not be seriously wrong, but is certainly less perfect than the observance of the entire law with its letters as well as the spirit. I used many examples from the life and works of Christ Himself, and concluded with the observation that if I had been God I most certainly would not arranged the crucifixion. Some way somehow this last example seemed to strike home more than anything else. Phil expressed himself as being truly grateful and said I had helped clear up things for him. I think he is perhaps sincere, but confused and hurt not a little by the imprudence and the misunderstandings of some of the counseling and advice he has received.

I still have very serious reservations concerning Phil. One of the other faculty members who was not as outspoken at the faculty meeting against him (No. #4 above), told me that he has more reservations about Phil than he does about one of the other seminarians who I very definitely think should be dropped. However, this faculty member does not think the other seminarian should be dropped at this time.

R.L.K.



And his continuing countenance was as lighting; and his raiment was as snow, Alleluia, Alleluia.

# LUMEN CHRISTI

Say to those who are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is our God; he comes to save us.

# IN THE GARDEN

"Who are you looking for?" "Jesus of nazareth," they answered.  
"I am the man," said Jesus.

Rejoice In, Look, Hear, See, Behold, Say to, Celebrate with the Lord.  
Behold, a virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

# HOPE

Great God of Hope, how green your trees, how calm each star.  
Renew us, make us fresh as these, calm is their sign.  
For what can dim his hope who sees, thought faintly and afar,  
The power that kindles green in trees, and a light in a star.

# LIGHT

"BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD: THE LORD IS GOD, AND HE HAS GIVEN US LIGHT."

God appears, and God is Light, to those poor souls who dwell in Night; but does a Human form display to those who dwell in Bethleem.

# COME

Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice before the Lord, for he comes.

# WAYSIDE INN

The dawn is not distant, nor is the night starless; love is eternal! God is God, and his faith shall not fail us; Christ is Eternal!

A CHILD IS BORN TO US; A SON IS GIVEN TO US. UPON HIS SHOULDERS DOMINION RESTS, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED THE ANGEL OF GREAT COUNSEL. SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG, FOR HE HAS DONE WONDROUS DEEDS.

PEACE BE WITH YOU, AND YOURS.

Phil Dedera



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

DATE: November 3, 1966

Phil came with [REDACTED] to see me. We talked for about an hour or more. The two points they wanted to discuss were:

1. the advisability of asking the Bishop for a priest to be in charge of liturgy at the seminary, since this is something that the students have noticed and thought something should be done about it;
2. secondly, the recommendation that college seminarians be assigned to summer jobs working with children, & the diocese pick up the tab on their seminary expenses, since they wouldn't be working.

I tactfully pointed out that others are very concerned about the first likewise, but there is nothing the Bishop can do about it; and secondly, that the experience in working with people, coupled with the financial straits of the diocese, would make the second recommendation not feasible or practical. Though Phil subsumed on the financial reason, I reiterated the experience reason, and he capitulated. He did in fact, even admit that he himself was hoping to work in South America in the summer and could do so only if someone picked up the tab, so maybe he has an axe to grind.

Phil also had several recommendations for the faculty. They should mix more with the students, should be willing to serve each other and give a greater example to the students. In short, Phil had some spiritual counsel and spiritual direction to give to the faculty.

On November 4 and 5, in addition to seeing me, Phil saw Father Mayer about the liturgy (though he is not a member of the liturgical commission), and talked to Father Dan Ryan, and saw Father Pusateri. In almost all of these things he was interfering with things that are none of his business or concern, and aganized other people whose concern they are. I finally summoned Phil and Bob Strusinski to my office to find out what was going on for the Bishop's Mass on November 4. Phil had submitted four folk-type numbers, almost all of which were not known by the collegians, claiming to represent a segment of the student body. When I asked him if he was representing the liturgical commission, he somewhat backed off and said "No", but a group of six or so. Mr. Strusinski agreed that you could get six people wanting to do most anything. In short, Phil was meddling again. I have cautioned him about this last year.

His sincerity, to me, is pretty obvious, though I am not always sold on the sincerity --- perhaps because some of the others, both faculty and student are not so sold.

Phil, Mike, and I ended our interview by going to chapel and saying a prayer together. At the conclusion of it, I was very impressed with Phil's sincerity, but the events of the next day make me question it a bit.

RLK



DATE: November 6, 1966

I spoke shortly to Phil, telling him that he was meddling, and to stop it. It was occasioned by his taking over on matters that pertain to Father Frederick and the CFM leaders. Phil had been approached by a priest who brought eight teenagers who were going to play guitars for the CFM, uninvited. The priest asked if it would be possible to make arrangements for dinner. Phil then told him it would cost \$1.50 per head. This was none of Phil's business and not his place to be concerned about such things. I will speak to him again about this.

RLK

DATE: January 13, 1967

Phil came to see me before I sent for him. About a month ago, he had a conference with Father Pusateri, in which Father Pusateri really let him have it, both barrels. Phil said he has been thinking a lot about this since that time. Phil came through to me better than he ever has. He expressed himself quite succinctly. I also tried to give Phil a true picture from where I stood. He said Father Pusateri accused him of being bitter, and he said there were other things that entered into his difficulties, mentioning the departure of Joe Moisant as one. This affected Phil very deeply. He has also been thinking about the Benedictines, especially since they have the Office in English.

I told Phil I would be slow to accuse him of bitterness, and in fact, I would not, though at times I have wondered if he might not be. I pointed out that only a real hypocrite would be bitter and know it. Others could be bitter but would not recognize it as bitterness. I did tell Phil I would rather characterize him as hypercritical and negative, in such a way that his mind was closed to what we had to say, and therefore growth was not possible. This disturbed me deeply. I likewise told Phil that I had been worried about him for quite some time and had even mentioned to the Bishop a year ago my concern for him. I again pointed out his inability to express himself; which was noted by others; and also his rather frequent position that everybody else was wrong, whereas he was right. I told him at times he seemed to be out to convert me, other faculty members, other students, and that one who comes from a position of such certitude that he is out to point out the error to others, is not at all disposed even to consider that he might be wrong himself--which was Phil's attitude. This would amount to intolerance for the opinions of others. I again pointed out to Phil his meddlesomeness which I conceded probably springs from charity and a desire to help others, but which also indicates a preoccupation with the faults of everyone else instead of worrying about his own.

Phil wanted to talk to me. Though he feels what Father Pusateri said helped him greatly, he seems to be a little bit afraid to talk to Father Pusateri. Phil likewise is thinking of changing spiritual directors from Father Lennon to Father Clark or Mayer at the semester.

Poor Phil probably left with another steam roller impression, though I tried to be very, very kind, and I told him I was glad he came but thought that things I said must be said in charity and justice.

A couple of months ago, I was about ready to ask Phil to leave at the end of the semester. However, any harm he may have done to others should be



elevated now, since he is working on overcoming "bitterness".

As a final question, Phil asked me if he should work in YCS, as Father Gripka has asked him to do a few times, since he is very interested in it. I recommended against his working in YCS at this time because of the ease with which YCS people can go from a holy impatience to hypercriticalness. I told Phil he is like a person who has just had a tough sunburn and should not expose his pink new sun to the hit rays of the sun again so soon. I am now willing to watch and wait for another semester.

RLK

DATE: May 28, 1967

I had a long talk with Phil. He has come a long, long way. I told him as much. He came to tell me that he is having some doubts and though he still very strongly inclined toward the priesthood, he seems, as I read him, perhaps to wonder if he can be as generous as a true priest must. Phil is appreciating our philosophy and beginning to see things in its light. He appreciates the openness that we have tried to build into the system. In my opinion, he has grown so much in the last three or four months, that if he continues in this vein, I would have no qualms at all about his ordination. A year and a half ago == as I told him == I did not think he would ever be able to make it. Phil still rambles and has perhaps qualities that would cause others a bit of consternation, yet he is aware of these things and they pain him. He deserves to be given the chance to continue to improve. My parting remarks were: "Keep up the good work", and I do mean it.

RLK

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 12, 1967

In class, rather weak student. Fails to see point often. Definitely got impression that other seems now "down" on him, but would snicker when he'd expound in class. Sincere, but because confused in his thinking, he could be very dangerous.

Fr. Gripka: Very personable -- gives good impression, cooperative. He is an old woman and minds everyone else's business, but has been very fine in gym.

Fr. Braun: Showed great appreciation and gratitude. Takes teasing quite well, which is a good sign. He should be told to give someone else a chance to talk once in a while.

He has made a very determined effort since Fr. Pusateri's \_\_\_\_\_ with him,

Prayer (?)



## HOME VISIT

PHILIP DEDERA

August, 1967

Phil's older brother, [REDACTED] as well as Phil's dad were there. We had a very enjoyable visit. The whole family has a good sense of humor. I told Mr. Dedera that Phil has had a good year, in my opinion. Phil is an improving candidate, I think. He is going to take the topic of authority in a teen-taught CCD program. Phil said that no one should be as well qualified as he, since he had had so much difficulty with the notion of authority in the last few years.

RLK

Phil is continuing to blossom nicely, in my opinion. He is serious, an independent thinker - not always profound - but sincere - and less old womanish. He seems to get along better with others (or maybe with me!?).

Phil is very interested in sociology, & would like to attend Philosophy at a place this could be pursued, namely at St. Mary's, ~~Baltimore~~ Baltimore, or Catholic U. He also thinks the East would be a good environmental, broadening change, though he fears the restrictions elsewhere could be tough after being here (!?)

R. L. F. (10/25/67)

DATE: December 17, 1967

Phil came to express a growing concern on his own part and on the part of some of the juniors and seniors about their own commitment and readiness for the approaching needs of the priesthood. I told him I was pleased that they were coming to these concerns, concerns we have had right along. The very fact that they are concerned is a sign of progress. Phil thought that perhaps the juniors and seniors should have a retreat together because many juniors say they have not really discussed much about vocation or faced vocational problems, and because of a lack of openness with anyone, they find especially openness with each other to be ~~especially~~ difficult and perhaps there is a carryover of lack of openness with spiritual directors, superiors, etc.

Things are going fine as far as Phil is concerned. I would no longer have the terribly serious doubts I had some time ago about his advancement.



## FR. DEDERA SCAN FROM DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO.

108

000088

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

continued December 17, 1967:

As a matter of fact, he ~~ix~~has passed many others in aptitude at this point, in my opinion, as well as that of Father Pusateri. It all started when Father Pusateri "let him have it" last year. I am confident. There are problems ~~xxx~~ at home now. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I simply advised him to learn to do all he can add to realize there are points at which he can do nothing further, and learning to accept this is an advance. All in all he is an improving candidate.

RLK



000093

## AN OPEN LETTER TO C.B.S.

WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK A COLLOQUIUM BETWEEN THE COLLEGE AND FACULTY IS SCHEDULED. IT SEEMS THAT THESE CONVERSATIONS OR TALKS TOGETHER HAVE BEEN FOR SOME FAR FROM BEING FRUITFUL OR CONSTRUCTIVE ENOUGH TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR TASKS. FROM THE LAST C.G.A. MEETING WE SEE COMMISSIONS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS AND FACULTY PREPARING THEIR PLATFORMS AND RIGHTLY SO, FOR WITHOUT THIS PREPARATION AND CLARITY OF POSITIONS, CONSTRUCTIVE ANSWERS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO COME BY.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR A GREATER EFFORT TO SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THINGS. SECOND HAND KNOWLEDGE IS A DANGEROUS THING. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT IT IS USED BY ALL PARTIES HERE AT C.B.S. BY TALKING FOR OTHERS AN INJUSTICE CAN BE DONE NOT ONLY TO THE PARTY TALKING BUT ALSO TO THOSE THAT THE PARTY IS TALKING FOR, BE IT IN DEFENSIVE OR OFFENSIVE ASPECT. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHOULD SPEAK FOR HIMSELF IF HE SO DESIRES. MAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN ANSWERABLE TO HIS FELLOW MAN FOR HIS ACTIONS. SO WE HAVE A COLLOQUIUM.

BUT THERE IS A QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED. HOW ONE SIDED ARE WE IN EMBARKING ON THE TASK BEFORE US. BY THIS I MEAN ARE WE TALKING AND ACTING AS IF ALL THE PROBLEMS ARE EITHER ECONOMIC OR PHYSICAL? ARE THEY ALL THE RESULTS OF INCOMPETENCE ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. I DON'T THINK THESE ARE WORDS WE MEAN BUT THEY ARE WORDS SOMETIMES USED OR INFERRED.

TODAYS WORLD FOR SOME IS CHARACTERIZED BY MISTRUST AND MIS-UNDERSTANDING, WHICH LEADS TO A GREAT DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY AND ANXIETY. SOME WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE FOR THE WORLD, LEWIS, OR C.B.S. IN THIS SITUATION HOPE FALLS AS WELL AS PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS AND GOALS. WHAT ARE OUR PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS AND GOALS FOR C.B.S. AND I DON'T MEAN THOSE IN THE COLLEGE GUIDE? WHY DO SOME PEOPLE ASK, IS THERE ANY ROOM FOR A PRIEST IN THE FUTURE, WHY DON'T THE GOVERNMENT DRAFT SEMINARIANS, OR WHY SHOULD I HAVE CONCERN ABOUT ANOTHER SEMS DIFFICULTIES; DO I MAKE THEM?

WELL IN ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION MAYBE WE DO. "THE WORLD IS MANS, NOT MERELY IN A SENSE THAT HE HAS A LEEN ON ITS RESOURCES, BUT IN A FAR MORE MYSTERIOUS AND POWERFUL SENSE, IN THAT HE IS A SHAPER OF ITS CONSCIENCE, THE MAKER OF ITS SPIRITUAL FORMS, THE CREATOR OF ITS MORAL ATMOSPHERE." ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY IS OURS NOT MERELY IN A SENSE THAT WE HAVE A LEEN ON ITS RESOURCES...WHAT KIND OF SHAPE IS OUR CONSCIENCE IN? WHAT KIND OF MORAL ATMOSPHERE HAVE WE CREATED?

MAN MAKES HIS OWN WORLD, IF HE CHOOSES TO DO SO. WHAT KIND OF WORLD HAVE WE MADE FOR OURSELVES? I AM SURE THE ROMAN LEGIONS AND LOCAL TYRANTS DID NOT MAKE THE WORLD PLEASING TO THE JEWS. YET HOW DID CHRIST ACT IN THIS WORLD. DIDN'T HE HAVE EXPECTATIONS AND HOPES.



Redacted February 2014  
 TMJA  
 Released April 2014

WE HEAR SOME SAY WHEN WILL THE FACULTY CUT DOWN; FORGET IT. THEY WON'T! WE MUST CHOOSE OURSELVES. WE MUST MAKE DECISIONS. WE MUST GROW AND MATURE. MAYBE SOME ARE HOPING THAT THE FACULTY WILL BREAK DOWN BEFORE A DECISION HAS TO BE MADE.

WE SEE A FEW NOT COMING TO MORNING PRAYERS, A FEW NOT SHOWING UP FOR DISHES OR MANUAL LABOR, AND A FEW NOT TOO CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR STUDIES. WHY ARE SOME SO CONCERNED ABOUT THIS SITUATION? THESE SAME PEOPLE IN SOME CASES, BUT MAYBE AND FOR THE MOST PART IT HAS BEEN ALL OF US WHO CONTINUALLY TAKE OUR TURN AT CUTTING CLASSES, SKIPPING MANUAL LABOR AND DISHES, AND SLEEPING THROUGH MORNING PRAYERS. WE ARE SOMEWHAT LAX IN OUR WORK BUT WHAT DOES THAT MATTER. ERIC HOFFER HAS AN OPINION THAT IN WORK MAN CAN EXPRESS HIMSELF AND SHOW HIS CREATIVITY. TAKE AWAY WORK AND MAN'S ANXIETY AND FRUSTRATION INCREASES IN HIS LIFE SITUATION. HE HAS REASON FOR RIOT. A MAN HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO WORK. HE HAS MADE A DECISION. NOW WE ARE NOT COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO OUR WORK AND WE ARE MEN IN BECOMING; AS A RESULT WE MAY BE EXPERIENCING FRUSTRATION, ANXIETY AND A DIFFICULTY TO ESTABLISH GOALS. THIS MIGHT BE DUE TO SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD BE EXPECTED, THAT IS, WITH INEXPERIENCE AND UNAWARENESS OF THE PRIESTHOOD ON THE SEM'S PART COMES AN UNDERSTANDABLE HESITATION TO MAKE AN ALL ENCOMPASSING DECISION. BUT THE DIFFICULTY ARISES WHEN WE REFUSE SOME BEGINNING COMMITMENTS OR DECISIONS TO OUR WORK. WE SEE FOR THE SEM, PART OF HIS WORK IS HIS DAILY STUDIES, MANUAL LABOR AND APOSTOLIC WORKS. IF A SEM NEGLECTS HIS RESPONSIBILITY HERE, IS HE NOT FRUSTRATING HIMSELF? "MAN CREATES HIS OWN WORLD." IF FOR SOME THIS IS THE CASE, WE SEE THAT NO CRACK DOWN OR RULE IS GOING TO HELP THEM BUT JUST CONTINUE TO STAY OFF ANY DECISION ON THEIR PART AND ARREST GROWTH AND MATURING.

SO WE HAVE CRISIS FOR AWHILE BUT WE FORGET WITH CRISIS COMES AWARENESS. THOSE WHO ARE AWARE CAN GROW BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMITMENT, DECISION AND GOAL. BARNABAS MARY ANRENS TELLS US THAT REVELATION AND AWARENESS COMES THROUGH WORD AND DEED. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH WORD AND DEED. MAYBE THIS IS SOME JUSTIFICATION FOR A GREATER EXTERNAL EXPRESSION HERE AT C.S.S. OF THE INTERNAL WORD WHICH IS LIVING WITHIN US AND SHOULD BE EXPRESSED THROUGH US AS CHRISTIANS. MAYBE WE ARE IN HESITATING TO MAKE DAILY DECISIONS, DAILY FRUSTRATING OUR WORK AND FUTURE GOALS. THUS, WE CREATE OUR OWN ANXIETY AND FRUSTRATION. GROWTH DOES NOT COME JUST EXTERNALLY BUT INTERNALLY FROM OUR DECISIONS. "A CHILD OR THE INFANT IS BY DEFINITION THE ONE WHO HAS NO ALTERNATIVES OR WHOSE ALTERNATIVES ARE CHOSEN FOR HIM BY OTHERS. BUT THE ADULT IS FACED WITH A GROWING SET OF CHOICES, AMONG THEM HE IS CALLED TO EVALUATE, TO REJECT, OR TO ACCEPT, AND IN THIS VERY PROCESS TO CONSTRUCT HIS LIFE."

MANY CONTEND WE HAVE ENOUGH FREEDOM TO CONSTRUCT OUR LIVES. IT SEEMS WE HAVE ENOUGH TOOLS IN WHICH WE CAN EXERCISE OUR FREEDOM. BUT THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE. IT IS HERE WHERE WE HAVE A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND AS A RESULT A LACK OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND HOW TO EXERCISE OUR OWN FREEDOM IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT I FEEL THE PROBLEM CENTERS ITSELF.

Phil Dederer



NAME DEDERA, Philip

JOL

000115

*April, 1969*

COMMENTS OF RECTOR:

Phil has average intellectual ability, and in many instances seems to drive it too far. At the beginning of the year, the majority of the faculty members would have classified Phil between too talkative and almost nutty.

As time wears on, the nomenclature used in describing Phil becomes more favorable; some would say "mediocrity," others would say "delightfully confusing." He still has too much trouble when he tries to express himself, then can be a bore in this respect; however, many of the Faculty members do see some improvement, and would not write Phil off so quickly.

Although confused in thinking and speaking, Phil otherwise is sincere, honest, community minded and of solid spiritual convictions, which do bespeak a good degree of maturity.

If the Diocese could figure out some way, in accord with its policy, of asking Phil to undergo psychological testing, it think it might be helpful for Phil. I say that the Diocese should ask him, because I feel that it might single Phil out too much, if we should ask him to do this.

Since this is Phil's first year at St. Thomas Seminary, he is not eligible for reception of any Orders.

*Harold B. Persich, cm.*  
*Rector*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000121

October 21, 1969

Dear Phil,

At the August dinner for the major seminarians of our Diocese at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Lockport, I mentioned that Bishop Blanchette would like to see the theologians during the Christmas holidays.

More recently, the Bishop has asked me to set up definite appointments for our theologians - to see him, Bishop Vonesh and me. Would you kindly see Bishop Blanchette in this office on Monday, December 29, at 4:30, Bishop Vonesh at 3:30 and me at 4:00. I would appreciate your confirming these appointments by card or letter as soon as convenient.

I hope the year is going well for you and I wish to assure you of my best personal wishes. I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Chancellor

Mr. Philip Dederer  
St. Thomas Seminary  
1380 S. Steele Street  
Denver Colorado 80210

DLR/smc



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Oct. 28, 1969  
St. Thomas Sem.

Father Ryan,

000122

I am very pleased to see a greater interest in priestly formation on the part of the Diocese and will be home with bells on. The date and times of appointments are fine.

Take care of yourself. Please give my regards to Fr. Kaffer if you see him. I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ

*Phil Dedera*

Phillip Dedera  
St. Thomas Seminary  
Denver, Colo. 80210

My interview with Philip Dederer, 2nd Theologian at Thomas Seminary,  
Denver Colorado

On December 29, 1969, I interviewed Philip Dederer whose  
home parish is Divine Savior in Downers Grove. His mother [REDACTED]  
his father [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] brothers [REDACTED] sis-  
[REDACTED] The father [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Philip states that there is a good spirit among the stu-  
dents in his class at St. Thomas Seminary. His main wish is to be a  
parish priest and this is quite definite. There is no objection in  
his mind to the involvement of priests in different aspects of parish  
life as he sees this fulfilled with the priests of the Diocese of  
Joliet but his main activity is to work with the people of a parish.  
He stated that he felt there was a great need today for good solid  
priests in Church. He stated that his wish to enter the priest-  
hood is stronger now than it was perhaps a year ago. He states that  
his future is becoming more clear to him as time goes on. This stu-  
dent spoke at some length on the point of celibacy and he said that  
it has its place certainly in the Church and he thinks that the beau-  
ty of it must be seen and appreciated.

I consider Philip to be a good candidate for the priest-  
hood.

+ R. J. Vonesh



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

0135-B

NAME DEDERA, PhilipJOL

## COMMENTS OF RECTOR:

Phil has average intellectual ability, and in many instances seems to drive it too far. At the beginning of the year, the majority of the faculty members would have classified Phil between too talkative and almost nutty.

As time wears on, the nomenclature used in describing Phil becomes more favorable; some would say "mediocrity" others would say "delightfully confusing." He still has too much trouble when he tries to express himself, then can be a bore in this respect; however, many of the Faculty members do see some improvement, and would not write Phil off so quickly.

Although confused in thinking and speaking, Phil otherwise is sincere, honest, community minded and of solid spiritual convictions, which do bespeak a good degree of maturity.

The Diocese could figure out some way in accord with its policy, of asking Phil to undergo psychological testing, I think it might be helpful for Phil. I say that the Diocese should ask him, because I feel that it might single Phil out too much, if we should ask him to do this.

Since this is Phil's first year at St. Thomas Seminary, he is not eligible for reception of any Orders.

*David R. Sullivan, S.M.*  
Rector

AREA CODE 815  
Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET

*Chancery Office*

425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000139

March 18, 1970

Rev. Roger L. Kaffer, Rector  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Rt. #53 and Airport Road  
Lockport, Illinois 60441

CONFIDENTIAL

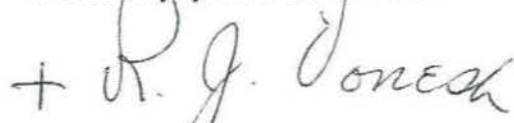
Dear Father Kaffer:

I have read the papers you have sent on in connection with Phil Dederda and I too would like to endorse Father Persich's suggestion in his regard. I am of the opinion that Philip could well benefit from some professional advice at this time and I would hope that he would be willing to undergo this added burden.

I might add that I am not overly disturbed by the report of [REDACTED]

With kindest personal regards and sincere best prayerful wishes, I am

Cordially yours in Christ



Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet  
Vicar General

RJV/smc



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

St. Paul The Apostle Church  
18 North Woodlawn Avenue  
Joliet, Illinois

000140

March 18, 1970


Rev. Roger Kaifer  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Lockport, Illinois

Dear Father Kaifer:

With regard to the case of Phil Dederda: I  
endorse Father Persick's suggestion contained in the  
next to last paragraph in the second page of his  
letter of March 13.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely in Christ

  
\*Rev. Gordon Michels

AREA CODE 815  
Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET

*Chancery Office*

425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000141

March 19, 1970

CONFIDENTIAL

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Lockport, Illinois 60441

Dear Father Kaffer:

I reply to your kind letter of March 17, regarding Philip Deder. I believe that the opinion of a competent psychiatrist should be obtained in this case, although [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I believe that she is expressing [REDACTED]  
an attitude which other persons and I have had from personal contact with Phil for some time.

Whatever caution can be used in this case, I heartily recommend.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Chancellor

DLR:lrn



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

000142

TELEPHONE 815 - 838-8100  
LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS 60441Phil Dedera -

3/20/70

My opinion is that the Rector has the  
right solution.

There should be another opinion rather than  
take [REDACTED]

"I was impressed with him last summer at  
a social gathering. He stood out as having a  
wonderful spirit. He was very helpful to ~~the~~ in  
being of service to others." (THIS IS THE GIST OF  
FATHER KOCHER'S REMARKS - R.Z.K.)

Father Donald Kocher's telephone  
message to me on the above  
date.

In quoniam fidelem.

Roger Z. Kypke



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

000143

TELEPHONE 815 - 838-8100  
LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS 60441Phil Deder

Fr. Nichols - concurs with Fr. Persich's  
recommendations, as mentioned in ref to  
last P of his letter. (Phone call 3/19/70).

R. L. Kupper





Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000145

March 24, 1970

Father Harold Persich, CM  
St. Thomas Seminary  
1300 S. Steele Street  
Denver, Colorado 80210

Dear Father Persich:

Thank you so very much for your letter of March 13 concerning Philip Deder. I have consulted with the Seminary Board and am authorized to tell you we concur completely with your proposal suggested in the next to last paragraph of your letter, namely [REDACTED]

Please proceed according to your proposal with all a speed.

We will be quite anxious, as will you, to receive the outcome when you have it. Thank you for your concern and interest. God's blessings for a happy and holy Easter!

With a plea and promise of continued mutual prayers, I remain,

Sincerely, in Christ,

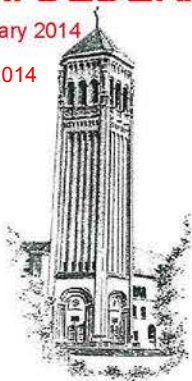
Father Roger L. Kaffer  
Rector

RLK:jr

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

## St. Thomas Seminary

1300 SOUTH STEELE STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80210

000146

TELEPHONE  
722-4887  
AREA CODE 303

9 April 1970

Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Rector, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Lockport, Illinois 60441

Dear Father Kaffer:

I have finally caught up with your letter, having been out of town at a provincial chapter for our Congregation over the Easter holidays.

I have had an interview with Phil concerning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I shall be in touch with you.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

*Harold B. Persich, C.M.*

(Very Rev.) Harold B. Persich, C.M.  
Rector



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000147

COMMENTS OF RECTOR: Phil is serious, hard working, devoted to the seminary. His problem of confusion in thinking and expression is already known and acknowledged by him; and I am now aware of this.

[REDACTED]

Considering these difficulties, everyone is still quite favorable towards Phil and would like to do whatever they can to make Phil as effective as possible as a priest, and to help him to Sacred Orders.

In considering Phil's petition for promotion to Orders of First Tonsure and the Four Minor Orders, the faculty vote was: 15 favorable; 1 abstention.

As Rector, I recommend Phil's promotion to First Tonsure and the Four Minor Orders. Like you, I am anxious [REDACTED]



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

000157

Telephone Conversation with Father Donald Peck  
May 14, 1970

RE: PHILIP DEDERA

Phil Dedera does very well, especially with kids. Sometimes he can on too strong and turned off his peers, his fellow seminarians. They feel he does not come to the point in many issues. They get frustrated in discussing things with him.

Phil is a hard worker. He certainly has tremendous spirit in wanting to do Christ's work. He is particularly attractive to the blue collar worker with whom he relates very well. Beyond that he is not too effective.

It is at times frustrating to discuss things with Phil, because there is so much verbiage and no conclusion. However, if you do explain things to him he will agree and parrot what you have said.

In my opinion, because of his spirit and drive, I think he would be very good in limited circumstances, for example in country parishes where the people are a little more naive. He would do well in such a situation. He would not make it in a DuPage or big city parish.

It seems to me it would be a shame to lose this spirit and drive. His determination to help others is irrepressible. It would be great if this spirit were joined with a little more decisiveness and ability to articulate. It seems there should be a place and work for someone with this spirit.

The above is mostly a verbatim account of Father Peck's evaluation of Phil Dedera, who has worked in his parish the last couple of years and lived with him a great part of the last two summers.

*Roger Z. Kaffer*  
Father Kaffer



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick R. Stenger  
26 North Ellsworth Street  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

May 15/76

000158

Dear Father Kaffer -

My opinion is that  
Philip Dedera should not be  
a candidate for the Priesthood.

Sincerely in Christ,

F R Stenger

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

*Chancery Office*

425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60438

May 15, 1970

CONFIDENTIAL

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Lockport, Illinois 60441

Dear Father Kaffer:

Thank you for your communication of May 14 regarding Philip Deder. You know that for a long time I have had serious reservations about this young man's continuance as a student for the priesthood in our diocese. I have felt, without being a professional psychologist, that there was something wrong in his conversation, and inability to attack an article of thought directly. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In our own conversation of the other day, I suggested that the seminary faculty were understandably, although cautiously, optimistic about [REDACTED]

Very frankly, and conscientiously, I cannot share that optimism. I think that Father Pock, in his way, a person who is certainly "in Phil's camp", if any one is, only serves to point out further the problem. We just do not have parishes in our diocese where people laboring under [REDACTED] can effectively work in the 70's and the years ahead.

Therefore, I must state in conscience that I think that he should be advised to withdraw from preparation for the priesthood in our diocese, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Chancellor

DLR:lrn



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000161

M E M O

May 19, 1970

It is my opinion and recommendation that Philip Dedera be kindly and gently notified by the rector of St. Thomas Seminary in Denver of the recommendations of the professionals, namely that he would find the priesthood difficult and that the priesthood would not be good for him probably; [REDACTED]

Secondly, I think the Diocese of Joliet should [REDACTED], allowing Philip to continue in the seminary next year if he so desires, with the understanding that it would be a time of coming to a decision both for him and for the seminary authorities, on whom the diocese must rely.

To dismiss him on the basis of [REDACTED] seems to me to put an overemphasis on these questionable helps to evaluation and could quite understandably make all candidates fearful [REDACTED]. There was not a serious question about the advancement of Philip to Orders [REDACTED]. He had been unanimously recommended by the faculty for promotion to Orders, though they said they would have preferred [REDACTED].

Furthermore, after a young man has spent six years in preparing for the priesthood for the diocese, I do not think it is fair, wise or humane to follow a safer course and dismiss him without much more attention and efforts being made to help him solve whatever problems he may have.

It has been the experience of the diocese in two specific instances I can recall where young men had their vocations called into serious question [REDACTED], and they are now among our most outstanding priests. It would have been a tragedy had we allowed too much weight to be given to [REDACTED].

I do believe that Philip has some compensating qualities, among which are a great spirit of generosity, a basic orientation for the cause of Christ and the teachings of Christ, and an openness and good will that I feel may perhaps rightly be considered betrayed if he were at this time asked to discontinue his seminary studies. [REDACTED] evaluation was known before Philip was recommended by our faculty to go on to theology. The only change seems to be that the seminary notices some improvement. All pros and cons being considered I strongly urge that we not act hastily in this regard.

*I further recommend that he be asked to come to the seminary board meeting.*  
R.L.K.

Respectfully submitted,

*Roger L. Kaffer*  
Father Roger L. Kaffer

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

ST. ISAAC JOGUES RECTORY  
306 WEST FOURTH STREET  
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS

000162

I believe Philip Dedera  
should not continue for the priesthood  
in this diocese

M. A. Henahan



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000163

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JOLIET, ILLINOIS

60431

21 May 1970

Rev. Roger Kaffer  
St. Charles Seminary  
Lockport, Illinois, 60441

Re: Phillip Dederá

Dear Roger,

First of all, Terry and I want to congratulate you on your new appointment to Providence. Your major job there will be to patch up the bad feeling towards Catholic High.

Terry and I both feel that Phillip Dederá should be

I'd still like to donate \$500.00 to the Seminary in memory of [REDACTED] If you can come up with something let me know.

Respectfully yours, [REDACTED]

DFB:rs

Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

TELEPHONE 815 - 838-8100  
LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS 60441

000164

Phil Deder

It seems to me we'd have to go along the



I met him once last summer and was very favorably impressed. He was friendly, seemed so enthusiastic, and did for others.

Yet Father Pock seems to confirm wandering around.

It seems to me if we're going to send these people

to [redacted] we should follow their advice.

So I recommend that his studies be terminated.

Telephoned recommendation of Father Donald Locker.

In quorum fidem -

Fogor R. Kaffer

May 21, 1970





Re: Phil Dedera

FR. DEDERA SCAN FROM DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 187

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

TELEPHONE 815 - 838-8100

LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS 60441

In quoniam fidelem -  
Roger L. Keffe

often been at his home  
gone on vacation with him

Having known Phil<sup>Dedera</sup> for 11 years, worked with him, I feel  
~~sure~~ he has the qualifications to go on, + I feel he'll make  
a good priest. I feel also he has the emotional stability.

Specifically, I have observed him in action in the area of  
Counselling + working with people. He likes to talk a lot and  
all around things to explain thoroughly.

Adults respect his ideas and decisions highly - I am  
thinking of people from Divine Savior ~~and~~ St. Joseph's  
Parish who have worked with him.

Kids may just think he is too religious. But they  
respect his ideas. He does tend to talk a lot - but he has  
definite ideas and I do not think he has a problem in  
making decisions. He has improved in his tendency to dominate conversations.

He is very dependable in undertaking projects and progress  
and carrying them through.

He is more concerned about helping in the parish than  
going out to get a good paying job for himself.

I suggest you could get good references from  
Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]; Mr. [REDACTED]

Father James Holup via phone



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

000166

TELEPHONE 815 - 838-8100  
LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS 60441

May 22, 1970

Father Gordon Michels told me it is his opinion that Philip Dedera is not acceptable at this present time. He thinks he should not be a candidate for the Diocese of Joliet.

In quoniam fidelem,

Roger L. Kaffer





Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY

000167

TELEPHONE 815 - 838-8100  
LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS 60441

May 22, 1970

Very Rev. Harold Persich, C.M., Rector  
St. Thomas Seminary  
1300 S. Steele St.  
Denver, Colorado  
80210

Dear Father Persich:

Since we received word from you last week that the seminary cannot recommend Philip Dedera for orders this spring, I have referred this to our diocesan seminary board, and the board concurs. Regarding the future, the seminary board is divided. Therefore, when Philip returns, he may appear before the board if he so desires. The next seminary board meeting is scheduled for June 16, 1970.

With cordial personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Roger L. Kaffer, Rector  
Secretary for the Seminary Board

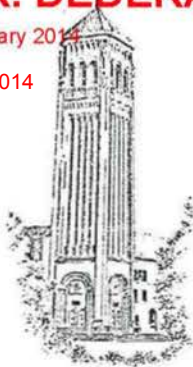
rlk

cc Philip Dedera

P.S. Please give the enclosed carbon copy for Phil to him, so that it will be delivered in the warmth of human exchange rather than received from a mailbox. Thank you.



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



## St. Thomas Seminary

1300 SOUTH STEELE STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80210

TELEPHONE  
722-4667  
AREA CODE 303

000168

The Rev. Roger L. Kaffer  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Rt. 53 and Airport Road  
Lockport, Illinois 60441

Dear Father:

Phil Dedera asked me to write you, and I'm very happy to do so. I must say, first of all, that my views do not represent any official seminary position. I write simply as someone here who has known Phil for eight or nine months.

Secondly, I have not been a party to any of the correspondence or the conversations that have gone on relative to Phil's returning; consequently, I am ignorant of any of the reports, save for what he has told me.

I have known Phil, as I wrote above, just for the past school year. In that time, I have found him to be a person I feel to be quite sincere and dedicated to his vocation. I believe I have seen him in both good times and bad; and in both situations, he behaved as I would expect a seminarian to behave. I have seen him angry, but with an anger that comes from dedication.

He has always been very helpful to me, offering time and suggestions. I know this to be true with regard to other departments in the seminary, and also with his classmates. I'm sure everyone would agree with this.

I believe he is dedicated to prayer. This observation comes from remarks he has made in class and privately to me. Also from seeing him in chapel at different times. I know that he is interested in the conduct of the liturgy, especially as a way of serving the people.

Academically, I believe he is an average student; but I suppose that you would have more information on that than I do, and are able to judge from his past grades.

Finally, I know that he was disappointed at the way in which this decision was handled. However, there was not much evidence of any violent reaction, but a realistic facing of facts. I hope that these fragmentary views of mine might help to shed some light on the problem. I will be glad to give any other help that I can.

Sincerely,

Rev. John E. Rybolt, C.M.



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



SAINT THOMAS SEMINARY

1300 South Steele Street


Denver, Colorado 80210 000169

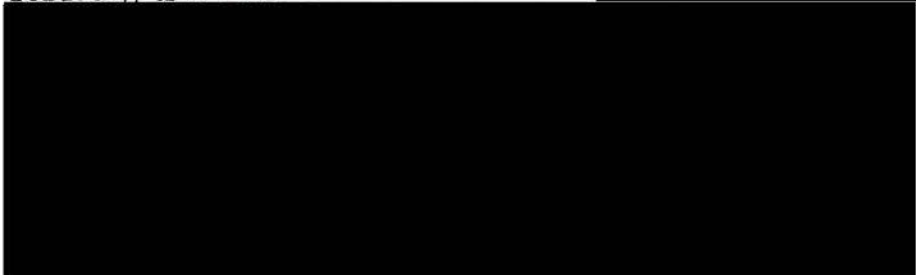
May 27, 1970

Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette  
Bishop of Joliet  
c/o Rev. Roger L. Kaffer  
Secretary Seminary Board  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Rt. 53 & Airport Rd.  
Lockport, Illinois 60441

Dear Bishop:

In the light of what has just happened to Mr. Phillip Dederer, we his classmates feel it necessary to voice our opinion. From our vantage point, it seems that the process of "clipping" Phil from the reception of minor orders was not a just, open, and well-thought out or defined decision.

We cannot thus condone the procedure that was used in refusing him orders on the basis of 



Furthermore, because of the lack of confidence and knowledge this decision is evidence of, we feel we must speak out in behalf of Phil's integrity and ability. His refusal from orders contradicts our experience with Phil in the last two years in which he has lived and worked with us. If Phil could not adjust to too much tension, then he surely would not have pulled through the ordeal in question. Naturally he got angry, which was more than justified, but he controlled it and went about in a calm methodic way to discover the true nature of his refusal and what he could do about it. He neither attacked anybody vindictively nor set out to put himself up as a martyr, but tried to determine the nature of his problem and tried not only to solve it but also to set into motion the machinery for alleviating the same type of problem in the future for others.

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000170


Having voiced our disapproval of the methods used in the refusal of orders, we would like now to formulate our personal interpretation of Phil and his qualifications, as we have mentioned before, are born out of two years of living, praying, studying, working, and recreating with him. In the time Phil has been here, he has always been very active in school politics, liturgy, academics, and apostolic works. He is by no means one to sit back uninvolved. On the contrary, he is an extremely enthusiastic and sincere person. For example, he has done a lot of work with the liturgy, and in fact was in charge of our retreat for minor orders. He has been a member of the academics committee and also an active member of our apostolic works committee. This year he ran for student body president. In all of his endeavors, Phil has proved himself truly a capable and dedicated worker. He has shown that he has the leadership, and the intelligence to back up his enthusiasm.

Phil also knows how to relax and enjoy himself. He is well balanced and makes good use of his time. He joins actively in athletics, entertainment, and other recreational doings, and functions very adequately as a well rounded individual. He is always cordial and friendly and has a warm cheerful greeting for everyone he meets.

We are writing this letter out of a sincere concern for a fair and adequate evaluation of Phil. We want to give a realistic view of how we see him and we see that he is not perfect, but can adjust to, and work out his problems in a very capable manner. We each, of course, know Phil on differing degrees of intimacy and in our class none of us can say anything detrimental to his character, ability, or dedication to the priesthood. He is thus, in our estimation, a very capable, adjusted, and sincere person and by all means deserving of the reception of orders. We strongly stand by Phil in his attempt to work through his present situation. We sincerely hope that you will give serious consideration to the confidence that we, his classmates, have in him.

Thanking you for your kind courtesy and time devoted in this matter, we remain,

Prayerfully yours in Christ,





May 28, 1970

1930171

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Denver, Colorado

Philip Dederer

Bishop Blanchette,

I received your decision not to extend orders and I am anxious to meet with you or Bishop Vonesh personally before the meeting of the seminary board. I am concerned about [REDACTED] I am committing myself to do whatever you and the seminary board think necessary. There are, however, some factors that I feel should be clarified. First, [REDACTED] and interview were conducted; second, the evaluation of the material; and third my desire to pursue the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

As you know in May of 1969 during my last week at St. Thomas, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On May 25th I spoke with Father Hugh O'Donnell, dean of theology, according to him and other faculty members I consulted, the first interpretation by [REDACTED] did not significantly influence the faculty when during Holy Week they met to consider their evaluations. Their vote was favorable (15-0) as was the dean's own recommendation. Sometime during the second or third week in April I was called in by the rector and informed only of this vote and the faculty's confidence in me. [REDACTED] Sometime later after being informed of my not receiving orders I asked why I was not informed during Holy Week or at the time I was given the faculty's encouraging recommendation of [REDACTED]. The following material comes from several priests involved in considering the first evaluation. 1) Not wanting to prejudice [REDACTED]; 2) Consideration for my feelings; 3) Neglect; 4) The relatively light importance given to the [REDACTED]; the rector receives [REDACTED]. The variety of reasons given tends to make me question the communication and [REDACTED]. I wonder just what was communicated to my diocese.

I think what must be pointed out is that [REDACTED] forced the rector, dean, and those men consulted to work against time.

On May 21st the rector called me into his office and told me of my Bishop's decision not to extend orders. He said, he concurred. I asked why. He said because [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I asked what was my status with Joliet. He said he did not know. I told him of my desire to pursue the priesthood of Jesus Christ and if this meant Joliet was dropping me there was always other seminaries or another diocese.

Because of Father Kaffer's call and indirectly Father Pock's and Holup's inquiry, the rector called me into his office a second time (May 22) to inform me that he recommended that I not receive orders. He said he did this consulting with some faculty. I presumed this was so since my name was on an orders certificate, I was suppose to be at the order's conference according to the priest giving the talk. Fr. Karsen, Dean of the college and retreat master for the minor orders retreat, called me into his office two days after I was informed that I was not receiving orders and asked me how the planning for the retreat was coming. At this time I informed him I was not receiving orders

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

and that I had turned in my resignation to the rector of another group of men. Several other priests I have worked with neither had knowledge of the rector's recommendation nor the diocese's response. Thus, in a relatively short period of time the rector, dean, and those men consulted were forced to reconsider and

In my talk with Fr. O'Donnell, dean of the theologate, about

Let me first say that I recognize that no man has a right to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. [redacted] no academic, grades, or any apostolic experience can guarantee ordination because without the Holy Spirit these things are empty. A priest is a servant and a servant is willing to undergo embarrassment, confrontation, and direction. If a man is to grow in his priestly life, he is to grow in his faith, need, and trust in God. In terms of dealing with the tensions that are in the priesthood and that will inevitably come a man's way, prayer is most important. Prayer that does not turn in on itself like that of the Pharisee, but the kind of prayer that opens a man up to his God. These things I am talking about are not academic but come from my heart, my life experience, and my experience of the last few days. There is a folly in the world because there is a folly in man. The same folly that called John the Baptist crazy for preaching repentance and living in the desert, and Christ a sinner because he worked with the people, tax collectors, and the poor. In Christ is my peace, my happiness, and my life. I desire to work things out with Joliet, go back to St. Thomas as recommended by the dean and rector, and pursue the priesthood of Jesus Christ. There is still much to explain and say. I hope to see you the second week in June, if possible.

In Christ a servant,

Phillip J. Dederer



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

May 28, 1970  
Topeka, Kansas

Father Kaffer,

Enclosed is my letter to Bishop Blanchette. I wish that both you and the board know exactly how I feel. I hope to see you before I see the board in order to discuss a few things with you and receive some direction. If it is not asking too much I would ask that you present my letter to Bishop Blanchette.

Thankyou, in Christ,

*Phillips J. Deder*

000179

1401 Fifth Ave.  
Dodge City, Kansas  
June 7, 1970

*acknowledged  
6/24/70  
RZK*

Fr. Roger L. Kaffer  
Secretary of the Seminary Board  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Rt. 53 and Airport Rd.  
Lockport, Illinois 60441


Dear Fr. Kaffer,

I am writing this letter at the request of Phil Dedera. In September of this year, I will be a junior at St. Thomas Seminary College, Denver, Co.

This last year I worked with Phil in the C.C.D. program at St. Francis de Sales Parish. This was my first experience in C.C.D. work. St. Francis was not an ideal situation in which to work. The overall program was poorly organized and coordinated on the parish level. There was little support. We were more or less thrown into the situation and had to make the best of it.

I feel that Phil handled his part of the situation with a great deal of maturity and competence. He work well with the Parish coordinator and others in the parish program. He had a good raport with the students. In this first year of C.C.D. work, I feel that I learned a great deal from working with Phil. In short, I feel that Phil was extremely competent in his work and that in a large part through his work we had a good program.

Sincerely yours,





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TMJA  
Released April 2014

000182

Phil Dedera 6/16/70

Phil disagrees with the procedure of  
his ~~subject~~ being delayed for orders, +  
restated the points of his letter.

~~He was asked to take~~

He will

R. L. Kupper  
Secy.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000184

June 23, 1970


Mr. Phillip J. Dadera  


Dear Phil:

At the seminary board meeting on June 16th it was agreed  


Wishing you God's blessings, and with a plea and a  
promise of continued mutual prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Father Roger L. Kaffer  
Secretary, Seminary Board

cc Father Daniel Ryan  
Chancery Office





AREA CODE 815  
Redacted February 2014  
TELEPHONE 722-6606  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000188

Father Ryan -

My vote re: Phil Dedera, even if [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

that he be permitted to continue, receive  
orders, and be advanced to the priesthood.  
I think he is a good candidate.

Roger L. Keffen

6/23/70



000194

August 10, 1970

The Rev. Harold Persich  
Rector, St. Thomas Seminary  
1300 S. Steele Street  
Denver, Colorado 80210

Dear Father Persich:

I have received, in Fr. Kaffer's absence,  
regarding Philip Deder. [redacted]

When our Diocesan Seminary Board met in  
June, [redacted]

Bishop Blanchette has [redacted] and  
would like to propose two questions to you and your faculty:

1. Are you willing to accept Philip as a student  
for third year theology?
2. If you are willing to accept him as a student  
for the third year theology, in the light of  
[redacted]

Assuring you of our appreciation, I am

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Chancellor

DLR:sjs

RECEIVED FEB 22 1971

TMJA

Released April 2014

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000195

August 10, 1970

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM TO:

Members of the Diocesan Seminary Board

Enclosed please find a copy of a memorandum sent by Fr. Kaffer on May 14, 1970, regarding Philip Dederer, a seminarian for the Diocese of Joliet, who has completed his second year of theology at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver. You will recall that at the last Seminary Board meeting, Philip Dederer appeared and answered a number of questions regarding his situation.

At the termination of this Seminary Board meeting, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to phone.

*Carol W. Kane*

Chancellor

DLR:sjs

I favor his continuance at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, as a candidate for the priesthood for the Diocese of Joliet.

Roger Z. Kaffer 8/21/70

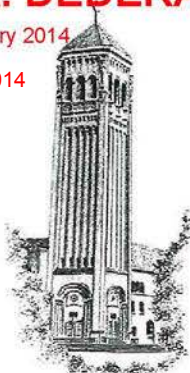


Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000196



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

## St. Thomas Seminary

1300 SOUTH STEELE STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80210

14 August 1970

TELEPHONE  
722-4687  
AREA CODE 303

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Chancellor  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Father Ryan:

I have your letter of August 10 concerning the situation of Phil Dederá.

We are very willing to have Phil return as a student for third year theology. Whereas it puts the burden where it belongs -- on us --

[REDACTED]

At this time we would not insist on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Our own feeling is to see if Phil continues to grow and progress as he has been doing over the past two years. He will be with us for two more years, and I think that we know more about phil than we do about many other students. Moreover, if Phil can handle all of the probing that has been done to him and come through creditably, it should say much in his favor.

[REDACTED]

I presume that you will have someone notify Phil that he will be very acceptable to St. Thomas Seminary as third year theology student. And I do want to thank you and the diocese for your cooperation in keeping us well informed.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

*Harold B. Persich*  
(Very Rev.) Harold B. Persich, C. M.  
Rector

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

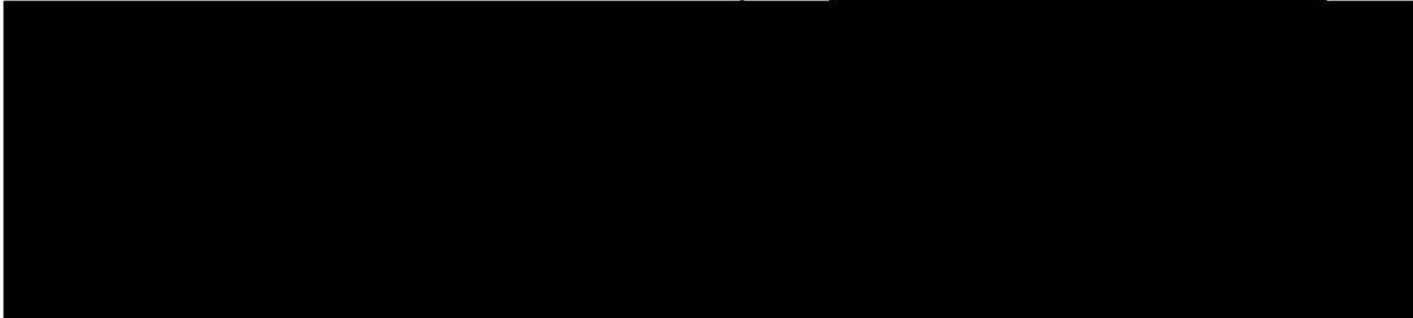
425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

Aug 18, 1970

Fr. Ryan,

Since our phone conversation of yesterday I have been able to read over the material on Phil Dedera that I had not yet received when you called.

My thought in regard to Phil is that he should be allowed to continue his studies



Sincerely

Rev. D. C. Kocher



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

*Religious Education Office*

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

430 NORTH CENTER STREET • JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435 • AREA CODE 815 / 727-6411

000200

August 11, 1970

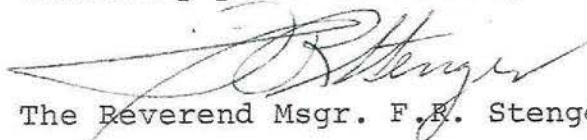
Reverend Daniel Ryan  
425 Summit  
Joliet, Ill. 60435

Dear Father Ryan,

After [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I would vote for his continuing at the seminary.  
[REDACTED] I do not feel that  
there is sufficient evidence to ask him to leave.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Reverend Msgr. F.R. Stenger

FRS:ja

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

*Saint Patrick's Church*

710 WEST MARION STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60436

000201

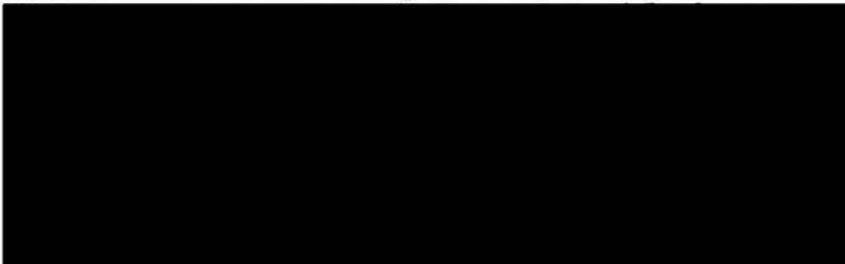
August 12, 1970

Rev. Daniel Ryan  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Ill.

Re: Philip Dedera

Dear Father Ryan:

I have no hesitation in recommending that Philip Dedera be permitted to continue his studies for the priesthood. However,



With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours in Christ,

+ *R. J. Vonesh*

Most Rev. Raymond J. Vonesh  
Auxiliary Bishop, Pastor

RJV:eo



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

St. Isaac Jogues Rectory

306 WEST FOURTH STREET  
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS 60521

Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> 1970

Dear Father Ryan:



I vote affirmatively to retain Philip  
as a student for the priesthood in  
the Diocese of Joliet.

Sincerely in Christ

M. A. Hennehan

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

St. Paul The Apostle Church  
18 North Woodlawn Avenue  
Joliet, Illinois

000203

August 13, 1970

Very Rev. Daniel Ryan  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois

Dear Dan:

In reply to your letter re: Phillip J. Dederer,  
my vote is negative.

I considered the matter prayerfully, and tried to  
change my vote [REDACTED] but could  
not. I cannot but feel that once this young man would  
receive Holy Orders, he would be a thorn in the side  
of the Bishop.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

*Gordon Michels*  
Rev. Gordon A. Michels



AREA CODE 815  
Redacted February 2014  
TELEPHONE 722-6606  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET

*Chancery Office*

425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000204

Memorandum  
re: Philip Dederá  
August 14, 1970

I believe that Phil should be allowed to return to Saint Thomas Seminary, Denver. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I believe that the seminary recommendations should be followed with regard to his further advancement to orders - or denial thereof. He should be told to communicate with his spiritual director [REDACTED]

All of these points should be spelled out to Phil, because I am rather certain, from a recent conversation with him, that he expects momentarily to be called to orders. As it is, he is entering third theology without tonsure.

*Allman*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014


Sem 000205

September 4, 1970

Mr. Phillip Dedera  
St. Thomas Seminary  
1300 S. Steele Street  
Denver, Colorado 80200

Dear Phil:

Bishop Blanchette has asked me to write to tell you that the majority of our Joliet Diocesan Seminary Board Members feel that you should continue your studies for the priesthood at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver. The Diocese and Father Persich have reached an agreement that it will not be necessary for you to receive any psychotherapy as a condition for your continuance for the priesthood.



I am sure, Phil, that the seminary authorities, the Bishop, and the Diocesan Seminary Board will look to you "to carry the ball." I think that the past year or two have been seen as a kind of period of transition in your life, with the future resting in your hands, always, with the help of God's grace.

When you saw me before your return to Denver you made a preliminary inquiry about the possibility of receiving orders. I indicated to you at that time my inability to enter into that discussion. I can only repeat now that it is the Bishop's intention to follow implicitly the suggestions of the seminary authorities when and as they feel in conscience that they can make them.

Wishing you a wonderful and successful year, and looking for good news of you always, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Chancellor

DLR:JAM

CC: The Very Reverend Harold B. Persich



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000207

December 23, 1970

Mr. Philip Deder  
1634 - 63rd Avenue  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear Philip,

It is my custom to talk to all of the members of the class that is to receive the subdiaconate. For this reason, I should like to see each member individually during the holidays.

I am setting your appointment for Thursday, December 31st, at 11:30 in the morning here in the Chancery Office. I trust this will be convenient for you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/sma

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

*Chancery Office*

425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

January 18, 1971

Mr. Philip Dederer  
St. Thomas Seminary  
1300 South Steele Street  
Denver, Colorado 80210

Dear Philip,

While this letter is not a call to the Subdiaconate, it does deal with the major obligations of the subdiaconate. One of the obligations will be the daily recitation of the Divine Office. If in your case the recitation in Latin would create a serious difficulty, for your spiritual good I am happy to give you the permission to recite it in the vernacular. Should there be a serious reason for commutation of some sort, kindly make this known to me in due time.

Also, since it is customary for seminarians in their third year of Theology to be ordained as subdeacons and since with this step the subdeacon assumes the obligation of perpetual celibacy, I am writing you this note to urge you again to prepare well for this major step. Much, in these past years, has been written and spoken concerning clerical celibacy. Since I have not had a chance to speak to you at length concerning this matter, I am writing this letter and I am enclosing a copy of the statement of the Bishops of the United States on "Clerical Celibacy."

It is my hope that you look upon this obligation that you assume as a voluntary gift which you make to God out of love for Him. In the past, I have told the seminarians that if they have any reservations whatsoever in this matter, they should not take this important step.

I would appreciate very much, at your convenience, your writing to me to indicate that it is your desire to accept this obligation without reservation and that you do subscribe to the recent statement of the National Council of Catholic Bishops on "Clerical Celibacy."

I wish to assure you of my continued prayers for your successful preparation for the priesthood, and I know that all the priests of our diocese join me in these prayers.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/sma



Redacted February 2014

TMA  
Released April 2014

February 9, 1971

000212

Bishop Blanchette,

In answer to your letter of January 18, it is important for my spiritual good that I recite the Divine Office in the vernacular. I request your permission and assure you that I take my obligations on this matter seriously.

Concerning the question of Clerical Celibacy, I fully subscribe to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops statement. I have taken the opportunity since receiving your letter and the Bishops statement to bring the matter up again with my spiritual director the Rev. Cecil Parres C.M. and for clarification let me state that I see the commitment to Clerical Celibacy as a positive commitment and not merely a negative rejection of the state of marriage. In making this positive choice I recognize that a priest must be a man of prayer and that prayer will always be an integral part of this positive choice.

I have discussed with the Dean of the School of Theology the Rev. Hugh O'Donnell the matter concerning Holy Orders. After consultation on the matter I have been assured of my confirmation and their approval of my receiving the Diaconate this April, during the Easter break. I thank you for your reassurance that the question of catching up on Orders poses no problem. The Rev. Cecil Parres C.M. J.C.D. is taking care of some of the paper work for me, I have asked Fr. Jim Holup to inquire about the date and time for ordination, and I am in the process of working out the question of retreat with the Dean of Theology.

I wish you God's Blessing, good health and spirit.

In Christ,

*Phil Dedera*

Phillip Dedera III Theology  
St. Thomas Seminary  
Denver, Colorado 80210

*1300 South Steele St*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

*Phillip Deder*  
*(Dedera)* 000213

February 12, 1971

Mr. Phillip Deder  
III Theology  
St. Thomas Seminary  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Phillip,

Replying to your recent letter, I would like to state that the date and time for Ordinations to the Subdiaconate and the Diaconate are as follows:

Monday, April 12th, 7:30 p.m. - Ordination  
to the Subdiaconate, St. Charles Seminary

Friday, April 16th, 7:30 p.m. - Ordination  
to the Diaconate, St. Charles Seminary

A three-day retreat will be expected between the two Orders.

Replying to your request for permission to say the Divine Office in English, I hereby grant you that permission because of the reason you have listed, namely, for your spiritual good.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/sma



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

MAR 2 '71

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY

TELEPHONE 815 - 838-8100  
LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS 60441


000214

Feb. 28 , 1971

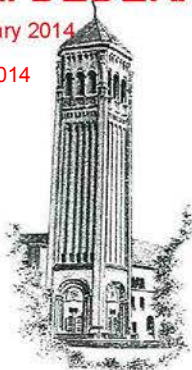
Dear Fr. Ryan,

Would you please give me the date(s) when Phil Dederá will be receiving minor orders. He is scheduled to received Sub-Deaconate on the 12th of April at this seminary. He is awaiting my response. He has not be tonsured as yet.

Sincerely In Christ,

  
Rev. James A. Holup

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

## St. Thomas Seminary

1300 SOUTH STEELE STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80210

March 16, 1971

TELEPHONE  
722-4687  
AREA CODE 303

The Reverend Daniel Ryan  
Chancellor  
310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Father Ryan:

Enclosed you will find the recommendation which I sent  
to the bishop concerning Phillip Dedera.

The only reason why I am sending you a copy of this is  
in case the bishop does not get through his mail before your  
meeting of the seminary board.

I would appreciate it very much if you would turn this over  
to the bishop or destroy it after the meeting. I am always re-  
luctant to multiply confidential communications.

Thanks!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Harold B. Persich*  
Harold B. Persich, C. M.  
Rector



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

NAME PHILIP DEDERA, Joliet, Ill

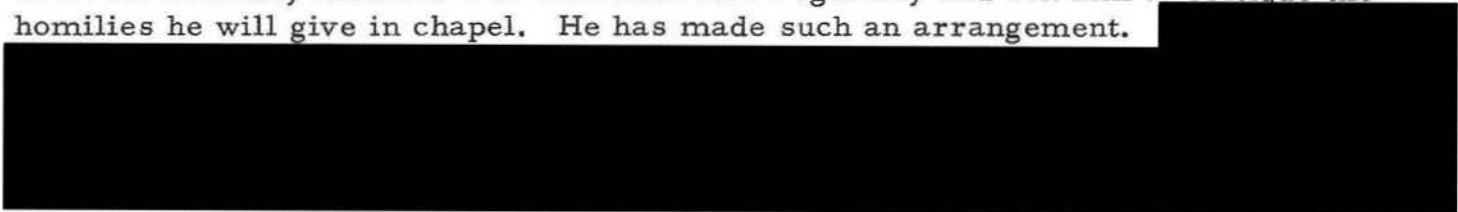
000218

COMMENTS OF RECTOR: This year Phil is eligible for promotion to Tonsure, the four minor orders, and the major orders of Subdiaconate and Diaconate.

As you are aware, Phil went through some rough times at the end of last year and last summer. However, he was quite composed, and handled himself in a very commendable way. I am convinced that Faith was his mainstay.

From the comments made in the faculty meeting of March 15 during which Phil's petition for promotion to orders was presented the following remarks are significant.

There can be no question whatsoever about Phil's seriousness, dedication to the spiritual life and the priesthood, his willingness, and his complete sincerity. He has contributed significantly this year to life in the seminary by his dedicated work on the liturgy and food committees. The area of concern is the evident confusion in his thinking and in his expression. He is certainly working hard at this and in my opinion he is making good progress. It has been suggested to him that for next year he ought to seek out a faculty member who concelebrates regularly and ask him to critique the homilies he will give in chapel. He has made such an arrangement.

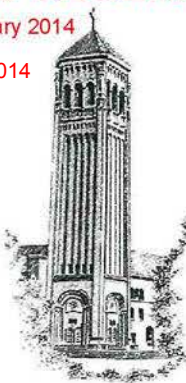


The members of the faculty voted in favor of Phil's promotion to all orders. The vote was: 7 favorable; 2 abstentions. Abstentions are not negative votes.

As rector, I recommend Phil's promotion to all the orders listed above. Phil has profited much from the past year and a half.

*Harold B. Persich, C.M.*  
Rector

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



## St. Thomas Seminary

1300 SOUTH STEELE STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80210

000219

TELEPHONE  
722-4687  
AREA CODE 303

March 5, 1971

The Most Reverend Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.  
Bishop of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Your Excellency

In compliance with the instruction of the Sacred Congregation of Sacraments, of December 27, 1930, I hereby humbly make formal petition for the reception of First Tonsure, the four Minor Orders of Porter, Lector, Exorcist, and Acolyte.

In presenting this petition, I solemnly declare that I am actuated by no motive of fear, either physical or moral; that I am in no way coerced by parent, relative, or any other agency whatsoever; and that I make this request of my own free will.

I further testify that I know fully all the obligations of the clerical state, and that I am resolved, with the aid of God's grace, to observe them conscientiously during the whole course of my life. Moreover, I sincerely promise that I will observe all that my superiors command me and that ecclesiastical discipline requires of me.

Obediently and humbly yours,

Phillip J. Dederer



**St. Thomas Seminary**

VINCENTIAN FATHERS

1300 S. Steele Street  
Denver, Colorado 80210

For 1st Tonsure

Cn. 956

OATH OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN  
DIOCESE OF SIMPLE DOMICILE WITHOUT ORIGIN

I, the undersigned, Phillip Joseph Dederer,  
having simple domicile without origin in the diocese  
of Joliet, Illinois do hereby declare and  
swear to my intention of permanent residence in said  
diocese.

So help me God and these His Holy Gospels which I  
touch with my hand.

Phillip Joseph Dederer  
Signature of Candidate

Sworn to in my presence as witness on the 27 day  
of March, 19 71.

Witness: Harold B. Persich, S.M.  
Rector of St. Thomas Seminary  
Delegate of the Ordinary

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

I, Phillip Dedera, having presented my petition to my Bishop for the reception of the Sacred Order of Subdiaconate and diaconate, sacred ordination being near at hand, and having diligently considered the matter before God, at least under oath first of all that I am impelled by no compulsion or force or fear to receive this Sacred Order, but that I voluntarily desire it and wish to receive it of my own free will, since I believe and feel that I am truly called by God.

I am fully aware of all the obligations that I will contract in the reception of this Sacred Order, which I freely wish to receive, and I earnestly and sincerely intend to observe them diligently throughout the whole course of my life.

Especially do I acknowledge that I clearly understand what the law of celibacy means, and I firmly intend to fulfill it freely and to observe it in its entirety to the last day of my life, with the help of God.

Finally, I sincerely promise that I will obey willingly all commands of my superiors and whatever ecclesiastical discipline requires of me, according to the norms of the sacred canons, and I am fully prepared to give example of virtue both in word and in deed, so that from the reception of so great an office I may merit to be rewarded by God.

This I promise, this I vow, this I swear, so help me God and these His Holy Gospels, which I touch with my hand.

Denver, Colorado

Phillip Joseph Dedera  
March 27, 1971

Witness: Harold B. Persich, c.s.c.  
Rector



000229

March 19, 1971

The Very Reverend Harol B. Persich, C.M.

Rector

St. Thomas Seminary

1300 S. Steele Street

Denver, Colorado 80210

Dear Father Persich:

Thank you for your recent communications. They arrived in good time for the Diocesan Seminary Board Meeting yesterday. As a result of the deliberations at that Board, Bishop Blanchette has asked me to request of you to call Phillip Dederda to first clerical tonsure and all of the minor orders. Tonsure and all of the minor orders will be conferred upon Phillip by Bishop Raymond Vonesh, Auxiliary of Joliet, at St. Patrick's Parish Church, Joliet, at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday of Holy Week, April 7th. I trust that it will be possible for Phillip to return in time for that ceremony.

May I expect to receive from you the usual certificate regarding retreat, studies, orders examination, etc.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Chancellor

DLR:jam

P.S. Please call Phillip to the subdiaconate and diaconate on the above mentioned date. Phillip will be expected to make a retreat at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Lockport from April 12 to April 16. Would you kindly inform him of this.

AREA CODE 815  
Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000230

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET

*Chancery Office*

425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

April 30, 1971

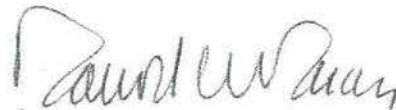
Dear Pastor:

At present, we are in the process of updating our records. In accordance with Canon 1011, Code of Canon Law, notation of ordination to the subdiaconate must be made in the baptismal register. May I ask that you check your records to ascertain if they contain the information listed below. Would you then be so kind as to complete the form below and mail it to me at the above address.

Subdeacon: Phillip Dedera  
Date of Baptism: 6/11/44  
Date of Ordination: 4/12/71  
Place of Ordination: St. Charles Seminary, Lockport, Illinois

Thanking you in advance, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



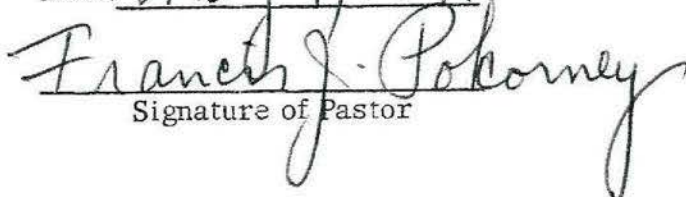
The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan  
Chancellor

DLR:jam

+ + + + +

Notation of the ordination to the subdiaconate of the above-named has been made in our baptismal records.

Our Lady of the Holy Mount  
2414 S. 61st Street  
Cicero, Illinois 60650

Date: May 4, 1971  
Signature of Pastor



*Philip Dedera*

000231

May 19, 1971

The Reverend Mr. Phillip Dedera  
1634 63rd Avenue  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear Mr. Dedera:

Effective June 13 - June 26, you are to assist in the Vocational Program at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Lockport, Illinois. Effective June 28, 1971 through August 23, 1971, I hereby appoint you deacon at St. Walter Parish, Roselle, Illinois.

Wishing you God's blessings, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:jam

St. Walter's Church  
117 W. Maple Avenue  
Roselle, Illinois 60172

JUL 2 1971

000232

Fr. Ryan

Enclosed is bulletin from  
St. Walters Parish and the deacon  
statement by Fr Smith and Dougherty.  
I think it is clear and understand-  
able, as well as, avoids confusion.

Thanks for your efforts on Wed  
in Rockford.

Phil Deder



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000255

EVALUATION REPORT RE: Philip Dedera  
DIOCESE: Joliet  
YEAR OF STUDIES: IV Theology

The faculty recommends D. for ordination.

D. has been basically attentive to the demands of seminary life. He appreciates the need to pray. He has achieved relatively well in academics. Though in some ways curious from a personal point of view he appears to get on well enough with others, students and faculty alike. I think that he has a realistic view of the need for discipline.

In the past there has been some concern about D.'s personal stability. He had seemed to lack balance, clarity of thought and expression, insight into his own abilities and disabilities.

There are in fact tendencies in D. to exaggeration, to an overly dramatic and perhaps not very tasteful style of preaching, to a rather insensitive manner of dealing with others though he would be the first to insist on sensitivity, to an overestimation of his talent and an underestimate of his disabilities. These failures fall within normal limits. I bring them up because I think it will be important for him to have a pastor who will advise him on such things in a straightforward but sympathetic way.

D.'s generosity and willingness should be a great aid to a successful priesthood.

date

7/12/72F. Agnew, C.M.  
F. Agnew, C.M., Rector

cc: Rev. James Holup

FA:mh

September 15, 1972

→ Rev. Mr. Phillip Dederer  
219 Arlington Drive  
Romeoville, Illinois 60441

Dear Phillip:

The Seminary Board will meet to consider your petition for ordination to the priesthood Monday, September 25 at the Chancery Office. Your appointment is scheduled at 3:30 P.M.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr Daniel J. Murray  
Vice Chancellor

DJM/mb

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

**St. Andrew the Apostle Church**

000262

219 ARLINGTON DRIVE

ROMEONVILLE, ILLINOIS

P. O. LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS 60441

PHONE: 838-4407

September 21, 1972

Most Rev. Romeo Blanchette  
Bishop of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop,

Would you please ordain me to the order of priesthood so that I may serve Christ in the Diocese of Joliet. With obedience and charity, I look forward to serve the people of Romeoville, bringing them the message of Christ. Their acceptance and readiness, especially among the young, is certainly for me a witness to a genuine love of God, even though at times, it seems lost in the trials that face them.

With the promise of mutual  
prayers,

*Phillip J. Deder*  
Rev. Mr. Phillip Deder



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

*Ordination*  
*Phillip Deder* 000263

September 26, 1972

Rev. Mr. Phillip Deder  
St. Andrew Parish  
219 Arlington Drive  
Romeoville, Illinois 60441

Dear Phillip,

Upon the receiving the recommendation of the  
Diocesan Seminary Board, I am pleased to call you to Ordina-  
tion to the priesthood.

It is my understanding that the ceremony will  
take place at the Cathedral of St. Raymond on November 1st.  
We have not yet been notified as to the time, and would ask  
that you kindly give us the hour.

I know that as you approach this great day, you  
will concentrate on preparing yourself spiritually for this great  
event.

Wishing you God's blessing, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRE/sma

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000265

November 1, 1972

The Reverend Phillip Dederer  
Saint Andrew's Church  
Romeoville, Illinois

Dear Father Dederer:

Effective immediately I hereby appoint you associate pastor  
(canon 470) of Saint Andrew's Parish, Romeoville, Illinois.

I hereby grant you general delegation for marriages in Saint  
Andrew's Parish, Romeoville.

I also grant you hereby the faculties of the Diocese of Joliet.

Wishing you God's blessings in your assignment, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000271

April 7, 1974

His Excellency Raymond Vonesh  
Catholic Chancery Office - Joliet Diocese  
425 Summit  
Joliet, Illinois

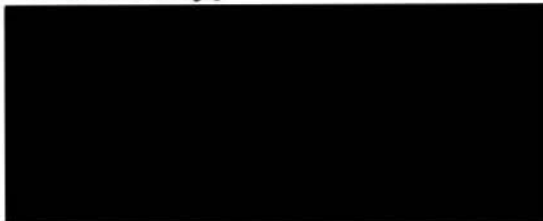
Your Excellency:

Would you please advise Rev. Philip Dedera of St. Andrew Church, Romeoville, Illinois, that the words 'damn' and 'ass' have no place in the homily of a mass? These are the words he used Sunday morning, April 6, 1975. To be more specific, in the course of his sermon he told us "Get off your ass" - his way of putting across a point. I and others found this very objectionable.

If a man has so many years of education and still has a lack of vocabulary, something is definitely wrong.

Although St. Andrew is not my parish, I attend mass there every Sunday because this is my mother's parish whom I visit every weekend. To say the least, my mother was appalled at this language.

Sincerely,





January 27, 1976

The Reverend Philip Dedera  
c/o St. Pius X Parish  
1025 East Madison Avenue  
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Dear Father Dedera:

Effective immediately, I hereby appoint you associate pastor (Canon 476) of St. Pius X Parish, Lombard, Illinois. Transferring you as associate pastor of St. Andrew's Parish, Romeoville, Illinois.

I hereby grant you general delegation for marriages in St. Pius X Parish, Lombard, Illinois effective immediately.

Wishing you God's blessings in your new assignment,  
I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet  
Vicar General  
By Special Mandate

RJV:kms



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

## 'Father Phil' pops up all over, and so do fans

By Randy Melina

HE'S JUST a man.

A big man — over 6 feet, and built like a fullback. But, so are a lot of men.

This man, at age 33, has given his life to the proposition that the "little" things he can do for others pay off big. He "scratches the surface," he says, and tries to make a difference.

Some of the methods he employs to make that difference, to put someone at ease, to touch a life, might be considered unorthodox, perhaps shocking. But Phillip Dederia is human. He makes mistakes. He can't count on divine intervention each time he acts.

HE'S A PRIEST, but he's just a man.

The Rev. Phillip Dederia is one of three priests who serve 1,600 families, the parishioners of St. Pius X Catholic Church, Lombard.

He deals with the hundreds of problems and joys any priest confronts, but in his two years at St. Pius, he has become more than what most parishioners might expect of a priest.

HE HAS a remarkable following of young people. Hundreds of them not only know his name, but actually know him. To them, he's Father Phil.

They come to him, trickling in to the rectory at 1025 E. Madison to talk about what puzzles them. But, even in the comfort of his room, which offers a refrigerator stocked with cold drinks (a beer or two for the older youths) and a "bad" (according to one 13-year-old) sounding stereo system featuring "Kiss" and the other "bad" rock group albums, his young fans don't simply relax and pour out the hurts with ease.

They constantly test him, push him, and even try to impress him. It's a defense mechanism, he says, because for many junior and high school students growing up in a highly populated suburban area, life is full of stress and anxieties, and they may be afraid of being burned, or burned again.

THE TRUST between Father Phil and his following has grown and continues to grow, however, a phenomena due primarily to his theory of visibility. He is everywhere, all the time — constantly scratching the surface, constantly making a difference.

The young priest was born in Du Page County, and graduated from Downers Grove North High School. He considers himself "back home," where he knows what it is like to be a kid.

HIS ROUTINE on Friday nights, and a lot of other nights, might well go like this, the way it did recently.

6 P.M. He eats a hurried dinner of chop suey, prepared by an English cook who serves the priests.

6:30 P.M. He discusses plans with a young couple about their upcoming wedding.

6:45 P.M. He gives a "quickie" baptism, as he puts it, for an infant parishioner.

7 P.M. Two boys, ages 14 and 15, show up "just to spend some time with Father Phil," they say. Two girls in their early teens arrive at the same time. It's a follow-up visit after one of the girls was having problems with her family and school.

Dederia lets the boys relax in his room (the zoo, remember?) and spends a few minutes talking to the girls in another small room with couches, and soft lighting he uses for discussions.

7:30 P.M. Now he's back with the boys, joking, pulling pranks, such as shaking one of their hands with a palm full of shaving cream.

A FEW MINUTES pass, and three other boys show up. They're younger than the others, 7th graders. The scene now gets chaotic at times, and some crude language is tossed around during the telling of off-color jokes.

Father Phil scowls, but the strongest reprimand he issues is, "Hey, I don't live here alone, you know. Hold it down." He must compete with a "Kiss" album. The showoff language subsides as it becomes apparent Father Phil isn't impressed and doesn't intend to scold.

8 P.M. Father Phil has loaded the five into the rectory's sedan and driven to Willowbrook High School, Villa Park, where a varsity basketball game is in progress. The man at the door, a parishioner, lets them in free, provided they stay only 30 minutes. That will be time enough.

Within that period, the priest makes contact with not fewer than 100 teen-agers, and a handful of parents. In a whirl of motion, he climbs the stands, stopping wherever a familiar face pops up, moving deftly up and down the steep aisles. Dozens of youths shout "Father Phil" as he approaches.

Even the Big Man on Campus, the high school quarterback, is proud to show he's the priest's friend.

"Is this that guy with the dirty magazines I've been hearing about?" he says, wrestling with a 13-year-old. "How you doing buddy?"

8:45 P.M. Outside the high school, he bumps into a group after group of teen-agers, stopping to "touch base" with each one. "Where have you been hiding? Come see me," he tells them. Then he suddenly stops. "Last one to the car is a pervert," and they're off again.

9 P.M. They make a quick stop at a combination record store and head shop in Villa Park to buy a cassette tape, and the five boys head directly for the marijuana-smoking supplies counter.

"Wow, look at this bong" (a smoking device), one says. Two others peer toward the ceiling where a new water pipe called the "towering inferno" is majestically displayed. "Could I use one of those," another says.

A YOUNG COUPLE, about the same age as those planning their wedding earlier in the evening, stand at the counter and contemplate what kind of hash pipe to buy a friend for Christmas.

Outside in the parking lot, one of the boys asks Father Phil, "Why don't you have a power hitter?" (a cylindrical, marijuana-smoking device.)

Quickly, the priest replies, "I can't smoke that stuff. I've got things to do. I've got to keep my wits about me. What if I stopped at a bad car accident, was called upon to give last rites, and I was too stoned to do it? Would I just say, 'Wow, man, you're really hurt bad,' and walk away?"

The 15-year-old understands, but says "I don't have to do that, though." Father Phil comes back, "What do you have to do?" And the 15-year-old shakes his head. He'll have to think about it.

9:30 P.M. After a quick stop at A-Jays, a popular hot dog shop in Lombard on Roosevelt Road, Father Phil spots a rescue squad headed for a subdivision.

He's the Lombard Police Department chaplain, and tries to help out when he can. He follows the squad.

9:40 P.M. The squad has stopped at a house, and as the attendants gather up a stretcher, Father Phil enters the house. A Please turn to page 9



Two photos by Michael Wirtz

A typical Friday night of counseling may take the Rev. Phillip Dederia of Lombard to his office, a high school basketball game, a record store, a singles apartment complex, and a pizza shop.

## Priest carries his ministry to unconventional corners

From page 3

middle-aged man lays sprawled out on the living room floor. He's had a heart attack but is conscious.

As the attendants administer aid and prepare to transfer the man, the priest rushes to his car, reaches in the glove compartment, and grabs a small metal cylinder. It contains holy oils, used in the last rites.

The man is in serious condition, but he won't die. He isn't Catholic. The priest comforts him, says "God bless you," and returns to the car.

10:15 P.M. The five boys have been dropped off near their homes, and Father Phil is at a singles apartment complex in Lombard, visiting with a young woman who the week before attempted suicide. The

conversation is private. He's dealing with her in the "internal form," something like off-the-record, he says.

11 P.M. Late in the evening, he gives two of his new friends, chiropractic students in their mid-20s, a tour of the Lombard Police station, a modern facility. One of the students jokingly says of the priest, "I've worked on his back, and I know he's human."

MIDNIGHT. The last stop is a local pizza shop, where he and the chiropractic students relax with a few beers and talk about what each of them considers the most important values in life. It has been a long, strenuous night, but Father Phil is full of energy, ready to go on after a 16-hour day.

The Friday night is over. He has scratched the surface. He has made a difference.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000274

June 29, 1978

The Reverend Philip Dedera  
St. Pius X  
1025 East Madison  
Lombard, IL 60148

Dear Father Dedera:

Effective July 7, 1978, I hereby appoint you  
associate pastor (Canon 476) of Visitation Parish, Elmhurst,  
Illinois, thereby transferring you from your assignment as  
associate pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Lombard, Illinois.

I hereby grant you general delegation for marriages  
in Visitation Parish, Elmhurst, effective July 7th.

I remain  
Wishing you God's blessings in your new assignment,

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:kmt





## ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Archbishop

July 18th, 1978

Reverend Philip Deder a  
Visitation Parish  
Elmhurst, Illinois

Dear Father Deder a,

In the interest of providing adequate spiritual care for all of the people in your vicinity, some who come frequently to the Archdiocese of Chicago or who are hospitalized here, I am pleased, with the agreement and approval of your Most Reverend Ordinary, to grant you the faculties of the Archdiocese of Chicago, in accordance with Canon Law and our Archdiocesan regulations, for the tenure of your present assignment. This grant of faculties will expire in case of your transfer.

It is understood that the usual canonical procedures will be followed in the case of marriages.

In administering the Sacraments to any of the parishioners in Chicago hospitals, it is respectfully suggested that you advise the Chaplain beforehand, so that no confusion might result.

Wishing you every blessing in your priestly work and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours in Christ,

+ John Cardinal Cody  
Archbishop of Chicago

P. S. - May I ask you to be good enough and complete the enclosed form and return it to me.

cc: Reverend William E. Donnelly - Co-Chancellor, Joliet diocese

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

VISITATION CHURCH  
779 SOUTH YORK STREET  
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS 60126

000276

REV. MSGR. JOHN F. PODESTA, Pastor

Telephone: Terrace 4-6700

December 7, 1978

Very Rev. Daniel L. Ryan  
425 Summit St.  
Joliet, IL.

Dear Father Ryan:

In our last meeting, in which Fr. Dedera and I discussed our differences, one conclusion of the talks was that I desired a more structured priest in the rectory, to which decision, I think, we all agreed. Well, that was a pipe dream which has not materialized in any manner.

Two weeks ago, in a sermon at the 8:30 Mass, Fr. Dedera dispelled that dream in no uncertain manner. Prior to his talk, rumors were being bruited about the parish that a group were mounting a campaign to obtain petitions for his removal from the parish. Reasons alleged for the removal coincided with those proffered by me in that meeting with the two of you.

Fr. Dedera was informed of this development by me in the strictest confidence and charity. So he went about discovering the person or persons involved in the petitions, and on November 18th took them to task at his Mass. Various persons who called my attention to this development, resented his 'airing his dirty laundry in public'. In the talk, I would not term it a sermon, he defended his life style and upbraided the parishioners for not understanding him, and what sent me out of my composure was the statement that he had every intention of being himself. Furthermore, if he decided to go have a drink at the 'Corporation with the boys', that was his business. Well, by now we all know his boys are Junior High School children, which I am sure he will deny, but who will or can explain this to the people that were attending his Mass. I told him what and how I felt about his talk, and naturally he claimed that fifteen people praised him for his honest talk, and I responded that I did not appreciate this one twit, for he was accomplishing nothing but a division and greater cleavage among the parishioners. The parishioner whom he singled out as the instigator, came to the office and described his glaring at her throughout the talk and what an embarrassment this caused her.

Bluntly, structure is not for him; hence he is not for me. This is for the records, and if there is one who can abide with him, I feel he should be given the opportunity to live his life style with a more appreciative person.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Rev. Dominic Valentino*  
Rev. Dominic Valentino

cc Most Rev. D. Kucera, D.D.



DIOCESE OF JOLIET  
*Chancery Office*  
425 SUMMIT STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60433

000277

February 22, 1979

The Reverend Philip Deder  
Visitation Rectory  
779 South York Street  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Dear Father Deder:

Effective February 28, 1979, I hereby appoint you associate pastor (Canon 476) of St. Walter Parish, Roselle, Illinois, and grant you, at the same time, general delegation for marriages in St. Walter's Parish, thereby transferring you from your present assignment to Visitation Parish, Elmhurst.

In accord with my discussion with you, and your further conversation with Father Ryan, our Personnel Advisor, and Father Smith, Pastor of St. Walter's Parish, it is understood that your ministry in St. Walter's Parish will be with the adults of the parish, under the direction of Father Smith, in addition to your liturgical duties. Specifically, it is understood that you will not be engaged in youth ministry at St. Walter's Parish. I shall hope to hear from you from time to time about the success at St. Walter's.

Wishing you God's blessings in your new assignment, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, OSB, DD  
Apostolic Administrator

DWK:kmt



*Fr. Deder*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000278

May 4, 1979

Reverend Philip Deder  
St. Walter's Parish  
117 West Maple  
Roselle, Illinois 60172

Dear Father Phil:

Recently, at Confirmation ceremonies at St. Pius X Parish, I inspected the baptismal records. There were three blank spaces in the books since the last time such a check was made and your initials were in those spaces. Father Shimanek tells me that they were baptisms conducted by you but not recorded. He also indicated that he had asked you for the information on one or two occasions.

I am sure, Phil, that you understand the absolute necessity of our keeping accurate records. I would expect you within a week of the receipt of this letter to give the specific information about who was baptized, date of baptism, sponsors, parents. It could well be that in years to come some poor person will be unduly hampered in not being able to secure a baptismal record because of improper recording.

I know, Phil, that you will take care of this matter but since it is so important I am asking Father Shimanek to report to me as soon as the information is submitted to him and the record completed.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.  
Apostolic Administrator

DWK:jb

CC: Reverend Joseph Shimanek

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000279

June 4, 1979

Reverend Joseph Shimanek  
St. Piux X  
1025 E. Madison  
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Dear Joe,

Sometime ago I wrote to Father Dederer asking him to supply the baptismal information for the three blanks in your book. He was to do that within a week and you in turn were to let me know.

I would suspect that since I have not heard from you that he has not complied. Would you please let me know so that I may remind him once again of his responsibility.

With best wishes,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.  
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

December 31, 1983

Reverend Philip Dederer  
St. Walter Parish  
117 West Maple  
Roselle, IL 60172

Dear Father Dederer:

I would like to keep you abreast of developments in the appointment of a Pastor at St. Joseph's, Downers Grove.

First of all, Bishop Imesch has appointed Father Henry Wilkening, Pastor of Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst to replace Bishop Daniel Ryan as a member of the Personnel Board.

Secondly, the Board will be interviewing those who showed an interest in the Pastorate of St. Joseph Parish on Wednesday afternoon January 11th at Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst. I will call you early next week with an exact time and place, but would ask you to clear that afternoon, if possible, for an interview. According to Board policy, an interview is not absolutely required if we have already spoken with you in the last six months, but we would be more than happy to speak to anyone who has applied for this pastoral position.

Finally, and perhaps most important, I would ask you to read the enclosed letter which was composed by the Parish Council of St. Joseph's and issued with their approval. It gives a good description of the type of Pastor they are hoping will be appointed to St. Joseph's. Much of our interview will reflect the needs and desires of the parish community as expressed in this letter and in other communications we have had with them.

Wishing you God's blessings at this Christmas Season, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend William E. Donnelly  
Chancellor

WED:dms

Enclosure

cc: Reverend John Kloepfer  
Reverend Henry Wilkening



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Released April 2014

REV. PHIL DEDERA

000282

May 4, 1984

  
Dear Mr. :

I am very grateful for the letter you sent me recently commending Father Phil Dederer. I assure you that I share your high opinion of him. Many people do not have the opportunity of coming to know a priest as intimately as you have come to know Father Phil. Therefore it does not surprise me that you think so highly of him.

Despite the present difficulties at St. Walter's, I have talked with Father phil and we both feel that he should be reassigned at this time. I know it will be difficult for him to leave, as it will be for the community to have him leave.

I have no doubt that you have already found the occasion to tell Father Phil of your appreciation and regard for him. It is important that our priests hear this from the people they serve. I hope also that you will support whomever comes to replace Father Phil.

I assure you of my appreciation for your letter.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 4, 1984

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Walter's Parish  
140 W. Maple  
Roselle, IL 60172

Dear Phil,

Effective June 18th of this year I am transferring you from your position as associate pastor at St. Walter's Parish, Roselle to become the associate pastor (Canon 545) of St. Scholastica's Parish in Woodridge. I also grant you general delegation for marriages in St. Scholastica's Parish.

I want to thank you for the five years of service that you provided the people of St. Walter's. I am sure that they have benefited greatly from your ministry and that you have grown from your service to them. One does not have to be a priest for a very long period before he realizes that the people to whom he ministers are also ministers to him.

Each new assignment brings with it a new challenge as well as a new opportunity. Parishes, just like people, are quite different. These new situations offer us an opportunity to grow, both personally and in our ministry.

I want to encourage you to participate in the cluster meetings of the priests of your area. There is much that can be shared, as well as learned, in these gatherings. They also serve as a means of priestly support for each other.

As you go to your new assignment please be assured of my appreciation for the ministry you have carried on during these past five years at Roselle and of my prayerful best wishes and support for you in your new assignment. If I can ever be of any assistance to you, please feel free to call upon me. May the Lord bless your efforts.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Inesch  
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Reverend Stanley Orlikiewicz  
Reverend Edward Stefanich

December 21, 1984

To Whom it May Concern:

The Reverend Phillip Dederer was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, on November 1, 1972. Since that time Father Dederer has served as associate pastor in several parishes of the Joliet Diocese including his present assignment as associate pastor of St. Scholastica parish, Woodridge, Illinois. Father Dederer is in good standing with the Diocese of Joliet and is qualified to witness Catholic marriages in his capacity as a ordained priest.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend William E. Donnelly  
Chancellor

WED:dms



May 7, 1985

Reverends Edward Stefanich, Philip  
Dedera and Paul Tsi  
St. Scholastica's Parish  
7800 Janes Avenue  
Woodridge, IL 60517

Dear Fathers,

It is encouraging to know that I have the  
enthusiastic support of friends like you! Thank  
you for your congratulatory telegram.

Pray for me that I may be a bishop  
according to the heart of Christ and serve and  
give selflessly. Be assured of my prayers.

Gratefully yours in the Sacred Heart,

Titular Bishop-elect of Dusa  
Auxiliary Bishop-elect of Joliet

RLK:bjd

## ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH

7800 JANES AVENUE • WOODRIDGE, IL 60517

Dear Brother in the Lord,

I believe that's how you put it in your Holy Week message. You refer to the acclaimed and criticized, how true that is for all of us. For my part, let me just thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

St. Scholastica's has been good to me. I thank God for that grace. Ed has been very helpful and Sr. Angelica most cooperative in working with the school. I manage to see Bob Collogan and Herb Essig once in awhile, you have two good priests in them.

A few days ago I stopped over to see Stan at St. Walters and still

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## ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH

7800 JANES AVENUE • WOODRIDGE, IL 60517

have that feeling that he is still  
deeply hurt by all that mess.

Our first theologian Ray N. has been  
very helpful when he is around. I  
understand he asked you if you had fun  
on your Ethiopia trip. Excuse him he is  
young. I don't know if the theologian's  
get the job but I am giving him a  
copy of your Report on Ethiopia.

While I was in Brazil, I had  
an opportunity to see some of the  
third world's poor and your report let  
me do some reflecting on "love one another  
as I have loved you."

I guess you'll be at our cluster one  
of these days; we meet at the abbey in  
isle. It also gives us a chance to  
get to confession once a month. God  
know we need it.



ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH  
7800 JANES AVENUE • WOODRIDGE, IL 60517

We will be preaching on John Paul's apostolic letter "To the Youth of the World" and using it for a seventh grade retreat. After all they are the hope of the Church. I suppose one day they will be our judges as to our effectiveness and ministry. I hope they learn and live their lessons.

I guess that's it. Sorry I don't have anything to ask of you or complain about. Just keep us in your prayers.

Phil Dederica

December 13, 1985

CONFIDENTIALReverend Phil Dederer - St. Scholastica, Woodridge

After the Cluster Five meeting, of which Bill is chairman, we visited for about 45 minutes in his room. Phil's room is very nicely appointed, not at all plush, but very comfortable. He was proud of the Papal Blessing sent by a South American Archbishop, whose nephew Phil had buried, and also of a thank-you letter on behalf of Pope John Paul I, which arrived the day of his death. Phil is 42 years old. It was gratifying to talk with him, and observe what a fine priest and sound man he seems to be. I told Phil that it is a special joy to visit and concelebrate with former students. Phil seems very happy, balanced, philosophical. He likes his pastor, Ed Stefanich, thinks he's a fine priest. He likes the people in the parish. He likes his ministry. He excuses the faults of others and in general, seems to have a wonderful attitude.

While Phil would like to be a pastor, he understands that his classmates also would like to be pastors. He did not resent the fact that some of the religious who are older came in and became pastors. He said the pastors have been appointed according to seniority, and he will not complain because he doesn't want others to complain when he gets his turn according to seniority. I asked Phil about his former "street apostolate." He said that he started to leave that when he went from Romeoville to Lombard, and has pretty much discontinued it now. He believes as one becomes older, one should leave the work with the young to younger priests. He said when you get older, you get more tired.

He was affirming of me, as I was of him. We joined hands and said spontaneous prayer together before I left.

*FRD*

---

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK: bjd

2.

I would like to have a ceremony of installation for you. There are no Saturday evening or Sundays during April when I would be free to take part in this ceremony. I would ask you to contact Bishop Kaffer or Bishop Vonesh to see if a mutually convenient date could be arranged.

Be assured of my willingness to be of assistance to you at any time. I send you to the people of these two communities with my blessing and I pray that you will be a good shepherd to them.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet



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Released April 2014

## P R O F E S S I O N   O F   F A I T H

"I, Reverend Phillip Deder, with firm faith, believe and profess all and everything that is contained in the Symbol of Faith, that is:"

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages; God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven. He became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate and was buried. On the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and of His kingdom, there will be no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified and who spoke through the prophets. I believe in one holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I await the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

"I firmly embrace and accept all and everything which has been either defined by the Church's solemn deliberation or affirmed and declared by its ordinary magisterium concerning the doctrine of faith and morals, according as they are proposed by it, especially those things dealing with the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, its sacraments, the sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff."

*Rev. Phillip Deder*

DATE: Chancery

PLACE: March 25, 1986

On March 25, 1986, the Reverend Phillip Deder appeared before me and made the Profession of Faith, and thus by particular Law of the Church, he will take canonical possession of St. Mary's Parish, and St. Joseph's Mission Paxton & Loda, Illinois, on April 3, 1986.

*John L. Deder*  
Bishop/Delegate



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Released April 2014

# Father Phillip Dedera receives first pastorate

1986 New pastor of St. Mary, Paxton,  
and St. Joseph, Loda 0289-B

WOODRIDGE—Father Phillip Dedera, associate pastor of St. Scholastica Parish here, has received his first pastorate at St. Mary Parish in Paxton and St. Joseph Parish in Loda.

Fr. Dedera was born in Chicago on May 16, 1944. As a youngster his family moved to Downers Grove and he received his education in that city's public school system.

After graduating from Downers Grove North High School in 1964, Fr. Dedera enrolled at Lewis University in Romeoville. In 1965, when he was a sophomore at Lewis, the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, also in Romeoville, was opened and Fr. Dedera entered the seminary. He holds the distinction of being the second person enrolled and the first person to be ordained from the seminary.

**AFTER EARNING** his bachelor's degree from Lewis University he entered the St. Thomas School of Theology in Denver, Colo. While there he studied Protestant theology at the Il-lif School of Theology in Denver and also completed his pastoral medical internship at Mercy Hospital in Denver.

Fr. Dedera was ordained on Nov. 1, 1972, by the late Bishop Romeo Blanchette at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet.

His first assignment brought him to St. Andrew Parish in Romeoville where he served as associate pastor. While there, he also wrote a column, "Light on the Subject," for the **Joliet Catholic Explorer**.

In addition to his assignment in Romeoville, Fr. Dedera also served as associate of St. Pius X Parish, Lombard, Visitation Parish, Elmhurst, and St. Walter Parish, Roselle, before being named associate of St. Scholastica, Woodridge, in 1984.

**DURING HIS** 14 years of ministry, Fr. Dedera has served as a police and fire chaplain in Romeoville, police chaplain in Lombard, fire chaplain in Roselle and chaplain for the Fraternal



**Father Phillip Dedera**

Order of Police in DuPage County.

In 1976 he worked with the juvenile division of the Illinois Department of Corrections, helping adolescents with their problems and creating programs to fight juvenile delinquency.

As continuing education, Fr. Dedera participated in a summer master's program on Catholic School Leadership given at Boston College in 1984. He has also completed several training courses and updating seminars on narcotics identification and drug enforcement laws given by such agencies as the Federal Drug Administration, the South Suburban Juvenile Officers Association and the U.S. Department of Justice.

As he begins his first pastorate, Fr. Dedera stresses the importance of a "foundation of prayer" from which he wants to build his ministry.

**"I AM** looking forward to going down to meet the people of St. Mary and St. Joseph, to get to know them and let them get to know me," he said. "I am also looking forward to praying with them because I feel that no work can be down unless it's based on prayer. After that we'll get down to the other things."

Fr. Dedera begins his new assignment on April 5.

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000300

CONFIDENTIAL

January 9, 1987

RE: Reverend Philip Deder

He still continues to be very happy and optimistic. He filled me in on all the things he is doing in his parish. In the Spring he plans to tuckpoint it, and has the assurance of a pretty good donation, probably in the neighborhood of \$30,000, coming in. He moved the organ at St. Joseph's in Loda from the downstairs to the upstairs, more people will now sing in the choir. The Council of Catholic Women picked up the tab for that.



Phil is working with an ecumenical group and just seems to be thrilled and enthused, and continuing to do a good job. I commended him.

.....*R.L.K.*.....

---

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch ←

RECEIVED JAN 15 1987



000301

April 16, 1987

Reverend Charles Gravenstine  
Director, Summer Institute for Preachers  
Department of Theology  
The Catholic University of America  
Washington, D.C. 20064

Dear Father Gravenstine:

In the name of Bishop Joseph Imesch, I wish to inform you that the Reverend Phillip Dederer, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, 407 W. Pells Street, Paxton, IL 60957, has been nominated to apply for one of the 30 tuition scholarships being offered by your University for the Preachers Institute which will be held in June. It is my understanding that you will now be in touch with Father Dederer to fill out whatever application forms are necessary, and that the University will pick 30 individuals from around the nation to attend the workshop.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend William E. Donnelly  
Chancellor

WED:dms

cc: Reverend Phillip Dederer

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Released April 2014



000304

## THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

*School of Religious Studies  
Department of Theology  
Washington, D.C. 20064  
202-635-5481*

May 6, 1987

Reverend William E. Donnelly, Chancellor  
Diocese of Joliet Chancery  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Reverend Donnelly,

I am pleased to tell you that Reverend Phillip Dedera has been accepted to participate in the Summer Institute for Preachers at Catholic University.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with Reverend Dedera in conjunction with the Institute.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your recommendation.

Sincerely,

Director, Summer Institute for Preachers

enc.

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TMJA

Released April 2014

000305

May 7, 1987

Father Phillip J. Dederer  
407 West Pells Street  
Paxton, IL 60957

Dear Father Dederer,

It is my pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to participate in the Summer Institute for Preachers at The Catholic University of America.

This preaching event begins Monday, June 1 and lasts until Friday, June 26. You are one of thirty priests who have been nominated by their bishops to participate in this intensive institute. During the four weeks at CUA you will have the opportunity to attend lectures on theology and preaching as well as having your preaching critiqued by facilitators and peers in a small group atmosphere. You are asked to bring with you one tape, either audio or VHS video, of a recently preached Sunday homily.

Your accommodations while on the CUA campus will be at Theological College (401 Michigan Avenue, 202-635-5900) where you will have a private room. All meals will be provided at Theological College. Rooms will be available for checking in beginning on Saturday, May 30.

Our first session will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Monday morning in the Caldwell Lounge, in the middle of the first floor of Caldwell Hall. For your convenience, I am enclosing a map of the CUA campus with Theological College and Caldwell Hall marked in red.

If you have any further questions about the Summer Institute or concerns about your arrival in Washington please feel free to contact the Institute's administrative assistant, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

Again, let me congratulate you on your acceptance to the Summer Institute for Preachers. I look forward to greeting you in person on June 1 as we begin our homiletical work together.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Director, Summer Institute  
for Preachers

CJD:ddk

cc: Reverend William E. Donnelly, Chancellor

Father William Cenker, Dean, School of Religious Studies

2:enc.



DIOCESE OF JOLIET

000306

CHANCERY

September 17, 1987

Reverend Phillip Dedera  
St. Mary Parish  
407 W. Pells Street  
Paxton, IL 60957

Dear Phil:

As I am making my second-year visitations of the priests, I have been inviting fellows to my house. However, since it is such a long drive for a short visit from the south, I plan to come down there for about three days, seeing fellows at about an hour and a half intervals, which should give us about 45 minutes to an hour to visit. If there is anything you want to discuss with me, have it ready. According to the itinerary I have worked out, I would plan to visit with you on October 15th at 6:00 p.m. at Paxton. I hope this will be convenient for you, so I won't have to do too much juggling back and forth. But if it isn't, call my secretary, [REDACTED], and we surely can work out something else.

Looking forward to visiting with you 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

p.s. I'd like to join you for a bite of supper, Phil. I'm allowing an extra half hour for that.

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Released April 2014

000307

CONFIDENTIAL

October 15, 1987

MEMO RE: FATHER PHIL DEDERA

Some weeks ago, I had made arrangements to have dinner with Phil at 6:00 p.m. As he greeted me at the front door, he pointed out the new carpet on the enclosed front porch, which is the parish office, for the warmth and comfort of the secretary. The house also seems to have been re-carpeted. It is very tastefully decorated throughout, warm and comfortable, but not lavish. Some friends gave Phil a new couch for the sitting room upstairs, which he said is a gift to the parish. Someone else, I believe, gave him a second-hand corner couch outfit, and he replaced a recliner chair. Very little by way of new furnishings, all belonging to the parish. He does not believe in carting furniture from one rectory to another.

Two of the parish ladies had prepared the meal. Phil had a little bell to let them know when we were ready for the next course. This was a source of humor because he had never used it before, and has really only used the dining room about half a dozen times. Phil himself made the vegetable soup. In the course of the leisurely meal, with delightful background music, Phil enthusiastically and with some justifiable pride told me of the renovations, the programs, the ministry and the progress of the parish. He has about 115 in the grade school CCD program, and another 65 to 70 in the high school program. He has all four commissions on the parish council and meets with the members of each for their respective areas of competence, thus giving them something to report back to the whole council about. The church has been tuckpointed, new sidewalks and lights outside the church installed, translucent shades installed on the classroom windows, which allow filtered light by day and serve as shades at night. All of the improvements have been paid for without his talking about money or having to take money from the regular parish income. People have been very generous with their gifts, bequests, and donations.

Phil apparently is active in both the community - civic and ecumenical. He has periodic ecumenical services at the nursing home, gives a talk on a radio show, at the Rotary Club, is active with the Knights of Columbus, which meets at the parish, etc.

Phil gets up at 5:00 each morning, has a cup of coffee with the Chief of Police or sheriff and a couple of others, walks his dog, prepares for Mass, has rolls with a group of old ladies after Mass, and is in the rectory office by 9:30 each morning. He has visited about 60 of the



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Memo re: Father Phil Dedera

-2-

October 15, 1987

outlying families of the parish. He makes communion calls every First Friday, and doesn't finish until about 12:30 p.m. For this reason, he could never make the Black Panthers' luncheon meetings on the First Friday. He seldom makes them on other Fridays either. It is a long drive, and they never come south for them. He does try to make the cluster meetings most of the time. Phil evidently sees more of the priests in the far southern part of the diocese, like Matt Walsh and Bill Smith.

I expressed my concern lest he feel lonely or isolated. He said he feels neither. His dad sometimes comes down. He is busy and he seems happy.

I also asked Phil about retreat, and he said he did not make one this year. Being gone a month in the summer on the Priests' Preaching Seminar at Catholic University and coming back to tuckpointers behind schedule all took away time that could otherwise have been spent on retreat, he implied. I simply exhorted him to be aware of the importance of retreat, and also with a retreat master who can challenge, confront and inspire a person.

I asked Phil, most confidentially, about [REDACTED]. He said the police had questioned him, and he told them the two incidents about which they asked had happened after he had left. He assured them that had he had any evidence of wrong doing, he certainly would have done something about it.

I commended Phil for the fine job he is doing. He has a choir, a convert was coming for instructions as I was leaving, and he just seems to be doing a fine job overall. I told Phil I am proud of him.

He feels he knew himself and is very happy that his first assignment as a pastor is in a rural setting where he can make decisions and learn how to do things on a smaller scale than in a large suburban parish.

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch



*Dedera*  
000309

June 22, 1988

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Mary Parish  
407 W. Pells  
Paxton, IL 60957

Dear Phil,

With this letter I am appointing you Dean of Ford/Iroquois Deanery (Cluster 9) until October 10, 1990 completing the term of Reverend Robert Pietras. I want to thank you for your willingness to accept this responsibility in addition to your pastoral responsibilities.

I am enclosing a list of your responsibilities as Dean.

I want to repeat my appreciation for your acceptance of this opportunity to serve your brother priests and the Church of Joliet as my representative in your Deanery. I assure you of my willingness to be of assistance to you in anyway that I can in carrying out these responsibilities.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

000312

October 11, 1988

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMO FOR THE FILE RE: Father Phil Deder

I could not have been more welcome. I arrived at 5:00 p.m. and left Phil about 8:30 p.m. Phil and I talked for an hour, picked up [REDACTED], and Phil took us out to dinner in Loda. Coming back, Phil showed me St. Joseph's Church and asked me to sign the guest register with a message. We then dropped off [REDACTED] and Phil introduced me to the choir, which was rehearsing, had them sing a song for me, and he asked me to give them my blessing. He then led me to a gas station, insisted on paying for a full tank of gas, and led me to the highway to Gibson City.

Phil is what a parish priest ought to be about. When I first arrived, he showed me all the things he has done since I was last here for Confirmation. New parish signs (at both Paxton and Loda), new sidewalk, new blacktop lined for parking and handicapped, beautiful new altar base, new sound system in the church, meditative music tapes played before Mass, a very fine collection of resources (books, tapes, etc.) for both CCD and adult education, including sex education material for parents, new vestment case that the men are building, renovated front porch for sitting room-office, etc.

Phil is positive, happy, busy and just seems to be doing a bang-up job. Everyone knew him in the restaurant and greeted him.

Personally, Phil seems to be doing fine. He consulted me on how to deal with a Peoria priest, said he would "punch out" anyone who told him he had nothing to do in the country because he is so busy (but loves it), and told me about a Holy Hour he had for neighboring priests to conclude the Marian Year. About six came and they enjoyed it very much, both the prayer and the meal together. Phil is promoting priestly fraternity.

I consulted him about the eventual amalgamation of parishes in general, and specifically consulted him about Beaverville.



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Released April 2014

000313

Memo re: Father Phil Dederer -2-

October 11, 1988

Phil said he understands that according to the new Code of Canon Law, a parish no longer has to be "demoted" to mission status if the resident pastor is removed. He said it would help, in fact, if Loda (once the mother church) could be "promoted" back to parish status instead of mission. I told him I thought it might send wrong signals.

Phil was reluctant to talk about specific recommendations himself, because the other priests in the area know it so much better. He did say he believes that any changes must be a step by step process. It would be devastating for the people to wake up one day and learn they were closed or amalgamated without any input into it. He observed that the people down here are myopic, having no concept of Diocesan Church, but only of "our parish." They do not have the broader vision of Church. He stressed their participation and education so they can see that they can be part of the solution, instead of the victim of the situation.

He suggested perhaps out of the Gilman Center, there could be a mandated meeting of pastors and parish council presidents, to look into possibilities for the future, but stressed there should be no pre-emption of their discussion.

He also suggested maybe there might be a meeting of pastors, either by us or by himself. But I suggested this might be considered as pre-emptive to the Synod and would also get out and cause problems.

I asked if these kinds of discussions could not just normally be tied into the next round of Synod discussions. He thought that might be able to be done.

Phil really did not have anything specific and concrete to say about Beaverville, other than to acknowledge Dan Reardon is discouraged. Apparently Dan does not often come to deanery meetings.

---

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch



000316

May 24, 1989

Reverend Phillip Dedera  
St. Mary Parish  
407 W. Pells  
Paxton, IL 60957

Dear Phil,

I am happy to appoint you as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Momence. This appointment will take effect on Wednesday, June 21st, at which time your appointment as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Paxton and the Mission of St. Joseph in Loda will terminate. In keeping with the directives proposed by the Presbyteral Council and accepted by me, this appointment as pastor will extend for six years. At the conclusion of five years there will be an evaluation of your pastoral ministry as the Presbyteral Council has recommended. Depending upon this evaluation, your own personal needs and the needs of the diocese, your service as pastor can be extended for another six year term.

Phil, I want to thank you for your pastoral ministry to the people of Paxton and Loda for the past three years. I know that you have been a breath of fresh air for them and that they have really appreciated your ministry. I know it will be difficult for you to leave the parish and I know that it will also be difficult for the parishioners to see you leave.

I want to thank you also for serving as Dean of the Ford/Iroquois Deanery during these last three years. I am very grateful for your accepting this responsibility in addition to your own pastoral duties. I believe that the priests in the area really appreciated your care and concern for them. Thank you for your ministry to your brother priests.

I would ask that you pay particular attention to the school and that you offer your support to the administration and staff, the students and their parents. It is important that you be seen in the school and that your support of the school be known to the parish community. Your promotion of the school will help to guarantee its continuation.

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000317

2.

I encourage you to make use of the talents of your people and allow them to share in the responsibilities of ministering to the parish community. It is my expectation that there be an active Parish Council as well as a finance commission. I will expect you to work with those groups and other parish committees to provide the necessary services to the parish community as well as provide for the administration of the parish resources.

I encourage you to participate in the cluster meetings of the priests of your area. There seems to be a particularly fine spirit among the priests in your cluster and I know that you will add to that spirit.

I ask that you make arrangements with me or one of the auxiliary bishops to determine a date for a ceremony of installation at one of the weekend Masses, shortly after you have arrived at St. Patrick. A copy of the Rite of Installation of Pastor may be obtained from the Office of Divine Worship. The Profession of Faith will be made at the ceremony of installation.

Be assured of my blessing as you go to carry on the work of the Lord in St. Patrick Parish. Should there be any need, please feel free to call on me at any time. You are in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer



000318

February 28, 1989

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Mary Parish  
407 W. Pells  
Paxton, IL 60957

Dear Phil:

Thank you for your input and valuable suggestions at our luncheon meeting last week. I did talk briefly with Bishop Imesch about the former recommendations made by the priests of your area. As a matter of fact, the one consolidation we made was in accordance with their recommendation; namely, that Beaverville, Martinton and L'Erable be put together. Several had recommended that. Because that now seems to be too much, we are now considering a realignment, as you and I had discussed.

Feel free to duplicate these pages and, confidentially, send them to the other priests in the deanery. Sometime I would be happy to come and meet with your deanery for a more thorough discussion of this. It might be well to wait until after the Synod, because this is one of the recommendations that surfaced in at least one of the Synod documents.

I really don't think it is fair to say that the diocese ignored this study. As I read it, there was a plea that we move very slowly in this area, and we have done that, following, as mentioned above, the recommendations of several of the priests in the one effort at consolidation that did take place.

For your own personal information as dean, I do think that Bishop Imesch would be very reluctant, as I told you I thought he would, to give Beaverville and Martinton to a diocesan priest while the Viatorians are still willing to accept that responsibility. To do so would mean replacing a Viatorian with a diocesan priest, and some way, somewhere, somehow that would have to mean postponing the opening of a new parish or some other assignment because we would be short one more priest. Hence, I don't think we should anticipate that the replacement of Father Dan Reardon at Beaverville and Martinton will be a diocesan priest. That, of course, is



000326

June 8, 1989

[REDACTED]  
Loda, IL 60948

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your recent letter. What a beautiful tribute it was to Father Dedera and his ministry. He is an outstanding priest and has certainly given himself generously to the Catholic community as well as the community at large. I can understand your high regard for him.

As much as I would like to join you on Friday, evening, June 16th, I will be unable to since I will be attending our National Bishops' meeting in Newark at that time. I wish that I could be with you. While I will not be able to come on that occasion, I do hope to be able to schedule myself for the installation of your new pastor, Father Mahoney.

Again, my sincere thanks for your beautiful testimony to Father Dedera. It is nice to receive letters such as yours!

Sincerely in Christ,

~~cc-Reverend John Schabar~~

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

*Jim - Bishop Kopper*

January 29, 1990

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Patrick Parish  
119 Market Street  
Mokenca, IL 60954

Dear Phil:

Before I leave for Peru, I would like to set up an appointment to see you upon my return. I have scheduled an appointment for you at the Chancery Office, on Friday, March 2nd, at 1:00 p.m. If this is not convenient for you, please phone my secretary, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], and she will switch it to a more convenient time.

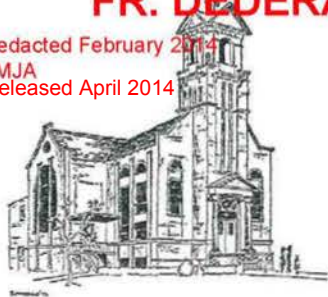
With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

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

RLK:bjd

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



ST. PATRICK CHURCH  
119 North Market St.  
Mokena, Illinois 60954

000330

Bishop Joseph

Just a note to tell you of our prayers personally and as a parish. Our world knows how to depersonalize every situation. Many years ago I worked on a mass murder of four people in Romeville and I found very little caring for people among some, it will be just headlines and gossip. Relatives of the victims and murderer were used.

You are the Shepard, it is easy for me and I suppose others just to care about our ministry, our parish, our security and forget about sincerely supporting our Bishop in the work he must do. If our faith gets tested so must yours. I guess Matt 5:11 was written for all of us.

As for as St Patrick's Parish is concerned I have had some good talks with Fr Dennis who has given me good counsel from his experience here. There ~~have~~ like anyplace many avenues to pursue when it comes to working.



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ST. PATRICK CHURCH  
119 North Market St.  
Mokenca, Illinois 60954

000331

I believe we have now a good finance committee going (5 members) and will be meeting with Mr Sells Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. There is finally a ~~alumni~~ alumni group reaching out for the school in the hope of raising additional funds. Personal here is good but I don't have to tell you anything about that for that changes with the day. We have normative problems between people. Abbot Valentine will talk at all masses this weekend on Marriage Encounter. Rev Kevin Downey OFM a vice pres. at Quincy College will talk in the spring on higher education as a goal and Cath. Ed. Fr Wilkeming gave a good program to the school board hopefully to make them realize it takes more than discussing magazine sales or beef cook outs to run a school.

I hope you have good health good spirit and good friends.

With Christ

Phil Dederer

FEB 2 1990

000332

February 14, 1990

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Patrick Parish  
119 Market Street  
Mokenca, IL 60954

Dear Phil,

Many thanks for the letter you wrote me a few weeks ago. I really appreciated your comments and your support. That means a great deal to me and I am grateful for it.

It certainly sounds as if you have things going well at St. Patrick. They may not be as well as they sounded, but at least you seem to have a good foundation laid for future wellness. I congratulate you for your efforts to build for the future. Sometimes it is too easy to get a "quick fix." The longer haul takes more planning and more effort. Keep up the good work. You are doing a great job and I know that the people appreciate your gift of self.

Prayers for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer



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Released April 2014



ST. PATRICK CHURCH  
119 North Market St.  
Mokenca, Illinois 60954

000333A

RECEIVED APR 1 8 1980

Just a note or maybe a prayer is better. Are you tired? What priest isn't during Holy Week. It is 3:45 pm Holy Thursday and for the first times in 10 days I can hear the clock tick.

Now came to mind, Maybe it was the Chrism Mass or a sermon I gave on you for the last childrens mass that made me realize Easter greetings to my Bishop - Brother should be less formal.

By the way you know - there was a pastor who thought he was a great gift to his people and even greater teacher of the family and religion. When he asked his school children what was the first thing a priest does when he starts mass, instead of getting the sign of the cross as he entered his brightest pupil raised his



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hand and announced to the community of faithful that the first thing a priest does when he starts mass is smell the altar! I guess everyone has their own point of view. I think you a good bishop, we are blessed to have you in Joliet, you hard working and strong willed.

Get your rest after Easter and we will keep you in ~~our~~ prayers.

In Christ

Fr. Dederica

000334

May 14, 1990

Reverend Phillip Dederer  
St. Patrick Parish  
119 Market Street  
Mokena, IL 60954

Dear Phil,

You are probably wondering why in the world I am writing to you. Simply to thank you for your kind Easter wishes, especially for taking the time to wish me well. I really do appreciate that and I am very grateful for your support. I have experienced that and I hope that you are aware of my own support for you, as well as my appreciation.

Keep up the good work. With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

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*Dedera*

000341

M E M O R A N D U M

February 26, 1992

TO: Bishop Joseph Iameson  
Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies

RE: Reverend Phil Dedera

Father Dedera wanted you both to know that recently CBS filmed a segment on "Addie the Church Dog" (You may recall that earlier in the year the local newspaper did a story on the same subject.) in the event that someone would call or write a letter to you about it.

He wanted to reassure you that the dog is very well behaved, does not bother anyone, and is very attentive to what's happening in the church.

More than likely the story will air in the southern area, and will probably be sold to affiliate stations for broadcasting.

Father Dedera will tape the program for us when it is televised.

---

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF



*Handwritten signature*  
*Dedera*

000363

August 2, 1994

  
Mokenca, IL 60954Dear ,

I read the letter which you sent me recently expressing your concerns about Father Dederer and his relationship to the school board. Normally, letters such as these are handled by our Superintendent of Schools, Sister Jeanette Zielinski, O.S.F. I am sure she would be very willing to look into this matter further, but to do so it would be necessary for me to share your concerns with Father Dederer. I believe he has a right to know about your concerns. I do not feel that I can bring these to him anonymously. I would hope that for the good of the parish and the school you will permit me to do this.

Just a few weeks ago I happened to meet a priest who knows your new principal. He had nothing but the highest praise for her. I believe that he said that she had won an award recently for being an outstanding principal. I am hopeful that her presence will help to resolve some of your concerns.

Some of the issues you raised are serious and need to be brought to Father Dederer's attention. Again, I hope you will allow me to share your letter with him. I can assure that there will be no recriminations.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Sister Jeanette Zielinski, O.S.F.

*Fr Deder*

000364

MEMORANDUM

August 18, 1994

TO: Sister Jeanette Zielinski, O.S.F.

FROM: Bishop Joseph Imesch

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED] regarding the School Board and Father Deder. I may have already sent you a copy of this letter. The other day I received a call from Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED] and we discussed the letter further. They are willing to have this letter brought to Father Deder's attention. Another person had also signed their letter but did not wish their name to be included, so I have deleted it from the letter.

I would appreciate it if you would bring this matter to Father Deder's attention in whatever way you feel best. Some of the issues are really not serious issues, from my viewpoint, but there are others which need to be brought to his attention.

More important than any particular situation is the fact that there seems to be developing a spirit of mistrust among the members of the School Board and Father Deder. Evidently some of them, any way, do not feel that he is entirely open with them. He has taken over charge of the finances and, evidently the Board does not even receive information about those finances.

The matter of his dog is something which really should be discussed with him. The dog should not be permitted to go into school or into the church, for that matter, no matter how much the children may like it. If the dog ever bit someone, we would be in serious difficulty.

In general, there seems to be unrest among a number of parishioners, especially those with children in school. I believe I mentioned to you that [REDACTED] and another woman spoke with me at considerable length the last time I was there. Perhaps the new principal will help to straighten out some of this, but I would appreciate it if you would find some opportunity to speak to Father Deder. The [REDACTED] are willing to have their letter used, saying that Father Deder already knows about their concerns because they have spoken to him about them.

---

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch



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Released April 2014

224 East Washington  
Mokenca, Illinois 60954  
November 14, 1994

000360

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch, D. D. Bishop  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet  
The Chancery  
425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-7193

Dear Bishop Imesch,

I would like to introduce myself and to call your attention to a concern of me and others in our parish, St. Patrick in Mokenca.

The reason for this letter is to ask for your assistance in transferring Rev. Phillip Dederer to another parish. I question his mental stability, his honesty, and his integrity. There have been many times that Rev. Dederer has completely disregarded a family's request for meaningful funerals. On more than one occasion Rev. Dederer has not allowed a family to have another priest deliver the homily for the deceased when that priest had known the family for years and Rev. Dederer told the family he would allow the other priest to give the homily. On more than one occasion Rev. Dederer sang at funerals at the funeral home after the family and I had requested that no music be sung or played. On more than one occasion Rev. Dederer has lied to me in the sacristy at St. Patrick's. On more than one occasion Rev. Dederer has had his dog on the altar during funerals, upsetting family members when the dog licks itself. I am prepared to furnish you with the dates and names of these instances.

I can also voice concern as a parent with a student at St. Patrick Academy. On more than one occasion Rev. Dederer has physically pulled a child out of the pew to make some point in a sermon. On one occasion he laid the child on the floor and put his foot inches above the child's stomach. Unfortunately no one could remember what point he was trying to make.

A number of concerned parishioners and former parishioners have requested that I write to you about Rev. Dederer's behavior. Many formerly active parishioners have left the church, going not to other Catholic churches but to the Methodist Church, the New Life Christian Church, and to the Lutheran Church here in Mokenca. If you would like to talk to me or to any other parishioners, a meeting can be arranged.

Sincerely,





*Dedera  
file - look*

000381

January 6, 1995

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Bishop Imesch recently gave me, as Vicar for Priests, your recent letter to him. I am leaving today for World Youth Day in Manila with the Pope. However, I would like to discuss your letter with Father Dedera when I return. I would appreciate a note from you agreeing that I may share it with him. If this could be here when I return the end of January, I'll get on it as quickly as I can.

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

RLK:bjd  
*bc:SLF*

Dedera  
382A


Dec 12th 1994

Bishop Inneschi;

I have struggled for months as to writing this letter. As it is I have made at least a dozen attempts and thrown them all away. It just isn't an easy thing to do. I guess the best way is to keep it as simple and to the point as I can.

I firmly believe that if Fr Dedera continues to be our pastor the attendance at our masses will continue to decline. We usually attend nine o'clock mass which used to have the largest number of people in attendance. The church was almost full but now there is hardly anyone there.

When Fr Dedera first came to St patricks



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

382B

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He is not the sort of priest  
you can work with very easily.  
Frankly it was very difficult to  
trust him in anything. I was  
also [REDACTED] under  
both Fr O'Shea and Fr Lattin and  
never had anything but the best  
feelings toward both of them. Would  
it be possible to transfer Fr Dedera  
to some other parish, perhaps a  
parish where he would be the  
assistant pastor.

I have attended St Patrick's all  
of my life but we are seriously  
considering driving to Kankakee to  
some other parish.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely

Phone  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Redacted February 2014  
TMSA  
Released April 2014

*Dedera file*

April 28, 1995

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit St.  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Rev. Kaffer:

We received a copy of the letter you sent to Rev. Dedera today.

Sincerely,

Administrative Assistant

*5-3-95 - Called & told him so he could make plane arrangements when you said you might not be in til Thurs afternoon. Ljd.*

*Hope you're not upset!*

*(Phil told Bob OK)*



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TMJA  
Released April 2014



000403

CONJUNCTIVE CONTACTS

03/29/95 3:00 p.m.

Judge Orenic called [REDACTED] office re: an allegation from one [REDACTED] that he had been sexually molested by a priest around 1974. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The alleged event was a one time fondling incident at St. Andrew Rectory. [REDACTED] was being asked to assess [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has no lawyer and wants to take no legal action: [REDACTED]

03/29/95 4:30 p.m.

04/04/95 8:40 a.m.

04/10/95 11:00 a.m.

04/18/95 9:50 a.m.

[REDACTED] called the [REDACTED] home and reached [REDACTED]. ([REDACTED] was following up on some questions posed by the Review Committee on 4/12/95). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During the phone consult, [REDACTED] volunteered she had known the accused priest during her high school years and had "always heard kids saying no one should be alone" with the priest because he is "like weird, you know." She concurred, when [REDACTED] asked, that [REDACTED] told her about the alleged incident [REDACTED]

- 2 -

██████████ called Bishop Imesch and reported the corroborating phone call with ██████████.

\_\_\_\_\_

Bishop Imesch called [REDACTED] and reported the accused Priest has denied everything (never liquor to minors; he never had minors sleep overnight, etc.) It was decided that [REDACTED] see if she could, discreetly and without pressure, inquire as to [REDACTED]'s openness to or readiness for a face-to-face meeting with the Priest, as long as [REDACTED] or another professional were also present (Hopefully, such a meeting could both facilitate [REDACTED]'s healing and clarify if or what occurred).

█████ reached █████ at home. He did not even hesitate a moment before confirming both his availability for and desire to address the Priest face-to-face.

██████████ called Bishop Imesch and shared ██████████'s availability and desire.



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TMJA  
Released April 2014

000421

April 25, 1995

**PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL**

Reverend Philip Deder  
St. Patrick Parish  
119 Market Street  
Mokena, IL 60954

Dear Phil:

I am sorry to hear you were [REDACTED] and had to cancel your appointment with me today, but I'm glad you are getting it checked out. As I mentioned over the phone, I have made arrangements for you in [REDACTED] on May 10th, 11th and 12th.

Enclosed find all the information you will need. Note especially the information listed on the third page of the enclosure, which should be sent as quickly as possible to [REDACTED] to the address indicated. If you have any questions, you can phone [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Be assured of my continuing prayers for and with you.

With cordial personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RLK:bjd

cc: [REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM

June 6, 1995

TO: Betty Stryzik  
Mary Jo Monroe

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Fr. Philip Dedera

Fr. Philip Dedera has been placed on disability and should receive monthly checks of \$500 until further notice.

After June 30, the Diocese will pick up his health insurance, etc.

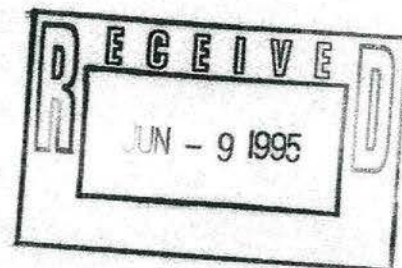
Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000460

June 7, 1995

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435



Dear Bishop Imesch:

I have been a parishioner of St. Patrick's Parish in Momence, Illinois since 1946.

[REDACTED]

I am writing to urge you to rectify the very poor decision made by you and/or members of your staff which resulted in the dismissal of Father Philip Dederer as our Pastor.

Father "D" is the most devout and conscientious priest I have ever known and that includes all the priests I have known at [REDACTED]

Father "D" not only restored the physical plant including the church and the school, but has also been the strongest and most effective spiritual director the Parish has ever known. Father "D" found and installed a religious as Principal of the School, upgraded the quality of teaching, and reinstated religious education at our parish school.

On many occasions in the privacy of my own home, I urged him to ignore the petty, narrow minded members of the Church Council and School Board who, like certain other parishioners, think they are holier and more wise than Mother Church itself.

Father "D" gave his entire salary and a good part of his inheritance to annually sponsor several children's tuition at St. Patrick's School, he contributed to the welfare of a former school employee who was grossly underpaid by the School Board, and was quick to give his personal funds to anyone in need.



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TMJA

Released April 2014

000461

Father personally paid for the altar equipment he acquired from other parishes as well as for the new cassocks worn by the altar boys and girls serving Mass.

A terrible injustice has been inflicted upon Father "D" who never once uttered an unkind word about the people with "little minds" who criticized and persecuted him.

Father worked tirelessly for the spiritual well-being of his flock, which has grown dramatically under his leadership and guidance. If Father "D" is not returned and restored to his rightful and proper position as Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, then you will have proven to me that the Diocese of Joliet is nothing more than a political bureaucracy, not spiritual, not caring, not loyal and supportive of its Priests. When the Church abuses its most dedicated spiritual leaders, is it any wonder that it is barren when it comes to producing vocations?

Sincerely,



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000462

June 12, 1995

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Bishop Imesch has asked me to acknowledge your letter of June 7th. Your letter puzzles me because it is my understanding that Father Dederer himself announced he had resigned and needs time off for his physical, spiritual and emotional well being.

It is gratifying to hear your affirmation of the many good things Father Dederer did in [REDACTED].

Enclosed find copies of a prayer that helps me keep things in perspective and, perhaps, will also be helpful to you.

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

RLK:bjd

Enclosures

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Most Rev. Joseph Imish,

000463 A

On behalf of many of us here at St. Patrick's of Momence, I'm expressing our gratitude for having such a grand priest here for six years as Father P. Dederer.

We are feeling a great loss as he touched many hearts both young and old. He is missed also by our community, for he was so caring and friendly toward all, not only toward those who were Catholic.

Some of us has taken a bus trip to [REDACTED] While on the bus many wanted to express these feelings by signing their names and having this note sent to you.

We are grateful for our new assigned priests and will certainly be of help to them.

I personally worked with Father Dederer as sacristan for six years.

Sincerely,

*Bp K -*  
*Please acknowledge*  
*J+K*

*P.S. Sure do wish our priests didn't have to move on after six years!*

JUN 15 1996



Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

000464

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

June 19, 1995

Reverend Phil Dederer

St. Louis, MO

Dear Phil,

Just a note to say I hope you are settling in well at [REDACTED]. It seems to me I have hardly been in the office for the last several weeks, though I am sure I have been from time to time. We were at the Bishops Meeting in Chicago last week, and I hope to get back to visiting priests within a half an hour of dictating this memo.

Be assured of my prayers for and with you that your time at [REDACTED] may be very helpful and very profitable to 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

*P.S. We have received from very affirming letters of you and your ministry in Rome.*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000466

June 20, 1995

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Bishop Imesch has asked me to thank you and all of the others who signed your note of gratitude for Father Dederer's six years at Momence. It is gratifying to receive such affirming words. We are also grateful that you will work with the newly assigned priests.

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

RLK:bjd

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000467

June 12, 1995

Most Rev. Joseph Imesch  
Bishop of the Joliet  
Diocese

Chancery Office  
425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Ill. 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch,

I am a parishioner of St Patrick's Church of  
Mokena, Illinois.

It seems appropriate that I express my views  
relating to the recent departure of Father  
Phillip Dedera.

I am, of course, unaware of the immediate  
circumstances surrounding his removal  
from the pastorate of St Patrick's Church, but  
I am cognizant of the antagonism toward  
Father entertained by a small segment  
of our parishioners. Very often the strongest most  
effective and influential members of a  
Society engender opposition as well as approval.  
It is a sad commentary that those who are

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Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014

Supporters do not express their views in a positive forceful manner.

Father Dedera was a vital, vigorous, dynamic force both in our community and in our congregation. His dedication and commitment to his vocation and his sincerity in the exercise of his ministry reflected favorably on the role of the Catholic Church in our Society.

The Church building has been substantially improved and renovated during his tenure. The Church has been re-carpeted and the pews have been re-finished. Roof leaks have been remedied and flaking plaster repaired. New etched glass doors have been installed at all Church entrances. All of these improvements have been substantially covered with contributions from parishioners.

The direction and future of our Catholic grade school has been greatly impacted by Father. The school has long been supported by our church and been under the management of an elected lay school board. The academic status has consistently deteriorated over the past years under this direction until we were finally confronted with an inadequate ineffectual educational institution. Father was instrumental in securing Sisters to

Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

000469

take over the operation of our school and has substantially elevated the performance of this small educational facility.

It seems that the most vehement opposition to Father arises from a School Board which felt they should have complete management of this educational establishment, though such a supervision resulted in inadequate instruction.

Father's involvement in local affairs was notable and he was well thought of and respected in this community. He served successfully on the Library Board and extended his friendship and ministry to all citizens regardless of their religious affiliation. He was a very alive, energetic part of our religious and civic society.

Hostility that results from a difference in personal preferences and a failure to tolerate different views is unwarranted.

It would seem that a small group vociferous in the expression of their disapproval, has exerted a pressure which has resulted in the community and the Church being deprived of this very admirable ministry.

Respectfully





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TMJA  
Released April 2014

000470

June 19, 1995

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

Bishop Imesch has asked me to acknowledge your letter of June 12th. Your letter puzzles me because it is my understanding that Father Dederer himself announced he had resigned and needs time off for his physical, spiritual and emotional well being.

It is gratifying to hear your affirmation of the many good things Father Dederer did in Momence.

Enclosed find copies of a prayer that helps me keep things in perspective and, perhaps, will also be helpful to you.

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

RLK:bjd

Enclosures



**FR. DEDERA SCAN FROM DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO.**

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**457**  
*Dedera*

000471

June 26, 1995

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet  
Diocese of Joliet  
Chancery  
425 Summit St.  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Bishop Kaffer:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 19, 1995.

Your form letter was not responsive to my correspondence of June 12. If you would take the time to read my letter, you would discover that no assertion was made which could have given rise to 'puzzlement'.

Very truly yours,

MPN:cc

*Dedera*

000472

June 30, 1995

Reverend Phillip Dedera



Dear Phil,

I am just getting ready to leave on vacation, but I wanted to drop you a note before I left. I certainly hope that things are going well for you, at least as well as can be expected. I know there will be some difficult moments, but, judging from everyone else's experience, it will be most helpful and beneficial in the long run.

I just wanted you to know that a number of people have written letters to me or to Roger telling us how much they appreciated your ministry and how much they will miss you. A number of them were angry about the abruptness of your leave taking. We have tried to respond to them as pastorally as we could. It certainly shows that they appreciated your ministry and were sorry to see you leave.

I just wanted you to know that you are in my prayers. Please remember me and the diocese as well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

*Dr. Bishop Kopper*

Redacted February 2014  
TM Released April 2014

000483 A



June 19, 1995

Most Reverend Roger Kaffer  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet  
the Chancery  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Kaffer,

Because of the recent and sudden departure of my pastor, Rev. Phillip Dederer, at St. Patrick, Momence, I have decided to write to you, hoping that you will share this letter with Bishop Imesh. You may recall that I am one of the people who took part in the evaluation of Father this past spring. Let me tell you, too, that I am currently serving on the Parish Council and have been for five years.

I must tell you how shocked I was at his sudden departure. Because of the evaluation I gave him and the high regard so many of our parishioners have for him, it was unexpected. He has worked so hard here, I hoped he would be extended another term and be able to complete the job.

To tell you how good a pastor he was will be difficult, but I'll try. I was always impressed with the way he ministered to all--- the kindness and understanding with the elderly, an unusual perception of how hard life is



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

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[REDACTED]

today for parents and other couples, an ability to speak with and be comfortable with children, a driving concern for teenagers (this last clearly illustrated at the last Parish Council meeting, when after a rather lengthy and heated discussion, the council with Father's approval, agreed to grant permission to the Youth for Christ group to use our gym with certain restrictions.)

Although some were concerned that Father was spending too much money, [REDACTED] I knew that nothing extra was done until the money ear-marked for that was raised. Also, he was instrumentally in hiring a bookkeeper whose purpose was to designate where the money of the parish was used as well as the usual bookkeeping. To illustrate this the school building was used also for CCD and so the cost of maintenance had to reflect the part of the cost which was SPA and which was CCD.

One only needs to walk through our buildings and the grounds to see his touch. A lovely old home which some wanted torn down for a few parking spaces, was remodeled under Father's direction for well under \$10,000.00 while those who opposed the remodeling said it would cost over \$40,000.00. It is serving as the residence of our principal, Sr. Kathleen.

His friendliness to everyone in Momence is another example of his loving and caring

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

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483c

for all. Very often he would stop in and say "hello" to many of the businesses in downtown Momence, something no other pastor had done before. And people really liked that!

My first reaction to his abrupt departure was one of anger; anger that he had to leave so suddenly giving an opportunity to the detractors to have an open shot at him. He should have had a warm loving farewell from this parish and his many friends here in Momence. Certainly, he would and should have received that---he earned it and deserved it as well.

I have come to, over the past two weeks, realize that he was worn out and ill. How sad it is that after all he has done for us, we had to cause this in him. I realize, also, that he probably won't be coming back here and that is the hardest thing of all.

Let me repeat some of the comments I made on the evaluation: Father Dederer was a very friendly and warm, pastor, one who could ring a door bell in many homes in Momence and be cordially received as a Pastor and friend, a priest who served God, his parishioners and his family in a true Christian manner, a counselor when you were in need, a teacher in many ways, a "doer" who never backed away from a problem, always seeking to find the truth, or to find the best way to do a job.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

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I believe he is a truly special person in intelligence and integrity.

I must say that I will miss him very much not only as my Pastor, but as a friend.

Please find a very good and special parish for him.

Most respectfully yours.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000484

July 11, 1995

  
Dear :

What a beautiful and affirming letter you sent me concerning Father Dederer! You are right. He was worn out and in need of rejuvenation. I have told him of many letters of affirmation like yours, and I am sure that knowledge of such affirmation is very encouraging to him.

He was emotionally drained when he left the parish, and though a farewell party would have been very affirming to him and helpful to people like you who appreciated him so much, I fear it would have been too tough on him at the time.

Please continue your prayers for him and also pray for me. I am enclosing a copy of a prayer I say every day that helps me keep things in perspective, and hopefully may also be helpful to you.

I thank you, too, for your active participation in the parish. I am confident you will continue to be supportive of Fathers White and Testa.

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

RLK:bjd

Enclosure

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000485

June 17, 1995

[REDACTED]

Most Reverend Joseph Imish  
Chancery  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Sunset Avenue  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Reverend Imish:

The reassignment of the good Father Phillip J. Dederer will certainly leave a void for the Momence community.

His ecumenical approach promoted a high degree of interfaith rapport--this coupled with the Father's spiritual guidance gave credence and ~~pleperhory~~ to the theme of "good works".

*PLEP O PHORY*  
Father Dederer's ministry gave comfort to many--to include those of various religious persuasions--often placing Saint Patrick's Church and Catholicism in good stead.

The signatory--Roman Catholic and [REDACTED] will certainly miss Father Dederer's spiritual-gregarious contribution to Momence.

Sincerely,



*O of*  
*always was*  
*as weak in*  
*spellings*

000486

July 11, 1995

Dear [REDACTED]:

Bishop Imesch has asked me to acknowledge your very kind letter of affirmation of Father Dedera. I am sure that he, too, is very grateful for your affirmation.

I can especially appreciate the ecumenical perspective from which you write in your inter-faith marriage. My Catholic father and all of his Catholic siblings entered inter-faith marriages, and my Protestant mother and all of her Protestant siblings entered inter-faith marriages, so I know from personal experience how gratifying it is when a member of the clergy is sensitive to all the members of the family and of the community. Since [REDACTED] I am confident that you have a unusual amount of background in these matters, so praise coming from you is even more significant and meaningful.

In the name of Bishop Imesch and Father Dedera both, I thank you for your kind words.

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

RLK:bjd

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch (w/encl)





June 14, 1995

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Chancery Office of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet IL 60435-7193

Most Rev. Bishop Imesch:

I have been a faithful parishioner of St. Patrick's Church in Momence for 23+ years. I feel as though a member of my family has just dropped from my life, with no reasonable explanation. What has happened to our beloved Father Dederer?

He announced on Sunday that he was leaving the parish for health reasons and was gone on Tuesday. This is certainly not a believable explanation!! If someone is ill, he is sent for care. If he is too ill to return to his assignment, he would **eventually** be replaced. When a pastor is reassigned or transferred, which happens regularly in the Catholic church, the parishioners would be given time to say farewell, adjust to the change and would know where he is--whether we keep in touch or not.

Now, of course, we are in a state of shock and dealing with all kinds of rumors. Why was our pastor taken away from our church? The rumors are flying fast and furious. What is going on here?

In the time Father Dederer was here, he has greatly improved the physical appearance of our church and grounds and the school property. Sunday contributions have noticeably increased, with only gentle persuasion in the bulletin, along with explanation of the increased costs, etc. Father was always very active in the community and was a friend to everyone, not just his parishioners. He has a gift for being insightful enough to assess a situation and get involved right now; perhaps a child celebrating a birthday in the local restaurant, someone who is feeling down, the list could go on and on. He is always generous with his time.

Many times he came to our home for a quiet meal. Many times he stopped at family gatherings and visited with our children and grandchildren, who all adore him and his pal Addie. He always made time to honor an invitation, even if it was a short visit because he had other stops to make.

If I had a problem, he wouldn't tell me to make an appointment. It would usually be, "Well come along and we will talk about it."

I personally feel that this is a political move. I am so disgusted with politics. If I am going to get involved in

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

politics, it will be with the Christian Coalition.

I truly believe that we are commissioned to return a substantial portion of our income to the Lord. Our family's top priority has always been to our church. When I received acknowledgement and payment book for the annual appeal in the mail this week, I was sorely tempted to send it back. However, I don't want to be mean and vindictive. This is truly a test of faith and trust.

I am grieving over this situation and respectfully request a reasonable explanation of what has happened to our beloved pastor and what is going on in our church.

Sincerely,





000489

July 11, 1995

  
Dear :

Bishop Imesch has asked me to acknowledge your recent letter. It is indeed gratifying to hear your many kind words of affirmation of Father Dederer and the good work he did in Momence. He was under a lot of pressure and was emotionally drained at the time he left and is receiving therapeutic help for his physical, spiritual and emotional well being, as I believe he announced before he left.

You spoke of an eventual replacement. Yet Father Dederer did resign his pastorate at Momence, knowing, I am sure, that his departure was just about the time of our annual transfers, so it was a very logical time to replace him, rather than having a temporary administrator for perhaps a whole year before someone else could be sent without disturbing another parish community.

It is unfortunate if some consider this to be a political move. Neither we nor Father Dederer would so consider it. It rather was an effort to minister to the needs of both people and priests in a timely and pastoral way that could be done for all concerned in view of the needs of all at the time.

Be assured of my prayers for and with you, and I am confident of your prayers for Father Dederer. I also ask for your prayers and your cooperation with Fathers White and Testa, as well as for me.

I am enclosing copies of a prayer I wrote on Calvary on my favorite feast, the Feast of the Sacred Heart. It helps me keep all things in balance and perspective and perhaps will also be helpful to you, too. I pray it many times each day.

With cordial best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RLK:bjd

Enclosure bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch (w/encl)



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000506

August 11, 1995

Reverend Philip Dedera  
[REDACTED]

St. Louis, MO [REDACTED]

Dear Phil:

For the greater part of the last month, I have been out of the office, so my purpose in writing is two-fold. First, I'm writing just to let you know that I pray for you often and by name. I hope things are going well for you. Be assured of my continuing concern and prayers.

Secondly, I am enclosing a letter of permission that I would ask you to sign and return to me [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I would appreciate it if you would sign this and send it to me by return mail in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

These are very busy days for me and, I am sure, for you, also. [REDACTED]

I don't think there is any great news over the summer except that [REDACTED] seems to be improving after [REDACTED] and will have major surgery [REDACTED]. He seems optimistic, as do the doctors, but I would ask your prayers for him. Cardinal Bernardin seems to be coming along well. Bishop Imesch had a Mass for him last week for young adults, but the Cardinal spent two hours at a reception in his yard afterwards with the young adults. Someone who was there said he looked very good. That's all I know for now.

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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Redacted February 2014  
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Released April 2014

000507



Reverend Philip Deder

Date



Redacted February 2014  
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 Released April 2014



aug. 14, 1995

000515  
 -A-

Dear Rev. Imesch,

I am really disappointed that you have sent Father Philip Dedera away from St. Patrick's Church.

I often came out to Mornence just to hear his sermons. He was very dedicated to his Parish and great with the children. He helped every one in every way that he could help. It was a blessing just to come to the church. My grand children also liked going to church, they too are disappointed.

They often greeted Father Dedera. Many people came to daily Mass when Father Dedera was at St. Patrick's Church and many people turned away from the Church.

Father Philip Dedera was one of the most honest priest that I have ever met. We are very disappointed and miss him at St. Patrick's. It too is ashamed that nobody knows where he is at or where he was sent to work.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

0515-13

that they did not have a party for  
him. The way he was sent away  
is a shame.

Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

000516

August 25, 1995

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

Bishop Imesch has asked me to thank you in his name for your beautiful letter of affirmation of Father Dederer. Father Dederer resigned the parish and would have found a "Going Away" party too stressful. As he mentioned at the time, he was under a great deal of stress and found he needed some therapy, which he is getting.

If you would like to send him a letter in care of Sister Judith Davies, O.S.F., at the Chancery, she will forward it to him. I am sure your affirmation will be very uplifting to him, as it was to Bishop Imesch.

Thank you for writing.

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

RLK:bjd

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000528

September 28, 1995

Reverend Phillip Dedera  
[REDACTED]

St. Louis, MO [REDACTED]

Dear Phil,

Barb has been on vacation for a couple of weeks and I have been in the office very little. But out of sight does not mean out of mind. Before going to the Convocation and the Papal Visit, I wanted to send you a note to tell you that I am praying for you every day, often by name, and just want to assure you of my prayerful concern for you.

You probably heard that [REDACTED] died. The funeral was fairly well attended by the priests, but disappointingly attended by the laity.

I personally have been giving lots of talks on the Catechism and trying to catch up on visiting the priests. That is one reason for being in the office so little and having so little time for correspondence. However, happily, I have tried to be more faithful to meditation and prayer. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Some weeks ago I did install Denis White in Momence, and I did "jump" Jess Testa for his telephone remarks to your cousin, I believe. In any case, I told him I hope he has written you a letter of apology. I do not know whether he did or not, but I want to apologize for him.

[REDACTED] seems to be improving [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] but his progress is slow. He has finished, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

As I told you the last time I wrote, I believe, we have received many letters affirming your ministry in Momence.



000529

2.

Be assured of my continued prayers for and with you. And please pray for and with me.

With cordial personal regards, and 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/nb

bc-Bishop Joseph Imesch

December 13, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of December 4th has arrived. In the final paragraph, you said if you could provide any additional information, that I should not hesitate to contact you at any time. Hence, this letter.

[REDACTED]

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

cc: Reverend Philip Dederer

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000562

December 21, 1995

Reverend Phillip Dederer

St. Louis, MO

Dear Phil,

This letter will probably not arrive in time for Christmas, but it was not really meant to be a Christmas letter. I just wanted to assure you that you are much in my thoughts and prayers. I know this is a difficult time for you, but it is also a time of opportunity.

The better we understand ourselves, the better we can relate to others and minister to them.

I do not want you to think that you are being abandoned. Right now, however, the most important thing you can do is to take as much as you can from this opportunity. That requires a lot of soul scraping, which may be painful, but, it also leads to a healthier soul and spirit.

I pray for you every day by name and while I do not correspond as often as I might like, you are in my thoughts and prayers each day. Ninety-five has been a difficult year, but 96 comes with all the promise and hope that the Lord gives us. May it be a year of blessing and peace for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

he - Bishop Koffen



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000563

January 2, 1996

**CONFIDENTIAL****M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RE: Father Phil Dedera

[REDACTED] phoned. He said two people have told him that Phil Dedera is asking for money. He has told people that he has had a nervous breakdown and is in therapy and in need of money. One is the local Lutheran minister, whose brother-in-law was approached by Phil. [REDACTED] did not say who the other one was. [REDACTED] didn't know how to handle this, and I told him I didn't either, that I would have to consult and get back to him. He thanked me.

---

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

000564

January 11, 1996

CONFIDENTIAL

## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
RE: Father Phil Deder

I talked with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I had a good long talk with [REDACTED] and told her myself that I was not upset with her in my last letter, but the real reason for the letter was to send the carbon to Phil, and that you had made me tone it down because I was originally even tougher. But I told [REDACTED] I had no criticism of her. Though [REDACTED] had told her, she was relieved to have me tell her myself. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was taken aback when I told her the real reason for my call was to alert them to the call from [REDACTED] about two people saying Phil had asked for money. She said they would confront him on this, gave me to [REDACTED], who said the same, but concurred with you that I should call Phil directly. [REDACTED] tried to get a hold of him then and couldn't, but had Phil call me back a couple of hours later. In the meantime, [REDACTED] apparently had already talked to him about it. Phil said he did not ask for money, but was visiting with a personal friend and their family. They have been friends ever since he was assigned in Roselle. The friend was the brother-in-law of the Lutheran minister. Phil said: "I did not ask for money. They did give me some money. They did ask if I needed any and I said I had been through some tough times and you always have bills when things are tough." This man had helped Phil when Father Smith was sick and he said they were good friends. His mother and grandmother are also living together and, I believe, she was [REDACTED] in Roselle. He also apparently visited them and he said they did give him a Christmas card with some money, but again denied that he had asked them for money. He is sorry if they interpreted it that way.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000565

Memo re: Father Phil Dederer -2- January 11, 1996

He said he did not tell them that he was [REDACTED] but simply that he was out of State in Missouri. He also said he never used the term that he had a nervous breakdown. He said he was out of State, was getting better and was taking care of his physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

Phil said he did see [REDACTED] also, and it was the first time in six years that he had been back to Paxton. [REDACTED] gave him a tour of the place. Phil said it was a very healing experience for him to go back there. He had a good holiday. He said he is just getting things out of his system.

I tried to be cheerful and affirming, and told him I was glad that it was just a misunderstanding by a couple of very close friends, and that there was no soliciting from various parishioners. These were two people [REDACTED] who gave him money, and both of whom apparently called [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did tell me that he tends to be much more direct, as he thinks you are, but that [REDACTED] tends to be much less direct (I think [REDACTED]). But [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] recently told [REDACTED] that he is killing himself as far as ever getting another assignment in Joliet. [REDACTED] has told Phil that many times apparently.

I did tell [REDACTED] that I was surprised at [REDACTED] When Phil was a seminarian and also as a priest, I have always considered him to be somewhat below average in intelligence, somewhat slow. [REDACTED] concurred with that, but said he thinks Phil is the most complicated individual he has ever met.

---

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000567

January 19, 1996

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: [REDACTED]

FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RE: [REDACTED] Father Phil Deder

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch (w/encl)

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000597

March 20, 1996

Dear [REDACTED]:

I will arrive in St. Louis on Southwest #251 at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26th. My departure is at 2:50 p.m. on Southwest #535. Please arrange transportation. Thanks a million!

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



Redacted February 2014



TMJA

Released April 2014

000614

April 3, 1996

  
Dear :

Thanks so much for the two letters you sent me on March 28th.   


I just want to advise you that I am going to be leaving the country on April 14th and will not return until April 27th. I will be with our Medical Mission Team of doctors and nurses in Bolivia, helping with clinics for the poor. Hence, any setting up of something would have to be for the first part of May.

I hope to talk to you before you get this letter. If I don't, you should also know that Bishop Imesch is leaving the country on May 2nd and will not be back for two weeks. That would not really have to affect our meeting, but I want you to know that I will not be able to discuss anything with him until the middle of May, unless I could get there on Tuesday, the 30th. If so, I would have to be back in time for a Confirmation. Frankly, I would find it difficult to come that day, but if that seemed to be the best and only way to do it, I would. I will be catching up on two weeks backlog and have Confirmations for nine consecutive days, starting the 30th. But I will do whatever has to be done.

With cordial personal regards and with gratitude for all your help, and also 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



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000653

July 1, 1996

Reverend Phil Dederer

St. Louis, MO

Dear Phil:

Bishop Imesch asked me to contact you and let you know that he has worked out an assignment for you at St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville as chaplain. I was unable to reach you by phone and will be out of the office for a couple of days, so I am sending this by mail. It will be about a week before the quarters are ready, but the Bishop wanted me to alert you. The administrator of St. Patrick's is:

Sr. [REDACTED], O. Carm.  
St. Patrick's Residence  
1400 Brookdale Road  
Naperville, IL 60563

I would suggest that you give Sr. [REDACTED] a phone call to make preliminary arrangements and you can set up a meeting with her.

Wishing you God's blessings for the Fourth of July and the long-range future, and 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

cc: Reverend Michael Foley

Sr. [REDACTED], O. Carm.

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000665

July 17, 1996

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Patrick Residence  
1400 Brookdale  
Naperville, IL 60563

Dear Phil,

In view of our recent discussion, I am appointing you as chaplain at St. Patrick Residence, effective July 15th of this year.

I am certainly pleased, as I know you must be, that you will be able to serve the residents of St. Patrick's. I am particularly grateful to Sister [REDACTED], O. Carm., Administrator of St. Patrick Residence for her understanding and her willingness to have you serve as chaplain. I know that the Sisters of St. Patrick's in the community look forward to having your presence. You will find this a very rewarding ministry, I am sure, particularly since you are such a sensitive and compassionate minister to the elderly and the sick.

You should discuss your salary requirements with Sister [REDACTED]. I would appreciate it if you would contact Sister Judith and inform her of these arrangements. The diocese will certainly be of assistance in providing for your compensation and benefits.

Phil, I am pleased for you and the residents and staff of St. Patrick. I think this will be a mutually satisfying arrangement for everyone involved. I know that you will be welcomed by the staff and residents. Please know that you are welcome to contact me, Bishop Kaffer or Sister Judith at any time to respond to any questions or concerns that you might have. Be assured of my prayers and blessing as you begin this new ministry.

July 17, 1996

2

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Sister [REDACTED], O. Carm.  
Bishop Roger Kaffer

*cc - Sister Judith*



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000684

August 30, 1996

## CONFIDENTIAL

Memo re: Father Phil Dederer

Phil seemed rather subdued when he came in. I told him I was getting my Office said by praying it with each successive man as he came in, and asked if he had said Morning Prayer. He said he had, but it would be fine to repeat it. I said "no," we would move on to Daytime Prayer, had he said that? He said: "Let's say Daytime Prayer." I assume he had said it, but we did say it together.

I explained that I used to visit the priests, as he knew, but decided it is easier for 180 priests to make one trip than for me to make 180 trips. Phil completely concurred. He talked like a magpie, though he seemed to have little to say.

He told me how he is working as a team with one of the Sisters in Pastoral Care. Every other month, he has an Anointing Service and in the in-between months, he has confessions. But after the service, he goes to visit the 150 who can't come to chapel, and that takes quite a bit of time. Phil does believe in the "Theology of Presence," for which I commended him.

He talked and talked about his ministry with the aged, but seems to be enjoying it. He said he gets along well with all the Sisters, but there is one who is very tough. I said: "Sister [REDACTED]?" He declined to answer, but I told him that she was a very good friend of [REDACTED], my secretary at Providence, and that they are both very aggressive and go after each other. Phil was, of course, talking about Sister [REDACTED], but said that everyone finds her rather difficult to work with.

He talked about the new chapel, which will not be finished by Christmas undoubtedly. I said construction projects are never finished on time, but that is all right because it is in the hopper and it will happen. We talked about both some priests and some lay Catholics who he knows in Naperville and with whom he has gone out to dinner.

I urged him to get to the cluster meetings - which I know have not been meeting during the summer since he came, and also to make an annual retreat.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000685

Memo re: Father Phil Dederer -2- August 30, 1996

He said he had gotten rid of his dog, and that was very painful. He and Bishop Vonesh used to talk about their dogs, because they really do become part of one's life.

He said he has one large room at St. Patrick's, but the Sisters don't seem to realize that diocesan priests have other possessions. He has gotten rid of a lot of things. He is grateful that the Sister in Pastoral Care, I believe, shares her office with him.

Phil did give me a bill that he got in the Spring. It said that it would be given to a collection agency because it is overdue. I told him I would pass it on to our insurance office.

I asked Phil if there was anything I could do for him, and he just asked me to pray for him. I assured him that my daily Mass is for priests.

---

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

September 11, 1996

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]  
St. Louis, MO [REDACTED]

Dear Mike:

[REDACTED]

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

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000698

November 8, 1996

Attn: Sr. [REDACTED]

Dear Sister [REDACTED],

I have your questionnaire for [REDACTED] Review for Father Phillip Dederda. I have checked with the nursing home. They said the residents enjoy him. Anytime he is called he is there. He works well with the staff. (His homilies are very long.) He seems a little frustrated in wanting the nursing home to be run as a parish but seems to enjoy what he is doing. They do not see any problems and there are no concerns from the staff. I asked explicitly about any problems with drugs, sex or alcohol and told none at all to their knowledge. This will have to suffice for my report.

With a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

*Dedera*

000711

January 8, 1997

Reverend Phillip Dedera  
St. Patrick Residence  
1400 Brookdale  
Naperville, IL 60563-2126

Dear Phil,

I know I spoke to you some time ago about the possibility of your getting involved in a CPE program while you are St. Patrick. I did want to put that in writing so that you would know that it is more than just a wish I have for you.

I do not know how long your chaplaincy at St. Patrick will continue. There is always a possibility that I might need you to minister at one of the several hospitals which we now staff. Most of them, if not all of them, now require that a chaplain have so many hours of CPE. I wish you would look into the possibility of entering such a program. I know there is one at Edwards Hospital and also at Good Samaritan in Downers Grove. There may very well be others that would be more convenient.

I would appreciate it if you would look into the possibility and then let me know what you discover.

Prayers and best wishes to you in this New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

P.S. [REDACTED] I wish you would pursue obtaining a Spiritual Director, perhaps Ray Grasso or Don Kenny.

000712

February 6, 1997

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

[REDACTED]

Phil seems to be doing well in his assignment at the nursing home, and Bishop Imesch is urging him to get C.P.E. in order to take on an assignment as a hospital chaplain. [REDACTED]

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

p.s. [REDACTED]



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

000715

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

February 14, 1997

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Patrick Residence  
1400 Brookdale  
Naperville, IL 60563

Dear Father Deder,

Bishop Imesch would like to invite you to be an honored concelebrant at the Chrism Mass on Monday, March 24, 1997, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Cathedral of St. Raymond. As a 25th year Jubilarian in the Diocese, you will be seated in the sanctuary along with the other honored concelebrants.

Please return the postcard which was in the February J.O.B. no later than March 7th so that the necessary preparations may be made for the dinner preceding the Chrism Mass as well as for seating in the Cathedral sanctuary during the Mass.

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

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

April 15, 1997

000722

## CONFIDENTIAL

## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Sister Judith Davies, O.S.F.

FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RE: Father Phil Dederda

I interviewed Phil Dederda, primarily so I could intelligibly fill out a questionnaire from [REDACTED] for [REDACTED].

However, I asked Phil how he's doing, and he said okay, but he's having quite a struggle financially. He said he was simply told that his salary would be \$800.00, I gather by Sister [REDACTED]. I presume that was what they were paying his predecessor, [REDACTED], based on \$500.00 disability and \$300.00 in stipends, but I did not articulate that speculation to Phil. I simply told him that I don't get into financial matters as Vicar for Priests, that they are handled by the Chancellor. But I did tell him I would give you a memo and ask you to look into his \$1,500.00 bill for retirement. He said he simply can't pay that. I said I thought the institution took care of that, but evidently it does not.

I also told him to take a course in C.P.E. to get ready in case he might have to take care of Edwards Hospital, in addition to St. Patrick's Nursing Home. He said he had already inquired from them and learned they do have a C.P.E. Program that would cost \$400.00. I did tell him the diocese would pay for that.

Though Phil, as always, mentioned how busy he is and how overwhelmed he gets at times, I really did not get into that conversation, and certainly gave him no sympathy about that. I did point out that [REDACTED] had taken care of Edwards Hospital and all the nursing homes in Naperville in his eighties, and Phil is much younger and more vigorous and should be able rather easily to handle both St. Patrick's Nursing Home and Edwards Hospital.

I think I told him there are lay people who would help with Communion, but as I dictate this, I don't remember doing so. I told him it would depend on the recovery of Ray Grasso.

Would you please check into the retirement and put his salary on the Executive Staff Agenda? Thanks.

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

April 21, 1997

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Sister Joan:

Enclosed find my response to your questionnaire concerning Phil Dedera. I had him come in and I filled out most of it while talking to him. Thank you for your help.

He seems to be doing fine. You probably ought to know that Bishop Imesch has asked him to take a course in C.P.E. to be ready for a hospital chaplaincy. Since some of our chaplains are quite sick, we ~~may~~ need to call on him rather soon to be a hospital chaplain, in addition to his residence at and work at the nursing home.

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

Enclosure



000724

June 17, 1997

Reverend Phil Deder  
St. Patrick Residence  
1400 Brookdale  
Naperville, IL 60563-2126

Dear Phil,

[REDACTED] there are two things I do want to call to your attention before I leave this week for the Bishops' Meeting and then for surgery.

[REDACTED]

The other thing is the C.P.E. I already did tell you to get into the program at Edward Hospital and send the bill to us. It is really necessary that you do that because we are probably going to have to call on you before the year is out for some help in that area.

Otherwise, things seem to be going very well, and for that I am grateful, and I'm sure you are too.

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

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

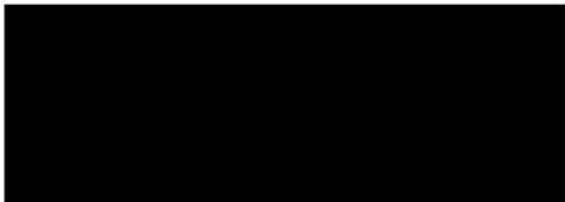
000730

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

July 8, 1997



Dear Mike,

I am responding to the letter which was addressed to Bishop Kaffer regarding [REDACTED] Reverend Phillip Deder. Bishop Kaffer is presently recovering from a hip replacement, and so I am responding in his name. [REDACTED]



Please be assured of our appreciation, and especially our prayers.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer



000732

August 18, 1997

## CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
RE: Father Phil Dedera

Joe - Phil Dedera called. He asked for this letter for a wedding in Southern Illinois. He is also working with a family to baptize their four-month-old child, either at St. Charles Borromeo in Bensenville or at St. Thomas. I forget the circumstances now, but since it was to be a private baptism, I told him that's okay, but we would not want him doing either of these things in Romeoville.

I also asked Phil if he had started on the Pastoral Care Certification at Edwards Hospital. He said he had, but I really didn't have time to pursue it with him. It wasn't clear to me whether he is taking the courses or thinking about talking to them! He gave me the impression that he was taking courses, but somehow the way he said it, I'm not sure he is. However, clarity of communication was never Phil's forte!

---

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd



000733

August 18, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

This will verify that Father Philip Dedera has faculties in the Diocese of Joliet. I understand he will be performing a wedding in Charleston, Illinois. He does so with our blessing.

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

RLK:bjd

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000741

September 19, 1997

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Patrick Residence  
1400 Brookdale  
Naperville, IL 60563-2126

Dear Phil,

Last week I was in Washington attending some meetings. I had the opportunity to see [REDACTED] and he told me how much of a comfort you were to the family and how impressed they were with your solicitude for them. I just wanted to let you know how grateful they were.

I meant to talk to you at [REDACTED]'s funeral about taking a CPE course. I really want you to do this and feel that you have the time to do that now. I would appreciate it if you would let me know when and where you are going to take this course. I also want to know if you have begun seeing a spiritual director, as you agreed to do [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Thanks for all of the good work you do at St. Patrick. Take care of yourself.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc - Bp Kopp



000742

October 14, 1997

Reverend Philip Deder  
St. Patrick Residence  
1400 Brookdale  
Naperville, IL 60563-2126

Dear Phil,

Congratulations as you celebrate the 25th Anniversary of your Ordination this year! It was a pleasure to have dinner with you and your classmates at the Convocation. When you were in the seminary, I yearned for the day when we would be able to concelebrate together, and we now have been able to do that for a quarter of a century.

I hear only positive reports about your pastoral care, not only for the elderly aged, but also for the families of both the living and the deceased. Thank you for your Christ-like concern for all of these people. May you continue to find great satisfaction in this work for the cause of Christ, and may you come to know Jesus Christ more intimately, to love Him more ardently and to follow Him more closely day by day. "Ad multos annos!"

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



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000749

December 10, 1997

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

You [REDACTED] will be pleased to know that I received several accolades for Phil last night when I went to the Annual Christmas Thank You Mass and Reception for Volunteers and Benefactors at St. Patrick's Retirement Home. A number of people, both residents and people having parents there, told me what an asset Father Phil is.

God's blessings for Christmas and the New Year!

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

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted February 2014

TMAA

Released April 2014

000754

April 7, 1998

Chaplain Shelley Bergstrom  
Edward Hospital  
South Washington Street  
Naperville, IL 60540

Dear Chaplain Bergstrom:

I am pleased to tell you that effective April 15, 1998, Father Philip Dedera, who will be living at St. Thomas the Apostle rectory, will be assigned as Catholic chaplain of Edward Hospital. Father Dedera will be in touch with you, I am sure.

I enjoyed our recent luncheon meeting. And I am pleased that we have been able to work out something that I hope will be helpful both to you and to all of the Catholic patients at Edward Hospital.

I wish you God's blessings for the Easter Season.

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

cc: Father Phil Dedera

bc: Bishop Joseph Imesch



February 2, 1998

## CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RE: Edwards Hospital Chaplaincy

When [REDACTED] was here for the Secretariat Meeting, he wanted to see me afterwards and suggested that the new pastor of Christ the Servant Parish be appointed temporary chaplain of St. Edward's Hospital. He said he wouldn't have that much to do in the parish and could perhaps cover the hospital. Bill said that's the only major hospital that doesn't have a chaplain. I told him, confidentially, that you intend to appoint Phil Dederda to that.

Just before I went to Belleville, I did send a letter to [REDACTED] marked "Personal & Confidential" with a copy to Sister [REDACTED]. She has asked if there is any possibility of Phil living at St. Thomas because they need the room for an office. If it can't be, she said they would make some other arrangements, but it would really help them out. In my heart of hearts, I have to wonder if that's the only reason!

I will try to get on Phil's back and see where he is on his C.P.E. It's time for him to go for another [REDACTED] and I'll climb all over him if he hasn't gotten started.

---

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000762

February 10, 1998

## CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
RE: Father Phil Deder

I did call Sister [REDACTED] to ask her what the situation is concerning Phil Deder's residence, and secondly, to ask her, quite frankly, whether she just wants to get rid of Phil or really needs the space.

She said she really needs the space, and if it were a question of getting rid of Phil, she would have been up-front and told me so. And then she laughed and said: "But if we have another assignment for Phil, that would be fine - but that was said 'tongue in cheek.'" I told her, confidentially, we do have another assignment for Phil, and I'm going to get on his back on that. We want him to be chaplain at Edwards Hospital, and he is supposed to be taking C.P.E. to do that. She said he will be very good at that, because he visits both residents and staff whenever they are in the hospital. She said the residents and their families love him. His ministry with the residents is fine.

She said sometimes he interferes with the staff by butting into conversations, but she has told the staff that when that happens, they are not to tell her about it afterwards, but at the time, and they will address it right then.

However, I gather he is a real asset at the residence. She said they are having more funerals there so that Phil can be the presider because he is so endeared to the residents and their families.

He still gives 15 to 20 minute homilies, which irk some of the residents and sisters, but when they complain, he rushes through Mass, and that also irks them. I laughed and told her that Phil's loquaciousness goes all the way back to his seminary days, and she said some of the sisters are the same.

I commended her and told her to keep up the good work.

*R.L.K.*  
Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

*P.S. Fr. Anthony told me Don Kerry is amenable, but we decided I should talk to Phil and tell him.*



000763

February 18, 1998

**CONFIDENTIAL**

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RE: Father Phil Dedera

At my request, Phil came to see me and we talked for the better part of an hour. It was one of the best meetings I've had with Phil in some time.

I told him that Sister [REDACTED] needs another office and approached me recently to see whether Phil could possibly live next door at St. Thomas the Apostle. I had told her to talk to [REDACTED] to see whether that would be feasible. [REDACTED] was very open to it, so I told Phil that I wanted to be the one to tell him of this possibility.

I told him that I had also told Sister [REDACTED] that we intended to appoint Phil as chaplain at Edwards Hospital, not in place of, but in addition to his duties at St. Patrick's. I asked Phil what the status is of his C.P.E., and much to my surprise, he told me that they had a three-hour course at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver and were told that they would be qualified to be hospital chaplains after that course. He doesn't know that it was called C.P.E. at the time, but it should be on his transcript. As he described it, it apparently was what we would call a C.P.E. course. He said he had spoken with someone at Edwards Hospital and they were familiar with the Denver program and very affirming of it. They had a psychologist or psychiatrist who had also given some talks, had hospital experience, I believe witnessing an operation, a birth, etc. They were given guidance on how to deal with families, etc. Moreover, Phil, prior to getting in to all of this described some of his experiences already at Edwards Hospital. He has told them to call whenever they need a priest, has gone always when



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

-000771

April 8, 1998

## CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
RE: Chaplain for Edward Hospital

Joe - Please write a letter appointing Phil Dederda chaplain of Edward Hospital, effective April 15, 1998, in addition to his duties at St. Patrick's, with residence at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Naperville. I told him that his \$800.00 salary from the Sisters, which includes \$300.00 in stipends, will be supplemented from the chaplain's budget, and I have notified [REDACTED] to do that, subtracting \$800.00 a month from the chaplain's budget. I also told Phil that he is to register for a C.P.E. course, but suggested it be somewhere other than Edward Hospital, with which he concurred. He seemed fine with it and grateful.

I have written to Reverend [REDACTED] but thought that you ought to write the letter to Phil.

---

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd



Redacted February 2014  
T3436  
Released April 2014

000782

April 7, 1998

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: [REDACTED]

FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RE: Father Phil Deder

[REDACTED] - I just wish to confirm in writing my phone message: Effective April 15, 1998, Father Phil Deder will be appointed chaplain at Edward Hospital in Naperville, in addition to his duties at St. Patrick's Residence. Please arrange, as of April 15th, that he would be paid the chaplain's salary, minus the \$800.00 per month that he gets from the Sisters.

---

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Father Phil Deder  
Bishop Joseph Imesch



Redacted February 2014  
TMAA  
Released April 2014

000783

April 8, 1998

[REDACTED]

Dear Sister [REDACTED]:

[REDACTED]

As of April 15th, he will be assigned chaplain of Edward Hospital, in addition to his assignment at the nursing home. He also will begin C.P.E. I think we're well on the 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

RLK:bjd

cc: [REDACTED]

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch (w/encl)

p.s. [REDACTED]



Redacted February 2014  
TAL:js  
Released April 2014

000784

April 8, 1998

## CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
RE: Chaplain for Edward Hospital

Joe - Please write a letter appointing Phil Deder a chaplain of Edward Hospital, effective April 15, 1998, in addition to his duties at St. Patrick's, with residence at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Naperville. I told him that his \$800.00 salary from the Sisters, which includes \$300.00 in stipends, will be supplemented from the chaplain's budget, and I have notified [REDACTED] to do that, subtracting \$800.00 a month from the chaplain's budget. I also told Phil that he is to register for a C.P.E. course, but suggested it be somewhere other than Edward Hospital, with which he concurred. He seemed fine with it and grateful.

I have written to Reverend [REDACTED], but thought that you ought to write the letter to Phil.

---

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

000785

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

April 9, 1998

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Patrick Residence  
1400 Brookdale  
Naperville, IL 60563-2126

Dear Phil,

With this letter I am appointing you as Chaplain at Edwards Hospital in Naperville, effective April 15th. This will be in addition to your present duties as Chaplain at St. Patrick Residence. Your residence will be at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Naperville.

Phil, I am grateful to you for accepting this additional assignment to minister to the needs of the Catholic patients at Edwards. I will notify the Pastoral Care Department of your appointment.

I would hope that you would continue to join with the priests of the cluster in their regular monthly meetings. I think your presence is important both for your own benefit as well as for the priests of the cluster.

Your ministry schedule at the hospital should be determined by yourself, but I would ask you to be in contact with the designated hospital chaplain regarding hospital procedures and protocol. To my knowledge you are not required to put in a certain amount of hours each day or each week. My concern would be that the Catholic patients who are there would be visited by you and those who are in need would receive the sacraments. I am sure there are a regular number of lay people who are bringing Eucharist to the patients. That program is probably coordinated through St. Raphael parish, so you might contact them about their hospital ministry.



April 9, 1998

2

You will continue to receive \$800 monthly from the St. Patrick Residence, which includes \$300 in stipends. Any stipends you might receive for the celebration of the Eucharist should be sent monthly to the Chancery. The remainder of your salary, along with benefits, will be supplied by the diocese. If there is any question with regard to your salary, please contact Sister Judith, who would gladly offer you her assistance.

Phil, I appreciate your willingness to assume this additional responsibility. I think hospital ministry is very important. Your pastoral care of the Catholic patients at Edwards will most certainly bring spiritual benefits for you, as well as for the people to whom you minister. I have heard so many wonderful comments about your care for the people at St. Patrick and for their families, that I have no doubt you will extend that pastoral care to the people at Edwards.

I believe the chaplains from the various hospitals try to get together on occasion and I think it would be good for you to avail yourself of that opportunity. You might want to call Father Gary Berthiaume, chaplain at Good Samaritan, to inquire about those meetings.

I realize that you participated in a CPE course while you were in the seminary, but I think it is important that you update that experience. CPE has grown considerably in the past twenty-five years. I think it would be not only helpful for you personally, but I also think our chaplains should be properly certified so that their ministry is recognized in the hospital. I would appreciate it if you would make arrangements, as soon as it is convenient, to begin a CPE course and notify me of the program.

Phil, I also think it is important for you to have a regular spiritual director and I would ask that you do that, if you have not already done so. Sometime in the near future, within the next few months, I would appreciate it if you would contact my secretary, [REDACTED] and arrange a mutually convenient time when we can discuss your newest assignment.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

April 9, 1998

0030787

Please be assured of my willingness to be of assistance to you, should you wish to call upon me. I will keep you and your ministry in prayer and ask you to remember me as well.

With every best wish, especially in this holy season.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

DC - BP KAFFER



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

**EDWARD HEALTH  
SERVICES CORPORATION**

801 South Washington Street  
Naperville, Illinois 60566

000789

April 23, 1998

The Most Rev. Roger L. Kaffer, D.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop, Vicar General  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435-7193

Dear Bishop Kaffer:

It is such a pleasure to work with Father Philip Dedera, and I wanted you to know how pleased we are to make him part of our pastoral care team at Edward Hospital. Thank you for sending him to us. His arrival is an answer to prayer.

Our staff and administration are also pleased to have Father Dedera join us. I know that in time he will become acquainted with many in our Edward family, and I am sure he will be a blessing to our patients and their families.

May God continue to bless your ministry. I will not forget our covenant to pray for one another. Have a good spring.

Peace in Christ,



Chaplain - Supervisor of Pastoral Services



000790

May 6, 1998

  
Dear   


They are very pleased with his appointment as chaplain at Edwards Hospital in Naperville. I've told him to take a C.P.E. course.

Thanks for all your help. I do hope that your own situation is settling down. I read something in one of the Catholic newspapers. It's a shame that we have to spend so much time away from the ministry to people.

Be assured of my prayers for and with you. Thanks for all your good work!

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

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



000793

May 7, 1998

  
Dear   


They are very pleased with his appointment as chaplain at Edwards Hospital in Naperville. I've told him to take a C.P.E. course.

Thanks for all your help. I do hope that your own situation is settling down. I read something in one of the Catholic newspapers. It's a shame that we have to spend so much time away from the ministry to people on legal stuff.

Be assured of my prayers for and with you. Thanks for all your good work!

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

CC: JLI



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000813

July 20, 1999

VIA FACSIMILE

815-722-6602

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
Joliet Diocese  
425 Summit  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

I am a life-long resident of this diocese, having grown up in Notre Dame Parish when Fr. John Barrett was the Pastor. [REDACTED]

For the past 3 years I have been praying the rosary during my lunch hour with Sr. [REDACTED] and residents of St. Patrick's Carmelite Residence in Naperville. I have been blessed beyond my understanding to have been invited to pray with persons who have so much love, devotion and difficulties to share with Our Lord, with me and others.

Bishop, I have been blessed over the years by so many of the devoted priests in our diocese. I wish to give thanks to God in particular for the gift of Fr. Deder. In my brief time at St. Patrick's I have witnessed his untiring love and service towards the residents, workers and volunteers. Fr. Deder (like so many of your priests) is a humble servant of God. I can see Our Lord working through him to touch the hearts of so many in need of God's mercy during trying times in their lives. He is truly an instrument of God's love and compassion and a most blessed example to me of how to imitate Christ. I could share more with you, but may I just say thank you and thanks to Our Lord for Fr. Deder.

Bishop, so many of your priests are overworked. I pray for them daily but I would like to do more if it is God's will. I understand Fr. Mark Jendrysik is in charge of retreats for our priests. I recently contacted Father Mark to offer my time and resources if he was interested in inviting Sr. [REDACTED] to come to our diocese. Sr. [REDACTED] has a ministry of serving and supporting the priesthood by participating in retreats around the world. I understand she may be able to come to our diocese in 2000 if she is invited. I have not heard back from Fr. Mark. I would like to renew my offer to you.

I pray that Jesus Christ and Our Blessed Mother may continue to bless you and our priesthood. I also hope you are recovering well from your recent surgery.

In Jesus and Mary,

[REDACTED]



*Dedera*

000814

July 21, 1999



Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your recent letter and especially for your kind words about Father Dedera and our priests. So often, people appreciate a priest, but do not take the time to tell him. I would hope that you have shared your kind words with Father Dedera.

Thank you, also, for praying for our priests. We are certainly in need of the Lord's assistance.

I do not know why Father Mark Jendrysik has not responded to your letter. Our priests' retreats have always been conducted by other priests. I know of Sister [REDACTED] and I am sure she would be a wonderful retreat mistress, but I do not feel I can change our present practice at this time.

Thanks again for all of your good works. Be assured of a remembrance in my prayers and I ask you to remember me as well.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer



August 30, 1999

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Memo re: Father Phil Dederà

I think Phil and I had one of our better meetings, at least in recent years. He seemed quite self possessed and deliberate, with a cross between laid back and seeming to want to give the impression of being very much at ease and in control.

Phil was making himself a cup of tea when I finished with [REDACTED] so I joined him in some tea and cookies, as I had not had time for breakfast.

Phil apparently is working well with the lady head chaplain at Edwards Hospital. She remembers the lunch I had with her. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Phil said the Eucharistic Ministers wanted to know whether he was going to bring Communion to everyone, and he suggested they continue as they did before he came. With that, I concurred! He said he does double back and catch anyone who may have been missed due to surgery, fasting or for other reasons.

I asked if he says Mass in the parish on Sunday, but he does not. However, I think he does say Mass at one other nursing home once a month, and he does cover the sick calls for St. Thomas and has taken an occasional funeral, and I believe once covered a wedding when [REDACTED] s plane was delayed.

Phil said he also sometimes takes funerals from St. Patrick's, at the request of the family, whether at the chapel of the nursing home or in their parish churches.



Memo re: Father Phil Deder

-2-

August 30, 1999

Apparently he did have a heavy weekend. There were several deaths,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I believe he had also anointed [REDACTED]  
and so understandably it had been a draining weekend for him.

I expressed my concern about Edwards' wanting to become a heart center, since it is a for-profit hospital. He said there is a very competent woman administrator who is very conscious of making money and apparently is dabbling with fetal tissue and other unethical money-making projects. This distresses him and the chaplain, but they do the best they can to minister to the sick.

Since Phil had already said Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, we prayed Daytime Prayer together and traded blessings.

He does make a retreat, attends cluster meetings, and recently talked to a young lady who was interested in religious life, referring her to the Carmelite Sisters.

---

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Meadowbrook Manor of Naperville**

000817

720 Raymond Drive ♦ Naperville, Illinois 60563  
Phone 630-355-0220

*Dedera*

February 6, 2000

TO: SISTER JUDITH DAVIES

FROM: [REDACTED]

As per your request, I am sending this letter to inform you of the reason we are requesting that Father Dederer not return to the facility. There have been a few times that Father has arrived at our home with strong alcohol on his breath. This was a problem brought to my attention when I started at Meadowbrook in October.

I was very upset with Father on Thursday January 13, 2000. He arrived about 15 minutes late and then proceeded to tell the residents that he was too tired to do a mass, he will just give communion. He was asked by the residents why this decision was made and Father proceeded to explain that he had to attend to the people that are dying in the hospital went into detail about why they died and how. Then told the residents that he had more important things to do then spend a lot of time at the home. This upset the residents a great deal. They look forward to the mass, since they can not get out to church. He then went throughout the building and offered communion to those who couldn't get to mass. On his way out he started banging on the elevator doors in front of the residents, family, staff. He was upset that the elevator was taking to long. He then proceeded to yell at one of staff members about opening the coded door so he could take the stairs. Since she did not know the code he went through the door and set the alarms off upsetting a lot of people. NEVER!

Again, on Thursday January 27, 2000. Father only came to pass communion this time he did not even bother to take his coat off and show some interest in being in the building. The residents are very disappointed in this behavior. Thursday February 3, 2000. he canceled at the last minute and the residents were very disappointed.

Thank you for the consideration and if you have any question feel free to call me (630)-355-0220.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

*and read this to Phil will talk to her.  
I spoke with Phil Dederer on 3/7/00. He will talk to  
[REDACTED] (if she is still there). They have called her to come  
every Tuesday since Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>!*

*+P.L.K.*



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

000827

Personal

Wednesday of Holy Week  
April 20, 2000

Dear [REDACTED],

You are obviously a very sincere man. I believe you. I also believe in you. But I do not believe you have lost your faith, though you think you have and pleaded that it be given back to you. A man without faith would not read the bible. . . and be so concerned about the faith of his children. . . and come to see the bishop. . . all of which you have done.

As I see it, you asked that your faith be given back to you, but I consider that an impossible request because I think your faith is very strong, and that Jesus loves you very much. You just don't realize it. I truly want to help you. I came home last night and went immediately to my chapel to pray for you and [REDACTED].

Obviously something happened that has disturbed you. But it didn't destroy your faith. It greatly disillusioned you. Your expectations of both God and man are unrealistic. Why would God allow something like this to happen? Why would God allow the crucifixion and death of His Son, Jesus, to happen? I wouldn't have (in spite of the years and years of theology and meditation I have done), and I suspect you wouldn't have, either. These are just two reasons among many other and greater ones that you or I aren't God!

I believe the answer to both questions is because men -- all men -- including priests and lay people, and kings and presidents and poor people and rich people and all people, are sinners, and Jesus came to save sinners, including you and me. I love the story of a man who once challenged Jesus: "Do you love me?" Jesus answered: "Yes, I love you." The man pushed Him: "How much do you love me?" And Jesus stretched out His arms and said: "This much" -- and DIED for him!

I gave [REDACTED] copies of a prayer I wrote on Calvary, pray every day after Communion and many times each day. It helps me keep things in perspective. I wish you'd try to pray it. It may also be helpful to you. In fact, I will include another copy in this letter.

There was one other theological point you made that needs to be rethought, I believe. You were upset to think a murderer could be forgiven. There is no sin that cannot be forgiven, if we repent. Jesus died for all sins. I am enclosing something I recently wrote to illustrate this.

I told you I believe you. I also believed Father Phil, but I am certainly going to look into it. I am grateful you came in, difficult as it was for you. I do want to help you in any way I can. If you would like [REDACTED] I am confident our Review Committee would offer that (your name would not be given to them). I would be personally happy to discuss any theological problems and questions with you [REDACTED] at my office or your home, if that would be easier for you, because that is not only my field but my life and my expertise. If you would like to do so, don't hesitate to call me. The phone number is on the letterhead.

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

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

The Most Rev. Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet


enclosure

cc [REDACTED]



April 26, 2000



Dear 

I did try to phone you this morning, as I told you I would, but I was unable to get through by phone. Please call me at the Chancery (722-6606).

I am praying for you every day. Please pray for me.

With cordial personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RLK:bjd



FR. DEDERA S

FROM DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 584

4/26/00

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014DEDERA  
file- through, sent a letter asking him to call me. 4/27/00  
He did - on 4/27/00. I told him:

000832A

I did follow up with [redacted] as I said I would. She

told me the nun was Sister Judith Davies in our office.

~~Sister was trying to get~~ <sup>Sister</sup> had no particulars nor your  
name and ~~was trying~~ <sup>she tried</sup> to get it.We do take this very seriously. Father Phil's ministry  
is to the elderly and the sick ~~and he has no contact~~  
~~with children~~ - not with children.We do want to work with you and [redacted] the best  
we can.He said nobody understands his concern. He doesn't think  
Father Phil should be a priest and able to work for the Church.  
I replied we are a Church of forgiveness. Both Judas and Peter  
sinned seriously, but Judas didn't repent and Peter did,  
and it was after that that Jesus made Peter the first Pope.  
And I told [redacted] again we want to help him, and if he'd  
like to talk to a priest I think Fr. Ed Shea at St. John's  
would be a good one.He seemed very interested in that and went to get a  
pen and took down his name and phone number. He also  
told me he hasn't talked to [redacted] because of phone  
trouble.I told him to feel free to call me or to talk to Sr.  
Judith if I'm not here - at this same number.

+ R. Z. K.

4/26/00



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014


March 23, 1994


Dr. Judith Davies - ~~████~~ re: the same thing.  
She did not have his name.  
Does not have a signed release.

8328

Correspondence - Date?

The same allegation

Interested in finding out that process, can  call?  
YES.

: I was surprised - he told me the meeting was  
set up. I still don't have his signed release.

8320

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

March 8, 1994

Approx. 11:10 a.m. Spoke with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She had called yesterday and left a message that she would be calling back sometime today.

In a session with a young man who is her client, he made an off-hand remark about having been molested by a priest. When she suggested that he follow up on the incident, he remarked that it happened a long time ago, back in the 70's.

She asked about our process. I said that we have a Review Committee which investigates allegations received; that we were concerned for the person who may have been abused, to offer assistance; we were concerned for the victimizer. Did he mention a name? She replied that she could not give me the name of her client, but that the priest was named Phil from Romeoville. I told her that Judge Orenic was the head of the Committee and gave her his number and said that the young man could call him or could call my office.

Approx. 11:35 a.m. Attempted to call back [REDACTED] to gain more information on the incident (d.o.b., nature & extent of molestation, approx date when occurred) No answer, so left name & phone number on answering machine.

Approx. 1:18 p.m. [REDACTED] returned call. Asked why I wanted to know client's date of birth; I responded to know if he were a minor at the time of the incident. She said he was 17 years old; that he's not attaching a lot of weight to the incident; she had no knowledge as to the nature and extent of abuse; was going to give him the telephone numbers so he could decide whether to call or not.



Redacted February 2014  
TMAA  
Released April 2014

000844

December 15, 2001

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Memo re: Father Phil Dederer

I had a very pleasant visit with Phil. He started in by telling me how pleased the Protestant chaplain at Edwards Hospital was at my Christmas greeting.

Then Phil told me all of the things he had done that morning - and it was a lot. He has a pretty busy schedule. He covers Edwards Hospital and St. Patrick's, says Mass, I think once a week at Meadowbrook, and takes anointings there, and also covers any anointings for the parish that he can.

He was very high on [REDACTED], in particular, and also on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They had told him that they could cover night calls for him, apparently particularly after his [REDACTED]. But Phil was very high in his praise of these young priests.

He took me out on the deck to show me some of the gardening that [REDACTED] has put in behind the house, including a very small fish pond.

I commended Phil for his zeal and concern for the sick. He told me what a privilege it is to take care of them. He apparently loves his ministry and is very highly regarded by those to whom he ministers.

[REDACTED]

But apparently it is a good and a happy household.



Redacted February 2014  
TMAJ  
Released April 2014

Memo re: Father Phil Dederá

-2-

December 15, 2001

Phil and I visited in the living room, and there was a Bible Study going on downstairs. Phil said it used to happen in the living room, and it was not pleasant when he would come in after Mass to get some breakfast, or come home in the evening, and he said ladies would be there talking about their husbands. It was awkward and he is very happy there is a place now for them downstairs, but he said he never complained about it. I just observed that there should be some privacy in the house and am glad they are downstairs now.

Phil said his day off is Monday and cluster meetings are on Monday, and he tries to get the day off, but there are often funerals on Monday, and he said he cannot refuse people he has taken care of for years when they want him to take their funeral. I could understand that, but asked if he couldn't get another day off. He said it is very difficult. I do think Phil works very hard, but he also is not hesitant to mention how hard he works - but I think it's true.

Phil said that his hospital and rehabilitation bills were quite high, but he was grateful that insurance covered most of it.

He does make an annual retreat, prays the Breviary, and I soft-played the question of vocations. He does get a medical check-up and I think that he said he has a spiritual director, but I'm not sure.

Phil is very pleasant and affirming, and I tried to be affirming of him, telling him how important his ministry to the sick is and encouraging him in it.

We did not pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart and I told him that I usually pray with the guys, but since [REDACTED] had been waiting for me for a little bit, we would just trade blessings and we did.

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

December 20, 2001

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Patrick Residence  
1400 Brookdale  
Naperville, IL 60563

Dear Father Deder,

When I received the most recent loan statements from our Bookkeeping Office, I noticed that the last payment on your loan of March 18, 1998 was received in September of 2001. There is a remaining balance of \$1, 462.95.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Otherwise, please send a payment each month.

Thank you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

April 12, 2002

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

FAX: [REDACTED]

RE: Statement Concerning Removal from Ministry

The Diocese of Joliet has removed Reverend Phillip Dederer from any type of ministry effective immediately. This action was taken based on a credible allegation of sexual abuse that occurred in the mid 1970's. The allegation was recently reported to the Diocese by the victim who is now over 40 years of age.

Anyone who may be aware of any inappropriate activity by Father Dederer is asked to come forward.

For the past six years, Father Dederer has been chaplain at St. Patrick Nursing Home in Naperville, and for the past four years has also served as chaplain at Edwards Hospital in Naperville.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

030848

MEMORANDUM

April 12, 2002

TO: Priests of the Diocese

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF *JAD*

RE: Message from Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

I regret to inform you that I have placed Reverend Phillip Dederer on administrative leave effective this morning. Please pray for Phil and all involved.

The following press release has been issued.

Bishop Imesch

*The Diocese of Joliet has removed Reverend Phillip Dederer from any type of ministry effective immediately. This action was taken based on a credible allegation of sexual abuse that occurred in the mid 1970's. The allegation was recently reported to the Diocese by the victim who is now over 40 years of age.*

*Anyone who may be aware of any inappropriate activity by Father Dederer is asked to come forward.*

*For the past six years, Father Dederer has been chaplain at St. Patrick Nursing Home in Naperville, and for the past four years has also served as chaplain at Edwards Hospital in Naperville.*

*Dedera*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000849

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM [REDACTED]

1. Father Dedera was serving at St. Andrew Parish in Romeoville when the alleged abuse took place.
2. His parish assignments after St. Andrew were St. Pius X in Lombard, Visitation in Elmhurst, St. Walter in Roselle, St. Scholastica in Woodridge, St. Mary in Paxton, St. Patrick in Momence.
3. Diocesan officials first learned of the allegations on Thursday, April 4th.
4. Diocesan officials notified the States Attorney in writing and orally the day before the press release on Father Dedera was given.
5. No further actions are being taken to investigate the allegation because the diocese believes it is factual.
6. Father Dedera is presently outside of the diocese.
7. Father Dedera is receiving counseling.
8. The victim was 15 or 16.
9. In the Fall of 1974
10. To our knowledge the abuse occurred once. I see no reason to respond to the question of what was the nature of the abuse.



*Dedera*  
000850

MEMORANDUM

April 12, 2002

TO: Priests of the Diocese  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF *JAD*  
RE: Message from Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

I regret to inform you that I have placed Reverend Phillip Dedera on administrative leave effective this morning. Please pray for Phil and all involved.

The following press release has been issued.

Bishop Imesch

*The Diocese of Joliet has removed Reverend Phillip Dedera from any type of ministry effective immediately. This action was taken based on a credible allegation of sexual abuse that occurred in the mid 1970's. The allegation was recently reported to the Diocese by the victim who is now over 40 years of age.*

*Anyone who may be aware of any inappropriate activity by Father Dedera is asked to come forward.*

*For the past six years, Father Dedera has been chaplain at St. Patrick Nursing Home in Naperville, and for the past four years has also served as chaplain at Edwards Hospital in Naperville.*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

Dedera 000851

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** <jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 13, 2002 2:38 PM  
**Subject:** Father Philip Dedera

I have been privileged to know Fr. Dedera for the past four years. In my capacity as [REDACTED] at Edward Hospital, I have had occasion to watch Fr. Dedera perform many acts of kindness and compassion to the patients in our institution. One of these patients was [REDACTED] who found Fr. Dedera's visits to be very comforting. Never have I seen him be anything but totally appropriate with the patients or the staff.

Every Sunday, for well over a year, father has served mass for the hospital staff working that day. Many of us will be forever grateful to him for allowing us to enjoy that weekly celebration while "trapped" in the confines of the hospital. As circumstances dictated, I was on call the past two Christmas Days. On both those occasions my family joined me in the Edward Chapel for Fr. Dedera's mass. To my knowledge, these services were pure acts of kindness and love on father's part. I will never forget them as they were the best parts of the holidays.

I firmly believe that any credible accusation of abuse has to be fully investigated. Guilty individuals must be removed from environments where such abuse could occur again. Where indicated, criminal proceedings should be undertaken. However, given all of that, judgement should be tempered with mercy-as well as an understanding of any good works that a man may have done in his life. My letter is in support of Father Dedera and his many good works. My prayers are with father as well as the diocese in this most difficult of times.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

000852

April 15, 2002

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Benedict Monastery  
1012 Monastery Road  
Snowmass, CO 80016

Dear Phil,

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you on Thursday, April 11th. I told you that I had received a phone call from a [REDACTED] who had indicated that he had been abused by you at St. Andrew rectory in the Fall of 1974. After presentation of the allegation to our Special Review Committee, it was determined that you should be placed on Administrative Leave. You are not exercise any priestly function, though you are permitted to celebrate Eucharist privately. This leave began on the day of our meeting.

You indicated that you wanted to spend some time in prayer and suggested that you would go to the Cistercian Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado.

On the morning of April 12th, a press release was given to the local newspapers stating that you had been relieved of your assignment as chaplain at St. Patrick Residence and as chaplain at Edwards Hospital. You should know that both places expressed their concern for you, as well as their appreciation of the ministry you have carried on there. I, too, want to commend you for the dedicated service you provided at St. Patrick Residence. I know that the people were very grateful for your ministry, especially those who experienced the loss of a loved one.

Phil, I know that this is a severe time of trial for you. I pray that the Lord will guide you during these next several weeks and that you will be able to face the future with peace and security.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

April 15, 2002

2

During this time, the diocese will provide you with a \$500 per month benefit and will continue to keep you on our health insurance program. I would ask you to get in touch with me when you return from Snowmass.

Be assured of my prayers for you during this difficult time.  
With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

000854

April 15, 2002

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Memo re: Father Phil Deder

Mrs. [REDACTED] called this morning and asked to talk to me. She said that 25 years ago, there was a problem with Father Deder when he was at St. Pius X. The Bishop's letter in the bulletin yesterday brought it all back to her.

She said father would take teenagers apparently to his room and start wrestling with them, and that he grabbed [REDACTED]'s private parts. She said since she didn't know what to do with it, she didn't do anything.

We talked a good bit about him, about sudden death, and about death in general.

I thanked her for calling and asked if there was anything that I could do for her now. She said there is not. She just feels so much better for having brought this forward, and she feels in a sense that she did it for [REDACTED]

She did say that all of this publicity about sexual abuse by priests shakes her faith in the priesthood and in the Church, and I told her that it is devastating to all of us. I told her when I was a deacon, the seminary rector said: "Never put a chasuble on over a mortal sin." And I was absolutely scandalized because I thought a priest would never commit a mortal sin.

As Vicar for Priests, I try to visit all of our priests every year, and the vast majority of them are good and holy priests, striving hard to do a good job. These allegations are devastating to all of us. But I also reminded her that we don't blame the other 11 Apostles for the betrayal by Judas.

I promised to keep her in my prayers and asked for hers.

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

*Bp. Fitzgerald*  
*Sr. J. Davies*  
*Jim Byrne*



000855

## MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2002

TO: Sister Judith Davies, OSF

FROM: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

RE: Salaries for Father Berthiaume & Father Deder

Please inform [REDACTED] that the salaries paid by the diocese for [REDACTED] and Father Deder should cease after the next check. If they have been paid on a bi-monthly basis, they should receive a check for the first two weeks of April. If they are paid on a monthly basis, they should receive a check for the month of April. After that, they are not to receive any additional payments.

You can ask [REDACTED] to begin \$500 per month disability benefits for Father Phillip Deder. If he received a payment from the diocese for the first two weeks of April, then he should receive \$250 this month, and \$500 each subsequent month. If he is receiving full payment for the month of April, then his \$500 disability benefit should begin in the month of May. His check should be sent to whatever address we presently have for him.

---

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



000856

Kankakee, Ill.

Monday, April 15, 2002

# Ousted priest called 'caring'

By Mary Baskerville, Journal writer

**MOMENCE** — Phillip Dederer is remembered here as a parish priest who was caring and involved in the community.

Father "D," as he was known, served at St. Patrick Church in Momence from 1989 to 1995 and in Paxton prior to that. He was well-known for his canine companion — "Addie," a black lab dog who never left his side. Most recently, Dederer served as chaplain at Naperville's Edward Hospital.

Parishioners here are hoping the 57-year old priest will be able to clear his name, said longtime St. Patrick parishioner Marcie Siwicki.

A letter from Bishop Joseph L. Imesch announcing Dederer's removal from the ministry because of an allegation of sexual abuse that occurred in the mid-1970s was read at the Masses this past weekend.

The memories of his time at St. Patrick's Church are all good, [redacted] said. She is the church sacristan and lay minister. She knew Dederer well.

"He had an elderly father living next door to the rectory. He took care of him well."

News of the allegation was sad news for the parish, she said. "We were overwhelmed. He baptized one of my grandchildren."

"I can't say enough about him." She remembers him as a very caring pastor.

"People in town really liked him. He popped in every business place. Catholic or

not, everybody liked him."

"We're hoping that he can clear his name," [redacted] said. "I just felt like it couldn't be true. He may not be guilty of this."

Longtime parishioner [redacted] agreed, saying, "I was very shocked. I liked him very much. He was a very loving and caring person. He was especially good to me and my family at the time my husband was dying."

[redacted] has eight children, all baptized at the church and all graduates of the school. "He was there for all of us."

"I just really am surprised, and I feel for him because he was a very good man, and he still is, I'm sure."

She learned of the allegation on Friday on the news. "That's just it. It is an allegation."

"Recent news of sexual abuse by priests is sad for the church," she said. "It's going to hurt the church somewhat, but I do think we're going to get through it."

"Maybe it will make us stronger. I think it's something that has to be completely cleared up. It has to be dealt with, and dealt with properly."

"It should have been dealt with immediately."

[redacted] has attended Mass at St. Patrick's for 60 years. He knew Father Dederer well: "To me he was a very generous, kind, and caring person."

THE DAILY JOURNAL

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Redacted February 2014

TMJA

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000857-A

## Messages on 4-15-02

9 a.m. [REDACTED] called to say that there was a problem with Father Dederica concerning [REDACTED] at St. Pius X, Lombard, around 1976-77. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] But years ago, he came home and told [REDACTED] about Father Dederica. She didn't know what to do with that information, and so did nothing. She would like to talk to you.

[REDACTED]

---



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TMJA

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859B

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] from St. Thomas in Naperville called & said that she talked to  
[REDACTED] and nothing inappropriate ever happened with Father  
Dedera

[REDACTED]

\_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED] called re Father Dedera [REDACTED]

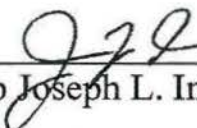
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

April 17, 2002

RE: Reverend Phillip Dederer

██████████ called - she said that she lived in St. Walter parish in Roselle and Father Dederer was very close to ██████████. Neither of them had ever experienced anything inappropriate when they were with Father Dederer. She said that ██████████ are wonderful young men now, due, primarily to the influence of Father Dederer. She says she was heartsick with the allegation and she just wanted to say that she and her family greatly appreciated him.

  
Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

P.S. ██████████ called to say what a wonderful priest Father Dederer was. He wanted me to tell Father Dederer how much he was appreciated.



April, 24, 2002

Most Reverend Joseph L. Emesch,

This letter is in regards to the charges against Father Phillip Deder. I have known Father since he was ordained and was in the parish in Romeoville. [REDACTED] were in their teen years at that time and were very good friends with Father Phil. Father went camping and socialized with the boys on many occasions and found him to be nothing but a good friend and spiritual adviser. We will be very surprised if the accusation is true. Father [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was always honest and truthful to our family. Father was liked by our children's friends and never a problem.

[REDACTED]

APR 29 2002

*dedera*  
000861

April 30, 2002



Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks so much for your kind letter regarding Father Phil. I know that he has been a wonderful minister, especially to the aged and the dying. Thank you for your support for him. Please keep him in your prayers. I know he will appreciate that.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet



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TMJA  
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April 17, 2002

Dear Bishop,

You did everything right for  
Father Dederer. He is good with  
senior citizens and sick and dying.  
I wish this accusation hadn't  
happened to him because I am afraid  
it will destroy him. There is  
a lot of verbal support here from  
parishioners and the community.  
He does have his detractors but  
nothing about his accusation.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lovingly,  

[REDACTED]

APR 19 2002

Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

## St. Patrick's Residence

Carmelite Sisters for The Aged and Infirm

Apr. 19, 2002

Dear Bishop Inesech -

I am indeed sorry about all the 'trials and tribulations' you are experiencing at this time regarding our troubled Priests - I pray that God will give you His Grace and strength to carry on.

But I would feel that I abandoned my good friend, Father Philip Dedera, if I didn't tell you what wonderful work he did for our residents, their families, and our staff while he was here at St. Patrick's. He showed such special love & compassion to our sick and dying. What a consolation he was to so many! He brought many smiles to the faces of worried, anxious & lonely people as well as spiritual comfort. He is, and will be, sorely missed.

I pray, too, that he will continue to receive God's help at this time of crisis in his life. He and you are in my daily prayers -

Sincerely in Christ,

APR 23 2002



April 30, 2002

[REDACTED]

Dear Sister [REDACTED],

Many thanks for your wonderful letter of support and praise for Father Phil Dedera. I greatly appreciate your writing to me.

Father Dedera was certainly a dedicated and compassionate minister. So many people have told me of his wonderful ministry.

I intend to share your letter with Father Phil and I am grateful to you for writing to me. Please keep all of us in your prayers during this extremely difficult time.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000865

[REDACTED]

Dear Bishop Imesch,

Let me tell you about the priest I know as Father Philip Dederer. He is a compassionate and caring person. He brought the love of Christ to so many people through the Eucharist, the Gospel and his actions. Father "D" would always put his ministry at St. Patrick's and Edward's Hospital before any social engagement, often working seven days a week, on call 24 hours around the clock.

When [REDACTED] died over four years ago, Father "D" was there before she died [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Father "D" remained with her body for five hours until [REDACTED] could be reached. He was there when we said our final good-bye and led us to the chapel to pray with us. Father "D" even spent his day off traveling to [REDACTED] to celebrate [REDACTED]'s funeral mass.

My husband and I [REDACTED] have observed Father "D" bringing comfort to so many families as he had to ours. He has been such an inspiration to my husband and me. His homilies always connected the Gospel to everyday life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Father "D" encouraged us to go out and take God's love into the world.

It is such a loss to the church and community of St. Patrick's Residence that he cannot continue in his ministry there. He is loved, respected and now missed by so many residents, families, staff and volunteers who were nurtured by his pastoral care and inspired by his example of walking in the way, truth and life of our Lord.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

cc: Sister [REDACTED]

APR 25 2002



000866

April 29, 2002

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you so much for the wonderful letter of support you sent on behalf of Father Dedera. It is people like Father Phil who convince me that some priests who are guilty of abuse can be effective and caring ministers. Unfortunately, the general population does not share that belief.

While I have great concern for the victims, I also have concern for priests who have tried to rehabilitate their lives. I don't think, however, that this is a time when they will be accepted by the faithful.

I certainly do appreciate your fine letter of support for Father Phil, and I will see that it is shared with him.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

cc: Sister [REDACTED]



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17 April 2002

To the Bishop's Staff —

000867

I have written this letter  
to express my support for  
Bishop Inesch, the priests of the  
Joliet diocese and particularly  
Father Phillip Dedera. I have  
also shared my personal and  
professional insights as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I hope you  
will find my letter to be helpful  
in some way.

[REDACTED]



*Dedera*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000868

April 30, 2002



Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

I want to thank you for your very thoughtful and insightful letter. As you might imagine, I received a great deal of correspondence during all of this, but your letter is the most reasoned and thoughtful letter I have received.

I thank you for your comments and especially for your kind words about Father Dederer. I will see that your letter is shared with him. My prayers and best wishes to you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

### An Open Letter to Bishop Imesch and to the People of Joliet and Surrounding Areas

Two years ago I did a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Edward Hospital in Naperville in order to add to my credentials as a chaplain. Because of that I read the articles concerning the removal of Father Phillip Dederer from his ministry at Edward Hospital with personal shock and grief. Father D, as he is known by his coworkers, was among the most compassionate men I have worked with. I considered him a good friend while I did my training at Edward Hospital. I do not know Father D apart from working beside him at the hospital, but for me this certainly has put a personal face on the very painful topic of clergy sexual abuse. I am not a Catholic, but I work closely with Catholics and my heart is filled with concern for the church of my friends. As a professional clergy person, I am also aware that this issue is neither a "Catholic" issue nor even a religious issue. It has been a matter for great concern in all institutions.

For quite some time I have been concerned about the changing boundaries in our society. There are great political and religious debates about the moral consequences of changing traditional boundaries. Many sexual boundaries have changed during the last fifty years. Behaviors that most people in our society once agreed about are now centers of great conflict. Some of those changing boundaries make (largely) acceptable or at least legal what was once unacceptable - such as cohabitation outside of marriage. Other changes make unacceptable and illegal what was once acceptable or at least legal. As Americans we now agree that the abuse of power is unacceptable, particularly in a sexual context. Sexual relationships that are not consensual are not acceptable. We do not accept rape between strangers, between acquaintances or between marital partners because there has been no consensus. Matters of faith aside, where legal boundaries are concerned, consensual sex is acceptable as long as there is not an unequal relationship of power. A sexual relationship between any adult and a minor is unacceptable whether or not there has been consent because of the imbalance of power. A sexual relationship between a clergy person and a member of his/her parish of any age is unacceptable for the same reason - because of the imbalance of power. In some ways this has truly become a new focus of attention - the use of personal power to further an inappropriate sexual encounter. In marriages this was accepted until very recently. No doubt this kind of behavior has been winked at in many institutional situations, both political and religious. Certainly we are all agreed that we must take a new look at all our institutions for ways in which inappropriate sexual behavior is enabled, either directly or indirectly, particularly where abuse of minor children is involved. The first task at hand is to protect our children and other people who for a variety of reasons might be at risk.

At the same time, I find myself drawn to the gentle kind man at the center of this most recent inquiry. If these allegations are true, there is no doubt that others have been hurt by actions for which he must assume responsibility and accept the consequences. Yet I wonder if he was not hurt first and I wonder what form that hurt might have taken. If that sounds like shifting blame, it is not intended to. It is merely a search for understanding.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

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Those of us who are professional people helpers are often in these fields because of the impact of many who helped us. It is a difficult thing to help another person if you have not yourself been in need of help. Suffering is the medium in which compassion grows. Also for many of us, if you were to look at the unfolding history of our lives, you would find times when we have caused others to suffer, much as we suffered ourselves. The road from suffering to compassion is not a straight one. As I look around the many people groups of America, I see many behaviors that cause suffering, most of them to the person involved in the behavior and to the other people in their lives as well. Anyone familiar with the cycles of addictive behavior knows that addictive behavior seems attractive and works in the short term to ease suffering. Some addictive behaviors have immediate and deadly consequences, such as involvement with illegal drugs and illegal sexual behavior. Cigarettes, gambling, alcohol consumption and involvement with pornography and promiscuous sexual behavior often seem to defy moderation and can lead toward extremes of behavior and consequences. These are some of the obvious problems we are struggling with in our society.

Others of us have a different kind of struggle. Some struggle with inappropriate food choices. Some struggle with addiction to prescription drugs. Some struggle with love of money, over extended hours at work, inattention to their children. Some struggle with behaviors that hurt themselves and hurt the people they love. Some struggle with making better choices. Some struggle with personality disorders, mental and physical illness, or just plain misery. We all struggle with our own choices, the choices of others, and suffering over which no one seems to have any control at all.

Not long ago people were struggling with weeds and weather. Physical survival took their energy and illness took their lives. Who had time for emotional needs? Now we live longer and our physical survival is given, for the most part. Whoever would have thought that emotional pain is a luxury; a luxury one cannot afford when fighting for survival. I recently watched "We Were the Mulvaney's," a made for TV movie about a family's reaction to the rape of their daughter. What a wonderful portrayal of the emotional climate many of us grew up with in the fifties and sixties. The family could not put into words the horrible grief and anger they were experiencing over the violation of their daughter and of their safety. They could not help each other and had no help available. They were each left to cope alone. Some unhealthy choices were made along the way. Physical life they had. It was not enough.

That, I believe, is what we see all around us today. We see people who were violated in some way and were not given a voice to express their pain and outrage. Some were violated by neglect as mothers began to work or grief as marriages began to crumble. Some were violated by the unfortunate choices of others in their communities, such as clergy sexual abuse or abuse by a teacher or trusted adult. Some were violated by the coping mechanisms of overwhelmed parents, such as alcoholics and drug addicts. Pain and suffering comes in many forms, and people who are not taught healthy coping mechanisms will handle their suffering on their own, often choosing unhealthy coping mechanisms that prolong their own suffering and increase the suffering of others as well.



Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014

The first answer, certainly, is to address the vulnerability of our children and provide them with safety in our institutions. Some of that must be done through the court system. Legal consequences must be required for legal offenses. Then we must add to our focus the emotional needs, first of the children who have been hurt, then of all who are children now, and finally of all who once were children. We must give them a voice and a safe place to speak. We must take away any shame that lingers around feelings of pain, anger and suffering. We must learn to understand the natural processes of grief and how to experience grief in natural ways that promote emotional healing. We must stop telling our children and ourselves that the appropriate expression of painful feelings is a weakness.

People all around us are sending nonverbal angry messages. Some have begun sending nonverbal messages filled with despair. All of those people were children once. All around us are people whose hearts hide pain, many of them even from their closest friends and family. How many of those people will be sending the nonverbal angry messages of tomorrow? We must lead the way in defusing those nonverbal angry messages by making a safe place for verbal angry messages. Can we in the church be those who provide that place?

Father Phillip Dederda may have been such a person; a person with a heart full of pain and anger, sending out a nonverbal message that was never given a voice in a place of safety and acceptance. Although I chose different ways to send my messages of pain and anger, I did send them. Many of us have. May God help us to lead the way in granting safety and acceptance to families in pain, a voice to express that pain in appropriate ways, and compassion for those whose pain has finally spilled over into inappropriate behavior. I, for one, am praying that Father D's new role in this call for change will be made clear to him and to those who are in leadership over him. Sometimes the person who has climbed out of the pit with the help of God can best show the rest of us the way to rise up out of our ruts. For God is best served neither by people in pits nor by people in ruts.

Your fellow servant of God



April 15, 2002

cc. The Herald News  
The Catholic Explorer



*Dedera*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000872

May 9, 2002

Dear :

Thank you so much for the e-mail message you sent recently through Sister Judith Davies. It is certainly a wonderful letter of commendation for Father Dedera and I will see that your message is shared with him.

Your comments focus on the dilemma which we face. I know several priests who have been guilty of abuse, who have reconstructed their lives, undergone therapy and have been involved in safe and productive ministry. At the present time, however, I do not believe the climate is such that these priests would ever be allowed to serve in any ministerial capacity. I had hoped that there would be particular opportunities for supervised and restricted ministry, but I do not think that is a possibility. Some priests who have been guilty of abuse and have worked hard to deal with that problem will not be allowed to continue in ministry. That will be a loss, but I do not think people are ready to allow even a limited and restricted ministry for child abusers.

I really appreciated your letter and your understanding. As I said, I will share your message with Father Dedera. Please keep him in your prayers and all of those who are affected by this tragedy.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

*Dedera*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

000873

1

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

May 9, 2002

FROM: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

John Doe, a fifteen year old boy, was abused by Father X when he went to him to seek counseling for [REDACTED] in 1974. He is now 43. He first came to see me about three weeks ago. As a result of the abuse he has not been able to confide in anyone [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We had a long discussion covering a number of topics. He said that he was only given the courage to come forward after reading and seeing all of the incidents in the newspaper and on television. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



*Dedera*

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000877

May 14, 2002

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your letter on behalf of Father Phil Dedera and I thank you for your words of praise for him.

The allegations against him have been substantiated and verified. Regrettably, Father Dedera will not be able to serve in any public ministry as a priest.

I will certainly see that your letter of support is given to him. Please keep him and all those who are affected by this tragedy in your prayers.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000871

May 24, 2002

Mr. JOHN DOE

Dear X

In accord with our conversation and following the decision of the Diocesan Review Committee, I am enclosing a check from the Diocese of Joliet. It is my understanding that you intend to use this for [REDACTED] for a donation to your Church and for setting up a program or facility to treat the sexual abuse of minors in Grundy County.

The Diocesan Review Committee is seeking closure to this matter. If the Committee's recommendation is agreeable to you, would you please sign a copy of this letter and return it to me.

I just want to repeat again my apology for the abuse you suffered. I sincerely regret that you carried this for so many years and suffered from it. I hope this contribution from the Church will help you in coming to peace, but I doubt that a monetary contribution can do that. I strongly encourage you to receive some professional assistance. I do not want you to continue to suffer, as you have in the past.

While I regret the circumstances that brought us together, I do not regret the opportunity to have met you and spoken with you. I am grateful for the opportunity that we had. Please know that I would be happy to meet with you in the future, if you should so wish.

I certainly wish you well. I want you to know that you have been in my thoughts and in my prayers. I ask you to remember me as well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer  
Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Mr. James Byrne

NAME & ADDRESS



Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014

000879

URGENT

May 29, 2002

Reverend Philip Dedera  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
1500 Brookdale Road  
Naperville, IL 690563-2129

Dear Phil,

I hope this letter will get to you. I don't know where you are, so I am sending it through St. Thomas the Apostle, and I will mark the outside of the envelope "Urgent" with the hope it reaches you in time. I wanted to send you notice of the enclosed workshop that Bishop Imesch just received. If you would like to go, we will be happy to pick up the tab. I understand there are still spaces available. Call them right away if you are interested. They want to help priests in your situation to adjust and readjust.

Though you cannot minister publicly, I would certainly encourage you to say a private Mass every day. You need the help of Our Lord as never before. Your suffering can be very redemptive. Bishop Blanchette wasn't even able to say Mass, but only to attend it. At least, you can say Mass, and I shouldn't say at least, because that is the greatest thing on earth that you can do.

Phil, be assured of my continuing prayers for and with you. I pray for you all the time and count on your prayers. If I can help you personally in any way at any time, please 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

RLK:bjd

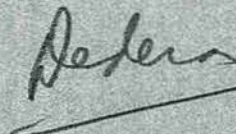
Enclosure

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

*Bp. Fitzgerald*



Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014

000881

May 7, 2002

[REDACTED]

Edward Hospital & Health Services  
801 South Washington Street  
Naperville, IL 60540-7060

Dear [REDACTED],

I wish to acknowledge your heartfelt letter of May 2nd and to apologize for any pain or grief you have endured due to either the actions or omissions of anyone on our staff. I want you to know how deeply I appreciated your letter, difficult as it had to be to write. I ask your permission to share it with key staff.

I will also relay the message you asked me to convey to Father Dederer.

Finally, I cannot tell you how grateful I am for your offer to continue our covenant of prayer. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of!

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



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

EDWARD

HOSPITAL &amp; HEALTH SERVICES

000882

May 2, 2002

The Most Rev. Roger L. Kaffer, D.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop, Vicar General  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435-7193

Dear Bishop Kaffer:

It was about five years ago last month that I had lunch with you at the rectory to discuss the possibility of getting a priest here at Edward Hospital to serve the spiritual needs of our Catholic patients. Much water has traveled under the bridge since that meeting, and now I find myself writing to you with deep pain in my heart.

It was such a pleasure to work with Father Philip Dederer, and I once wrote to you to tell you how pleased we were to make him part of our pastoral care team here at Edward. I was so thankful to you for sending him to us. His arrival was indeed an answer to prayer.

Over the course of these past five years, our staff and administration were pleased to have Father Dederer join us. During that time, he became acquainted with many in our Edward family; and undoubtedly, he was a spiritual blessing to the many patients and families to whom he ministered.

I was devastated and felt shock and disbelief when I heard the news of the allegations of sexual misconduct brought against Father Dederer. You must also know how angry I became after the initial shock and grief subsided as I reflected on how the Diocese chose to inform me.

On the day the news was released to the press, Sister Judith Davies called my office and left a voice mail saying that Father had been immediately removed from all his duties at Edward due to credible allegations of sexual misconduct that had occurred in the 70's. Her voice mail also stated that I could call her at the Diocesan office if I had further questions.

Apparently, Sister gave no consideration to concerns over confidentiality when she left me the voice mail. I called her back, but did not speak of my anger at that time because I was too devastated to be in touch with all of my emotions. Sister was gracious and answered my questions. I wept through the entire conversation.



Page 2

I will tell you in confidence that Father Dederer came to see me at my home just two or three days before the news was released to the press. He said he had just come from a visit with you, or perhaps it was Bishop Imsch, and I assumed that it was with you. He was subdued and spoke of burnout and the need for a break. He also spoke of his long-time interest in entering the contemplative life. All the while Father spoke, I knew that he was deeply troubled by something, and I wondered what it was. I felt he was saying good-bye to me which left me to speculate that maybe he was experiencing health problems.

Father and I were good friends, so I was very shocked and grieved when I later learned the real reason for his subdued manner. Because he and I were such close colleagues and friends, the fact that he did not choose to tell me that soon I would hear some terrible allegations against him and that he was innocent of the charges, suggested to me that the allegations were probably true.

If the charges are true, this does not change the fact that I, and my colleague, Chaplain [REDACTED] still love Father Phil as a brother in Christ. We deeply regret that he has disappeared off the face of the earth, so to speak, and that we have no way to tell him in person that we love him and are grateful for the ministry he provided here at Edward.

If the allegations are true, I also feel compelled to say that I have also experienced feelings of anger and betrayal. What troubles me most is the stance of the Catholic Church about these matters. Why is it that when priests are involved in alcoholism and/or sexual misconduct, the Church gets help for them and makes the determination that they are not fit for the parish? But the Church then turns around and makes the judgment that they are suited for ministry in the hospitals and nursing homes (supposedly because they are more supervised). Yet, such places are filled with vulnerable people. This makes no sense to me, and the practice should stop!

If you knew that Father was involved in sexual misconduct as the allegations suggest and did not tell me, I am deeply troubled by this. The manager of the Department of Religion and Health at Good Samaritan Hospital was told in advance of their former priest's (I understand he was recently removed from his duties there) history of sexual misconduct, and this should have been the case here.

The Catholic Church--and all denominations, for that matter--are being shaken to their foundations by these allegations. And my faith tells me that God will undoubtedly find a way for truth, justice, mercy and healing to prevail!

It is time for confession and repentance throughout all the denominations so that God's grace may abound and healing can begin. There has been a conspiracy of silence among the leaders (the Shepherds) of many denominations regarding sexual misconduct, and



000884

Page 3

that angers me because of the insensitivity that has for decades been shown to the unfortunate victims of abuse—especially innocent children. Regrettably, we, the Shepherds, have not taken our sacred trust to guide and to protect our sheep seriously enough; therefore, wolves have been free to wound and even destroy our flocks. Lives have been deeply scarred and some have been lost due to our irresponsible behavior and refusal to be held accountable.

If you ever speak with Father Dederer, please tell him that [REDACTED] still loves him as a sister in Christ. If he is guilty of the charges brought against him, then I would say to him the same thing that I believe Jesus would say, "Repent. Confess your sins to your brothers and sisters in Christ and to God on High, and then go and sin no more!"

Peace in Christ,

[REDACTED]

*Dedera*

000886

May 29, 2002

Dear 

Thank you so much for your letter of commendation on behalf of Father Phil Deder. He was certainly a good priest and a very effective minister. Unfortunately, in his past, there are some substantiated allegations of sexual abuse.

I think Father Phil's situation points up the dilemma that faces the bishops. Should good priests who have engaged in sexual abuse of minors be allowed to continue in any kind of ministry? Public opinion seems very strong against allowing such a priest to engage in any kind of ministry. People, like yourself, however, who have experienced the exceptional ministry that a priest accused of abuse can carry on would have a very different opinion.

I will see that your kind note is shared with Father Deder. Please pray for all of those who are affected by this tragedy.


With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer  
Bishop James Fitzgerald




MAY 17 2002

000887

May 15, 2002

Dear Bishop Imisch,

It has been over a month since the bomb hit regarding the priests in the Joliet Diocese.

I happen to know Father Dedera for the past 5 years - four that my mother was a resident at Saint Patrick's Residence and this last year when I came back to attend Father Dee's masses for the guidance, help and strength he dispensed. In all my 

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

- 2 -

000888

years, I never came across  
a priest who affected my  
Catholic beliefs like he did.

He was held in high esteem by  
the residents, their families and  
the staff.

His departure has left a huge  
void and he's missed by many.

Sincerely





*Dedera*

000889

June 7, 2002



Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you so much for your commendation on behalf of Father Philip Dedera. You have experienced first hand his wonderful pastoral ministry. Unfortunately, there is also abuse of minors in his past.

Your high regard for Father Phil and the reality of his past are a perfect example of the dilemma which faces bishops. What is to be done with a priest who has abused in the past, but is also a compassionate and caring minister? Hopefully we will be able to resolve some of those issues at our forthcoming meeting in Dallas next week. I would ask you to join with me in prayer for wisdom at that meeting.

I will see that your letter is shared with Father Phil. I thank you again for your support of him. Please keep him in your prayers.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000890

May 5, 2002

The Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch, D.D. Bishop  
Diocese of Joliet  
Chancery  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch :

On behalf of the [REDACTED] family, I would like you to know of our experiences with Father Philip Dedera whom we first met in the late 1970s at St. Walter Parish in Roselle. Then we knew him as a priest who delivered wonderful homilies. Our paths next crossed at the time [REDACTED] was dying [REDACTED] at Edward Hospital, Naperville in June of 2000 and Father Phil was the chaplain there. Father Phil gave the last rites of the church to [REDACTED]. He gave [REDACTED] and me great comfort during the two weeks we were at Edward Hospital and helped our whole family say farewell to [REDACTED]. I don't know how we would have gotten through it without the prayers and love extended to our family by Father Phil.

We are shocked and dismayed to hear of the dismissal of Father Phil from his ministry at Edward Hospital and understand your actions. But we remember him with affection during our time of need.

We pray for you and Father Phil and all the priests at this troubling time.

With our best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
St. James the Apostle Church

MAY 8 2002



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

000891

June 7, 2002

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you so much for your commendation on behalf of Father Philip Dedera. You have experienced first hand his wonderful pastoral ministry. Unfortunately, there is also abuse of minors in his past.

Your high regard for Father Phil and the reality of his past are a perfect example of the dilemma which faces bishops. What is to be done with a priest who has abused in the past, but is also a compassionate and caring minister? Hopefully we will be able to resolve some of those issues at our forthcoming meeting in Dallas next week. I would ask you to join with me in prayer for wisdom at that meeting.

I will see that your letter is shared with Father Phil. I thank you again for your support of him. Please keep him in your prayers.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet



*Dedera*

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000892

June 5, 2002



Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you so much for your commendation on behalf of Father Philip Dedera. You have experienced first hand his wonderful pastoral ministry. Unfortunately, there is also abuse of minors in his past.

Your high regard for Father Phil and the reality of his past are a perfect example of the dilemma which faces bishops. What is to be done with a priest who has abused in the past, but is also a compassionate and caring minister? Hopefully we will be able to resolve some of those issues at our forthcoming meeting in Dallas next week. I would ask you to join with me in prayer for wisdom at that meeting.

I will see that your letter is shared with Father Phil. I thank you again for your support of him. Please keep him in your prayers.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000893

[REDACTED]

Bishop Joseph Imesch  
Diocese of Joliet  
The Chancery  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch,

My mother and I would like to write to you today to tell you about a wonderful priest who came into our lives in 1999. It was the week [REDACTED] lay dying at Edward Hospital in Naperville. Even though he was a very sick man, and he was blind, our hearts were breaking at the thought of losing him.

A nurse recognized our grief, and asked if she could call a priest to talk with us. She assured us that this man was very special and could help us through this time of tremendous sadness.

In walked a truly holy man, with a gift from God of knowing just what to say and knowing how to comfort my family. He blessed my father and prayed with us. Throughout the week [REDACTED] clung to life he would occasionally drop in to see us.

[REDACTED] went to see the Lord on [REDACTED]. We had his wake in [REDACTED] which is about one hour from this area. Sure enough, in walks our special priest to pray over [REDACTED] and with us. The next day was the funeral, with burial here in Naperville. The parish priest from [REDACTED] said it was too far to travel to bury [REDACTED], so sure enough, even though it was this good man's day off, he agreed to preside over the burial [REDACTED]

I can't tell you how sad we were to hear the news about Father Phillip Dederer. We by no means condone what he may or may not have done so long ago, but we truly grieve over the loss of this wonderful man at Edward Hospital. It is so sad to think that [REDACTED] will lay dying and Father Dederer will not be there to comfort his family.

[REDACTED] is [REDACTED] and I have occasionally attended functions that Father "D" is a part of. I don't know how many times we have said what a gift this man has with older people. He dances, laughs, sings and comforts them like no one I have ever seen. He is truly missed there. [REDACTED] said it is just not the same.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000894

I appreciate your taking time to read this letter for it is from the heart. I pray that there will be a way that Father Dederer can continue helping those hurting and the elderly. I am convinced he has been given a special gift from God.

Sincerely,





Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000895

June 21, 2002

Reverend Phillip Deder  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
1500 Brookdale Road  
Naperville, IL 60563

Dear Phil,

I am writing to you regarding the Bishops' Meeting that was held in Dallas last week and the resolutions that were approved there. I need to talk to you about them. You can either call me at the office or you can arrange to come to my home to do that.

Phil, I am not comfortable with not having an address for you nor a phone number. I need to be able to get in touch with you and I do not want to do that by trying to locate you by sending mail to St. Thomas. Please write me a letter with your phone number and address or give me a call.

I know this is a difficult time for you as it is for many. I keep you in prayer each day and ask you to remember me as well.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

*Dedera*

000896

June 26, 2002



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you so much for your letter of support for Father Ross and for Father Dedera. I know that they served many people well, even though they were guilty of sexual abuse in the past.

Hopefully we can begin the process of healing that is so necessary in our Church. Thank you for your prayers and concern.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer  
Bishop James Fitzgerald



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000898

June 26, 2002

Reverend Phillip Deder  
% St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
1500 Brookdale Road  
Naperville, IL 60563-2129

Dear Phil,

Since I was not able to contact you by phone, I am sending you this letter. I think there are three particular requirements that stem from the Bishops' meeting in Dallas:

1. You are only permitted to celebrate Mass privately. I am presuming that this means there will be no public celebration of the Eucharist for any particular occasion. If the future does allow for any accommodation of that regulation, I will inform you.
2. You are not permitted to wear any clerical garb.
3. You are not to use the title of Reverend or Father. In other words, you are not to identify yourself as a Catholic priest.

It is my understanding that if you wish to contest this, you are certainly free to do so. You may contact any Canon Lawyer or may call upon Father Joseph Tapella to provide you with the necessary information. Since Father Tapella serves on our Tribunal, I do not think he could represent you, but he might be able to suggest the names of some Canon Lawyers who can.

I am not sure of all of the interpretations of these requirements. I will stay in touch with other Bishops as various concerns arise. If you have a particular concern, please feel free to call me.

June 26, 2002

2

I know this is a difficult time for you, as it is for the entire Church. I am hopeful that being able, at least, to celebrate Eucharist privately will provide you with the strength and resolve to carry on with your life.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to give me a call. Please stay in touch with me or the Auxiliary Bishops from time-to-time. Though I probably will not be in touch with you as often as I would like, I do want you to know that you are remembered in prayer by name each day.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Bishop Roger Kaffer



000900

July 1, 2002

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you so much for your wonderful letter of commendation on behalf of Father Phil Dedera. I can only agree with your estimation of his ministry. He was a wonderful chaplain at St. Patrick Residence and at Edward Hospital. Any number of people have commented to me about his pastoral care and compassion.

The decision of the Bishops in Dallas, however, will not allow for Father Phil to serve in any public ministry, as the Bishops did not allow for any exceptions. In the case of Father Phil, as with a number of other priests, that will be a great loss, but the majority of Catholic people, I think, wanted to ensure that any priest accused of substantiated abuse would not function publicly as a priest.

What is evident in your case, and in a number of others, is that if the priest is known, people have an entirely different attitude about his being allowed to serve in ministry.

I thank you for your kind words. I will see that they are shared with Father Dedera. Please keep him and all of those who are affected by this terrible tragedy in your prayers. Be assured of a remembrance in mine.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

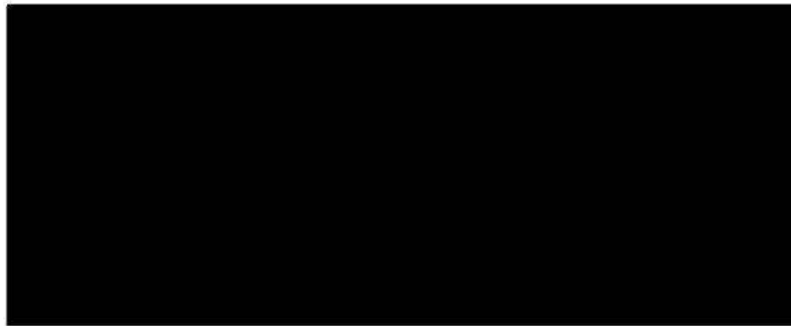
Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Bo Jones

000901



May 20, 2002

*Diocese of Joliet  
Joliet, Illinois*

*I feel I must write this letter in support of Fr. Philip Deder. [REDACTED] was a resident of St. Patrick's Residence for 31/2 years and in those years he was always a support. He was there when [REDACTED] passed away as I am sure he was for a great many of the residents. It was not uncommon to see him praying or singing with many of the residents. He was a great comfort to them.*

*If anyone was more dedicated to his ministry, it was Fr. Dee. I hope and pray that whatever has been alleged will prove to be untrue. He will be in our prayers no matter what.*

*Sincerely,*

[REDACTED]

MAY 20 2002



*Dedera*

000902

July 1, 2002

Dear 

Thank you so much for your wonderful letter of commendation on behalf of Father Phil Dedera. I can only agree with your estimation of his ministry. He was a wonderful chaplain at St. Patrick Residence and at Edward Hospital. Any number of people have commented to me about his pastoral care and compassion.

The decision of the Bishops in Dallas, however, will not allow for Father Phil to serve in any public ministry, as the Bishops did not allow for any exceptions. In the case of Father Phil, as with a number of other priests, that will be a great loss, but the majority of Catholic people, I think, wanted to ensure that any priest accused of substantiated abuse would not function publicly as a priest.

What is evident in your case, and in a number of others, is that if the priest is known, people have an entirely different attitude about his being allowed to serve in ministry.

I thank you for your kind words. I will see that they are shared with Father Dedera. Please keep him and all of those who are affected by this terrible tragedy in your prayers. Be assured of a remembrance in mine.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000906

July 3, 2002

Philip Dedera  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

I received the phone message you left on my answering machine on Friday, June 28. You said you hoped that they were mailing your check to St. Thomas so you could pick it up. [REDACTED] said she was not given any instructions from you on where to send it, but just today she received a call from [REDACTED] and will send the check to P. O. Box 272 in Warrenville in care of you. However, the check has not yet arrived from the bank.

Enclosed find the retreat fee. I think you also said something about vacation money, but there never has been any reimbursement for that. If there is something else that I am forgetting, don't hesitate to let me know.

Phil, I would love to have you over for breakfast, lunch or dinner sometime. Please get in touch with me, and we can set something up.

You are very much in my prayers.

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

Enclosure



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET OPERATING ACCOUNT		To: PHILLIP J DEDERA ID: DED1 Contact:		7/3/2002 025423	
INVOICE NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	NET AMOUNT
	7/2/2002	RETREAT FEE	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$275.00
	000902	Totals	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$275.00

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Hi [redacted] mailing address, Father Dedera  
at Chancy. Hope they are reaching  
to H. Thomas so I can pick it up.

I went on retreat after I left. I wonder  
if I had any retreat or vacation ~~from~~  
last year. There could be sent to that address that I left  
at Chancy. Just a thought. Help pay off some  
bills.

[redacted] - Parkland, Died 7 Kent attack

Send receipt to [redacted] attention  
PO Box [redacted]  
Warrenville  
60555

000908



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000909

September 9, 2002

Phillip Deder  
Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

I wrote a letter to you about three weeks ago asking you to provide me with an address and a phone number. I am not sure whether you received that letter so I am writing again to request that you send me your address and a phone number where I may reach you. It is important that I have this information.

In addition, I would like to meet with you sometime before the end of the month. We can meet at my house. I will not be in the office this week, but you can call me next week to set up an appointment.

Phil, this is a serious matter and I need to hear from you. If I do not hear from you by the end of September, I will have to take other measures.

I know this is a difficult time for you, as it is for all of us. I keep you in prayer each day and I ask that you remember me and the diocese as well.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Bishop Roger Kaffer

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000910

August 15, 2002

Phillip Deder  
Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

It has been some time since I have been in touch with you or you with me. I write now so that you might provide me with an address where mail might be sent directly to you, as well as your home phone number. It is necessary that I have this information in the event that I need to be in contact with you, but even more that I know where you are.

Please send me this information as soon as possible. In addition, I would like to talk to you sometime, so please give me a call.

Each day I remember you in prayer and I hope you are doing well. With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

The Tribunal Office

310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

000911

815-722-2256  
Fax 815-722-6692

September 9, 2002

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

FROM: Reverend Joseph J. Tapella

RE: Precept

After doing a bit of research with regard to the consequences for the priest who will not reveal his whereabouts to you, the issue is more related to "absent without leave" from an assignment clergy, rather than on those who already are on administrative leave. However, the principles are applicable in this case. It appears that before any action can be taken against him, it must be certain that there is malice in his refusal (Canon 1321). Someone laboring under emotional or psychological disturbance cannot be liable to a punishment. I am not aware of what response he has made to your inquiries, if any, but it is necessary to have moral certitude that his refusal to give you the location of his residence is out of malice. Secondly, there must be a warning (Canon 1339) issued to the priest that he is liable to a penalty, such as, the cessation of financial support. After he ignores the warning, then the precept can be issued, which would outline the problem, the steps which were taken to resolve it, and then the statement of the penalty.

However, if it is a matter of taking away financial support, please keep in mind Canon 1350, which states, "when penalties are imposed on a cleric, provision must always be made so that he does not lack those things necessary for his decent support." It is a "Catch-22." However, I imagine the threat of taking money away, if he is truly depending on it, will change his thinking.

If you wish, I will look into the matter further with you or other canonists.

  
Reverend Joseph J. Tapella

SEP 9 2002

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000912

October 4, 2002  
[REDACTED]

Received a message that a [REDACTED] called. When I contacted him he said that he had been victimized by Fr. Dederer. I apologized for what he had suffered and told him that I would have one of the therapists on our Review Committee call him. He asked what would happen especially since Fr. Dederer was already out of ministry. My response was that the Diocese would [REDACTED] that his allegation would be brought to the Review Committee.

When I called [REDACTED] to interview him, I learned that she would be out of town until October 8. I then called [REDACTED] leaving a message for her to call [REDACTED] even if she would be unable to interview him that day, so that he would know there was some follow-up.

Sr. Judith Davies



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

000913

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE FILE


October 7, 2002

RE: Phil Dederà

I met with Phil at my house on Thursday morning, October 3rd. When I asked him how he was doing, he began to detail all of the families that he has been with when they lost a loved one. After listening for about ten minutes, I asked him, "Phil, how are you doing?" He said that he is doing all right. He said that he needed to get away to pray when he was first placed on administrative leave. He wanted to pray for 40 days. I told him that I knew this was a difficult time for him, but he should have supplied us with an address in case we needed to reach him. He said that he was going to go to Our Lady of the Snows Benedictine monastery but never went there. He then thought he would go to his brother in Colorado, but because of the forest fires at the time he did not go there. I do not think he ever told me where he had gone.

Presently he is staying with friends in Wheaton. I asked for an address, but he said he did not know one, but he would send me one. He does have a post office box number in Warrenville. His phone number [REDACTED] is a cell phone so he can be reached easily.

I asked Phil if there were any incidents after he left Romeoville. Because he is rather disconnected in his speech, I am not certain, but it seems to me that he said he had nothing to do with young people after he left Romeoville. He then went into considerable detail about gangs that operated in Romeoville and how he tried to reach them. He spoke about four people being murdered in a home by gangs and Phil had to clean up the blood in the house. He also said that they had put dope in his pipe tobacco.

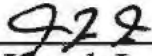


I asked him about some kind of employment, and he said that he was thinking about trying to get a job through some friends.

When he spoke about the people who were ill or who were dying earlier, I mentioned how many people had told me of his wonderful ministry to families and to those who were dying. I mentioned that just two nights earlier, a woman approached me at St. Irene in Warrenville, and told me how wonderful he had been at the death of her grandfather, how he had spent time kneeling on the floor, praying with her as her grandfather was dying.

Phil seems to have a particular gift for caring for people in their last days and for their families. I spoke to him about the possibility of obtaining a position as a grief counselor at a funeral home. He said that he had thought about that.

Because we had not heard from Phil for two months after he was placed on administrative leave, I had some concerns about his well being. He seems to be doing very well and is coping with his difficult situation. He said that he is saying Mass privately each day and spending a good deal of time in prayer. When I asked if there was anything we could do for him, he said that he is getting along.

  
Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Bishop Roger Kaffer



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000915

October 30, 2002

Philip Deder  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

I am writing to you for the 30th anniversary of your ordination on November 1st. I know this must be a bittersweet memory for you. In your lifetime, you probably never imagined that you would be celebrating this anniversary in the way that you are. What is important to remember is that the Lord has called you and the Lord is present to you, even in this difficult time. The pain you are experiencing has been experienced by others also. I know you are remorseful and contrite and I know that the Lord forgives those who come to Him with sincerity.

I appreciated meeting with you some weeks ago. At that time you said you would provide me with your address. Please send me your address or call Natalie.

Phil, I hope that in the days ahead you can begin to consider various options or opportunities. I do not think it is conducive to good emotional health not to be involved in some kind of activity. I would hope that you might be able to find something satisfying for yourself.

I keep you in prayer every day and I ask you to remember me as well. You will be especially in my prayers on the 1st.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Bishop Roger Kaffer

Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014



# St. Patrick's Residence

Carmelite Sisters for The Aged and Infirm

000916

April 12, 2002

Reverend Philip Dederer, who had been assigned as chaplain to St. Patrick's Residence for six years, is no longer a part of our ministry. While Reverend Dederer served as chaplain, he was highly regarded by the Residents, their families and the Staff.

The Diocese of Joliet announced Friday, April 12, 2002 that it has removed Reverend Dederer from any ministry activities based upon "credible allegations" of sexual abuse, which occurred in mid 1970. While he was part of our ministry, we were not aware of any allegations or circumstances that lead us to believe he acted in an inappropriate manner. We are praying for all those affected by these recent events.

*Sister Anthony Veilleux*  
*Administrator*



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

# St. Patrick's Residence FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER PAGE

000917

Date: 4/16/02

To: \_\_\_\_\_ Attention: Sister Judith

Total Number of Pages (Including Cover Page) \_\_\_\_\_

We are sending you the following:

Enclosed is the copy of our statement to the press  
Sister Anthony has read this to Bishop Amodeo

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not receive all pages, please call 630-416-6565.

Copies to: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Sister Jeanne  
St. Patrick's Residence

## St. Patrick's Residence....

- ✠ Is conducted by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm
- ✠ Offers Employment and Volunteer Opportunities and as well as Business and Community Partnerships
- ✠ Welcomes inquiries for Long-Term Care placement
- ✠ Has been home to over 2300 frail elderly since 1965
- ✠ Celebrates 10 years in Naperville in 1999.

Please contact us by mail at  
1400 Brookdale Road  
Naperville, IL 60563

By Phone: 630-416-6565  
By Fax: 630-416-8755

By E-Mail: [stpatres@earthlink.net](mailto:stpatres@earthlink.net)

Or visit our Web Site at [stpatrickresidence.org](http://stpatrickresidence.org).

The Diocese of Joliet has removed Reverend Phillip Dederer from any type of ministry effective immediately. This action was taken based on a credible allegation of sexual abuse that occurred in the mid 1970's, which was recently reported to the diocese by the victim who is now over 40 years of age.

Anyone who may be aware of any inappropriate activity by Father Dederer is encouraged to come forward.

For the past six years Father Dederer has been chaplain at St. Patrick Nursing Home in Naperville and for the past four years has also served as chaplain at Edwards Hospital in Naperville.

*I regret to inform you that I have placed  
Fr. Phillip Dederer on administrative leave  
effective this morning. The following press  
release has been issued.*

*John J. ...*



000919

April 12, 2002

TO: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Edward Hospital – Rev. Phillip Deder

Mr. [REDACTED] of Edward Hospital would like to speak with you. (He received the statement.) I told him you were in a meeting and would probably break for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Phone: [REDACTED] Should you get his voice mail, hit "O" and have him paged.

Thank you.

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

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000921

MEMORANDUM

April 16, 2002

TO: Mr. [REDACTED]

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Reverend [REDACTED]  
Reverend Phillip Dederer

Salaries paid by the Diocese for Father [REDACTED] and Father Phillip Dederer should cease after the next check. If they have been paid on a bi-monthly basis, they should receive a check for the first two weeks of April. If they are paid on a monthly basis, they should receive a check for the month of April.

Thank you very much.

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



Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014

To Sister Judith Davies, OSF  
From The Chicago Tribune

000922

Questions regarding allegations of sexual abuse against Rev. Phillip Deder

1. At what parish was Rev. Deder serving when the alleged abuse took place?
2. Which parishes has Rev. Deder served since the time of the alleged abuse?
3. When did diocesan officials first learn of allegations of sexual abuse against Rev. Deder?
4. Have diocesan officials had any communications with prosecutors, oral or written, regarding these allegations?
5. What actions is the diocese taking to further investigate the allegations? And what action might be taken internally?
6. Where is Rev. Deder currently residing?
7. Is Rev. Deder receiving any counseling related to the allegations?
8. How old was the alleged victim(s) of the abuse?
9. In what year during the 1970s did it take place?
10. How many times did the alleged abuse occur, and what was its nature?

000923

MEMORANDUM

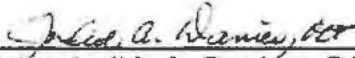
April 16, 2002

TO: Mrs. [REDACTED]  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Reverend Phillip Deder

Please begin the \$500 per month disability benefits for Father Phillip Deder. If he received a salary check from the Diocese for the first two weeks in April, he should receive \$250 this month and then \$500 for subsequent months. If he is receiving full payment for April, then his \$500 disability benefit should begin in the month of May.

Please contact [REDACTED] regarding when salary checks would have been issued to Father Deder.

Thank you very much.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



Worst kept secrets

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000924-A

78°

SCN MEDIA

COURIER NEWS: Carroccia paying high price for freedom

# Herald News

Online

The Beacon News The Courier News The Herald News The News Sun Sun Publications

GET HOME DELIVERY

## Local News

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## Worst kept secrets

By Ted Slowik  
STAFF WRITER

### ■ Sexual abuse cases: Plenty of public information on 15 Joliet Diocese priests

JOLIET — Prosecutors and investigators checking out claims of sexual misconduct by Joliet Diocese priests had plenty of public records to review even before the diocese agreed to share some information from sealed court files.

The Joliet Diocese is telling state's attorneys in Will and DuPage counties about 16 priests accused of wrongdoing dating back to 1970. The diocese says it's telling authorities about all priests accused of sexual misconduct.

"Determined or undetermined, credible or not credible, they will be turned over," diocesan attorney James Byrne said during a court hearing last week.

But cases involving at least 15 Joliet Diocese priests already have been documented in published reports, and some say the diocese isn't sharing claims made about priests by people who haven't also gone to authorities or taken civil action.

"They know a lot more than they're telling," said Joliet attorney Keith Aeschliman, who has represented several plaintiffs who filed civil suits against the diocese.

The Herald News has identified 15 priests associated with the diocese who have either been convicted or charged with sex crimes, named as defendants in civil lawsuits or recently removed from their ministries by their diocese because of past claims of inappropriate behavior.

The 15 are not all necessarily among the 16 that the diocese is telling prosecutors about. One priest, for example, admitted to having affairs with adult women and may therefore not be included in the diocese's report about clergy accused of having inappropriate contact with minors.

"There is other information and investigation records not covered by the protective order that can assist the state's attorney in any investigation. The records are the results from private investigations as well as from media coverage in 1993 to 1995 and even now," Byrne argued in a motion filed in late April.

State's attorneys in Will and DuPage counties and the Illinois State Police are investigating the claims. The Joliet Diocese covers DuPage, Will, Kankakee, Grundy, Kendall, Ford and Iroquois counties.

The 15 priests and former priests accused of sexual misconduct that have been publicly named in court documents or by the diocese are:

■ **The Rev. Gary Berthiaume:** Berthiaume served time in a Michigan prison in 1978 for molesting a 12-year-old altar boy. Bishop Joseph Imsch, leader of the Joliet

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Dioocese, was pastor of Berthiaume's parish, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington Hills, Mich., when the boy was abused. Berthiaume later transferred to the Cleveland Dioocese, which suspended him April 8.

In a 1999 lawsuit, an Ohio man accused Berthiaume and another priest of molesting him during the 1980s. Even though Berthiaume still answered to church officials in Ohio, he served in the Joliet Dioocese since 1987. He served at St. Irene church and school in Warrenville until the early 1990s. He was a chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove for about 15 years until his suspension in April. He lives at the Cenacle, a Joliet Dioocese retreat house in Warrenville.

■ **The Rev. Phillip Deder:** Deder, 56, ministered to youths in Romeoville. A St. Andrew's parishioner said Deder was a "street priest" who spent a lot of time with boys who were not involved with the church.

After St. Andrew, Deder served at St. Pius X in Lombard, Visitation in Elmhurst, St. Walter in Roselle, St. Scholastica in Woodridge, St. Mary in Paxton, and St. Patrick in Mokena.

The Joliet Dioocese said on April 12 that Deder was suspended because of a recent allegation of sexual abuse made by a person now over 40 years old, and that the alleged abuse occurred when Deder was at St. Andrew. The dioocese said it first learned of the allegations on April 4. Deder had been a chaplain for six years at Edward Hospital and for four years at St. Patrick Nursing Home, both in Naperville. Deder is presently living outside the dioocese, a diocesan official said.

■ **The Rev. John Furdek:** Furdek, 50, was arrested in February 2000 in the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant in Racine County, Wis., on charges of enticement of a minor. Police said he possessed a small amount of marijuana, and anabolic steroids that he intended to sell to an investigator who posed online as a 14-year-old boy.

The sex charge was dropped, and a Wisconsin appellate court is considering a number of Internet-related cases against people who argue that authorities entrapped them.

At the time of his arrest, Furdek was pastor of St. Alexander's Church in Villa Park. Furdek is a graduate of Sacred Heart Grade School, Joliet Catholic Academy and the College of St. Francis. Furdek lives in Chicago.

■ **The Rev. Lawrence M. Gibbs:** Gibbs, 57, is the most notorious Joliet Dioocese priest accused of sexual abuse. He was a defendant in lawsuits filed by three men represented by attorney Aeschliman, who claims Gibbs may have abused 100 or more boys.

The Gibbs case also provides the strongest evidence that Imesch reassigned a suspected child molester to other parishes where he abused other children.

Gibbs was ordained in 1973 and served at St. Ambrose in Crest Hill, parishes in Glen Ellyn and Lombard, St. Joseph in Lockport, St. Mary Immaculate in Plainfield, St. Joseph in Rockdale, and Ss. Peter and Paul in Naperville.

Glen Ellyn police first investigated Gibbs in 1978, but did not have sufficient evidence to arrest him.

The Herald News obtained documents from Gibbs' personnel file which show that church administrators had serious concerns about Gibbs' mental state before he even entered the priesthood. One wrote that Gibbs "shows signs of immaturity." Another "question(ed) his ability to function as a pastor."

On a psychiatric evaluation form for prospective priests, Gibbs responded to the question, "I am very strongly attracted by members of my own sex," by answering,



Worst kept secrets

Redbook January 2014

TMJA

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demonstration along Raynor Avenue to protest Ryan's participation in Bishop Fitzgerald's installation ceremony.

Ryan lives in Springfield.

000926

■ **The Rev. Henry Slade:** Slade, 62, pleaded guilty in 1990 to criminal sexual abuse, according to DuPage County court records. He underwent therapy in Maryland and completed one year's probation.

Slade was convicted of sexually abusing a juvenile boy. At the time of his arrest, he was pastor of St. Isidore in Bloomingdale, where he had served since 1982.

The Catholic Directory, a book published annually that catalogs all U.S. priests, no longer has a listing for Slade. Slade's last known address was in Orland Park.

■ **The Rev. David Stalzer:** Stalzer died from cancer in 2000 at age 52. He was pastor of St. Mary Magdalene and served at St. Joseph, St. Mary Nativity and St. Dennis in Lockport.

In a 1993 civil lawsuit, a 28-year-old man claimed Stalzer sexually abused him in 1981. The suit was dismissed in 1994 after the accuser dropped out of sight. Many parishioners praised Stalzer's service, and some decried the damage done to his reputation by what was perceived as a false accusation.

■ **The Rev. Edward A. Stefanich:** Stefanich, 64, was arrested in 1986 and accused of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl. He pleaded guilty in 1987 to criminal sexual abuse, served six months in the DuPage County Jail and completed a year's probation and counseling, according to DuPage County court records.

At the time of his arrest, Stefanich served at St. Scholastica in Woodridge.

The girl he abused would later ignore a confidentiality agreement reached with the diocese as part of a settlement and speak at one of the first meetings of The Link Up, an organization for survivors of clergy abuse. Redbook magazine published an article about her experience.

Stefanich has left the priesthood. His last known address was in Joliet.

■ **The Rev. Myles White:** White, 60, was pastor of St. Boniface in Monee. He also served at St. Martin of Tours in Kankakee, St. Joseph in Manhattan, St. Raphael in Naperville, St. Petronille in Glen Ellyn, St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale, Sacred Heart in Lombard and Notre Dame in Clarendon Hills.

White was arrested in 1992 by authorities in Indiana who obtained a videotape showing White engaged in sexual activity with a boy who was 14 or 15 years old when the incident occurred in 1990. White served 21 months in prison and was released in 1995.

In 1995, the diocese settled a civil lawsuit filed by a then-18-year-old man who claimed White sexually abused him when the youth was between the ages of 6 and 12.

White's last known address was in Indiana.



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05/05/02



Released April 2011

FR. FEDERICA SCAM FROM DIOCESE FOR 10 YEARS

Bishop Joseph Imesch has led the Joliet diocese since 1979. An average of 1 in every 20 priests in his diocese has resigned or been suspended amid allegations of sexual misconduct. "We are doing everything in our power to safeguard children," an aide to the bishop said. Critics say the diocese has been lax on the issue of clergy sex abuse for years.

# Joliet bishop under fire for sex abuse scandal

## 10 accused priests ousted, but skeptics suspect a cover-up

By CATHLEEN FALSANI AND ART GOLAB  
STAFF REPORTERS

In the past two months, 10 of about 200 diocesan priests affiliated with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet have been suspended or have resigned amid allegations of sexual misconduct with minors. It's a statistic that stands out nationally. The suburban diocese has one of the highest percentages of priests removed from their ministries since the national clergy sexual-abuse scandal broke in January. A Chicago Sun-Times analysis of reported cases found that by comparison, the Archdiocese of Chicago, which took steps to

deal with sexual abuse of minors by priests a decade ago—has removed two of its nearly 1,050 active diocesan priests from ministry since January because of allegations of sexual misconduct with minors. In the Cleveland diocese, which has 480 diocesan priests, 11 have been removed. Joliet's Bishop Joseph Imesch and other diocesan officials say that, by benching priests while investigating allegations of abuse, they are doing what they can to deal with a serious problem. "The number of priests removed in relation to our total number of priests means that Bishop Imesch is taking a close, hard look at the issue of sexual misconduct with minors," Sister Judith Davies, chancellor of the Joliet diocese, said Friday in a written statement sent in response to requests for interviews with Imesch or one of his two auxiliary bishops. "I cannot stress to you enough that our actions relative to

this issue are being taken, first and foremost, to ensure that we are doing everything in our power to safeguard children, with the hope of ending the tragedy of child sexual abuse forever." But some say the numbers reflect an alarming situation. They say the diocese has been lax in dealing with sexual abuse by clergy for years, and now, amid the national scandal, is rushing to deal with a problem Imesch previously did little to fix, though he has led the diocese since 1979. "Why on earth didn't they act sooner?" said David Clohessy, national director of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, a victim-advocacy group. "That's why we're so skeptical when church leaders try to say, 'Now, we get it. Now, we understand.' Bishops used to mollify angry parents by whisking Father out of town at midnight and sending him out of state," Clohessy said. "But, given the fire of public scrutiny,

maybe this bishop has gone a step further and said, 'Just to save ourselves, in terms of the law and in terms of public relations, we have to cut some of these guys loose now.' . . . But don't get me wrong. Better late than never." "They're doing the best damage-control they can," said Joliet attorney Keith Aeschliman, who is fighting diocesan officials in an effort to make public sealed court documents that contain allegations of sexual abuse by Joliet priests. Leaders of the Joliet diocese—which includes 600,000 Catholics in DuPage, Will, Kendall, Grundy, Kankakee, Ford and Iroquois counties—have said they want to keep the documents secret to protect the privacy of those who say they were victimized. "They say they want to protect the children involved," Aeschliman said. "But what they're really saying is, 'We're interested in covering our rear ends,' and, 'We're interested in doing anything that we

can to make things secret so people can't see all the things that we were doing over the years.'" A Will County judge is expected to rule June 6 on whether to make the documents public. Nine of the priests who have been suspended since March or who have retired under a cloud in the Joliet diocese are diocesan priests. One priest, the Rev. Gary Berthiaume, technically a Cleveland priest, spent many years in the Joliet diocese and was brought to Illinois by Imesch, who was his pastor at a Michigan parish. Berthiaume was convicted of abusing two adolescent brothers in the 1970s. Berthiaume spent six months in prison. Similarly, the Rev. Steven Ray Policetti, who was removed from ministry at a Northwest Side parish Saturday by Chicago archdiocesan officials for alleged misconduct with a teenage girl, was technically not a Chicago priest. Policetti is from Hyderabad, India, and has



FR. DEBERA SCAN FROM DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 638

the Baptist parish Winfield; the Cathedral of St. Raymond; the Joliet diocese; and St. Peter the Apostle. In 1982, he was removed from the Itasca parish and sent for therapy in California for having had what was termed inappropriate sexual conduct with a minor. Ross returned to the Joliet diocese after less than a year of treatment and went on to serve at Sacred Heart parish in Lombard, St. Isidore in Bloomingdale and St. Charles Borromeo in Bensenville. A Joliet area man in his 30s says Ross molested him twice at St. Peter's in 1981, in 1993, when the man's parents discovered Ross was still serving in the Joliet diocese and confronted Imesch. Ross transferred to the Diocese of Santa Rosa, Calif., where he served as a prison chaplain until being placed on leave April 17. The Santa Rosa diocese said it was never told about Ross' past.

**Rev. Fred Lenczycki, 57:** Accused in 1984 of molesting nine boys at St. Isaac Jogues parish in Bensenville. No charges were filed. But, in a 1997 civil lawsuit, a man said the priest abused him in the rectory of the Hinsdale church. Lenczycki received treatment and therapy, church officials said. Since 1992, Lenczycki has been a hospital chaplain in St. Louis. The St. Louis archdiocese said it first learned of his past in late March and then asked that he be returned to the Joliet diocese, which removed him from ministry April 24.

been at St. Tarcisus parish as an extern priest since 1996.

A man in his 30s, who says he was molested by two Joliet priests in the early 1980s and reported the abuse to the diocese in 1993, said his dealings with Imesch left him angry.

"My whole point was that these guys shouldn't be around kids, they shouldn't be priests because it's just downright not Catholic," said the man, who asked that his name and the names of his alleged abusers not be printed. (Imesch said that as a Christian, I needed to forgive this guy.)

He sits there and agrees with you puts on a dog-and-pony show and then actually does nothing. This approach works because people don't want to talk anybody who was 17 years old. I didn't want to tell anybody. I wouldn't have taken the priests to court because \$5 million because it would have ruined my entire life. They were in the



RICHARD A. CHAPMAN/SUNTIMES

**Rev. John Barrett, pastor at Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Elmhurst, meets supporters after he was suspended by the Joliet diocese.**

**Rev. Anthony Mels, 65:** Was pastor of Saints Mary and Joseph parish in Chebanse, Ill., from 1988 to 1994, but resigned when allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor surfaced. Joliet officials said the allegation had been "reported and resolved." In late 1994, Mels began serving as a chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital in St. Louis. Mels resigned from his ministry April 24 and lives outside St. Louis.

**Rev. Donald Pock, 69:** Founding pastor of Divine Savior Church in Downers Grove and pastor of St. Peter parish in Itasca since 1987, was placed on administrative leave May 5 after an allegation made in April about sexual misconduct with a minor more than 25 years ago. Pock is living in a

safe place where he poses no risk to children," a Joliet diocese official said.

**Rev. John F. Barrett, 69:** Pastor of Mary Queen of Heaven in Elmhurst since 1996, was placed on administrative leave this month while Joliet diocese officials reviewed an accusation leveled against him in 1991 by a man, now 47, about alleged abuse 34 years ago at Notre Dame school in Clarendon Hills. Barrett says he is falsely accused.

**Rev. Edward Poff, 71:** Now retired, was accused of sexually abusing a minor in 1994. Church authorities said they substantiated the allegation, and Poff was sent to therapy, then reassigned to restricted ministry as a hospital chaplain at St.

Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. Poff retired in 2001, but occasionally helped out at St. Patrick and other Joliet parishes. On May 5, the Joliet diocese, citing the previously substantiated claims of abuse, said he could serve only in restricted capacity.

**Rev. Lowell Fischer, 78:** First faced allegations of sexual misconduct in Hawaii, where he moved in 1975. While running a mission in Hawaii, he was named in a sex-abuse lawsuit that was later dropped. In 1993, Fischer returned to Joliet, was placed on restricted ministry and assigned to St. Francis Convent in Frankfort, where his duties consisted mostly of celebrating mass for retired nuns. A new allegation of abuse against him was made in April. On May 5, the Joliet diocese announced he could no longer celebrate mass.

## BISHOP IMESCH'S TESTIMONY

These are excerpts from a Jan. 24, 1994, sworn deposition of Joliet Bishop Joseph Imesch, with attorney questions followed by Imesch's responses:

**Q:** At the time you heard these allegations, you were aware, were you not, sexual contact by an adult priest with a minor was criminal activity?

**A:** I really didn't know that.

**Q:** When did you first, looking back on it, know that?

**A:** I don't know that...

**Q:** Were you aware in the '70s... that the sexual contact or sexual molestation of a minor by a priest would be—could be—could well be more damaging because of that priest's position of power and authority?

**A:** I don't believe that statement.

**Q:** You don't believe that statement?

**A:** No.

less clear regarding ephebophilia—sexual attraction to adolescents.

Many of the allegations against the 10 priests affiliated with Joliet who have been removed from ministry in recent weeks involve alleged misconduct with older teens.

Jason Berry, a Louisiana author and journal

Catholic, has written several books about sexual abuse and other crises in the priesthood. He said he first heard of Imesch when he read a deposition the bishop gave for a civil lawsuit in the 1980s. As part of that 1983 Michigan lawsuit against Berthiaume, lawyers for the family of one of the alleged

abuse victims asked the bishop about chastity in the priesthood.

After going back and forth with Imesch over whether it's a "vow," "pledge" or "promise" of chastity that diocesan priests take at their ordination, the lawyer asked the bishop what he thought the punishment for violating the chastity promise would be.

"Eternal hellfire," Imesch answered, adding for the benefit of the written transcript of his sworn statement that would later be prepared, "Put in that I laughed. There is no penalty. The penalty that's a moral failing or fault with a person."

Berry included that part of Imesch's deposition in one of his books. "That has always been one of the most incredible statements to me," he said. "He's almost just smirking when he says this."

Asked why the current scandal has left such a mark on Joliet, Berry said, "I would suspect the answer is Imesch."

930-6



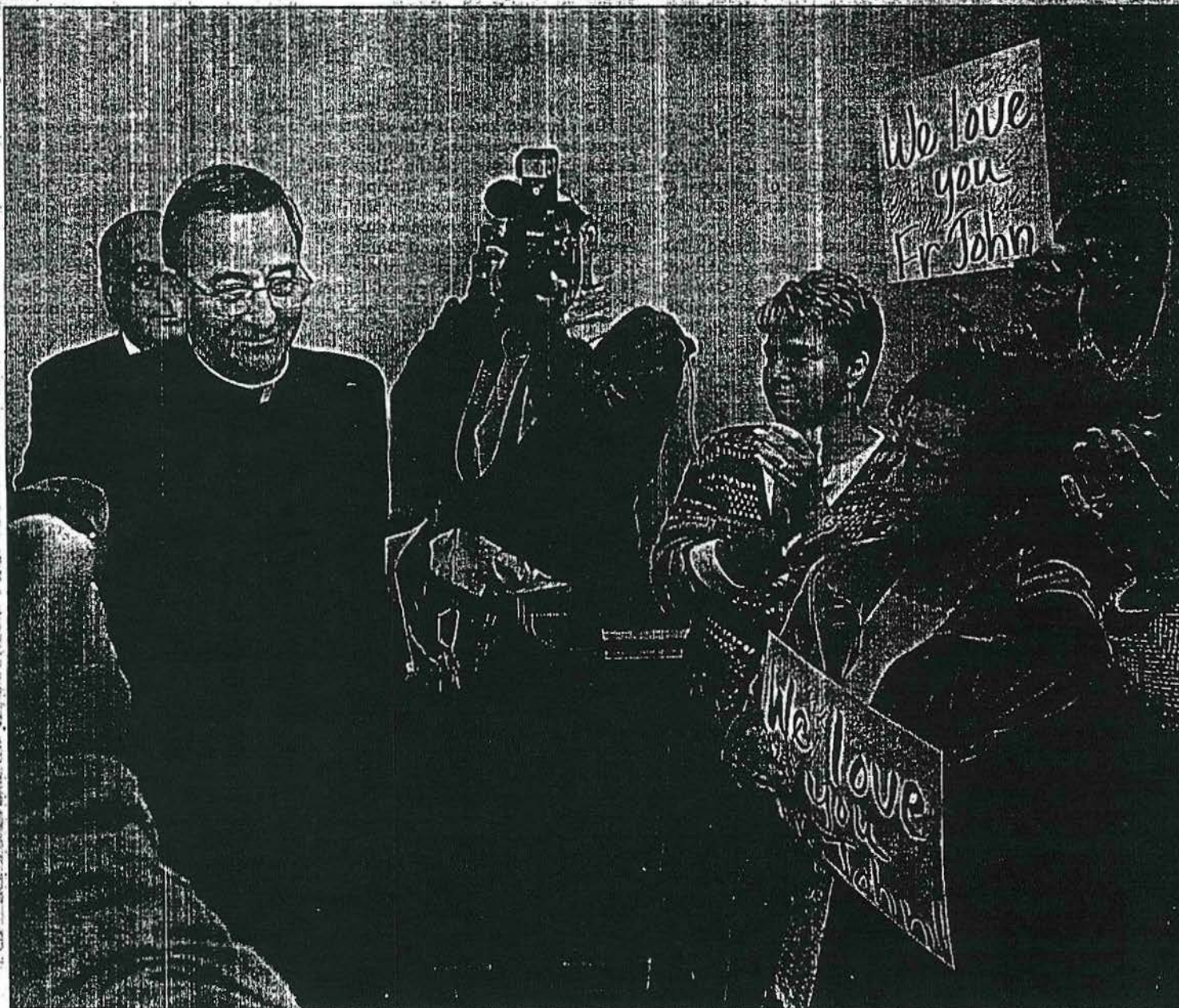
# THE OUSTED PRIESTS

**Rev. Gary Berthiaume, 60:** Received a six-month prison sentence in 1978 for sexually abusing 12- and 13-year-old brothers in Our Lady of Snows parish in Farmington Hills, Mich. A lawsuit brought by the boys' family was settled for \$50,000. Berthiaume also settled for an undisclosed amount a suit by four boys who accused him of sexually abusing them at a Wyandotte, Mich., parish from 1968 to 1973. In the Joliet diocese since 1987, Berthiaume served as a chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove until being removed April 8.

**Rev. Phillip Dederer, 57:** Stands accused of sexual misconduct in the 1970s by a man now in his 40s. For four years, until his removal last month, Dederer served as a chaplain at Edward Hospital and St. Patrick's Residence nursing home, both in Naperville. The Joliet diocese suspended Dederer April 12.

**Rev. Caroli Howlin, 67:** Stands accused of sexually abusing a man, now in his 40s, during a camping trip in Wisconsin in the 1970s. Ordained a priest of the Joliet diocese, Howlin has served as a missionary priest in rural Kentucky since 1977. The parents of another man also have complained to the diocese that their son was abused by Howlin at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Romeoville and Kentucky in the 1970s. On April 14, the Joliet diocese said Innesch had suspended Howlin, who was in Kentucky.

**Rev. Anthony J. Ross, 56:** Served at St. John's Baptist parish in Winfield; the Cathedral of St. Ignace, the seat of the Joliet diocese, and St. Peter the Apostle in Itasca. In 1982, he was removed from the Itasca parish and sent for therapy in California for having had what was termed inappropriate sexual conduct with a minor. Ross returned to the Joliet diocese after less than a year of treatment and went on to serve at Sacred Heart parish in Lombard, St. Isidore in Bloomingdale and St. Charles Borromeo in Bensenville. A Joliet area man in his 30s says Ross molested him twice at St. Peter's in 1981. When the man's parents discovered Ross, he was still serving in the Joliet diocese and confronted Innesch, Ross transferred to the Diocese of Santa Rosa, Calif., where he



Rev. John Barrett, pastor at Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Elmhurst, meets supporters after he was suspended by the Joliet diocese.

safe place where he poses no risk to children," a Joliet diocese official said.

Rev. Anthony Males, 65: Was pastor of Saints

Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. Poff retired in 2001, but occasionally helped out at St. Patrick and other



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restricted from publicly saying Mass. Fischer retired in 1993, but was chaplain at St. Francis Convent in Frankfort, where he had said Masses for retired nuns. The diocese said Fischer faced an allegation of misconduct from more than 25 years ago.

But Fischer was accused of engaging in sexual misconduct as recently as 1992, when he would have been 68, according to a report in the Honolulu Adviser. Fischer went to Hawaii on a leave of absence from the Joliet Diocese in 1975 and didn't return until 1993.

In 1994, a man sued the Honolulu Diocese, claiming that he was referred to Fischer for counseling in 1992. After several months, Fischer threatened to withdraw his support unless the man reciprocated with sexual favors, the newspaper reported. The suit was settled out of court and contained a confidentiality agreement.

The Rev. Carroll Howlin, 67. Imesch placed Howlin on administrative leave on April 14. Howlin taught at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, an all-boys high school near Lewis University in Romeoville. The seminary closed in 1981.

A man in his 40s told Will County prosecutors on April 22 that Howlin sexually abused him during a camping trip in Wisconsin in the 1970s. Another man's parents met with Imesch on April 9 and told the bishop that Howlin abused their son at the seminary and during a camping trip to Kentucky in 1975. The diocese's two auxiliary bishops, the Rev. Roger Kaffer and James Fitzgerald, both headed the seminary at various times.

Prosecutors are determining whether Howlin, who ministered in rural Kentucky for the past 25 years, may still be criminally charged over the alleged offenses because a statute of limitations is suspended when an offender lives out of state.

The Rev. Fred Lenczycki, 57. The diocese announced April 23 that Lenczycki was removed from his ministry as a hospital chaplain in St. Louis. Since 1992, Lenczycki had been in the St. Louis area, where he went after undergoing several years of treatment for inappropriate behavior with minors.

In a 1997 civil lawsuit, a man claimed Lenczycki molested him in the rectory of St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale in 1984. At the time, DuPage County authorities investigated claims that Lenczycki engaged in inappropriate behavior with nine altar boys, but no family was willing to file a report with Hinsdale police.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis said it first learned of Lenczycki's past behavior in late March, when it asked the Joliet Diocese that Lenczycki be sent back to Joliet, and administrators of the hospitals where Lenczycki

ministered said they had no knowledge of the accusations. Imesch has said he verbally told the late Archbishop John May of St. Louis about the claims against Lenczycki.

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The Rev. J. Anthony Meis, 65. On April 30, the diocese announced that Meis resigned as chaplain at another hospital in St. Louis, where he had served since 1994.

Meis resigned as pastor of St. Mary and Joseph Parish in Chebanse in 1994 because of a claim that he engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor in the late 1980s.

The Rev. Donald O'Connor, 65. Imesch on May 18 removed O'Connor as pastor of Assumption Parish in Coal City because of a recent claim that O'Connor engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor more than 30 years ago.

The Rev. Donald Pock, 69. Imesch said on May 5 that Pock was placed on administrative leave as pastor of St. Peter the Apostle in Itasca.

Imesch told parishioners on May 6 that an allegation was made in April about an incident that occurred more than 25 years ago.

The Rev. Edward Poff, 71. Imesch said on May 5 that Poff was removed from public ministry. Poff retired in 2001, but had been assisting at Masses at St. Patrick's in Joliet and other churches.

An allegation was made against Poff in 1994, the same year it was alleged to have occurred. At the time, Poff was removed from parish ministry and underwent therapy. He then served as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee until his retirement.

The Rev. Gary Berthiaume. On April 8, Cleveland Bishop Anthony Pilla placed Berthiaume on administrative leave. Pilla will decide whether Berthiaume should remain a priest.

Berthiaume served time in a Michigan prison in 1978 for molesting a



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Page 4 of 4

12-year-old altar boy. Imesch was pastor of Berthiaume's parish, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington Hills, Mich., when the boy was abused.

000938

Berthiaume later transferred to the Cleveland Diocese. In a 1999 lawsuit, an Ohio man accused Berthiaume and another priest of molesting him in a shower during the 1980s.

Although Berthiaume still answered to church officials in Ohio, he worked in the Joliet Diocese since 1987. He served at St. Irene church and school in Warrenville until the early 1990s. He was a chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove for about 15 years until his suspension in April.

The Rev. Anthony J. Ross, 56. On April 22, Bishop Daniel Walsh of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, Calif., suspended Ross, who was a prison chaplain. Walsh, who acted on a recommendation by the diocese's sensitivity committee, will decide whether Ross remains a priest.

Ross transferred to the California diocese in 1993. Ross was a priest at St. Peter the Apostle in Itasca until 1982, when the Joliet Diocese sent him to Affirmation in Montera, Calif., to undergo therapy for inappropriate behavior with a minor. While receiving counseling for sexual misconduct in 1983, Ross sent a Joliet boy letters in which he made sexually suggestive comments and professed his love for the teen.

The boy's parents discovered the letters in 1983 and confronted Imesch. Ross admitted that he abused the youth in 1981 when the boy was 15 years old, and in April, Ross released a statement in which he apologized to the family.

The California diocese said it had no knowledge of the previous claims about Ross.

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TODAY

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Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

000939

July 17, 2002

Philip Deder  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Father Deder,

Would you please be so kind as to provide me with your current address and telephone number? I realize I can reach you via a post office box, but I do need your address and phone number at your earliest convenience.

Out of respect for your privacy, the above information would never be given to anyone, not even to our priests. The only persons who would have access would be Bishop Imesch, Bishop Kaffer and Bishop Fitzgerald.

May God bless you!

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



Redacted February 2014

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000940

December 2, 2002

Phillip Deder  
Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

I hope that things are going as well as can be expected for you. I know this is not an easy time. Advent and the feast of the coming of the Lord are special times for a priest and I am sure that it is difficult for you not to be able to minister during this season. At the same time, I know that the Lord is present in your life, as he is present in the lives of everyone. I pray that He will bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Beginning with the month of December, you will be receiving the base salary determined for a priest ordained in your particular year. I hope that it will somewhat improve your financial situation.

Phil, when we last talked, you told me that you would send me an address, rather than just have a post office box number. I would appreciate it if you would do that.

I have asked Bishop Fitzgerald to stay in touch with you, but I would appreciate hearing from you from time-to-time. I want to know how you are doing.

I keep you in prayer each day and I ask that you remember me and the diocese as well. There is still a lot of hurt experienced by too many people. Hopefully time will begin to heal some of those hurts.

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December 2, 2002

000941  
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Be assured of my prayers for you. With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Bishop Roger Kaffer



000942

## MEMORANDUM

December 9, 2002

TO: Mrs. [REDACTED]

FROM: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

RE: Priests on Administrative Leave

There are four priests who are on Administrative Leave to whom I am giving early retirement. They will be receiving whatever amount they are eligible for from the pension fund. The remainder of their compensation will come directly from the diocese. They will begin receiving these checks in December, but I would ask you to compute their pension benefits to what would be an average for the 12 months of the coming year. Father Howlin will be receiving whatever he is eligible for totally from the Pension Fund.

Guy Sell told me that it would be possible to issue one check rather than write two, one from the pension plan and one from the diocese. You might want to talk to him about this.

These four priests are:

NAME	YEAR OF BIRTH	DATE OF ORDINATION	ANNUAL SALARY	MONTHLY SALARY
Phillip Deder	[REDACTED]	1972	\$16,079	\$1,339.91
Fred Lenczycki	[REDACTED]	1972	\$16,079	\$1,339.91
Fr. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$16,559	\$1,379.91

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000943

Carroll Howlin		1961	Pension Benefit	Pension Benefit
-------------------	--	------	--------------------	--------------------

2.

If this is not clear, please give me a call.

---

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

P.S. Please see to it that the retired priests already receiving pension benefits have their benefits increased by \$25 per month beginning in January of 2003.



*Pending*

000944

January 31, 2003

Mr. Phillip Deder  
Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

On December 2nd I wrote to you and asked you to send me an address, rather than just having a Post Office Box number. Today, I called the number I had for you and was told that - that number was no longer in service. Phil, I am very uncomfortable with not being able to get in touch with you when necessary.

We have received a notice from the Secretary of State regarding non-compliance with the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Law. I am not certain that this is your car, but it is registered to the Diocese of Joliet at St. Patrick Residence. It is a Chevrolet, '98 model year. The license plate # is [REDACTED]

The Secretary of State also sent a notification that the official sticker has to be renewed. The expiration on that was November 30th, 2002.

I do not know if this is your car or not, but if it is, there are some papers that I need to send you. Aside from that, I do want to have an active phone number for you as well as an address rather than a box number.

Phil, I realize this is a difficult time for you, but it is a difficult time for me as well. I have to be able to know where you are and how you can be reached. I need to stay in touch with you and need to know what you are doing.

Please call me or contact me by mail at your earliest convenience.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

January 31, 2003

000945  
2

I keep you in prayer each day and ask that you remember me  
and the diocese as well.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Bishop Roger Kaffer



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000946

Bishops,

Yes, it is a difficult time for me but life is difficult for many many people. Despite it all I am filled with a lot of gratitude for the many blessings in my life. I say my prayers every day, write, and visit and help out some good friends who I can in their need.

I did not know about the emissions inspection but I did get the 2003 sticker. I keep you and the priests of the Diocese in my prayers everyday. I am grateful for the checks every month but did not receive one in January. I try to get some exercise each day. I live with a older couple near retirement children married and out on their own. They have great faith and been an inspiration to me. I have been here since I left St Patrick's [REDACTED] Wheaton, Ill [REDACTED] Thank you for your concern.

Ray Christe

Dealers

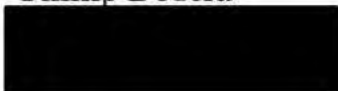
Many People have been very kind these past month and their prayers have been helpful

Rec'd

Feb 7, 03

000947

February 6, 2003


Phillip Dedera  


Dear Phil,

Thanks for your prompt response to my letter. I am enclosing the material that we received from the Secretary of State's office.

I appreciate your sending me your address. If you would, please send me your phone number also.

By now you should have received your January check. I am told they are sent out on the first of the following month. If you have not received it, please give me a call and do that whenever the check does not arrive within the first week of the new month.

Phil, sometime after the end of February I wish you would contact  to arrange an appointment. I would like to talk with you in the near future.

I am grateful for your prayers and I assure you of a continued remembrance in mine.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Bishop Roger Kaffer



*Reading  
Dedera*

000948

March 3, 2003

Phillip Dedera  
[REDACTED]

Dear Phil,

It has been almost a month since I last wrote to you. At that time I requested a telephone number for you and asked that you make an appointment with me sometime after February. I feel uncomfortable not knowing how to reach you, especially since I am expected to keep in touch with you.

I know this is a difficult time for you. I hope you are beginning to make some plans for your future. I would like to discuss your future plans with you in view of the diocese's responsibility towards you.

I keep you in prayer each day and ask you to remember me and the diocese as well. Please call [REDACTED] for an appointment.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Bishop Roger Kaffer

*Called 3-31-03*

*Come into office 4-8-03*

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

# FAX TRANSMISSION



DIOCESE OF JOLIET

425 SUMMIT ST.

JOLIET, IL 60435

☎ 815-722-6606

000950

FAX: 815-722-6602

**To:** St. Luke Institute

**Date:** May 28, 2003

**Fax #:**



**Pages:** 1, including this cover sheet.

**From:** Bishop Joseph Imesch

RE: Recovery & Transition Workshop

I would appreciate it if you would send an invitation and materials for the above workshop to:

Phillip Dedera,





Redacted February 2014

Redacted April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

000951

July 30, 2003

Philip Dedera



Dear F. Dedera,

I just received word from St. Luke Institute that the workshop that had been scheduled and which you planned to attend, has been cancelled because of an insufficient number of attendees.

May God bless you!

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

000952

June 6, 2003

PERSONAL

Phil Deder  


Dear Phil,

Last Saturday night, I had Confirmation at St. Patrick's in Momence. I thought very much of you during the Confirmation and prayed for you during it. I know what a fine job you did when you were there. As a matter of fact, I recalled your having a dog, which was sort of a "parish dog," and I believe your dad at one time lived nearby and you were able to minister to him, while likewise ministering to the people.

As I say, I pray very much for you. Phil, I hope you are taking advantage of this time and opportunity in your life to draw closer to the Lord. Though you cannot say Mass publicly, you can do what Bishop Blanchette was unable to do for the last couple of years of his life, and that is to say Mass privately. And every Mass, even one said alone, is "a greater act than the creation of the Universe." An old priest told me that last September, and I believe I have thought of it every day since then. I say he was old because he was my age! I was driving him from a Confirmation in Onarga to the Confirmation dinner and we got talking about the Mass. I immediately recognized the patent truth of what he said. Why? Because in the creation of the Universe, you have creatures, but in every Mass, the Creator Himself is present!

If I can be of assistance to you in any way at any time, let me know. I really appreciated your dropping by and leaving your card on occasion. You are one of the few priests who ever did that, and I appreciated it.

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

p.s. I'm enclosing another copy of my Prayer to the Sacred Heart, as well as a recent prayer card with a reflection on the Fourth Station of the Cross, as well as my translation of St. Francis Xavier's "Hymn of Love."

Enclosures

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000953-A

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

July 24, 2003

Philip Dedera

Dear F. Dedera,

Bishop Imesch asked that I call you as to whether or not you are planning to attend the conference at St. Luke Institute. As soon as you receive this letter, would you please call me at [REDACTED] and let me know of your intentions? In the event that the switchboard is closed, please leave your message at extension 216.

I mentioned to the Bishop that when I called your number I received a message that *'this person does not accept incoming calls'*. The Bishop asked that I tell you he needs a phone number he can use to reach you.

If you need to screen incoming calls, you might consider obtaining an answering machine that would allow you to hear who is calling before you choose to answer.

May God bless you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

cc: Bishop Imesch

Redacted February 2014

TM  
Redacted April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

953-B

August 27, 2003

Philip Dedera  


Dear F. Dedera,

Sometime ago I contacted you about the need to have a telephone number at which you could be called. You assured me that you would take care of the matter.

On two separate occasions I attempted to call you and heard a message that your phone was not in service. Would you please call me at your earliest convenience? I need to have the number of a working telephone at which you can be contacted. It would be helpful also if you had some type of an answering device on which a message could be left.

May God bless you.

With every best wish, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000954

October 31, 2003

Dear Phil,

I know this letter will not arrive in time for your 31st anniversary on November 1st, but you will certainly be remembered. I know this must be a difficult time for you. It is certainly not the way you expected to celebrate the anniversary of your ordination. Nevertheless, I am convinced that we walk with the Lord wherever our path might lead us. You have been asked to accept a difficult burden, but I know that the Lord will be there with you.

Phil, let me use this letter to speak about a few of my concerns. First of all, I do not know that we have received a phone number for you. There are times when I might need to be in touch with you and it is very frustrating not to be able to reach you. Perhaps you already have a new phone, but I would ask you to please let us know what your number is so that you can be reached.

Secondly, I am concerned about your future and what you are or will be doing. I have mentioned to you, I believe, that I think you need to find some type of employment. I do not think it is healthy for you, at your age, not to have anything to do. I know it might be difficult to find employment, but I think you need to try to do that. I would appreciate hearing from you what efforts you have made.

I hope your health is good. You have the time now to engage in some exercise, something which you probably did not have much time for in your ministry. Not only would the exercise be physically helpful for you, but I think it would also be beneficial mentally.

I want you to know that you will be in my prayers in a special way on November 1st. Please remember me also.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014


000955

January 20, 2004

Phil Dedera  


Dear Phil,

In your wonderful letter of last August, you said: "Maybe we can get together for a cup of tea or a bowl of soup..." I thought if we didn't set a time, it just won't happen, so I am reserving 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 30th, at my house. We can concelebrate Mass and then have lunch or just have lunch, whichever ties in better with your schedule. I have to be home to be available for confessions from two to four every Friday, and I thought that would be a good time that I know I can make it a point of being at Clarendon Hills.

Please call and leave a message on my answering machine, . I'm just presuming that you'll be able to make it. If you can't, we can set another more convenient time.

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

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000958

February 3, 2004

Phil Deder  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

I had written you on January 20th at [REDACTED] and said the following: "In your wonderful letter of last August, you said: 'Maybe we can get together for a cup of tea or a bowl of soup...' I thought if we didn't set a time, it just won't happen, so I am reserving 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 30th at my house. We can concelebrate Mass and then have lunch or just have lunch, whichever ties in better with your schedule. I have to be home to be available for confessions from two to four every Friday, and I thought that would be a good time that I know I can make it a point of being at Clarendon Hills.

Please call and leave a message on my answering machine, [REDACTED]. I'm just presuming that you'll be able to make it. If you can't, we can set another more convenient time."

Since you didn't come and I didn't hear from you, I can only presume that I had the wrong address. That was the one that the Chancery had. Hence, I am sending this to P. O. Box [REDACTED] in Warrenville, with the same message, but a different date. I am now reserving 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 20th, in the hopes that this letter will get through. Once again, I would ask that you phone me and leave a message on my answering machine [REDACTED] as to whether or not you'll be able to make it. If I don't hear from you by February 17th, I will presume that the P. O. Box doesn't work either.

I haven't seen you in quite some time, but pray for you all the time. I sure hope you're praying also for me.

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

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



2/28/04

000959

Fr Joe  
Please send a  
copy of Papers I  
need I will return them  
right away.

Fr Dedera  
PO Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL  
[REDACTED]



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000960

MR. [REDACTED] — Rev. Phil Dederer

March 26, 2004

This afternoon I received a call from Mr. [REDACTED] who reported being abused by Phil Dederer from 1976 to 1978 at St. Pius X Parish in Lombard. At the time the abuse took place, Mr. [REDACTED] was age 11 or 12.

He reported that he had been an altar boy who was given alcohol by the priest. Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he learned that Dederer had been suspended only recently. He appeared not to be satisfied with that action. I then explained that while suspension implied a temporary punishment, Dederer would never be permitted to function as a priest, use the title, etc. He implied that more ought to be done. When asked what that might be, he did not know.

When [REDACTED] saw the name Dederer it served to bring up all that he had suffered as a child. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He said that he felt the Church had not done enough. When asked if he would wish to speak with Bishop Imesch, he responded affirmatively and so was transferred.

The abuse was fondling at the outset in the church. Later, more serious abuse took place in the rectory. When asked about the frequency, Mr. [REDACTED] said about 100 times. Dederer would also take him to serve weddings in other towns. They would stay overnight in a motel.

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

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000261

MR. [REDACTED] — Rev. Phil Dederica

March 30, 2004

When Bishop Imesch met with Phil Dederica this afternoon, he [Dederica] denied knowing anyone by the name of [REDACTED]. He denied that anything ever happened with the man.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



Redacted February 2014

TM/A  
Released April 2014

ILLINOIS OFFICE:  
101 Waukegan Road, Suite E200  
Mokena, IL 60455

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Stockton, CA 95202

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www.andersonadvocates.com

Jeffrey R. Anderson  
Patrick W. Noaker <sup>II</sup>  
Kathleen O'Connor  
Cynthia J. Waldt  
Robin R. LeDonne <sup>C</sup>

000962

August 19, 2004

SENT VIA FAX

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

James C. Byrne  
James C. Byrne & Associates  
815 North Larkin Avenue, Suite 202  
Joliet, IL 60435

Re: Father Richard Bennett

Dear Bishop Imesch and Mr. Byrne:

By this letter I am bringing to your attention with the permission of [REDACTED] information regarding sexual misconduct by Father Richard Bennett. [REDACTED] contacted you sometime back with information that he had been sexually abused by Fr. Philip Dederer and Fr. Richard Bennett. I was alarmed to find out recently that Fr. Richard Bennett may still be working as a head pastor at Holy Spirit in Naperville, Illinois. I am bringing this to your attention so that you can take appropriate action. We would appreciate receiving information on the following:

1. What is the current status of Father Bennett? What action, if any, does the Diocese intend to respond to this information?
2. Please advise us if any other claims of misconduct have been made relating to Father Bennett.
3. Please forward this report and any other information church officials have pertaining to misconduct by Father Bennett to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Your prompt response is appreciated.

\*Certified Civil Trial Specialist by National Board of Trial Advocacy and Minnesota State Bar Association

<sup>1</sup> Also Admitted in Illinois <sup>2</sup> Also Admitted in Wisconsin <sup>3</sup> Also Admitted in Missouri

<sup>4</sup> Also Admitted in California

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

August 19, 2004

Page 2

000963

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey R. Anderson

jeff@andersonadvocates.com

JRA:tat

Enclosure



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

**JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW  
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000964

JAMES C. BYRNE

J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

FAX (815) 744-7179

August 20, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE (651) 297-6543 & U.S. MAIL

Mr. Jeffrey Anderson  
Jeff Anderson & Associates  
332 Minnesota Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: *Your Client*  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 19, 2004.

Bishop Imesch is out of town and will not be back in his office until late Thursday or Friday morning.

I believe that there is a very strong possibility that a very serious mistake may be in the process of being made in relation to Father Bennett.

When [REDACTED] previously contacted the Diocese his allegation was only against Father Dederda, which allegedly occurred from approximately 1976 to 1978 at St. Pius Parish in Lombard. [REDACTED] was very specific as to Father Dederda and detailed some of the alleged abuse with Father Dederda. However, [REDACTED] did not mention Father Bennett's name; and did not mention abuse by any other priest or any other individual. [REDACTED]'s primary concern was Father Dederda's status of ministry, and he already had knowledge that Father Dederda had been suspended. There was a discussion about the impact of that suspension, and it was explained that Father would not return to ministry. [REDACTED] had no concern about the status of any other priest.

Since receiving your letter, I have checked the Diocesan records in relation to Father Bennett and there has never been any prior allegation of sexual misconduct, or any type of inappropriate conduct whatsoever.

In addition to that, Father Bennett's lifestyle has not given rise to any ambiguous conduct with young people, or any issues of boundary violations in relating with young people. Father Bennett's ministry has been primarily focused on involvement with adults, and also with the adult leaders of other churches to address the issue of race discrimination.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Mr. Jeffrey Anderson  
August 20, 2004  
Page 2

000965

During the approximate time of the alleged abuse by Father Dederà (1976 to 1978), Father Dederà and Father Bennett were assigned to St. Pius X Parish in Lombard. However, during a portion of that time Father Carroll Howlin was also assigned to that parish. As you may know, Father Howlin is presently on administrative leave because of prior allegations of sexual misconduct with minors.

In view of the above is there a possibility that your client has mistakenly identified Father Bennett?

I would ask that you look into this matter further with your client.

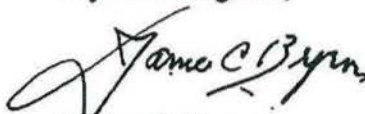
I also believe that it may be very helpful if you could amplify your client's allegations regarding Father Bennett, such as the period of time the alleged abuse took place, and some specifics as to the nature and the extent of the abuse, where it was to have occurred and any alleged modus operandi of Father Bennett.

Father Bennett is currently the pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Naperville, Illinois.

I can assure you that this matter will be brought to the attention of Bishop Imesch as soon as he returns.

In the interim, I await your response.

My Best Regards,

  
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

C  
O  
P  
Y



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

**JEFF ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES, P.A.**

IL OFFICE:  
Auken Road, Suite E200  
Rockburn, IL 60015

CALIFORNIA OFFICE:  
215 North San Joaquin Street  
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Jeffrey R. Anderson  
Patrick W. Noaker  
Kathleen O'Connor-Sta  
Cynthia J. Waldt  
Robin R. LeDonne

000966

October 6, 2004

SENT VIA FAX

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

James C. Byrne  
James C. Byrne & Associates  
815 North Larkin Avenue, Suite 202  
Joliet, IL 60435

Re: Father Richard Bennett

Dear Bishop Imesch and Mr. Byrne:

Thank you for your prompt response to our last letter regarding Father Richard Bennett. I contacted [REDACTED] after receiving your letter on August 20, 2004. It has been very difficult for [REDACTED] to write about the horrific abuse he suffered by Fathers Dederer and Bennett. I received [REDACTED]'s letter in the form of an email yesterday. I have enclosed [REDACTED]'s email.

Please let us know what action, if any, the Diocese intends to take in response to this information.

If you have any further questions or need more information, please contact me.

Regards,



Mike Finnegan  
[mike@andersonadvocates.com](mailto:mike@andersonadvocates.com)

Enclosure

Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014

**JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW  
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000969

JAMES C. BYRNE

J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

FAX (815) 744-7179

October 19, 2004

Mr. Mike Finnegan  
Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A.  
First National Bank Building  
332 Minnesota Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Finnegan:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 6<sup>th</sup>, together with a two page statement of [REDACTED] that was directed to you.

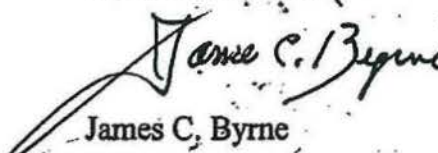
In response to your questions, the following action has been taken:

- I have contacted the State's Attorney's Office in DuPage County and they will proceed in regards to obtaining of all Diocesan records, etc.
- These allegations also are being submitted to the Diocesan Review Committee.

The above complies with Diocesan protocol in such matters.

I will try to keep you advised. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call.

My Best Regards,

  
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

C  
O  
P  
Y



000970

October 27, 2004

Phillip Deder  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

On Monday you will observe the 32nd anniversary of your ordination as a priest. I know that you did not ever imagine you would be observing it the way you are, but it is a special day that needs to be observed. Even if you are alone, I hope you will find some way to celebrate. I know that the Lord will be present, no matter how you celebrate.

I know this is a difficult time for you. I hope you are coping. It is a matter of concern to me that I do not hear from you and that I do not know what is going on in your life. As I have mentioned to you in the past, I really think it is important that you find some employment. I do not think you should, at your age, just be doing nothing. I would appreciate it if you would keep in contact with me, at least monthly. I will let that be your responsibility. There are a number of things I would like to talk to you about.

Please know that you will be in my prayers in a special way on the 1st. I remember you each day by name in prayer. I would hope that you would remember me and the diocese as well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

000971

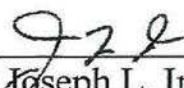
MEMORANDUM  
for the File

December 8, 2004

RE: Phil Deder

I called Phil on Tuesday, December 7th and asked him why he had not contacted me as I had requested in a letter I sent him several weeks ago. I told him that I wanted him to call me monthly and that I wanted to see him at least twice a year.

He has been working for a friend in construction, presently in [REDACTED] He says he has lost some weight and has stopped smoking. He is still living with his friends but is looking for a place to stay, but is finding it difficult to find some place because of the expense.

  
Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

**JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES**

ATTORNEYS &amp; COUNSELORS AT LAW

815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202

JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000972

JAMES C. BYRNE

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

FAX (815) 744-7179

January 5, 2005

C  
U  
P  
Y

Sr. [REDACTED]  
Catholic Counseling Associates  
1107 S. Mannheim  
Suite 201  
Westchester, Illinois 60154-2559

Re: Review Committee  
Allegations of [REDACTED] against  
Father Dederica

Dear Sister [REDACTED]:

As you are aware, I have left multiple messages with your answering service in December regarding my need to speak with you in relation to a Review Committee issue.

Some time ago, you were requested to interview a [REDACTED] regarding his allegations against Father Dederica.

I believe, but I am not certain that you did conduct an interview with [REDACTED] and I need to confer with you regarding the contents of that interview before the next Review Committee meeting, which is now scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Could you please phone as soon as possible.

My Best Regards,



James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: Sister Judith Davies



Released February 2014

Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000985

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

MEMORANDUM

April 3, 2006

TO: Philip Dedera

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Diocesan Website


The Diocese will be listing on its website ([www.dioceseofjoliet.org](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org)) the names, ordination dates and status of all diocesan priests who have had a credible/substantiated allegation made against them while they were serving in the Joliet Diocese. I realize this action may be disturbing to you but it is being taken primarily to facilitate healing and bring closure to those who have been abused.

Your listing will be as follows:

**Philip Dedera      11/1/72      Removed from ministry 2002**

My prayers are for you and for all of those who have suffered because of sexual abuse who still need healing.

May God bless you.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000987

June 22, 2006

Philip Dedera  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

I hope things are going reasonably well for you. Summer brings its wonderful warmth, but sometimes it also brings uncomfortable heat.

Just recently the Priests' Pension Board met to discuss various matters concerning priest pensions. Ultimately they determined a formula for providing pension benefits for priests who will have less than 40 years of pension premiums paid when they reach the age of 70.

At the time you were placed on Administrative Leave, you were credited with 30 years of service. For 23 years your pension premium was paid by the parish in which you served. For the remaining years, the diocese has paid your pension premium. 2.5% is deducted for each year less than 40 years. With 30 years of premiums, you will be 10 years short of premium payment. Ten years times 2.5% equals 25%. As a result, when you reach the age of 70, your retirement benefit will be 75% of full pension. There is an annual increase on January 1st of each year for which you will be eligible, but that monthly increment will also be reduced by 25%.

Since you were placed on Administrative Leave in 2002, the diocese has provided you with \$1409.92 monthly, amounting over a four-year period to \$67,676.16.

Since these are my last few days as Bishop, I felt that I needed to put things in order for the new Bishop. I wanted to help you financially when you were placed on Administrative Leave, but now, since you are employed, I think that the diocesan assistance should cease. When you turn 70, you would be eligible for pension benefits, as I mentioned above.

Beginning next week, any official correspondence with the diocese should be addressed to Bishop J. Peter Sartain. While I will not be writing you anymore as Bishop, I certainly intend to continue to remember you in prayer each day, as I have been, and I would hope that you would keep me in prayer also. Please stay in touch with me, if you wish.

I hope you are well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Apostolic Administrator

bc: [REDACTED]

Redacted February 2014

T.M.

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435Philip Deder  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

I hope things are going reasonably well for you. Summer brings its wonderful warmth, but sometimes it also brings uncomfortable heat.

Just recently the Priests' Pension Board met to discuss various matters concerning priest pensions. Ultimately they determined a formula for providing pension benefits for priests who will have less than 40 years of pension premiums paid when they reach the age of 70.

At the time you were placed on Administrative Leave, you were credited with 30 years of service. For 23 years your pension premium was paid by the parish in which you served. For the remaining years, the diocese has paid your pension premium. 2.5% is deducted for each year less than 40 years. With 30 years of premiums, you will be 10 years short of premium payment. Ten years times 2.5% equals 25%. As a result, when you reach the age of 70, your retirement benefit will be 75% of full pension. There is an annual increase on January 1st of each year for which you will be eligible, but that monthly increment will also be reduced by 25%.

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I hope you are well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Apostolic Administrator

Phil - Please notify [REDACTED]  
if you are seeing health benefits.

June 23/06

000988

June 22, 2006

Bishop Joseph  
I am not employed.  
I need health benefits. Since the  
last 2 months, I count on checks  
for my apartment. Thank you for your  
prayer.



*Dedera*  
000989

July 11, 2006

Reverend Philip Dedera  
P O Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

Please allow me the opportunity to introduce myself by means of this letter. I am the new Bishop of Joliet, Bishop Peter Sartain. As you know, I served for six years as Bishop of Little Rock, and I was Installed as Bishop of Joliet on June 27.

Shortly after my arrival, Bishop Imesch gave me a copy of his letter to you dated June 22, regarding pension payments. I am simply writing today to follow up on his letter and to ask for a little information from you. Phil, I am willing to consider continued assistance to you financially, but before I can make any decision in that regard, I would like to ask you for the following information: 1. Could you give me a list of your current monthly expenses, and 2. Do you have other income or other resources available to you for your living expenses? I understand from your brief response to Bishop Imesch that you are currently not employed, and I truly hope for your sake that you will be able to find work in the near future.

Phil, I look forward to hearing from you! In the meantime, please know of my prayers and concern.

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

000990

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

June 29, 2006

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Bishop J. Peter Sartain

FROM: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

RE: Reverend Philip Dedera

Attached is a letter which I sent to Philip Dedera earlier this month. Philip is a priest who has been on Administrative Leave since 2002. (You might want to discuss his history with me.)

I think the diocese has been overly generous with Phil since he left, since we were paying him a monthly benefit of \$1,400, even though he was employed. He now says that he has not been employed for the last two months.

I told [REDACTED] to continue him on our health insurance plan. He will probably be contacting you about some kind of monthly benefit. I suppose that we should provide him with something. The question is, how much?

Phil is a very reluctant communicator. I had asked him to stay in touch with me monthly, but about the only time I have heard from him is after I have written him.

Again, this may be something you wish to discuss with me.

*922*  
Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

JUN 29 2006

*We will cover your for  
d and to know...*

*what are  
his  
1) monthly expenses  
2) other income?  
other resources?*



Received February 2014

Received April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435Philip Dederer  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

June 23/06

000991

Bishop Joseph

I am not employed. June 22, 2006  
I need health benefits. Since the  
last 2 months, I count on health care  
for my apartment. Phil  
Thank you for your  
prayer.

I hope things are going reasonably well for you. Summer brings its wonderful warmth, but sometimes it also brings uncomfortable heat.

Just recently the Priests' Pension Board met to discuss various matters concerning priest pensions. Ultimately they determined a formula for providing pension benefits for priests who will have less than 40 years of pension premiums paid when they reach the age of 70.

At the time you were placed on Administrative Leave, you were credited with 30 years of service. For 23 years your pension premium was paid by the parish in which you served. For the remaining years, the diocese has paid your pension premium. 2.5% is deducted for each year less than 40 years. With 30 years of premiums, you will be 10 years short of premium payment. Ten years times 2.5% equals 25%. As a result, when you reach the age of 70, your retirement benefit will be 75% of full pension. There is an annual increase on January 1st of each year for which you will be eligible, but that monthly increment will also be reduced by 25%.

Since you were placed on Administrative Leave in 2002, the diocese has provided you with \$1409.92 monthly, amounting over a four-year period to \$67,676.16.

Since these are my last few days as Bishop, I felt that I needed to put things in order for the new Bishop. I wanted to help you financially when you were placed on Administrative Leave, but now, since you are employed, I think that the diocesan assistance should cease. When you turn 70, you would be eligible for pension benefits, as I mentioned above.

Beginning next week, any official correspondence with the diocese should be addressed to Bishop J. Peter Sartain. While I will not be writing you anymore as Bishop, I certainly intend to continue to remember you in prayer each day, as I have been, and I would hope that you would keep me in prayer also. Please stay in touch with me, if you wish.

I hope you are well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Apostolic Administrator

Phil - Please notify [REDACTED]  
if you are seeing health benefits.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000992

Bishop Peter

I would like to  
meet with you when  
you have time in your  
busy schedule. Thank you for  
everything

Pat Christie

Fr. Deder

PO Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville IL  
60555



Redacted February 2014

TAMM  
Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

000993

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602  
June 22, 2006Philip Deder  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

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I hope you are well.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Apostolic Administrator

bc: [REDACTED]

*Please notify [REDACTED] if  
you are receiving health benefits.*

Redacted February 2014  
Released April 2014  
TMD

Father,

000994

Some material from the Pastoral Policy Handbook and from Deder's file. I could not find when he started getting \$1,400 per month. In his file when he was put on administrative leave - he was told he would receive \$500 plus medical for one year. All indications later on are that he was still being covered by our medical. It appears in the memo of June 29th sound like he took him off everything but medical. He has two folders and I may have missed something.

[REDACTED]



*PASTORAL POLICY HANDBOOK***03-00 FINANCIAL**

**03-01 Seminarians.** The Diocese will pay one half of college seminary costs and the full amount of Pre-Theology and Theology expenses.

Theologians may borrow up to \$1,000 per year, interest free, to be repaid on a monthly basis after ordination.

**03-02 Assistance to the Newly Ordained.** The Diocese will reimburse one-half of the college tuition of priests who did not attend a college seminary.

Newly ordained priests may borrow \$5,000, interest free, from the Diocese for purchasing a car.

**03-03 Compensation Adjustment.** An annual compensation adjustment in priests' salaries will be based upon certain items in the Consumer Price Index of the United States Government using the September figures released in October of each year. The treasurer will bring these figures to the Presbyteral Council each November. Apparel and upkeep, entertainment, other goods and services are the portions of the Index utilized.

**03-04 Car Allowance.** The transportation portion of the Index is used to calculate the annual car allowance figure.

**03-05 Guest House.** The parish pays full salary for a priest at Guest House as well as the salary for his replacement. If the priest returns to Guest House, he will receive \$500.00 per month from disability.

**03-06 Leave of Absence.** Any priest who is granted a temporary leave of absence or a permanent leave of absence will be compensated in accordance with the following schedule:

1. Resettlement Benefit: Its purpose is to help a priest arrange living quarters. This money is paid out in a lump sum.

a) 1-10 years: 6 months salary equivalent (based

on base salary of last official assignment less \$300 stipend supplement and less auto allowance).

b) 11-19 years: 9 months salary equivalent as above.

c) 20 years and up: 12 months salary equivalent as above.

2. Monthly Benefit: This is paid out on a monthly basis until such time as a priest obtains employment. The years of service will be determined by the years in which a priest actively served in the Diocese of Joliet, excluding his years of ordination which were served in another diocese or religious order.

a) 1-10 years: monthly salary for 6 months (based on salary of last official assignment less \$300 stipend supplement and less car allowance).

b) 11-19 years: monthly salary for 9 months as above.

c) 20 years and up: monthly salary for 12 months as above.

3. Auto Insurance. Auto insurance will be provided for a period of six months.

4. Medical Coverage. Medical coverage will be provided until a priest's employment provides such a benefit, but not to exceed one year.

5. Return to Ministry. If a priest returns to active ministry in the Diocese, he is to pay back one half of what he was compensated during his leave. The method of payment is to be negotiated with the diocesan Bishop.

**03-07 Administrative Leave.** A priest who is accused of misconduct is to receive his full salary and benefits while he is on administrative leave. If there is evidence of guilt, whether or not there is a conviction, the accused priest will receive \$500 a month disability for a period of one year, or until the time of a conviction and incarceration, or until the time he obtains employment. He will continue to receive medical coverage for a period of one year.

**03-08 Social Security.** All priests are expected to be enrolled in Social Security except for those who chose otherwise in the past.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435Philip Dedera  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

June 23/06

000996

Bishop Joseph

*I am not employed. June 22, 2006  
I need health benefits. Since the  
last 2 months, I count on checks  
for my apartment. Phil*

*Thank you for your  
prayer*

I hope things are going reasonably well for you. Summer brings its wonderful warmth, but sometimes it also brings uncomfortable heat.

Just recently the Priests' Pension Board met to discuss various matters concerning priest pensions. Ultimately they determined a formula for providing pension benefits for priests who will have less than 40 years of pension premiums paid when they reach the age of 70.

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I hope you are well.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Apostolic Administrator

*Phil - Please notify [REDACTED]  
if you are seeing health benefits.*



*Dedera*

000997

June 29, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bishop J. Peter Sartain  
FROM: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
RE: Reverend Philip Dedera

Attached is a letter which I sent to Philip Dedera earlier this month. Philip is a priest who has been on Administrative Leave since 2002. (You might want to discuss his history with me.)

I think the diocese has been overly generous with Phil since he left, since we were paying him a monthly benefit of \$1,400, even though he was employed. He now says that he has not been employed for the last two months.

I told [REDACTED] to continue him on our health insurance plan. He will probably be contacting you about some kind of monthly benefit. I suppose that we should provide him with something. The question is, how much?

Phil is a very reluctant communicator. I had asked him to stay in touch with me monthly, but about the only time I have heard from him is after I have written him.

Again, this may be something you wish to discuss with me.

---

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Bishop J. Peter Sarsain

000998

You asked for information on my monthly expenses. I am looking for work. I have no outside income stocks, CD. or bank account. Many years ago my late Bishop Blanchette said priests make too much, I agreed with him to a point and have lived month to month with my focus on the call all my life.

I am behind on my rent.  
Monthly cost are 605.<sup>00</sup> for apartment  
30.<sup>00</sup> water  
30.<sup>00</sup> electric -  
100.<sup>00</sup> car insurance  
240.<sup>00</sup> gasoline?  
250.<sup>00</sup> food?  
150.<sup>00</sup> laundry  
1475.<sup>00</sup>

Your words to [redacted] family  
and sense of Diocese and Church touch  
everyones heart. [redacted] suffered but  
was at peace [redacted]

O Pap Christi.  
Thank you for your consideration.  
Fr. J. Dedera



Fr. Dederer  
PO Box [redacted]  
Warrenville, IL  
60555

FOX VALLEY IL  
25 JUL 2006 PM



Bishop of Peter Sartain  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL  
60435

JUL 26 2006

000999

*Personal*

60435+7155-23 CDDA



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

001000

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

MEMORANDUM

August 31, 2006

TO: Father Joseph Tapella

FROM: [REDACTED]

Bishop would appreciate it if you would check into how much further help he is able to give Phil Dederer. Whether there is a policy in place and any comments you might have.





The Tribunal Office

310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

001001

815-722-2256  
Fax 815-722-6692

September 6, 2006

Phil Dedera  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

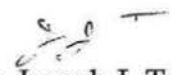
Dear Phil,

In reviewing the Pastoral Policies Manual, I noted that you technically qualify for \$500 per month for a period of one year or until such time that you obtain employment. I will be asking [REDACTED] our Finance Officer, to begin the payment as of August, 2006, rather than starting in the month of September. Of course, you are kindly asked to notify us as soon as you obtain employment.

In a separate matter, it has come to my attention that [REDACTED] has been attempting to contact you with regard to the matter of [REDACTED]'s car. The car apparently was "willed" to you by [REDACTED]. However, he was not in a position to do that, since the car is in the name of the diocese. Please call [REDACTED] at the Chancery with regard to this issue.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

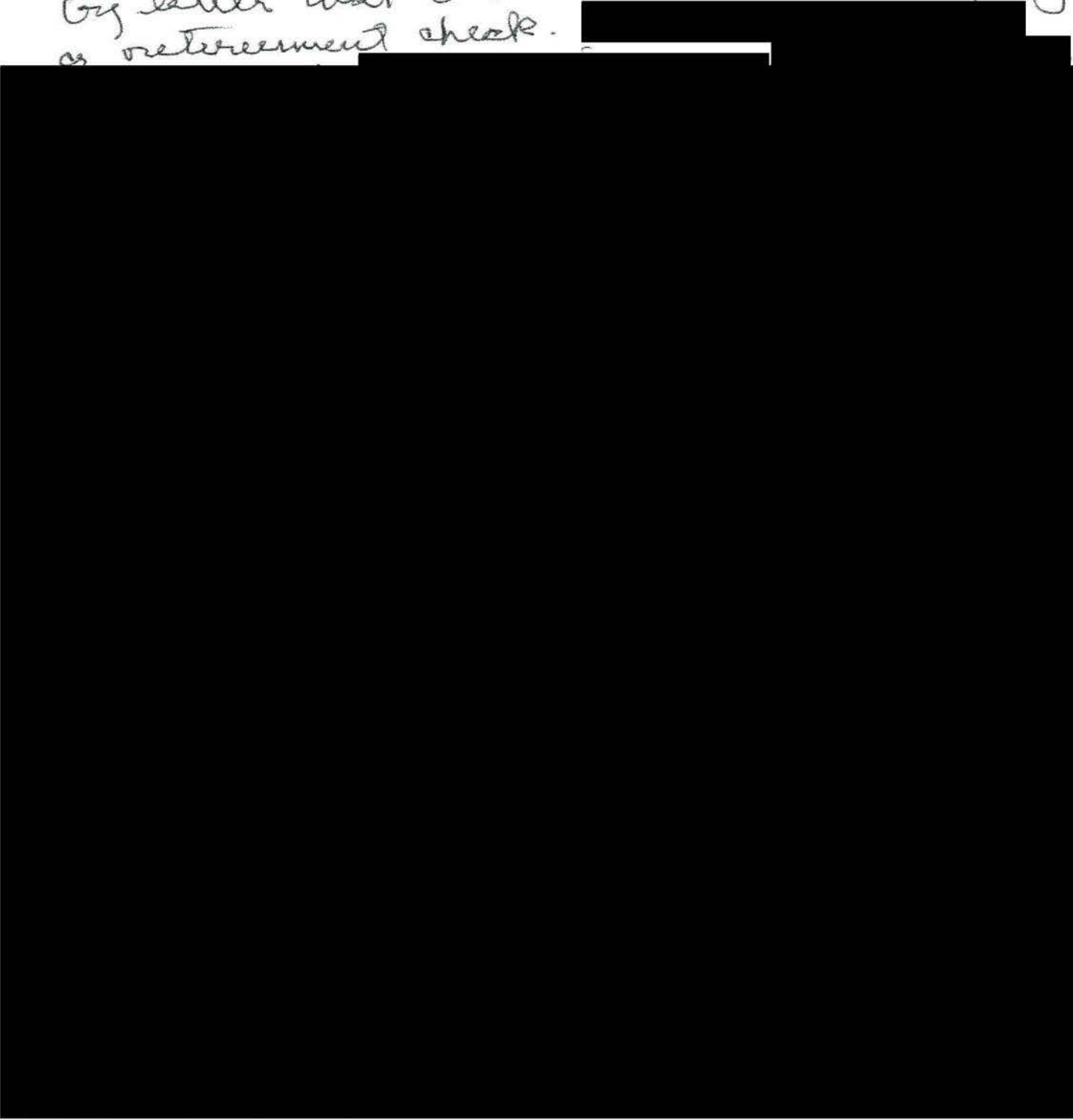
Released April 2014

001003-A

Bishop Peter Sarlain

Thank you for the information on health insurance I received last week. I know there are difficulties for everyone, family, former parishioners and friends.

It was surprise when I was informed by letter that I would not be receiving a retirement check.





Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

I read the diocese is asking for stipends for retired priests and know many are having difficulties.

Since 1963 I have been with the diocese working with many good priests and people. I have seen the grace of God at work.

My friends at St. Walter Roodle were very impressed with you at the installation of their new pastor, your warmth and time given to parishioners after mass even sense of humor. This is good to hear.

In Christ

Fr. Dedera

PO Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, Ill

P.S. The sudden withdrawal of the retirement check I was receiving has made things difficult.

*Personal*  
347133-23 C004

001004

OCT 24 2006

Bishop Peter Sartain  
Office of Bishop  
1125 Summit St  
Joliet Ill 60435






001005

Bishop,

Attached is a copy of the correspondence between Fr. Tapella and Phil  
Dedera.

  
10-26-06



The Tribunal Office

001006

310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256  
Fax 815-722-6692

September 6, 2006

Phil Deder  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

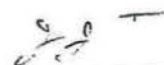
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With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General



July 20 06

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

001007

Bishop of Peter Sarlain

You asked for information on my monthly expenses. I am looking for work, I have no outside income stocks, C.D. or bank account. Many years ago my late Bishop Blanchette said priests make too much, I agreed with him to a point and have lived month to month with my focus on the call all my life.

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Monthly cost are 605.<sup>00</sup> for apartment  
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30.<sup>00</sup> electric -  
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240.<sup>00</sup> gasoline?  
250.<sup>00</sup> food?  
150.<sup>00</sup> laundry  
1475.<sup>00</sup>

You words to [redacted] family  
and sense of Diocese and Church touch  
everyones heart. [redacted] suffered but  
was at peace [redacted]

Thank you for your consideration.  
Fr. Dederica

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

001008

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

MEMORANDUM

August 31, 2006

TO: Father Joseph Tapella

FROM: [REDACTED]

Bishop would appreciate it if you would check into how much further help he is able to give Phil Dederda. Whether there is a policy in place and any comments you might have.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

January 7, 2007

001009

Phillip Deder  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phillip,

Many thanks for your kind Christmas card. I was pleased to hear from you and appreciated your remembering me during this Holy season. Phillip, I also enjoyed reading the poem that you sent along. It shows a great deal of devotion and insight into the Christmas mystery.

Thanks for letting me know about [REDACTED]. I was sorry to learn that she [REDACTED] and I promise to keep her in my prayers. Likewise, I will keep [REDACTED] in my prayers, that she will enjoy eternal rest in the arms of our Lord. I am sure these are difficult days for your family, Phillip, and I remember you in my prayers as well.

In the New Year, may you find peace in the Lord and his profound love for you.

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

001010

Every year I write  
a poem prayer story  
or song for the season.  
its me. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] yesterday  
her name is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will be buried at  
[REDACTED]

a fine woman with  
great devotion to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Please  
privately keep them in  
your prayers as I do.

Wishing you God's  
Blessings Grace  
and Peace!

F. Dedera

"In her arms she held  
the hope of the world."

Wishing you  
a blessed Christmas.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

001017

3/13/07

[REDACTED] age 46, called [REDACTED] and said he grew up in St. Andrew's Parish in Romeoville, graduating in [REDACTED]. Fr. Phil Dederer was at the Parish at the time. [REDACTED] alleges that Fr. Dederer touched him in Fr.'s bedroom, his cars, etc. when [REDACTED] was between the ages of 12 and 14 yrs. old. Whenever he had to pass the rectory he would run past it so Fr. wouldn't see him or call him in.

Another boy, [REDACTED], was also molested. [REDACTED] sent [REDACTED] a letter telling him what had happened in detail, including anal sex. [REDACTED] also contacted Fr. Valentino, the Pastor, who "talked to" Fr. Dederer. [REDACTED] learned that [REDACTED] was also molested by Fr. Dederer.

[REDACTED] Fr. Dederer held wild parties on weekend nights including drugs and booze.

[REDACTED]

He asked me to arrange a meeting with Bishop Sartain anytime between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm. I arranged with [REDACTED] the Bishop's secretary, to meet with the Bishop on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4/16

[REDACTED]



Redacted February 2014


TMJA

Released April 2014

001024

May 15, 2007

  
Dear Mr. :

I am the new Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, having been installed on June 27, 2006. In the course of the past months, I have learned of the sexual abuse you suffered from Father Dedera of this Diocese, and I recently learned that the case was settled not long ago. My purpose in writing today is to offer you my profound apologies for the difficult and painful experiences you have suffered as a result of Father Dedera's abuse. , such abuse is totally against everything we priests have committed ourselves to, and totally contrary to the promises we made when we were ordained. Thus, it pains me deeply to know that you were the victim of abuse by a priest. As I express my profound apologies, I want to assure you of my prayers, that God will continue to give you the grace each day to find healing and peace in your life. What happened to you was not in any way your fault, and with each passing day may you know peace of heart and mind and a profound sense of well being. I am deeply sorry for the pain you have experienced.

I also want to assure you that our Diocese continues to undertake many steps to ensure that such abuse does not happen to other young people in the future. Tens of thousands of people in our Diocese have undergone special training to create safe environments. This includes all of our priests and seminarians, who have also become painfully aware of the scandal of abuse in our Church. As time goes by, these crucial steps will continue to be taken, because we consider the scandal of abuse a great harm to the Church.



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Page 2

001025

Once again, [REDACTED] I assure you of my prayers and extend my deepest apologies to you. May the Lord Jesus fill you and your loved ones with peace and joy.

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014

MJA

Released April 2014

001026 *file*

Bishop,

Fr. Phil Dederer called and would like to speak with you. His number is: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED][REDACTED]  
10-22-07

1:30 p.m.

*See attached documents as to what  
has transpired.*

*ordained Nov. 1*

*ordained  
1972*

*Don*



Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

001027

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Bishop Sartain  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** October 22, 2007  
**Re:** Philip Deder

---

Philip Deder telephoned me today after receiving my letter informing him that his monthly \$500 disability payments were stopping. He said he has not found employment and needs assistance from the Diocese. I asked him if he had spoken to you about his situation, which he replied, "not recently".

A letter from Fr. Tapella and a brief history are attached.

Please advise.

Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

001028

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

October 9, 2007

Phil Deder  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil:

I wish to inform you that your \$500.00 disability payments will cease effective this month. You were to receive payments for a period of 1 year or until which time you found employment. Should you have any questions, please call me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Pension Administrator



Redacted February 2014

TMA  
Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

The Tribunal Office

310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

001029

815-722-2256  
Fax 815-722-6692

September 6, 2006

Phil Deder  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

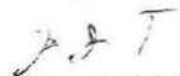
Dear Phil,

In reviewing the Pastoral Policies Manual, I noted that you technically qualify for \$500 per month for a period of one year or until such time that you obtain employment. I will be asking [REDACTED] our Finance Officer, to begin the payment as of August, 2006, rather than starting in the month of September. Of course, you are kindly asked to notify us as soon as you obtain employment.

In a separate matter, it has come to my attention that [REDACTED] has been attempting to contact you with regard to the matter of [REDACTED]'s car. The car apparently was "willed" to you by [REDACTED]. However, he was not in a position to do that, since the car is in the name of the diocese. Please call [REDACTED] at the Chancery with regard to this issue.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

**RECENT HISTORY ON PHILIP DEDERA** - Date of Birth: [REDACTED] Ordained: 11/1/72

4/16/02 - Placed on Disability and given a disability payment of \$500.00 per month. **1030**

6/1/02 - Placed on Administrative Leave of Absence and disability payment of \$500.00 per month continues.

12/09/02 - Bishop Imesch authorizes additional payment of \$839.91 to be paid from the extraordinary account in addition to \$500 from the Clergy Disability account. Increases are to coincide with the clergy increases given in July every year.

6/22/06 - Bishop Imesch sends a letter to Philip Dederer informing him all payments would be suspended effective 7/1/06. He explained the Diocese had paid him a total of \$67,676.16 over a four-year period.

9/6/06 - Rev. Joseph Tapella authorizes \$500.00 disability payment per month until, which time he can obtain employment. Payment is to be retro from 8/1/06.

During the years he was on disability, the Diocese paid his annual pension contribution of \$1,500.00 from the extra-ordinary account. Under the new guidelines, 40 years of contributions are needed to qualify for a **full** pension benefit. He has 23 years of contributions paid by parishes and a total of 12 years paid by the Diocese (1996 – 2007).



Redacted  
TMJA



Diocese of Joliet

The Tribunal Office

001031

310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256  
Fax 815-722-6692

Philip J. Deder  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,

I am writing on behalf of Bishop Sartain with regard to compensation for you. The \$500 monthly payment to you will be continued and you will be paid beginning as of the month of October. I hope this will be of help to you.

When you turn 65 years of age, you will be eligible for a pension, according to the percentage allowed for early retirement.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General

3/  
001032

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is to acknowledge that I have received and reviewed a copy of

☒ The Pastoral Policy Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors

☒ The Standards of Behavior for Those Working with Minors

I understand that I am responsible to become familiar with the contents of the above documents. I agree to abide by and to conduct myself in complete accord with them.

(Please print clearly)

Name Phillip J Dederer

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Agency, parish, institution \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Phillip J Dederer

Date 3/1/04



Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

001033

## Background Inquiry Release

In connection with changes in Diocesan Policy, I understand that investigative inquiries on my background, in accordance with all state and federal laws, will be made on me, including information as to my personal character, mode of living, general reputation, and other qualities pertinent to my service.

I understand that the Diocese of Joliet and/or the source they have chosen may make inquiries, including criminal history and driving history. Furthermore, I understand that the Diocese of Joliet and/or the source they have chosen may request information from various federal, state and other agencies that maintain records concerning my past criminal history and driving history.

I authorize, without reservation, any party, including, but not limited to, law enforcement agencies, state agencies and private information bureaus and repositories, contacted by the Diocese of Joliet and/or the source they have chosen to furnish any and all of the above mentioned information. In addition, I hereby release the Diocese of Joliet and the source they have chosen from any and all liability for damages arising from the investigation and disclosure of the requested information. I further release and discharge all liability from all companies, agencies, officials, officers, employees and other persons, who, in good faith, provide to the Diocese of Joliet and/or the source they have chosen the above mentioned information as requested, in order to successfully complete a background investigation. I will allow a photocopy of this authorization to be as valid as the original for purposes as determined necessary by the Diocese of Joliet and/or the source they have chosen.

\*I understand that date of Birth, Sex and Race are being requested only for the purpose of identification in obtaining accurate retrieval of records and will not be used for discriminatory purposes.

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE (Home)

(Work)

DRIVER'S LICENSE #

SOCIAL SECURITY #

\*DATE OF BIRTH

SEX

\*RACE

WORK STATUS

SIGNATURE

NAME PRINTED

Background Checked 3/13/04

No Record Found

MAS

Redacted February 2014

TMDA  
Released April 2014

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE  
Information & Technology Command  
Bureau of Identification  
260 North Chicago Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60432

Page: 1 of 1

001034

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET IN IL.  
425 SUMMIT ST.  
JOLIET, IL 60435

ACCOUNT STATEMENT BY COST CENTER

Start date: 03/01/04

End date: 03/31/04

Cost Center: 2314

Cost Center Name: MODEM AGENCY

ORI: MS0307465

Agency Name: ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET IN IL.

ACCOUNT DEBITS

Act. Date	cy	Subm. Name	TCN	Subject Name	Result	Result Date	Sent To	Fee Waived	Resubm.	Amount
03/12/04		UCIA	RFT1110001445960	DEDERA, PHILLIP J			State			<\$7.00>
		UCIA	RFT1110001445961	O [REDACTED]			State			<\$7.00>
03/12/04		UCIA	RFT1110001445962	O [REDACTED]			State			<\$7.00>

ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

Activity Date	Payment Type	Comments	Amount
03/22/04	CHECK	DEPOSIT 179 03/22/04 TMD	\$124.00

Beginning Balance: \$97.00

Ending Balance: \$200.00



Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

001037

[REDACTED] I was a 5th grader at St. Pius X in Lombard. I remember all of my friends talking about Father Phil and what a great guy he was, how he liked to spend time with the kids and play ball with them at recess and just a nice guy. I believe it was at the end of my 6th grade year which was in May of 1979. I remember being in Father Phil's room at the rectory. I don't remember exactly how it happened but I remember Father Phil talking about sex. I remember having my pants down and Father Phil touching my penis, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I remember Father Phil taking his pants down and making me touch his penis. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

June 13, 2009 –

This writer spoke with [REDACTED] this a.m. after consulting with Jim Bryne, diocesan attorney. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

Attorneys at Law

001038

Douglas F. Spesia  
E. Kent Ayers  
John R. Ardaugh  
James C. Byrne  
John M. Spesia  
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1415 Black Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311

Fx 815.726.6828

www.spesia-ayers.com

October 26, 2009

Of Counsel:

Thomas M. Ewert  
Kent Slater

Mr. Alex F. McGimpsey III  
Assistant State's Attorney – Criminal Division  
DuPage County States Attorney  
503 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Re: *Allegations of*  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. McGimpsey:

As you are aware, the Diocese has a policy of notifying the State's Attorney when it learns of allegations of child sexual abuse against clergy and/or lay persons except when the alleged perpetrator is deceased.

Pursuant to that policy I wish to inform you that a [REDACTED] has notified the Diocese that he was sexually abused in approximately 1977 at St. Pius X School in Lombard, at which time he was in approximately the fifth grade and the abuse was by a Father Phil Deder.

[REDACTED]'s address is as follows:  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is represented by legal counsel as follows:

Marc Pearlman  
70 W. Madison Street, Suite 5350  
Chicago, IL 60620  
(312) 261-4550

COPY

Established 1899



Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

001039

Mr. Alex McGimpsey  
October 26, 2009  
Page 2

Attorneys at Law

Father Phil Dederer has been removed from ministry a number of years ago because of other allegations of child sexual abuse.


Father Dederer's last known address is :



If you need any further information, do not hesitate to call.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA, AYERS & ARDAUGH

By:   
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm  
cc: Sister Judith Davies, OSF

COPY

Established 1899

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

001040

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

December 22, 2009

Philip J. Dedera  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear Phil,


Thanks for your recent Christmas card and words of greeting for Christmas. I most especially appreciate your daily prayers, as I do want to be the kind of Bishop the Lord calls me to be and to act humbly in all things. I pray that I put myself at his disposal each day in precisely the way that he desires, and I ask that he continue to bless you with his peace and guidance.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *J. Peter Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet



Bishop Peter  
Thankyou for the book and christmas  
card, long ago I read Fr Dulles. I have in  
abundance prayers and gratitude. Bishop  
Kaffer is at peace this Christmas, Amen. The  
world will challenge the Church, Her Shepherds  
and faith, so what new, you are in  
my prayers every day for that reason. I  
frequently meet others who speak of your good  
work in service of Christ. You know by now  
not to let compliments turn your head, you  
carry the cross of our savior. May His Peace  
and love ground you and Bless your  
Day Merry Christmas - Pax Christi +  


Peter

May you rest in the peace of believing  
and the joy of receiving  
the gifts that our Savior has given.

Have A Blessed Christmas Season

