

Released April 2014

SPESIA & AYERS

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August 8, 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 O'Connor Records

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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

- 1.) **Priest file of Father O'Connor** (total pages 593)
- 2.) **A Privilege Log**, for documents in this priest file.

Names of Accusers

The names of ALL individuals who have made accusations have never been made public, and the existing Protective Order prohibits their disclosure.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

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.

Released April 2014

000001

DONALD O'CONNOR**D.O.B. 12-16-1936**

Date Appointed	Assignment		Date LEFT
6/13/64	St. Rose, Wilmington	Asst.	6/18/66
6/18/66	Sacred Heart, Lombard	Asst.	6/17/67
6/17/67	Assumption, Coal City	Asst.	6/1/70
6/1/70	St. Rose, Wilmington	Asst.	6/16/75
6/16/75	Immac. Conc., Braidwood	Pastor	6/17/87
6/17/87	St. Bernard, Joliet	Pastor	6/23/99
6/23/99	Assumption, Coal City	Pastor	5/18/02
5/18/02	Administrative Leave		

Released April 2014

000014

June 20, 1958

Dr. Ralph Bergen, M.D.
Catholic Chairities
126 North Desplaines
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Bergen:

A young man who has just finished his first year of studies in philosophy at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois, has applied to our office for acceptance as a student for the priesthood in the Diocese of Joliet,

This young man has had some difficulty in carrying his courses with the text, lectures, and examinations in Latin.

The rector of the seminary thinks that he gives indication of a little nervousness and tension. I must say that I did not notice any such indication during the course of our brief interview. However, would you be kind enough to see this young man, to interview him, and to send us your report on the advisory of our accepting him--from the standpoint of mental health.

The young man is Mr. Donald C. O'Connor, [REDACTED] Illinois. I have instructed him to call you for an appointment.

With sincere thanks and all best wishes, I am,

Yours in Christ,

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
NOTARY

DLR:clt

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): None
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): cf. doctor's report
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: None

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 pastor; 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., _____
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: _____

His first year at St. Procopius

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

Donald developed a medical condition last fall which necessitates a special diet (cf. doctor's letter). He is definitely immature in appreciating his future role as a priest and this is not helped by a somewhat ungainly physical appearance. He has a tendency to giggle and grin at the least provocation. He has an extremely good appetite, but continues to be underweight. A psychological examination might be in order.

Released April 2014

Dec. 3, 1980

Sr. Ann Ellen Quirk and Mrs. A came in to discuss Donald)"Connor. Mrs. B was also supposed to come. However, yesterday she again went to Don and talked to him about what has happened to him with her son. Don tearfully begged her not to come and see that bishop; told that he would be removed and no priest would replace him because of the shortage; and that he was getting help for himself. He told her that Lee Marco was counseiling him. Because of these remarks, Mrs. B did not come.

These ladies told a story of repeated attempts of Fr. Donald to sexually assault their teen age sons (14 - 17). He took one of them on a tip and at the motel that night grabbed the young MRS-A SON. He hit Don and was afraid to sleep that night. For a year after that incident he was afraid to be near Don. Only now is he working through the anxiety caused by this attack.

Things seem to have escalated in September. Don's mother has lived with him for some time, but lately is spending more and more time away from the rectory. When she is gone, Don has forced at least two boys on the bed in the rectory. One fought him off. The other result is vague. MRS-B SON has worked around the rectory for some months and goes with Father shopping, etc. The two women who saw me felt he may have a homosexual tendencies since he kept going back to the rectory when all others refused to do so.

Sr. Ann Ellen sees many of the teenagers at St. Rose in Wilmington; they no longer go to Bradiwood. Many of these are the staunch Catholic families in town. Although only two of the four or five boys involved have gone to their parents and confided in them, these women felt that some rumors might be circulating in town.

Sr. Ann Ellen who knew Don when he was an associate in Wilmington feels he has some deep-seated problems. According to her, he hated his father who died when he was 13; and of course been very close to his mother. He cannot relate well with adults at their level. When he preaches, he closes his eyes even when talking to the children. In his CCD classes he tells the kids that it is a sin to smoke; to look at yourself in the mirror when naked, etc.

From my own personal observations I know that he has an inordinate fear of the Bishop and the Chancery. These are authority figures which threaten him. He has said that he would be happy to live in Braidwood forever, without once having to come to Joliet. He does not always attend priests' gatherings, staying by himself or with a highly select group. He is extremely nervous individual.

If you call him in, I would expect him to be extremely threatened. It could be a very emotional encounter; or merely a superficial agreeing to everything you say in order to make the encounter as brief as possible. He certainly needs far more professional help than Lee Marco can provide.

Jim Fitzgerald also called during the week. He knows all the families involved and can vouch for their sincerity and their real desire that Don get help. The long delay has come mainly from the hope that this cure could be affected without the Bishop being involved. They realize now that only a third party coming from outside can help.

458 2125

Released April 2014

I would appreciate it if you would contact Fr. O'Connor (preferably by personal visit.) I think it is important that he be given a chance to deny the accusations. If he does I think a meeting between the people, O'Connor, & yourself should be arranged. If he admits it, then he should be asked to see Fr. Watye, and report to you when this has begun. You might call Watye & get him in. He should also be asked & agree to not have any young visitors in the rectory for any reason, nor go on vacations or trips with them, no matter how many are going — unless there are other adults in the group. Violation of any of these conditions will mean removal from the parish.

I think you should speak to him of his spiritual counselling with Fr. Marco & determine if he knows the whole story (I doubt that he does) If he does I would hope Don would give you permission to talk & be just to offer her some encouragement in dealing with Don, especially seeing that he continues professional counselling.

Dec 5, 1980 J. Bremer

Released April 2014

December 8, 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

000154

Reverend Donald O'Connor - Immaculate Conception, Braidwood

After a Youth Mass on Sunday afternoon, I visited with Don for about 20 minutes to a half an hour. His mother lives with him, and has for 10 or 11 years. She is very pleasant, but quiet, but did stay so that I had no chance to talk to Don alone. However, I did tell him my purpose in coming was just to show him that I am interested. Don said about three times that he would be glad to go to Wilton Center when and if Father Irwin was transferred. He said he also told that to Bishop Imesch. I don't think he was just kidding. I told him that he has too much talent and potential for a small place like that. He said he is chaplain of the Will County Sheriff's Department and also would be glad to be a Master of Ceremonies for the Bishop. That would give him three things to do. Don said there is a lot of chasing around, visiting County policemen in the hospital, etc. I gathered he is not wildly enthused about the job, but he does not seem opposed to it, and somewhat seems to enjoy it. He said he is ill at ease in attending parties, as he is expected to do, and also does not know whether the people who he is called upon to visit are Catholic or not before he gets there. I take it he is a bit uncomfortable in those kinds of settings.

While we were talking, Matt Heberer came in. Father O'Connor seems to have a fine relationship with the young people of the parish. That was also evident in the sacristy before and after Mass. Don has two brothers, both of whom are married, older and live out of state, I believe.

R. Z/K

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

Released April 2014

000162

January 28, 1988

Reverend Donald O'Connor
St. Bernard's Parish
1313 Ridgewood Avenue
Joliet, IL 60432

Dear Don:

Just a note to tell you I did speak with Jim Lynch about your problems. Jim is going to talk to our diocesan attorney. He is aware of them and working on them, but does have some more pressing things to do for the diocese that have some real deadlines. Hence, be patient! I am sure he will get to it. I really don't see any way that I could be of further help, Don. Just be assured of my interest and a ready ear if you need to talk!

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:bjkd

cc: Mr. James Lynch

Released April 2014

April 3, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo re: Father Donald O'Connor

Don and I had a pleasant and innocuous visit. I commended him on the fine shape of the parking lots, buildings, etc. Everything is in tip-top shape maintenance wise. Don also showed me the back three lots that he purchased and cleaned up behind the rectory. It used to be a dumping ground and now you can see the street behind, and the grass is neat and well kept. Don himself and a volunteer from the parish take care of it.

We spent a good bit of time talking about his 91-year-old mother, who is quite frail. They had just come back from the doctor. She falls, is losing weight, and he is very concerned about her. We were able to trade stories.

Don repeated his usual theme that he wants Wilton Center when it is open, and I told him there is no way he is going to get Wilton Center. He still has ads in the newspaper. He has \$200,000.00 in the bank - about \$150,000.00 more than there was when he came.

He chided me for not having something in the paper about Ed Poff. He said there was something about Jim Lennon and the people in his parish are very interested and concerned about Ed Poff.

I mentioned my only two questions are annual retreat and cluster meetings. He said he always makes his annual retreat at Mundelein, and never attends cluster meetings. I chided him for that, but got absolutely nowhere. He said he has enough grief at the parish and doesn't need to go and hear the griping at cluster meetings. I told him other priests need his presence, but I'm sure I did not make a dent.

I asked if there was anything I could do to help him, and he said there isn't. I told him to give me a call if there is.

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

Released April 2014

000226

July 29, 1998

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo re: Father Donald O'Connor

I asked Don if he had said Office of Readings, Morning Prayer and Daytime Prayer, and, of course, he had prayed all of them, so I said we want to start with prayer, so we said my Prayer to the Sacred Heart. And then I gave him a crucifix brought back from the Ad Limina visit.

I would not characterize Don as hostile, but pretty close to resentful about coming for these visits. I think this was the third or fourth time that [REDACTED] rescheduled him, and I still haven't seen Dick Ross after the same or more. I probably did not help by my response to Don's opening question.

He asked if he could get an extension at St. Bernard's. I said I didn't think there was a chance in the world of that. Then he said how about a one-year extension? I asked what the reason for that would be. He said his 35th Anniversary. I said maybe 25th, but I didn't think he stood much chance at all of getting an extension for his 35th, but he could put it in writing in December after my letter goes out. I said I'm only one member of the Board, but would review it and make a recommendation to Bishop Imesch, but I think he'd be much better off to prepare himself and his people for his transfer. He obviously was not pleased with my reluctance. I told him I know his people love him and that he is doing a great job at St. Bernard's.

I also told him not to think about Wilton Center, because I am sure that that will become a mission of another parish when Sal Giunta retires. He said there is some growth in that area, but I observed our shortage that will increase in the next several years. Don said we should be closing parishes, and that Bishop Imesch's successor is going to have to come in and close a whole bunch all at once because he won't close them now. I told him I thought by that time there would be a turn around in vocations, and that if we had worked as hard the last 25 years encouraging vocations, as we did to get lay people ready to take the priests' place (which they really can't do), we would have enough priests today.

Released April 2014

000284

Fr. "R"

Address removed

Phone number removed

email removed

Fr. "R"

age 47, a [REDACTED] location removed stated that in 1967 – 1969, when he was 12-14 years of age (born 1955), he was abused by Rev. Donald O'Connor, a priest of the Diocese of Joliet, who was then an associate pastor at Assumption Parish in Coal City.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Fr. Flynn, the pastor, recommended that he get away from the "death watch" and was taken to Chicago by Fr. O'Connor. Fr. "R" stated that he was groomed. There were multiple incidents of abuse that occurred both in Cook and Grundy counties. He was unable to talk to anyone about his experiences.

At the age of 16, in 1971, Fr. "R" drove to a monastery in Iowa where he spoke to a Trappist priest about what happened to him. The priest told him that he admired him for his courage, for dealing with the matter and said he needed to tell someone.

Upon his return home, Fr. "R" mother asked him what was wrong, so he told her. He had such shame. That same year, he confronted Fr. O'Connor at D'Amico's restaurant on Jefferson Street. Bishop Blanchette was the bishop at the time and some inference was made by Fr. O'Connor that the bishop would not believe Fr. "R". Fr. O'Connor is supposed to have said that "It's better than shacking up with a woman."

[REDACTED]

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000285

Before entering the [REDACTED] he had been engaged and shared his experience with his fiancé. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sometime he also told Fr. Carroll Howlin his story as well.

[REDACTED]

In April 2002, he read and re-read the letter written by Bishop Imesch to parishioners that month in which the Bishop told people who were abused to come forward. The Bishop's letter moved him to action.

Fr. "R" has anguished over bringing his story to light. His greatest fear is that the priest will deny it happened. Fr. "R" has no evidence, but says it is true. Fr. "R" has the support [REDACTED] He has told his therapist that he has nothing against the Joliet Diocese and that he loves the Diocese.

Fr. "R" is not seeking a settlement; he just wants Fr. O'Connor removed so that no one else will be hurt.

Fr. "R" has an appointment to see Bishop Imesch on May 14, 2002.

Judith A. Davies, OSF

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
May 8, 2002

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

000287

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

MEMORANDUM
FOR THE FILE

May 17, 2002

RE: Reverend Donald O'Connor

I met with Father "R" [redacted] location removed on Tuesday, May 14th. Also with him was Father [redacted] who [redacted]

Between the years 1967 and 1969 when "R" was 12 - 14 years old, he was abused by Father Donald O'Connor, who was then an associate at Assumption parish in Coal City. He said that he was taken out of school, taken on trips to Chicago and given gifts by Father O'Connor. He said the abuse occurred at least twice in Chicago hotel rooms and on other occasions in Father O'Connor's car. He confronted Father O'Connor when he was 16 years old. "R" graduated from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 1973. Several years later, [redacted]

He said that he had told his mother about the abuse, but not his father. His mother said that if his father knew, he would kill Father O'Connor.

[redacted] He has not spoken about it, but he saw the letter that I wrote to all of the people of the diocese asking anyone who had been abused to come forward and he decided that it was time for him to make this public.

He has informed [redacted] about the abuse. He said that he wants his name to be used as the victim. I sent a copy of the letter which I am sending to the parishioners in Coal City to Father "R" in case he has any comments or suggestions. I asked him again if he was certain that he wanted to be named. He said today that he decided to have his name removed

922
Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer
Bishop James Fitzgerald

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

000288

MEMORANDUM
FOR THE FILE

May 17, 2002

RE: Reverend Donald O'Connor

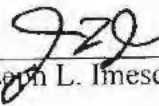
I met with Father "R" [redacted] in
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[redacted]
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Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

P.S. I met with Father O'Connor on Thursday, May 16th. I told him of the allegation. He admitted that it occurred. I told him that I was relieving him of his assignment as pastor at Assumption in Coal City, effective Saturday, May 18th, after the morning Mass.

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer
Bishop James Fitzgerald
Mr. James Byrne

Released April 2014

000289

May 17, 2002

Reverend Donald O'Connor
Assumption Parish
245 S. Kankakee
Coal City, IL 60416-1697

Dear Don,

In view of our recent conversation I am removing you from your assignment as pastor at Assumption parish in Coal City, effective Saturday, May 18th. This action is being taken because of sexual abuse of a minor that took place between 1967 and 1969 when you were assigned as an associate at Assumption parish.

In removing you from your pastorate, I am also taking away your faculties to function publicly as a priest. You may, however, continue to say Mass privately.

Don, your age allows you to be eligible for retirement benefits. I will see that those benefits begin in the month of June. Your check will normally be sent at the end of each month. Since you are not yet 70, one-half of one percent of your retirement benefits is deducted for each month short of 70. Rather than provide you with a pension check that differs every month, your benefits will be figured on an annual basis and so you will receive the same amount in each check for a calendar year. When you have an address, I would appreciate receiving it so that your monthly benefits may be mailed to you.

Don, you have been a compassionate and caring pastor in all of your assignments. The sexual abuse of a minor, no matter when it occurs, is a terrible act. You have expressed your remorse to me and I have experienced the pain you are feeling. The Lord is a merciful loving Father and I know that He will care for you during this difficult time. I will

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000290

May 17, 2002

2

remember you in my prayers and I ask you to remember me as well. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

P.S. Don if you want to receive some professional assistance I would contact St. Luke's in Washington on your behalf. Please let me know.

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer
Bishop James Fitzgerald

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000293

CONFIDENTIAL MEMO

May 21, 2002

Tonight I met with a former student of mine, at his request. He said he does not wish to be identified, does not wish to be drawn into the legal arena. He is coming forward because Bishop Imesch asked that anyone abused by a priest do so. 27 years ago, he was abused one time by Father Donald O'Connor. Father O'Connor was a very good friend of his family, was a frequent visitor to their home, and often took him and his siblings on outings, for ice cream, etc. One night, this boy and a buddy were supposed to stay overnight with Father O'Connor, but the other boy was sick and unable to come. So just the two of them played cards. They played in their underwear. The winner was to be able to fondle the genitals of the loser. The young man, not wanting to touch Father O., said he knew he could lose and would not have to. And he did. Moreover, he told Father O. that he did not have to touch him, but Fr. O. insisted, and fondled him, then started to masturbate him. The young man told him to stop, and said he had to go to the bathroom, and locked himself in the bathroom. He told Father O. to "Go away." And then went to bed himself at the rectory. He declined ever to go back to the rectory. This took place in the rectory at Braidwood. On many previous occasions he had been on outings with Fr. O., both alone and with others, but there was never anything improper.

He never told his parents, but will do so, after talking to me. He has told only two other persons: one of his siblings; and his fiancée during their pre-Cana marriage preparation, when they were challenged to tell their intended spouse anything they had not yet confided. Since the recent announcement about Father O.'s removal, earlier this week he and his wife talked about it again, and he told his wife that he was going to see me and tell me. She has always been very supportive of him.

I offered him counselling, but he said he really doesn't think he needs it. He is in an administrative position, and often is in my chair in such situations. But he said if he later feels he needs some help, he will let us know. He once expressed concern that he should have come forward years ago. I told him not to judge himself as a young man from the vantage point of the wisdom he now has as a mature adult. He wanted to know what the next step is. I said the first thing would be the offer of counseling, which I had already made. I likewise told him I would of course have to tell both Bishop Imesch and our diocesan attorney, and very frankly I didn't know whether this would have to go to the State's Attorney, but I presumed it would. However, I assured him, since he had initially said in making the appointment that he wanted to come to get some spiritual guidance and repeated tonight that he wishes to remain anonymous, that I would not identify him to anyone. He told me he knew he would one day have to talk to someone about it, and had long ago decided that someone would be me, because I had had such a profound impact on him as his principal. He likewise said that his Catholic Faith has been a bulwark for him – and continues to be. He has no desire to meet with Father O'Connor, but said he has long ago forgiven him, and he thinks that forgiveness is necessary to be at peace oneself. We had started with prayer, ended with prayer and he also wanted to receive that Sacrament of Reconciliation, saying that was an added reason he wanted to come to see me. I was very impressed with this man, and told him so!

+ Roger L. Kaffen

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

000294

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

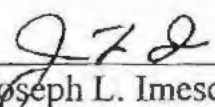
MEMORANDUM
FOR THE FILE

May 22, 2002

RE: Father Donald O'Connor

I spoke with Mrs. "A" (Phone #) on Monday, May 20th. Mrs. "A" lives in St. Rose Parish in Wilmington. She said that Mrs. "R" Son, a friend of Father O'Connor from Braidwood, had asked her son, , to go to Chicago together with him. For some reason "R" Son did not go and Father O'Connor took Mrs. "A" Son to a hotel in Chicago. Evidently Father O'Connor attempted to abuse him, but the boy, whom she said was small, was also a wrestler and he fought Father O'Connor off. He spent the night huddled in a corner of the room. Mrs. "A" wanted Mrs. "R" to come with her to the Chancery but she would not come. She said that she and Sister Ann Ellen came and saw Father Donnelly, but he would not let her see the bishop. This was in 1978.

She said when Father O'Connor brought the boy home, Mrs. "A" Son walked right past her without saying anything. Father O'Connor was cheery and jovial. She knew that something had happened and after Father O'Connor left the boy told her. She said that "A" Son is now living in [REDACTED] and is fine, but wanted me to be aware of what had happened. She said that she told Sister Ann Ellen Quirk about this. Sister Ann Ellen told her that she knew of at least three others who had been abused by Father O'Connor


 Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer
 Bishop James Fitzgerald
 James Byrne

Released April 2014

JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

0298-A-

JAMES C. BYRNE

J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

FAX (815) 744-7179

May 30, 2002

Sheldon R. Sobol
Grundy County State's Attorney
111 E. Washington Street
Morris, Illinois 60450

Re: Allegations of misconduct
Father O'Connor

Dear Mr. Sobol:

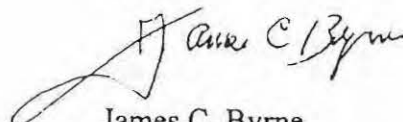
This is in reply to your letter of May 29, 2002.

Your letter was timely. On May 29, 2002 our Chancellor Sister Judith received two telephone calls in relation to Father O'Connor. I am enclosing her brief memorandum of those conversations. The first involves a report by Ms. "V"

The second involves a gentlemen who has requested that his name be kept confidential. At this time I am enclosing the memorandum of that phone call with this man's name and phone number deleted. However, our Chancellor will phone this individual with the goal of having him consent to his name being released to the State's Attorney's office. I think this might be the simplest way to handle this. If he insists on confidentiality, I am sure we can work out another way so that you can obtain his name and pursue whatever investigation you deem proper.

The Diocese would be more than happy to comply with your request and I will obtain the necessary Affidavit that you have suggested, but I thought it best at this time to forward our two most recent phone calls.

My Best Regards,



James C. Byrne

JCB/jsr
Enclosure

Released April 2014

000198-13-

Mr. **P**

May 29, 2002

Mr. P, a parishioner at St. Rose Parish in Wilmington, called this morning to report the sexual abuse he had received.

In 1976 when he was 15 years old, he was in Braidwood and suffered abuse from Fr. Donald O'Connor. He said that he has shared his experience only with his wife.

Mr. P wants his name kept confidential.

Released April 2014

Mrs. V

000599

Address
Plainfield, IL

H: Phone #

W: Phone #

May 29, 2002

This afternoon I received a call from Mrs. V. When she lived in Braidwood, her family was good friends with Fr. O'Connor. Both of her boys served as his altar boys.

Her older son, ^{Mrs. "V"}son, was molested by Fr. O'Connor while on a fishing trip in Wisconsin. At the time he would have been somewhere between the ages of 11-13.

Sometime within the past few years, "V"son, approximately 34 years old, committed suicide.

Mrs. V couldn't bring herself to tell anyone about "V"son abuse, but at the urging of her younger son called the Chancery. All she wanted to do was to report what happened to

Released April 2014

O'Connor

000302

May 31, 2002

Mr. "R" (Mrs. "R". Son)

Address

Dear Mr. R

Your E-Mail to Sister Judith Davies was shared with me, as you asked that it be. I am delighted that I had some part in influencing you to pursue a career in education.




I might share with you the two strong convictions I have about youth:

- 1) Youth (and I tell them there is a Y-O-U in youth) are not problems to be dealt with, but partners to work with!
- 2) Youth are not the Church and the world of the future, but the present, as well as the future.

You might also be interested in the two slogans I had on my desk at Providence, and that I still have on my desk at home. They are the only two slogans that I have:

- 1) "None of us is as smart as all of us."
- 2) "If you think you can, or if you think you can't, you're probably right."

I got the second from the wrestling wall when  was the coach. I just learned within the last six months that Henry Ford is the one who first said that. But I think it's really very accurate.

Mr. "R", I know the reason you wrote was Father O'Connor. I had the most unpleasant task of going to inform the parish council at 4 o'clock and then reading a letter from Bishop Imesch at the 5 o'clock Mass at Coal City a few weeks ago.

Released April 2014

000303

Mr. R

-2-

May 31, 2002

I want to apologize to you that a Catholic priest abused you. I'm happy that you are now going to seek some counseling, and I want you to know that the Diocese of Joliet will be happy to pay for that counseling. I'm sure that your letter will be presented next week at a meeting of the Review Committee, but I am sure that they will authorize counseling. But in the meantime, you can use this letter to present to the counselor so that the bill can be sent to the Diocese of Joliet.

Be assured of my prayers for and with you. It sounds to me like you have your act together very well, and I commend you.

You said you were looking forward to a reply, but since you have made special mention of me in your letter to Sister Judith and asked that it be brought to the attention of both Bishop Imesch and me, I am replying for all of us. If there is anything further that I can do to help you in any way at any time, don't hesitate to call.

I'm enclosing for both you and your wife copies of a prayer I wrote on Calvary, pray every day after Communion and many times each day. I wrote it on Calvary on the Feast of the Sacred Heart in 1984, shortly after you graduated. If you will recall, the new big gym at Providence has a mosaic of the Sacred Heart, and I did entrust the school to the care of the Sacred Heart, as I have at every assignment I was given in my priesthood. 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

Enclosure

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop James E. Fitzgerald
Sr. Judith Davies, O.S.F.
James C. Byrne

Released April 2014

Page 1 of 2

Sr. Judith Davies

000304

From: "Advisory Group" <advisorygroup@dioceseofjoliet.org>
To: "Sr. Judith Davies" <jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2002 5:22 PM
Subject: FW: Sexual Abuse Case

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

From: *Mr. "R" (Mrs. "R" son) Email address*
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2002 5:44 PM
To: advisorygroup@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Sexual Abuse Case

Dear Advisory Group,

Could you please ensure the following information is given to Bishop Joseph Imesch or Bishop Roger L. Kaffer (my former principal of Providence H.S., New Lenox, IL), thanks.

My name is *Mr. R* [REDACTED] I was an altar boy for Fr. O'Connor at Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood, Illinois in the late 1970's. I was sexually abused by Fr. Donald O'Connor around this time. The only reason I would like to report the abuse I suffered at the hands of Fr. O'Connor is because someone else has. My sole intention for reporting the abuse is so I can move on with my life. I am relieved to learn (today) that someone else has reported Fr. O'Connor. I sincerely did not want to ruin his career but I feel it is necessary to report the abuse so others may come forward. My mother sent me a newspaper article from the Morris Daily Herald dated Monday, May 20, 2002.

I decided that the sexual abuse from Fr. O'Connor was enough so I wrote him a letter telling him that I would not go to his house/rectory anymore when I was about 14-15 years old (approx. 1979). I believe that Fr. O'Connor contacted my mother shortly after my letter to him. I did not know that my mother or family knew of the sexual abuse until my letter from my mother today. My mother (*Mrs. "R"*) wrote to me in her letter, "While I was in Illinois, I was looking at the Channel 9 News when they showed a map of Illinois and pinpointed Coal City and said Father O. was removed from his position at Coal City. I wasn't shocked - I was sure someone would report him eventually. [REDACTED] my brother-in-law) suggested I report him - now I won't need to. Remember when I talked to Fr. O when you and [REDACTED] (my older brother) were altar boys. He told me if I didn't tell anyone (about the abuse) he would get help. I'm so happy someone reported him. Why don't you write a letter to the Diocese of Joliet reporting your experiences with him. I'll bet *Mrs. "R" son* will (an elementary school friend)".

Released April 2014

Page 2 of 2

000305

This letter/e-mail's sole intention is so Bishop Imesch/Kaffer is/are notified and that Fr. O'Connor "get help" as he originally promised my mother

(according to her letter to me). In hindsight I should have told someone but

I did not have the courage, I thought no one knew until my mother's letter to

me today. I will have to tell my wife, I feel something like this has lasting repercussions emotionally and I will seek therapy now that someone else has come forward. I liked and respected Fr. O'Connor, he was at my father's funeral in 1988.

On a more positive note (if Fr. Kaffer reads this)...it was because of your guidance and role modeling that I decided to pursue a career in education, I

[REDACTED] I will never forget the lessons I learned from Providence and Fr. Kaffer, thank you!

I look forward to a reply, thanks for letting me get this off my chest (after hiding it for 22-23 years).

Sincerely,

(
e-mail:

Released April 2014

000310

July 2, 2002

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of support on behalf of Father O'Connor. I know that he was a wonderful pastoral priest and did much good in the community. Unfortunately, many years ago, Father O'Connor sexually abused children. These allegations have been substantiated.

Those who know Father O'Connor would hope that he could be forgiven and allowed to return to ministry. The majority of Catholic people, however, think that if a priest were accused of sexual abuse of children, he should not be allowed to serve publicly as a priest. As you know, this is the policy which the Bishops adopted at their meeting in Dallas. Because of that fact, I do not think it will be possible for Father O'Connor to minister again as a priest.

I do hope that you will let him know of your support and concern and that you will pray for him. Thank you for your letter.

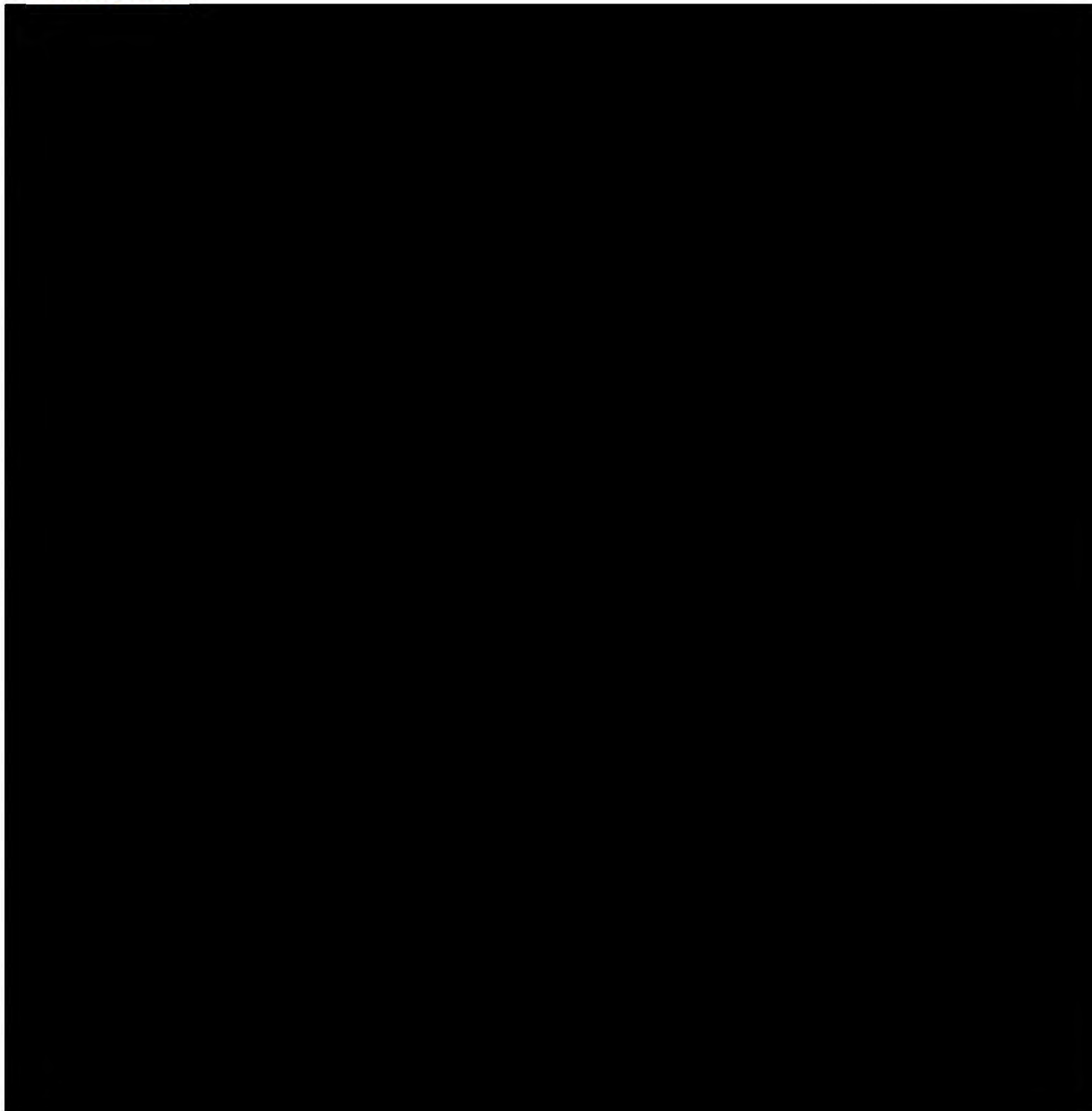
With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

The above letter was sent to all of the attached.

Released April 2014



Released April 2014

000328

Dear Bishops Inesich & Katter,

5/29/02

I would like to see what the diocese will do w/ Father O'Connor.

a teacher at a school where I taught lost his teaching certificate and was arrested for sexual misconduct w/ a minor.

I am only interested in seeing that Father O'Connor never work with children or youths.

I anxiously await a reply.

I will contact Ill. County officials.

Sincerely,
Mr. "R"

P.S. Please find my e-mail enclosed.
Thanks for your help!

JUN - 4 2002

Released April 2014

O'Connor Victim 2 and
Address

000330

6/5/02

Bishop Kaffer,

I would like to thank you for your 5/31/02 letter. National headlines regarding sex scandals in the Catholic Church have admittedly affected the way I view the Catholic clergy as of late.

Receiving your letter renews my faith that clergy of character, integrity, and honesty → people like you Bishop Kaffer → will ensure that God's message will go unaffected! Thanks! Sincerely,

O'Connor Victim 2

Released April 2014

000336

Typed copy of handwritten letter

Dear Bishop Imesch,

We know that allegations of sexual abuses has hit our Diocese and caused all of us deep sadness.

We do not believe all of these claims are true. We believe some of these people who are making these charges are just looking to smear the priests name and to get money for their revenge.

Two of the priests we know personally were at one time serving at St. Bernard's here in Joliet.

One was Fr. Poff and the other was Father O'Conner. Both were very good pastors when at St. Bernards's We knew Fr. O more than we knew Fr. Poff.

Whenever we went to the pancake breakfasts we have never seen a priest say Mass and then fly down to not only greet the parishioners, he also helped serve the breakfast with the other workers.

Stations of the cross during Lent are very much a part of recalling the passion of Our Lord. When Fr. O had the stations at St. Bernard' he was the only priest that I know who had benediction after the stations. Too bad so many parishes do not take the time to have benediction—it seems like they hurry through the stations and out we go. What's the hurry?

Our Lord couldn't run through his time of passion—it took time—but we never learn.

Fr. O never hurried with anything he did for people. He always was there for anyone who sought his help.

Only God knows if Father O is guilty of what they said he did. I'm not God and my family and I would never judge another person.

Someday we too will have to account for our faults before the Almighty. We only wish our lives could be filled with half of the good deeds Father O has on his record.

Live nowadays has become a society of finger pointing, suing, and blackening a person's character. Forgiveness is never entered into the picture.

One strike and you're out. Take for example, best friends who have gotten divorced—who invites them to gatherings—no one. People write you off their list.

Families who have individuals who were accused of something—who tries to help them? But gossip—gossip you betcha. What did you hear—this is what I heard and the list goes on to even the silent treatment when other people see that family in the grocery store or at Mass.

Yes, some priests have gone on and on many times abusing young people, but it is not EVERY SINGLE priest.

Another thing is—why is the priest's name brought up, but the person who accused the priest is presented to us as John Doe. How sad—don't mention my name. If you accused someone then by golly put your name in the newspapers too.

Released April 2014

000337

The payoff of money is something that does not set right in our book either.

If the priest is truly found to be guilty of the accusation and is found to have repeatedly done things then remove them from the parish he is serving and an apology given to the victim and see that the priest and the victim both receive therapy.

No large payoff is needed—if the therapy is given—that's a payment in itself.

Father O has been accused of something he did many years ago, but when you think about it he has more than made up for it by helping more people with all their problems all along the way.

In confession, we confess our sins and receive absolution, are given a penance to say and ask God for his forgiveness. God forgives us why can't we forgive others who have failed as a human being?

Hope you bishops give this issue a serious consideration? You don't become a priest overnight, it takes many years of study. They're not perfect and God doesn't ask us to be perfect. He only asks us to believe, love Him and try our best everyday.

We are human and we will all make mistakes in our life, but we pick up ourselves and try to start over again and again until we die.

We will pray for you bishops when you try to come to solutions for this problem next week.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet
Chancery

000343

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

June 20, 2002

Reverend Donald O'Connor
Assumption Parish
245 South Kankakee Street
Coal City, IL 60416

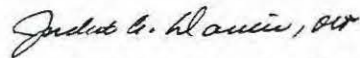
Dear Father O'Connor,

If you are in need of Mass stipends, please contact my secretary, Rachel, at the Chancery or myself and I will be happy to place you on our list of stipend recipients. Just let us know the number you would need each month and a check will be issued every three months. Should you wish to adjust the amount, please call or write and we will change the amount.

May God bless you with an enjoyable summer!

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Released April 2014

000368

**Confidential
Attorney/Client Privilege**

**Q&A – INTERNAL USE ONLY
O'CONNOR
May 17, 2002**

1. Why was Father Donald O'Connor removed as pastor of Assumption parish in Coal City?
 - An allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor that occurred more than 30 years ago was reported to the Diocese of Joliet on May 14.
 - In accord with our policy, the allegation was investigated and a determination was made by the Diocesan Review Committee.
 - (Fr. O'Connor admitted his actions.)
 - The Committee recommended that Father O'Connor be removed from ministry.
 - The victim was prompted to report the allegations after reading a published letter in which Bishop Imesch encouraged victims to come forward.
2. What are the specific circumstances surrounding the allegations against Father O'Connor? (i.e. age of the victim at the time of abuse, specific details of incident, etc.)
 - I'm sorry, but I don't believe any interest would be served by sharing those details.
 - The important thing is that the allegations were determined to be credible. In accord with our policy, appropriate action was taken upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Review Committee.
3. Have there been any prior allegations of sexual misconduct with minors involving Father O'Connor? If so, explain.
 - There have been no prior allegations of sexual misconduct reported to us involving this priest.
4. Have his parishioners been informed?
 - Yes. Parishioners were informed (are in the process of informing) parishioners during regular weekend Masses. Parishioners also will soon be receiving a letter from the Bishop about the situation.
 - We are deeply saddened by this tragic development and have assured parishioners that our primary concern is for the safety of children and the for healing of all victims of abuse.

Released April 2014

000369

- We have assured parishioners that we are here to reach out to offer pastoral support to help and comfort them, particularly during this difficult and painful time.
- In addition, we have arranged for a team of experienced counselors to meet with them to help respond to their questions and concerns.
- 5. How did parishioners react to the news that their pastor was the latest in a series of 11 priests associated with the Joliet Diocese to have been removed from ministry in recent weeks as a result of allegations of sexual misconduct with minors?
 - Many are understandably shocked and saddened.
 - We have assured them that we are here to reach out to offer pastoral support to help and comfort them, particularly during this difficult and painful time.
 - We also know that these parishioners are strong and compassionate people who will help each other through this difficult time.
- 6. Are some parishioners angry?
 - There may be some who are angry. We sincerely hope that they will speak with us about their feelings or with one of the experienced counselors whom we will have available at their parish.
 - This is a difficult and painful time for all involved. We hope that anyone who has concerns will share their feelings and ask us any questions they may have in order to begin the healing process.
- 7. Where is Father O'Connor now? What is his status?
 - He is at an undisclosed location.
 - He has been removed from his position as pastor at Assumption parish and from all ministry.
 - In accord with our policy, he will be offered professional evaluation and treatment as necessary.
 - He will not be assigned to any ministry.
- 8. How will the Diocese of Joliet ensure that no minors are placed at risk because of this priest?
 - He has been removed from his position as pastor and from all ministry.
 - He will be offered appropriate professional evaluation and treatment as necessary.

Released April 2014

000370

- He will not be assigned to any ministry .
- 9. Will Father O'Connor be monitored? How? By whom?
 - He will be with someone who is aware of his past action.
- 10. Is Father O'Connor facing criminal charges?
 - That is for civil authorities to determine.
- 11. Do you anticipate that the victim will pursue legal action against Father O'Connor and the Diocese of Joliet?
 - The person will not be pressing charges.
 - We are committed to acting responsibly and compassionately toward all victims of child sexual abuse with the goal of helping them to heal.
- 12. Father O'Connor is the 11th priest removed from ministry in the Diocese of Joliet in recent weeks because of substantiated allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor. I understand the diocese only has about 200 priests, so this seems like an unusually high number. Why do you think this is happening in your diocese?
 - I can't speculate on what the number means.
 - I can only tell you that we've been taking actions based on the recommendation of the Diocesan Review Committee to help ensure that we are doing everything in our power to protect children. In addition:
 - We are cooperating fully with civil authorities.
 - We are continuing to encourage victims and anyone with information about such abuse to come forward.
 - We are taking quick and decisive action to remove priests who might pose a risk to children whenever an allegation of this nature is made.
 - These actions are being taken with the hope that everyone affected by the tragedy of sexual misconduct with minors can begin to heal and move forward with God's help.

Released April 2014

000371

13. Some of your critics have suggested this number is so high because Bishop Imesch has mishandled the situation over the years and that's what's led to the problem today. What is your response to these critics' assertions?

- I can only respond by saying that we cannot change the past. But we can do everything in our power to help make sure that children are safe and victims are always treated with compassion and respect. Our commitment includes:

- Cooperating fully with civil authorities.
- Continuing to encourage victims and anyone with information about such abuse to come forward.
- Taking quick and decisive action to remove priests who might pose a risk to children whenever an allegation of this nature is made.

14. For the past six weeks or so, a steady stream of priests associated with the Diocese of Joliet have been removed from ministry. When will this end? Can the public expect to hear about more priests' removals in the near term?

- I cannot speculate.
- I sincerely hope there are no more incidents of sexual misconduct with minors anywhere, ever again.
- But, we recognize our ongoing responsibility to ensure the safety of the children in our care, and we openly encourage anyone who wishes to report information about an allegation involving a priest from our diocese to contact us or, if they prefer, to go directly to civil authorities.

Released April 2014

000380

MEMORANDUM

May 21, 2002

TO: Reverend Arno Dennerlein
Sacred Heart Parish, Lombard

FAX: 630-~~476-7491~~ 627-0688

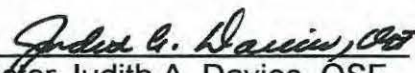
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Reverend Donald O'Connor

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

An allegation was recently brought against Father Donald O'Connor. Father O'Connor was stationed at our parish from June of 1966 to June of 1967. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father O'Connor, please contact the pastor or the Diocese.

Thank you very much.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Released April 2014

000382

MEMORANDUM

May 21, 2002

TO: Reverend Richard Ross
St. Bernard Parish, Joliet

FAX: 815-726-4520 (call first)

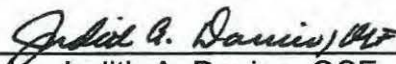
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Reverend Donald O'Connor

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

An allegation was recently brought against Father Donald O'Connor. Father O'Connor was stationed at our parish from June of 1987 to June of 1999. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father O'Connor, please contact the pastor or the Diocese.

Thank you very much.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

From: "Advisory Group" <advisorygroup@dioceseofjoliet.org>
To: "Sr. Judith Davies" <jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2002 5:22 PM
Subject: FW: Sexual Abuse Case

From: Mr. R"/Mrs. R" son Email address
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2002 5:44 PM
To: advisorygroup@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Sexual Abuse Case

Could you please ensure the following information is given to Bishop Joseph Imesch or Bishop Roger L. Kaffer (my former principal of Providence H.S., New Lenox, IL), thanks.

[illegible]



Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000411

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

November 20, 2002

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Donald O'Connor,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$80.00, which represents the offerings for 8 Masses for the intentions listed on the enclosed card. If you are able to accept this responsibility, I would ask you to return the bottom portion of this letter to the Chancery.

The next set of Mass Stipends will be sent to you by December 1. You will be on the regular schedule at that time.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JAD: rav
Enclosure

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 8 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor



Diocese of Joliet

000413

Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

December 3, 2002

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Donald O'Connor,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$900.00, which represents the offerings for 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the enclosed card. If you are able to accept this responsibility, I would ask you to return the bottom portion of this letter to the Chancery.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JAD: rav
Enclosure

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000416

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

February 28, 2003

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Donald O'Connor,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$900.00, which represents the offerings for 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the enclosed card. If you are able to accept this responsibility, I would ask you to return the bottom portion of this letter to the Chancery.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JAD: rav
Enclosure

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor

Released April 2014

000429

O'CONNOR DONALD

Released April 2014

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
Information & Technology Command
Bureau of Identification
260 North Chicago Street
Joliet, Illinois 60432

Page: 1 of 1

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

Activity Date	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	OKEEFE, MICHAEL			State			<\$7.00>
03/12/04	UCIA	RFT1110001445962	OCONNOR, DONALD G			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



Released April 2014
Diocese of Joliet

The Tribunal Office

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

000433

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

February 2, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD O'CONNOR'S FILE

During the week of January 26, Donald O'Connor was sighted at Provena St. Joseph's Medical Center in clerical clothes. A nurse called the Chancery with this information. Apparently, another person who works at the hospital said that she has also seen him dressed in that way. I called Don this morning and he denied that he has dressed in clerical clothes. On his own, he stated that he is not permitted to wear such clothing. It appears that he understands that he will not wear clerical clothes, whether or not he really was seen in such attire.

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella

cc: Bishop Imesch
Bishop Kaffer
Bishop Schlarman
Sister Judith

03/15/2006 17:12

8157257005

SR MF SEELEY PHD

PAGE 01

Released April 2014

000451

Mr. G
Cell phone
Home phone
City

DATE: MARCH, 2005

3/2/05 - 2:03 - 2:10 pm

Ms. "H" called from Coal City to talk about [REDACTED] who had been
abused by Fr. O'Conner. [REDACTED]

4:10 - 4:45 pm [REDACTED]

At the time of his abuse, about 1966/68, he was an altar boy whom Fr. O'Conner took a liking to. Fr. O'Conner took him to the Museum of Science and Industry. They followed that by a stay at a hotel. When he awoke, he had no clothes on; he suspects he was given medications. There was shaving cream on his stomach with a smiley face on it. There was someone else in the room but he doesn't know who it was. He was still drowsy.

This event changed his life; there is no respect for priests or the church. He goes to church only for weddings or funerals. He knows that Fr. O'Conner is no longer an active priest, but lives in Braidwood.

I asked how I could help him. I offered help: talk to another priest, but it was soundly rejected; counseling, no, again. He had gone to a counselor in the past, but alone since his wife would not go with him. They continue to have relationship problems. He wanted a cash settlement but could give me no amount.

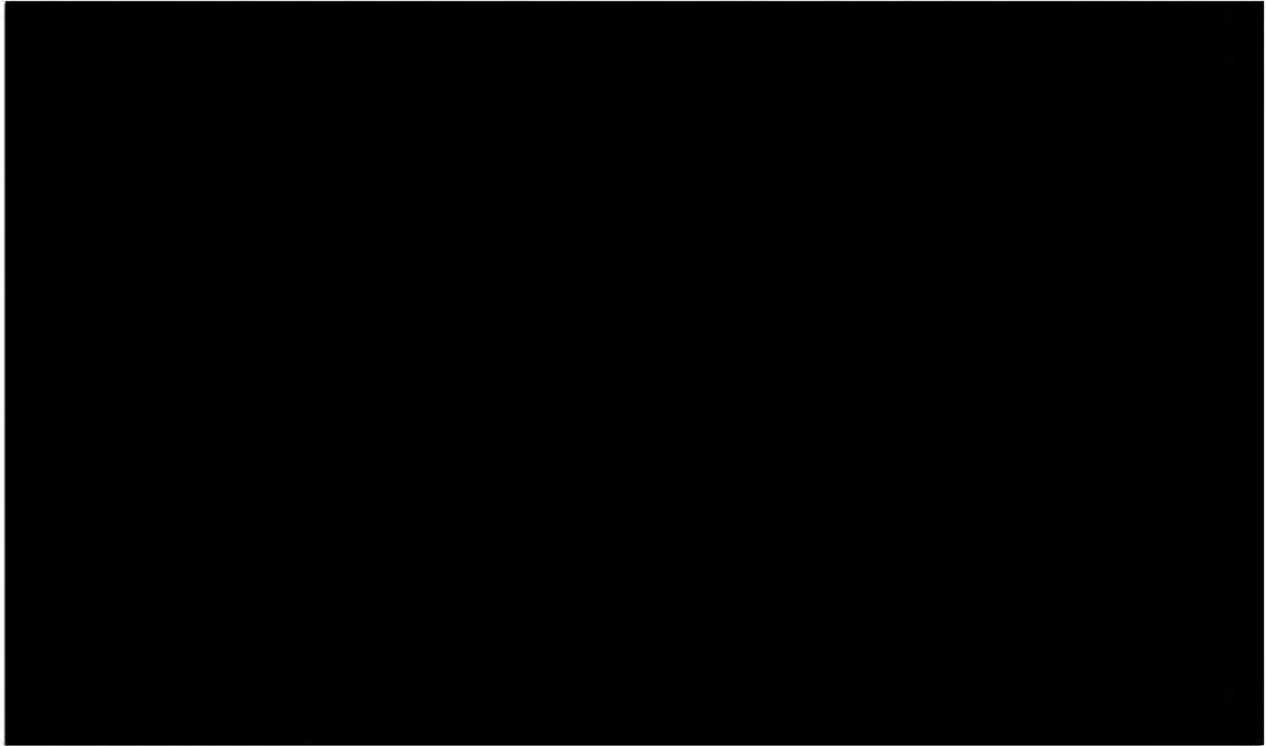
I told him I'd be meeting with Bishop Imesch on Monday, March 7th, and would discuss the information with him, although it would be the Review Board who would make any decision in his case. I asked him to put it in writing for me and I would submit it to Sr. Judith Davies.

On March 7th, I received a call from Ms. H again saying Mr. G did not have time to write the letter yet but would send it at a later date.

3/7/06 [REDACTED]

Released April 2014

000452



Released April 2014

000457

April 5, 2005

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Don,

It is time to write another "thank you" to you! I really appreciate your kindness, but I feel somewhat uncomfortable in accepting your generous gifts throughout the year. You, more than anyone else, have repeatedly expressed your sorrow for your actions.

I enjoyed my brief visit with you in your home. Now that I know where you live it is easy for me to picture you in different rooms of your home. I am glad that is working out so well.

Would you be free for lunch at noon on Wednesday, April 13th? If so, let us plan to meet at Bob Evans on Larkin at 80 at noon. I will ask Sister Judith to join us. If that is not good, please call Natalie and we will find another date.

Thanks, again for your generosity. I do appreciate it. You are in my prayers and I ask you to remember me as well.

Prayers and best wishes to you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Released April 2014

000458

May 20, 2005

Dear Don,

Monday is the 41st anniversary of your ordination to the priesthood and I wanted you to know that you will be remembered in a special way on that day. I know that it will be a difficult day for you, but I hope you are comforted by the opportunity to celebrate Mass privately in your home.

As painful as all of this has been, I am glad that you still have the opportunity to celebrate Eucharist. You certainly seem to be adjusting well, though I know it must be a constant struggle.

Don't forget that we have to schedule a luncheon date for the one that we could not make. I will wait to hear from you.

You are in my prayers each day and I ask you to remember me as well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

000459

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

June 1, 2005

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Donald O'Connor,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$900.00, which represents the offerings for 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the enclosed card. If you are able to accept this responsibility, I would ask you to return the bottom portion of this letter to the Chancery.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JAD: rav
Enclosure

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET
RESTRICTED FUNDS ACCOUNT

To: DONALD O'CONNOR
ID: UCO4

6/1/2005 001883

FR. O'CONNOR SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 501

Contact:

000460

INVOICE NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	NET AMOUNT
000460	6/1/2005	JUNE MASS STIPEND	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
		Totals	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00

THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK - HOLD AT AN ANGLE TO VIEW



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET
RESTRICTED FUNDS ACCOUNT
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

HARRIS BANK JOLIET, N.A.
JOLIET, ILLINOIS

001883

70-59
719

CHECK DATE	CHECK NO.
6/1/2005	1883

CHECK AMOUNT

***900.00

PAY ** Nine hundred and 00 / 100 Dollars **

TO THE
ORDER
OF

DONALD O'CONNOR
693 ANNDON
BRAIDWOOD, IL 60408

VOID AFTER 90 DAYS

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

001883 071900595 076 7400

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
CHANCERY
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

90 MASSES TO BE SAID BY DONALD O'CONNOR

1-Albert & Amelia Nachtigal
89-Repose of the souls of Rev. Anthony DeFilippis and members o
the DeFilippis family (parents, brothers & other relatives)

Released April 2014

000461

June 8, 2005

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Sister Judith Davies, O.S.F.
FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer
RE: Don O'Connor

I asked Don O'Connor how he is doing, and he said: "Fine." I said I understood he had put his name on the waiting list at St. John Vianney Villa, but he did not remember that he did. I told him that the Villa is next to a school and I said that he might subject himself to some publicity if he were to go there. We did not dwell on it, but I said it. However, as I said he did not remember putting his name on the list.

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

Released April 2014

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor

Donald O'Connor

000462

S:\WPDOCS\FormLetters\MASSES.doc

Released April 2014

000509

FILE MEMORANDUM

July 24, 2006

FROM: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

RE: Meeting with Father Donald O'Connor

I met with Father Donald O'Connor on Wednesday afternoon, July 19, 2006 at his residence in Braidwood. I gave him the summary of the interview with [REDACTED]. He said that he was familiar with the family name, but did not recall this young man. He had no recollection of any of the events described in the interview. When I asked him specifically about being in a hotel room he said that he did not remember that, nor could he remember anyone else being in the room. All he did say was that at times he took three- four boys together to the Museum of Science and Industry.

Joseph L. Imesch
J.L.I.

Released April 2014

James Byrne

000584

From: Sr Judith Davies [jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2010 3:07 PM
To: James Byrne
Subject: FW: New Blog Comment

From: Jan Slattery [mailto:jslattery@archchicago.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 3:46 PM
To: Sr Judith Davies
Subject: Fwd: New Blog Comment

Judith,

Attached is the blog comment received at the Archdiocese website today. Thank you for following up on this.

Jan

Jan Slattery
Director Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Archdiocese of Chicago
312-534-5319

This message is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the sender of this e-mail. Thank you.

>>> <catholicchicagoblog@archchicago.org> 3/18/2010 12:44 PM >>>
Mother of O'Connor Victim 8

Here is my comment. I plan on writing a book, my life as a catholic, and I use a small c because that is all it deserves.

My two boys were brought up in the catholic church, in Braidwood, IL.

donald o'connor was the paster there. Many times he sat at my dinner table, took my son fishing, took them on as alter boys, when they got older, 12 13, years old, he even let my older son

count the money on donation money on Sundays. Two weeks before my
I all of the rape and molestations came out in his sessions with his

psychiatrist It destroyed my family to say the least, my younger son, not bothered by this monster, is in therapy no at 38 years old, because he could never deal with his brothers death. They were more than brothers to say the least. Thousands of my dollars have been spent on my therapy, my son's and it broke up my marriage. Which by the way, my ex husband spent much money getting an annulment, so we could marry in the catholic church. I have a

4/1/2010

Released April 2014

story to tell. You wanted a comment, print this. Are they giving lessons on child abuse? donald o'conner is now living in a house in Braidwood, scott free (thanks to the catholics) just blocks away from my Grandson, who attends [REDACTED] My life as a catholic. Good title for a book, No? I know this won't be "catholic material", but then again, rape and murder are not either.

000585

To view all comments, login first, then visit the blog: <http://www.archchicago.org/login.aspx>

Released April 2014

000587

James Byrne

From: Sr Judith Davies [jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2010 2:49 PM
To: *Ms. "F" Email address*
Subject: Re: Donald O'Connor

Dear Mrs. "F"

The Archdiocese of Chicago forwarded a copy of your email to me. Since Braidwood is located in the Joliet Diocese, it would be important for you to speak to someone from our diocese about what happened. Since I do not have your phone number, I'll give you mine: 815-722-6606. If you would rather speak to our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Judy Speckman, her phone number is 815-263-6467.

Although the diocesan offices are closed for Good Friday and for Easter Monday, Judy Speckman would be available by phone sometime during those days.

God bless you.

Sister Judith Davies

4/1/2010