

June 15, 1992

To: File  
From: WFM *W. Medley*  
Re: Reverend Joseph Herp

MS-14 [REDACTED] called the Office of Clergy Personnel today to discuss the assignment of Fr. Herp as pastor of Ascension, an assignment announced at the church on Sunday, June 14. MS-14 wished to come to my office and meet, indicating that in 1978, when he was a youth, Fr. Herp had made improper sexual advances to him.

MS-14 met with me at 2:00 p.m.. He related the following:

In the summer of 1978 on a Sunday evening after a youth liturgy Fr. Herp entertained MS-14, who was then 17 years old, and two other male friends in OLOL rectory. He served them mixed alcoholic drinks. MS-14 relates that he got very drunk and when his friends went home Fr. Herp insisted that he spend the night in the rectory and called his parents to explain. MS-14 was not driving - therefore it appeared Fr. Herp was protecting him from his parent's discovery of his drunkenness - not drunk driving. His friends did not question this.

During the night MS-14 awakened to find Fr. Herp in his bed touching and fondling his genitals. He attempted to arouse him orally as well. MS-14 relates that he was terrified and did not let Fr. Herp know that he had awakened. When he failed to respond Fr. Herp left his bed and his room. The next day MS-14 shared this incident with his two friends, one of whom suggested that he had heard of a similar incident or advance to a youth.

Later that same summer MS-14 accompanied his two friends for an overnight to a camp on Rough River. Fr. Herp came along. Although MS-14 had misgivings he was determined that no such opportunity would present itself. In fact during the night Fr. Herp came again to his bed. When MS-14 sprung out of bed and asked, "What are you doing?" Fr. Herp insisted he was just looking for a pillow or blanket. MS-14 went to a friend's room and told him, "He's after me again." After this incident he simply avoided any contact with Fr. Herp.

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MS-14 explained that other than his two high school friends the only other person to whom he had ever related these stories was his wife. She is the only one aware that he was planning to report this to the Archdiocese.

MS-14 insists that he does not believe that Fr. Herp should be in a parish or any assignment where children or youth might be compromised. He strongly suggested that he expected Fr. Herp's assignment to Ascension to be revoked and if this did not happen he was willing to address the matter in whatever manner necessary to assure this. He said that if I felt a need for verification he was confident his high school friends would recall the incidents and their approximate timing.

I assured MS-14 that I would discuss this matter with Archbishop Kelly and Fr. Breen and that Fr. Herp would be confronted.