



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

CHANCERY OFFICE
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MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105-0310

December 14, 1983

I met today with Fr. Mark Fleming. Fr. John Quinn, the Director of Catholic Charities, assisted at the meeting. The following points were discussed in regard to the child abuse case involving the [REDACTED] children from Hudson.

1. Father Christian indicated his disappointment with Fr. Fleming for withholding information concerning his attempted abuse of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and lying about the extent of his involvement with [REDACTED]. Fr. Fleming admitted he had lied but had done so out of fear. Both Fr. Christian and Fr. Quinn indicated that we needed this information to help Fr. Fleming and that any concealment would harm him. Fr. Fleming then indicated that he had done nothing more than fondle the children and that there had never been any other cases of this in Hudson or in any other place.
2. Father Christian questioned Fr. Fleming about his relationship with the man whose house he lives in in New Bedford. Father Fleming denied any homosexual relationship and claimed that the man in question is not homosexual himself nor are any of the friends that on occasion frequent the house. Fr. Christian pointed out that Fr. Fleming was very lucky that he legally was not being prosecuted under the Mann act.
3. Fr. Quinn indicated that the State of N.H. is being as helpful as possible in this case. While we cannot yet guarantee that the state will not seek legal action, we are hopeful that it will not. He indicated that Fr. Fleming's complete cooperation with us was required for us to have the best chance of avoiding prosecution. Fr. Fleming agreed to give it.
4. Fr. Christian indicated that the Diocese had arranged for residential treatment beginning Dec. 21, 1983 at the House of Affirmation in Webster Groves, Missouri. He is to go to St. Anselm's College on December 15 to make a retreat until he departs from Webster Groves and is under no conditions to have any contact with the [REDACTED] family or to set foot in Hudson. Fr. Scruton will arrange for the packing of his belongings and they will be stored for him. He is expected to cooperate fully with the program at Webster Groves. Fr. Fleming agreed to all of this and welcomed the chance at a residential program.
5. The seriousness of what he had done was stressed again with emphasis being placed on the trauma to the children, the effect on [REDACTED] and the potential harm done to the marriage relationship itself given Mrs. [REDACTED] own history of child abuse as a child. Fr. Fleming appeared to understand this and was very contrite and anxious to work out his problem to avoid any repetition of it in the future.

Francis T. Christian
Chancellor