

July 23, 1990

Bishop O'Keefe:

Following are the basic facts as have been presented to me in the past months regarding the accusations toward Fr. Janssen.

1) I first discussed this situation with me following hospitalization of [redacted] at Veterans Hospital in Iowa City. Fr. Martin and Fr. Hitch, as chaplains who came in touch with this situation, recommended them to me for pastoral assistance to deal with their unvoiced feelings of involvement with their son [redacted]. Initially their concern centered on [redacted] and his present sexual preference of homosexuality which was instrumental in his being dismissed from the seminary. At that time I asked the diocese to no longer send bills for education to his parents home because of the difficulty it caused for them. It was later that I counseled them on returning the sacraments. Following this difficulty and their attitude toward Fr. Janssen and having shared this information with another priest and having been refused absolution for their inability to forgive, they were away from the sacraments for some time.

2) Most recently I was contacted/confronted by [redacted] and his wife came to me for help with marriage problems. [redacted] was suffering from extremely low self-esteem, lack of ability to trust anyone including his wife, was verbally abusive to his children. Since these problems were beyond what I could counsel, I recommended that [redacted] and if his wife [redacted] was willing, go to the Neuman Clinic here in Fort Madison for professional counseling. [redacted] entered counseling. It was during this counseling that [redacted] came into touch with his past experiences with Fr. Janssen which he had repressed well but were quite likely the base cause of his family problems. It was at this time that he revealed this information to his wife. He also came to me, revealed how he had been taken in by Fr. Janssen and was involved in such actions which are of great shame to him today. It affects his respect for authority, especially church authority. In our conversation he told me that he knew priests would "take care of their own" and would cover up. It was at this time I assured him I would report to you what had happened.

3) [redacted] resentment is described in how Fr. Janssen lured him into this activity. He basically says that he (Fr. Janssen) created a devious mentality that certain things were not wrong and this was your way of getting into the club (coded later as "Tru Blu"). They were encouraged to shop lift--it was fun and a simple way to break down his moral code. As time went on you were invited to go swimming nude--the first time you might be able to wear trunks but later, since others were, you were practically forced by peer pressure to swim nude. As time went on [redacted] started smoking for the first time, obtaining the cigarettes from Fr. Janssen. He was introduced to alcohol by Fr. Janssen for the first time at age 13 at which he also became intoxicated. This

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progressed to stag movies being viewed at the rectory in Farmington. also relates how he lost respect for the collar. Fr. Janssen would brag about what he could get for them by just putting on his collar and going into stores and getting free whatever he wanted.

4) At some time after what I have reported they were singled out for the sexual encounters with Fr. Janssen. At this time these involved Fr. Janssen masturbating was then encouraged to do the same in return. In card games following it was often suggested that losers would have to become involved in oral sex but was not involved in this.

5) told me that two close friends of his were also involved: told me that he felt was much more deeply pushed and that he took more of the brunt of all this treatment.

6) The assaults took place in various places. Those reported to me was a "special room in the basement of St. Joe School, the St. Joe rectory following Fr. Boyle's retirement, and a cottage owned by :

7) Mr. has been informed of this. He had no idea such was happening. Being a good Catholic he is very angry that he was used in such a way by Fr. Janssen. He has since severed all friendships with Fr. Janssen and does no longer allow him to bring young men to stay at his present home as guests with Fr. Janssen. He had absolutely no idea such activities were happening. It would be a great injustice to M if such knowledge ever became public. He is a professed bachelor by choice and certainly has no homosexual involvement whatsoever. He too was another victim of Fr. Janssen using his collar and priesthood.

8) What is of grave concern is that this involvement was not just a one time thing many years ago. Fr. Janssen continues to make contact with two of the names I have mentioned.

a) The parents were visiting their son in Chicago in the last couple of years and Fr. Janssen called to make arrangements to meet with . He did not know he was speaking with the father.

b) has been constantly contacted over the years in cards reminding him of "Tru Blu" friendship. The fact that he has never acknowledged 's wife or children is of concern to them. He has visited at the in the past couple years. In touching by putting his arm on his shoulders or attempting to rub his back was sickened by the experience. Fr. Janssen has also gone to their home but knows that he has not been welcomed by since he has ignored her. The fact that a boy was in the car when he stopped was also reported.

9) As and have talked they imply that these incidents are not isolated but their feeling and anger is that he has always kept a "stable of boys" available.

10) After [redacted] came to me I felt it necessary to speak with Fr. Hyland and Fr. Amborn since this knowledge, if revealed publicly in Fort Madison would affect the three of us. Fr. Hyland stated that a set of parents came to him and reported they felt they had a son involved with Fr. Janssen years ago. Fr. Amborn related a story of [redacted] old implying that Fr. Janssen, several years ago while stationed in Newton, was sent home from a national boy scout gathering at William & Mary College. He knew of no details beyond that.

11) Fr. Hitch also related to me that there must have been a history of such practice from some other information revealed to him. I do not have this persons name but this person approached Fr. Hitch when he was Pastor at Hills. The story involved concerned Fr. Janssen and some involvement in Clinton. There was a club in Clinton and the activity involved getting an erection in front of the priests involved.

12) After my coming to know this information about Fr. Janssen and his activities with boys, I refused to let him stay at St. Mary's Rectory. Previously he has stayed overnight with a young man and insisted they would use the same room and that it was fine to share the bed.

13) Also mentioned as priests were Fr. Bass and Fr. Geerts.

14) The family feels this action should be taken:

a) He should be out of priesthood and would not be permitted to retire or quit carrying with him the dignity of the priesthood or what it might avail him to. He cannot be just turned loose to continue this activity.

b) That he acknowledge he has a problem.

c) That he seek treatment.

d) That he have no contact with the [redacted] Family.

e) That this not be covered up by just re-assigning him.

15) In reviewing these pages I left out some statement [redacted] made concerning confession and the confessing of masturbation. He had been directed by Fr. Janssen to confess the masturbation to him since he understood what it was about and that to confess other things to other priests. [redacted] feels this was certainly an abuse of the confessional.