

CONFIDENTIAL

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DATE: July 19, 1996
TO: Archbishop Rembert Weakland
Bishop Richard Skiba
Reverend Carol Straub
FROM: Liz Piasecki, PsyD.
RE: REVEREND FRANKLYN BECKER

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

On July 17, 1996, I had an extended conversation with Dr. Marlene Trachsel, the psychologist who is treating Father Becker. She had requested that I call her regarding Father Becker and the allegations against him. We have a written release from Father Becker to share this information.

During the course of that conversation, Dr. Trachsel articulated the following concerns:

1. Father Becker is fixated on the most recent allegation, that is, the calls to me from the individual that I have not identified because that individual fears reprisal from Father Becker against his elderly parents who still live in the Milwaukee area. I, again, refused to disclose that individual's name or other identifying information, and Dr. Trachsel accepted that, noting Father Becker has reported so many sexual incidents that, there is plenty of material to work on in therapy. Father Becker has given his written permission to share the log items, on prior concerns from the past with Dr. Trachsel, and I have sent them to her at her request.
2. Father Becker, now (again), identifies himself as a pedophile and asked Dr. Trachsel to sign a statement to that effect so that he could collect on a private disability policy which he holds. She refused to do so although she agrees essentially that he is one.
3. Dr. Trachsel fears that Father Becker may be capable of, if not already engaging in, physical abuse of his elderly mother. He has reported to her one incident of hitting his mother with a slipper, recently. Dr. Trachsel had recommended to Father Becker that he work at the parish office in order to get away from his mother. I told her that was not permissible and out of the question.

AMIL00757

CONFIDENTIAL

Franklin Becker
July 19, 1996
Page 2

4. Father Becker is in conflict with some adolescent boys who live next door, and she wonders if there hasn't been some kind of prior advances which have contributed to the present aggression against him by these boys.
5. She believes Father Becker may be in possession of child pornography in his home.
6. Dr. Trachsel reported that Father Becker is in a lot of fear over going to prison because of his "past" behavior. I questioned whether there may be some involvement, of which we are unaware, which is still under the criminal statute. She said she would not be surprised, but knows of no specifics of that at this time.
7. Father Becker remains in much denial. He does discuss other priests and their sexual orientation/behavior with her and has brought her letters and material which were sent to the Milwaukee Sentinel by him, years ago.
8. There is no question in Dr. Trachsel's mind that Father Becker remains a risk to act out. He continues to go on cruises which he describes as cruises for elderly people. She questions whether they bring their grandchildren. He hopes to "gain the respect" of the Archbishop and the Archdiocese, again, but still is very poor at taking responsibility for any of his past behaviors. At the minimum, he hopes to "get to retirement." He verbalizes that he is a good priest who worked hard contrary to other's reports of him.

Dr. Trachsel points out that given his mother's age (90+), Father Becker is likely to be the responsibility of the Archdiocese for another 30 years.

My question: Should we be considering encouraging the focus of therapy to shift to counseling him out of the priesthood and voluntary resignation, and asking Dr. Trachsel to start working on that?

ECP:saz

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