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Psychological Evaluation

Subject's Name: Rev. Franklyn Becker

Dates of Testing: February 5 - 8, 1996

Instruments Administered:

Clinical Interview; Shipley Institute of Living Scale; Edwards Personal Preference Schedule; Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, Revised (MMPI-2); Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, Revised (MCMI-III); Rorschach Inkblot Technique.

Introduction:

Fr. Franklyn Becker is a fifty-eight year-old white male diocesan priest from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee who was referred for the present assessment because of concerns about his history of sexual behavior with minors. Documentation accompanying this referral suggested that Franklyn has a lengthy history of such incidents spanning a period of twenty years. He denied frank sexual involvement with minor children; he did acknowledge episodic sexual contact with adults.

With reference to his sexual history, Franklyn reported that he was "the best little boy in the world" as a child and that he never intended throughout his life to have sex with anyone. He reported some minor sex play as a child with a neighbor girl. He also reported playing strip poker with his older brother, an activity which he found sexually arousing. Franklyn admitted to a homosexual orientation. He acknowledged a number of attractions over the years, beginning in his seminary days. He reported one incident of rape by a drunken priest in 1969. He also admitted being seduced by several other adult men. He indicated that his involvement with teenagers was paternal and that he would manifest signs of affection to them at times. He showed little awareness of the possible impact of his specific behavior in this regard. Franklyn denied sexual fantasies of children.

A previous assessment performed in 1983 by Psychological Associates was reviewed in the course of this assessment. That report included a diagnosis of Pedophilia, although Franklyn consistently denied such involvement. He did admit that he may be an epebophile. He minimized his physical contact with minors, despite the fact that allegations have persisted over the years and that he was on limited ministry as a result of those charges. As will be noted later in this report, it is likely that Franklyn's awareness of the nature and impact of his sexual activity is markedly circumscribed. His sexual history, however, is not suggestive of fixated Pedophilia so much as it is of polymorphous homosexuality.

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It is also noteworthy that Franklyn's own appreciation of his life contains some significant inconsistencies. On both the written material he prepared for this evaluation, as well as in direct interview, he claimed that he had been celibate all of his life, despite the fact that he later acknowledged a sexual involvement. When pressed about this, he indicated that the reference to his maintenance of celibacy meant that he had never had intercourse with anyone. This is a peculiar response in the light of his history; however, it appears emblematic of a more basic issue in Franklyn's life around telling the truth, as will be noted later in this report.

Cognitive Functioning:

The Shipley Institute of Living Scale is a cognitive screening device designed to provide an estimate of overall intellectual ability as well as an index of possible impairment of intellectual function secondary to organicity or to neuropsychological impairment. According to these data, Franklyn is currently functioning in the High Average range of intelligence. There was some diminution of his cognitive ability, probably secondary to anxiety experienced on this assessment. It is noteworthy that these results are lower than that obtained in a more extensive intellectual test battery given in 1983. However, these differences are likely to be attributable to increasing age and anxiety.

Personality Functioning:

The Edward's Personal Preference Schedule is a forced-choice instrument designed to elicit those preferences which govern a person's day-to-day patterns of responding. According to these data, Franklyn's highest-felt needs revolve around Nurture, Change, Affiliation, Achievement, and Succorance. These data suggest that Franklyn tends to be preoccupied with issues of care and attention. He describes himself as a person who is willing to accord nurture, sympathy, care, and compassion to others; he also describes himself as a person who longs for these things in return, even though his possibilities for fulfillment of such needs are limited. It is likely that Franklyn's needs for affection obscure his view of what transpires in relationships when he experiences warmth, and impact his behavior in ways over which he has only nominal awareness. The high change score suggests that Franklyn values engaging in new and different behaviors. The high affiliation score suggests that he places a very high value on his bonds to larger social groups of which he is a part and may see himself as a very loyal person. Finally, the high

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achievement score suggests that Franklyn is the type of person who likes to take on challenging tasks and who places a very high value on the completion of duties. It is noteworthy that the consistency score on this instrument was lower than is desirable, suggesting some lack of awareness on Franklyn's part regarding the actual nature of his preferential style.

The MMPI-2 profile produced by this subject was valid.

The MMPI-2 clinical profile itself was within normal limits. However, these data suggest that Franklyn is likely to exhibit certain personality features which make him react maladaptively under conditions of stress. Such features include chronic dissatisfaction with life, emotional immaturity, feelings of inadequacy, and a tendency toward low self-control. Persons with similar but more elevated profiles are generally prone to acting out and experience significant frustration with themselves and their own accomplishments. Franklyn may exhibit little respect for societal standards and may often find himself in conflict with them. He has the ability to create a positive first impression but he is prone to manipulating others. Beneath a public self-presentation of competence, Franklyn is likely to be introverted, self-conscious, and passive-dependent.

Subscale analysis suggests that Franklyn's ego strength is within the normal range, predicting satisfactory coping in most day-to-day situations. It is noteworthy that he obtained significant elevations on the Repression subscale, suggesting that the extent to which he has submerged unacceptable impulses is high. He also obtained an elevated score on the Naivete subscale, suggesting that Franklyn's expectations around people may be inconsistent with his intelligence and level of education.

The MCMI-III profile produced by this subject was valid, although Franklyn's response style reflects a well established need for social approval and/or a general naivete about psychological matters.

The MCMI-III clinical profile focuses on those enduring personality characteristics which underlie whatever difficulties a person may be having. This clinical profile suggests that Franklyn tends to dampen his emotions and desires to reduce his anxieties and mistrust of others, features of his experience which are pervasive in his life. His behavior may be typified by shyness, discomfort, and awkwardness in social situations. This may stem in part from a tendency to think poorly of

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himself and his abilities. His social awkwardness may also reflect a longstanding effort to keep people at a distance. Being emotionally sensitive and easily upset, he may have learned that he will experience difficulties with others, and he may especially anticipate frequent rejection. For these reasons, he may remain hesitant about being sociable and extending himself to others. This appears to be a problem that spreads from one setting to another. Past desires for closeness and affection may now be self-protectively denied. Easily hurt by criticism of others, Franklyn may avoid social encounters and give in quickly to the wishes of those who act more assertively. Having few relationships, he may pursue his activities entirely alone. He may persistently be concerned with social rebuff and continue to anticipate rejection. There is a tendency, therefore, to become isolated from everyday relationships, with much time spent in daydreaming rather than being involved with people.

These data further suggest that Franklyn's self-image appears to be one of being weak, unmasculine, and ineffective, although he may not readily admit these perceptions. It is also likely that he will view ordinary responsibilities and stresses as excessively demanding. Moodiness characterized by fearfulness and anxiety may also occur with some frequency. In addition, he is likely to report fatigue, a low level of energy, and persistent periods of moderate anxiety and depression. Not particularly trustful of others nor inclined to take the initiative about things, Franklyn is not likely to go out of his way to report emotional problems. Although he is not indifferent to signs of distress and disillusionment, his characteristic social hesitation and fearfulness may result in delays in voicing complaints. His mood disharmony may well be hidden and reported mostly by others rather than by himself. The establishment of a sense of safety and rapport will be a challenging but necessary part of treatment efforts.

The Rorschach data suggest that Franklyn is a man of some constitutional strength. His psychological controls tend to be similar to those of most people; that is, he is not likely to act impulsively unless stress is unusually prolonged or severe. Most of his decisions are likely to be the result of deliberation on his part. This does not mean that such decisions will be adaptive. These data further suggests that the impact of Franklyn's emotions are inconsistent in how they influence his thinking, problem solving, and decision-making behaviors. He is vulnerable to being overly influenced by emotions when they become intense and can easily get carried away. These data suggest that he is in considerable distress at present, largely because of a tendency on his part to hold in feelings he would rather express openly. When it comes to expressing his feelings,

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Franklyn tends to be significantly more over-controlled than most people. This finding suggests a marked fearfulness on his part of being involved in intense affective displays. Finally, these data suggest that Franklyn is often confused by emotion and that he may feel positive and negative feelings in response to a given situation. It may be hard for him to bring closure to emotional situations.

At the core of these concerns is a man who tends not to be very introspective and who appears to be less involved with self-awareness. As a result, Franklyn's self-image is based as much as on how he would like to see himself rather than upon his actual experience. This finding suggests a lack of maturity and includes distorted notions of the self. These features of Franklyn's life appear to have their roots in his family of origin, which was characterized by pronounced deficits in parental structures, as discussed in the enclosed psychosocial report.

Interpersonally, Franklyn prefers a passive but not necessarily submissive role in his relationships with others. He tends to avoid responsibility for decision making and is less likely than most people to search for new solutions to problems. In that he is a rather negative person, these data suggest that he is likely to exhibit passive-aggressive behavior. He tends to see himself as a victim of external factors, including his own sexual orientation, the doctrines and attitudes of the church, and his diminished reputation among the clergy in the diocese. While he has typical needs for closeness with others and is possessed of an average interest in being with them, he tends not to anticipate positive interactions among people routinely, largely because of his pervasive mistrust.

The Rorschach also screens for a number of cognitive features which impact a person's adaptational style. These data suggest that Franklyn lacks a marked stylistic approach to problem solving or decision making. This lack of consistency makes him vulnerable to errors in judgment, and he may have a hard time arriving at a firm decision. It may also take him more time to come to decisions than most people. These data also suggest rigidity in the ways in which Franklyn thinks about issues and values in his life. It is likely to require considerable energy for him to modify his characteristic attitudes. He is possessed of an average willingness to process the complexity of new stimulus fields and also has a positive motivation to deal with new information effectively.

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The quality of his information processing is satisfactory; his approach to processing, however, is likely to be irregular at times. Two features which play a prominent role in the difficulties experienced by this man are his tendency to translate his experience in highly-personalized terms and his tendency to rely excessively upon fantasy as a defense. His idiosyncratic approach to interpreting his experience may lead others to see him as out of step with his environment, or even as eccentric or deviant. His tendency to rely on fantasy as a way of dealing with the world markedly diminishes his ability to face the extent of actual problems in his life. It also fosters a self-imposed sense of helplessness because of the implicit assumption that external forces will remediate his personal difficulties.

Conclusion:

Fr. Franklyn Becker is a fifty-eight year-old white male Catholic priest who is currently experiencing distress. Available data suggests that Franklyn is a naive, frightened man, who shows little insight into his own psychological and emotional functioning, despite his high level of intelligence. His misconception of himself is well fixed and will likely be difficult to change. If treatment is considered, consideration should be given to the safety of a facility; a residential facility would be useful in this regard. Treatment would best proceed with initial confrontations about the objective nature of Franklyn's behavior with others, especially with minor children. These efforts will be significant with respect to Franklyn's ability to develop a more realistic appreciation of the impact of his behavior on others. Work in the area of developing Franklyn's capacity for empathy will also be significant. As he increases in such awareness, he will also require basic social skills training, including ways to handle his emotions; the development of basic communication skills, and increased awareness of his actual versus fantasized needs as an adult male. Simply put, Franklyn does not recognize his behavior for what it is. He denies the role of power and the role of his own sexual strivings in his interactions with those to whom he is drawn or otherwise attracted. He tends to see himself as victimized by the actions of others and takes little responsibility for his own sexual health. His mistrust of himself and his own emotional life plays into this. He exhibits a tendency to be manipulative and is prone to prevarication; part of this seems to derive from the primitive denial evidenced by this man, who has difficulty tolerating the truth about how he in fact functions. He clearly prefers to see himself as a gifted and special person who has been faithful to his promises, despite his record. Given the current state of affairs, Franklyn remains vulnerable to acting out in the future, especially as he becomes

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close to others in relationship.

Another major issue in consideration of the disposition for treatment is the issue of Franklyn's motivation. His current level of denial leads him to be more satisfied with himself than circumstances warrant, and it may be necessary to bring external pressures to bear to assist him in increasing his level of motivation.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul M. Midden, Ph.D.,
Clinical Director

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