

000368

Confidential
Attorney/Client Privilege

Q&A – INTERNAL USE ONLY
O'CONNOR
May 17, 2002

1. Why was Father Donald O'Connor removed as pastor of Assumption parish in Coal City?
 - An allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor that occurred more than 30 years ago was reported to the Diocese of Joliet on May 14.
 - In accord with our policy, the allegation was investigated and a determination was made by the Diocesan Review Committee.
 - (Fr. O'Connor admitted his actions.)
 - The Committee recommended that Father O'Connor be removed from ministry.
 - The victim was prompted to report the allegations after reading a published letter in which Bishop Imesch encouraged victims to come forward.
2. What are the specific circumstances surrounding the allegations against Father O'Connor? (i.e. age of the victim at the time of abuse, specific details of incident, etc.)
 - I'm sorry, but I don't believe any interest would be served by sharing those details.
 - The important thing is that the allegations were determined to be credible. In accord with our policy, appropriate action was taken upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Review Committee.
3. Have there been any prior allegations of sexual misconduct with minors involving Father O'Connor? If so, explain.
 - There have been no prior allegations of sexual misconduct reported to us involving this priest.
4. Have his parishioners been informed?
 - Yes. Parishioners were informed (are in the process of informing) parishioners during regular weekend Masses. Parishioners also will soon be receiving a letter from the Bishop about the situation.
 - We are deeply saddened by this tragic development and have assured parishioners that our primary concern is for the safety of children and the for healing of all victims of abuse.

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- We have assured parishioners that we are here to reach out to offer pastoral support to help and comfort them, particularly during this difficult and painful time.
 - In addition, we have arranged for a team of experienced counselors to meet with them to help respond to their questions and concerns.
5. How did parishioners react to the news that their pastor was the latest in a series of 11 priests associated with the Joliet Diocese to have been removed from ministry in recent weeks as a result of allegations of sexual misconduct with minors?
- Many are understandably shocked and saddened.
 - We have assured them that we are here to reach out to offer pastoral support to help and comfort them, particularly during this difficult and painful time.
 - We also know that these parishioners are strong and compassionate people who will help each other through this difficult time.
6. Are some parishioners angry?
- There may be some who are angry. We sincerely hope that they will speak with us about their feelings or with one of the experienced counselors whom we will have available at their parish.
 - This is a difficult and painful time for all involved. We hope that anyone who has concerns will share their feelings and ask us any questions they may have in order to begin the healing process.
7. Where is Father O'Connor now? What is his status?
- He is at an undisclosed location.
 - He has been removed from his position as pastor at Assumption parish and from all ministry.
 - In accord with our policy, he will be offered professional evaluation and treatment as necessary.
 - He will not be assigned to any ministry.
8. How will the Diocese of Joliet ensure that no minors are placed at risk because of this priest?
- He has been removed from his position as pastor and from all ministry.
 - He will be offered appropriate professional evaluation and treatment as necessary.

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- He will not be assigned to any ministry .
- 9. Will Father O'Connor be monitored? How? By whom?
 - He will be with someone who is aware of his past action.
- 10. Is Father O'Connor facing criminal charges?
 - That is for civil authorities to determine.
- 11. Do you anticipate that the victim will pursue legal action against Father O'Connor and the Diocese of Joliet?
 - The person will not be pressing charges.
 - We are committed to acting responsibly and compassionately toward all victims of child sexual abuse with the goal of helping them to heal.
- 12. Father O'Connor is the 11th priest removed from ministry in the Diocese of Joliet in recent weeks because of substantiated allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor. I understand the diocese only has about 200 priests, so this seems like an unusually high number. Why do you think this is happening in your diocese?
 - I can't speculate on what the number means.
 - I can only tell you that we've been taking actions based on the recommendation of the Diocesan Review Committee to help ensure that we are doing everything in our power to protect children. In addition:
 - We are cooperating fully with civil authorities.
 - We are continuing to encourage victims and anyone with information about such abuse to come forward.
 - We are taking quick and decisive action to remove priests who might pose a risk to children whenever an allegation of this nature is made.
 - These actions are being taken with the hope that everyone affected by the tragedy of sexual misconduct with minors can begin to heal and move forward with God's help.

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13. Some of your critics have suggested this number is so high because Bishop Inesch has mishandled the situation over the years and that's what's led to the problem today. What is your response to these critics' assertions?

■ I can only respond by saying that we cannot change the past. But we can do everything in our power to help make sure that children are safe and victims are always treated with compassion and respect. Our commitment includes:

➤ Cooperating fully with civil authorities.

➤ Continuing to encourage victims and anyone with information about such abuse to come forward.

➤ Taking quick and decisive action to remove priests who might pose a risk to children whenever an allegation of this nature is made.

14. For the past six weeks or so, a steady stream of priests associated with the Diocese of Joliet have been removed from ministry. When will this end? Can the public expect to hear about more priests' removals in the near term?

■ I cannot speculate.

■ I sincerely hope there are no more incidents of sexual misconduct with minors anywhere, ever again.

■ But, we recognize our ongoing responsibility to ensure the safety of the children in our care, and we openly encourage anyone who wishes to report information about an allegation involving a priest from our diocese to contact us or, if they prefer, to go directly to civil authorities.

000380

MEMORANDUM

May 21, 2002

TO: Reverend Arno Dennerlein
Sacred Heart Parish, Lombard

FAX: 630-~~476-7491~~ 627-0688


FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Reverend Donald O'Connor

Would you please make the following announcement at all your Masses this weekend?

An allegation was recently brought against Father Donald O'Connor. Father O'Connor was stationed at our parish from June of 1966 to June of 1967. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father O'Connor, please contact the pastor or the Diocese.

Thank you very much.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

000382

MEMORANDUM

May 21, 2002

TO: Reverend Richard Ross
St. Bernard Parish, Joliet

FAX: 815-726-4520 (call first)

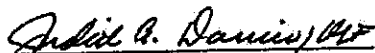
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Reverend Donald O'Connor

Would you please make the following announcement at all your Masses this weekend?

An allegation was recently brought against Father Donald O'Connor. Father O'Connor was stationed at our parish from June of 1987 to June of 1999. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father O'Connor, please contact the pastor or the Diocese.

Thank you very much.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Sr. Judith Davies

000395

From: "Advisory Group" <advisorygroup@dioceseofjoliet.org>
To: "Sr. Judith Davies" <jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2002 5:22 PM
Subject: FW: Sexual Abuse Case

-----Original Message-----

Parents of O'Connor Victim 2

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2002 5:44 PM
To: advisorygroup@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Sexual Abuse Case

Dear Advisory Group,

Could you please ensure the following information is given to Bishop Joseph Imesch or Bishop Roger L. Kaffer (my former principal of Providence H.S., New Lenox, IL), thanks.

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a married 37 y.o. male now living in Arizona. I was an altar boy for Fr. O'Connor at Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood, Illinois in the late 1970's. I was sexually abused by Fr. Donald O'Connor around this time. The only reason I would like to report the abuse I suffered at the hands of Fr. O'Connor is because someone else has. My sole intention for reporting the abuse is so I can move on with my life. I am relieved to learn (today) that someone else has reported Fr. O'Connor. I sincerely did not want to ruin his career but I feel it is necessary to report the abuse so others may come forward. My mother sent me a newspaper article from the Morris Daily Herald dated Monday, May 20, 2002.

I decided that the sexual abuse from Fr. O'Connor was enough so I wrote him a letter telling him that I would not go to his house/rectory anymore when I was about 14-15 years old (approx. 1979). I believe that Fr. O'Connor contacted my mother shortly after my letter to him. I did not know that my mother or family knew of the sexual abuse until my letter from my mother today. My mother [REDACTED] wrote to me in her letter, "While I was in Illinois, I was looking at the Channel 9 News when they showed a map of Illinois and pinpointed Coal City and said Father O. was removed from his position at Coal City. I wasn't shocked - I was sure someone would report him eventually. (my brother-in-law) suggested I report him - now I won't need to. Remember when I talked to Fr. O when you and (my older brother) were altar boys. He told me if I didn't tell anyone (about the abuse) he would get help. I'm so happy someone reported him. Why don't you write a letter to the Diocese of Joliet reporting your experiences with him. I'll bet Mrs. [REDACTED] will (an elementary school friend)".



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000411

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

November 20, 2002

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Donald O'Connor,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$80.00, which represents the offerings for 8 Masses for the intentions listed on the enclosed card. If you are able to accept this responsibility, I would ask you to return the bottom portion of this letter to the Chancery.

The next set of Mass Stipends will be sent to you by December 1. You will be on the regular schedule at that time.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JAD: rav
Enclosure

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 8 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor



FR. O'CONNOR SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 449

Diocese of Joliet

000413

Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

December 3, 2002

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Donald O'Connor,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$900.00, which represents the offerings for 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the enclosed card. If you are able to accept this responsibility, I would ask you to return the bottom portion of this letter to the Chancery.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JAD: ray
Enclosure

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor



FR. O'CONNOR SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 452

Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000416

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

February 28, 2003

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Donald O'Connor,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$900.00, which represents the offerings for 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the enclosed card. If you are able to accept this responsibility, I would ask you to return the bottom portion of this letter to the Chancery.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JAD: rav
Enclosure

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor

REPRODUCED FROM THE DICTIONARY OF JOLIE T NO. 467

0007429

O'CONNOR DONALD

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
Information & Technology Command
Bureau of Identification
260 North Chicago Street
Joliet, Illinois 60432

Page: 1 of 1

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET IN IL.
425 SUMMIT ST.
JOLIET, IL 60435

ACCOUNT STATEMENT BY COST CENTER

Start date: 03/01/04
End date: 03/31/04

Cost Center: 2314 Cost Center Name: MODEM AGENCY

ORI: MS0307465 Agency Name: ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET IN IL.

ACCOUNT DEBITS

Actl. Date	Subm. Name	TCN	Subject Name	Result	Result Date	Sent To	Fee Waived	Resubm.	Amount
03/12/04	UCIA	RFT1110001445960	DEDERA, PHILLIP J			State			<\$7.00>
	UCIA	RFT1110001445961	OKEEFE, MICHAEL			State			<\$7.00>
03/12/04	UCIA	RFT1110001445962	OCONNOR, DONALD G			State			<\$7.00>

ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

Activity Date	Payment Type	Comments	Amount
03/22/04	CHECK	DEPOSIT 179 03/22/04 TMD	\$124.00

Beginning Balance: \$97.00
Ending Balance: \$200.00



Diocese of Joliet

000433

The Tribunal Office

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

February 2, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD O'CONNOR'S FILE

During the week of January 26, Donald O'Connor was sighted at Provena St. Joseph's Medical Center in clerical clothes. A nurse called the Chancery with this information. Apparently, another person who works at the hospital said that she has also seen him dressed in that way. I called Don this morning and he denied that he has dressed in clerical clothes. On his own, he stated that he is not permitted to wear such clothing. It appears that he understands that he will not wear clerical clothes, whether or not he really was seen in such attire.

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella

cc: Bishop Imesch
Bishop Kaffer
Bishop Schlarman
Sister Judith



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000459

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

June 1, 2005

Donald O'Connor
693 Anndon
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Donald O'Connor,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$900.00, which represents the offerings for 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the enclosed card. If you are able to accept this responsibility, I would ask you to return the bottom portion of this letter to the Chancery.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

JAD; rav
Enclosure

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 90 Masses for the intentions listed on the card.

Donald O'Connor

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET RESTRICTED FUNDS ACCOUNT		TO: DONALD O'CONNOR ID: 0004		JOLIET NO. 5001883 000460	
INVOICE NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	NET AMOUNT
	6/1/2005	JUNE MASS STIPEND	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
		Totals	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00

THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK - HOLD AT AN ANGLE TO VIEW



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET
 RESTRICTED FUNDS ACCOUNT
 425 SUMMIT STREET
 JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

HARRIS BANK JOLIET, N.A.
 JOLIET, ILLINOIS

001883

70-59
 719

CHECK DATE	CHECK NO.
6/1/2005	1883

CHECK AMOUNT
***900.00

PAY ** Nine hundred and 00 / 100 Dollars **

TO THE
 ORDER
 OF

DONALD O'CONNOR
 693 ANNDON
 BRAIDWOOD, IL 60408

VOID AFTER 90 DAYS

[Handwritten Signature]

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

001883 071900595 076 7400

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
 CHANCERY
 425 SUMMIT STREET
 JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

90 MASSES TO BE SAID BY DONALD O'CONNOR

- 1-Albert & Amelia Nachtigal
- 89-Repose of the souls of Rev. Anthony DeFilippis and members of the DeFilippis family (parents, brothers & other relatives)

000461

June 8, 2005

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Sister Judith Davies, O.S.F.
FROM: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer
RE: Don O'Connor


I asked Don O'Connor how he is doing, and he said: "Fine." I said I understood he had put his name on the waiting list at St. John Vianney Villa, but he did not remember that he did. I told him that the Villa is next to a school and I said that he might subject himself to some publicity if he were to go there. We did not dwell on it, but I said it. However, as I said he did not remember putting his name on the list.

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

I hereby accept the responsibility of offering 90 Masses for the intentions
listed on the card.


Donald O'Connor

000462