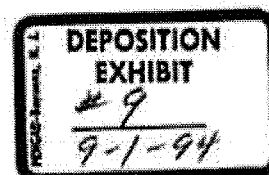


MEMO

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: June 15, 1987
FROM: Fr. Michael J. O'Connell
SUBJECT: AN INCIDENT OF ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS
BY FR. JEROME KERN



On May 4, 1987, Bishop Robert J. Carlson and Father Michael J. O'Connell met with Mrs. Jacki Heutmaker and her adult son, Jamie Heutmaker, age 32, and Mrs. Alice Turning, and her adult son, Chuck Turning, age 31. They asked to meet with us because the publicity around the Fr. Adamson sexual abuse of children case in the winter of 1987 brought the 1969 events back. They are not vindictive about their motives. Rather they felt they were never given any information by the Archdiocese after Fr. Kern was moved from St. Mark's and they wanted to know if he had been given any treatment or had any follow-up after he was moved to Edina in 1969.

Mrs. Jacki Heutmaker and Jamie, Mrs. Mary Alice Turning and Chuck, related the following incident that happened in the summer of 1969:

In the summer of 1969, Chuck, age 13, and Jamie, age 14, were invited, along with two other minor girls, to go swimming by Fr. Jerome Kern at Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis. The two boys had cut-off jeans on at the time. They went to Lake Nokomis with Fr. Kern in one car. Shortly after they commenced swimming, a game of tag began in the water. Fr. Kern kept pushing the boys out into deeper water. At this point, he began to grab them, claiming that he would help them swim.

Chuck Turning, then aged 13, indicated that he was picked up by Fr. Kern, allegedly to help him to swim, although Chuck indicated that he could swim very well without assistance. Chuck alleges that Fr. Kern slipped his hand inside his tight, cut-off jeans and in fact, touched his genitals.

Jamie Heutmaker, then aged 14, indicated that on several occasions, possibly 4 or 5 occasions, Fr. Kern also, in forcing him into deeper water and claiming that he was helping Jamie to swim, forced his hand into Jamie's cut-off jeans and touched his genitals on a number of occasions (4-5).

When all of the swimmers got out of the water and went ashore, Fr. Kern initiated a wrestling match and again, there was a great deal of touching through the clothes that commenced, even though Jamie said that he indicated that he didn't feel well and didn't want to wrestle. Finally, Fr. Kern ceased in this game.

Later that day after the boys had returned to the Heutmaker home, one of the older Heutmaker daughters heard the boys describing the events that had happened at Lake Nokomis and she told her mother, who in turn talked to Mrs. Turning, and they, in turn, brought it to the attention of the Chancery and then to Msgr. Gilligan and ultimately to the St. Paul Police.

Fr. Kern was made aware of this situation, probably by Msgr. Gilligan and Fr. Kern did come over to the Heutmaker home and met with Mrs. Turning and Mr. & Mrs. Heutmaker. His attitude at the time was, in their words,

"brazen". Fr. Kern did not deny that he did these things to the boys. He said that this sort of thing was done all of the time in Europe and it was a common occurrence. Fr. Kern also said that this is the way things are in the world and they should not be disturbed by it. Both of the Heutmackers and Mrs. Turning were terribly offended by Fr. Kern's attitude and the fact that he did not seem to be sorry for what he did, nor did he feel that it was wrong, nor did he apologize to them.

Some time after this in the fall of 1969, the police investigated these accusations by interviewing each of the boys and subsequent to that, the Chief of Police of St. Paul at the time called Mrs. Turning and assured her that Fr. Kern would no longer be assigned in St. Paul, nor would he be assigned in the St. Paul area in the future. Fr. Kern was moved.

As far as any Chancery records show, there was no contact by the Chancery with either the Heutmacker or Turning family after they accused Fr. Kern of these activities.

On June 5, 1987, Bishop Robert Carlson, Fr. Michael J. O'Connell and Fr. Jerome Kern met in Fr. O'Connell's office. Fr. Kern was asked to read the summary of events previously described. Fr. Kern did not deny the general description of what happened, although he said he did not invade the cut-off shorts so far as to touch the genitals of the two boys.

When Fr. O'Connell asked him if his motives and intentions were as inappropriate as the events seemed to describe, he admitted that his actions were totally inappropriate. Fr. Kern felt that none of the Chancery personnel at the time were direct with him as to why he was transferred to Edina in January, 1970, except that Fr. William Kenney, the Priest Personnel Director, said it was "in reference to the Heutmacker case."

Bp. Carlson told Fr. Kern that he saw Fr. Kern enter a part of Loring Park in Minneapolis at a time of night when a high degree of homosexual soliciting takes place. Fr. Kern admitted that it was probably true that he was in the park, but denied that he was a homosexual.

Fr. Kern said that he was willing to go to Jemez Springs to get an evaluation. He seems genuinely interested in getting some help.