

STRICTLY
CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: October 23, 1987
MEMO TO: Archbishop Roach
FROM: Fr. Kevin McDonough
SUBJECT:

On Friday afternoon, October 23, 1987, [REDACTED] came to the Chancery. They asked to speak to the Archbishop and so they were referred to Mert Lassonde. Mert told them that the Archbishop was unavailable and asked if anyone else could be of help to them. At that point, they gave him a general indication of their particular concern. They told him that their [REDACTED] had just reported that he had been touched in an improper manner by a priest. When Mert heard that that was the case, he called Fr. Austin Ward and [REDACTED] sat down with Fr. Ward.

Fr. Ward began to interview them. He called on me and I was present throughout the greater part of the interview as well. The story which they told us is as follows:

Their [REDACTED] reported that about 10 years ago a Fr. Cosmos D. (they did not know his last name), a Benedictine priest working at [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] sit on his lap and kissed [REDACTED] on the lips. [REDACTED] reported this to them in a very emotional discussion at their home on [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] parents are convinced that this childhood incident is connected to many of the behavioral problems that [REDACTED] has experienced over the years. They reported that [REDACTED] was expelled from [REDACTED] in the 10th grade; that [REDACTED] has had problems with juvenile and adult law enforcement authorities.

Both Fr. Ward and I assured [REDACTED] several times that we took their concern very, very seriously and want to follow-up on the problem they are raising. I asked that they would speak with [REDACTED] and see if [REDACTED] would be willing to talk with me in their home. I am currently attempting to set up an interview with [REDACTED]. We told them that we want to help them to know about the various community health resources which may be available to help their [REDACTED]. We also told them that we want to follow-up on the reported behavior of the priest in order to see that a proper response is made.

The reported incident occurred approximately ten years ago, according to the parents. They have no direct knowledge of sexual abuse in the case. Because of this, both Fr. Ward and I are convinced that the statutory provisions requiring the reporting of certain incidents do not apply to this case. However, we are taking it very seriously and intend to follow-up. I will keep you informed as I obtain further information. Based on that information, we will be able to make a recommendation to [REDACTED] for proper community health resources and we will be able to determine what steps should be taken in regard to the priest.

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