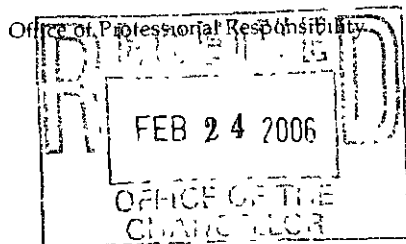


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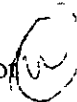


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MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn]

Date: February 20, 2006

PRA traveled with Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests to [REDACTED] Indiana on February 10, 2006 to meet with Rev. Nordquist and Rev. Joseph Bennett. Fr. Nordquist agreed to assist with the monitoring of Fr. Bennett upon his temporary withdrawal from ministry.

Fr. Grace and PRA arrived approximately 15 minutes late for the scheduled 1:00 pm meeting. Fr. Bennett had already arrived at Fr. Nordquist's parish and the two were speaking until Fr. Grace and PRA had joined them.

Fr. Grace and PRA first met with Fr. Nordquist alone for approximately 30 minutes. Fr. Grace began by explaining the situation of Fr. Bennett's temporary withdrawal from ministry and the resulting restrictions to Fr. Nordquist. PRA then provided Fr. Nordquist with copies of the following information that was to be given to Fr. Bennett: Fr. Bennett's Individual Specific Monitoring Protocols, Daily Log form, and a Travel/Vacation Agreement form. In addition, Fr. Nordquist agreed to have Fr. Bennett call him one time per day to check in as well.

Fr. Bennett was then asked to join Fr. Nordquist, Fr. Grace, and PRA. When Fr. Bennett joined the group, PRA asked how he was doing. Fr. Bennett stated that he was doing well and expressed his appreciation for Fr. Grace's phone calls the week before. Fr. Grace and PRA spoke to Fr. Bennett about his temporary withdrawal from ministry and the resulting monitoring protocols that were to begin immediately with the assistance of Fr. Nordquist. PRA clarified for Fr. Bennett that his monitoring protocols to begin that day were not the same as those men who have been withdrawn from ministry, especially that Fr. Nordquist and Fr. Bennett would not be physically residing in the same residence. PRA then went over each line of Fr. Bennett's Individual Specific Monitoring Protocols with him. Fr. Bennett was also provided with a copy of the Daily Log form he was to use and send to PRA at the end of each week. PRA also provided Fr. Bennett with a Travel/Vacation Agreement form and explained that it was to be used any time when he

AOC 000179

would plan to be overnight anywhere other than his home in [REDACTED]. It was also agreed that Fr. Bennett would place a phone call in to Fr. Nordquist at the beginning of each day to check in.

Fr. Bennett informed those present that he met with a woman named Donna with Indiana's Department of Children and Family Services the week before. He stated that he also received a letter from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services as well.

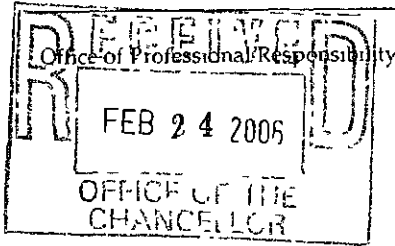
PRA informed Fr. Bennett that copies of his Individual Specific Monitoring Protocols, the Daily Log forms, and the Travel/Vacation Agreement forms would be mailed to him, his canonical advocate Rev. Paul Golden, C.M., J.C.D., and to his civil attorney Mr. Patrick Reardon.

PRA asked Fr. Bennett and Fr. Nordquist to call with any questions or concerns. Fr. Nordquist may be reached at [REDACTED].

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor

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005



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MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-170
From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator
Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn]/ [REDACTED]
Date: February 20, 2006

PRA made a call to Ms. Linda Williams, Supervisor at the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] Hotline on February 1, 2006 to report the alleged sexual abuse of Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms [REDACTED] by Rev. Joseph Bennett.

PRA explained to Ms. Williams that the alleged victims are both adults and that the alleged abuse took place in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Ms. Williams transferred PRA to DCFS Hotline Operator Ms. Janet Headen to take the rest of the information.

When asked by Ms. Headen, PRA provided Fr. Bennett's name, date of birth, and contact information at Holy Ghost parish. PRA informed Ms. Headen that Fr. Bennett had been temporarily withdrawn from the parish by the Archdiocese of Chicago that day. Ms. Headen was informed that it was PRA's understanding that Fr. Bennett would be residing at his private residence in [REDACTED] Indiana. PRA also provided Ms. Headen with the basic details of the allegations of sexual abuse made by Ms [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] respectively against Fr. Bennett. Ms. Headen was also provided with the names, birth dates, and current contact information for Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED]

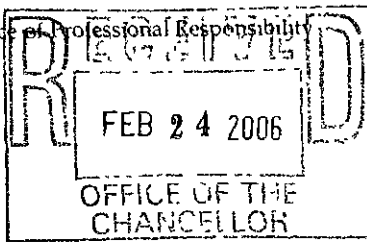
Ms. Headen informed PRA that she would discuss this matter with Ms. Williams. She stated that she would then contact PRA if there was any further information and/or action by the Archdiocese of Chicago needed.

Ms. Headen may be reached by contacting Ms. Williams directly at [REDACTED] or via pager at [REDACTED].

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priest
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

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Office of Professional Responsibility





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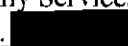

MEMORANDUM





To: File – PFR-170


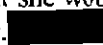
From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] 

Date: February 16, 2006

PRA spoke with Ms. Linda Williams of the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] via phone today regarding an allegation of sexual abuse made by Mr.  against Rev. Joseph Bennett. Ms. Williams was informed that Mr.  is currently an adult and alleges that the abuse took place when he was a minor. Ms. Williams stated that she would have a DCFS Hotline Operator call PRA to obtain additional information.

PRA received a phone call today from Janet Headen. DCFS operator approximately five minutes after hanging up with Ms. Williams. PRA provided Ms. Headen with  date of birth, contact information, and the approximate time frames of the alleged abuse by Fr. Bennett. Ms. Headen was informed that the initial information received regarding the alleged abuse of Mr.  by Fr. Bennett was obtained through an e-mail request made by the victim to the Archdiocese of Chicago. PRA also informed Ms. Headen that third party information of the alleged incidents of abuse were obtained from Mr.  adult sister, Ms. . It was clear that PRA did not have any information in regards to specific incidents of alleged sexual abuse.

PRA provided Ms. Headen with Fr. Bennett's contact information and with Mr.  contact information. Ms. Headen informed PRA that she would forward the call made to the DCFS Hotline regarding the alleged abuse of Mr.  by Fr. Bennett to the DCFS local office. PRA will expect to be contacted via phone by the DCFS worker from the local office who has already been assigned to the recent reported cases of sexual abuse made against Fr. Bennett.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 000182

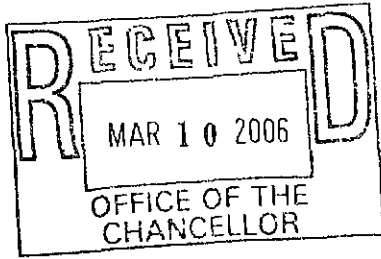
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MEMORANDUM





To: File – PFR-170





From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn]/ 

Date: March 7, 2006

PRA received a phone call from Rev. Paul Golden, C.M., J.C.D. on February 7, 2006 regarding his client Rev. Joseph Bennett, and the allegations of sexual misconduct made against him by 

Fr. Golden was calling to suggest that  [formerly “Sr. ”] be notified of Fr. Bennett’s temporary withdrawal from ministry. PRA informed Fr. Golden that his suggestion would be forwarded to Mr. John O’Malley, Director of Legal Services so that ’s civil attorney  could be notified on her behalf.

When asked, PRA informed Fr. Golden that the Review Board has not requested that   undergo a physical exam [as  had indicated in past correspondence through  that she would].

Fr. Golden then informed PRA that he is “ working on pulling together all of the information that the Review Board hasn’t seen yet...” so that the information could be provided to the Board prior to the next review of this matter on the Review Board agenda. He was asked to forward such information to PRA as soon as he is able so that it could be forwarded to the Board members.

Fr. Golden may be reached at .

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Patricia Zacharias, Professional Responsibility Assistant Administrator
Lay Advisory Group
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
John O’Malley, Office of Legal Services

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Office of Professional Responsibility

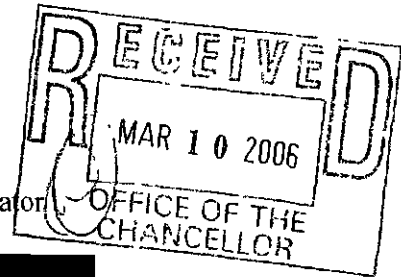


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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170
From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator
Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] [REDACTED]
Date: March 7, 2006



PRA received a voice mail message on February 20, 2006 from Ms. Brigitte Broadway, Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] Investigator concerning the DCFS Hotline call made to report [REDACTED] allegation of sexual abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett. PRA spoke with Ms. Broadway via phone about the aforementioned matter on February 21, 2006.

Ms. Broadway began by asking PRA what she was to do with the information on the alleged past abuse of [REDACTED] as the alleged victim is now an adult. She also asked PRA what had taken [REDACTED] "so long" to report the alleged abuse to the Archdiocese of Chicago. PRA responded by informing Ms. Broadway of the direction given to the Archdiocese of Chicago by the leadership of DCFS to make DCFS Hotline calls on all matters received by the Archdiocese where the accused is still alive, despite the age of the alleged victim. As for Ms. Broadway's question about the time frame of Mr. [REDACTED] report of alleged abuse, PRA informed her that she did not know the answer to that question.

Ms. Broadway stated that she has spoken to [REDACTED] about the alleged abuse and that she asked him "...what he would like to see happen..." As per Ms. Broadway, [REDACTED] informed her that he "...just wants Fr. Bennett to stop [abusing children]."

When asked, PRA informed Ms. Broadway that to date, no allegations against have been received against Fr. Bennett where the victim is currently a minor. When asked, Ms. Broadway stated that she is continuing to follow up on the information provided by PRA of [REDACTED] alleged abuse by Fr. Bennett. It was clarified that PRA would wait to hear from Ms. Broadway of any further developments into the DCFS investigation of this matter.

Ms. Broadway may be reached at [REDACTED].

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor

BENNETT

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Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611



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MEMORANDUM

TO Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
Rev James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review
John O'Malley, Legal Services
✓ Rev Thomas Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the PFRB
Rev Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests

FROM Laura Neri-Palomino^{LNP}, Administrative Assistant
Professional Fitness Review Office

DATE October 23, 2002

RE [PFR-170] Bennett, Rev. Joseph [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 10/23/02. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Interim Professional Fitness Review Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [REDACTED]. Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Bennett, Rev Joseph [REDACTED].

Thank you

Attachment

cc Most Rev Raymond E Goedert

✓ PCAC Notification Memo

AOC 000185

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St
Chicago Illinois 60611

August 26, 2005

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair St.
Chicago, IL 60611

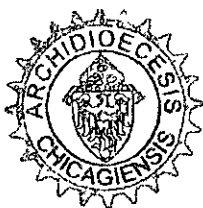
Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note of August 24, 2005 in response to your letter of August 22, 2005, regarding the matter of **Reverend Joseph Bennett**, who was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago and who is currently active in ministry, and the allegations of sexual misconduct that were made against him by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This matter was discussed in a Review for Cause by the Professional Responsibility Review Board at their meeting of August 20, 2005.

I understand the Review Board was unable to come to any conclusion about this matter at this time. I accept its recommendation to postpone a decision on the matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



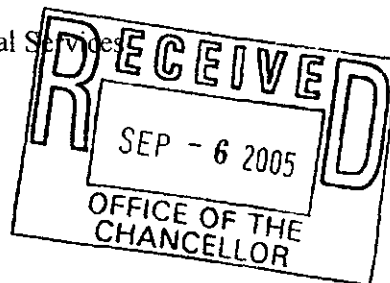
Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Rev. Richard Santini
Ecclesiastical Notary

cc: Reverend George J. Rassas, Vicar General
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services
Reverend Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Minister
Mr. Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services



AOC 000186

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COOPY

Office of Professional Responsibility



PO Box 1979
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Fax (312) 751-5279

June 21, 2004

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on June 19, 2004 and conducted an Initial Review of [redacted] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett pursuant to Article §1104.8 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Bennett is an active priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board recommended in a 5-1 vote that the matter should be investigated and the results of the investigation presented at a Review for Cause. Further, the Board unanimously recommended that Fr. Bennett continue in his assignment with no restrictions or monitoring. The Board suggested that the Vicar for Clergy advise Fr. Bennett that he should be prudent.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

I accept the recommendations for an investigation for review for cause.

*F. George
June 21, 2004*

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar

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JUN 22 2004

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
LNP

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: June 8, 2004

RE: [PFR-170]Bennett, Joseph R. (Active)/ [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 12/3/03. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator has begun the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [REDACTED]. Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Bennett, Joseph R./ [REDACTED].

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Most Rev. Edwin M. Conway

AOC 000188

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

May 12, 2004

Sr. Barbara Bowers, SSND
Provincial
1431 Euclid
Berwyn, Illinois 60402

JOSEPH BENNETT

Dear Sr. Bowers,

My name is Leah McCluskey and I am the Professional Responsibility Administrator at the Archdiocese of Chicago. I work in the Office of Professional Responsibility, where we receive all allegations of sexual misconduct made against priests and deacons of the Archdiocese.

I am writing this letter with respect to an allegation of misconduct made by Ms. [REDACTED] against an Archdiocesan priest and Sr. [REDACTED] whom I believe was a School Sister of Notre Dame. As is the procedure of this office, I met with Ms. [REDACTED] as a result of her interest in formalizing her allegation against both the accused cleric and Sr. [REDACTED]. I have enclosed all documentation that our office has at this time regarding Ms. [REDACTED] allegation concerning Sr. [REDACTED]'s alleged involvement. Nonetheless, due to the fact that Sr. [REDACTED] is [or was] a School Sister of Notre Dame, I am forwarding this information to you so that you may follow up with your own process.

Once you have processed this allegation concerning Sr. [REDACTED]'s involvement in accordance with your policies, I would appreciate receiving a letter stating your findings as well as any action taken by your office. A letter from you stating your findings regarding Ms. [REDACTED] allegation against Sr. [REDACTED] would be documentation necessary to close our file on the sister as well as respond to Ms. [REDACTED]

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information. I may be reached by mail, phone, or e-mail:

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690
(312) 751-5205
lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

Cc: Lay Advisory Group
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board ✓
Sr. Joan McGlinchey, Office for Religious
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N St. Clair, Suite 1910
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July 7, 2003

Fr. Joseph R. Bennett
700 E. 170th St.
South Holland, Illinois 60473

Dear Fr. Bennett,

I am writing this letter in regards to the Monitoring Protocols that you had agreed to and cooperated with at the request of Fr. James Kaczorowski as a result of an allegation of sexual misconduct of a minor brought against you.

Due to the fact that the Cardinal accepted the Review Board's finding of no reasonable cause to suspect that you were involved in the sexual misconduct of a minor, you will no longer be asked to participate in the aforementioned monitoring. Both Fr. Kaczorowski and myself appreciate your cooperation with the monitoring protocols.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 312 751-5205 or Fr. Kaczorowski at 312 642-1837.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey", written over a large, stylized flourish that extends to the right.

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

AOC 000190

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Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

May 29, 2003



Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Please be advised that the Professional Fitness Review Board met on April 26, 2003 and conducted a Second Stage Review regarding your allegation of sexual misconduct against Joseph Bennett pursuant to Article 1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

In reviewing all information provided to the Board regarding this matter, the Board has made a recommendation to the Cardinal that there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause to suspect that Joseph Bennett did engage in sexual misconduct with a minor. As a result, the Cardinal has accepted the Board's recommendation that there is no reasonable cause to suspect that misconduct did occur.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I may be reached at 312.751.5205 or via e-mail [lmcccluskey@archchicago.org]. Also, please know that the Office of Assistance Ministry continues to be available to you. You may reach them at 312.751.8307.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry

AOC 000191

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Fax (312) 751 5279

April 28, 2003

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Review Board met on April 26, 2003. The Board fully considered all oral and written reports in the matter of Joseph Bennett [Active] in the allegation made by [REDACTED]. A Second Stage Review was conducted pursuant to Article §1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

In a unanimous 7-0 vote, the Board recommends that there is no reasonable cause to suspect that the misconduct occurred.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Leah McCluskey
Review Board Administrator

*I received this
final and the
the close the
inquiry
by [unclear]
May 5 2003*

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar
John O'Malley, Legal Services

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MEMORANDUM


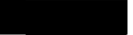
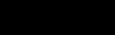

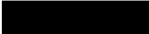
To: File - PFR-170









From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator 



Re: **Bennett, Joseph [Active]** 

Date: April 4, 2003

PFRA received a return phone call today from  attorney for 
 PFRA had attempted to reach Mr.  on March 31, 2003 and left a
message following up with previous requests for information regarding Mr. 
allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Joseph Bennett.

Mr.  stated that he would send copies of wedding pictures provided by Mr.
 . As per his allegation, Mr.  stated that Fr. Bennett performed the wedding
ceremony  Mr.  informed PFRA that there are
pictures of Fr. Bennett at the aforementioned wedding ceremony.

As for the Review Board's request that Mr. 's  be asked to write a statement
regarding his alleged sexual abuse by Fr. Bennett, Mr.  indicated that the question
was asked of Mr. 's  . However, as per Mr.  , Mr. 's 
"is hesitant" to follow through with such a request.

PFRA thanked Mr.  for the phone call and will await the documentation to be sent
on behalf of 

cc: Most Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 000193

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
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January 14, 2003

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Fitness Review Board met on January 11, 2003. The Board fully considered all oral and written reports in the matter of Fr. Joseph Bennett [Active] in the allegation made by [REDACTED]. A First Stage Review was conducted pursuant to Article §1104.08 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

The Board recommends that at this time, there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause to suspect that Fr. Joseph Bennett engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor.

In a vote of 5-1 [with one abstaining], the Board recommends the following:

1. PFRA contact Tom Fleischmann [attorney for [REDACTED]] to request a copy of [REDACTED] marriage certificate.
2. PFRA ask Tom Fleischmann to speak with [REDACTED] regarding having the alleged victim's brother [REDACTED] write his accounts of alleged abuse by Joseph Bennett.
3. PFRA contact Fr. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests to determine who is monitoring Joseph Bennett and to ensure that it is not Fr. Leonard Dubi.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

Cc: Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar
John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 000194

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, December 20, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

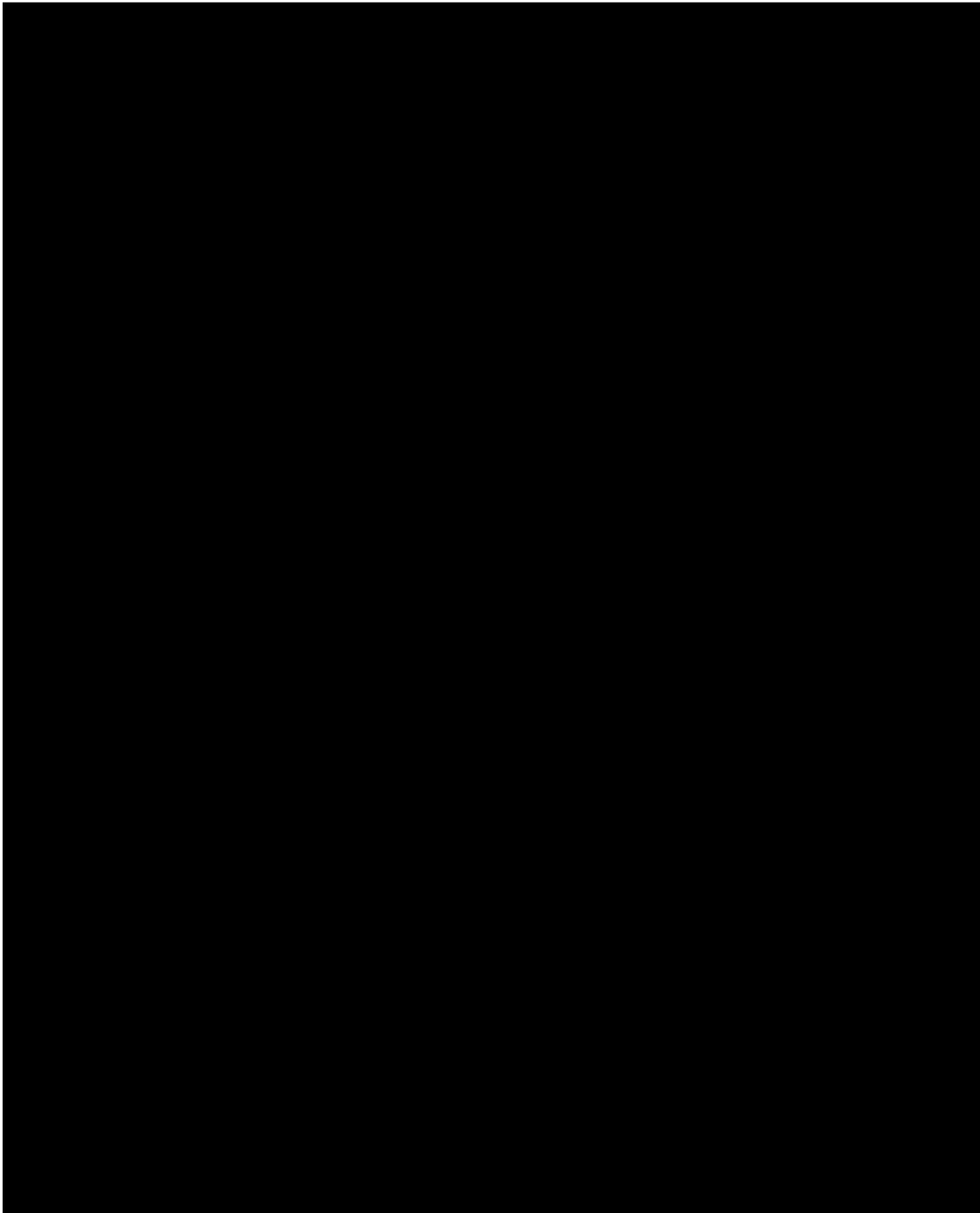
[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I.

[REDACTED]



II. Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2003

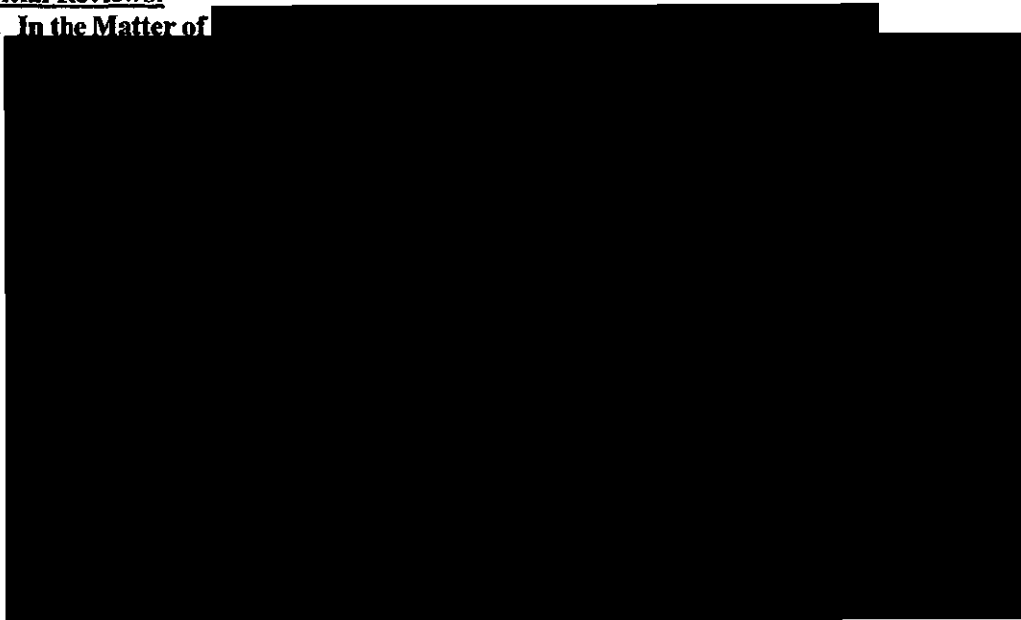
III.



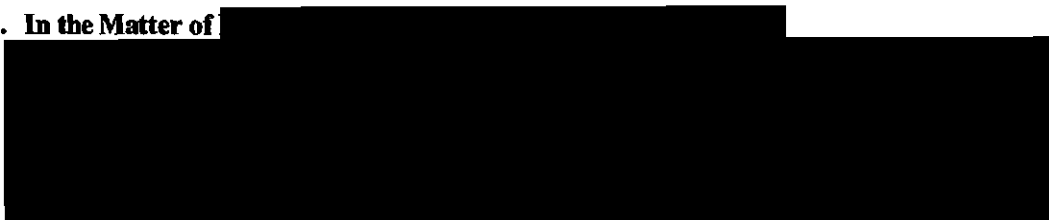
III. Case Reviews

Initial Reviews:

A. In the Matter of



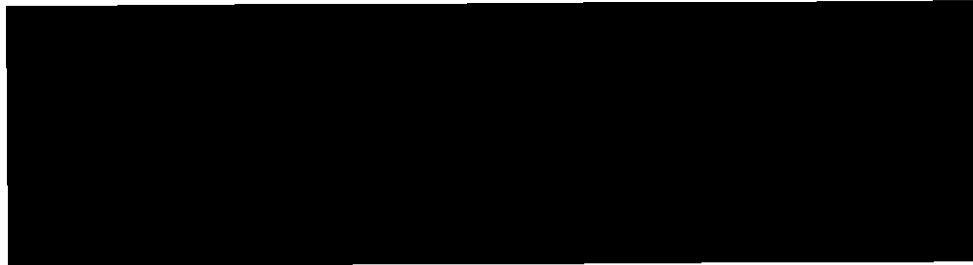
B. In the Matter of



IV. Other Matters



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V. Informal update on matters in Office of Professional Responsibility

- **New Cases**

- 
- 
- One [possibly two] new allegation[s] against Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active]

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Next scheduled meeting is January 10, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Fitness Review Board
Saturday, April 26, 2003

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator [PFRA] 
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2003

II. Case Reviews

Second Stage Reviews

A. In the Matter of Joseph Bennett [Active] – PFR-170

The Review Board conducted a Second Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The claim is as follows: fondling over and under [REDACTED] clothes by JB; oral sex.

In a unanimous 7-0 vote, the Review Board determined that there is no reasonable cause to suspect that misconduct did occur.

B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

III. Other Matters

1. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is May 17, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Fitness Review Board
Saturday, January 11, 2003

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator [PFRA]

Non-members absent:

Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2002

II. Case Reviews

First Stage Review:

A. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [JB] [Active] – PFR-170

The Review Board conducted a First Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: fondling and oral sex by JB on [REDACTED]. In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

The Board recommends in a vote of 5-1 [one abstaining] that there is insufficient information at this time to make a finding of reasonable cause. The Board made the following recommendations:

1. PFRA contact [REDACTED] [attorney for [REDACTED]] to request a copy of [REDACTED] marriage certificate.

2. PFRA ask [REDACTED] to speak with [REDACTED] regarding having the alleged victim's [REDACTED] write his accounts of alleged abuse by Joseph Bennett.
3. PFRA contact Fr. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests to determine who is monitoring Joseph Bennett and to ensure that it is not Fr. Leonard Dubi.

B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

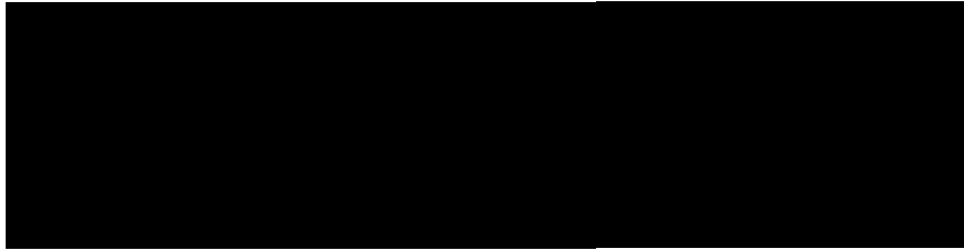
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

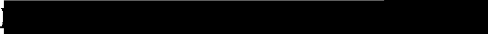
D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

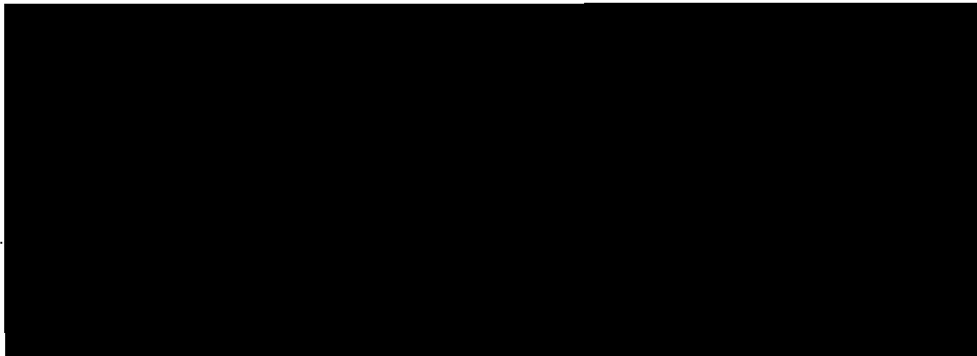
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

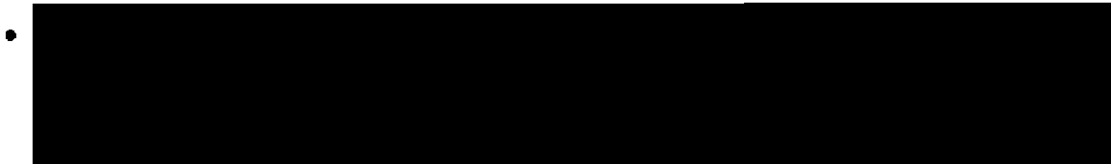



Second Stage Reviews:

A. In the Matter of 



III. Other



- The next Review Board meeting will take place on February 1, 2003 and there will also be the regularly scheduled meeting on February 15, 2003.
- The April, 2003 Review Board meeting will take place on April 26, 2003 due to the third Saturday of the month being April 19, 2003 [Holy Saturday].  will be available via phone on April 26, 2003.
- The Review Board requested a revised yearly schedule for Board meetings due to the numerous changes.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, June 19, 2004 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes - May 15, 2004

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph R. Bennett [Active] - PFR - 170

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: Several incidents of abuse; Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] forced to perform oral sex on Fr. Bennett; mutual masturbation; mutual oral sex involving Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED]; Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] rectum with handle of a paten; [REDACTED] witnessed Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED] having sex.

In a 5-1 vote, the Board determined the following determination that the information presented warrants an investigation. Further, the Board determined that Fr. Bennett need not be under monitoring or removed from ministry at this time. The Board also determined the following:

1. That PRA follow up with Sr. [REDACTED]'s religious order in attempts to determine the stage of the order's process in investigating the matter.
2. That PRA speak with [REDACTED] attorney regarding the interest in PRA speaking with [REDACTED] sisters as mentioned in her allegation.
3. PRA to attempt to identify Sr. Dorothy, principal of St. John de LaSalle [at the time of the alleged abuse] as identified by [REDACTED]
4. PRA to attempt to speak with Rev. Ralph Mollan (former pastor of St. John de LaSalle) regarding Fr. Bennett while assigned to St. John de LaSalle.
5. PRA to request that Fr. Bennett participate in a psychological evaluation.

B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Discussion with Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.

D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Review for Cause

E. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

F. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

G. In the Matter of 


Next scheduled meeting is July 17, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, December 3, 2005 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MINUTES

REVISED

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Absent:

None

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] 
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes – November 19, 2005

- No objections or proposed changes to the agenda

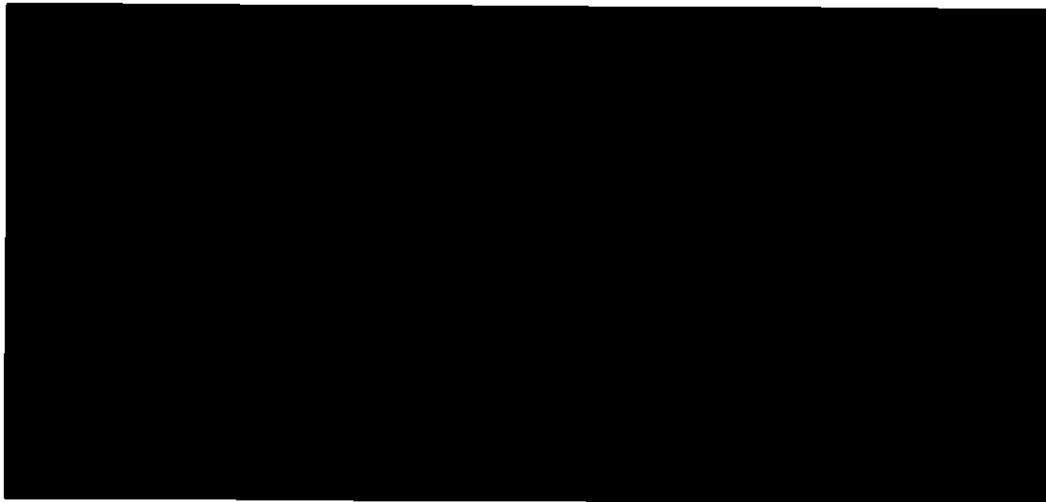
II. Other Matters

Bennett, Rev. Joseph/ [REDACTED]

- Meeting began with a review of Rev. Joseph Bennett's file in regards to the allegations of sexual misconduct made against him by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- Fr. Smilanic informed the Board that Rev. Paul Golden, C.M., J.C.D. is Fr. Bennett's newly appointed canonical advocate; Fr. Smilanic also informed the Board of Fr. Golden's request to have the entire file copied and sent to him
- Cardinal George arrived at the Board meeting at 9:30am to discuss the Board's recommendations made on the Bennett/[REDACTED] and Bennett/[REDACTED] allegations
- The Cardinal explained that in the interest of procedure, he would like for Fr. Bennett to address the Board in regards to the allegations made against him by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [clarification that Fr. Bennett did address the Review Board at the November 19, 2005 Review Board meeting]
- The Cardinal stated that he wanted to ensure that Fr. Bennett is aware of his [Fr. Bennett's] right to appear before the Review Board
- The Cardinal informed the Board that he has read the entire file and that he was prepared to converse with them regarding these matters, as he had questions he wished to ask the Board members so that he could understand the Board's conclusions and recommendations of these matters
- [REDACTED] then provided the Cardinal with a verbal history of the aforementioned matters as they have appeared before the Board
- [REDACTED] informed the Cardinal of the Board members' feelings of the evidence of the existence of freckles on Fr. Bennett's scrotum

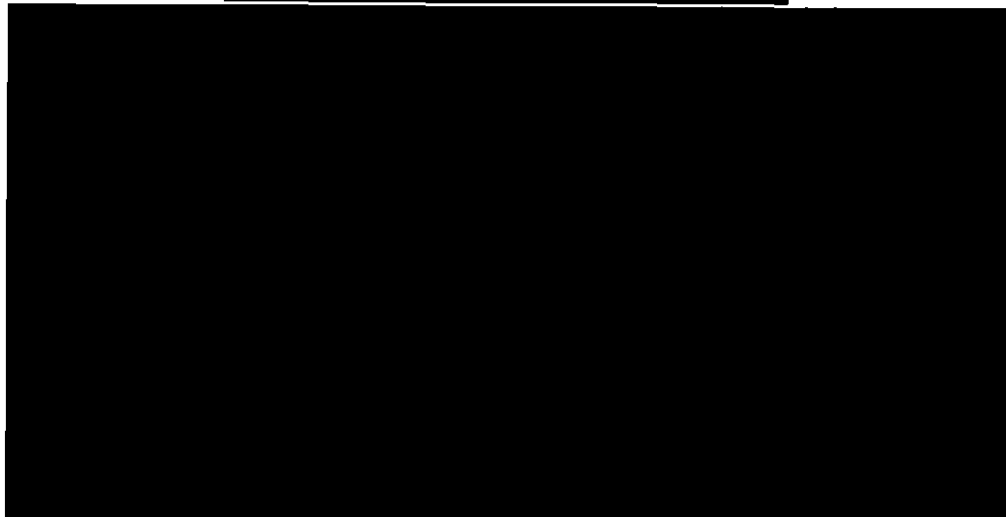
- [REDACTED] explained to the Cardinal the fact that “reasonable cause to suspect” is not a high standard of proof in these matters, however the freckles on Fr. Bennett’s scrotum lead the Board to believe that something [sexually abusive] did happen in the matters involving [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] then referred the Cardinal to the medical documentation concerning marks/freckles on Fr. Bennett’s scrotum
- [REDACTED] noted that Fr. Bennett initially denied the existence of freckles on his scrotum and had his [personal] physician write a letter noting such; referring to the more recent medical information obtained that states that Fr. Bennett does have marks on his scrotum, [REDACTED] made the point that when [REDACTED]’s allegation was first read to him [Fr. Bennett], he did not remark something to the effect of, “...how would she [REDACTED] know that [that there are marks/freckles on his scrotum]?”
- [REDACTED] also made the point that [REDACTED] recall of Fr. Bennett having a birth mark on his back “...does not stand up...” and that the back surgery that Fr. Bennett underwent took place significantly after the alleged abuse
- [REDACTED] made the point that [REDACTED] had talked to the Board about such marks on a male’s scrotum, that they are not age spots and they are also not common
- [REDACTED] stated that when he first reviewed the allegation [made by [REDACTED] against Fr. Bennett, that he found it to be incredible until he read the information concerning the existence of freckles on the accused’s scrotum; [REDACTED] then provided the opinion that freckles on the scrotum as alleged in the matter of [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Bennett would be a “flashbulb memory” that a child sexual abuse victim would remember
- [REDACTED] stated that he believed something happened to [REDACTED] but not convinced it was Fr. Bennett
- The Cardinal stated that in regards to [REDACTED] allegation, other parts of her allegation seem to be inaccurate, except for the presence of freckles on Fr. Bennett’s scrotum
- The Cardinal expressed his great support and appreciation for the Board’s review of and recommendations on the matters of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] allegations against Fr. Bennett
- Fr. Smilanic suggested that Fr. Golden [Fr. Bennett’s canonical advocate] be allowed to review the matters and provide a response on the behalf of the accused prior to the Cardinal making his final decision [based upon the Board’s Review for Cause determinations of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] allegations against Fr. Bennett]
- The Cardinal questioned as to why Fr. Bennett did not have a canonical advocate until recently; Fr. Smilanic stated that he cannot recall and does not know why
- Responding to [REDACTED]’s question of “turn around time” in the review of the matters by Fr. Golden, Fr. Smilanic reiterated his [Fr. Golden’s] request to have the file copied and sent to him
- In regards to Fr. Golden’s request for having a copy of Fr. Bennett’s files sent to him, the Cardinal expressed his concern for the integrity of the files if they are copied, but that he is “open to discussion”
- [REDACTED] suggested that based upon confidentiality, the Office of Legal Services could draw up an agreement that information from Fr. Bennett’s file copied and sent to Fr. Golden could not be copied and/or reproduced
- The Cardinal requested that Fr. Golden submit his information/response on behalf of Fr. Bennett to the Board and then communicated to him

- The Cardinal stated that he would like to follow through the matters of the two aforementioned allegations against Fr. Bennett procedurally [with the defense of a canon lawyer], as Rome would first ask and ensure that a matter [regarding such misconduct] abided by procedure and "The Code;" the Cardinal expressed his concern that he does not want Rome to send any cases back [to him] due to a lack of following procedure
- ██████████ expressed the need to have the monitoring of Fr. Bennett continue, with which the Cardinal agreed
- It was agreed that all Board members would keep their files on Bennett/██████████ and Bennett/██████████ until hearing [a response] from Fr. Bennett's canon lawyer
- ██████████ will abstain from the matters, as he and Fr. Bennett are classmates and friends



III. **Case Reviews**
Initial Review

A. **In the Matter of** ██████████



In the Matter of [REDACTED]

Supplementary Review

B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

IV. Discussion

- Suggestion/question of possibility of a victim/relative of victim as another member of the Review Board
- Possibility raised of increasing the size of the Review Board
- Suggestion to discuss expansion of the Review Board at the February 2006 Board meeting
- Suggestion raised that the quorum for the Review Board be raised to six [voting] members

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, January 21, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, October 15, 2005 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Present via Phone:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- I. **Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2005**
- No objections or proposed changes to the agenda
- II. **Case Reviews**

Initial Review

A. **In the Matter of** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. In the Matter of



C. In the Matter of



D. In the Matter of



[REDACTED]

E. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

F. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Review for Cause

G. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active 2005] – PFR - 170

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause of the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] performed oral sex on Fr. Bennett; mutual masturbation; mutual oral sex involving Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED]; Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] rectum with handle of a paten; [REDACTED] witnessed Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED] having sexual intercourse.

In a 8-0 vote [REDACTED] was now present at the meeting] in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the sexual abuse of a minor did occur. However, the Board did not reach a determination on all aspects of the allegation. Further, the Board recommended that Fr. Bennett be immediately withdrawn from ministry and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active 2005] – PFR - 170

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: Fr. Bennett exposed himself and then instructed [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him.

In a 7-0 vote [REDACTED] was not present for this matter at the meeting] in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. Further, the Board recommended that Fr. Bennett be immediately withdrawn from ministry and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

H. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

I. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

J. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

K. In the Matter of [REDACTED]



III. Other Matters

- Due to time constraints, a review of the "Other Matters" unable to be completed. The "Other Matters" will be placed on the agenda for the scheduled November 19, 2005 Review Board meeting.

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, November 19, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

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P.O. Box 1979
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Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, August 20, 2005 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] (w)
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2005

- No objections or proposed changes to the agenda

- [REDACTED]

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Review for Cause

E. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active 2005] – PFR - 170

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause of the allegation made by

[REDACTED] The allegation is as follows: Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] performed oral sex on Fr. Bennett; mutual masturbation; mutual oral sex involving Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED]; Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] rectum with handle of a paten; [REDACTED] witnessed Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED] having sexual intercourse.

In light of the information presented, the Board voted 4-3. Due to the fact that there was not a majority vote of at least five members, a recommendation could not be made to Cardinal George. The Board then voted 7-0 that this matter be continued to the next scheduled Review Board meeting for a Review for Cause.

The Board also requested that PRA attempt to obtain a written consent from Fr. Bennett allowing a Board representative to speak with Dr. [REDACTED] in order to clarify his April 2005 physical examination of the accused.

In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active 2005] – PFR - 170

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: Fr. Bennett exposed himself and then instructed [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him.

In light of the information presented, the Board voted 2-3-2 [abstain]. Due to the fact that there was not a majority vote of at least five members, a recommendation could not be made to Cardinal George. The Board then voted 7-0 that this matter be continued to the next scheduled Review Board meeting for a Review for Cause.

The Board also requested that PRA attempt to obtain a written consent from Fr. Bennett allowing a Board representative to speak with Dr. [REDACTED] in order to clarify his April 2005 physical examination of the accused.

F. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



G. In the Matter of



III. Other Matters for Advice

H. In the Matter of



IV. Other Matters

- There will be no Review Board meeting in September 2005 as there will not be a quorum of Board members available to meet.

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
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Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, July 16, 2005 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MINUTES


Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] 
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2005

- [REDACTED]
- The Board then unanimously approved the minutes 7-0

II. Case Reviews

Review for Cause

A. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active 2005] – PFR - 170

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] performed oral sex on Fr. Bennett; mutual masturbation; mutual oral sex involving Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED]; Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] rectum with handle of a paten; [REDACTED] witnessed Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED] having sexual intercourse.

In a 7-0 vote, the Board unanimously agreed to postpone the Review for Cause of this matter until the scheduled August 20, 2005 meeting until the following information could be obtained/determined by PRA:

- That PRA speak with Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests, regarding the need for clarification on Dr. [REDACTED]'s report of his physical examination of Fr. Bennett. Specifically, to determine if Dr. [REDACTED] noted a birthmark on the back of Fr. Bennett during his exam or not. PRA will ask Fr. Grace if he would prefer to speak with Dr. [REDACTED] regarding the report or if he feels that it is appropriate for [REDACTED] to discuss the matter with Dr. [REDACTED] on behalf of the Review Board. [REDACTED] works with Dr. [REDACTED] at Loyola.

- That PRA check with Fr. Grace to determine if Rev. Leonard Dubi is currently on sabbatical or not. Fr. Dubi is Fr. Bennett's identified monitor.

In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active 2005] – PFR - 170

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: Fr. Bennett exposed himself and then instructed [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him.

In a 7-0 vote, the Board unanimously agreed to postpone the Review for Cause of this matter until the scheduled August 20, 2005 meeting until the following information could be obtained/determined by PRA:

- That PRA speak with Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests, regarding the need for clarification on Dr. [REDACTED]'s report of his physical examination of Fr. Bennett. Specifically, to determine if Dr. [REDACTED] noted a birthmark on the back of Fr. Bennett during his exam or not. PRA will ask Fr. Grace if he would prefer to speak with Dr. [REDACTED] regarding the report or if he feels that it is appropriate for [REDACTED] to discuss the matter with Dr. [REDACTED] on behalf of the Review Board. [REDACTED] works with Dr. [REDACTED] at Loyola.
- That PRA check with Fr. Grace to determine if Rev. Leonard Dubi is currently on sabbatical or not. Fr. Dubi is Fr. Bennett's identified monitor.

B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the Matter of [REDACTED]

In the Matter of [REDACTED]

In the Matter of [REDACTED]

D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

E. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

III. Supplementary Review

F. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

IV. Review for Advice

G. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

V. Other Matters

- [REDACTED] informed the Board members of the planned in-service scheduled for the August 20, 2005 Review Board meeting

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- Fr. Smilanic informed Board of his responsibility to gather a nominating committee in order to identify three deacon candidates to present to Cardinal George; the Cardinal will then appoint a deacon to fulfill the third cleric position on the Board
- [REDACTED] requested that the Board members begin to think about completing a "self-evaluation" and what is going well with the Board and what is not
- [REDACTED] suggested the possibility of an off-site retreat for the Board; all discussed support of a retreat to possibly take place in early 2006
- [REDACTED] requested that all bring calendars to the August 20th Board meeting in attempts to schedule a day for a retreat
- PRA discussed need to have packets of information [sent to Board members to review for scheduled meetings] signed for upon delivery; agreed that Board members would have the choice of where [home, office, other] and when [Saturday or Monday before scheduled meetings] to have packets sent; such information will be communicated to PRA's Administrative Assistant, Laura Neri-Palomino
- As of August 20th scheduled Board meeting, receipt of packets sent to Board members will require a signature
- [REDACTED] will not be present at the September 17, 2005 scheduled Board meeting

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, August 20, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING
Saturday, July 16, 2005 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

I. Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2005

II. Case Reviews

Review for Cause:

A. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph R. Bennett (Active 2005) – PFR-170

- Allegation made by [REDACTED]
- Initial Review 6/19/04
- Allegation made by [REDACTED]
- Initial Review 3/19/05

B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

E. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

III. Supplementary Review:

F. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

VI. Review for Advice:

G. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

V. Other Matters:

The next scheduled Board Meeting is for Saturday, August 20, 2005

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, March 19, 2005 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CORRECTED

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] 
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- I. Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2005
- Unanimously approved [8-0]

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

B. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active] – PFR 170

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: Fr. Bennett exposed himself to [REDACTED]. Fr. Bennett instructed [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him.

In a 8-0 vote, in light of the information presented, the Board determined that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board also requested that PRA complete the following tasks:

- That PRA contact Sr. [REDACTED]'s order and ask for her assignment history as well as the reason as to why she left the order.
- That PRA attempt to determine if Sr. [REDACTED] was known as "the singing nun."
- That PRA request to meet with Sr. [REDACTED] in person.
- That PRA review Fr. Bennett's file in the Vicar for Priests and the Chancellor's offices.
- That Fr. Bennett is asked to undergo a physical examination by a doctor of the choice of the Vicar for Priests office.
- That Fr. Bennett is monitored until the end of the Review Board process.
- That Fr. Bennett's monitor is either Rev. Thomas Cima or Rev. Thomas Cabala and not Rev. Leonard Dubi.

Review for Cause

C. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Active] – PFR – 170

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: penetration; Fr. Bennett had [REDACTED] perform oral sex on him; mutual masturbation; mutual oral sex between Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED] as well as intercourse [observed by [REDACTED]]; Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] with the handle of a pater.

In a 8-0 vote, the Board recommended to postpone this matter until PRA could complete the following tasks:

- That PRA contact Sr. [REDACTED]'s order and ask for her assignment history as well as the reason as to why she left the order.
- That PRA attempt to determine if Sr. [REDACTED] was known as "the singing nun."
- That PRA request to meet with Sr. [REDACTED] in person.
- That PRA review Fr. Bennett's file in the Vicar for Priests and the Chancellor's offices.
- That Fr. Bennett is asked to undergo a physical examination by a doctor of the choice of the Vicar for Priests office.
- That Fr. Bennett is monitored until the end of the Review Board process.
- That Fr. Bennett's monitor is either Rev. Thomas Cima or Rev. Thomas Cabala and not Rev. Leonard Dubi.

D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

E. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

Supplementary Review

F. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

III. Other Matters

- When asked by [REDACTED], the Board voted 8-0 in favor of when necessary, beginning future meetings at 8:00 am and ending at 2:00 pm when there are additional cases to present for their review.
- The Board made the recommendation that it is imperative that the Vicar for Priests provide a written response of their file review of individuals who have been accused of the sexual abuse of minors. This written documentation would be in response to an original memorandum sent from the Office of Professional Responsibility notifying the appropriate offices of a new allegation.

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, July 15, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] (v)
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- I. **Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2006**
 - Correction made to all incorrect uses of “it’s” and made “its” when referencing the Review Board
 - Minutes then approved 6-0

 - II. **Case Reviews**
 - Initial Review**
 - A. **In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett [Temporarily Withdrawn] – PFR 170**

Prior to beginning the discussion of the matter, mistakes to the “Summary Time Line of Allegation” were noted [Fr. Bennett’s age and the Review for Cause recommendations for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] PRA will make identified corrections and provide Board members with revised time lines in the packets for the next scheduled Review Board meeting, as well as place correct copy in Fr. Bennett’s file.

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett. A summary of the allegation is as follows: less than five incidents; after serving mass, Fr. Bennett would take [REDACTED] into the rectory and down into the basement where collection money was counted; Fr. Bennett would ask [REDACTED] to change into a [REDACTED] [which

██████████ would not do in the same room as Fr. Bennett] and return to the room; Fr. Bennett would then have ██████████ lay on his lap, either face up or face down; Fr. Bennett would then rub ██████████ chest or back and genital area over and under his clothing.

The Board discussed the details of the allegation. Fr. Bennett is a classmate of ██████████. As a result, ██████████ was able to confirm that Fr. Bennett did visit the ██████████. As per ██████████ their class were ordained deacons in October 1965 and then ordained priests on April 26, 1966. ██████████ stated that at the time deacons were not given a parish assignment.

In a 6-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board recommended that PRA do the following:

- Speak with Rev. Francis [Frank] Kub, as he and Fr. Bennett were assigned together at St. John de LaSalle. Ask Fr. Kub his recollection of where the money would be counted after masses [to determine if an assistant associate would ever count the money in the basement]
- Ask ██████████ if he can recall when he was at the ██████████ and the approximate time frame of the alleged abuse

B. In the Matter of ██████████



III. Review for Cause

C. In the Matter of ██████████



[REDACTED]

IV. Information Update

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

V. Other Matters

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] will not be present at the scheduled Review Board meeting on August 19, 2006; [REDACTED] will not be present at the scheduled Review Board meeting on September 16, 2006; [REDACTED] will not be present at the scheduled Review Board meeting on October 21, 2006

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, August 19, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



PO Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690 1979

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, May 13, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(312) 751-5205
Fax (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MINUTES

Corrected

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] 
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

• [REDACTED]

9:00am to 10:00am Cardinal George to meet with Review Board

• [REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

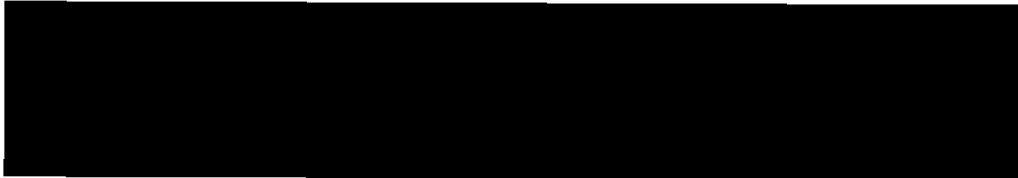
• [REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

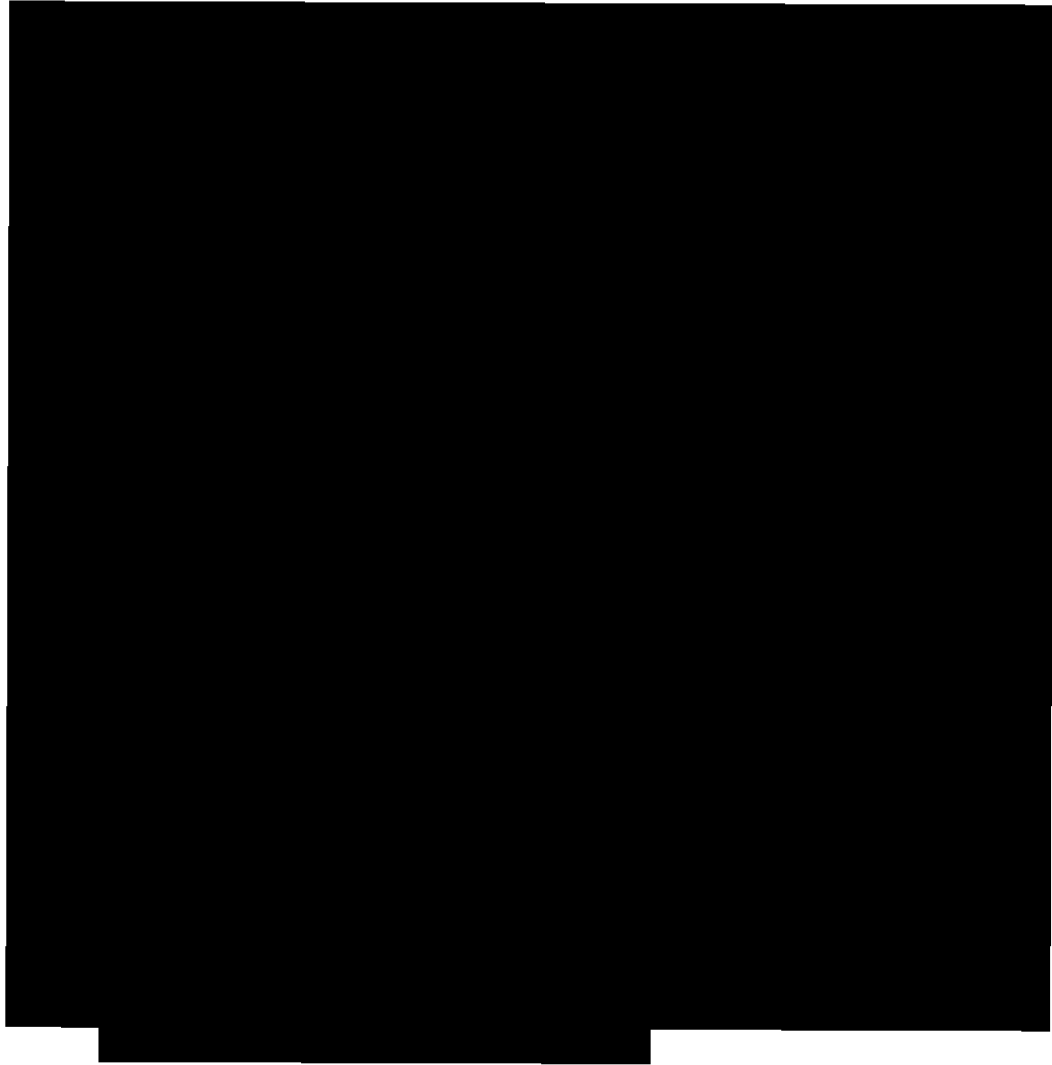
• [REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]



- Question was raised of PRA having the access to review all files of an accused cleric when necessary; all present informed that the current procedure will be for PRA to contact the Chancellor to request and gather all files [Seminary, Vicar for Priests, Chancellor] and then contact PRA when all have been obtained for review

New Matter not on Agenda



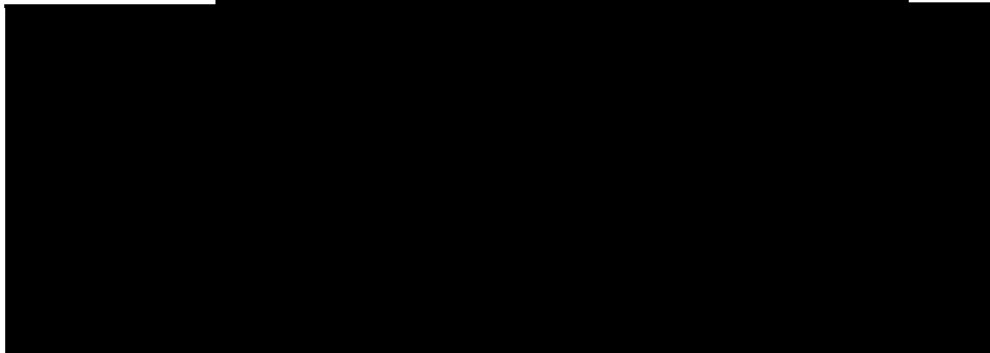
11:00am to 11:30am Rev. Joseph Bennett and Rev. Paul Golden to meet with Review Board

- Board members introduces themselves to Frs. Bennett and Golden
- Fr. Golden addressed the Board and expressed his appreciation for the time to meet and the flexibility of changing the date from March 18, 2006 to May 13, 2006
- Fr. Golden referred all to the binders of notes that he compiled and provided for each Board member
- Fr. Golden provided a verbal history of the matters of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] allegations of sexual misconduct against Fr. Bennett
- As per Fr. Golden, he and Fr. Bennett were present on May 13th to inform the Board that Fr. Bennett never sexually abused [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] Fr. Golden stated that he would “highlight evidence [from the referred to binders]” that support that Fr. Bennett did not abuse either child [now adult women]
- As per Fr. Golden, Fr. Bennett emphatically denies engaging in sexual intercourse with Sr. [REDACTED] [now [REDACTED]]
- Fr. Golden presented the Board with a paten for observation
- As per Fr. Golden, Fr. Bennett categorically denies the [sexual] abuse of [REDACTED]
- Fr. Golden spoke of [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Bennett
- Fr. Golden stated that each aforementioned allegation consists of “many factual errors”
- Fr. Bennett then addressed the Board and stated that he did not abuse [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] he stated that he was never close enough to them [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] to touch them
- When asked, the Board indicated that it did not have any questions for Frs. Golden or Bennett
- Discussion of Board after departure of Frs. Golden and Bennett; Board members expressed feeling that no new evidence was presented
- After consideration and at Cardinal George’s request, the Board considered the additional information submitted in writing and the oral presentation by Rev. Paul Golden. The Board adheres to its prior recommendations made on October 15, 2005.

I. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. In the Matter of [REDACTED]



II. Review for Cause

B. In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

C. In the Matter of

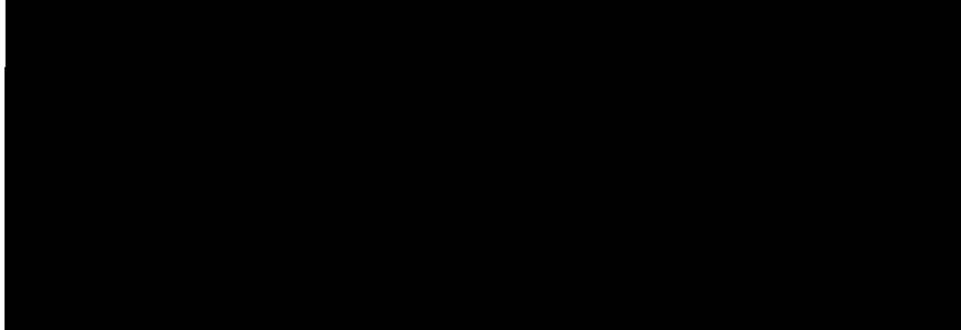
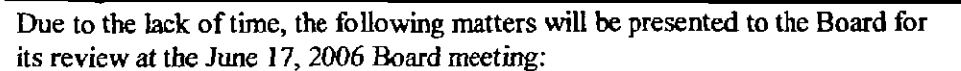
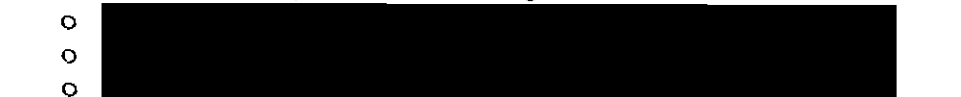
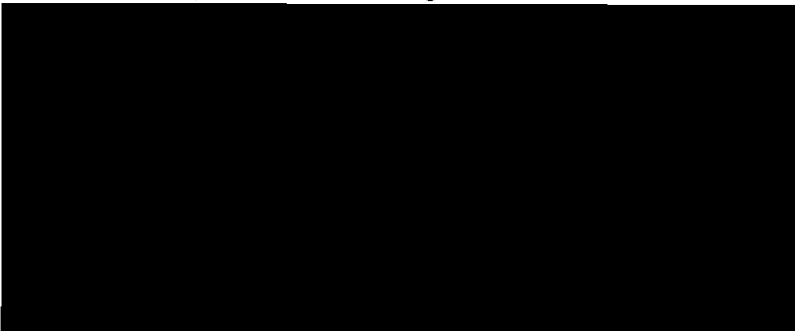
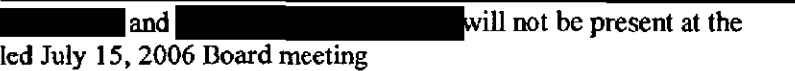
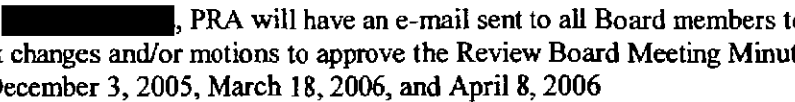
[REDACTED]

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]



III. Other Matters

- 
- 
- 
- Due to the lack of time, the following matters will be presented to the Board for its review at the June 17, 2006 Board meeting:
 - 
 - 
 - 

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, June 17, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, March 18, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[Redacted]

Review Board Members Absent:

[Redacted]

CORRECTED

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] 
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2005

- Corrections to the December 3, 2005 minutes still need to be made

Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2006

- Minutes approved

Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2006

- Minutes approved

II. Other Matters

[Redacted]

Jimmy Lago, Chancellor

- Mr. Lago was invited to the Review Board meeting by [Redacted], Chair to discuss recent events in the Archdiocese of Chicago
- [Redacted] asked Mr. Lago to discuss his new position [in regards to matters of cleric sexual misconduct with minors], the Archdiocese's new agreement with DCFS, and information on the consultants retained by the Archdiocese of Chicago to address two matters [monitoring; the [Redacted] and Bennett, Rev. Joseph cases]

- Mr. Lago began by explaining that his new position he has been appointed to by Cardinal George has to do with his responsibility to now coordinate the responses of all offices regarding the sexual abuse allegations; he also spoke of the [positive] unintended effects of strengthening the Archdiocese's internal policies/practices regarding reporting abuse cases to DCFS; he also referenced the training of Archdiocesan employees and volunteers
- Mr. Lago spoke about the agreement with DCFS and that DCFS asked the Archdiocese to "step aside" until their [DCFS] investigation is completed in such cases
- Mr. Lago talked about the need of the Archdiocese to clarify with DCFS that the diocese does not want to wait "forever" prior to following through with our own investigation/follow up of a report of the alleged abuse of a minor by a cleric
- Mr. Lago stated that he does not feel that this agreement with DCFS will affect the Board and its work
- Mr. Lago spoke of issues and need for clarification with DCFS on the reporting of old cases that have been substantiated by an archdiocesan process; Mr. Lago stated that he would discuss this matter with DCFS for clarification
- Mr. Lago talked about the need to sharpen reporting and training of archdiocesan employees and the possibility of involving the Child Advocacy Center [CAC], as the CAC has offered its assistance with training
- Mr. Lago stated that the reporting of all [old] substantiated cases to DCFS may assist the Archdiocese with accused clerics who have left the priesthood [locating clerics if their whereabouts are not known; determine if children are at risk]
- Mr. Lago feels that the Archdiocese will share more information with DCFS on old cases; this raised the concern that if DCFS "finds" an old case that the Archdiocese has found to be unsubstantiated
- ██████ raised the question of a time line with DCFS when they are investigating a case and the delay that this may cause with the Archdiocese and related process
- ██████ suggested the need for clarification from DCFS as to when the 14 days of their initial investigation begins to determine if DCFS will formally open a case for investigation
- Mr. Lago talked about the two consultants' reports [monitoring; ██████ and Bennett cases] that are to be released by the diocese in the near future
- Referring to the report on the ██████ and Bennett cases, Mr. Lago stated that the consultant highlighted that if the Archdiocese had followed up on the information contained in the files and communicated better, the ██████ matter would have been very different [in terms of response and action by the Archdiocese]
- As for the monitoring report, Mr. Lago spoke of the fact that the Archdiocese does not have the power of the courts, but that we don't really have a monitoring program; as per the report, Mr. Lago spoke of the need for evaluation and therapeutic intervention for those priests who have substantiated allegations of sexual misconduct with minors against them; Mr. Lago spoke of the need for conversation to ask if the Archdiocese can put elements into place for an effective monitoring program
- Mr. Lago stated that the Archdiocese has pulled together a group of eight that will be given the consultants' reports [as the Review Board will be given copies of the reports as well] and ask, "What kind of things do you think we [the Archdiocese] should start with?"

- [REDACTED] spoke of [REDACTED]'s past recommendation of having a treatment facility for men with substantiated allegations against them; a treatment facility that would offer specific sexual offender treatment
- [REDACTED] referred back to Mr. Lago's comments regarding DCFS; [REDACTED] expressed his concerns with the information [as a result of their investigations into a matter] that DCFS would or would not give the Archdiocese and then the concern with the time lost by the Archdiocese while DCFS investigates a case
- [REDACTED] suggested that it would be helpful if the resigned/laicized priests with substantiated allegations could be placed on the DCFS Registry
- The group engaged in a discussion of forced laicization of men with substantiated allegations against them, both the positives and negatives of such, and the need to protect children
- Mr. Lago offered to return to meet with the Board members if/when appropriate to share information as we go forward; all present agreed with the preference that Mr. Lago come back to report to the Board as the Archdiocese continues forward in addressing all discussed matters
- [REDACTED] expressed his concern to Mr. Lago of the release of Review Board members' names

III. Case Reviews

Review for Cause

C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IV. Review for Advice

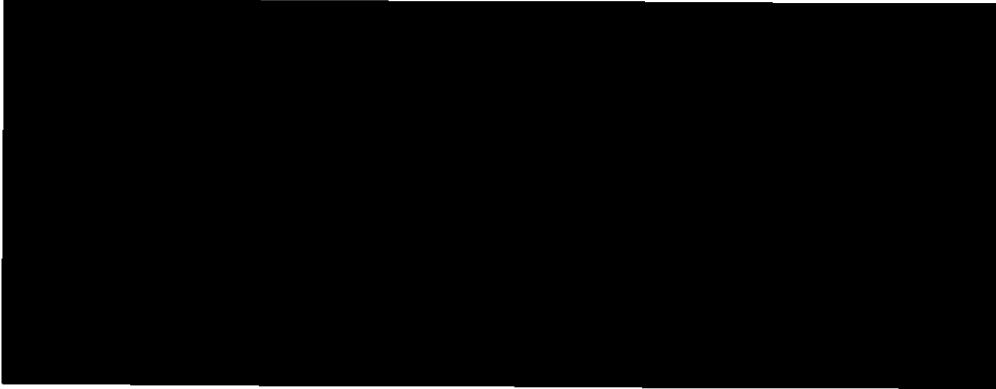
[REDACTED]

V. Supplementary Review

[REDACTED]

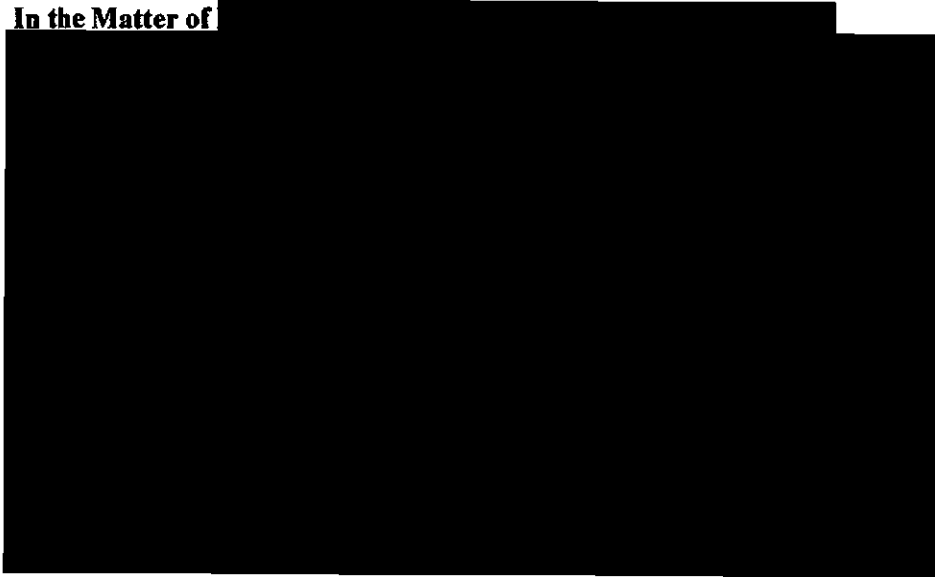
VI. Other Matters

- [REDACTED]



II. Initial Review

A. In the Matter of



In the Matter of



•

B. In the Matter of

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, April 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

REVISED

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Review Board

Saturday, April 14, 2007 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Not Present:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

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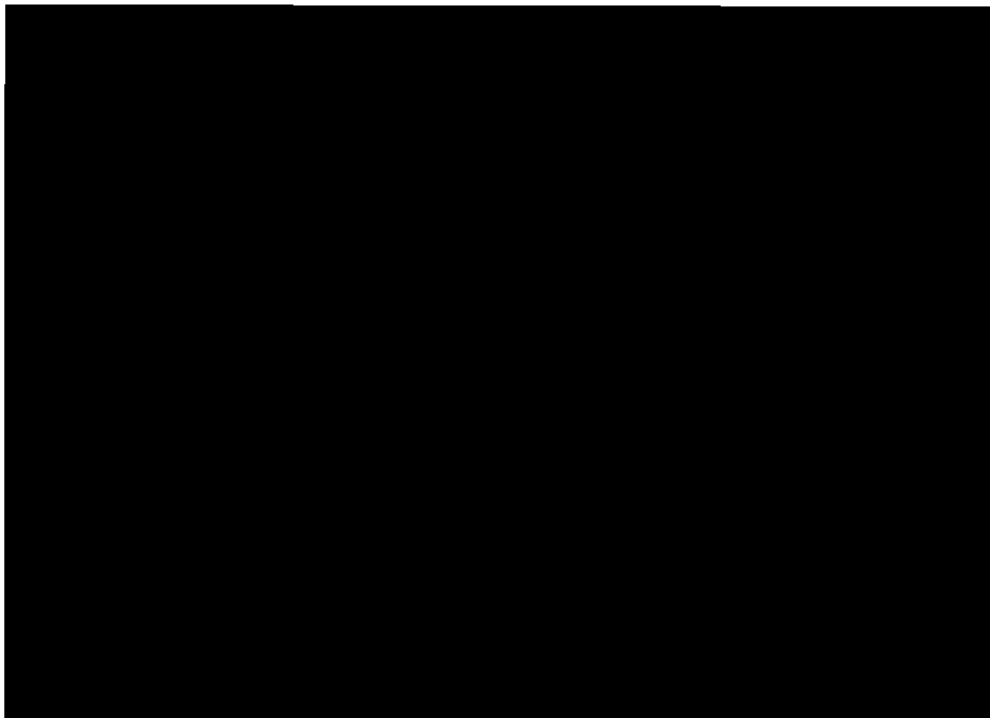
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- I. **Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2007**
 - Requested changes will be made as directed; Revised March 17, 2007 minutes will be sent out in the packets for the next scheduled Review Board meeting for members' approval

- [REDACTED]

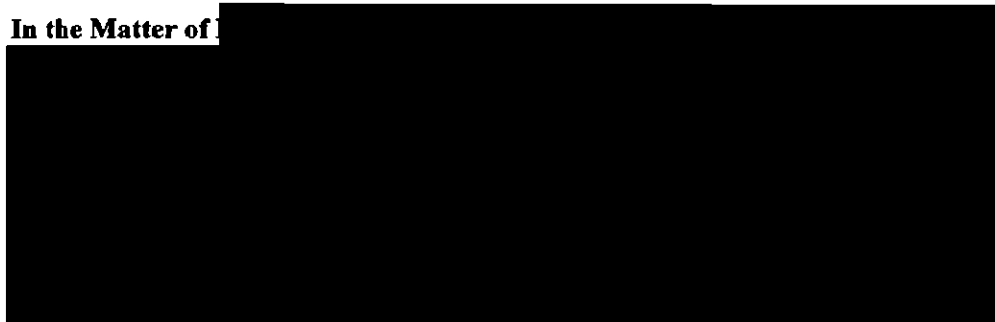
- II. **Case Reviews**
Initial Review

- A. **In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]



B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]



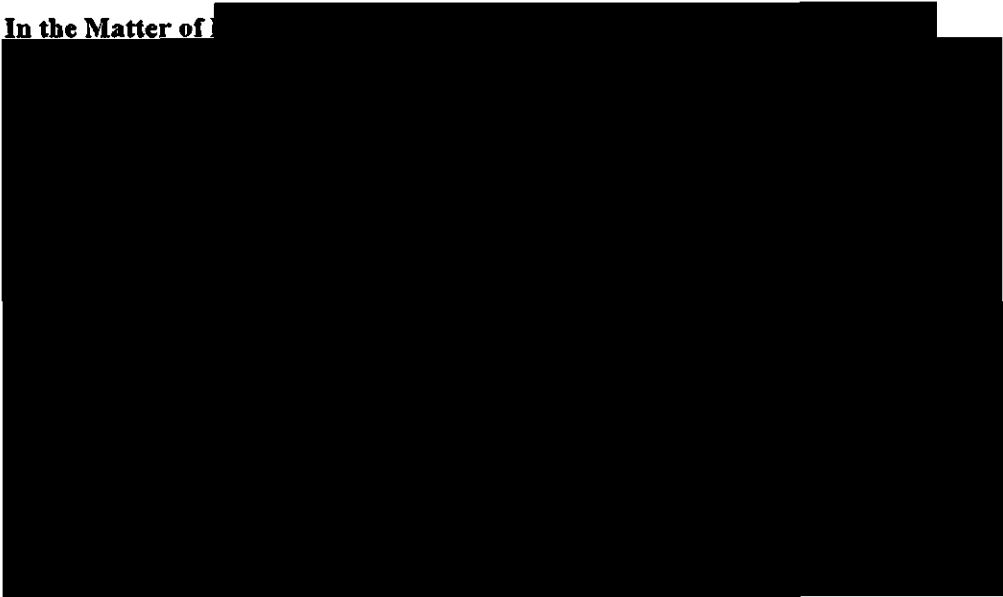
III. Review for Cause

C. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph R. Bennett [Temporary Withdrawal 2006] PFR 170

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause of [REDACTED] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against Rev. Joseph Bennett. A summary of the allegation is as follows: less than five incidents; after serving mass, Fr. Bennett would take [REDACTED] into the rectory and down into the basement where collection money was counted; Fr. Bennett would ask [REDACTED] to change into a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [which [REDACTED] would not do in the same room as Fr. Bennett] and return to the room; Fr. Bennett would then have [REDACTED] lay on his lap, either face up or face down; Fr. Bennett would then rub [REDACTED] chest or back and genital area over and under his clothing.

Due to a lack of time [and loss of a quorum], the Board was unable to review this matter. Therefore, this matter was continued to the scheduled May 19, 2007 Review Board meeting.

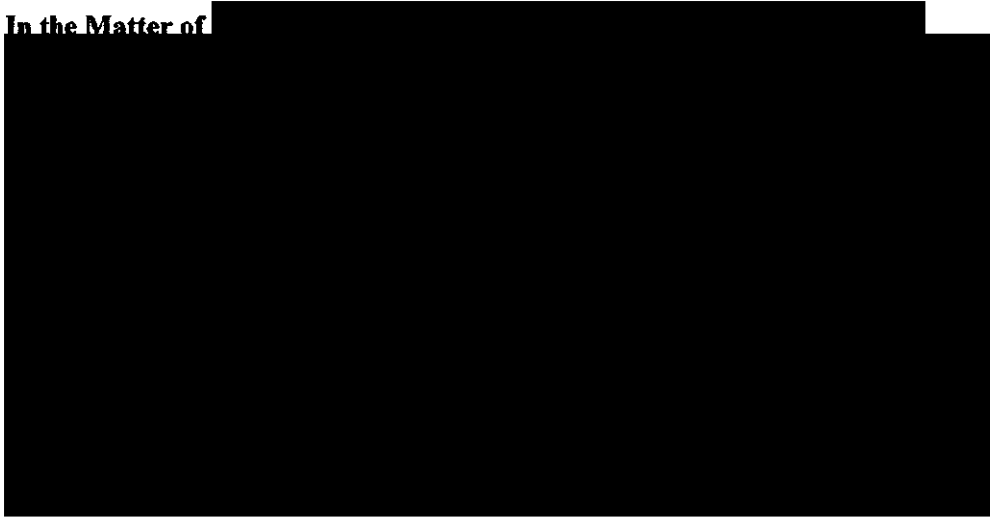
D. In the Matter of



In the Matter of

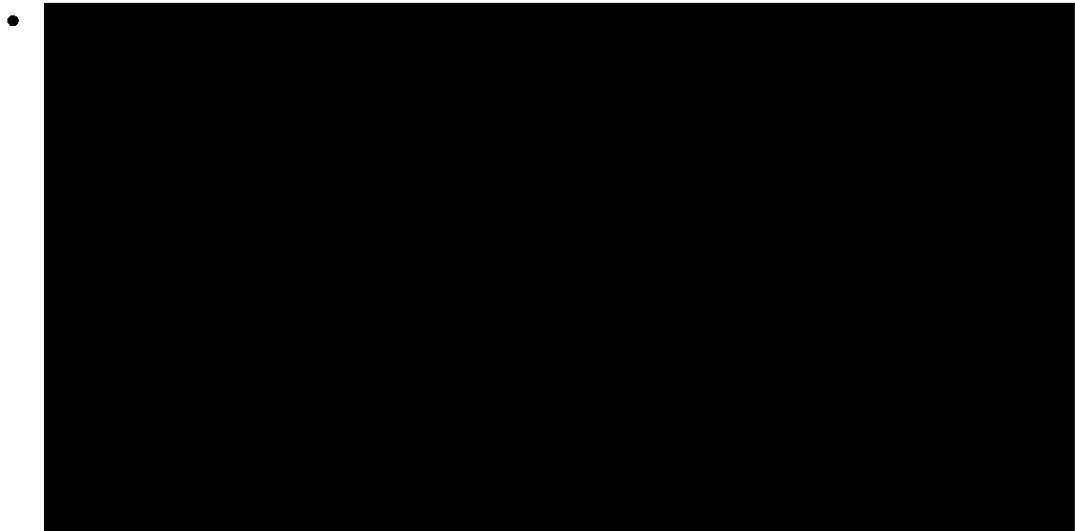
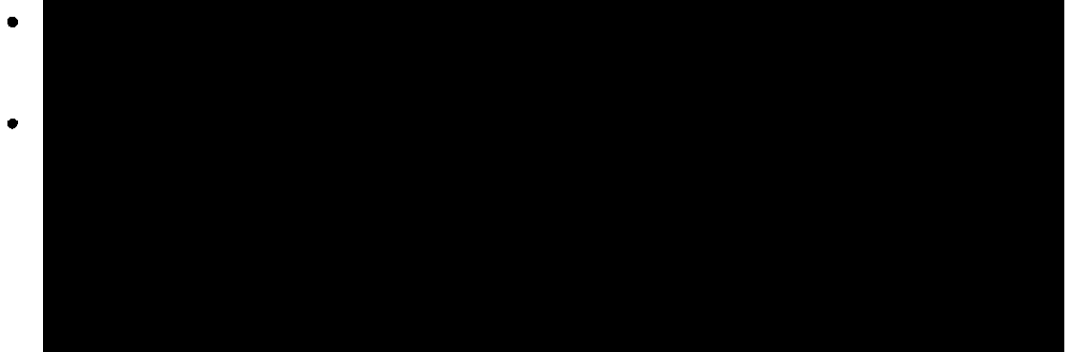


In the Matter of



IV. Other Matters

- Jimmy Lago and John O'Malley joined the Review Board members at 9:30am as planned

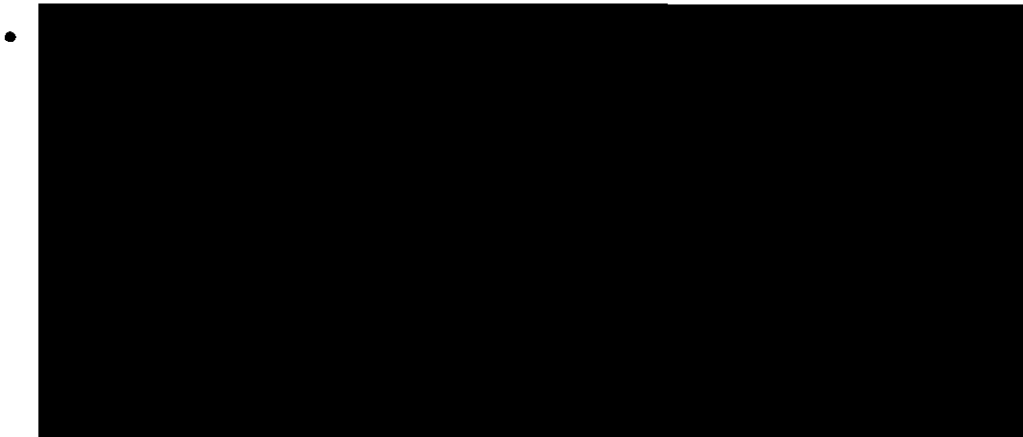


[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- Mr. Lago spoke of cases where there might be a question of a false allegation against a cleric; continued by stating that in such cases, not as an assumption of guilt, but out of the interest of protecting children, the cleric would need to step aside
- There was a question asked and subsequent discussion of cases of recommendations of the preliminary removal of a cleric made by the Review Board; discussion included that the Board does have the ability to make recommendations on removal/other restrictions to the Cardinal; discussion that a conference call with Board members can be arranged by Director in cases of such recommendations being made in between scheduled Review Board meetings; further discussion that as per policies, preliminary actions/recommendations in such matters are made by the Director, Archbishop, etc. which are then presented to the Review Board so that the members can review the preliminary actions made and either support or make other/additional recommendations
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] made the statement that there is no known treatment of pedophiles and as a result, all treatment providers and others can do is struggle to contain their [pedophiles'] behavior
- [REDACTED] expressed his opinion that the Archdiocese of Chicago needs to invest money for a treatment center for the withdrawn clerics
- Question asked of Mr. Lago of what is the Review Board's role in monitoring/supervision; through discussion, agreed that the Board would continue to make recommendations for the creation of Individual Specific Protocols
- Mr. Lago stated that one of the next steps being taken is to generate a "profile" on each withdrawn cleric; the first option will be to get these clerics to resign from the priesthood; second option is for the cleric to adhere to a life of prayer and penance; last option is laicization

- Mr. Lago informed the Review Board members that he would be willing to come back to a meeting any time for continued discussion; he added to the discussion that the Review Board's point of view would be very helpful concerning the future of the 18 men who have been withdrawn from ministry



Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Rev. John Canary, Vicar General
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-534-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Review Board Meeting
Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Not Present:

[REDACTED]

Non-members Present:

Leah McCluskey, Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Rev. Jeffrey Grob, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- I. **Approval of Minutes** – April 17, 2010 and April 27, 2010
 - Minutes approved

- II. **Case Reviews**
Initial Review

- A. **In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett (Withdrawn) - PFR- 170**

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of [REDACTED] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against Rev. Joseph Bennett. A summary of the allegation is as follows: massaging; Fr. Bennett rubbing his forearm over [REDACTED] underwear on his penis; Fr. Bennett showed [REDACTED] pornographic films between 6-12 times; Fr. Bennett masturbated [REDACTED] to climax; Fr. Bennett performed oral sex on [REDACTED] Fr. Bennett provided [REDACTED] with alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana.

Ms. McCluskey provided the Review Board with a verbal overview and update of the investigation of this matter.

In light of the information presented, the Board determined that this matter warrants additional investigation.

Review Board Minutes
May 15, 2010
Page 1 of 3

AOC 000255

Review for Cause

B. In the Matter of



C. In the Matter of

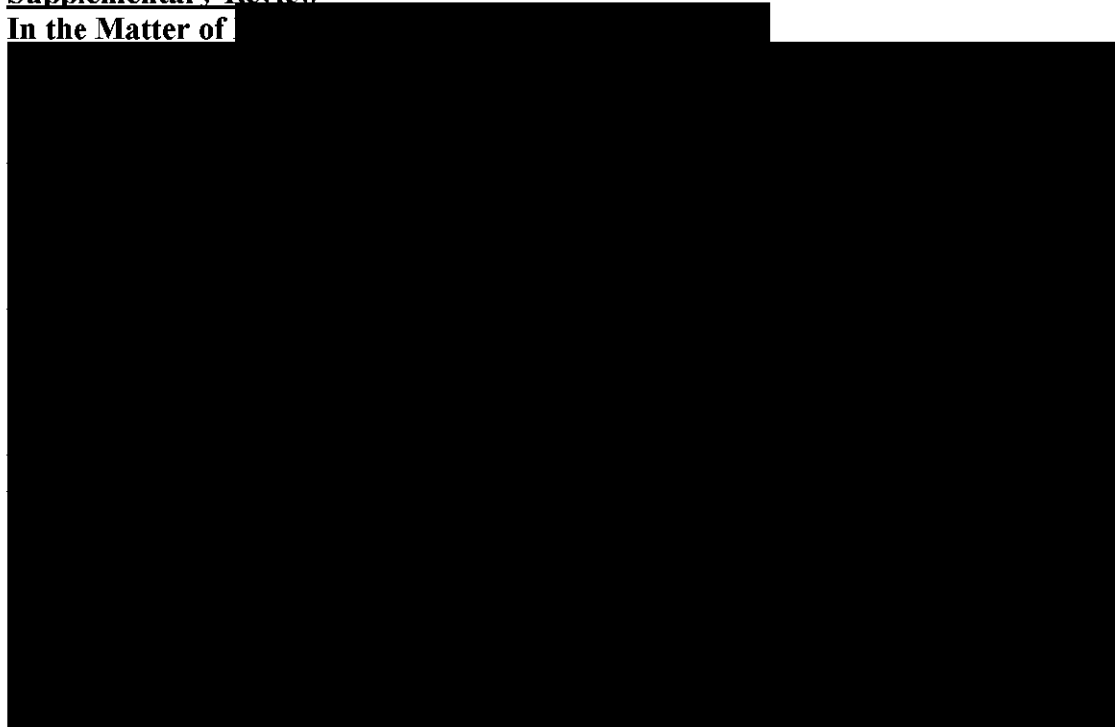


D. In the Matter of



III. Supplementary Review

E. In the Matter of



IV. Other Matters



Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, June 19, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Review Board

Saturday, April 26, 2008 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Present Via Phone:

[REDACTED] [absent from the meeting from 10:30am through 11:30am]

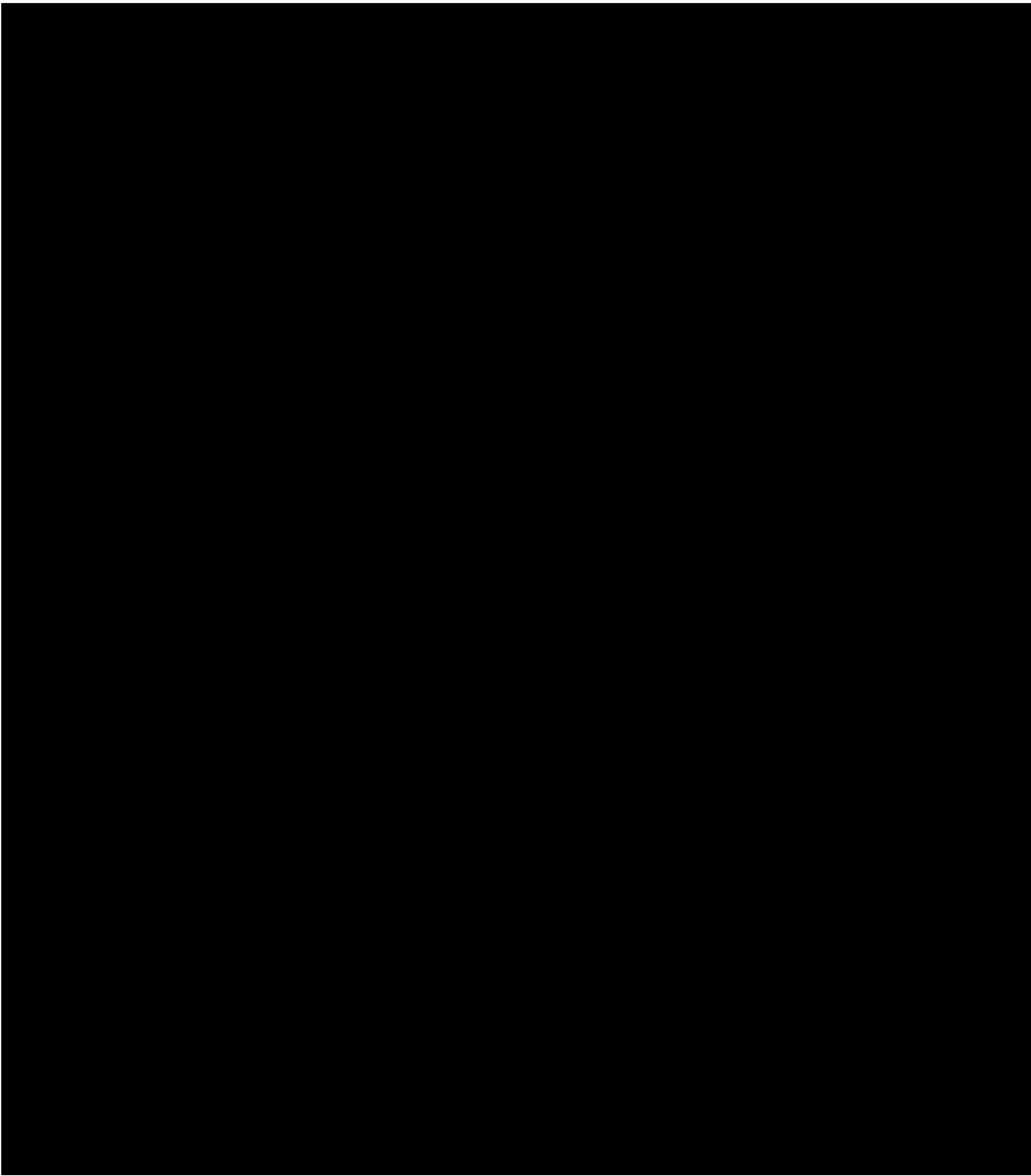
Non-members Present:

Leah McCluskey, Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

- I. Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2008 and April 3, 2008**
- Minutes approved
 - Discussion of next scheduled Review Board meetings took place, based upon Board members' availability, the following future meeting dates were confirmed
 - May 31, 2008 [no [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]]
 - June 28, 2008
 - No meeting in July 2008

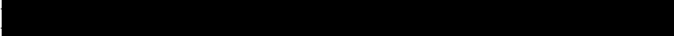
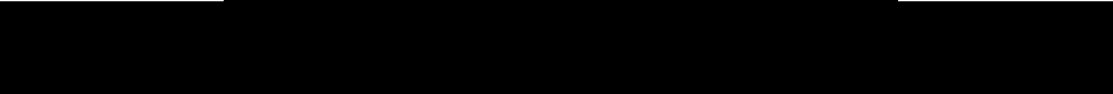
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

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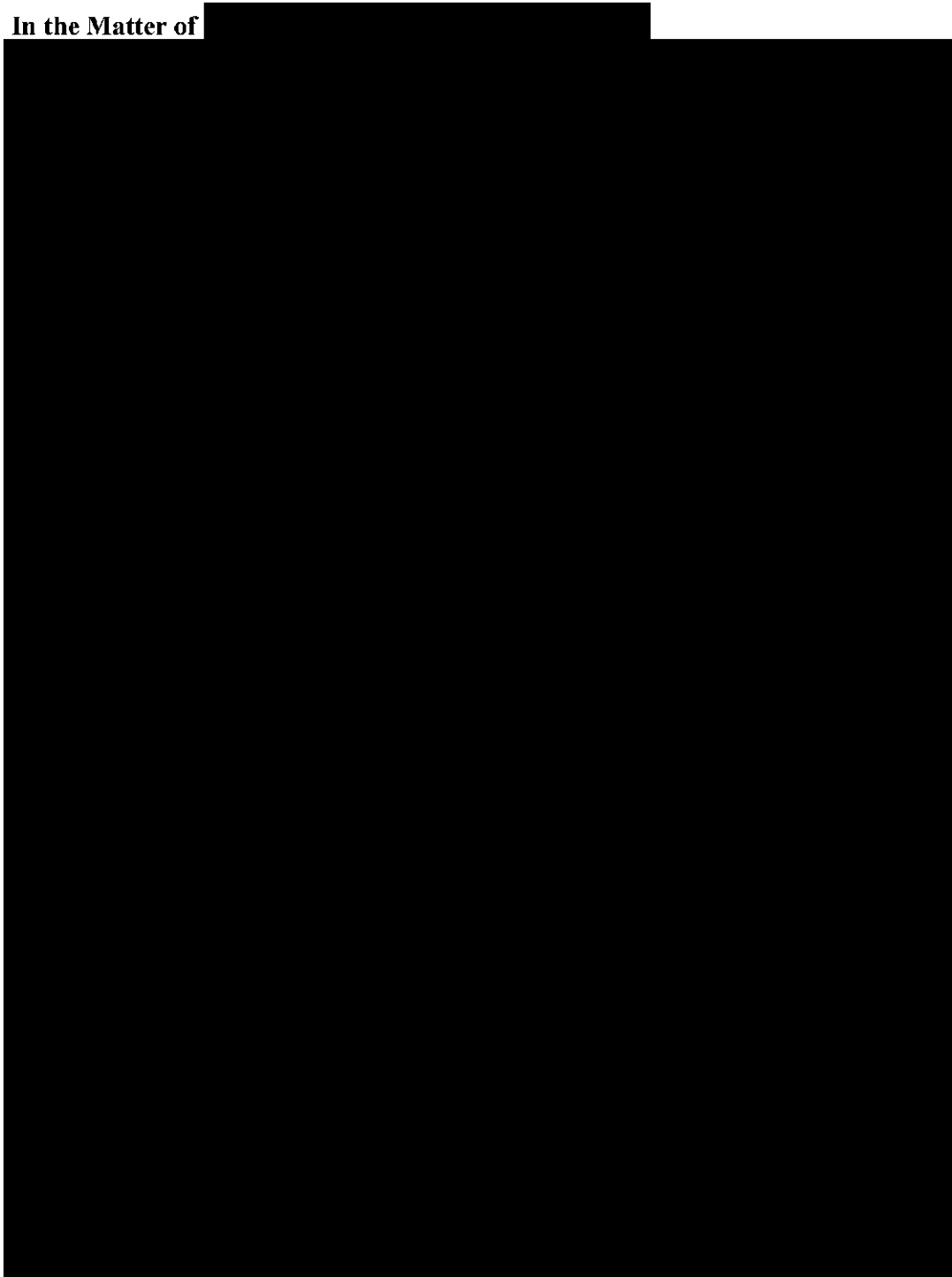
- General discussion of Hillard Heintze reports and “When do we bring Hillard Heintze into the cycle?”
- The Board members expressed their preference to have the following information on matters for an Initial Review [in addition to the allegation and the response]: school records of the alleged victim; review of accused files; background check on alleged victim; noted that Ms. McCluskey needed to use discretion to send cases to Hillard Heintze dependent upon allegation

II. Case Reviews
Initial Review

- A. In the Matter of** 


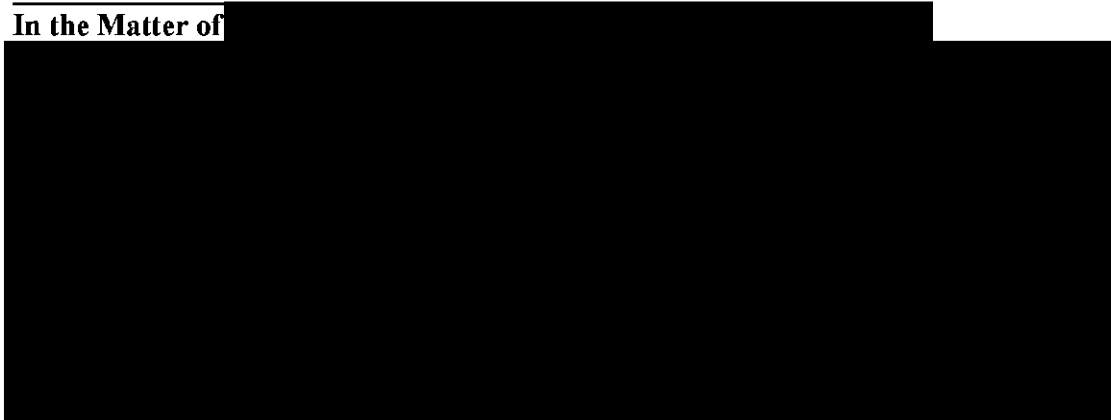


B. In the Matter of

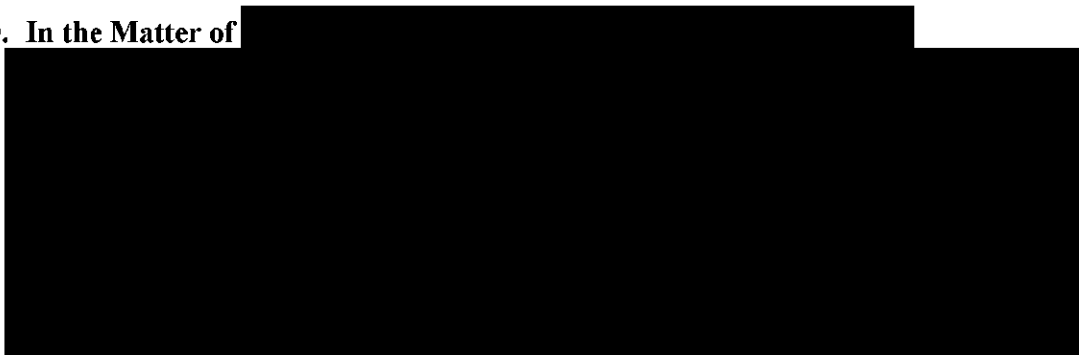


Review for Cause

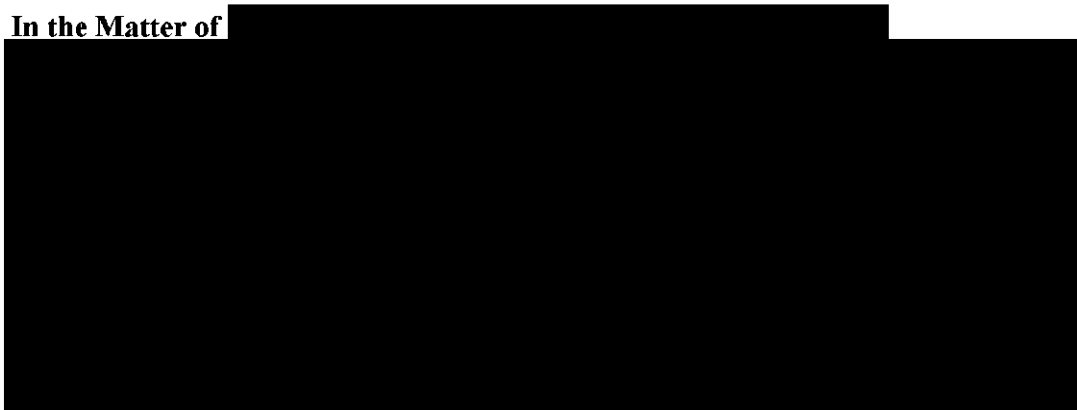
C. In the Matter of



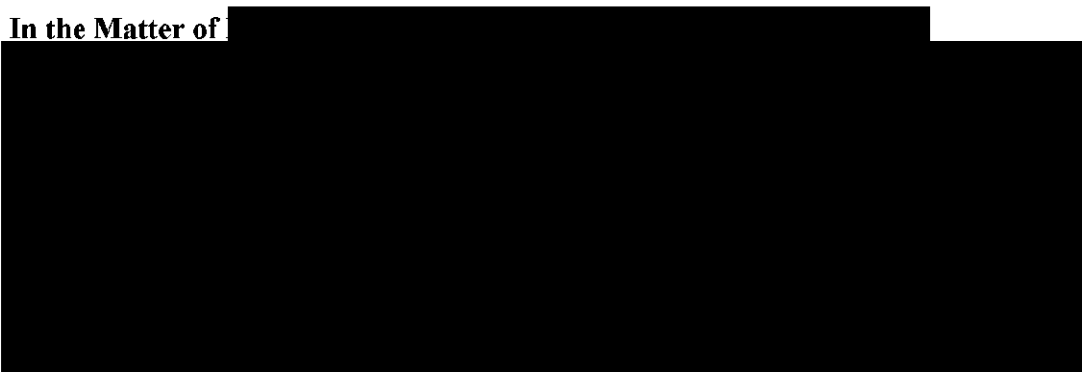
D. In the Matter of

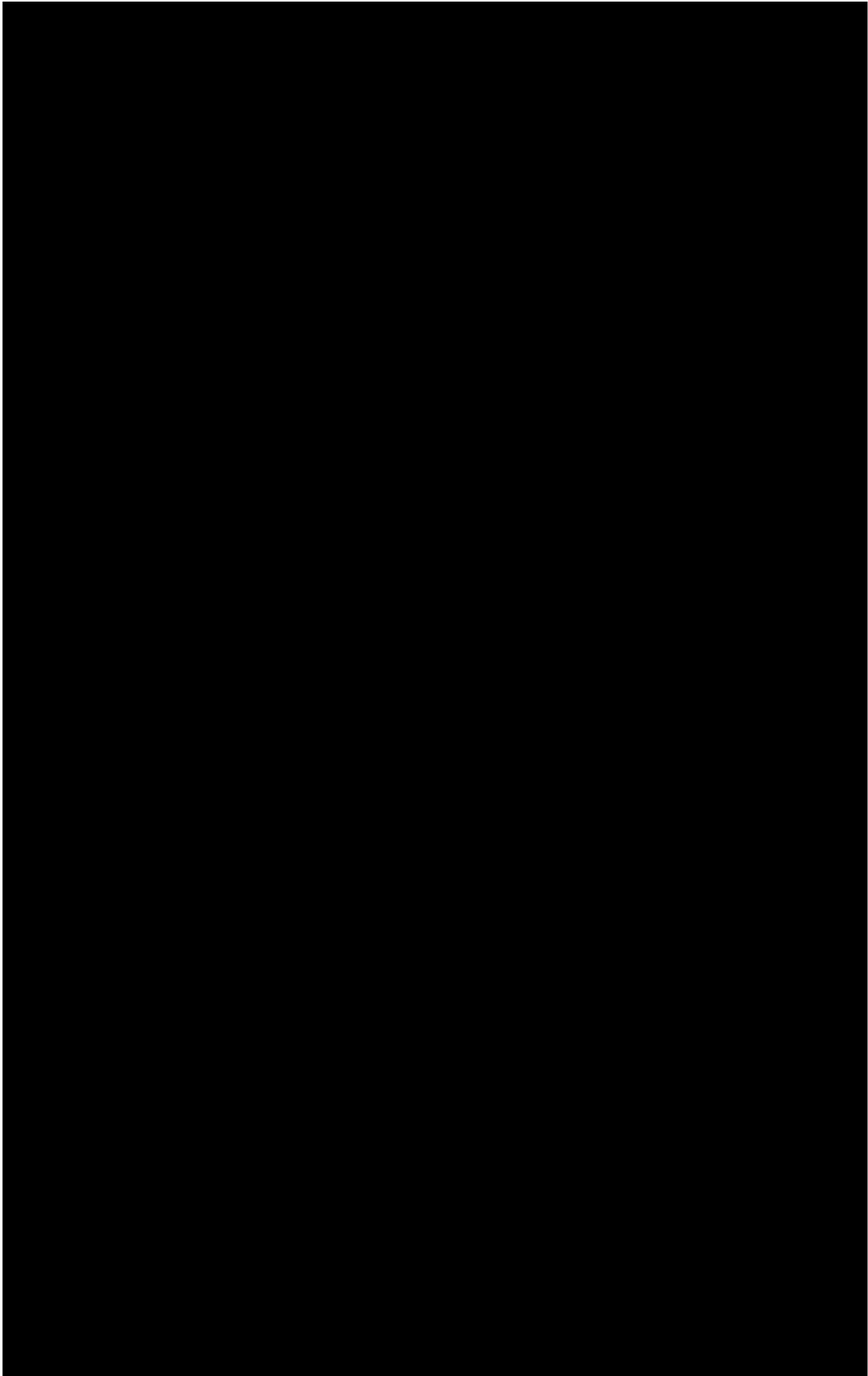


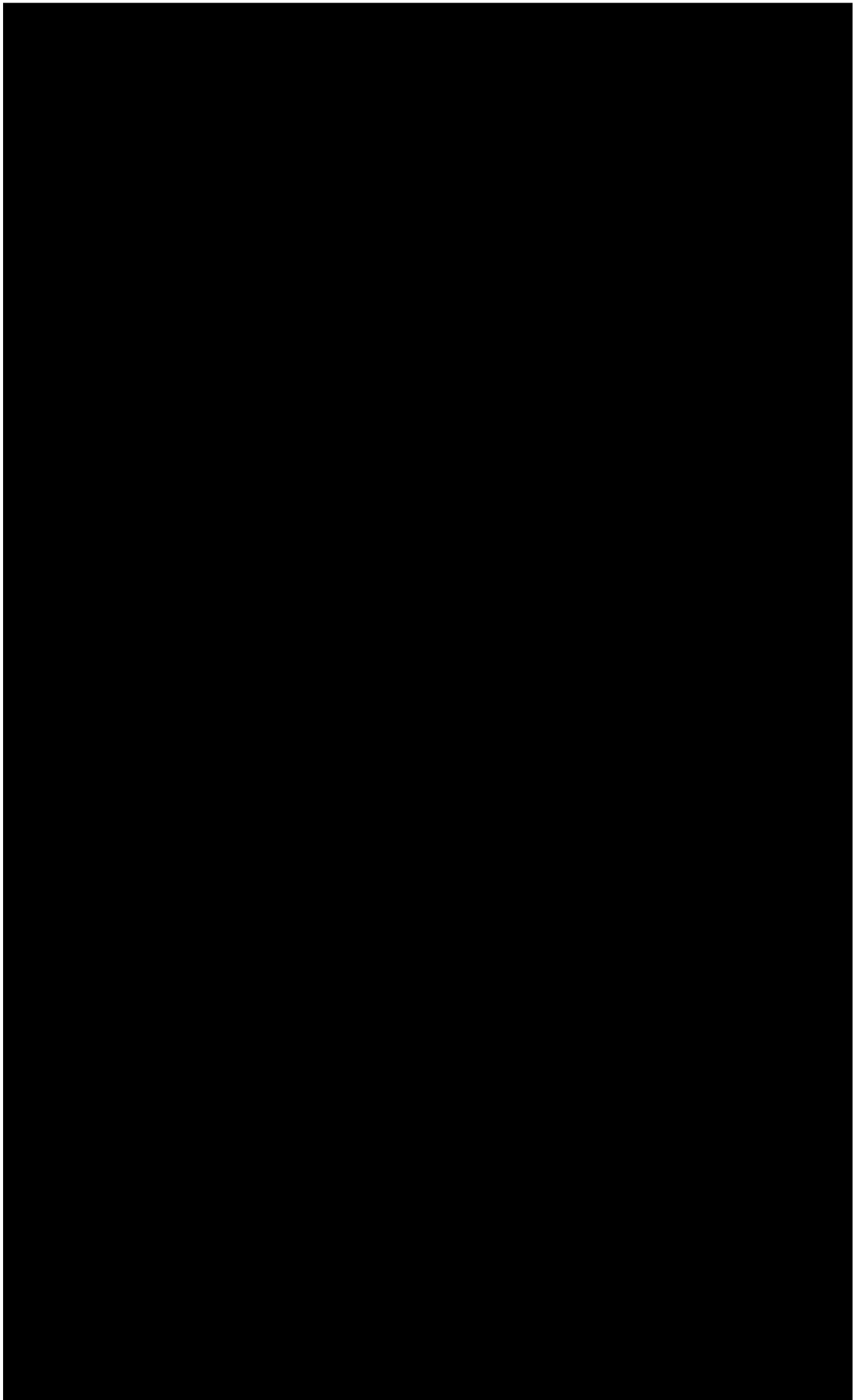
E. In the Matter of

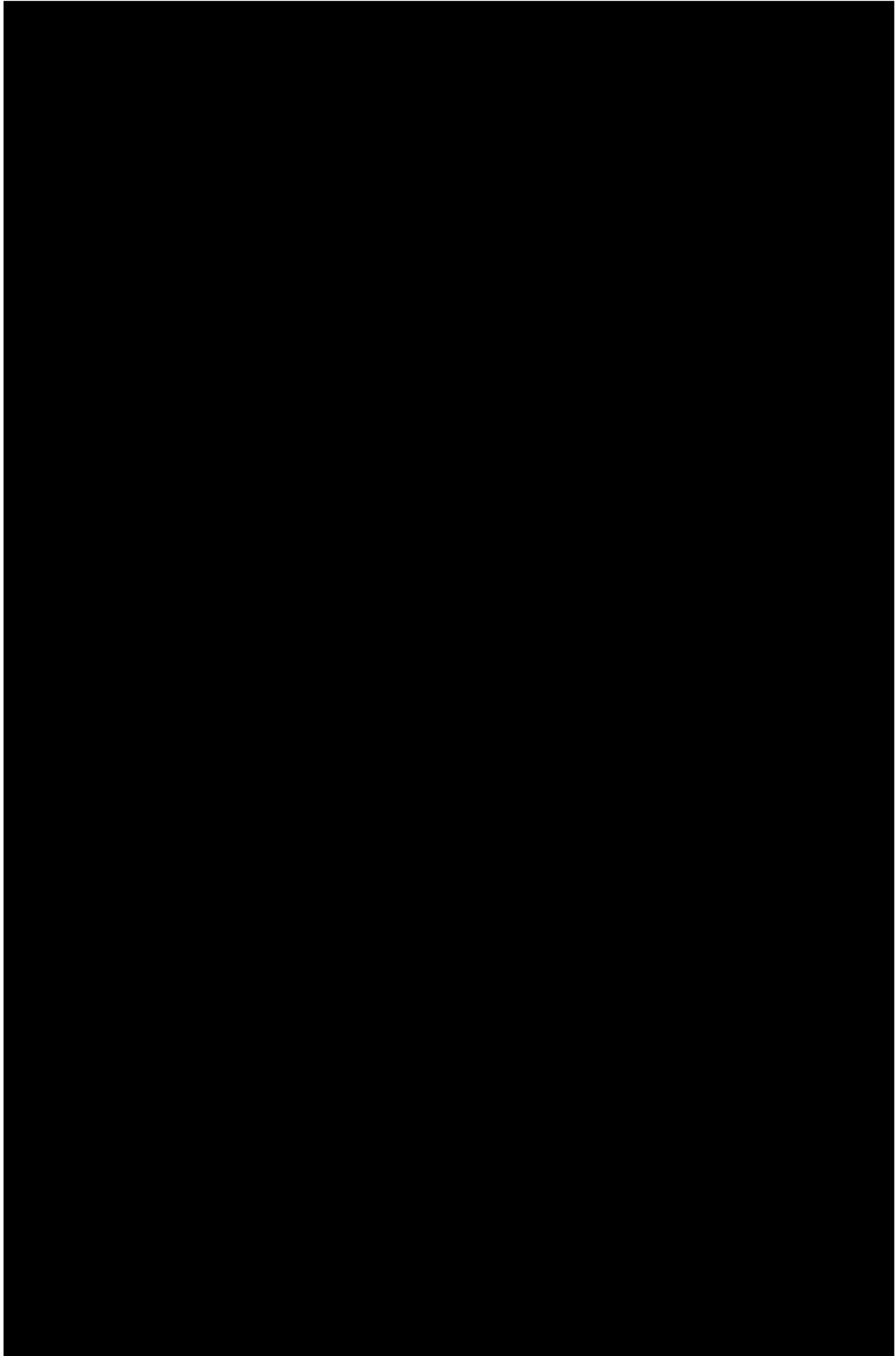


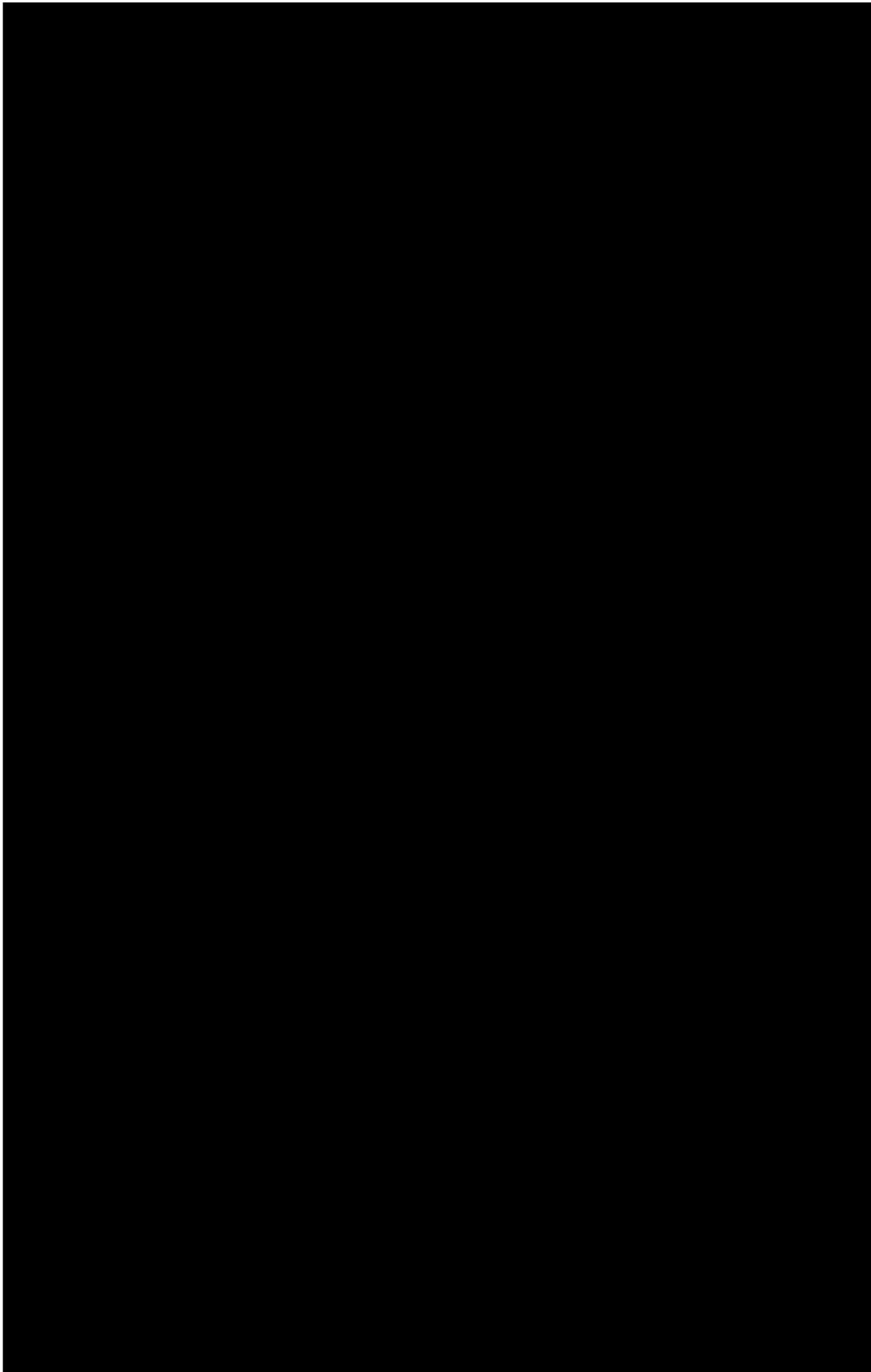
F. In the Matter of











[REDACTED]

G. In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

III. Request for Supplementary Review

- **Bennett, Rev. Joseph R. (Withdrawn 2006)** [REDACTED]—After discussion of the information presented before it, the Board felt that there was no compelling new evidence. The Board’s discussion included the opinion that the information presented to it was not new.

In an 8-1 vote in light of the information presented, the Board determined that this matter not be reopened for a Supplementary Review

IV. Other Matters

- [REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, May 29, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P O Box 1979
Chicago Illinois 60690-1979
312-534-5254, general
312-751-8307 fax

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Review Board Meeting
Saturday, July 17, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:



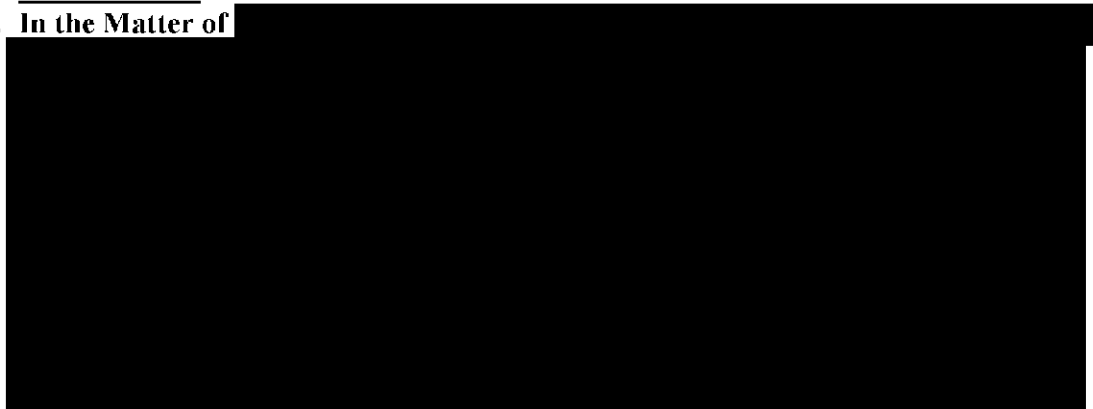
Non-members Present:

Leah McCluskey, Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Rev Jeffrey Grob, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- I. **Approval of Minutes** – June 19, 2010
 - Minutes approved

- II. **Case Reviews**
Initial Review

- A. **In the Matter of**





Review for Cause

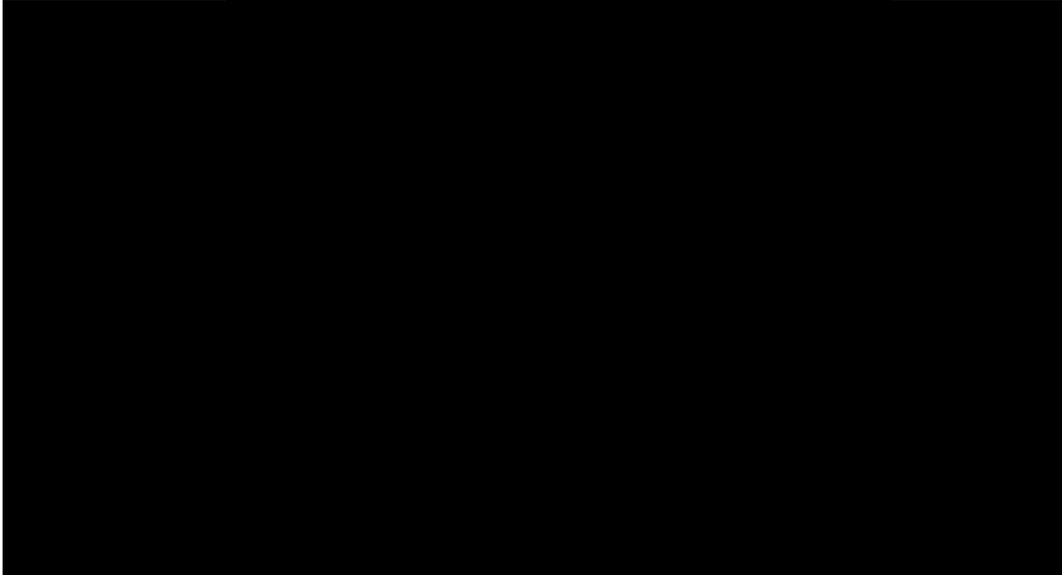
B. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett (Withdrawn 2006) – PFR- 170

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause of [REDACTED] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against Rev. Joseph Bennett. A summary of the allegation is as follows: massaging, Fr. Bennett rubbing his forearm over [REDACTED] underwear on his penis, Fr. Bennett showed [REDACTED] pornographic films between 6-12 times, Fr. Bennett masturbated [REDACTED] to climax, Fr. Bennett performed oral sex on [REDACTED]. Fr. Bennett provided [REDACTED] with alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana.

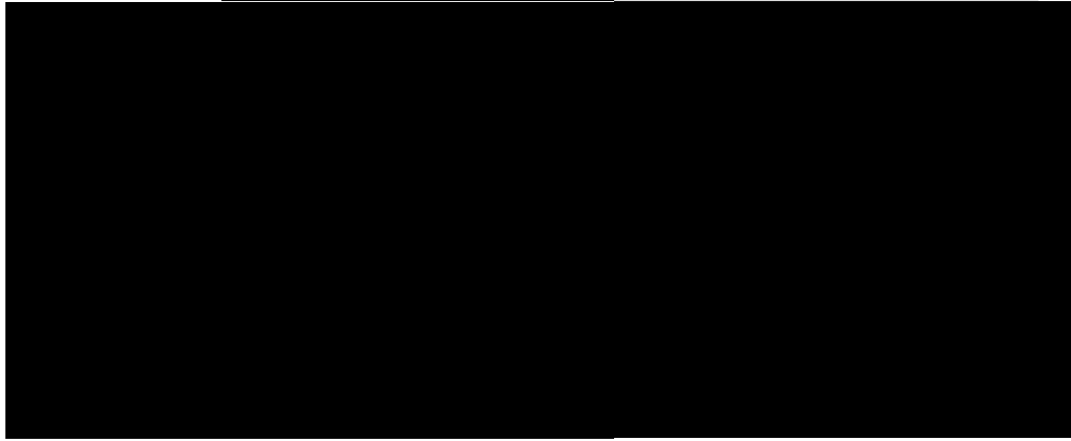
Ms. McCluskey provided the Review Board with a verbal overview and update of the investigation of this matter.

In light of the information presented, the Board determined that there is reason to suspect that Fr. Bennett sexually abused [REDACTED] when he was a minor.

C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]



D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]



III.

Other Matters

- Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. met with the Review Board
- Jen Hibben, Assistant to the Director of the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, met with the Review Board
- Matt Hunnicutt, Director of the Office of Assistance Ministry, met with the Review Board

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, August 21, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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MEMORANDUM

Revised

To: File – PFR-170

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] [REDACTED]

Date: December 3, 2005

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on Saturday, December 3, 2005:

- Meeting began with a review of Rev. Joseph Bennett's file in regards to the allegations of sexual misconduct made against him by Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED]
- Fr. Smilanic informed the Board that Rev. Paul Golden, C.M., J.C.D. is Fr. Bennett's newly appointed canonical advocate; Fr. Smilanic also informed the Board of Fr. Golden's request to have the entire file copied and sent to him
- Cardinal George arrived at the Board meeting at 9:30am to discuss the Board's recommendations made on the Bennett [REDACTED] and Bennett/[REDACTED] allegations
- The Cardinal explained that in the interest of procedure, he would like for Fr. Bennett to address the Board in regards to the allegations made against him by Ms. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [clarification that Fr. Bennett did address the Review Board at the November 19, 2005 Review Board meeting]
- The Cardinal stated that he wanted to ensure that Fr. Bennett is aware of his [Fr. Bennett's] right to appear before the Review Board
- The Cardinal informed the Board that he has read the entire file and that he was prepared to converse with them regarding these matters, as he had questions he wished to ask the Board members so that he could understand the Board's conclusions and recommendations of these matters
- Mr. Gass then provided the Cardinal with a verbal history of the aforementioned matters as they have appeared before the Board
- Mr. Gass informed the Cardinal of the Board members' feelings of the evidence of the existence of freckles on Fr. Bennett's scrotum

AOC 000271

- Mr. Gass explained to the Cardinal the fact that “reasonable cause to suspect” is not a high standard of proof in these matters, however the freckles on Fr. Bennett’s scrotum lead the Board to believe that something [sexually abusive] did happen in the matters involving Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED]
- Dr. Renshaw then referred the Cardinal to the medical documentation concerning marks/freckles on Fr. Bennett’s scrotum
- Dr. Jenuwine noted that Fr. Bennett initially denied the existence of freckles on his scrotum and had his [personal] physician write a letter noting such; referring to the more recent medical information obtained that states that Fr. Bennett does have marks on his scrotum, Dr. Jenuwine made the point that when Ms. [REDACTED] allegation was first read to him [Fr. Bennett], he did not remark something to the effect of, “...how would she [Ms. [REDACTED]] know that [that there are marks/freckles on his scrotum]?”
- Dr. Jenuwine also made the point that Ms. [REDACTED] recall of Fr. Bennett having a birth mark on his back “...does not stand up...” and that the back surgery that Fr. Bennett underwent took place significantly after the alleged abuse
- Fr. Rubey made the point that Dr. Renshaw had talked to the Board about such marks on a male’s scrotum, that they are not age spots and they are also not common
- Dr. Jenuwine stated that when he first reviewed the allegation [made by Ms. [REDACTED] against Fr. Bennett, that he found it to be incredible until he read the information concerning the existence of freckles on the accused’s scrotum; Dr. Jenuwine then provided the opinion that freckles on the scrotum as alleged in the matter of Ms. [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Bennett would be a “flashbulb memory” that a child sexual abuse victim would remember
- Fr. Dowling stated that he had doubts that Fr. Bennett is an abuser
- The Cardinal stated that in regards to Ms. [REDACTED] allegation, other parts of her allegation seem to be inaccurate, except for the presence of freckles on Fr. Bennett’s scrotum
- The Cardinal expressed his great support and appreciation for the Board’s review of and recommendations on the matters of Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] allegations against Fr. Bennett
- Fr. Smilanic suggested that Fr. Golden [Fr. Bennett’s canonical advocate] be allowed to review the matters and provide a response on the behalf of the accused prior to the Cardinal making his final decision [based upon the Board’s Review for Cause determinations of Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] allegations against Fr. Bennett]
- The Cardinal questioned as to why Fr. Bennett did not have a canonical advocate until recently; Fr. Smilanic stated that he cannot recall and does not know why
- Responding to Fr. Dowling’s question of “turn around time” in the review of the matters by Fr. Golden, Fr. Smilanic reiterated his [Fr. Golden’s] request to have the file copied and sent to him

- In regards to Fr. Golden's request for having a copy of Fr. Bennett's files sent to him, the Cardinal expressed his concern for the integrity of the files if they are copied, but that he is "open to discussion"
- Dr. Jenuwine suggested that based upon confidentiality, the Office of Legal Services could draw up an agreement that information from Fr. Bennett's file copied and sent to Fr. Golden could not be copied and/or reproduced
- The Cardinal requested that Fr. Golden submit his information/response on behalf of Fr. Bennett to the Board and then communicated to him
- The Cardinal stated that he would like to follow through the matters of the two aforementioned allegations against Fr. Bennett procedurally [with the defense of a canon lawyer], as Rome would first ask and ensure that a matter [regarding such misconduct] abided by procedure and "The Code;" the Cardinal expressed his concern that he does not want Rome to send any cases back [to him] due to a lack of following procedure
- Fr. Dowling expressed the need to have the monitoring of Fr. Bennett continue, with which the Cardinal agreed
- It was agreed that all Board members would keep their files on Bennett [REDACTED] and Bennett [REDACTED] until hearing [a response] from Fr. Bennett's canon lawyer
- Fr. Rubey will abstain from the matters, as he and Fr. Bennett are classmates and friends

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Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

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October 15, 2005

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on October 15, 2005 and conducted a Review for Cause of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett pursuant to Article §1104.9 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Bennett is an active priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board made the recommendation that in light of the information presented, there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. The Board recommended that Fr. Bennett be immediately withdrawn from ministry and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey", written over a large, stylized flourish that extends downwards and to the right.

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

*A accepts the
recommendations.
Fr. Joseph
Oct 18, 2005*

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests

AOC 000274

VCS

Ap. Ack.

VINCENTIAN CANONICAL SERVICES

November 28, 2005

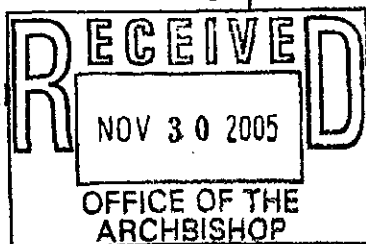
*✓ Fr. Don Snelson
- Phil McCloskey
the proceed now?
P, P.*

Paul L. Golden, C.M., J.C.D.
Director

DePaul House
2340 South University Boulevard
Suite 402
Denver, Colorado 80210-5405

Tel: 303/698-0458
Fax: 303/777-0468
paul@goldenconsulting.com

His Eminence
Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611



Your Eminence,

The Reverend Joseph Bennett, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and pastor of Holy Ghost Church, has recently appointed me his canonical consultant. I am enclosing a fully executed mandate of representation. I am also enclosing a copy of my curriculum vitae.

Two women have brought complaints of sex abuse of minors against Father Bennett. These delicts are alleged to have taken place between 1969-1971. The Office of Professional Responsibility has been investigating the truthfulness of these allegations. The Review Board has considered the evidence gathered to date. Father Bennett absolutely denies these claims and has begun to produce evidence to demonstrate his innocence.

✓ Father Bennett has not had the assistance of a canon lawyer until last week. He has given both written and oral responses to the allegations and has met with the Review Board. However, there are many important questions that have not been resolved and there is exculpatory evidence that has not been presented. I would like to assist Father in presenting this evidence and in posing these questions. This will take some time. On behalf of Father Bennett, I ask Your Eminence not to make a final decision about the truthfulness of the allegations until I have presented a complete response to you.

One of the complainants, [redacted] Ms. [redacted] This could well be a classic case of false memories.

Ms. [redacted] "remembers" many things that did not happen. She testified said that Father Bennett, as an associate pastor, "presided" over her confirmation and "confirmed" her. She does not apparently remember the Bishop, the ordinary

minister of confirmation, being present. Ms. [REDACTED] "remembers" Father Bennett having a birthmark on his back. He does not have such a mark. She "remembers" Father's private quarters being "down the hall" from the kitchen. I will present evidence that demonstrates that these memories are false.

Ms. [REDACTED] allegation of abuse by Father has many elements that do not seem true. The place of the abuse, the time of day of the abuse, the number of people involved in and witnessing the abuse are outside the norm for such a crime. She alleges that Father inserted the handle of a communion paten into her rectum. She says it felt like her mother inserting a suppository. This cannot be true. Most models of these patens that I have seen either have a knob on the end or the end is square. This certainly must have been very painful for a young girl, but Ms. [REDACTED] does not remember that.

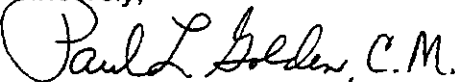
The other complainant, Ms. [REDACTED] apparently did not remember any such abuse until her sister mentioned it to her.

[REDACTED] It seems likely that Ms. [REDACTED] is so concerned about [REDACTED] especially her [REDACTED] that she feels it her duty to help [REDACTED] by supporting her allegations and adding some of her own. I will present evidence that casts doubt on Ms. [REDACTED] story.

In order to fully assist Father Bennett to protect his right to his good reputation and to his privacy, I request that you instruct the Office of Professional Responsibility to forward to me the entire file, including the deliberations of the Review Board. Father does not know what the former Sister [REDACTED] told the investigators when she was interviewed. Also, there is no record that Ms. [REDACTED] was contacted. Ms. [REDACTED] testified that [REDACTED] witnessed the abuse.

Father Bennett told me that he has felt your strong support of him during this devastating experience. He appreciates the careful attention you are giving to this case. He is hopeful that you will allow us the time to present more evidence to demonstrate that the allegations are totally false and without merit.

Sincerely,


Paul L. Golden, C.M.
Director

cc: Reverend Joseph Bennett

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170
From: Review Board Meeting
Re: Rev. Joseph Bennett
Date: November 19, 2005

His monitor Rev. Leonard Dubi accompanied Rev. Joseph Bennett when he addressed the Review Board from 11:15am through 11:45am.

AOC 000277

Holy Ghost Church

700 EAST 170th STREET
SOUTH HOLLAND ILLINOIS 60473 3498
TELEPHONE (708) 333 7011
FAX (708) 333 1996

November 8, 2005

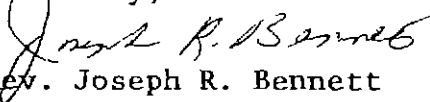
Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator
Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Dear Leah,

Thank you very much for your letter and setting up the meeting for me and the Review Board on November 19, 2005 at 11:00 am. I will be present.


Along with this letter I am enclosing the chart of the dermatologist, [REDACTED]. This is the original. I am faxing it to you along with this letter today at 5:10pm. I will bring copies of it to the meeting. I am hoping it will be helpful.

Sincerely,


Rev. Joseph R. Bennett

Cc: Patrick Reardon
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

AOC 000278

To: File
From: Ed Grace 
Re: Joe Bennett
Date: November 9, 2005

This A.M. I spoke with Joe

- He intends to be at the 11/19/05 Board Meeting
- Father Emmett Gavin declined to act as canonical advisor (Joe's friend).
- I then spoke with Msgr. Easton of Indianapolis who expressed great reluctance due to workload. In crisis he would assist. *et*
- At Dan Smilanic's suggestion I contacted Msgr. Rich Bass of Detroit to request he act for Joe.
 - left message
 - awaiting attorney's call
 - Msgr. Bass's telephone number: [REDACTED] (He apparently does not have an office at the Tribunal.)

Concerning Joe's 11/19/05 appointment with the Review Board:

1. He has seen the dermatologist.
2. He has a typewritten report from the dermatologist.
3. I suggested points I thought he should make with the Board:
 - a) Accuser spoke of birthmark.
There is no birthmark
 - b) Accuser spoke of freckles
Even a child knows that "freckles" are not purplish-blue – they are brown.
 - c) Dermatologist characterized "purplish-blue marks as age spots – not likely there at the time of the allegation.
4. Joe shared with me that his civil attorney felt the Review Board, or more accurately, some members of the Board were hostile to priests.

To: File
From: Ed Grace
Re: Joe Bennett
Date: Nov. 14, 2005

Today I received a copy of Joe's dermatologist's report.

I called Joe to suggest that he ask the dermatologist for a clarification:

- Specifically – since Joe had stated to me that the scrotum marks were/might be aging marks –
Did the doctor have an opinion on whether the spots would have been present years ago at the time of the allegation?
- Secondly, some mark, bigger than a golf ball/smaller than a soft ball was alleged on his back.

Marks on Joe Bennett's back according to the dermatologist report:

1. 9cm scar from laminectomy is post alleged abuse
2. Otherwise the largest mark on Joe's back is a 2.1-centimeter keratosis – only half the size of a golf ball – a golf ball is 4.2 cm in diameter according to Google.

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October 15, 2005

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

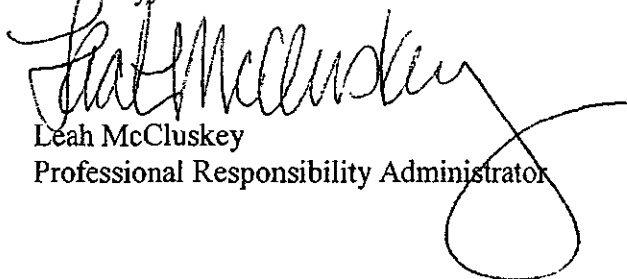
Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on October 15, 2005 and conducted a Review for Cause of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett pursuant to Article §1104.9 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Bennett is an active priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board made the recommendation that in light of the information presented, there is reasonable cause to suspect that the sexual abuse of a minor did occur. However, the Board did not reach a determination on all aspects of the allegation. Further, the Board recommended that Fr. Bennett be immediately withdrawn from ministry and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

*I met the
recommender.
Fr. [unclear]
Oct. 18, 2005*

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests

AOC 000281

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Active)/ [REDACTED]

Date: August 20, 2005

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on August 20, 2005:

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause of the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: Fr. Bennett penetrated Ms. [REDACTED]; Ms. [REDACTED] performed oral sex on Fr. Bennett; mutual masturbation; mutual oral sex involving Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED]; Fr. Bennett penetrated Ms. [REDACTED] rectum with handle of a paten; Ms. [REDACTED] witnessed Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED] having sexual intercourse.

In light of the information presented, the Board voted 4-3. Due to the fact that there was not a majority vote of at least five members, a recommendation could not be made to Cardinal George. The Board then voted 7-0 that this matter be continued to the next scheduled Review Board meeting for a Review for Cause.

The Board also requested that PRA attempt to obtain a written consent from Fr. Bennett allowing a Board representative to speak with Dr. [REDACTED] in order to clarify his April 2005 physical examination of the accused.

AOC 000282

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Office of Professional Responsibility





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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] 

Date: November 22, 2005

PRA spoke with Rev. Ralph R. Mollan [Retired] via phone today regarding the continuing investigation of  allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett.

At the beginning of the phone conversation today, Fr. Mollan made it clear to PRA that he is hard of hearing. PRA did need to raise her voice and speak slowly and clearly, which seemed to be helpful to Fr. Mollan. He also needed PRA to again clarify for him where she was calling from as well as explaining to him that the Office of Professional Responsibility is an office of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

When asked, Fr. Mollan indicated that he recalls speaking to PRA regarding the aforementioned matter approximately one year ago [see Memorandum in file dated July 8, 2004]. Fr. Mollan then informed PRA that he had provided all of the information that he knew at that time.

PRA expressed appreciation for Fr. Mollan's cooperation in the past and asked if he had time to provide additional information regarding this matter. Fr. Mollan indicated that he did have the time and would answer what he could for PRA.

PRA asked Fr. Mollan if he had a "policy" regarding priests having visitors in their rooms in the rectory while he was pastor of St. John de LaSalle. Fr. Mollan appeared confused by the word "policy." PRA then apologized for the use of the word policy, and asked him if he recalls giving any instruction to the other priests assigned to St. John de LaSalle regarding having visitors in their private rooms.

Fr. Mollan stated that it has been 25 years since he was assigned to St. John de LaSalle and as a result, was not sure if he did or did not instruct the other priests assigned in regards to visitors in their private quarters. Fr. Mollan then asked if he could "...think

about it for a couple of days...” and then get back to PRA. He suggested that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, he might not contact PRA again until next week.

PRA thanked Fr. Mollan for his time and for his willingness to think about his time as pastor at St. John de LaSalle prior to calling next week.

Fr. Mollan was ordained in 1943 and currently resides as the Bishop Lyne Home in Lemont, Illinois. The main phone number for the facility is [REDACTED]

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



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November 2, 2005

Rev. Joseph Bennett
Holy Ghost Parish
700 E. 170th Street
South Holland, IL 60473

Dear Fr. Bennett,

I am writing this letter in regards to the voice mail message that you left for me on November 1, 2005 in regards to the allegations of sexual misconduct made against you by Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED]. I do understand that you have discussed this matter with your civil attorney, Patrick Reardon.

As you know, the aforementioned matters were presented to the independent Review Board for Initial Reviews on June 19, 2004 and March 19, 2005, respectively. As you might recall, I initially requested your responses to the aforementioned allegations on April 29, 2004 and January 6, 2005, respectively. I am grateful that you have requested this opportunity to address the Board and completely respond to the allegations, as this is what was requested of you over one year ago.

Due to the fact that the aforementioned matters have so recently been brought before the independent Review Board for their consideration, you will have the opportunity to address the Board if you wish from 11:00am until 11:30am on Saturday, November 19, 2005. During this time with the Board, you will be asked to present any and all information regarding the aforementioned matters that has not been brought before the Board for their consideration. You are invited to have anyone you wish accompany you.

Fr. Bennett, I ask that you notify me no later than November 9, 2005 if you wish to appear before the Board on the aforementioned date. If I do not receive any response from you by November 9th, I will assume that you do not wish to appear before the Board.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Patrick Reardon, Civil Attorney
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

AOC 000285

8/2/05

- Voice Mail from Leah

- My note about the compromised
reading of Dr [REDACTED]'s exam notes
is all the board needs

- There is no need to get
permission for [REDACTED]
to speak with Dr [REDACTED]

J

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170
From: Laura A. Neri-Palomino
Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Active)/ [REDACTED]
Date: July 16, 2005

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on July 16, 2005:

The Review Board was to conduct a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: Fr. Bennett exposed himself and then instructed Ms. [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him.

In a 7-0 vote, the Board unanimously agreed to postpone the Review for Cause of this matter until the scheduled August 20, 2005 meeting until the following information could be obtained/determined by PRA:

- That PRA speak with Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests, regarding the need for clarification on Dr. Koeller's report of his physical examination of Fr. Bennett. Specifically, to determine if Dr. Koeller noted a birthmark on the back of Fr. Bennett during his exam or not. PRA will ask Fr. Grace if he would prefer to speak with Dr. Koeller regarding the report or if he feels that it is appropriate for Dr. Domeena Renshaw to discuss the matter with Dr. Koeller on behalf of the Review Board. Dr. Renshaw works with Dr. Koeller at Loyola.
- That PRA check with Fr. Grace to determine if Rev. Leonard Dubi is currently on sabbatical or not. Fr. Dubi is Fr. Bennett's identified monitor.

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active]

Date: June 2, 2005

As requested by the independent Review Board, PRA reviewed Rev. Joseph Bennett's respective files in the Chancellor's Office and the Vicar for Priests Office. This request was made by the Board in connection with Ms. [REDACTED] allegation of sexual abuse against Fr. Bennett.

As of the file review that took place on April 20, 2005, PRA noted nothing out of the ordinary in Fr. Bennett's file kept in the Chancellor's Office. There were many documents praising Fr. Bennett's work as a priest and a chaplain at Cook County Jail. There was also documentation present pertaining to Fr. Bennett's appointment as a Dean of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Upon PRA's review of Fr. Bennett's file in the Vicar for Priests Office, there was documentation pertaining to an accusation of financial mismanagement of funds by a parishioner/former employee of St. Agnes. The letter from the parishioner/former employee of St. Agnes was dated June 1, 2000. In this same letter, the author refers to a time period of financial difficulties at Our Lady of Fatima between 1991 and 1997 when Fr. Bennett was pastor. Our Lady of Fatima was a parish formed with the merge of St. Agnes and St. Joseph & Anne.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 000288



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VICAR FOR PRIESTS

645 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 543

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

Off: (312) 642-1837

Fax: (312) 642-4933

MEMORANDUM

To: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator

From: Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

Date: April 5, 2005

Re: Bennett, Joseph (Review Board Meeting, 3/19/05)

It was the Review Board's recommendation that Father Bennett undergo a physical examination, the choice of doctor to be made by the Vicar for Priests. Dr. [REDACTED] who practices medicine at Loyola Medical Center, will conduct the physical exam at a time arranged between him and Father Bennett.

Regarding the recommendation of the Review Board that Father Bennett be monitored until the end of the Review Board process concerning the alleged victims, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by someone other than Father Len Dubi, both Cardinal George and Rev. George Rassas, Vicar General, withdrew consent from this proposal when I consulted with them. They did not support the Review Board's recommendation that either Rev. Thomas Cima or Rev. Thomas Cabala serve as Father Bennett's monitor. Neither Father Cima nor Father Cabala live near him and they rarely see Father Bennett. Both Cardinal George and Father Rassas are in agreement that Father Dubi would be the best monitor because he himself continues to be in the [REDACTED]. One of the tenets of this program is the pledge to tell the truth to which Father Dubi earnestly commits himself. Furthermore, Father Bennett and Father Dubi spend days off together. Father Dubi contacts Father Bennett on a daily basis. [REDACTED] together. For these reasons, Father Dubi would probably be the best monitor for Father Bennett.

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170
From: Review Board Meeting
Re: Bennett, Joseph (Active) [REDACTED]
Date: March 29, 2005

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2005:

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: Fr. Bennett exposed himself to Ms. [REDACTED]; Fr. Bennett instructed Ms. [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him.

In a 8-0 vote, in light of the information presented, the Board determined that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board also requested that PRA complete the following tasks:

- That PRA contact Sr. [REDACTED]'s order and ask for her assignment history as well as the reason as to why she left the order.
- That PRA attempt to determine if Sr. [REDACTED] was known as "the singing nun."
- That PRA request to meet with Sr. [REDACTED] in person.
- That PRA review Fr. Bennett's file in the Vicar for Priests and the Chancellor's offices.
- That Fr. Bennett is asked to undergo a physical examination by a doctor of the choice of the Vicar for Priests office.
- That Fr. Bennett is monitored until the end of the Review Board process.
- That Fr. Bennett's monitor is either Rev. Thomas Simma or Rev. Thomas Cabala and **not** Rev. Leonard Dubi.

AOC 000290

State of Illinois)
) ss.
County of Cook)

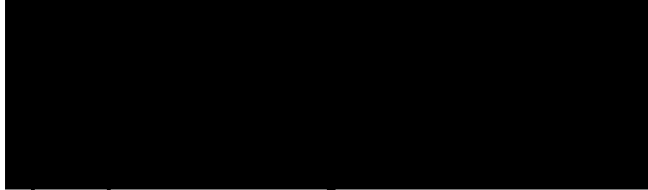
AFFIDAVIT

On affirmation and oath the affiant, [REDACTED], Doctor of
Osteopathy, [REDACTED], states the following:

1. I have been the personal physician of Father Joseph Bennett for approximately thirty-seven (37) years.
2. During those thirty-seven years I have performed physical examinations on Joseph Bennett on at least an annual basis.
3. In more recent years I have seen and examined Father Bennett more frequently to monitor diabetes related conditions, high blood pressure and cholesterol; these examinations have been approximately every two months.
4. In the course of these medical examinations I have personally examined the anatomy of Father Joseph Bennett.
5. I state unconditionally that Father Joseph Bennett has no birthmark on the back or front of his body, and more specifically, no mark that is bigger than a golf ball and smaller than a softball on his lower back.
6. I further state that Father Joseph Bennett has no freckles on either of his testicles.

7. The above observations discussed in paragraphs 5 and 6 have been true of Father Joseph Bennett during the entire time I have been his physician.

FURTHER AFFLIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



Date

5/26/04

SIGNED AND AFFIRMED
to before me on 26 day of May, 2004

Rosemary Maggio
Notary Public



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Office of Professional Responsibility




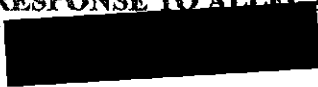
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MEMORANDUM

To: File -- PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: **REV. JOSEPH BENNETT'S [ACTIVE] RESPONSE TO ALLEGATION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT MADE BY** 

Date: February 1, 2005

Date of Meeting: January 6, 2005



Time of Meeting: 12:00pm

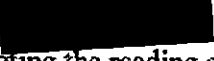
Present at Meeting

Rev. Joseph Bennett
Rev. Leonard Dubi, friend of Fr. Bennett
Ms. Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

Face-to-Face Meeting

Rev. James T. Kaczorowski and PRA traveled to Holy Family Villa to meet with Rev. Joseph Bennett. Frs. Kaczorowski and Bennett arranged the meeting date and place, as all involved parties were to be at Holy Family Villa that day for another appointment. Fr. Kaczorowski and PRA met with Fr. Bennett and Rev. Leonard Dubi in an unoccupied room in the nursing facility.

Fr. Bennett was provided with a copy of Ms.  allegation of sexual misconduct made against him. It was agreed that PRA would forward a copy of  allegation to Mr. Patrick Reardon, Fr. Bennett's civil attorney.

PRA proceeded by reading  allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Bennett in its entirety. Upon completing the reading of the allegation, PRA informed Fr. Bennett that if he did not feel comfortable, he would not be expected to make an initial response to the allegation without Mr. Reardon present. Fr. Bennett then indicated to PRA and Fr. Kaczorowski that he felt "okay" to respond to the allegation at that point in time.

AOC 000293

Fr. Bennett stated that Ms. [REDACTED] allegation against him is false. Further, he stated that he does not recall providing Ms. [REDACTED] with confirmation instruction as stated in her allegation.

As per Fr. Bennett, his bedroom at St. John Baptist de LaSalle overlooked 102nd Street and that Rev. [Ralph] Mollan's bedroom overlooked King Drive. Fr. Bennett stated that Fr. Mollan was the pastor at the time and that the only occasion that he would be in the pastor's bedroom was when he [Fr. Mollan] called a staff meeting. He added that there was no way that he would have been able to bring anyone to his room, as that was Fr. Mollan's policy. According to the Archdiocesan Directory, Fr. Mollan was ordained in 1943 and is now retired and resides at Bishop Lyne Home.

Fr. Bennett also spoke of [REDACTED] the housekeeper at St. John Baptist de LaSalle who was mentioned by Ms. [REDACTED] in her allegation. As per Fr. Bennett, [REDACTED] would have never let Ms. [REDACTED] or her sisters back into his bedroom. He stated that he was surprised by Ms. [REDACTED] allegation against him.

Fr. Bennett does remember Ms. [REDACTED] parents and recalls that he never saw the children [Ms. [REDACTED] and/or her siblings] without their mother. Other than the noted memory, Fr. Bennett stated that he does not remember Ms. [REDACTED] family very well. Fr. Bennett then stated that his heart goes out to Ms. [REDACTED] and her family.

At this point in the meeting, Fr. Kaczorowski brought up the point that Fr. Bennett is not under a monitoring protocol, as suggested by Ms. [REDACTED]. Fr. Kaczorowski then stated that Fr. Bennett was only monitored on one occasion in the past, but no longer.

Referring back to Ms. [REDACTED] allegation, Fr. Bennett clarified that "Fr. Ted" was not a priest at St. John de LaSalle, but that he was a permanent deacon. Fr. Bennett added that "Fr. Ted" recently passed away. As per Fr. Bennett, there were no other priests assigned to St. John de LaSalle except for him and Fr. Mollan. Fr. Bennett then spoke of Rev. [Francis Q.] Frank Kub who was only at St. John de LaSalle for one year. He suggested that possibly Ms. [REDACTED] recollection of a "Fr. Ted" might have been Fr. Kub. According to Archdiocesan Archives, Fr. Kub was assigned to St. John Baptist de LaSalle from 1965 through January 6, 1969. Fr. Bennett was assigned to St. John Baptist de LaSalle from May 16, 1966 through June 15, 1973. Fr. Kub was ordained in 1965 and is currently serving his third term as pastor of St. Simon the Apostle.

Speaking of Ms. [REDACTED] mother's funeral, Fr. Bennett stated that he did not attend the mass, as he was no longer a priest of the parish [where the funeral took place]. Fr. Bennett noted that Ms. [REDACTED] was not upset or angry with him over him not celebrating her mother's funeral mass. He then described Ms. [REDACTED] mother as "an exemplary woman" who never let her children out of her sight.

Fr. Bennett stated that he absolutely denies Ms. [REDACTED] allegation against him. He does not remember having any separate or specific conversations with Ms. [REDACTED] and/or with her

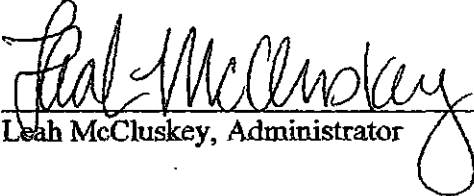
siblings. He only remembers "the kids [redacted] and her siblings]" being with their mother. As per Fr. Bennett, the only time that he went to Ms. [redacted] family home was with [redacted] when he would give her a ride there.

Fr. Bennett does recall [redacted] having Ms. [redacted] mother and siblings visiting in the kitchen of St. John de LaSalle rectory. He feels that he might have walked through the kitchen of the rectory and said hello to Ms. [redacted] mother and the children she would have had with her. Fr. Bennett then estimated that he might have been in Ms. [redacted] family home on one or two occasions when he provided [redacted] with a ride there to visit.

PRA and Fr. Kaczorowski thanked Fr. Bennett for his time and his response to Ms. [redacted] allegations. It was agreed that PRA would forward a copy of a draft response to Fr. Bennett based upon the January 6, 2005 meeting. Fr. Bennett will then review the draft and make any corrections necessary prior to returning it to PRA.

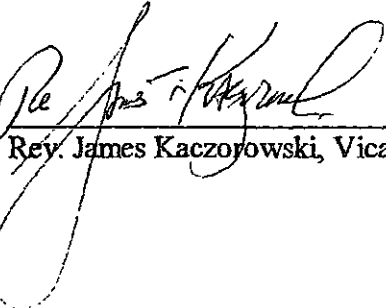
Rev. Joseph Bennett

Date



Leah McCluskey, Administrator

3/9/05
Date



Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

3-10-05
Date

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim DO's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on August 31, 2004, formalizing her allegation of abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett. The alleged abuse consisted of Fr. Bennett forcing Victim DO to perform oral sex on his. The alleged abuse occurred in the rectory of St. John Baptist de LaSalle parish in approximately 1969-1970. The alleged abuse occurred began when Victim DO was approximately 12-13 years old and ended when she began attending high school. Victim DO recalls that Fr. Bennett told her not to tell anyone about the sexual abuse.

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NOV 16 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Date: November 3, 2004

PRA and Mrs. Mayra Flores of Assistance Ministry met with Ms. [REDACTED] on September 7, 2004 regarding her sisters' [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] allegations of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett. As requested by Ms. [REDACTED], the meeting took place at her hair salon [REDACTED] located at [REDACTED] in Chicago.

After introductions were made, PRA provided Ms. [REDACTED] with information regarding the Office of Professional Responsibility, as well as a copy of *§1100 Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance to Victims and Procedures for Determination of Fitness for Ministry*. Ms. [REDACTED] was then asked to begin wherever she felt most comfortable sharing her memories of her sisters and Fr. Bennett.

Ms. [REDACTED] began by stating that at this point in time, her recollections are that she was a "bystander" during the time period that Fr. Bennett allegedly abused her older sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. She does not have any memories at this time of herself being abused by the cleric. As per Ms. [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] began to disclose the abuse by Fr. Bennett, she began to relate her own recollections [from her childhood].

Ms. [REDACTED] showed Mrs. Flores and PRA a picture of her and [REDACTED] on their First Communion, which took place at St. John de LaSalle. She was between seven and eight years old at the time. Ms. [REDACTED] shared that her mother held her sister [REDACTED] back in school one year so that [REDACTED] could be with her in class. As per Ms. [REDACTED] she was painfully shy as a child and her mother felt that [REDACTED] being in the same First Communion class with her would be a help. Ms. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in the same CCD class at St. John de LaSalle so that they could make their First Communion together.

AOC 000297

Ms. [REDACTED] father worked evenings, so between 3:00pm and 4:00pm her mother would be making dinner for him and such so that he could get ready and leave for work. As a result, Ms. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had to wait in the classroom after CCD for approximately 20-30 minutes until their mother could pick them up. Ms. [REDACTED] recalls waiting by herself and that she did not like doing so. She recalls that [REDACTED] was not with her waiting because she [REDACTED] had to do something after CCD class downstairs. At the time [REDACTED] was "the favorite," so it was not unusual for her to be asked to do something extra after class. When asked later in the meeting by PRA, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she recalls there being a door at the bottom of the stairs [in the school where CCD was held] and that she waited a lot at the top of the stairs as she was told. Again when asked, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she does remember knowing that she had to wait at the top of the stairs, but not who told her to wait there.

Ms. [REDACTED] remembers one occasion when she was scared while waiting at the top of the stairs and feeling that she really wanted her sister [REDACTED] with her. As a result, Ms. [REDACTED] went downstairs, where she was told not to go. She recalls that Sr. [REDACTED] ran out from somewhere and opened and closed the door [located at the bottom of the stairs]. Ms. [REDACTED] stated that Sr. [REDACTED] did not have her veil on and as a result, saw the nun's short, coarse hair. She also recalls watching Sr. [REDACTED] adjusting her skirt and the buttons on her blouse. At the time, Ms. [REDACTED] was "...really upset and crying..." and Sr. [REDACTED] told her that all was well and that there was nothing to worry about.

Ms. [REDACTED] then shared another memory of being in the basement hall outside of the CCD classroom. She recalls crying, being scared and upset, and backing away from vestments. Ms. [REDACTED] backed herself into a coat rack and fell. After falling, she remembers being comforted by Sr. [REDACTED]

Ms. [REDACTED] spoke of [REDACTED] [please refer to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] allegations against Fr. Bennett]. She recalls visiting [REDACTED] often with her sisters and their mother and that the woman gave them Irish sweaters as gifts. Ms. [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as one of her mother's dearest friends. As per Ms. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] took care of the priests at St. John de LaSalle. She stated that [REDACTED] was an elf-like woman with an Irish brogue, which made her difficult to understand. As Ms. [REDACTED] mother attended church at St. John de La Salle every morning, she and [REDACTED] became good friends, and in turn became friendly with Fr. Bennett.

Ms. [REDACTED] spoke of a time when she, [REDACTED] and their mother went to visit [REDACTED] They sat in the kitchen of St. John de LaSalle rectory and had orange juice and coffeecake. Ms. [REDACTED] recalls Fr. Bennett being present and taking [REDACTED] with him into the back area of the rectory to see the scapulas/medals in his bedroom area.

Ms. [REDACTED] spoke of another time when she, [REDACTED] their mother, and [REDACTED] were out to dinner. She and her family had moved out of Pullman and to Worth by then and Fr. Bennett had been assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge [According to Archdiocesan Archives, Fr. Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge from 1973 through 1976].

Ms. [REDACTED] then shared that [REDACTED] attended morning mass with their mother often. At this point in the meeting, Ms. [REDACTED] apologized to Mrs. Flores and PRA for being "scattered" in terms of time frames and the memories that she was sharing.

Ms. [REDACTED] stated that her mother passed away seven years ago. She spoke of a Fr. Pat who was a good friend of her mother's who is now assigned to St. Christina's [According to the current Archdiocesan Directory, there is no priest listed as assigned to St. Christina's with the first name Pat or Patrick]. As per Ms. [REDACTED] her mother "mothered" Pat and "...pushed him in the direction to become a priest." Upon the passing of her mother, she called Fr. Pat and Fr. Bennett, to request that they con-celebrate the funeral mass at St. Albert the Great. She shared that Fr. Pat was more than happy to say the mass. When she called Fr. Bennett about her mother's death and the funeral mass, she was shocked that the cleric did not remember her mother. As per Ms. [REDACTED] she spoke to Fr. Bennett at that time about [REDACTED] and St. John de LaSalle. She shared with Mrs. Flores and PRA that Fr. Bennett had been to her family's homes [in Pullman and in Worth] for dinner in the past. Referring back to the time when her mother passed away, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she was upset and grieving when speaking with Fr. Bennett. She stated that Fr. Bennett agreed to say the funeral mass [with Fr. Pat]. Shortly prior to the funeral mass, Ms. [REDACTED] brought Fr. Bennett family pictures, which included her mother and father to share with him. She stated that Fr. Bennett looked at the pictures quickly and then told her that he was sorry for her loss.

PRA thanked Ms. [REDACTED] for all that she had shared of her memories of Fr. Bennett's involvement with her and her family. She then agreed to answer clarification questions for PRA.

When asked, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she is unsure of who taught the CCD class at St. John de LaSalle that she and [REDACTED] attended. She does recall that Sr. [REDACTED] was the "singing nun," and also has memories of the nun playing the guitar. In regards to Fr. Bennett, she remembers him to be "stoic" and not one to say much. She referred to her memories of her mother taking a picture of her and [REDACTED] with Fr. Bennett. Ms. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] has the picture and that it looks as if Fr. Bennett is attempting to move out of the shot as it was being taken.

Ms. [REDACTED] described her mother as very religious and her father as a Lutheran who "went with the flow." Her father would attend Catholic mass on Sundays with the family, but he never converted to Catholicism.

While living in Worth, Ms. [REDACTED] remembers talking with her mother about the media coverage of the sexual abuse of minors by priests. She stated that her mother remarked that the allegations [against all priests] were not true and felt that "...it would all come out that people [who alleged abuse] were lying." Ms. [REDACTED] recalls that her mother was upset and offended with the media coverage of people alleging that they were abused by priests.

When Ms. [REDACTED] and her siblings were growing up, their mother taught them that priests walked on water. As a result of these teachings, Ms. [REDACTED] feels that if [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] told their mother something regarding the abuse by Fr. Bennett, they would not be believed. Ms. [REDACTED] added her feeling that her mother would not have believed any of them if anyone had anything negative to say about a priest or a nun. She described her mother as sweet, innocent, and naïve. Ms. [REDACTED] then shared that if her parents were not dead, this [the abuse of her sisters by Fr. Bennett] would kill them.

Referring back to her childhood, Ms. [REDACTED] shared that [REDACTED] was the most book smart of the five children in the family. Ms. [REDACTED] also shared that it was easy to play a practical joke or "pull one over on" [REDACTED]. As a result of her sister's intelligence, Ms. [REDACTED] has always thought that [REDACTED] would become a lawyer or a doctor. Ms. [REDACTED] shared that [REDACTED] was always outgoing as well. As per Ms. [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] did not become a doctor or a lawyer, she was surprised and disappointed. Ms. [REDACTED] shared that [REDACTED] struggled with concentration when she was in college. [REDACTED] was earning good grades, but dropped out of school, even when she was attending classes at Moraine Valley [Junior College].

Ms. [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as a devout Catholic as an adult. As per Ms. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is active in church, prayer meetings, and is "...a big church go-er." [REDACTED] has always been a prayerful person and does quote from the bible.

Ms. [REDACTED] then spoke of the current state of her family and their feelings of discomfort that Fr. Bennett is still in a parish [Holy Ghost]. She stated that she has been extremely close to going to Holy Ghost to speak with Fr. Bennett. Ms. [REDACTED] shared that her sisters' abuse by Fr. Bennett has been devastating to their family. She remarked that if her father and brother were still alive today, Fr. Bennett would not be currently active in a parish. She described her family as close-knit and shared that Fr. Bennett's abuse has ruined the lives of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Ms. [REDACTED] stated that both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have suffered from depression and have been suicidal. She described herself as a backbone for her sisters.

Ms. [REDACTED] spoke of phone calls that she has had with [REDACTED] where she [REDACTED] has been suicidal. She has often wondered if the next phone call she receives is to inform her that [REDACTED] is dead. As a result of her sisters' abuse, work and friends have not been "first" for Ms. [REDACTED]. The abuse by Fr. Bennett has been "...a very big thorn" in her family's side.

Ms. [REDACTED] shared that she has done well for herself, but feels guilty that her sisters have not. She owns her own business, property, and a summer home. Ms. [REDACTED] recently bought [REDACTED] a new car as well. She wants her sisters to have happy, normal lives and to function as normal people, which devastates her. At this point in the meeting, Ms. [REDACTED] became visibly emotional. Up until this point, she had been able to speak clearly and directly regarding the memories of her childhood involving Fr. Bennett and her sisters' difficulties as a result of the alleged abuse.

Ms. [REDACTED] stated that the past year has been very difficult and that "pieces of the puzzle" have been coming together. She shared that she is fearful that she may have a "weird" memory [involving Fr. Bennett], but does not think that she will.

PRA thanked Ms. [REDACTED] for sharing all that she had regarding Fr. Bennett and her sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Ms. [REDACTED] may be reached at the following

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11/10/04
Date

Lean McCluskey
Lean McCluskey, Administrator

11/16/04
Date

Mayra Flores
Mayra Flores, Assistance Ministry

11/16/04
Date

- Cc: Review Board Members
Rev Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
✓ Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, ^{INP}Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: July 30, 2004

RE: [PFR-170]Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Active) [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 3/2/04. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [REDACTED] Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Bennett, Rev. Joseph [REDACTED]

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Most Rev. Edwin M. Conway

AOC 000302

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility




P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] [REDACTED]

Date: July 8, 2004

PRA contacted Rev. Ralph R. Mollan [Retired] via phone on July 7, 2004 regarding Ms. [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett and "Sr. [REDACTED]" Fr. Mollan was ordained in 1943 and currently resides at the Bishop Lyne Home. He was pastor of St. John de LaSalle at the time of the alleged abuse of [REDACTED] by Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED].

At times during the phone conversation, Fr. Mollan requested certain statements by PRA to be repeated as a result of his apparent difficulty of hearing. However it was clear that Fr. Mollan comprehended all that was discussed.

PRA explained to Fr. Mollan that he was contacted as a result of an ongoing investigation of Ms. [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED]. Fr. Mollan indicated that he was pastor of St. John de LaSalle in the late 1960s and early 1970s as identified by Ms. [REDACTED] in her allegation. He stated that he does know Fr. Bennett and that "there was never a charge [of misconduct]" against Fr. Bennett when the two clerics were assigned to St. John de LaSalle. Fr. Mollan added that he is also not aware of any current charges of misconduct against Fr. Bennett.

When asked by PRA, Fr. Mollan stated that he does not remember a nun by the name of Sr. [REDACTED]. He identified the nuns assigned to St. John de LaSalle at the time as School Sisters of Notre Dame. As per Fr. Mollan, many of the nuns took names such as "Sr. Mary Benedict," but again stated that he did not remember a Sr. [REDACTED]. PRA then asked Fr. Mollan if he recalled any nuns who played the guitar while at St. John de LaSalle. Fr. Mollan stated that he does not remember any nuns playing guitar at St. John de LaSalle or at any other assignment of his.

For clarification purposes, PRA then asked Fr. Mollan if he recalled any inappropriate behavior on the part of Fr. Bennett. Fr. Mollan stated that he does not recall any

AOC 000303

inappropriate behavior by Fr. Bennett and remembers the cleric as a "steady, good priest."

Fr. Mollan then asked if PRA knew the name of the principal at St. John de LaSalle at the time. PRA informed him that Ms. [REDACTED] identified the principal as Sr. Dorothy. Fr. Mollan confirmed that Sr. Dorothy was the principal along with his feeling that she is still alive.

PRA thanked Fr. Mollan for his assistance and cooperation with this matter. Fr. Mollan stated that he would keep this matter confidential and would not discuss it with anyone.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Lay Advisory Group
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Sr. Joan McGlinchey, Office for Religious
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility




P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] [REDACTED]

Date: December 19, 2003

PRA received a phone call from Ms. [REDACTED] on December 3, 2003 regarding an allegation of sexual misconduct against a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. During the initial phone call, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she did not wish to have her name released, nor was she intending of providing PRA with the name of the accused. After some conversation and an explanation of the process of formalizing an allegation of sexual misconduct, Ms. [REDACTED] named her alleged abuser as Rev. Joseph Bennett. However, Ms. [REDACTED] requested that PRA not release her name or any detail of the alleged abuse [to follow] until she had been able to obtain legal representation. PRA received two messages from Ms. [REDACTED] today allowing PRA to release her name and any detail of the allegation against Fr. Bennett provided on December 3, 2003. However, Ms. [REDACTED] has yet to obtain council, but will contact PRA once she has been able to identify appropriate representation.

During the phone conversation on December 3, Ms. [REDACTED] informed PRA that she had spoken with a parish priest in her home state of [REDACTED] regarding her allegation against Fr. Bennett. As per Ms. [REDACTED] she sought advice from her priest as to how she should go about addressing the alleged past abuse and he advised her to contact the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she is 43 years old and [REDACTED] Ms. [REDACTED] described 2003 as "a rough year" but that she had [REDACTED] She mentioned the fact that she "had a great childhood" and grew up on the south side of Chicago. During 2003 Ms. [REDACTED] had participated in a women's' prayer group through her church and began to "clean house" as directed by the leader of the group. It was at this time that Ms. [REDACTED] began to experience "memories that didn't make any sense." The memories were of her grammar school years, when she was approximately eight years old and in CCD classes prior to her First Communion. As per Ms. [REDACTED] she

AOC 000305

was in third grade at the time, [REDACTED]. Their CCD teacher was Sr. [REDACTED] [Carmelite nun] whom Ms. [REDACTED] described as "a sweet young nun." Ms. [REDACTED] also referred to a priest [alleged abuser] as "wonderful." She recalls that the priest was reassigned to a parish in the suburbs at one point. However, the priest would be present during Sr. [REDACTED]'s CCD classes from time to time. At this point in the conversation, Ms. [REDACTED] still did not feel comfortable disclosing the name of the accused as she was advised by her parish priest not to disclose such information over the phone.

PRA began to explain to Ms. [REDACTED] the purpose and responsibilities of PRA and the Office of Professional Responsibility. After some discussion and Ms. [REDACTED] information that the accused is an active priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Ms. [REDACTED] named her abuser as Rev. Joseph Bennett. She referred back to her recent memories of the alleged abuse and stated that she has "clear memories of Fr. Joe and Sr. [REDACTED]." [REDACTED] alleges that Sr. [REDACTED] was "present and a part of the abuse." She also informed PRA that Fr. Bennett has a birthmark on a part of his body that she "shouldn't know." Later in the conversation, Ms. [REDACTED] informed PRA that Fr. Bennett has a freckle on his left testicle. When asked by PRA, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she and her sister attended CCD classes at St. John De La Salle at 106th and King.

Ms. [REDACTED] informed PRA that she is coming forward at this time out of her "concern for the kids" and that Fr. Bennett is "only 61 [years old] now" and assigned to a parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago. She stated, "I don't want any money and I don't want revenge. I just want the truth." As per Ms. [REDACTED] the alleged abuse took place when she was between 7 and 9 years old. She moved out of St. John De La Salle parish with her family when she was 11 years old.

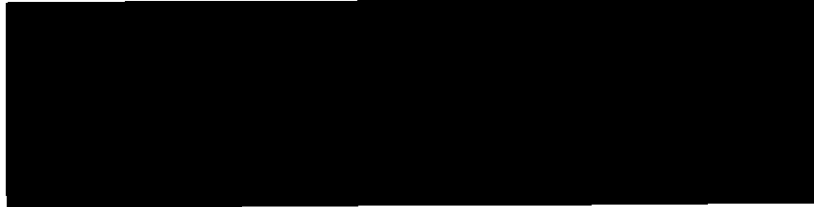
When provided information regarding formalizing her allegation, Ms. [REDACTED] informed PRA that she would be interested in PRA and Assistance Ministry traveling to [REDACTED] to meet with her. Ms. [REDACTED] also came to the decision that she would like time to obtain an attorney to protect her interests prior to PRA releasing any information regarding her allegation. Upon her identification of an attorney, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she would contact PRA and schedule a meeting.

It was agreed that PRA would send Ms. [REDACTED] a copy of *§1100 Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance to Victims and Procedures for Determination of Fitness for Ministry*. Her contact information is as follows:

[REDACTED]

Ms. [REDACTED] birth date is [REDACTED]

Ms. [REDACTED] contacted this office on December 17, 2003 and left a message approving the release of her name and information regarding her allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Bennett. She informed PRA that she continues to seek an attorney and will contact PRA when she has found an attorney and is ready to schedule a meeting. Ms. [REDACTED] also mentioned in her message that [REDACTED] has memories of misconduct involving Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED]. As per [REDACTED], her sister [REDACTED] may be interested in coming forward as well. Ms. [REDACTED] left the following contact numbers and requested a return call from PRA.



PRA left a message for Ms. [REDACTED] on December 19, 2003.

Office of Professional Responsibility

P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

July 2, 2004

Rev. Joseph Bennett
C/o Mr. Patrick Reardon
221 N. LaSalle Street
Suite 1938
Chicago, IL 60601*Mental Health*

Dear Fr. Bennett,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Professional Responsibility Review Board regarding Ms. [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against you.

In light of the information presented, the Review Board has requested that you participate in a psychological evaluation. If you are in agreement with the Review Board's request, Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests would be able to assist with making the necessary arrangements. I ask that you respond to this letter in writing with your decision.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205. As you know, you may also reach Fr. Kaczorowski at [312] 642-1837.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility AdministratorCc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Joseph Bennett

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

February 23, 2004

Dear Father Bennett:

In light of the recommendation of the Diocesan Priests' Placement Board, which reflects the endorsement of your Episcopal Vicar and Dean, I am pleased to appoint you to serve a second term as Pastor of Holy Ghost in South Holland, commencing July 1, 2003, the date your previous term ended. Your term of office will be for an additional six years, but will officially remain in effect until you are reappointed or transferred or your successor is named.

The support you have received for this reappointment is an indication of the fine pastoral leadership you have rendered to the people of Holy Ghost parish as you have proclaimed the Gospel message through your time and effort these past six years.

Joe, it is my hope that this will be a time of renewal for you personally as you continue to offer your priestly gifts with the people of God who have been entrusted to your care.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. J. Moore".

Ecclesiastical Notary

Reverend Joseph R. Bennett
Holy Ghost Parish
700 E 170th St
South Holland, IL 60473

AOC 000309

PATRICK G. REARDON
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
SUITE 1938
221 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

AREA CODE 312
372-5716

May 2, 2003

Rev. James Kazorowski
Vicar for Priests
645 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Rev. Kazorowski,

Enclosed please find an update statement of the legal fees regarding the representation of
Joe Bennett and a copy of the first bill which is currently outstanding.

Sincerely,



Patrick G. Reardon

PGR/bi
Encl.:

*Statements sent to legal office for payment
5/7/03*

AOC 000310

PATRICK G. REARDON
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
SUITE 1938
221 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

AREA CODE 312
372-5716

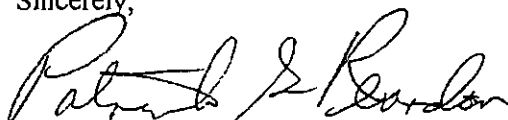
February 13, 2003

Rev James Kazorowski
Vicar for Priests
645 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Rev. Kazorowski,

Enclosed please find an update statement of the legal fees regarding the representation of Joe Bennett.

Sincerely,



Patrick G. Reardon

PGR/bi
Encl.: (1)

AOC 000312

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

MEMORANDUM

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

To: File -PFR-170
From: Professional Fitness Review Board Minutes
Re: **Bennett, Joseph (Active)** [REDACTED]
Date: April 26, 2003

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Fitness Review Board Meeting on April 26, 2003:

The Review Board conducted a Second Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: fondling over and under [REDACTED] clothes by JB; oral sex.

In a unanimous 7-0 vote, the Review Board determined that there is no reasonable cause to suspect that misconduct did occur.

AOC 000314

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

February 14, 2003

Rev. Joseph ~~Bennett~~
C/o Patrick Reardon
221 N. LaSalle Street
Suite 1938
Chicago, Illinois 60601

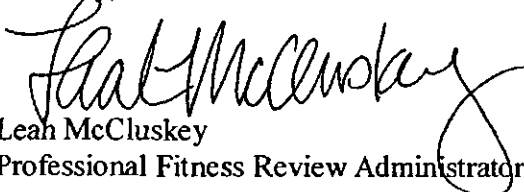
Dear Fr. Bennett,

Please be advised that the Professional Fitness Review Board met on January 11, 2003 and conducted a First Stage Review regarding [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against you pursuant to Article §1104.08 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

The Board has determined that it has insufficient information at this time to make a finding, and has asked me to seek some additional information. The Cardinal has accepted this determination. As requested by the Board, I have requested to speak with [REDACTED] again about his allegation. I will then contact Fr. Kaczorowski to schedule an another meeting with you if there is any additional information that I would need to present to you. The Board feels that the additional information would benefit its ability to make its recommendations to the Cardinal. I do appreciate the fact that this process has been emotionally trying to this point, and I ask for your understanding of the Board's request for us to speak again.

I will be following up with you about this matter within about 10 business days from the date of this letter. If you have questions or concerns prior to my contacting you, please feel free to call me at 312.751.5205. Also, please know that Rev. James Kaczorowski continues to be available to you. You can reach him at 312.642.1837.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

Cc: Bishop-Elect Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 000315

Holy Ghost Church

700 EAST 170TH STREET
SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS 60473
TELEPHONE (708) 333-7011

February 9, 2003

Rev. James T. Kaczorowski
Vicar for Priests' Office
645 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Jim,

As per our telephone conversation of several weeks ago, I am giving you the information of vacation reservations which Len Dubi and I have made for the two weeks of February 15 through March 1.

We are traveling on Aeromexico Airlines and staying at Royal Sunset Club in Cancun, Mexico. The telephone number is (1998) 881-4500. Rather than put down other details in this note, I enclose copies of the Confirmation Vacacional.

I hope these plans are OK with you. Thank you very much for all your support and prayers.

In Christ,

Joe Bennett

AOC 000316

January 6, 2002

RESPONSE OF FATHER JOSEPH BENNETT
TO ACCUSATIONS OF [REDACTED]
AS READ BY LEAH McCLUSKEY

On Tuesday, December 17, 2002, Father Joseph Bennett appeared at the office of the Vicar for Priests to meet with Leah McCluskey and Father Kaczorowski. Ms. McCluskey read a report of an interview with a [REDACTED] accusing Father Bennett of certain acts of sexual misconduct alleged to have occurred over 25 years ago. Father Bennett denies these accusations.

Father Bennett deplores the fact that he is now in the position of attempting to defend himself from accusations so remote in time that memories fade and facts are difficult to establish. Nevertheless, Father Bennett wishes to point out some of the factual inaccuracies evident in the reported accusation. In exposing these untruths, Father Bennett intends no uncharitable "attack" on his accuser. He feels he must do so in the interest of the truth and in the preservation of his reputation.

First, the accuser states that in the summer of 1976 he was a minor working at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish [REDACTED]. He states that it was during this summer work that he was in a rectory room at Our Lady of the Ridge of Father Bennett where certain acts of misconduct occurred. In denying these accusations of misconduct, Father Bennett further points out that he did not reside at Our Lady of

the Ridge Parish during the summer of 1976. In the spring and summer of 1976, Father Bennett was assigned and resided at the parish of St. Joseph and St. Anne, 2751 W. 38th Place, Chicago, IL 60632. He had finished his term at Our Lady of the Ridge in January, 1976. These assignments are verified by records of the Archdiocese Personnel Board. Father Bennett is morally certain that [REDACTED] never visited Father Bennett in his personal rooms at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish or at St. Joseph and St. Anne Church.

Second, the accuser states that Father Bennett presided at Mr. [REDACTED] wedding when Mr. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] years old. Father Bennett did not perform this wedding and did not even attend the ceremony. Official documents show a wedding between a [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. The priest at this wedding was Rev. [REDACTED].

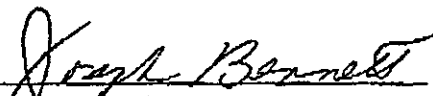
Third, the accuser states that while a minor he went to Father Bennett's office at the Cook County Jail to carry out some materials. Father Bennett has no memory of any such occasion. Father Bennett served as a Catholic chaplain of the Cook County Department of Corrections for several years. His office was in the PACE Institute section of Division I of the jail facility. This area was reached by going through locked inmate cellblocks. The passage of time has made it impossible to provide any witnesses or documentation. However, based upon his years of experience at the facility, Father believes it to be extremely unlikely that a minor would have been permitted to pass through the areas of the jail necessary to reach his office.

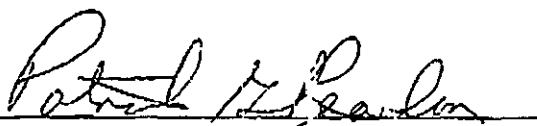
Father Bennett remembers [REDACTED] and his mother. He believes he was instrumental in introducing them to the Catholic Faith. Father Bennett remembers his relationship to [REDACTED] and to his mother as being cordial and friendly. He can offer no reason to explain why [REDACTED] would make such an accusation. Nor can he explain

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the timing of such an accusation regarding conduct alleged to have occurred so many years ago.

Father Bennett submits that for 37 years he has faithfully served as a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese as an associate pastor, pastor, chaplain, since his ordination in April, 1966. He makes no claim of perfection and humbly acknowledges his imperfect human nature. Nevertheless, with the help of God's grace he feels that despite this false accusation he is professionally fit to continue his service to his Church and to God's people.


Reverend Joseph Bennett


Patrick G. Reardon
Attorney and Counselor at Law
221. N. LaSalle - 1938
Chicago, Illinois
312-372-5716

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim DP's attorney's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on November 25, 2002, after Victim DP formalized his allegation of abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett. Victim DP's attorney spoke regarding the veracity of Victim DP's claims and the effect the alleged abuse had on Victim DP.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim DP's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on November 25, 2002, formalizing his allegation of abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett. The alleged abuse began as brief touching of his genitals, and Fr. Bennett soon progressed to fondling, masturbating and performing oral sex on Victim DP. According to Victim DP he was abused on approximately 25 occasions over a period of three years. The alleged abuse occurred at the Our Lady of the Ridge parish rectory when Victim DP was between 15 and 17 years old between 1976-1979.

LAW OFFICES
THOMAS J. FLEISCHMANN
& ASSOCIATES

000000

THOMAS J. FLEISCHMANN

473 DUNHAM ROAD
SUITE 200
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174

(630) 584-5555
FAX (630) 584-9868
EMAIL TJFLEISCH@AOL.COM

November 12, 2002

Ms Leah McCluskey
Acting Fitness Review Administrator
Office of Professional Fitness Review
The Archdiocese of Chicago
676 North St. Clair
Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Mr. James A. Seritella
Burke, Warren, MacKay & Seritella, P.C.
22nd Floor IBM Plaza
330 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611-3607

Received
11-13-02 LNP

Re: [REDACTED] and Rev. Joseph Bennett

Dear Ms. McCluskey and Mr. Seritella:

As I mentioned to Ms. McCluskey, my client, [REDACTED] is willing to discuss this matter with whomever the Archdiocese deems appropriate. However, you will only interview my client once. Therefore, Jim if you or one of your colleagues wishes to attend and interview [REDACTED] we have no objection.

By way of background, [REDACTED] was born on [REDACTED]. He is one of eight sons and one daughter of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He currently resides at [REDACTED]. His social security number is [REDACTED]. His Illinois driver's license number is [REDACTED]. He is currently employed by [REDACTED].

Enclosed is the report of the polygraph examination conducted by Steven Kirby. It is my understanding that Mr. Kirby conducts polygraph examinations for

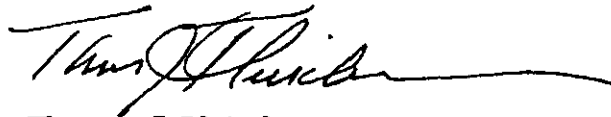
AOC 000322

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Mr. James A. Seritella
November 12, 2002
Page 2

the Joliet Diocese. The report states many of the facts of the case. Additionally, during the time Father Bennett was "seeing" my client, Father Bennett was also the chaplain for the Cook County Jail. According to Father Bennett, one of the individuals he "counseled" was John Wayne Gacy.

After you review the facts, please contact me to arrange for the interview.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Fleischmann

em

Enclosure

cc: [REDACTED] w/enclosure

EDWARD R. KIRBY & ASSOCIATES, INC.
PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS
783 N. YORK ROAD
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS 60126-1313
PHONE (630) 941 - 1700
FAX (630) 941 - 1750
www.kirbyinvestigations.com



STEVEN L. KIRBY
PRESIDENT
JAMES R. KIRBY
VICE PRESIDENT

EDWARD R. KIRBY
1919-1991

October 14, 2002

Kevin M. Read
John J. Murray
Jill M. Longmire
Kay M. Hall
Dorothy V. McGuire

To: Thomas J. Fleischmann, Esq.
437 Dunham Road Suite 200
St. Charles IL 60174

On Monday, October 14, 2002 [REDACTED] voluntarily submitted himself for a polygraph examination to investigate the truthfulness of his allegations that in the mid 1970s he was sexually abused by a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, whom the subject identified as Father Joseph Bennett.

Prior to the examination, the subject signed a form agreeing to submit to the examination and allowing the results of the examination to be released to Thomas J. Fleischmann and anyone else Mr. Fleischmann might designate. He also released all parties to the examination from any resulting liability. A copy of that document is retained in the investigative file in this case.

During the subject's pretest interview, he stated that he first met Father Bennett in 1976 when he was about 15 years of age. The subject said that he met Father Bennett when the subject's mother was converting to the Catholic faith. According to the subject, Father Bennett became friends of the family and invited the subject to the parish rectory to do yard work. At that time, Father Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge in Chicago Ridge IL.

The subject stated that the first time he was subjected to any type of sexual activity with Father Bennett was on a summer day when he was sunburned. The subject stated that Father Bennett started to rub lotion on his back and then began to rub the subject's genital area. The subject said that a couple of weeks later Father Bennett took the subject to his living quarters in the rectory and performed oral sex on the subject. According to the subject, this type of activity continued to take place over a three-year period on at least twenty-five occasions. The subject stated that the sexual encounters continued at two other parishes, St. Joseph and St. Anne's near 39th & California, in Chicago and at a church located around 111th & Central Park. According to the subject, sexual encounters occurred about 90% of the time he visited Father Bennett.

The subject denied that he ever performed oral sex on Father Bennett and denied that the two ever engaged in intercourse. In fact, the subject stated that he never saw Father Bennett unclothed. According to the subject, the extent of the sexual activity was Father Bennett fondling and performing oral sex on the subject.

The subject denied ever engaging in any other homosexual activity at any other time in his life, or with any other person.

The subject alleged that Father Bennett gave him money on several occasions, including paying in part for a senior trip on a cruise ship to St. Thomas. The subject also alleged that Father Bennett offered him alcohol (beer) and showed him pornography, both print and video/movies prior to the sexual encounters.

The subject stated that his brother [REDACTED] has alleged that Father Bennett fondled him [REDACTED] but denied any other sexual activity with Father Bennett. The subject stated that Father Bennett also intimated that he (Bennett) was engaging in sexual activity with another teenager, a Filipino boy named [REDACTED] during this time (mid 1970s).

The subject said that sometime in 1978 Father Bennett began coming around their house intoxicated and "acting real strange." The subject said that his older brothers told Father Bennett that they did not want him around their house and he stopped coming over. The subject said that a few years later, when he became married, his mother insisted that Father Bennett say the wedding mass. The subject stated that that was the last time he has seen or spoken to Father Bennett.

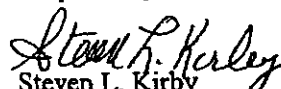
Beside from his legal counsel, the subject said that he has only told this information to his brother [REDACTED], (who also said that Father Bennett fondled him) and his current girlfriend, [REDACTED]. According to the subject, he never discussed the molestation with anyone as a child and only recently came forth with his allegations, after it became widespread knowledge about priests molesting children. The subject stated that the reason he never reported the abuse was because he was embarrassed and confused. The subject stated that he feels victimized by the abuse and also feels that some of the relationship problems (two divorces) he has had in his life are a direct result of the abuse.

There were no significant emotional disturbances, indicative of deception on the subject's polygraph records when he was asked the following questions:

- 1) Did Father Joseph Bennett perform oral sex on you several times when you were fifteen to eighteen years of age? ANSWER: YES
- 2) Between 1976 and 1978, did Father Joseph Bennett perform oral sex on you over twenty times? ANSWER: YES
- 3) Did Father Joseph Bennett fondle your genitals on several occasions when you were a teenager? ANSWER: YES
- 4) Between 1976 to 1978, did Father Joseph Bennett show you pornography at his rectory? ANSWER: YES
- 5) Are you lying about Father Joseph Bennett performing oral sex on you when you were a teenager? ANSWER: NO

It is the opinion of the examiner, based upon the subject's polygraph records, that he is telling the truth when answering the five aforementioned questions.

Respectfully submitted,

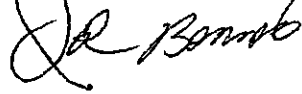

Steven L. Kirby
IL License 094-000279

May 4, 2007

Dear Vince,

Thank you very much for giving me permission to spend the night at Len Dubi's rectory on Tuesday May 1. Len and I drove alone to Springfield, leaving at 6:30 A.M. Wed. May 2. We met hundreds of people in front of the State Capital for a rally to promote funding for all the public schools on an equal basis. We left around 1:00 P.M. to drive back to Len's rectory. I then returned to La Porte, leaving Len's around 6:00 with a stop in Valparaiso to eat at Strongbow's.

Again thanks a lot,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe Bonomo".

SUMMARY TIME LINE OF ALLEGATION

	ACCUSED	ACCUSER
Name:	Rev. Joseph Bennett	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Current age:	66	54
Name of civil attorney:	Patrick Reardon	N/A

Date of Ordination [of accused]: 4/26/66

Location: Mundelein

Age at ordination: 25

Assignment location of accused: N/A

Status of accused: Temporarily withdrawn from ministry

Name of canonical advocate: Rev. Paul L. Golden, C.M., J.C.D.

Date allegation received: 2/9/06

Date allegation formalized: 2/14/06

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse:

Date of last incident of alleged abuse:

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: more than one, less than five

Brief summary of alleged abuse: less than five incidents; after serving mass, Fr. Bennett would take ██████ into the rectory and down into the basement where collection money was counted; Fr. Bennett would ask ██████ to change into a sports uniform [which ██████ would not do in the same room as Fr. Bennett] and return to the room; Fr. Bennett would then have ██████ lay on his lap, either face up or face down; Fr. Bennett would then rub ██████ chest or back and genital area over and under his clothing

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 6/12/06; Fr. Bennett denied the allegation; Mr. Reardon stated that a more detailed written response would be provided

Stage of disposition by Review Board: Review for Cause

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: 51

Name of civil attorney: N/A

Date allegation received: 2/6/06 [third party reported by AOC priest on behalf of Mr. [REDACTED] sister]

Date allegation formalized: N/A; as per DCFS investigator of this matter, Mr. [REDACTED] does not want to speak with AOC

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1963

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1964

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse:

Brief summary of alleged abuse: oral sex

Brief summary and date of response from accused: N/A

Stage of disposition by Review Board: N/A

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

Signature of Director:



Date:

4/25/07

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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1-800-994-6200
312-751-5279 (fax)

August 23, 2006

Rev. Francis Q. Kub
St. Simon the Apostle
5157 S. California
Chicago, Illinois 60632

In Re: Bennett

Dear Fr. Kub,

I again want to thank you on behalf of Rev. Daniel Smilanic and myself for agreeing to meet with us on August 7, 2006.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a copy of the typed report of our August 7th meeting. Please review the report and if you find any corrections or additions that you wish to make, I ask that you write or type them out on a separate sheet[s] of paper, sign, date, and return to me at the following:

Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

If you have any questions Fr. Kub, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Leah McCluskey in black ink.
Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

Cc: Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests

AOC 000330

TRAVEL/VACATION NOTIFICATION

Joseph Bennett [name of cleric] has informed this office that he will be traveling to

Pacifica Resort in Ixtapa [destination address and contact phone number] from
Guerrero, Mexico Tel.: 52-755-3 10 27

Sat. Jan. 13, 2007 [departure date] through Jan. 27, 2007 [return date].

Joseph Bennett [name of cleric] will be monitored by

Fr. Len Dubi [name of travel monitor]. Fr. Len Dubi [name of

travel monitor] has accepted the responsibility of verifying the location and activities of

Joseph Bennett [name of cleric] during the aforementioned time frame.

[see attached correspondence]

RECEIVED

DEC 11 2006

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

COPY

of an original document from the files of
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

This is a red ink stamp!
DO NOT COPY

1. Contacts with minors by Joseph Bennett [name of cleric] must be in the presence of Fr. Len Dubi [name of travel monitor]. Inappropriate situations and locations incompatible with a priestly lifestyle are to be avoided.
2. Fr. Len Dubi [name of travel monitor] may be asked to attest to the activities and whereabouts of Joseph Bennett [cleric name] over 01-13-07 to 01-27-07 [aforementioned time frame].
3. As previously noted, the date of return to Joseph Bennetts [cleric name] residence has been scheduled for Jan. 27, 2007 [aforementioned return date]. However, due to weather conditions or emergencies that may arise, the date may be changed. In the event of such a circumstance, should the original plans be substantially changed, please contact PRA at [312] 751-5205.

Cleric Signature: Joseph R. Bennett Date: Dec. 4, 2006

PRA Signature: Paul McClelland Date: 12/11/06

A copy of this document will be provided to the cleric. The original will be placed in the cleric's file in the Office of Professional Responsibility and a copy will be placed in the cleric's file in the Vicar for Priests' Office.

Revised 8/28/03

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn]

Date: October 24, 2006

PRA contacted Brigitte Broadway, caseworker with the Department and Children and Family Services [DCFS] via phone on October 23, 2006 to request an update on a DCFS investigation. During the phone call, Ms. Broadway provided PRA with information regarding the DCFS investigation of Rev. Joseph Bennett.

Ms. Broadway informed PRA that she concluded her investigation of Fr. Bennett and recommended to her supervisor Tammy Bates that this matter be unfounded. She stated that she is still waiting to hear Ms. Bates' response to her recommendation. Ms. Broadway stated that she would call PRA once Ms. Bates has made a decision based upon her [Ms. Broadway's] investigation of this matter.

Ms. Broadway may be reached at [REDACTED].

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor

AOC 000332

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] 

Date: July 27, 2006

PRA placed a phone call on July 17, 2006 to Rev. Francis [Frank] Kub, pastor of St. Simon the Apostle at 51st and California. Fr. Kub was informed that the nature of the phone call was in connection with a confidential investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett when the accused was assigned to St. John Baptist de LaSalle. When asked, Fr. Kub agreed to answer questions for PRA related to Fr. Bennett.

Fr. Kub acknowledged that St. John Baptist de LaSalle was both his and Fr. Bennett's first assignments. When asked, Fr. Kub stated that he was one year ahead of Fr. Bennett in the seminary and as a result, had been at St. John Baptist de LaSalle one year prior to the accused. Fr. Kub stated that he was first assigned to St. John Baptist de LaSalle in June 1965. According to Archdiocesan Archives, Fr. Bennett was first assigned to St. John Baptist de LaSalle on May 16, 1966.

When asked, Fr. Kub stated that the money collected after masses ^{when? Sunday or Monday} at St. John Baptist de LaSalle would be counted by the pastor Msgr. Murphy with two or three of his friends [who were parishioners]. As per Fr. Kub, as assistants he and Fr. Bennett were expected to help open the envelopes from the collections. When asked, Fr. Kub stated that he nor Fr. Bennett were ever allowed/asked to count any of the collection money alone. Also when asked, Fr. Kub stated that Msgr. Murphy and the two or three parishioners would count the money in the rectory basement. Fr. Kub stated that there were two meeting rooms in the basement, one on the north wall with mirrors and another on the south wall. As per Fr. Kub, Msgr. Murphy would count the money on Sunday mornings on a table in the meeting room on the north wall. Fr. Kub stated that the meeting room on the south wall functioned as a "credit union."

When asked, Fr. Kub stated that Msgr. Murphy was the pastor until approximately October or November of 1967. Upon Msgr. Murphy's departure from the parish, Fr. Kub was named administrator until Fr. Mollan [Rev. Ralph R.] was assigned as pastor in January 1968.

PRA asked Fr. Kub of his recollection if any kids/children/teens were in and out of the rectory at the time. Fr. Kub stated that a girl in her mid-teens who was the daughter of a woman who worked at the rectory was present. However, Fr. Kub stated that the girl died in a car accident in 1967. Fr. Kub also stated that the [REDACTED] girls [between the ages of six and ten]" were present often in the rectory as well, as their father helped out at the rectory.

PRA then asked Fr. Kub if he recalled the name [REDACTED] in association with St. John Baptist de LaSalle. Fr. Kub stated that the name [REDACTED] is familiar to him and that it "...sounds like a name from the parish [St. John de LaSalle]."

When asked, Fr. Kub stated that the altar servers were all boys from the parish school and that on occasion, boys from Quigley would be servers as well. Also when asked, Fr. Kub stated that the Sunday masses during the time he and Fr. Bennett were associates were: 6:30am, 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, and a 4 or 5pm. Fr. Kub remarked that Fr. Bennett was "...never allowed..." to say the 11:30am mass because his homilies were too long and there was a shortened time period between the 11:30am and the 12:15pm Sunday masses. As per Fr. Kub, either he or Msgr. Murphy would say the *11:30am mass.

PRA asked Fr. Kub if he recalls Fr. Bennett having any contact with [REDACTED]. Fr. Kub stated that he remembers that Fr. Bennett "...used to have contact with kids in trouble..." As per Fr. Kub, Fr. Bennett would have these kids in his room [private quarters in the rectory] with the door closed. Fr. Kub noted that this took place during Msgr. Murphy's time as pastor. However, when Msgr. Murphy left St. John Baptist de LaSalle and he was named administrator, Fr. Kub told Fr. Bennett that he no longer could have kids in his room. When asked for clarification, Fr. Kub stated that he was named administrator of the parish from approximately October 1967 through mid January 1968 until Fr. Mollan's arrival.

When Fr. Kub informed Fr. Bennett that he was no longer allowed to have kids in his room, the accused began to bring the kids to the downstairs of the rectory. Fr. Kub remarked that Fr. Bennett "...was helping them [the troubled youth] or something..." Shortly after Fr. Bennett was informed that he could no longer have these youth in his room, a friend of the accused Rev. Leonard Dubi came to meet with Fr. Kub. As per Fr. Kub, he and Fr. Dubi talked for an extended period of time. Essentially, Fr. Dubi told Fr. Kub to "...mind his own business..." regarding Fr. Bennett and his interactions with the "troubled youth."

When asked, Fr. Kub stated that Fr. Bennett randomly had kids over at the rectory and that the kids were "...mostly young men." Fr. Kub stated that Fr. Bennett never had any girls around the rectory. He added that he always thought that Fr. Bennett "...had an aversion to girls..." Fr. Kub stated that he never heard any gossip or specific incidents about Fr. Bennett during this time period at St. John Baptist de LaSalle. He added that he only heard from girls in the parish that they were not getting any attention from Fr. Bennett [in the context of a parish priest paying attention to girls and boys in the parish].

When asked, Fr. Kub stated that he does not remember any kids from [REDACTED] serving as altar servers. Fr. Kub also does not remember any kids from the parish during his assignment there spending any time at the Audi home.

PRA thanked Fr. Kub for his time and the information that he provided. Fr. Kub agreed to have PRA contact him in the future with any additional questions. He provided his cellular phone number of [REDACTED]

After speaking with Fr. Kub, PRA spoke with Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Promoter of Justice and the Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board the same day. PRA shared the context of the conversation with Fr. Kub. Fr. Smilanic then asked PRA to contact Fr. Kub and ask if he would be willing to provide a formal canonical statement regarding this matter.

After speaking with Fr. Smilanic, PRA spoke again with Fr. Kub via phone on July 19th. Fr. Kub stated that he would be willing to provide a formal canonical statement. It was agreed that Fr. Kub would meet with Fr. Smilanic and PRA on August 7, 2006 in the Office of Professional Responsibility at 1:30pm.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Office of Assistance Ministry

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Temporarily Withdrawn) [REDACTED]

Date: July 15, 2006

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on Saturday, July 15, 2006:

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett. A summary of the allegation is as follows: less than five incidents; after serving mass, Fr. Bennett would take [REDACTED] into the rectory and down into the basement where collection money was counted; Fr. Bennett would ask [REDACTED] to change into [REDACTED] [which

[REDACTED] would not do in the same room as Fr. Bennett] and return to the room; Fr. Bennett would then have [REDACTED] lay on his lap, either face up or face down; Fr. Bennett would then rub [REDACTED] chest or back and genital area over and under his clothing.

The Board discussed the details of the allegation. Fr. Bennett is a classmate of [REDACTED]'s. As a result, [REDACTED] was able to confirm that Fr. Bennett did visit [REDACTED]. As per [REDACTED], their class were ordained deacons in October 1965 and then ordained priests on April 26, 1966. [REDACTED] stated that at the time deacons were not given a parish assignment.

In a 6-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board recommended that PRA do the following:

- Speak with Rev. Francis [Frank] Kub, as he and Fr. Bennett were assigned together at St. John de LaSalle. Ask Fr. Kub his recollection of where the money would be counted after masses [to determine if an assistant associate would ever count the money in the basement]
- Ask [REDACTED] if he can recall when he was at [REDACTED] and the approximate time frame of the alleged abuse

Date: June 2, 2006

F A X

To: Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago

From: Fr. Joe Bennett

Number of pages: 2 (including this page)

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Fax Number: [REDACTED]

Your Eminence,

If this letter meets with your approval, then fine.

However, if you want any changes, please call me or FAX back to me what you want.

For the parish bulletin.....is Sunday/Saturday June 11 OK?

Thank you for your prayers and support.

In Christ,



FAXED
6/4/06

FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

**Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of the Archbishop
155 East Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611**

DATE: June 3, 2006
TO: Rev. Joseph Bennett
[REDACTED]
FROM: Rev. Daniel Flens (for Cardinal George)
RE: revisions to your draft letter

You should receive 2 pages. This number includes the cover sheet. If you do not receive all pages, please call [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Joe,

Cardinal George made a few changes to your draft letter, which can be seen on the following page. In case his handwriting does not come through clearly on this fax, the last two sentences of the second paragraph now read as follows:

The Cardinal has told me that for the present time I will still hold the office of pastor, for which I am grateful. But the Cardinal needs to see to it that you are pastored day by day, and I encourage your cooperation with the arrangements he made.

You may print the revised letter in the June 11 bulletin. Please give me a call if you have any questions about these changes. God bless you.

Phone Number
Fax Number



AOC 000338

June 2006

Dear Parish Family of Holy Ghost,

Your prayers and support over the past few months have been a great source of strength and encouragement to me. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness to me. I miss being with you, praying with you and sharing your faith journey. I have lifted you up to the Lord in my daily prayers and will continue to do so each day.

I have worked closely with my lawyers and consultants in preparing a strong defense of the allegations against me that I know are not true. I just received word that my case will be sent to the Holy See for further review. This review process by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome will take a good number of months. Unfortunately, this means that I will not be returning to the parish any time soon. The Cardinal told me that for the present time I will still hold the office of pastor for which I am grateful. *But the Cardinal needs to see if the you pastor desides, if I manage you cooperation*
Again I ask you for your continued prayers that I might embrace this suffering and find the will of God in all of this. I take a great deal of comfort in knowing that you are strengthening your faith through prayer, sacraments and communal activities under the leadership of the parish Administrator.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Joe Bennett
Pastor

with the arrangements he makes,

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility





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MEMORANDUM







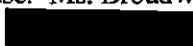
To: File – PFR-170



From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] 

Date: May 3, 2006

PRA received a phone call today from Ms. Brigitte Broadway of the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] regarding Mr.  allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor against Rev. Joseph Bennett.

Ms. Broadway asked if PRA had any knowledge of Mr.  statement that his brother  children were molested by Fr. Bennett. Ms. Broadway was informed that PRA has never spoken with  directly. PRA again informed Ms. Broadway of the past information shared that she [PRA] has only spoken with  ,  sister regarding the alleged abuse. Ms. Broadway was reminded of the verbal information shared with PRA that  had informed a DCFS investigator that he did not wish to speak with PRA. Ms. Broadway acknowledged the information shared.


Ms. Broadway stated that she was calling to clarify if PRA had or had not spoken with  and/or knew of his claim that Fr. Bennett had molested his children. PRA informed Ms. Broadway that this was the first information received regarding the alleged abuse of  children by Fr. Bennett.

Ms. Broadway thanked PRA for the clarifications. She also remarked of her intent to close the DCFS investigation concerning Fr. Bennett in the near future.

Ms. Broadway may be reached at [312] 492-3770.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Office of Legal Services

AOC 000340

To: File 
From: Ed Grace
Re: Joe Bennett Assignment/Paul Golden
Date: 4/26/06

Paul Golden asked me about associate pastor transfer procedures, as they would have been applied to Joe Bennett in 1973. Specifically whether Joe would have been able to choose among several options as a young associate.

I spoke with Mike Adams who was on the Personnel Board from '72 - '77. Mike remembers that the Board established the open list for associates during his time, i.e. after 1972.

However, this was in response to associate gridlock.

- No one was to be moved without consultation.
- So no one who was happy would move.

As a result Personnel Board members, prior to open listing, were reduced to calling and asking associates if they would be willing to consider being transferred to parish A, B or C. So in the years immediately before open listing for associates, it is possible that Joe would have been given a choice among a number of parishes for a transfer even though there was not yet a policy of open listing for associates.

April 28, 2006

I spoke with Paul Golden today.

1. Joe was transferred in '73 not '70
2. I gave Paul the above information from this memo.

From: Leah McCluskey
 To: [REDACTED]
 Date: 2/17/2006 8:24 51 AM
 Subject: Re: sexual abuse

Bennett

Dear [REDACTED]

I want to thank you for your e-mail and for sharing your memories of and information regarding your friend [REDACTED] with me.

Due to practices of confidentiality, I am unable to provide you with any specific information regarding allegations received by this office. I hope that you understand. Again [REDACTED], I thank you for writing to me and sharing all that you have.

If you have any other questions or a need for any other clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me. You will find all of my contact information at the end of this e-mail.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey

Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW
 Professional Responsibility Administrator
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 Chicago, Illinois 60611
 Office: 312.751.5205
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 lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

>>> <[REDACTED]> 02/16/06 4:03 PM >>>

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in [REDACTED]. I am writing to you with much sadness in reference to a person who was once a close friend of mine, [REDACTED]. I have not seen or heard from her for about 2 1/2 yrs. I was taking her to [REDACTED] and trying to support her as a friend as she had begun to remember and tell me about being sexually abused at the parish she attended as a child in Chicago by Fr. Joseph Bennett and a nun who assisted in this when she was around 8-11 yrs. old. The stories were very difficult to hear and broke my heart. She kept going over them and over them. It was difficult because she could not seem to even look toward healing. After awhile she dropped me, and seemed to drop off the earth. This had happened a couple times in the past also. Later on I heard she had been in [REDACTED]. She had been a star personality at our local [REDACTED] and was loved by everyone. She had lost her job there and her life was on a very steep downward curve. She had been a person very gifted by God whose life totally fell apart.

The reason I am writing to you now is because I believe the Holy Spirit led me to look up the Arch. of Chicago website last week to see if I saw anything about Fr. Bennett on it. I was shocked when I saw that he had been removed from his parish on Feb. 5 and it said there were incidences that happened over 35 yrs. ago. That would fit with the time and age of my friend

██████████

I would like to know if she has come forth at this time. I believe she had told me about being in contact with you a couple years ago. I had come to think maybe she was ██████████ imagining all this. Also I can tell you that she told me that Fr. Bennett had a mole or marking on his testicle that she remembered. Only someone who had been abused could have know this.

I love our Church and our priests but if it is true that he did abuse minors, he needs to be put away. ██████████ was a wonderfully, gifted human being whose life has been plagued with terrible depression and mental problems that God did not intend for her to have. I do not know if she is alive or dead.

I do not know if this is of any help to you or to ██████████ but I felt I had to speak up. I pray for her healing and for all our priests often. Do not hesitate to email me if you have further questions that you think I can be of help with.

In Christ,
██████████

Saint John de la Salle Catholic Church
10205 S. Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago, IL 60628
Phone: 773-785-2022 Fax: 773-785-0112

February 14, 2006

Rev. Vincent Costello
Vicar for Priests
Archdiocese of Chicago
645 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite # 543
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Vince,

At the advice of Fr. Dan Smilanic I am sending along some information that parishioners of St. John de la Salle conveyed to me regarding Father Joe Bennett days after the allegations against him went public. This information was given to me out of concern for Joe by very upstanding parishioners who claim to have known him well when he was stationed here. I encouraged all four of them to call the 800 number but all four people vigorously declined stating that did not want to be directly involved.

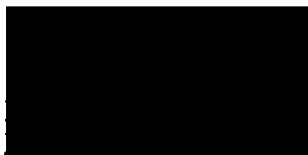
Three of the people mentioned that they had knowledge of Fr. Joe Bennett being sexual active with women in the parish when he was here back in the late 1960s and later when he was Pastor. One of the people mentioned that when he was a teenager here in the late 1960s his teenaged friends "often" spoke of going to the rectory and being given alcoholic drinks by Fr. Joe Bennett. Please note that none of the four stated that they had been directly involved personally with the alleged behavior mentioned above.

I pass this information along without passing any judgment on Joe Bennett. I have just been uneasy receiving this information and keeping it to myself and taking the risk that it could be an issue in the future. The four people who came forward told me these things with the understanding that I would be pass it on.

I continue to hope and pray that soon there will soon be a just and equitable resolution to all this for all parties involved.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,



Copy: Leah McCluskey



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OFFICE of THE RECTOR/PRESIDENT

T
F

February 13, 2006

Ms. Laura Neri-Palomino
Office of Professional Responsibility
Archdiocese of Chicago
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, IL 60690-1979

Dear Laura,

I received your memorandum of February 9, 2006 regarding [PFR-170] Bennett, Rev. Joseph, (Temporarily Withdrawn)/ [REDACTED] You asked for any information we might have in our files regarding Fr. Bennett.

Fr. Bennett entered St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in 1959. He studied philosophy for three years (1959-1962) and he studied theology for four years (1962-1966). He was ordained a priest on April 26, 1966.

I have enclosed copies of the yearly evaluations of Joe Bennett. I also have enclosed a copy of the rector's file which summarizes the academic and formation performance of Joe Bennett.

Finally, I am sending you copies of his pastor's evaluation which was written to the rector after each summer Joe Bennett was at home, as well as the pastor's recommendation of Joe Bennett for Sacred Orders.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. John Canary
Very Reverend John F. Canary
Rector/President

*I hope this information is helpful to you.
Please let me know if there is any way
I can be of further assistance.*

JFC:dg

cc: Ralph Bonaccorsi
Rev. Vince Costello
Rev. Edward Grace
Jimmy Lago
Leah McCluskey

John O'Malley
Rev. Daniel Smilanic
Patricia Zacharias
Bishop George Rassas
Very Reverend James Presta

AOC 000345

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
✓ Rev. Vince Costello, Vicar for Priests
✓ Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Patricia Zacharias, Office of Professional Responsibility

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: February 9, 2006

RE: [PFR-170] Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Temporarily Withdrawn) [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 2/2/06. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [REDACTED] Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Bennett, Rev. Joseph/[REDACTED]

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Bishop George Rassas, Vicar General
Very Rev. John Canary, Vicar, Mundelein Seminary
Very Rev. James Presta, Vicar, St. Joseph Seminary

AOC 000346

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Office of Professional Responsibility

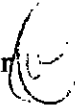



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
MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170



From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] 

Date: February 7, 2006

PRA received a voice mail message on February 6, 2006 from Ms.  [sp?] on behalf of her adult brother,  Ms.  received PRA's contact information from Rev. Mark Walter, current pastor of St. Christopher in Midlothian.

Ms.  stated that her brother Mr.  has an allegation of sexual abuse to report against Rev. Joseph Bennett. She requested a return phone call at 

PRA attempted to reach Ms.  this afternoon via phone. PRA left a message for Ms.  on her answering machine and requested a return phone call at her convenience.

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MEMORANDUM


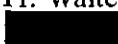
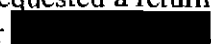
To: File – PFR-170


From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] 

Date: February 7, 2006

PRA received a voice mail message on February 2, 2006 from Rev. Mark Walter, pastor of St. Christopher in Midlothian regarding an allegation of sexual abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett. Fr. Walter indicated that one of his parishioners had approached him and stated that her brother recently disclosed to her that he was a minor when Fr. Bennett sexually abused him. Fr. Walter contacted Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests to discuss the matter. As per Fr. Walter, Fr. Costello directed him to contact PRA.

Fr. Walter requested a return phone call at either the parish or on his direct line, 
 or 

PRA spoke with Fr. Walter on February 3, 2006 regarding the aforementioned matter. Fr. Walter stated that his parishioner spoke with her brother Wednesday [February 1, 2006] evening and then again the following morning. As per Fr. Walter, the parishioner's brother disclosed to her on the morning of February 2nd that Fr. Bennett sexually abused him when he was a minor. Fr. Walter stated that his parishioner informed him that  her mother and Fr. Bennett had become friends and established trust.

Fr. Walter informed PRA that he had already directed his parishioner to the Archdiocesan website in order to review information on the Office of Professional Responsibility. It was agreed that Fr. Walter would speak with his parishioner over the weekend and then be in touch with PRA at the beginning of the upcoming week. Fr. Walter was informed that PRA would like to meet with the parishioner's brother regarding the allegation against Fr. Bennett. It was also agreed that Fr. Walter would communicate this information to his parishioner.

AOC 000348

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Memorandum

To: PFR-170

From: Patricia Zacharias, Professional Responsibility Assistant Administrator PZ

Re: Phone call from a concerned parent regarding Fr. Bennett-Holy Ghost Parish

Date: February 1, 2006

PRAA received a phone call this morning from a woman who identified herself as [REDACTED]

She said she was on the website for the Office of Professional Responsibility and had tried to reach Leah McCluskey. She said Ms. McCluskey's voice mail message indicated she would be in meetings most of the day and she wanted to speak to someone for some assistance.

Ms. [REDACTED] explained that her [REDACTED] son, named [REDACTED] is an employee at Holy Ghost Parish working directly for Fr. Bennett. She said he attends [REDACTED] and then sometimes goes to the rectory after school to work. She said she has heard that Fr. Bennett is being removed from the Parish and she has two questions she is hoping to have answered:

- She is unsure if [REDACTED] was supposed to go to work after school today, should she still have him go if he is scheduled to be there? She believes that all of the scheduling went through Fr. Bennett and he is [REDACTED] only contact/supervisor.
- If it were true that Fr. Bennett is being removed, she would like to share what she can with [REDACTED] now before he hears it elsewhere. She described [REDACTED] as being close to Fr. Bennett for quite some time. [REDACTED]

She said she understands no official information has been released yet. She said whatever information she can get she would keep confidential between her and [REDACTED] until the public is informed.

PRAA explained that Ms. McCluskey works on all cases of priests in active ministry. She offered to do all she could to speak with Ms. McCluskey today about Ms. [REDACTED]

request; however, she does not know when she will next see Ms. McCluskey due to her being out of the suite in a meeting. PRAA told Ms. [REDACTED] she would call her back this afternoon even if she has not spoken with Ms. McCluskey yet. Ms. [REDACTED] thanked PRAA and gave her cell phone number as the best contact number for her.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

To: File
From: Ed Grace
Re: Joe Bennett
Date: 2/7/06



Today I received a call from DCFS:

Mr. Gene Griffin
Ms. Liz Yore, General Counsel
Ms. Galen Thomas, Deputy Director

The call concerned the Joe Bennett matter:

- They were seeking Joe's Indiana address and phone number, which I provided.
- They were curious about restrictions on Joe so I read from Cardinal's letter to Joe dated Feb. 3, 2006.
- They asked general questions which I answered to the best of my ability while stressing that every pastor/parish routine is different.
- Ms. Yore indicated someone would probably contact Joe and might visit him at [REDACTED]

DCFS might phone
Indiana officials might visit.

Subsequently I returned a call to DCFS worker Bridget Broodware ([REDACTED]).

- She asked a few questions about Joe's duties/activities at Holy Ghost.
- I answered in generalities while stressing that every parish and pastor has its own routine.

I called Joe Bennett and informed him:

- Leah and I will be there Friday about 1:00 to see Father Nordquist.
- We will also meet with Joe – either after Nordquist or with him.
- I also informed Joe that DCFS had called me and that I had given them his address and phone number.
- Also he should expect a call from DCFS and possibly a call or visit from Indiana authorities.
- He should discuss with Pat Reardon his interaction with DCFS or Indiana authorities.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

February 3, 2006

COPY

Reverend Joseph R. Bennett
Holy Ghost Parish
700 E. 170th Street
South Holland, IL 60473

Dear Father Bennett,

I am aware of your years of faithful service to the Archdiocese of Chicago. However, for the time being I must instruct you to remove yourself completely from public ministry. This instruction is effective immediately.

As you know, formal allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor have been brought forward against you. These allegations were presented to the Professional Responsibility Review Board. I accepted the recommendations of the Board that the allegations should be investigated. In accord with Canon 1717, I decreed the instruction of a canonical Preliminary Investigation of the allegations.

While the investigations continue and during the continued instruction of the canonical Preliminary Investigation, in accord with Canon 1722 and in the spirit of Norm 6 of the USCCB Essential Norms, I instruct you to observe the following restrictions:

1. You must absent yourself from Holy Ghost parish in South Holland, and you may not enter any edifice on the property of Holy Ghost parish in South Holland;
2. You may not be alone with anyone under 18 years of age unless a responsible adult is present;
3. You may neither preside at, nor concelebrate at, the public celebration of the Eucharist, nor provide pastoral care in any form to the faithful;
4. You may not publicly celebrate any sacrament of the Catholic Church or engage in any behavior anywhere which might seem to be sacred ministry; and
5. You must abide by the monitoring protocols and residence arrangement that my Vicar for Priests will provide for you.

In addition, I dispense you from the obligation of wearing ecclesiastical garb (Canon 284); for the good of the Church, I ask you to refrain from wearing any garb that suggests or infers that you are a Catholic priest with canonical faculties, such as a 'clergy shirt' and a 'Roman Collar'. I dispense you from the obligations incumbent upon a pastor (e.g., Canon 533, §1), and I ask that you not exercise any faculties that are given to you *de jure* as a pastor. In addition, I ask you not

AOC 000352

Reverend Joseph Bennett
February 3, 2006
Page 2.

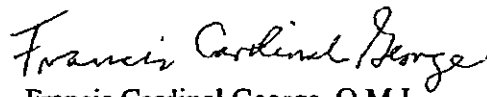
to exercise any canonical faculties that you enjoy that are customarily given to a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago who is engaged in pastoral ministry.

In accord with Canons 281 §2, and 1350, your salary as presently structured and all benefits (e.g., PRMAA payment, auto insurance, etc.) remain the same. The Vicars for Priests will attend to the pastoral needs of Holy Ghost parish, and, should it be warranted, an Administrator will be appointed (Canon 539). Should you need any assistance, or require some clarification of my instructions that I have outlined above, please contact one the Vicars for Priests; this includes any variance or exception which a particular situation might necessitate.

My instructions, restrictions and requests will remain in force until the matter of the allegations is resolved, including if necessary until a response of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is received.

Father Bennett, this is a very difficult time for you, for the Chicago presbyterate, for the Archdiocese of Chicago and for the whole Church. Please be assured of my continued prayers.

Fraternally yours in Christ,


Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Given at the Chancery


Ecclesiastical Notary



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

VICAR FOR PRIESTS

645 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 543

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

Off: (312) 642-1837

Fax: (312) 642-4933

February 3, 2006

His Excellency Bishop Dale J. Melczek
Bishop of Gary, Indiana
9292 Broadway
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

Dear Bishop Melczek,

Thank you for the very helpful conversation we had earlier this afternoon. I am writing this letter at your request in order to help clarify the situation regarding Father Joseph Bennett.

Because Father Bennett is involved in an ongoing investigation of allegations of sexual abuse of minors, Cardinal George has determined that it would be the best for all parties involved that Father Bennett absent himself from Holy Ghost Parish in South Holland, Illinois.

Father Bennett owns a home in your diocese. The address is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] His telephone number at that residence is [REDACTED] Because of the current circumstances we believe that this would be an appropriate place for him to live until his case is resolved. I know the Archdiocese of Chicago would be extremely grateful if you could designate a priest in the area to serve as his monitor. I would ask that the monitor make contact with Father Bennett and meet with him periodically. If Father Bennett has any plans to leave the [REDACTED] area he should share that information with his monitor including where he plans to go, when he intends to leave and return, and in whose company he will be during his time away. Even more specifically, may I request that the monitor help to insure that Father Bennett comply with the following restrictions placed upon him by Cardinal George:

1. That Father Bennett absent himself from Holy Ghost Parish in South Holland and not enter any edifice on the property of Holy Ghost Parish.
2. That he not be alone with anyone under 18 years of age unless a responsible adult is present.

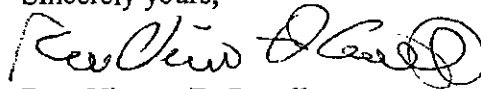
AOC 000354

3. That he neither preside at, nor concelebrate at, the public celebration of the Eucharist, nor provide pastoral care in any form to the faithful.
4. That he not publicly celebrate any sacrament of the Catholic Church or engage in any behavior anywhere which might seem to be sacred ministry.
5. That he abide by the monitoring protocols and the residence arrangement that the Vicars for Priests will provide for him.

Cardinal George has also dispensed Father Bennett from wearing ecclesiastical garb during this time, and we desire that refrain from doing so lest someone be confused and consider him a priest with faculties.

Bishop Melczek, please accept my personal gratitude and that of the Archdiocese of Chicago for your gracious assistance in this matter. If you or the monitor have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Vincent F. Costello,
Co-Vicar for Priests

Cc: Cardinal George, Bishop Rassas, Father Ed Grace, Father Smilanic, Mr. Jimmy Lago, Mrs. Colleen Dolan, Mr. John O'Malley, Ms. Leah McCluskey, Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Vicar General



Post Office Box 1979
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February 1, 2006

Most Reverend. Dale J. Melczek
Diocese of Gary
9292 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410

Dear Bishop Melczek:

A priest of our Archdiocese, Rev. Joseph Bennett, pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in South Holland, Illinois, has been placed on leave. As of this moment, he has been asked to reside at his home that is within the Diocese of Gary. His address is:



The incident in question occurred about thirty years ago and surfaced about two years ago here in the Archdiocese. The circumstances have been under review for some time, but the information is not completely clear. For this reason, he has not been canonically removed from his parish. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no other reported allegations related to him.

I would ask that, if possible, someone of your choice would act as a monitor for him during the time he will be on leave. Rev. Edward Grace, one of our Vicars for Clergy, will be happy to be in contact with the person who will act as monitor.

Thank you for your kind cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George J. Rassas".

Most Reverend George J. Rassas
Vicar General

cc: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Rev. Edward Grace
Jimmy Lago

AOC 000356

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Rev. Vince Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Patricia Zacharias, Office of Professional Responsibility

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, ^{LNf} Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: February 27, 2006

RE: **[PFR-170] Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Temporarily Withdrawn)/Unknown**

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 2/24/06. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with **Unknown**. Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Bennett, Rev. Joseph/Unknown.

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

Cc: Very Rev. John Canary, Vicar General
Rev. Tom Baima, Acting Rector, Mundelein Seminary
Very Rev. James Presta, Vicar, St. Joseph Seminary

AOC 000357

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MEMORANDUM



To: File – PFR-170



From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 




Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] 



Date: February 10, 2006



PRA spoke with Ms.  via phone on February 7, 2006 regarding the alleged sexual abuse of her brother  by Rev. Joseph Bennett. Ms.  stated that her brother was a minor when the alleged abuse began.

Ms.  stated that her brother's abuse by Fr. Bennett began when the cleric was not yet ordained and in the seminary. She provided much general information in regards to Fr. Bennett's presence in her family home when he was a seminarian. Ms.  stated that Fr. Bennett was "like family" and described the cleric as "like an uncle" to her and her siblings.

Ms.  stated that Fr. Bennett "...got hooked up..." with her brother and their family, 

. Ms.  also mentioned "Fr. Dubi [Rev. Leonard Dubi]" and Don Ciebak. To Ms.  knowledge, Mr. Ciebak "...didn't finish the seminary..."

Ms.  informed PRA that her brother's recent disclosure to her of the alleged abuse by Fr. Bennett has been difficult for her to process. She mentioned "similar stories" exist within her family about the time that Fr. Bennett was involved with the family. Ms.  stated that the last her family saw Fr. Bennett was when he was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge. According to Archdiocesan Archives, Fr. Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge from June 15, 1973 through January 30, 1976.

During the February 7th phone call, Ms.  accepted PRA's offer to provide her with information regarding the Office of Professional Responsibility and the Office of Assistance Ministry. Ms.  indicated that her brother is interested in meeting with PRA to formalize his allegation against Fr. Bennett.

AOC 000358

[REDACTED]

It was agreed that Ms. [REDACTED] would speak with her brother about his interest in scheduling to meet with PRA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ms. [REDACTED] again stated that she would contact her brother and then call PRA so that a meeting could be scheduled. She stated that her brother lives in Southern Illinois. PRA informed Ms. [REDACTED] that the meeting could take place either in Chicago or in Southern Illinois, wherever her brother is most comfortable. Ms. [REDACTED] also stated that her brother has already indicated that he would like her and Rev. Mark Walter present [her pastor at St. Christopher's in Midlothian].

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

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MEMORANDUM



To: File – PFR-170



From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn]/

Date: February 16, 2006

PRA spoke with Ms. Linda Williams of the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] via phone today regarding an allegation of sexual abuse made by Mr.  against Rev. Joseph Bennett. Ms. Williams was informed that Mr.  is currently an adult and alleges that the abuse took place when he was a minor. Ms. Williams stated that she would have a DCFS Hotline Operator call PRA to obtain additional information.

PRA received a phone call today from Janet Headen, DCFS operator approximately five minutes after hanging up with Ms. Williams. PRA provided Ms. Headen with Mr.  date of birth, contact information, and the approximate time frames of the alleged abuse by Fr. Bennett. PRA then informed Ms. Headen of the location of the alleged abuse [St. John de LaSalle] and the information provided by Mr.  in regards to the incidents of abuse.

PRA provided Ms. Headen with Fr. Bennett's contact information as well as with Mr.  contact information. Ms. Headen informed PRA that she would forward the call made to the DCFS Hotline regarding the alleged abuse of Mr.  by Fr. Bennett to the DCFS local office. PRA will expect to be contacted via phone by the DCFS worker from the local office who has already been assigned to the recent reported cases of sexual abuse made against Fr. Bennett.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 000360

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MEMORANDUM




To: File – PFR-170


From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 



Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] 




Date: February 10, 2006


PRA received two voice mail messages from  one on February 7th and the other February 8, 2006 regarding his alleged sexual abuse by Rev. Joseph Bennett.

PRA reached  via phone on February 8th. He then identified himself as  and stated that the abuse by Fr. Bennett took place “at the church on 103rd and King Drive [St. John de LaSalle]” in Chicago. Mr.  stated that he was 11 or 12 years old at the time of the abuse.

Mr.  informed PRA that this “all came back” to him when he “...saw on the news that Fr. Bennett molested two girls.” His call to PRA was to inform the Archdiocese of Chicago that, “...it [the alleged abuse of two girls by Fr. Bennett] was more than that.”

When asked, Mr.  agreed to have PRA verbally provide him with information on the Office of Professional Responsibility. PRA also provided him with information regarding the Office of Assistance Ministry. Mr.  indicated that he would be interested in scheduling a time to meet to formalize his allegation against Fr. Bennett.

Mr.  then provided some information of the time period of the alleged abuse. He stated that he was adopted and that for a point in time, his adoptive parents placed him in “the Audi Home” where he says he was raped. Mr.  then continued by stating “Fr. Bennett was a Brother at the time...” He stated that Fr. Bennett was “...at the church at 103rd and King Drive.” PRA identified the church as St. John de LaSalle. Mr.  stated “...other young males [besides himself] were involved...” and lived in the area of St. John de LaSalle.

Mr.  stated that he first met Fr. Bennett while a resident at the Audi Home. He informed PRA that once he left the Audi Home and was back with his adoptive parents, he would travel on Sundays from the North Side of Chicago to the South Side to serve as

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an altar boy at St. John de LaSalle. As per Mr. [REDACTED] Fr. Bennett invited him and another boy to stay overnight at the rectory. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he declined Fr. Bennett's invitation. Mr. [REDACTED] mentioned that the abuse by Fr. Bennett included the cleric "playing" with him. When asked for clarification by PRA, Mr. [REDACTED] stated that Fr. Bennett "grabbed my privates [genitals]."

Mr. [REDACTED] also mentioned that he knows of a boy who did stay overnight at the rectory with Fr. Bennett. When asked, Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he does not remember the boy's name. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he met Fr. Bennett's parents and that the cleric invited him to his ordination.

Mr. [REDACTED] had become audibly emotional as the February 9th phone call continued. PRA spent some time on the phone with Mr. [REDACTED] attempting to settle him.

It was agreed that PRA and Mrs. Mayra Flores from the Office of Assistance Ministry would travel to [REDACTED] to meet with Mr. [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] a Catholic Church in the Joliet Diocese near to his home. The meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 14th at 11:00am. It was agreed that PRA would contact Mr. [REDACTED] with confirmation of where to meet at [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] provided the following personal information:

[REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] also informed PRA that his is disabled and living on Social Security.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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MEMORANDUM

TO: ✓ Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
✓ Rev. Vince Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Patricia Zacharias, Office of Professional Responsibility

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino^{LNP}, Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: February 10, 2006

RE: [PFR-170] Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Temporarily Withdrawn)/ [REDACTED]

A new allegation was received by this office on 2/9/06. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator has begun the Review Process by arranging an interview with [REDACTED]. Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Bennett, Rev. Joseph/ [REDACTED]

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

cc: Bishop George Rassas, Vicar General
Very Rev. John Canary, Vicar, Mundelein Seminary
Very Rev. James Presta, Vicar, St. Joseph Seminary

AOC 000363

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MEMORANDUM


To: File -- PFR-170

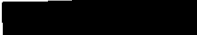
From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] 

Date: December 5, 2005

PRA received a voice mail message from Rev. Ralph R. Mollan [Retired] today as a follow up to the November 22, 2005 phone call regarding the continuing investigation of  allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett [see file].

In his message, Fr. Mollan stated that he has no memory of having "restrictions" on clerics at St. John de LaSalle having visitors in their rooms. Fr. Mollan was pastor of St. John de LaSalle during the time period of the alleged abuse of  by Fr. Bennett.

Fr. Mollan was ordained in 1943 and currently resides at the Bishop Lyne Home in Lemont, Illinois. The main phone number for the facility is .

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

AOC 000364

Kaz -

██████████ said that J. Bennett brought the affidavit with him when he came to see Dr. ██████████. ██████████ said that he sent a fax with his discoveries and repeated them. J. Bennett has a huge "birth mark" on his back, a healed scar from the removal of some lump or the like. On the scrotum there is a purplish mark on either side of it. The average person would not notice this as a "freckle"

Mary Ann

NO -

NO

Lower back, Scar

freckle = flat + Brown

this is very
definitely purple

No huge Birth
mark - I
would have
said something

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Cardinal



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

July 14, 2006

COPY

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Yours is one of many letters I have received regarding the future of Father Joseph Bennett, Pastor of Holy Ghost Parish. Each letter contained very personal testimony to the effective ministry of Father Bennett and concern about his being returned to pastor your parish. I am grateful for these letters and for the witness to the effectiveness of Father Bennett's ministry.

As you may know, the Archdiocese of Chicago follows the national protocols for investigating an allegation of sexual abuse against a priest. The allegation against Father Bennett was made about two and one-half years ago, and the investigation has taken an extraordinarily long period of time because of its complexity. Normally, the investigation is finished and a decision has been made before the future of a priest is decided. In the case of Father Bennett, because the investigation had taken so long and there were external pressures, he was asked to step down from active ministry until the investigation could be completed. The examination of all the material by the Archdiocesan Review Board has taken place, and they still believe that some form of sexual abuse took place.

With you, I hope that Father Bennett is innocent of these allegations. The Review Board does careful work, but, should the Holy See find that he is innocent of these charges, he will be returned to active ministry, unless there are other charges to be investigated.

Again, thank you for your concern for Father Bennett and for the life of faith which continues to unite you to him in prayer. You and Holy Ghost Parish are in my prayers, and I ask for yours in return. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

P.S. We have no choice but to send the case to the Holy See for review - that is the regulation for every case. Of course, I hope Fr. Bennett is innocent - who would not? Rather than with me, I suggest you talk to his accusers.

AOC 000366

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn]

Date: June 29, 2006

PRA contacted Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] investigator Brigitte Broadway via phone on June 28, 2006 regarding the status of the DCFS investigation concerning Rev. Joseph Bennett.

Ms. Broadway initially expressed her frustration that her DCFS supervisor[s] would not let her “close” this matter. She noted that each time she has attempted to close this DCFS investigation, her supervisor gives her additional questions to ask/requests additional information regarding Fr. Bennett. When asked, Ms. Broadway stated that her supervisor is Carla Jackson.

Ms. Broadway then asked PRA the following questions [PRA’s responses are noted in bold print]:

- What is the status of the allegations made by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. **The Review Board process is concluded in the matters of Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] allegations. Cardinal George will send these cases to Rome [the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith] for their final decision on the matters. PRA just presented Mr. [REDACTED] allegation to Fr. Bennett yesterday [June 27th]. This matter will be before the Review Board at the next scheduled meeting for an Initial Review.**
- Asked if PRA feels that the “adult survivors [those who have come forward with allegations against Fr. Bennett]” were truthful or not. **Ms. Broadway was informed that PRA does not make any oral or written opinion if an individual who comes forward to report abuse is telling the truth or not.**
- Asked if PRA has been in the any of the “rectories” identified in any of the allegations against Fr. Bennett. **Ms. Broadway was informed that PRA and Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board viewed the**

rectory at St. John de LaSalle in December 2005. When asked, Ms. Broadway was informed that some details of the description of the rectory provided separately by Mr. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] seemed to be accurate, but not all. When asked, PRA directed Ms. Broadway to contact the current pastor of St. John de LaSalle to request to walk through the building. Ms. Broadway did not ask for the pastor's name or any contact information for him.

- Asked PRA for contact information for Rev. James T. Kaczorowski [former Vicar for Priests], as he was present when PRA “talked to the adult victims.” PRA clarified for Ms. Broadway that Fr. Kaczorowski was not present for any meetings with any of the aforementioned “adult victims” of Fr. Bennett. Ms. Broadway was informed that Fr. Kaczorowski was present for meetings where PRA read/presented the allegations to Fr. Bennett. Ms. Broadway then indicated that she would not need to speak with Fr. Kaczorowski.
- Asked PRA if she had ever heard of an alleged victim of Fr. Bennett named [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]. PRA responded that the name [REDACTED] was not known to the Archdiocese of Chicago as a reported victim of Fr. Bennett. Ms. Broadway informed PRA that Mr. [REDACTED] has an attorney who has “filed suit.” When asked, Ms. Broadway stated that she would locate the name of Mr. [REDACTED] attorney and contact information and forward it to PRA.
- Asked PRA if anyone at the Archdiocese of Chicago has spoken with either Ms. [REDACTED] or Ms. [REDACTED]. PRA provided Ms. Broadway with Dr. Michael Bland's name and contact information. Ms. Broadway was informed that Dr. Bland is the Clinical and Pastoral Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Chicago and that he may have spoken [REDACTED]. Ms. Broadway was also informed that PRA has not spoken with either Ms. [REDACTED] or Ms. [REDACTED].

Ms. Broadway thanked PRA for the information provided. She had informed PRA earlier in the phone conversation that she has admittedly “pushed” this case aside [the DCFS investigation of Fr. Bennett], as she has 27 other cases on her desk to address. Ms. Broadway again expressed her frustration that “...they [supervisors at DCFS] won't let me close this case [DCFS investigation of Fr. Bennett].”

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Dr. Michael Bland, Clinical & Pastoral Coordinator, Office of Assistance Ministry
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Office of Assistance Ministry

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MEMORANDUM

To: Brigitte Broadway, Department of Children and Family Services
From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator
Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph
Date: May 31, 2006

Please find the answers to the following questions regarding Rev. Joseph Bennett that were asked in your May 17, 2006 note:

8/23/06
C
memo

1. **Did you receive another report from a [redacted] from [redacted] ? [redacted] is alleging that he was a [redacted] at Our Lady of the Ridge in 1974.** No.
2. **Can I get a phone number for Vicar James Kaczorowski?** Fr. Kaczorowski concluded his term as Vicar for Priests in July 2005. Fr. Kaczorowski is currently pastor of Queen of Angels and may be reached at [redacted].
3. **What is the status of Father Bennett being reinstated? What needs to happen in order for Father Bennett to be reinstated?** Fr. Bennett's status continues to be "temporarily withdrawn." Cardinal George is the only individual who can make the final decision to have Fr. Bennett reinstated or not.
4. **Need to know the final recommendations of all the alleged victims:** [redacted]
[redacted] It was learned from the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] that [redacted] did not wish to speak with PRA. The matter concerning [redacted] is in process. The final decision in the matter of [redacted] was "no reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred." The matters concerning the allegations made by [redacted] and [redacted] continue to be in process.
5. **Are there other open investigations regarding Father Bennett or open investigations that the Diocese is working on in terms of Father Bennett?** No.

6. **Can I get a copy of the sworn statement of Father Bennett's doctor stating there are no identifying marks on Father Bennett's private parts?** Due to the fact that this question concerns medical confidentiality, PRA is awaiting the response of Archdiocesan attorneys. Once a response is received from the attorneys, PRA will be able to notify you.

7. **Can you tell me who is Ralph Mollan? And how can I get in touch with him?** Rev. Ralph R. Mollan is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and was assigned with Fr. Bennett at one point in time in the past. Fr. Mollan was ordained in 1943, which would make him somewhere in his early to mid 80s. He currently resides at the Bishop Timothy J. Lyne Residence for Retired Priests in Lemont, Illinois. The main number for the facility is [REDACTED]

Please contact PRA at {312} 751-5205 with any additional questions.

Cc: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Office of Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Office of Legal Services
James Serritella, Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.

Saint John de la Salle Catholic Church
10205 S. Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago, IL 60628
Phone: 773-785-2022 Fax: 773-785-0112

URGENT

TO: Francis Cardinal George
Bishop George Rassas
Mr. Jimmy Lago
Bishop Joseph Perry
Mr. John O'Malley
Fr. Ed Grace
Fr. Vince Costello
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi
Ms. Colleen Dolan
Mr. James Dwyer

FROM: Fr. Michael Knotek, Pastor
DATE: February 8, 2006
SUBJECT: Father Joseph Bennett

After a confusing phone conversation with Frs. Ed Grace and Vince Costello yesterday I am contacting all of you to urgently request that someone from the Archdiocese come down to St. John de la Salle and meet with me face-to-face soon to help me deal with the effects of the allegations against Fr. Joseph Bennett.

Last June I was informed by Fr. Jim Kaczorowski that there were allegations of child sexual abuse made concerning a priest who had been stationed at St. John de la Salle. Last December Fr. Dan Smilanic and a woman from the Fitness Review Board met with me and informed me that the allegations were concerning Fr. Joseph Bennett. I was cooperative with them in showing them around and answering their questions. On January 22, 2006 Fr. Joe Bennett came to St. John de la Salle to take numerous photos of the rectory and school. He told me, "We are going to be doing some renovating at Holy Ghost and I wanted to get some ideas from your place". Last Wednesday, I was informed by watching television that Fr. Bennett was placed on administrative leave while these allegations are being investigated.

Someone from the Archdiocese should have called me to tell me that this situation regarding Fr. Bennett had gone public. I should have been given immediate assistance on how to help parishioners cope and keep the media at bay. Since then I have been grateful to receive assistance from Jim Dwyer and Ralph Bonaccorsi. However, at this moment I still have the following concerns and don't know where to turn:

1. Fr. Joe Bennett called our parish office yesterday and instructed our secretary to make copies of all sacramental records for two women whose names he provided and send the copies to Holy Ghost Parish. Does he have a right to this private information? Are me and my staff in danger of violating privacy laws?
2. Four people have come forward to report unseemly conduct they claim to have knowledge of re. Fr. Bennett while he served here. I have urged them to call the Archdiocese. They have declined saying they don't want to be involved in this. Do I ignore what they told me or am I bound to report it and to whom?

My parish records are open to any official of the Archdiocese. I have no opinion re. Fr. Bennett's guilt or innocence but I am uncomfortable with responding to his requests without advice from the Archdiocese. Should he even be contacting us at St. John de la Salle? He seems to have many people advocating for him at the Archdiocese. The question is: who advocates for the Pastor and parishioners of the parish where the alleged abuse took place? I would appreciate a prompt and civil response from someone soon!

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim DQ's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on February 14, 2006, formalizing his allegation of abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett. The alleged abuse consisted of several incidents of fondling both over and under Victim DQ's clothing. The alleged abuse occurred at the St. John Baptist de LaSalle parish rectory when Victim DQ was a teen in the mid-1960's.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the written statement made by Victim DR to the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility on or about February 10, 2006 as part of his request to the Archdiocese of Chicago for additional information regarding Fr. Joseph Bennett. In the statement, Victim DR stated that he was abused by Fr. Bennett in 1963 and 1964. The alleged abuse consisted of oral sex and took place at state parks, in Fr. Bennett's car, and in other secluded locations.

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] [REDACTED]
Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] [REDACTED]

Date: November 23, 2005

Rev. Joseph Bennett requested to address the independent Review Board at the November 19, 2005 meeting. Fr. Bennett addressed the Board from approximately 11:15am until 11:45am. He arrived at the Office of Professional Responsibility promptly at 11:00am with Rev. Leonard Dubi, who is also his monitor. PRA escorted Frs. Bennett and Dubi into the large conference room to meet with the Board at approximately 11:15am. The following is an overview of information that Fr. Bennett shared with the Review Board.

- Fr. Bennett expressed his appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to meet with them; he stated that he would read from some notes that he had brought with him
- Fr. Bennett stated that he does remember the [REDACTED] Family from St. John de LaSalle parish
- Fr. Bennett spoke of [REDACTED] [deceased], the former housekeeper at St. John de LaSalle; as per Fr. Bennett, he would have met the [REDACTED] Family through [REDACTED]
- Referring to [REDACTED] allegation against him, Fr. Bennett did confirm that he was the signatory for [REDACTED]
- Fr. Bennett stated that he never would have told the [REDACTED] Family that he did not remember their mother [at her death; see reports of allegations]
- Fr. Bennett then spoke of his own anatomy: referring to the allegation made by [REDACTED] Fr. Bennett stated that he does not have a birth mark on his lower back; Fr. Bennett stated that he does not have any freckles on his scrotum and/or testicles; Fr. Bennett spoke of his own medical history and brought a copy of his medical file with him [he left a copy of his medical history at the request of the Review Board; see file]
- Referring to [REDACTED] allegation, Fr. Bennett stated that he never provided her with instruction for confirmation nor did he ever have her or any

AOC 000374

- other minor in his room for instruction; Fr. Bennett stated that this part of Ms. [REDACTED] allegation, "...reads like a horror story..."
- Referring to the allegations, Fr. Bennett stated that his room at St. John de LaSalle did not overlook Martin Luther King Drive
- Fr. Bennett stated that the pastor at the time, Rev. Ralph Mollan [Retired], did not permit any of the clerics to have visitors in his room; Fr. Bennett also described the rectory at the time as having "...close living quarters..."
- Fr. Bennett stated that Fr. Mollan is still alive and residing at Bishop Lyne Home
- Fr. Bennett stated that he does not feel that [REDACTED] would have let others [visitors] go into the priest rooms in the rectory out of fear of Fr. Mollan and his instruction against having visitors in the rooms
- Fr. Bennett stated that he believes that he recalls seeing [REDACTED] [mother of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the kitchen of the rectory visiting with [REDACTED]; he stated that he has no doubt that Mrs. [REDACTED] would have been there
- As per Fr. Bennett, it "amazes" him that Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] "...made up these stories [of alleged abuse] and told their family members..."
- Referring to Ms. [REDACTED] allegation, Fr. Bennett stated that he cannot remember and/or picture "Sr. [REDACTED]"
- Fr. Bennett stated that he was never asked to give private lessons to anyone to update him/her [as alleged by Ms. [REDACTED]
- Fr. Bennett stated, "I have never seen any female genitalia in person in my entire life...;" he added that he has [infrequently] seen videos and photos of female genitalia
- When asked by [REDACTED] Review Board Chair, Fr. Bennett stated that he would leave a copy of his medical records for the Board members and for his file in the Office of Professional Responsibility
- Fr. Bennett described himself as "overly modest" and that he has never opened his clothes and/or his pants to expose himself
- Fr. Bennett stated, "I don't' like people seeing my body. Even from the waist up."
- [REDACTED] then asked Fr. Bennett about the current set up of St. John de LaSalle's rectory
- Fr. Bennett stated that the set up of the rectory has "drastically changed" since he has been assigned there
- Referring to the allegations made against him, Fr. Bennett stated that he did not have a shelf in his room with a statue of Mary on it
- When asked by [REDACTED] Fr. Bennett spoke of the phone call that he received from Ms. [REDACTED] [see file]; Fr. Bennett stated that he does remember the phone call, but that at the time he did not know that it was Ms. [REDACTED] Fr. Bennett stated that while speaking to the female caller, he pretended to know who she was even though he did not
- Fr. Bennett stated that he believes that he married [REDACTED] the oldest girl in the [REDACTED] Family

- When asked by [REDACTED] what Fr. Bennett remembers about the [REDACTED] Family, the cleric stated that he recalls that “the girls” were almost always at daily mass with their mother
- Fr. Bennett stated that he cannot remember at any time going to any Religious Education classrooms, as alleged by Ms. [REDACTED]
- When asked by [REDACTED], Fr. Bennett stated that he believes that he was at the [REDACTED] home in [REDACTED] Illinois on one occasion for lunch; Fr. Bennett explained that he would have been invited by [REDACTED] as he was her transportation
- Fr. Bennett shared his recollection that Mr. [REDACTED] “...was not received into church...” but that he did attend mass on Sundays with the family
- When asked by [REDACTED], Fr. Bennett stated that he “...may have seen...” Ms. [REDACTED] and/or Ms. [REDACTED] in the rectory breakfast-nook with their mother as invited by [REDACTED]
- Fr. Bennett then asked the Review Board members for an approximate time frame as to when this matter would be concluded
- [REDACTED] informed Fr. Bennett that a time frame could not be given, but that the Board would take into consideration the additional medical information that he shared [at the November 19, 2005 meeting] and the information that he verbally shared as well
- Fr. Bennett then asked PRA about his request to speak with “Sr. [REDACTED];” PRA informed Fr. Bennett that his request was made to Sr. [REDACTED]’s civil attorney, but that no response had yet been received

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

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MEMORANDUM

To: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

From: Laura A. Neri-Palomino *LNP*

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph/ [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Date: November 2, 2005

Leah McCluskey asked that I forward you the following documentation in regards to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] allegations of sexual misconduct of a minor against Rev. Joseph Bennett.

Cc: Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar

Enclosures

AOC 000377

JEFF ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

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Jeffrey R. Anderson *1W
Patrick W. Noaker **
Kathleen Stafford
Michael G. Finnegan

December 7, 2005

SENT VIA FAX

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator
Archdiocese of Chicago
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, IL 60690


RE: [REDACTED] and Fr. Joseph Bennett

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

When I met with you in our offices in connection with another matter on October 24, 2005, I asked you about the status of this matter and you reported to me that it was being given immediate consideration by the Cardinal at that time and would let us know immediately. I have not received anything from you, the Cardinal's office or the Archdiocese in connection with this. We remain in the dark in other words and very anxious to get this matter moving and find out what determination, if any, has been made. You will recall that the original review board met on June 19, 2004 and conducted an initial review of the allegation and the Cardinal accepted the Board's determination that an initial review of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett.

Please advise us of the status of this immediately. Your prompt attention to this is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,


Jeffrey R. Anderson
jeff@andersonadvocates.com

JRA:tat

- cc: James Serritella
- Ralph Bonaccorsi
- Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
- David Haynes (via fax)
- Marc Pearlman (via fax)

*Certified Civil Trial Specialist by National Board of Trial Advocacy and Minnesota State Bar Association
**Also Admitted In Illinois ** Also Admitted In Wisconsin ** Also Admitted in Missouri

RECEIVED

DEC 7 2005

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

MANDATE OF REPRESENTATION

To assist me in the understanding and protection of my rights in the Church according to the Code of Canon Law (cc. 220, 221, §1), I, Reverend Joseph Bennett, hereby appoint REVEREND PAUL L. GOLDEN, C.M., J.C.D. to be my canonical consultant and, when appropriate according to canon 1481, my advocate and procurator.

I authorize him to render all canonical legal services on my behalf such as advising, negotiating, researching, corresponding, representing and other such actions that he may deem advisable and reasonably necessary to effectively represent me and protect my rights in the Church regarding my current dispute with the Archdiocese of Chicago.


While it is my understanding that the Archdiocese will compensate Father Golden for this service, I accept responsibility for payments that are not so covered.

I understand that I may terminate this agreement at anytime by submitting to Father Golden a written notice of withdrawal of representation with a copy to my local Ordinary. I further understand that Father Golden may terminate this agreement at anytime by submitting a written notice to me.


Reverend Joseph Bennett

Date 11-19-05

I hereby accept the appointment as canonical consultant for the Reverend Joseph Bennett as provided for in this agreement.


Reverend Paul L. Golden, C.M. J.C.D.

Date November 17, 2005

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Legal Services

John C. O'Malley
Director



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Tel: (312) 751-5379
Fax: (312) 751-5252
e-mail: jomalley@archchicago.org

June 14, 2004

RECEIVED

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

JUN 14 2004

Mr. Michael J. Howlett, Jr.
Cook County State's Attorney Counsel
69 West Washington Street, 32nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

RE: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: Unknown

Date of alleged abuse: late 1960's

Dear Mr. Howlett:

Please be advised that the Archdiocese of Chicago has received an allegation from [REDACTED] on behalf of her sister [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was the victim of sexual misconduct by Fr. Joseph Bennett when she was approximately 7 years of age. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended CCD classes at St. John de La Salle Parish in 1968. In February 2004 our office reported an allegation from [REDACTED] of sexual abuse to her by Fr. Bennett.

Fr. Bennett is an archdiocesan priest and was an Associate Pastor at the parish at the time of the alleged abuse. The parish is located at 10205 South King Drive, Chicago and in Cook County. The priest is currently in active ministry

If our office can provide any additional information, or be of any further help, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of John C. O'Malley in black ink.
John C. O'Malley
Director of Legal Services

JCOM:sm

cc: Ms. Shauna Boliker
Ms. Leah McCluskey
Mr. James A. Serritella

SCDir:\04SC128 \Cook\Letter to State's Attorney Office re [REDACTED]

AOC 000380



March 11, 2004

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator
Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Re: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

In follow-up to our meeting of March 2nd regarding the above matter, I have not heard back from you regarding our immediate concern about the suspension of Father Bennett and Sister [REDACTED] as a result of the horrific abuse which Ms. [REDACTED] suffered at their hands. It is imperative that they are removed from any environment where they have access to children.

You advised us that you would bring this report of abuse to the attention of your supervisors including the Cardinal that same day. Please advise our office as soon as possible what steps have been taken regarding the suspension of these two abusers pending the administrative process which has now begun as a result of Ms. [REDACTED] recitation of the abuse she suffered as a child given to you here in our offices on March 2, 2004.

As I discussed with you, our firm is working in association with Jeff Anderson, Esq. of Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A., in the representation of [REDACTED]. Please copy Mr. Anderson on any and all correspondence as well. Although I know that you have Mr. Anderson's information, I have provided it at the bottom of this letter for your convenience.

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
March 11, 2004
Page 2

I look forward to your prompt response regarding this most urgent of matters.

Very truly yours,


David E. Haynes

DEH:grg

cc: Jeff Anderson, Esq.
Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A.
E-1000 First National Bank
332 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101



From: Leah McCluskey
To: Golden, Paul
Date: 3/2/2006 9:02:56 AM
Subject: Re: Review Board Members

Fr. Golden,

The Board member's names are public information, but no other identifiers. They are the following:

Ray Gass
Michael Jenuwine
Dr. Domeena Renshaw
Rev. Charles Rubey
Rev. Lawrence Dowling
Patrick Walsh
Carol Richter
Richard Donohue

Have a good day,

Leah

Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Professional Responsibility Administrator
Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Office: 312.751.5205
Fax: 312.751.5279
lmccluskey@archchicago.org

>>> "Paul Golden" <paul@goldenconsulting.com> 03/01/06 3:41 PM >>>

Leah,

Are the names and qualifications of the members of the Professional Responsibility Review Board public?

I would like to see the membership, but know that some dioceses do not publish the names. Is that true in Chicago?

Thank,

Fr. Paul

Archdiocese of Chicago

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February 5, 2006

Dear members of the Holy Ghost Parish family,

I stand before you today with great sadness because I have painful news to share.

Your pastor, Fr. Joseph Bennett has been temporarily withdrawn as pastor of Holy Ghost Parish, pending further inquiry into allegations received by officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago that he engaged in sexual misconduct with minors. The sexual misconduct is alleged to have occurred more than 35 years ago while Fr. Bennett served as assistant pastor at St. John de la Salle Parish in Chicago. This allegation has been reported to the Cook County State's Attorney.

The independent Review Board of the Archdiocese is continuing its review of the allegations. Pending the outcome of this review, Fr. Bennett is cooperating with archdiocesan officials and is residing in a monitored private setting.

If anyone has additional information or a concern to raise regarding Fr. Bennett, please contact our Archdiocesan Professional Responsibility Administrator directly at 1-800-994-6200. You may also contact the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney at 312-603-5440.

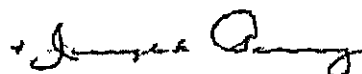
This is very difficult news to share and even more difficult, I know, to hear. If there is more information about the situation to share, it will be shared.

For the immediate future, I will serve as administrator of Holy Ghost Parish. I have assured the rest of your pastoral staff that they shall have additional assistance they need going forward.

May I ask you to join me in praying for all people in need of the Lord's peace and healing: for the adults who brought this concern to the Archdiocese, for Fr. Bennett, and for all those affected by the horror of sexual abuse. At this sad time, now, I want to assure you of my prayers - and of Cardinal George's - for all of you. When I have any more information about this situation, or about the future of pastoral leadership at Holy Ghost, I will share it with you promptly.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Joseph N. Perry

Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate VI

212-751 5279

RECEIVED

OCT 05 2005

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I, Rev. Joseph Bennett, hereby grant the permission for a representative from the Archdiocesan Professional Responsibility Review Board to have a verbal conversation with Dr. [REDACTED] regarding the physician's April 6, 2005 report of my physical examination. I also grant permission for the Review Board representative to share this information with the Board members and with Ms. Leah McCluskey of the Office of Professional Responsibility at the Archdiocese of Chicago.

I expressly reserve the right to revoke my consent at any time by giving written notice of revocation to all parties named in this form. Any such revocation will have no effect upon disclosures properly made prior to the revocation. Unless earlier revoked by me, this time limited consent to release of information shall remain in effect for twelve months (12) from the date that I have signed it.

My signature below indicates that I have carefully reviewed this consent form and freely consent to the disclosure of the records and information as specified above.

10-05-05
Date

Joseph R. Bennett
Consenting Party Signature

JOSEPH R. BENNETT
Consenting Party Printed Name

10-5-05
Date

Joseph D. Dubi
Witness Signature

LEOPARD A. DUBI
Witness Printed Name

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

November 7, 2005

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

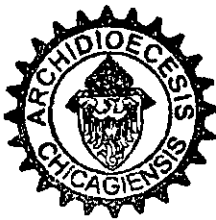
I am writing to you with regard to the matter of **Reverend Joseph Bennett**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by [REDACTED]. I had initially indicated that I accepted the Review Board's recommendation that there was a reasonable cause to suspect that the misconduct did occur. However, I have since reconsidered this matter and would like to postpone a final decision for the time being. I need more time to review the material gathered in the preliminary investigation and to consider it in light of the Review Board's recommendation.

I realize this creates a rather awkward situation, but I believe I need to reflect on this matter further. Thank you for your understanding. Please communicate this decision to the members of the Review Board and assure them that this does not represent any lack of confidence in them for the fine work they do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago



Rev. Richard Aoudia
Ecclesiastical Notary

AOC 000386

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility





P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

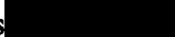
To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Active] 

Date: November 16, 2004

PRA received a message from Ms.  on November 11, 2004 regarding her allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett.

Ms.  has received the draft copy of her allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Bennett. She requested an additional two weeks to return the draft to PRA with her additions and corrections.

AOC 000387

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

January 13, 2005

Patrick G. Reardon
221 North LaSalle Street
Suite 1938
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Reardon,

Enclosed you will find a finalized copy of [REDACTED] allegation made against Fr. Joseph Bennett on August 31, 2004.

If you have any questions please contact Leah McCluskey at 312-751-5205.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Neri-Palomino".

Laura A. Neri-Palomino
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure

AOC 000388

VCS

VINCENTIAN CANONICAL SERVICES

RECEIVED

FEB 02 2007

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Paul L. Golden, C.M. J.C.D.
Director

DePaul House
2340 South University Boulevard
Suite 402
Denver Colorado 80210 5405

Tel 303/698-0458
Fax 303/777 0468
paul@goldenconsulting.com

February 1, 2007

Ms Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator
Archdiocese of Chicago
737 N Michigan Avenue
Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Leah,

Enclosed is a copy of Reverend Joseph R. Bennett's response to the allegation lodged by Mr. [REDACTED]. I understand that you will be forwarding this case along with this response, to the Professional Responsibility Review Board later this month.

Father Bennett appreciates the invitation to attend the meeting of the Review Board when his case is discussed in order to verbally give his response and to answer questions posed by board members. However, Father has decided that he will not attend the meeting. I concur with this decision.

Father and I await the recommendation of the Review Board to the Cardinal. I hope that you will forward this information to us as you have in the past.

If you would like further clarification or information or if you have any questions about the enclosed response, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Golden, C.M.
Director

cc Reverend Joseph R. Bennett

AOC 000389

COPY**RECEIVED**

FEB 02 2007

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITYPaul L. Golden, C.M., J.C.D.
DirectorDePaul House
2340 South University Boulevard
Suite 402
Denver, Colorado 80210-5405Tel: 303/698-0458
Fax: 303/777-0468
paul@goldenconsulting.com

February 1, 2007

His Eminence
Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Your Eminence,

Ms. Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator, has invited the Reverend Joseph R. Bennett and myself, his canonical advocate, to respond to the allegation of sexual misconduct that has been lodged against him by Mr. [REDACTED]

This presentation will be given to the Professional Responsibility Review Board for its discussion of the case. I am sending it to your attention because, after you receive the recommendation of the Review Board, you will judge whether there is sufficient evidence to continue with the penal process or not.

Biographical Information

Father Joseph R. Bennett was born on [REDACTED]. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on April 26, 1966. His first assignment was as an associate pastor at St. John de la Salle parish where he served from May 1966 until June 1973. He was transferred to Our Lady of the Ridge parish where he served as an associate pastor until January 30, 1976. In January 1976, Father accepted the assignment as a chaplain at the Cook Country Jail where he served until January 1981. While a prison chaplain, he resided at and assisted St. Joseph/St. Anne parish from January 1976 to July 1978. He moved his residence to St. Christina parish in July 1978 because the pastor needed extra help in this large parish. He assisted that parish until January 1981. It was in January 1981 that Father Bennett received his first pastorate. He was named pastor of St. John de la Salle parish where he remained until May 1989. He was transferred to St. Agnes parish in May 1989 where he served as pastor until July 1991. He was assigned as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima parish where he ministered from July 1991 until June 1997. Father Bennett is currently the pastor of Holy Ghost parish, an office he has held from June 1997. Father was given a leave of absence from the parish on February 1, 2006.

The Allegation

Mr. [REDACTED] contacted the Archdiocese shortly after Father Bennett was featured in the media because of allegations brought by Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] has not explained why he waited to come forward until he saw these stories. It is possible that he wanted to take advantage of the publicity to corroborate his allegation.

Ms. McCluskey met with Mr. [REDACTED] on February 14, 2006 to take his full statement of the allegation. (Hereafter Allegation) Father Bennett was not told about this allegation until June 20, 2006.

Mr. [REDACTED] alleged that on less than five different occasions, Father Bennett took him to the basement of the rectory and inappropriately touched him. He reports that Father instructed him to lie on Father's lap. Sometimes he would lie face up and sometimes, face down. Mr. [REDACTED] alleged that Father rubbed his chest, his back and his groin area. (Allegation, p. 3-4) Mr. [REDACTED] was not clear about the dates of this alleged misconduct. He was sure it was during the summer months, but he was not sure of the year. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Allegation, p. 4) In a recent phone conversation with Ms. McCluskey, Mr. [REDACTED] said that he thought the abuse took place "within a couple of years" [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Using this timeline, the alleged abuse would have happened in 1969.

Denial of Sexual Abuse

Father Bennett absolutely and unconditionally denies that he ever touched Mr. [REDACTED] genitals or private parts of his body. Father never put his hand on these parts either on top of or underneath the clothing.

The False Elements of the Allegation

Mr. [REDACTED] memory is simply not reliable. His ability to remember details that happened 37 or more years earlier is quite poor. The following elements of the allegation are not true:

1. Mr. [REDACTED] did not attend Father Bennett's ordination as he reported. (Allegation, p. 5) Father was ordained at Mundelein Seminary in the main chapel, not outdoors as Mr. [REDACTED] remembered. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There was no party or gathering at the Bennett home after the ordination.

2. Mr. [REDACTED] was not a regular altar server at St. John de la Salle Church.

(Allegation, p. 3) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There were plenty of servers available in the parish and they faithfully performed these duties. Possibly if Father Bennett was saying the 5:30 pm Mass on Sunday and if no server showed up and if Mr. [REDACTED] was attending the Mass, he might have served at the altar. This would have been a rare and exceptional occurrence.

3. Mr. [REDACTED] did not eat supper with Father Bennett and another priest on Sunday evenings. (Allegation, p. 4) [REDACTED] the housekeeper and cook, would have prepared a meal for the priest who said the evening Mass, but would not have prepared food for a guest. The other priests would not be home for supper on Sunday evenings. Given the rules of the rectory, a young man would not have been invited to dine in the rectory. The truth is that Father took Mr. [REDACTED] to a local hamburger place for supper or brought food into the rectory.

4. Father Bennett did not take Mr. [REDACTED] downstairs [REDACTED] as Mr. [REDACTED] alleged. (Allegation, p. 4) As Father Kub testified (see below, p. 5) only the pastor and his friends counted the collection. The collection was counted in the "mirror room" in the basement of the rectory. It is not true that Mr. [REDACTED] ever saw the money being counted and he never helped Father Bennett count the money after the evening Mass. This collection was put into the safe to be counted on Monday when the pastor could oversee the operation.

5. Father Bennett did not invite any boys to stay overnight in the rectory. (Allegation, p. 3 & 4) This is a spurious allegation with no substance. Mr. [REDACTED] cannot give any names of such boys and he never saw any boys staying overnight because he testifies that he himself never stayed. There was no place for overnight visitors in the rectory and the rules of the rectory prohibited such invitations.

6. Mr. [REDACTED] and his wife did not visit Father Bennett at St. John de la Salle parish in 1975. (Allegation, p. 5) Father moved from that parish in 1973 and was still assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge in 1975. He did not come back to his old parish to have a social visit with a friend. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There was no meeting between the [REDACTED] and Father Bennett at St. John de la Salle parish. Father does not remember ever meeting Mr. [REDACTED] wife

7. [REDACTED]
- a. In the year of the alleged abuse, St. John de la Salle parish was not located on S. King Drive (Allegation, p. 3) but on South Park. The name of the street was changed to Dr. Martin Luther King Drive several years later.
 - b. [REDACTED], the rectory housekeeper and cook did not have gray hair. (Allegation, p. 4) Everyone knows that [REDACTED] proudly kept her hair jet black with the help of her hairdresser whom she visited weekly.
 - c. Father Bennett had light brown hair in his younger years until it turned gray. His hair was never black. (Allegation, p. 3)
 - d. Mr. [REDACTED] remembers that Father Bennett "sometimes" wore glasses. (Allegation, p. 3) In fact, Father always wore glasses and no one would have seen him without glasses.
 - e. Father Bennett's living quarters did not have [REDACTED] (Allegation, p. 4) Father had one small bookcase in the living room.

[REDACTED]

The Testimony of Father Francis Kub

Father Francis Q. Kub is currently the pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Parish. He was assigned to St. John de la Salle Parish from his ordination in 1965 to December 1968. He held the office of Administrator from November 1967 to February 1968 when the new pastor, Father Ralph Mollen, arrived. He was stationed at the parish with Father Bennett for less than eighteen months.

According to Mr. [REDACTED] calculation, the alleged abuse took place during the summer of 1969. Father Kub was no longer at St. John de la Salle parish at that time. Therefore nothing that Father Kub says has any direct bearing on the allegation. Father Kub did not witness any interaction between Mr. [REDACTED] and Father Bennett. In fact, it seems that Father Kub never met Mr. [REDACTED]. Therefore Father Kub is not a witness in this case.

A. On July 27, 2006, Ms. McCluskey wrote a memo to file about a phone conversation she had with Father Kub. There are many inaccuracies in Father Kub's testimony.

1. Father Kub said that Mr. [REDACTED] name was familiar to him. He said, "it sounds like a name from the parish." Of course, Mr. [REDACTED] and his family never lived in the parish. Father Kub never acknowledged that he knew Mr. [REDACTED] or had ever met him.
2. Father Kub did not correctly recall the Sunday Mass schedule at the parish. He said there were eight Masses at these times: 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:15 and 4:00 or 5:00 in the evening. Father Bennett is certain that there were only seven Masses and the schedule was 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00, 11:15, 12:30 and 5:30 in the evening.
3. Father Kub reported that Father Bennett was not allowed to say the 11:30 Mass because his homilies were too long and the church would not be empty in time for the next Mass. Father Kub failed to remember that the last four Masses of the morning were always said by Augustinian priests from Mendel High School. Fathers Bernard McConville, OSA and Joseph Hennessey, OSA always said these Masses so there was no issue about whether Father Bennett's homily was too long for that Mass.

Father Kub's description of the process to count the Sunday collection is mostly accurate. Father Murphy, the pastor, (and Father Mollen, his successor) was in charge of the counting. He was assisted by some friends/parishioners. The counting was done in the "mirror room" in the basement of the rectory. Father Bennett does not remember helping to open envelopes, but that might have happened.

B. On August 7, 2006, Father Kub gave a formal deposition to Father Daniel Smilanic, the Promoter of Justice, and Ms. Leah McCluskey, the Professional Responsibility Administrator. There is a transcript of this testimony. (Hereafter Deposition) As in the telephone conversation above, Father Kub's memory during this deposition did not serve him well. Besides not being able to accurately recall facts from almost forty years ago, it seems that Father is given to much exaggeration. The following elements of the deposition are not true, perhaps due to Father's penchant for exaggeration.

1. Father Kub recalled a confrontation between himself, as Administrator, and one of Father Bennett's friends, later identified as Father Leonard Dubi. The disagreement was about Father Bennett hosting young people in his private quarters. Father Kub did not recall that Leonard Dubi was not just a friend of Father Bennett's but was in fact a transitional deacon assigned to ministry at St. John de la Salle parish. According to Father Kub, Deacon Dubi "pushed me in a corner and said keep your nose out of Bennett's business." (Deposition, p. 5)

Father Bennett does not recall such a confrontation. It is highly unlikely that a transitional deacon would physically accost the parish Administrator. Such behavior would have been reported to the seminary authorities and appropriate punishment would have been meted out. There is no indication that this happened. Father Kub exaggerates this encounter, if in fact it ever happened.

2. In describing the housekeeper, [REDACTED], Father Kub said, "...but after all she was in her seventies or eighties." (Deposition, p. 4) In fact, [REDACTED] was 61 years old in 1967. She was born on [REDACTED] as indicated in her death certificate. (Attachment 1) Was Father Kub again exaggerating?

3. Father Kub reported that Father Bennett, "...had something to do with St. Charles, IL." (Deposition, p. 7) This is the juvenile detention center in St. Charles. While Father Bennett may have visited this facility on one occasion, he did not have any contacts there and did not know any young men there. Again Father Kub exaggerated Father Bennett's relationship with troubled youth.

4. Father Kub testified that he could not remember the make or color of Father Bennett's car because, "...we didn't share garages." In fact, for some of the time both priests were assigned to the parish, they parked their cars side by side in the same garage.

Father Kub contradicted himself during his testimony.

1. Father Kub was adamant that Father Bennett gave more attention to "young men, to the boys." (Deposition, p. 2) When asked whether Father Bennett spent more time with men than women, he replied, "Men, period. Men, period." (Deposition, p. 4) He also reported that Father Bennett, "...tended to shy away from women's groups." (Deposition, p. 2) However, Father Kub tells a story about finding three young girls in his room watching T.V. They were members of the Teen Club and evidently were there for a meeting. In fact, the officers of the Teen Club were females. They were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Father Bennett spent time with both men and women in the context of the Teen Club. It is simply untrue that Father Bennett neglected the girls.

2. At the end of the deposition, Father Kub raised the issue of Father Bennett's maturity and skills as an associate pastor. He said, "I had questions about whether he (Father Bennett) was able to handle the job." (Deposition, p. 11) But earlier, Father Kub praised Father Bennett. "He would work with you and he would take care of the tasks that you asked him to do and dependable." (Deposition, p. 2)

Father Kub testified that he had never observed Father Bennett serve liquor to teens, even though the liquor cabinet was readily accessible. (Disposition, p. 9) Father reported that [REDACTED] complained to him about Father Bennett's relationship to teen-aged boys. "It just didn't look good," he remembers her saying. (Deposition, p. 7) But [REDACTED] never thought or suspected that Father Bennett abused any minor or had any inappropriate contacts with a minor. On the contrary, [REDACTED] appointed Father Bennett as executor of her will and ask him to be her caretaker. Father Kub knew about this special relationship between Father Bennett and [REDACTED] (Deposition, p. 12)

Father Kub reported that Father Bennett helped troubled youth and spent time with kids. This is true. When Father Bennett arrived at the parish, Father Kub turned over to Father Bennett the job of youth minister. (Deposition, p. 11) Being around both boys and girls, holding youth meetings, taking kids bowling, talking with them and making them feel welcome in the parish was Father's ministry. Father Kub remembered the various activities that Father Bennett did with the youth. He also reported that the Teen Club flourished under Father Bennett's leadership. (Deposition, p. 11)

It is important to recall that in the mid to late 1960's, this ministry to youth by young priests was expected and encouraged. The young priests were especially encouraged to relate well to boys because these youths might consider the priesthood as a vocation. There was nothing sinister about this ministry then and we should not read anything sinister into it today.

Father Kub's testimony does not support the allegation that Mr. [REDACTED] has leveled against Father Bennett. Father Kub does not know Mr. [REDACTED] and was not at the parish when the alleged abuse took place.

The Truth About the Friendship of Mr. [REDACTED] and Father Bennett

Father Bennett readily admits that he knew Mr. [REDACTED] and that they became friends. The following details are true:

1. Father Bennett met young Mr. [REDACTED] in 1964 when the boy was twelve years old and living in [REDACTED]. The chaplain of [REDACTED], Father [REDACTED] would arrange to have seminarians visit the boys during the seminarians' summer vacation and January breaks. The seminarians would meet with the boys and encourage them to maintain faith and hope for their future. Father Bennett volunteered for this pastoral ministry along with other seminarians. After ordination, Father Bennett did not visit [REDACTED]

2. Father Bennett hosted Mr. [REDACTED] at St. John de la Salle parish on a number of occasions. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Father probably did bring Mr. [REDACTED] bowling with other youth, but Father cannot remember this detail.

3. Father Bennett clearly remembers bringing Mr. [REDACTED] to the basement of the rectory so that they could chat. They did not visit in the "mirror room." There was a small living space that had been used as the quarters for the housekeeper. It was empty at that time and used mostly for storage. There was a couch in the sitting room. The reason why Father chose this place is because he was told not to entertain youth in his private quarters.

4. Father remembers that Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] When the lad returned to the couch, he may have leaned up against Father or Father may have put his arm around him. Father remembers that the boy was seeking support and solace. Father never touched Mr. [REDACTED] below his waist. Father never rubbed Mr. [REDACTED] groin area.

5. Some years later when Mr. [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he wrote a few short, undated notes and a postcard to Father Bennett. (Attachment 2) These notes certainly indicate that Mr. [REDACTED] considered himself a friend of Father's. He wanted Father to know how he was doing and he described some of the fun activities he was experiencing. Mr. [REDACTED] wanted Father to stay in touch with him and once asked Father to write. These notes certainly indicate that Mr. [REDACTED] had no unpleasant or injurious encounters with Father.

Allegation is not a Canonical Delict

Even if the allegation by Mr. [REDACTED] were true, which it is not, it would not be a canonical delict. Because this abuse was alleged to have taken place, according to Mr. [REDACTED] own estimation, in the summer of 1969, he would have been 17 years old. The law of the Church at that time required that the victim be under the age of 16 in order to constitute the crime of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric. (1917 CIC canon 2359, §2)

The Canonical Process

You opened a preliminary investigation according to canon 1717, §1 on June 25, 2004 to examine previous allegations made against Father Bennett. It was extended to include this allegation made by Mr. [REDACTED]. This investigation, under the direction of Ms. McCluskey whom you appointed as the investigator, sought to collect the facts and the circumstances of the allegations and to come to some determination concerning the imputability of Father Bennett.

The Archdiocesan Review Board has been appointed to assist you by reviewing the evidence that has been brought to it. It advises you about whether it judges there is sufficient evidence to warrant sending the case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith who alone has competency in such cases. The decision at this point in the canonical process is not that the case has been proven. However, the criteria for this decision is much more than the "semblance of truth" or "it might have happened." In order to proceed to the next step in this canonical process (canon 1718) the decision must be that there is solid and true evidence on which these allegations are based. There must be some level of certitude, based on the evidence presented that Father Bennett is guilty of a

Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.
February 1, 2007
Page Ten

canonical delict. In other words, there must be evidence that could be the grounds for a canonical penal process.

I believe that in this response, I have shown that such solid and true evidence does not exist. Mr. [REDACTED] did indeed visit with Father Bennett at the parish on several occasions. Father considered him one of the many youths that he helped and encouraged in their faith. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Now he thinks he remembers some actions by Father that, in truth, never happened or are confused with actions that others did. Mr. [REDACTED] was not a minor according to Church law at the time, so no canonical delict could have been committed. Mr. [REDACTED] allegation is filled with elements that I have clearly shown to be objectively false. I believe that the whole allegation is not true.

If you would like further information or would like to discuss this case before you make your final decision, Father Bennett and I will make ourselves available to you.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Golden, C.M.

Paul L. Golden, C.M., J.C.D.
Director

cc: Reverend Joseph Bennett
✓ Ms. Leah McCluskey
Mr. Frederick A. Muth, Jr.
Mr. Patrick Reardon

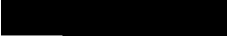
Office of Professional Responsibility

P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

June 29, 2006

Rev. Joseph Bennett

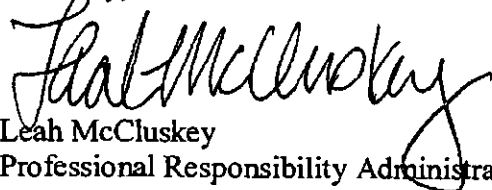

Dear Fr. Bennett,

Enclosed you will find a copy of the draft report written based upon our meeting that took place on June 27, 2006, concerning Mr.  allegation of sexual misconduct against you. Please make any changes necessary to ensure the accuracy of the report and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you feel that the report is accurate as written, please sign and date the report on the appropriate lines and return it to me in the same manner.

Fr. Bennett, I ask that you return the report to me by July 13, 2006 so that I may continue to move this matter forward. Your prompt attention to this report and signature will facilitate this matter being presented to the Review Board for their consideration in a timely fashion. Once I have a final copy of the report as indicated by the appropriate signatures, I will return a copy to you for your records.

Please know that you may contact me at [312] 751-5205 with any questions or concerns. Also know that Fr. Grace continues to be available to you as your Vicar for Priests. He may be reached at [312] 642-1837.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

Cc: Rev. Paul L. Golden, C.M., J.C.D., canonical advocate
Mr. Patrick Reardon, civil attorney

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Metropolitan Tribunal
Rev Patrick R Lagges, J C D
Phone (312) 751-8384
e-mail plagg@archchicago.org



155 E Superior St
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Fax (312) 751-8314

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

TO: Leah McCluskey
FROM: Father Lagges *pl*
RE: Letters on Father Bennett
DATE: 4 October, 2007

OCT 05 2007

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

As I mentioned on the phone, Rome is paying more attention to the way American bishops word things. They reason that if a bishop finds a "reasonable cause to suspect," then there is little chance that the priest could ever be found not to have abused a minor, no matter what procedure they allow. If they permit a trial, it's out of the bishop's hands. But if they tell him to use the Administrative Penal Process, he makes the decision. And if he's already decided that there's a "reasonable cause to suspect", then it's not going to be likely that he's going to change his mind, no matter what the assessors say. Similarly, if Rome says to impose a penal decree, if warranted, there is little likelihood that the bishop would find it is *not* warranted.

For this reason, I think it is probably fine if the Review Board continues to use the terminology of "reasonable cause to suspect," but I would rather not have Cardinal George use it.

Thanks.

AOC 000402

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5388
312-751-8307, fax

June 18, 2007

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2007

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the independent Review Board met on June 16, 2007 and conducted a Review for Cause of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett pursuant to Article §1104.9 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Bennett is a temporarily withdrawn priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board made the determination that in light of the information presented, there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

*to accept the
determinations. Wh
has provided the
evidence to Fr. Bennett?*

*F. by
Jun 27, 2007*

70

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
1-800-994-6200
312-751-5279 (fax)

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator
312-751-5205
lmccluskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP
Assistant Administrator
312-867-8793
pzacharias@archchicago.org

August 16, 2006



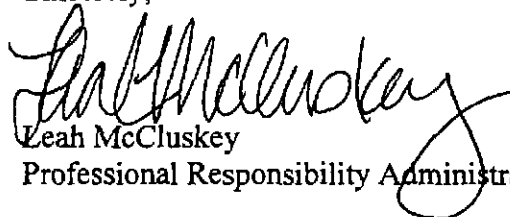
Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I am writing this letter as a follow up to our phone conversation earlier today.

As we discussed on the phone, I have enclosed with this letter a copy of the August 10, 2006 letter addressed to you regarding Cardinal George's decision based upon the Review Board's Initial Review determination of your allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett. I have also enclosed a copy of the July 25, 2006 letter addressed to you, requesting additional information on behalf of the Review Board. As you will see, the August 10th and July 25th letters were sent to your former address. Thank you again for contacting me today with your new contact information.

If you have any questions or concerns Mr. [REDACTED] please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosures

From: Leah McCluskey
To: Perz, Carolyn
Date: 6/19/2007 2:58:31 PM
Subject: Information for the Cardinal

Carolyn,

Could you please have the following information sent to the Cardinal:

1. Copy of [REDACTED] allegation against Rev. Joseph Bennett
2. Copy of Fr. Bennett's response to the allegation [report that I wrote] as well as copy of Rev. Paul Golden's response on behalf of Fr. Bennett [it is in a report-type binder in the file]
3. Copy of Rev. Francis Kub's deposition located in this file [signed by Fr. Smilanic, Fr. Kub, and myself]

Please let me know if you have any questions.

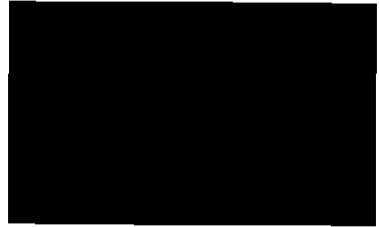
Thank you!

Leah

RECEIVED

APR 18 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW



April 7, 2003

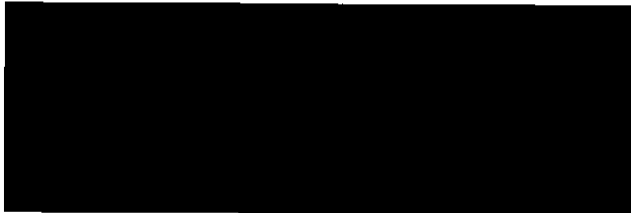
Ms. Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator
The Archdiocese of Chicago
676 North St. Clair
Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Re:  and Rev. Joseph Bennett

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

Enclosed are photographs of my client's wedding reception. Father Bennett is shown in the photos. Also, in speaking with my client it appears that Father Bennett was co-celebrant at the wedding.

Very truly yours,



Enclosure

cc:  w/enclosure

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5388
312-751-8307, fax

MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR – 170
From: Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Withdrawn] [REDACTED]
Date: July 27, 2007

On July 24, 2007, I received a voice mail message from civil attorney [REDACTED] in regards to his client [REDACTED] and his past allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against Rev. Joseph Bennett. In May 2003 Cardinal George accepted the Review Board’s recommendation that there was no reasonable cause to suspect that the abuse alleged by [REDACTED] against Fr. Bennett occurred [see file].

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he had spoken with civil attorney [REDACTED] of Burke, Warren, MacKay, & Serritella about this matter and that she had advised him to call me. As per Mr. [REDACTED], he had informed Ms. [REDACTED] that he had “additional information” to share in regards to [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Bennett and that he wanted to request to have the matter reopened for a Supplementary Review before the Review Board. Mr. [REDACTED] requested a return phone call at [REDACTED]

I attempted to reach Mr. [REDACTED] via phone on July 25th. I left a detailed voice mail message for Mr. [REDACTED] that I was returning his July 24th phone call and understood his request. I advised Mr. [REDACTED] to write a letter directed to me stating that he wished to request a Supplementary Review of the matter and to include the additional information that he had referenced. I stated that his request would then be brought before the Review Board. I asked Mr. [REDACTED] to please return my call at his convenience so that we could discuss the matter further.

I received a return voice mail message from Mr. [REDACTED] on July 26th, where he requested a return call.

I attempted to reach Mr. [REDACTED] in his office today. I was informed that he was in court and transferred to his voice mail. I left a message for Mr. [REDACTED] acknowledging his July 26th message, and asked that he call me at his convenience. I

added that I would be at a conference the following week from Tuesday, July 31st through Thursday, August 2nd and expressed my hope that we were able to talk prior to then.

Mr. [REDACTED] may be reached at [REDACTED].

Cc Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests
Kathleen Leggdas, Office for Assistance Ministry
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

Bc John O'Malley, Office of Legal Services
Jim Semitella, Attorney

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Diocesan Priests' Placement Board
Reverend John W. Clemens
312 751-5270



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
Fax: 312 751-5281

Father Joseph R. Bennett

DOB [REDACTED]

Ordained 04/26/1966

FROM	TO	Position	Place
05/16/66	06/15/73	Associate	St. John the Baptist de La Salle
06/15/73	01/30/76	Associate	O L of the Ridge, Chgo Ridge
01/05/76		Chaplain	Cook County Jail
01/30/76	07/01/78	Associate	St. Joseph/St. Anne while retaining primary duties as Chaplain @ Cook County Jail.
07/01/78	01/01/81	Associate	St. Christina while retaining duties as Chaplain @ Cook County Dept of Corrections.
01/01/81	05/01/89	Pastor	St. John De LaSalle
05/01/89	07/01/91	Pastor	St. Agnes/Chicago
07/01/91	06/15/97	Pastor	Our Lady of Fatima
06/15/97	present	Pastor	Holy Ghost/South Holland

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Legal Services

John C. O'Malley
Director



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Tel: (312) 751-5379
Fax: (312) 751-5252
e-mail: jomalley@archdiocese-chgo.org

March 2, 2006

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Ms. Shauna Boliker
Assistant State's Attorney
State's Attorney of Cook County
2650 South California, Rm. 11 D 10
Chicago, Illinois 60608

RECEIVED

MAR 06 2006

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

RE: Unknown 06 SC 041 Unknown
Date of Birth: Unknown
Date of alleged abuse: Unknown
SCR #: 1686596-A

Dear Ms. Boliker:

Please be advised the Archdiocese of Chicago received a Notice of Investigation from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), dated February 2, 2006, on behalf of an unknown minor. The unknown minor alleged that an Archdiocesan priest, Fr. Joseph Bennett, had sexually abused him/her. No other information is available at this time. The priest was recently removed from active ministry.

The Archdiocese is not conducting an inquiry as DCFS is investigating. We will advise you of any developments.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of John C. O'Malley in black ink.
John C. O'Malley
Director of Legal Services

JCOM:sm

cc: Mr. James A. Serritella
Ms. Leah Mc Cluskey
Ms. Elizabeth Yore

SC\06SC041\JCOM\ltr re DCFS Investigation to State's Attorney Office

CIVIL & CANONICAL

AOC 000410

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Legal Services

John C. O'Malley
Director



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Tel: (312) 751-5379
Fax: (312) 751-5232
e-mail: jomalley@archchicago.org

March 23, 2006

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Ms. Shauna Boliker
Assistant State's Attorney
State's Attorney of Cook County
2650 South California, Rm. 11 D 10
Chicago, Illinois 60608

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2006

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

RE: Unknown 06 SC 047 # 2
Date of Birth: Unknown
Date of alleged abuse: Unknown
SCR #: 1686596-A

Dear Ms. Boliker:

Please be advised the Archdiocese of Chicago received a Notice of Investigation from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), dated February 2, 2006, on behalf of "unknown 2 minor". The unknown minor alleged that an Archdiocesan priest, Fr. Joseph Bennett, had sexually abused him/her at Holy Ghost Church in South Holland. No other information is available at this time. The priest was recently removed from active ministry.

The Archdiocese is not conducting an inquiry as DCFS is investigating. We will advise you of any developments.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of John C. O'Malley in black ink.
John C. O'Malley
Director of Legal Services

JCOM:sm

cc: Mr. James A. Serritella
Ms. Leah Mc Cluskey
Ms. Elizabeth Yore

SC06SC047JCOMltr re DCFS Investigation to State's Attorney Office

AOC 000411

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator
312-751-5205
lmcluskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP
Assistant Administrator
312-867-8793
pzacharias@archchicago.org



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
1-800-994-6200
312-751-5279 (fax)

Memorandum

To: File – PFR-170

From: Patricia Zacharias, Professional Responsibility Assistant Administrator (PZ)

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph R. (Withdrawn) [REDACTED]

Date: January 29, 2007

PRAA consulted with PRA regarding the above case.

There has been no activity regarding this matter since May 2006. Therefore, this case is being made inactive at this time.

AOC 000412

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Rev. Vince Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
✓ Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
✓ Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Patricia Zacharias, Office of Professional Responsibility

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, ^{LNP} Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: February 8, 2006

RE: [PFR-170] Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Temporarily Withdrawn) [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 2/8/06. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [REDACTED]. Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Bennett, Rev. Joseph [REDACTED].

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Bishop George Rassas, Vicar General

AOC 000413

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Legal Services

John C. O'Malley
Director



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Tel: (312) 751-5379
Fax: (312) 751-5252
e-mail: jomalley@archchicago.org

April 21, 2006

RECEIVED

APR 26 2006

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Ms. Shauna Boliker
Assistant State's Attorney
State's Attorney of Cook County
2650 South California, Room 11 D 10
Chicago, Illinois 60608

RE: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: Unknown

Date of alleged abuse: Unknown

Dear Ms. Boliker:

Please be advised that [REDACTED] contacted the Archdiocese Information Service and alleged that he was sexually abused in 1963 or 1964 by Rev. Joseph Bennett, an archdiocesan priest. Fr. Bennett is currently withdrawn from ministry.

If you have any questions or require further information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of John C. O'Malley in black ink.
John C. O'Malley
Director of Legal Services

JCOM:sm

cc: Ms. Leah McCluskey
Mr. James A. Serritella
Ms. Elizabeth Yore

SCDir\06SC027\Notification to State's Attorney Office

AOC 000414

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Metropolitan Tribunal

PO Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979



155 E. Superior St
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2911

tribunal@archchicago.org
(312) 751-8280
Fax: (312) 751-8314

In re: Rev. Joseph R. Bennett

SESSIO

Interrogation of the Rev. Francis Q. Kub,
Pastor of St. Simon the Apostle parish
in Chicago, Illinois

On Monday, August 07, 2006 at 1:30 pm in the office of the Professional Responsibility Administrator of the Archdiocese of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, the Rev. Francis Q. Kub, having been duly cited, appeared before the Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic JCD, Promoter of Justice and the Delegate of the Ordinary to the Professional Review Board, and Ms. Leah McCluskey MSW LSW, the Administrator of the Office of Professional Responsibility.

The oath was administered according to the prescribed form.

The Promoter of Justice, with the Administrator of the Professional Review Board, then proceeded to interrogate the above-mentioned deponent, who replied to the questions as follows:

This is a formal deposition in the matter of Joseph R. Bennett of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and it is the interrogation of the Reverend Francis Kub, currently pastor of St. Simon the Apostle parish in Chicago, Illinois. Present is myself, Father Dan Smilanic and Ms. Leah McCluskey, the Administrator of the Office of Professional Responsibility.

Q. Could I ask you if you would state your name.

A. Father Francis Kub

Q. And what is your date of birth?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. And what is your date of ordination?

A. August 29, 1965

Q. And are you a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago?

A. Yes I am.

Q. And are you the pastor of St. Simon the Apostle parish?

A. Yes I am.

Q. Father Kub, do you know Father Bennett?

A. Yes I do know him.

Q. How old are you in relationship to him?

A. I am one or two years older than he.

Q. Did you know him from the seminary?

A. I knew him in the seminary slightly.

Q. After you were ordained, what parish were you assigned to?

A. I was assigned to St. John De La Salle of the south side of Chicago.

Q. And what years were you there?

A. I was there from June of 1965 to December of 1968.

Q. And was Father Bennett there also?

A. Father Bennett came to the parish in June of 1966.

Q. How long were you there together?

A. Approximately two and a quarter years.

Q. Who was the pastor of St. John the Baptist De La Salle when you were first assigned there?

A. Monsignor John Joseph Murphy.

Q. And how long was he pastor?

A. He was pastor; he founded the parish and was pastor until October of 1967.

Q. And his pastorate ended with?

A. His transfer to St. Edmund's in Oak Park.

Q. Who was the administrator of the parish then?

A. I was. I was the administrator from November until February.

Q. February of 1968?

A. Yes.

Q. Who came in as the pastor?

A. The next pastor was Ralph Mollan.

Q. Were you the canonical administrator while Father Bennett was there?

A. I was canonical administrator for that period of time, yes.

Q. And Father Bennett was the associate pastor?

A. Yes he was.

Q. How would you describe Father Bennett?

A. A quiet, quiet man who seemed to enjoy working mostly with the youth. I think he didn't get along too well, he was very young so he didn't really have too many relations with a lot of the older people, but he did seem to get along fairly well with some of the men's club and some of the people in the men's organization. He tended to shy away from the women's groups. He was very cooperative. He would work with you, and he would take care of the tasks that you asked him to do and dependable.

Q. When you say he was interested in the youth, did he have a special interest in particular age groups?

A. Yes, he seemed to focus himself mainly on people from maybe mid-high school into their twenties or so.

Q. Was he more interested in the fellows or the girls or both?

A. He seemed to give more attention to the young men, to the boys.

Q. What was the rectory like at St. John the Baptist De La Salle? How would you describe the rectory?

A. You mean the life at the rectory?

Q. The physical layout first.

A. The physical layout, there was a one floor and then a basement. There was a modified 1950s ranch house with an addition, a small addition put on it. The basement had two meeting rooms, and then it also had a small room that under the first pastor, Monsignor Murphy, had been used as a barbershop. He used to bring the barber in every week for haircuts so then after he left, that was terminated. That was expensive; that was

terminated. But that room was down in the basement so you had, you had one long meeting room, and then you had another small meeting room that was used mainly for the credit union, and then to the side of that was this perhaps ten-by-fifteen room that could be another salon or some kind.

Q. Would you say the quarters were tight or spacious?

A. The quarters for the assistants were not very spacious.

Q. They were tight?

A. They were a bit tight.

Q. Would you say the quarters in most of the house were pretty tight?

A. The assistants' were. Everything else was not too bad. It was rather commodious.

Q. With regard to life in the rectory, was there a lot of activity? Was there a lot of laity in the rectory? Was there a lot of movement of people around the rectory?

A. With Monsignor Murphy there was a lot of life in the rectory, visiting clergy continually. It was a very happy, a very united house. Monsignor Murphy also allowed you do whatever you want to do, but there was so much going on and so much to do you never really had much time to invite any laity into the house. The only laity I ever saw in the house in Monsignor Murphy's time were a couple friends of his. Under Father Mollan the attitude in the house was drastically changed, and during that time he did not welcome anybody in the house so there wasn't that much activity in the house whenever he was around.

Q. Did Murphy permit the laity into the priests' living areas?

A. The house was so open, he would permit it but it was one of those things that it rarely happened, and if it did, you know it was maybe for a short period of time. The question never came up of anybody being around a long time or being there for like with the door closed or anything. It just never happened as far as I'm aware.

Q. Let me ask this question. Did Monsignor Murphy drink?

A. No.

Q. He did not?

A. He did not drink.

Q. Was there an open bar in the rectory?

A. Yes there was.

Q. Where was it located.

A. It was a small little service bar just outside the pastor's quarters.

Q. When Father Bennett lived there, how did he interact with the people in the rectory?

A. He interacted with us well. He wasn't maybe there as much as his predecessor had been. He was maybe out of the house more often or in different parts of the building perhaps.

Q. Was there a housekeeper there whose name was [REDACTED]?

A. Yes there was, [REDACTED].

Q. How would you describe her?

A. I would describe [REDACTED] as the female version of Barry Fitzgerald in The Quiet Man.

Q. Could you be a little more, for those who don't get the illusion, a little more precise?

A. A short little very, very Irish immigrant leprechaun who kept her nose in anything and everything that happened.

Q. How did she and Father Bennett get along?

A. Oh, tremendous. When he first got there she used to complain to me about him all the time that he was too immature, that in her mind--but after all she was in her seventies or eighties--that she didn't like the fact that he maybe hung around with kids, and then once Father Murphy left, she was very upset that he took a little more liberty to bring maybe young people into the house.

Q. Did she ever talk to you about that?

A. Yes.

Q. And what exactly was he doing that provoked her reaction?

A. Bringing some young people into the house, to his room.

Q. Can you tell me young people—how old?

A. Middle-age high school into maybe, I would say perhaps sixteen to twenty, twenty-one.

Q. More men than women, more women than men?

A. Men.

Q. More men than?

A. Men, period. Men, period.

Q. Would he close the door when they were in there?

A. Until I told him he couldn't do it anymore.

Q. Did Monsignor Murphy ever say anything to him about this?

A. I don't think he did it in Murphy's time. I think he tested me, and when I blew up and I told him you can't do this anymore, he was upset and he had a friend of his have a long talk with me and tell me to keep my nose out of his business.

Q. May I ask who the friend was?

A. Father Lenny Dubi.

Q. And how did Father Len Dubi approach this topic with you?

A. Pushed me in a corner and said keep your nose out of Bennett's business.

Q. Did you share with Len the substance with, did you share with Father Dubi the substance of your concerns, why you were concerned?

A. Yes I did.

Q. And how did he respond to your?

A. It's none of your business he said.

Q. So he did not respond to your line of argumentation.

A. No, he did not respond to my line of argumentation at all.

Q. Did Father Bennett ever say anything to you about this?

A. He just said to me, he said I don't think you're in a position to be telling me what to do. He said you're just an administrator; you have nothing to say about my life.

Q. When Father Murphy, when Monsignor Murphy was transferred and you were appointed administrator, how quickly did this disagreement develop?

A. Maybe a month.

Q. Had you seen anything in Father Bennett's behavior prior to this that would have led you to believe that this was going to be a problem?

A. No because I never saw this happen before. I presume maybe he met people in other parts of the house because right after I complained for a while he began to meet down in the basement in the rooms downstairs.

Q. So would he bring this particular age group of young men to the basement of the rectory?

A. From what I gathered. I never saw it personally, but I remember from [REDACTED] complaining to me.

Q. Did [REDACTED] continue to report this to you while you remained there?

A. Oh yeah. She complained constantly about it.

Q. When Father Mollan arrived, how did this disagreement develop?

A. Once Father Mollan arrived I was kind of moved aside from not much happening in the parish. Mollan was there two weeks and he came to me and said you know, he said, you are just an administrator so I've torn out anything you've written in in your handwriting in the record books since you were an administrator, and I've rewritten them in the pastor's handwriting, and from that there was no more contacts. Whatever his relationship with Bennett and Dubi was, I was on the outskirts, removed shortly after that to another parish.

Q. What was Bennett's behavior with young men in his room with the door closed after Mollan was pastor?

A. Pretty constant for the time I was there.

Q. So Mollan tolerated this? His policy was to allow this?

A. I think what actually happened is when Mollan came it went from a wide-open rectory to a closed-door rectory. I mean with Monsignor Murphy, if your door was closed during the day or early evening he'd call your room and say are you sick, do you need a doctor, something in that..... With Father Mollan, Mollan would go to his room and close his door early in the evening and you wouldn't see him anymore so that was it, and he presumed I think everything was going to be very restricted because he even put a door. The rectory had a suite for the pastor at the end of a long hall and the two assistant suites were along this corridor, and then there was a corridor that went to the rest of the rectory with a door. In Murphy's time I don't think the door was ever closed once. Mollan put a door closer on to insist it was closed all the time. He did not want anybody down in that section of the rectory. So I think what happened is that because he went to his room early and just was oblivious to the world, they felt a little more freedom.

Q. So do you think that while Father Mollan was pastor Father Bennett would have the young men in his room?

A. Yes. I know he did, yeah.

Q. And the door would be closed?

A. Yeah.

Q. What times of the day are we talking about?

A. I know there was late afternoons. I remember some Saturday mornings, a couple nights when I came home, and one instance that really bothered me was I came in one night and I'd been away, and I came into my room and this is with the door closed, Mollan and his, and there in my room laying on the floor were three teenage girls watching television, eleven-thirty at night. I said, "What are you doing here?" Well Joe's over there he's..... with guys in there; they didn't want us around. So I called, I knew the girls, I called one of their fathers who came over right away and took them home. I got them out of the house. I didn't want to start a confrontation at that time of night.

Q. Let me reflect this back to you and see if I understand this. So you came home, perhaps eleven-thirty at night into a part of the rectory that at this point the practice was to keep it separated from the rest of the house by a doorway and found on the floor of your room three girls under the age of eighteen

A. Oh yeah, sixteen, seventeen years old.

Q. Watching TV and they said they were there because boys of a similar age across the hall in Father Bennett's room with the door closed.

(As Father Smilanic was making the above two statements, Father Kub continually sounded his verbal agreement)

Q. Did Father Bennett drink?

A. In my time occasionally. I never saw him take a large amount of alcohol. I would see him, the times we were together, I'd see him take a cocktail, but I never saw him take much.

Q. To the best of your knowledge, did he ever use any other controlled substance such as marijuana?

A. Not to my knowledge, no. I think he smoked cigarettes, but I, no, I never would have given an inkling that he did.

Q. Did anybody in the parish ever raise questions about this fraternization with underage kids?

A. Not to me.

Q. To anyone else that you know of?

A. Not that I know of. The only one that ever really complained to me was [REDACTED].

Q. Did [REDACTED] live in the house?

A. Yeah.

Q. Would [REDACTED] have seen everything that was going on?

A. [REDACTED] saw everything that went on.

Q. Do you recall any of [REDACTED]'s speculations about this behavior?

A. No, she never speculated. All she did, she complained mightily about the fact that it didn't look good, and that was her, just didn't look good.

Q. Were these young people from the neighborhood or from outside the neighborhood?

A. Most of them were part of the, I think the ones that were there together were part of the parish teen club, but then there were some others that he had met in his work working with the juvenile hall.

Q. And what was that juvenile hall called?

A. Audy Home

Q. The Audy Home. So he would have met them at the Audy home?

A. There and then I think he had something to do with St. Charles, with the home in St. Charles in Kane County. It was St. Charles home for young men. There was like a camp or somewhere where they sent kids in trouble. It was one step after the Audy Home before prison or something.

Q. How would these young men, were they principally men or principally women?

A. Men.

Q. Exclusively?

A. Exclusively.

Q. And the ages, do you recall?

A. I only saw one or two that came in for consultation with him, and I would say older teenagers, maybe eighteen, nineteen years old, something like that.

Q. Where would the consultations be?

A. As far as I know, they were in the front office, and then a couple were in his room.

Q. How would they get to St. John the Baptist De La Salle?

A. I have no idea.

Q. So these individuals could have been, do you understand them to have been from any place in the metropolitan area?

A. Somewhere in the metropolitan area I presume.

Q. Did Father Bennett ever explain this ministry to you or this work to you?

A. No. We never talked about it much.

Q. Did you ever hear any talk in the neighborhood that questioned this behavior on Father Bennett's part other than [REDACTED], other than the housekeeper?

A. The only other thing there ever was was the teenage girls saying why does he spend so much time with the guys? What's the matter with us? Is something wrong with us? But that was it.

Q. Do you know if Father Mollan ever confronted him about this behavior?

A. No I don't. I really don't know.

Q. Leah McCluskey: Father Kub, in terms of the different boys that, and I know you said that you didn't see anything per se, just more so complaining through [REDACTED], do you recall if there would be a specific boy or two that were familiar or was it just a different group or random if you will?

A. There were one or two that I remember came in more than once or so, but other than that it was different people.

Q. Leah McCluskey: And the night that you came home and you found the girls in your room, you said you knew one of the girl's fathers and had them come, do you recall their names?

A. Well the girl's name was [REDACTED]. Her name is [REDACTED] now, and her father is deceased. His name was, I can't remember her father's first name. He was much older than I was of course.

Q. Leah McCluskey: Do you remember the time that you were there by chance what type of car that Father Bennett owned? I know it's a long time, color or anything like that?

A. No I couldn't remember at all. We didn't share garages. He was in one place, I was in another.

Q. Father Smilanic: Did Father Bennett work with the CCD program?

A. Not in my time. We didn't have much to do with the CCD at all. The sisters took care of it. In my time the only thing we had to do with CCD was hear their first confessions and have first communion mass.

Q. Would the kids that Father Bennett brought into the rectory, would they have had access to the liquor?

A. They could have if they were in the area where the priests lived. Yeah, they could have had access to it, sure.

Q. Do you ever have any reason to believe that Father Bennett would have given them liquor?

A. I would not because I never saw him actually use that bar very often except maybe if he and Father Dubi were there for dinner or something. I don't, I really never saw him go to it very often.

Q. Do you remember any of the names of the boys who might have been regulars there?

A. No. I really don't. I honestly don't.

Q. Do you remember any of the names of the girls that you might have seen there besides the one you mentioned?

A. I think there were three girls that were in this teen club. One was [REDACTED], and the other I can picture her face but I can't remember her name.

Q. Were they kids from different families or would some families have more than one kid involved in all of this?

A. The kids were always just people that were in high school. There was like from first year high school to senior high school, and once they graduated they were off into different things so no, there would never be multiples that I was aware of.

Q. How would the kids come in and out of the rectory?

A. In my time when I was working with them, they never came in the rectory. How they did, came in with him I have no idea. There was one entrance. It was a front door, and then there was another door off the kitchen and one off of [REDACTED]'s quarters.

Q. Do you ever remember seeing them come or go to visit Father Bennett in any of those particular entrances predominantly?

A. Most of the kids came in the back door, the kitchen door. Everybody came in the kitchen door.

Q. Was there a teen club there?

A. Yup.

Q. Where did the teen club usually meet?

A. Normally the teen club would have their meeting in one of the rooms underneath the school or church. There was a small hall under the school and a larger hall under the church.

Q. Did they ever meet in the basement of the rectory?

A. Occasionally they would meet in that long meeting room in the basement of the rectory, yeah, but not very often.

Q. How would they get in and out of there?

A. There was an entrance into that room underneath the front stairs on 102nd Street, and there was another entrance underneath the back door into the basement, a typical basement entrance.

Q. Whose rooms faced 102nd Street, and whose rooms faced the other way?

A. Bennett's rooms faced 102nd Street. Mine faced an internal interior airway.

Q. Was Bennett a night or morning person?

A. Oh very night. He was truly a night person, yes, much to my lack of sleep.

Q. Why do you say that?

A. When Monsignor Murphy was there, Father Monsignor Murphy said the first mass every day because he liked to get up early, and then when Monsignor Murphy left, as the administrator, I said we shall share. After one week we stopped sharing because Father Bennett could not get up. So for the rest of my time there I said the first mass every day, and they cancelled it when I left there.

Q. And what hour?

A. Six-thirty.

Q. Are you saying that Bennett would be up, Father Bennett would be up so late that he was unable to get up for six-thirty mass?

A. Yeah. [REDACTED] would try to get him up. She always said he can't wake up on his own. She'll try to wake him up and get him up, and then finally she'd get me up or I'd be almost up hearing all the racket, and then I'd look like a fool every day walking out late for mass so I just figured I'll just say it myself all the time.

Q. Now you said when he first arrived that [REDACTED] observed that he was immature.

A. Yes.

Q. How would you describe him when he first arrived?

A. Young priest just ordained with all thethat you have for a person one year younger than you. I didn't think he, I had questions about whether he was able to handle the job.

Q. Why?

A. Just seemed like he wasn't too sure what he was doing right away, that he was kind of floundering his way through something.

Q. Who else were his friends in the priesthood besides Fr. Leonard Dubi?

A. The only other one that I knew he spent some time with because they came from the same area as seminarians was Jack Tilford. Other than that I don't know of anyone of any others that came. Charlie Rubey showed up, Fr. Charlie Rubey andand Jack Tilford. They were mainly his group.

Q. Did he have any lay friends that you saw?

A. Yeah, his family, his siblings came around and some of his cousins. He seemed to have a normal panoply of friends and acquaintances. It didn't seem to be restricted or anything.

Q. The young men that he would have into the rectory, did he ever go on vacation with them?

A. I wouldn't know.

Q. Did he ever socialize with them?

A. I think so. I think they did go out wherever to do things andI suppose. And he did take the teen group out to events too.

Q. How would you describe the success, character style, quality of the teen club while he was there?

A. I think it actually became a little more flourishing because he was I think more on their level. I had the teen club for two years because I replaced the man who'd been the youngest one there, and I think they were very happy to get someone who was more on their level when he came in rather than

Q. Leah McCluskey: Do you recall, Father Kub, at the time that you and Father Bennett were both at St. John's, were there any sports teams for the students that you can recall?

A. Not that I really recollect. I'm trying to think if there was some grammar school football, but I might be confusing that with another parish because I went to Holy Ghost in South Holland five years after I left St. John De La Salle, and when I went to Holy Ghost in South Holland, most of the people from St. John De La Salle had moved to that area so I may be confusing the two places on that sports program.

Q. Leah McCluskey: Do you recall when [REDACTED] passed away? I understand she passed away.

A. Only about two years ago.

Q. Leah McCluskey: And when she was elderly, do you remember, did she stay in St. John De La Salle parish? Did someone care for her?

A. [REDACTED] stayed on at St. John De La Salle until about maybe only two years before her death. She stayed on throughout all of Father Mollen's time and I think three of his successors, and she only left there, I understand they had a fire in the rectory, and shortly after that she went into a nursing home, not a nursing, a retirement home. So she was there many, many, many years.

Q. Leah McCluskey: And do you recall if Father Bennett kept up their friendship or their interactions?

A. Yeah, well Bennett was almost virtually her caretaker at the end and like I said she was there under Mollen when he was an assistant and then she was there with him when he was pastor, and after he was pastor she continued to stay there, but he was the one who took care of her. In fact, when he was pastor for a while at Lady of Fatima church, he was telling me, he says [REDACTED] wants to move here, and he says I can't take care of her. That's when kind of moved to get her into a retirement home. So he took care of her affairs, and I think he was responsible for the burial and everything else.

Q. Father Smilanic: After all those years did she have any close friends at the parish?

A. Some, yeah. Sheshe maintained a relationship with. She used to have a dinner once a year for these people that she had a close connection with.

Q. Do you recall any of their names?

A. Well, one of the families was an an undertaker friends of mine too, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. They live in Michigan now. They live in Michigan about the last twelve years. Also, the [REDACTED] family, the [REDACTED]family, and she was very close to everyone in that family. The youngest one I think she was very close to the end was [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Q. Anybody else?

A. There's a few other families here and there, but I don't know of. The [REDACTED] is a name I remember that she had some contact with, but you would see them once in a while. I would be invited to some of these events on occasion. You'd see the different people there, but most of their names have just, you know it's over forty years, the names have kind of disappeared.

Q. As time went on, how did she understand or begin to remember Bennett's policy with kids in his room?

A. Once I left there she never mentioned it to me. Once I was gone, I was gone. She met and would talk to me socially, and she would tell me that she didn't like my replacement who was pastor/administrator, but otherwise it was just social and how are you and things like that. She never said anything much. She never said anything about Bennett after that. She used to just complain about the successor pastor.

Q. Obviously this involves an allegation of inappropriate conduct with kids under the age of eighteen. Is there anything else that we haven't asked you about?

A. No. There really wasn't, isn't anything more that I noticed or felt or thought about at all.

Q. Father Kub, do you swear that you have told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

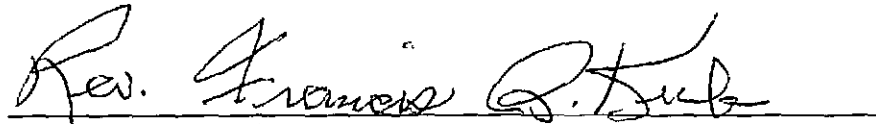
A. Yes I do.

This ends the recording.

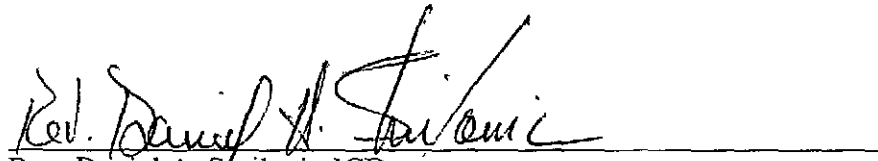
In re: Rev. Joseph R. Bennett

CONCLUSION OF THE FORMAL TESTIMONY

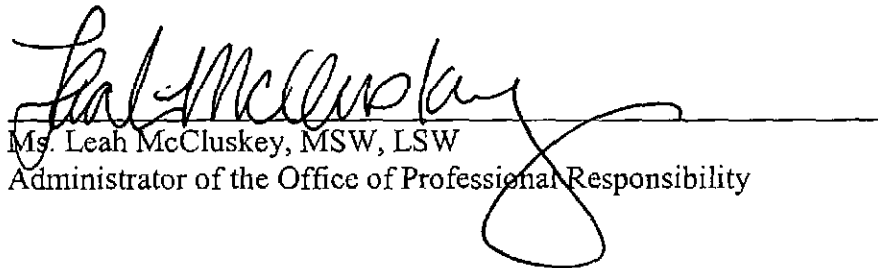
I swear that the testimony I have submitted is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth,
so help me God.



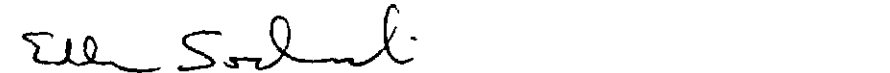
Rev. Francis Q. Kub



Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic JCD
Promoter of Justice/Delegate of the Ordinary to the Professional Review Board



Ms. Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator of the Office of Professional Responsibility



Ecclesiastical Notary

August 7, 2006

RECEIVED

MAY 22 2006

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

May 17, 2006

Hi Leah,

Below is a list of question that I need answer too. Can you either call me or faxed to me with the answer to the questions regarding Father Bennett

1. Did you receive another report from a [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]? [REDACTED] is alleging that he was a [REDACTED] at Our Lady of the Ridge in 1974
2. Can I get a phone number for Vicar James Kazorowski
3. What is the status of Father Bennett being reinstated? What need to happen in order for Father Bennett to be reinstated?
4. Need to know the final recommendation of the all the alleged victim: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
5. Are there other open Investigation regarding Father Bennett or open Investigation that the Diocese
6. Are there other open Investigation regarding Father Bennett or open Investigation that the Diocese is working on in terms of Father Bennett.
7. Can I get a copy of the sworn statement of Father Bennett doctor stating there are no identifying marks on Father Bennett private parts?
8. Can you tell me who is Ralph Mollan? And how can I get in touch with him?

Some of the question may have the same answer but I have to ask.

Thanks,

Brigitte Broadway
[REDACTED]

AOC 000430

FEB 03 2006



Cardinal Francis George

Cardinal removes another priest

Pastor not monitored for year after allegation

By Many A. Brachear
Tribune staff reporter

2/2/06
Losing confidence in a monitoring program they have relied on to safeguard children, Chicago Catholic Archdiocese officials have removed from ministry a priest they were keeping under supervision while they try to determine if he abused two young girls decades ago.

Officials also acknowledged that the south suburban priest was not assigned a monitor until a year after the archdiocese first received an abuse allegation against him in March 2004. A spokesman said he could not explain the lengthy delay.

Cardinal Francis George ordered the removal of the pastor of Holy Ghost Catholic Church in South Holland after an emotional meeting this week with St. Agatha parishioners, who voiced outrage that for months they had not known about allegations against their own pastor, Rev. Daniel McCormack.

McCormack also had been placed under monitoring because of an abuse allegation, though his flock did not know that until he was arrested last month. On Wednesday, prosecutors added a third count of ag-

PRIESTS: Allegations over incidents 35 years ago

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gravated criminal sexual abuse to the charges against McCormack, and law enforcement sources would not say whether the abuse occurred while he was being monitored.

George said archdiocesan officials must look for ways to discreetly take accused priests out of the pulpit even before abuse allegations are found to be credible, said spokesman Jim Dwyer.

"We need to examine and adapt our policies . . . [to] withdraw the priest temporarily in a nonjudgmental fashion until the information is absorbed better and the case is resolved," Dwyer said Wednesday. "It will be a better situation for the priest and the parish if we change our policy."

The archdiocese said it has received two allegations that the pastor of Holy Ghost, 700 E. 170th St. in South Holland, abused two girls while serving at St. John De La Salle Catholic Church, 10205 S. King Drive in Chicago, more than 35 years ago.

The Tribune is not naming the priest, who is 65, because no criminal charges or lawsuits have been filed and the archdiocese has not yet determined if the allegations against him are credible.

Dwyer said the first allegation against the priest was reported to the archdiocese in March 2004, and a monitor was assigned in March 2005. Dwyer said he could not explain the delay.

According to national guidelines drafted by American bishops in 2002, if a priest has a credible allegation of abuse against him, he must be removed from ministry. But the guidelines leave it up to the dioceses to determine how to treat priests who are under investigation.

In Chicago, when the archdio-

cese receives an abuse allegation, the claims are investigated by an independent review board that determines whether the accusations are credible and then makes a recommendation to the cardinal about what action should be taken. It is unclear how many priests have been assigned a monitor since 2002, Dwyer said.

Church officials had appointed a fellow priest to monitor McCormack in August, when the first abuse allegation surfaced. He was arrested Jan. 20 after a second accuser came forward and subsequently was charged with two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

The charge filed Wednesday involved several alleged incidents with a third boy in the rectory of St. Agatha, law enforcement sources said.

Church officials said McCormack was not removed from ministry because the archdiocese had not yet received a first-hand allegation. In the meantime, McCormack was told not to be alone with minors and the archdiocese's vicar for priests asked a peer to "monitor" him.

George asked his staff this week if any circumstances similar to McCormack's monitoring arrangement existed, Dwyer said. When told of the Holy Ghost pastor, the cardinal ordered him to be removed.

"The cardinal has really been reflecting about this ever since he's gotten back—[how] to effect some kind of nonjudgmental way so we don't put ourselves, the parish, and the priest in this kind of situation again," Dwyer said. "He knew there was one more priest still in ministry. He felt [removing him] was the prudent thing to do."

George had approved the monitoring arrangement at Holy Ghost a year ago, Dwyer said.

Jeff Anderson, a St. Paul attorney who represents a number of clergy sexual abuse survivors, said he has been urging the archdiocese to remove the south suburban priest for almost two years. He represents the two alleged victims of the priest, both women in their 40s.

"They assured me that the decision was just around the corner," Anderson said. "That they were processing this and it would be forthcoming. I let them

"It will be a better situation for the priest and the parish if we change our policy."

—Archdiocese spokesman Jim Dwyer

lead—and now I believe misled us to this point in time. It was with the McCormack situation coming to light that I realized this is the last straw. We couldn't trust the process and I'm sorry that I did."

One of the women spoke publicly Wednesday, saying the priest had intercourse with her in the lower level of the church for three years beginning when she was 8.

"I heard on the news that a priest had been removed and I was hopeful and thrilled," said the woman, who asked that her name not be used. "I feel like a million-ton weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I'm incredibly relieved."

Ordained in 1966, the priest served at St. John De La Salle from 1967 to 1973; Our Lady of the Ridge, in Chicago Ridge, from 1974 to 1976; St. Joseph and St. Anne from 1977 to 1978; and St. Christina from 1979 to 1980. He returned to St. John De La Salle in 1981 and stayed until 1989. He moved to St. Agnes in 1990 and 1991; Our Lady of Fatima in 1992 through 1997. He has been at Holy Ghost in South Holland ever since.

As news of the priest's sudden removal trickled out through the media, parishioners reacted with surprise but said they still trusted the archdiocese to handle the situation correctly.

"People don't think that it's going to happen to their own friends and loved ones," said Tom Shesek, 49, a parishioner at Holy Ghost for about 20 years. "There are other people in power in the church that are handling this thing the way they've been doing it. My only opinion is if there's any truth to be unveiled or revealed that it happens as soon as can be."

Tribune staff reporters Jeff Coen and Tom Rybarczyk contributed to this report.

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May 3, 2006

His Eminence
Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Your Eminence,

Ms. Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator, has invited the Reverend Joseph R. Bennett and myself, his canonical advocate, to respond to the allegations of sexual abuse of minors that have been lodged against him. This presentation will be given to the Professional Responsibility Review Board for its discussion of the case. I am sending it to your attention because, after you receive the recommendation of the Review Board, you will judge whether there is sufficient evidence to continue with the penal process or not.

Biographical Information

Father Joseph R. Bennett was born on [REDACTED]. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on April 26, 1966. His first assignment was as an associate pastor at St. John de la Salle parish where he served from May 1966 until June 1973. He was transferred to Our Lady of the Ridge parish where he served as an associate pastor until January 30, 1976. In January 1976, Father accepted the assignment as a chaplain at the Cook County Jail where he served until January 1981. While a prison chaplain, he resided at and assisted St. Joseph/St. Anne parish from January 1976 to July 1978. He moved his residence to St. Christina parish in July 1978 because the pastor needed extra help in this large parish. He assisted that parish until January 1981. It was in January 1981 that Father Bennett received his first pastorate. He was named pastor of St. John de la Salle parish where he remained until May 1989. He was transferred to St. Agnes parish in May 1989 where he served as pastor until July 1991. He was assigned as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima parish where he ministered from July 1991 until June 1997. Father Bennett is currently the pastor of Holy Ghost parish, an office he has held from June 1997. Father was given a leave of absence from the parish on February 1, 2006.

The Allegations

[REDACTED] reported that during the years her family was a member of St. John de la Salle parish, Father Bennett sexually abused her often over a

February 22, 2006 I again wrote to the Chancellor for permission to physically inspect the parish plant. Having heard nothing, I repeated my requests in a letter on March 27, 2006. I then began a series of phone calls to his office. I did not receive any answer. I wrote to you on April 5, 2006 and followed up with phone calls. I repeated my calls to the Chancellor when I learned that you had departed for Rome. I know that the investigator and your delegate to the Review Board made a visit to the parish and had access to all the buildings. Father Bennett and I did not have such access. This response could have been more cogent had I been given the information and the permission that I requested.

Refutation of Each Element of the Allegation Made by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] allegation against Father Bennett is untrue. It seems to be the result of repressed memories that she more recently "recovered." Doctor Gregory Van Rybroek, PhD., J.D., an eminent psychologist, has written an expert opinion summarizing the research concerning repressed memories. He documents how easily false memories can be implanted and created in a person. He concludes, in agreement with other researchers, that such recovering memories cannot be given credence without corroborating evidence. (Exhibit 3) It is my intention to demonstrate that no such corroborating evidence exists.

[REDACTED] allegation consists of a number of elements that will be individually addressed and refuted. Unless otherwise noted, the page numbers in the following sections are from the memo written by Ms. McCluskey summarizing her March 2, 2004 interview with [REDACTED] (Exhibit 4)

1. [REDACTED] memory is faulty, inaccurate and mistaken. I will list a number of errors in her recollections and give the factual evidence.

a. She said that she began to attend CCD classes in 1968 when she was 8 years old and in second grade. She said that she received First Holy Communion when she was in third grade, presumably, in 1969. (p. 2) However, the Baptism record shows that she received her First Communion on April 25, 1970. (Exhibit 5) She would have been in the fourth grade that year.

b. She also testified that Father Bennett told her that [REDACTED], the parish housekeeper, passed away in 1998. (p. 2) In fact, [REDACTED] died on October 7, 1999. (Exhibit 6) Father was [REDACTED]'s power of attorney and knew the exact date of [REDACTED]'s death.

c. [REDACTED] said that CCD classes were held in the basement of the school. (p. 3) No classes were held in the school's basement. There were no classrooms there. (Exhibit 7, #6) [REDACTED] being a third and fourth grader,

would have had CCD in the school building on the second floor as testified to by [REDACTED], formerly Sister [REDACTED] (Exhibit 8, p. 2), by Sister [REDACTED], the former principal (Exhibit 9, p. 1), by [REDACTED], the school secretary (Exhibit 10, p. 1) and by [REDACTED] a former teacher. (Exhibit 11, n. 6)

d. [REDACTED] also inaccurately recalled who administered the sacraments to her. She said that Father Bennett "presided over her First Communion...and presided over her Confirmation." (p. 3) While there is no record of who presided at First Communion that year, it was the prerogative of the pastor to be the main celebrant of this Sacrament and it was the custom of the time that the pastor of the parish exercise this role. Father Bennett might have concelebrated the Mass, but he did not preside at First Communion. Father Bennett testifies to this fact. (Exhibit 2, n. 2) A Bishop or an Urban Vicar would have presided at [REDACTED] Confirmation on November 4, 1973, not Father Bennett. Apparently [REDACTED] does not remember seeing a Bishop or a visiting priest at her Confirmation.

e. [REDACTED] testified that in the early 1970's she accompanied her mother and her sister [REDACTED] to a dinner in a restaurant with Father Bennett and [REDACTED], the parish housekeeper. [REDACTED] said that when [REDACTED] paid the bill with her checkbook, she noticed that Father Bennett's name was on [REDACTED]'s checks because Father was her Power of Attorney. (p. 5) Father Bennett's name was never on [REDACTED]'s checks as can be seen from a photocopy of her check. (Exhibit 12) Father was indeed [REDACTED]'s Power of Attorney, but not until the mid 1990's. He was a signatory on her bank account at the end of her life, probably in 1997. Father Bennett testifies to these facts. (Exhibit 2, n. 4) At the dinner that [REDACTED] refers to in the early 1970's there could have been no indication on a check of Father's role as Power of Attorney.

f. [REDACTED] remembered Sister [REDACTED] as one of the two nuns who were involved in her First Communion practice (p. 3) The fact is that Sister [REDACTED] left St. John de la Salle School in 1968 as testified to by the current Superior General of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. (Exhibit 13) [REDACTED] did not receive her First Communion until [REDACTED] 1970, so it is clear that Sister [REDACTED] did not assist her in her First Communion preparation.

g. [REDACTED] said that when she visited her family in 1978 and in subsequent years, she would see Father Bennett when he celebrated Masses at St. Christina's and "a Spanish church." (p. 5) Father Bennett resided at St. Joseph/St. Anne until July, 1978. This parish, now Our Lady of Fatima, did become a Spanish parish but not until 1991, long after Father had left. Father

was also in residence at St. Christina's parish until 1981. St. Christina's never has been a Spanish-speaking parish. Father Bennett testifies to this fact. (Exhibit 2, n. 9 & 10)

These seven facts demonstrate that we cannot rely on [REDACTED] memory for the truth.

2. [REDACTED] testified that while she was sitting on a desk, Father Bennett "had forced intercourse with me." (p. 4) By this statement we are to understand that a twenty-eight year old adult man who is close to six feet, one inch tall forced his penis into the vagina of an eight or nine year old girl who is sitting on a school desk in the third grade classroom. Physically speaking, this allegation is close to impossible. To allow access to her genitals, the child would have to be almost lying down. If such an assault happened when the girl was in a prone position, the result would be extreme pain, torn tissue and bleeding. Young [REDACTED] underwear would have been blood stained, quite noticeable by her mother in the process of doing the laundry. She mentions nothing about this obvious and practical result of such an action. Father Bennett strongly denies he ever did such a thing.

3. [REDACTED] further reported that she did not think that this alleged abuse was wrong. (p. 4) While a young child may be too frightened to tell a parent about such abuse, no child thinks that such a sexual attack with accompanying pain is not wrong. She may think that she is responsible for such an attack but she does not think that it is the right thing.

4. [REDACTED] testified that [REDACTED] "was a witness to the abuse" and that she ([REDACTED] "was crying and hysterical." (p. 4) [REDACTED] also stated that [REDACTED] "does recall being present for the abuse." (p. 6) These statements are totally false. During her extensive interview about this allegation, [REDACTED] herself did not say or imply that she was present while [REDACTED] was being abused. Furthermore she did not describe any of the abuse firsthand. (Memo from Ms. McCluskey summarizing the September 7, 2004 interview with [REDACTED] Exhibit 14) This element of the allegation by [REDACTED] is clearly a fabrication and provides no corroboration of the allegation.

5. [REDACTED] further reported that she remembers that "Father Bennett had freckles on his left testicle" and she remembers that he had a birthmark, bigger than a golf ball and smaller than a soft ball" on his lower back." (p. 4) In fact Father Bennett does not now have and never has had either of these physical characteristics.

Doctor [REDACTED] has been Father's physician for approximately 37 years. He has examined Father's anatomy on an annual basis. Dr. [REDACTED] has sworn an affidavit that Father does not now have and never has had freckles on his testicles nor does he have a birthmark on the front or on the back of his body. (Exhibit 15)

On April 6, 2005, Doctor [REDACTED] of Loyola University Medical Center examined Father Bennett with the specific purpose of detecting the physical characteristics alleged by [REDACTED]. He reported that "no lesions found that are 'bigger than a golf ball, smaller than a softball.'" He added "no where on body." Doctor [REDACTED] found 5-7 bluish-purple papula lesions on both sides of Father's scrotum. Doctor did not describe these as freckles. (Exhibit 16)

Doctor [REDACTED] recommended that Father Bennett be examined by an expert in dermatology. Father contacted Doctor [REDACTED] who specializes in dermatology. Doctor [REDACTED] examined Father on September 14, 2005. Dr. [REDACTED] reported that the only marking on Father's lower back is a "well-healed linear midline lumbar scar" that is the result of a 1989 surgery. This is a straight-line scar and was not there in the late 1960's. Doctor also noted the "nine purplish round papules on right scrotum" and "sixteen purplish papules on left scrotum." These are "consistent with angiokeratomas of Fordyce." Again, Doctor [REDACTED] did not characterize these as freckles. (Exhibit 17)

Doctor [REDACTED] an eminent dermatologist, examined Father Bennett on March 8, 2006. He also reviewed Father's medical records. Dr. [REDACTED] reports that during the physical examination he could find nothing on Father's body "that might be considered 'birth marks'" and Father has "no lesions on his scrotum that resembled freckles." Dr. [REDACTED] wrote "no lesions suggestive of birth marks on his back or evidence of removals of same." He also wrote "angiokeratomas of the scrotum (Fordyce)." The doctor concluded his report with his expert opinion: "The purplish papules on the scrotum represent Angiokeratomas. These are small dilated blood vessels in the upper dermis. They are seldom seen before middle age and it is probable he did not have them before age 40." (Exhibit 18)

Joseph J. Shaffer, MBBS, a fellow of dermatologic surgery at Fairview University Medical Center wrote an article entitled "Angiokeratoma of the Scrotum." Based on a study of 1552 subjects, the author found that there is only a 2.1% probability of onset of this condition before the age of 30. It is most prevalent among people older than 40 years and the probability increases as the age increases. (Exhibit 19, page 3)

This research finding is corroborated by the reports of Father Bennett's annual physical examinations. The 1975 and 1979 reports do not contain any reference to angiokeratomas of the scrotum. The 1994 report from Doctor [REDACTED] indicates "male genitalia was normal." The angiokeratomas were not present at that time. (Exhibit 20)

[REDACTED] therefore, did not see a birthmark "bigger than a golf ball and smaller than a soft ball" on Father Bennett's lower back because it was not there. Several medical professionals have testified to that fact. Also, [REDACTED] did not see freckles on Father's left testicle because he did not and does not now have such freckles. What he now has are angiokeratomas that appeared much later in his life. They do not look like freckles and no medical professional has described these as freckles. Besides, seeing such minute blemishes on an adult male's scrotum requires close examination because the hair on this part of the anatomy tends to mask such markings and makes them difficult to observe. [REDACTED] memory is, again, not truthful.

6. [REDACTED] allegation also accuses a young nun, Sister [REDACTED], of sexual abuse in concert with Father Bennett. [REDACTED] states that she observed Sister [REDACTED] having intercourse with Father Bennett. (p. 4) [REDACTED] alleges that Sister [REDACTED] observed Father having forced intercourse with the young girl and helping her clean herself afterward. (p. 4) She further alleges that both Sister and Father taught her how to masturbate. (p. 4) Finally, [REDACTED] states that during this abuse "Sister [REDACTED] was always sitting nearby with her guitar." (p. 5)

Sister [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]. She left the convent in 1970 and currently lives in [REDACTED]. She submitted a sworn affidavit on July 15, 2004 (Exhibit 21) and was interviewed by Ms. Leah McCluskey on June 24, 2005. (Exhibit 8) [REDACTED] unequivocally denies all of the allegations against her. She does not remember [REDACTED] or her sisters. She states that she did not have any romantic or sexual relationship with Father Bennett. [REDACTED] denies that she has or ever had "coarse dark brown hair" or "'irregularly shaped freckles' on the backs of her upper thighs, particularly on her upper left thigh" as [REDACTED] stated. (Exhibit 21, n. 10e) By her affidavit, she categorically denied each aspect of the allegation. [REDACTED] stated that the allegations are untrue and defamatory. She offered to submit to a physical examination by a qualified and licensed medical professional and to submit past medical records. Unfortunately, this offer was not pursued by the Archdiocesan Office of Professional Responsibility.

Father Bennett did not teach ██████████ to masturbate. He absolutely denies any such thing. This allegation, again, is pure fantasy. An 8 or 9-year old is not capable of pleasuring herself in this fashion. In all of my reading about sexual predators, I have never heard of an abuser wishing that his victim experience self-pleasure and taking the time to teach her how to achieve orgasm.

7. ██████████ testified that "Father Bennett penetrated her [rectum] with the handle" of a communion paten. She said that it felt similar to the times "her mother would insert a suppository into her." (p. 4) Father Bennett denies ever having done such a thing. While I have not been able to locate the communion patens that were used at St. John de la Salle Church in those years, I have one in my possession from another church that was used in the same time frame. In my memory, as an altar server and as a priest, the patens were quite uniform. The plate was gold and the handle was always black. The handle was about five or six inches long and ended with a knob, a squared end or a round end. I have included pictures of such a paten showing its length and its size relative to a child's suppository. (Exhibit 22)

This allegation is also false. Forcing the hard wooden handle of this instrument into the rectum of an eight or nine year old girl would have caused sever pain and damage to the soft tissue. The result of such an abuse would have been pain and bleeding. Such bleeding would have been easily seen in the child's underwear and therefore noticed by her mother. If such an attack had taken place, the child would not have compared the sensation to that of receiving a suppository. The photos clearly show the size difference of these two objects, to say nothing about the fact that a suppository melts upon insertion.

Dr. ██████████ having reviewed the photos of the paten, writes that inserting such an object in a child twelve years and older might be possible. She implies that such an assault on a younger child is improbable. If there was some ornamentation at the end of the handle, as there might have been, this would have made the event even more intolerable. The allegation does not mention that ██████████ assumed the standard physical position that a doctor would use before inserting a medical instrument. Also the allegation does not mention that lubrication was used. Finally, in Dr. ██████████'s opinion such an assault could result in mucosal damage that would take several weeks if not months to heal. (Exhibit 23)

Later in her testimony, ██████████ said that when she recalls the abuse with the paten, it "really hurts by body." (p. 6) This postscript must be discounted because earlier in the interview she had spent many minutes describing this act

of abuse and there is no record that she was then experiencing any painful memories. This is one more reason to judge that this abuse did not happen.

8. Some of the abuse is alleged to have happened in the school building, in the third grade classroom, after the CCD class that ended at 3:30 p.m. (p. 4-5) This was before [REDACTED] mother came to pick her and her sister up from school after their father started work at 4:00 p.m. More precisely [REDACTED] testifies that both girls had to wait in the classroom 20-30 minutes until their mother arrived. [REDACTED] also said that occasionally she had to wait alone and she would wait "at the top of the stairs." (Memo from Ms. McCluskey summarizing her September 7, 2004 interview with [REDACTED] - Exhibit 14, p. 2) On occasion Father was allegedly wearing liturgical vestments and in possession of a liturgical instrument from the church (p. 4)

We know that the third grade classroom was on the second floor of the school. There were three other classrooms on that floor. The former principal testified that after CCD classes, the children were not allowed to remain in the school building. She would remain in the building after dismissal to ensure that all the students left the building. (Exhibit 9, p. 1) The former parish secretary who volunteered in the school testified that after the CCD classes which, according to her, ended at 3:00 p.m., all children left the building. (Exhibit 10, p. 1) The former janitor says that ordinarily the classrooms and halls were empty. Only on occasion would a teacher be with a few students in the classroom. (Exhibit 24) A former teacher testifies that no children were allowed to remain in the school building. (Exhibit 11, n. 9) There is no evidence for the allegation that Father Bennett, sometimes dressed in vestments, and Sister [REDACTED] were in the classroom abusing this child. Such an attack would have been witnessed by another teacher, the janitor and the principal who were in the building. Students were not allowed to remain in the building after dismissal at 3:00 pm. A lone child standing on the top of the stairs would have been seen and escorted out of the school. Therefore this allegation is a fantasy and totally untrue.

9. [REDACTED] testified that on one occasion, she descended the stairs to look for her sister. She saw Sister [REDACTED] opening and closing a door located at the bottom of the stairs. (Exhibit 14, p. 2) There was no door at the bottom of the stairs of the school. There was only a gate. (Exhibit 7, #4) A girl of this age surely knows the difference between a door and a gate.

10. [REDACTED] stated that she visited Father Bennett's private quarters when she was a guest of [REDACTED], the housekeeper. She described these quarters as having a corner shelf. During these visits, she alleged, Father

touched her improperly and she performed oral sex on him. (p. 5) Father Bennett denies ever engaging in such activity.

This allegation is false for a number of reasons. [REDACTED] associates these acts of abuse in Father's private quarters with her and her mother's visits with [REDACTED] after the 6:30 a.m. Mass. The visits would have begun about 7:10 a.m. [REDACTED] was attending public school and needed to get to the school, over a mile away from the church. There was no time for the kind of acts she described. She did not say that Father led her to his room. She implies that she left her mother and [REDACTED], walked to Father's room for these acts of sexual abuse. She made this trip not just once, but repeatedly over a period of, perhaps, a year. This is fantasy. Her mother would not allow her to wander around the rectory; there was no time for such an encounter; and [REDACTED] was charged with keeping externs from the priests' quarters. In addition, there was no corner shelf in any of his rooms as Father Bennett has testified (Exhibit 2, n. 7) and there is some evidence that Father was the regular celebrant for the 8:00 a.m. school Mass in the Church. (Testimony of [REDACTED], Exhibit 8, p. 3)

[REDACTED] reported that Father Bennett's private quarters were "down the hall" from where she and her mother visited with [REDACTED]. As the floor plan of the rectory clearly shows, the journey to Father's room from the kitchen was a bit more complex. One would go through the dining room, out to the corridor, take a slight jog, up a few steps, pass the receptionist's office and then take a left to another corridor. There was a door at the beginning of this last corridor that was kept closed automatically. (Exhibit 7, #7)

The fact is that at the time of the alleged abuse, visitors were not allowed into the private quarters of the priests. This was the policy of the pastor and was strictly enforced. Exemptions were given for members of one's family. [REDACTED], the housekeeper, was extremely solicitous about the priests' privacy. [REDACTED] the former parish secretary testifies to this policy and to its implementation. (Exhibit 10, pp. 1-2) Father Leonard Dubi who served as a deacon in the parish in 1967-1968 testifies to this policy. (Exhibit 25) It is not possible to believe that an 8 or 9-year old girl would be allowed to wander into Father Bennett's room, not once but many, many times. It did not happen.

Additional Reasons to Judge the Allegation of [REDACTED] to be False

1. [REDACTED] (Memo from Ms. McCluskey summarizing her March 2, 2004 interview with [REDACTED] – Exhibit 4, p. 7) She has been [REDACTED] (p. 3) She

[REDACTED] (p. 6). [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dr. Van Rybroeck has summarized the research concerning the repression and recovery of memories. False memories can be implanted in clients. Recovered memories must be tested against reality by corroborative evidence. Dr. Van Rybroeck, having reviewed the facts of this case, finds the allegations implausible and improbable. (Exhibit 3)

2. We have to ask if these false memories were implanted into [REDACTED] mind. During the March 2, 2004 meeting with the Archdiocesan Professional Responsibility Administrator, [REDACTED] was observed carrying with her a worn copy of the controversial book The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse. Therein the authors state, without support, "One out of three girls...are sexually abused by the time they reach the age of eighteen." (3rd edition, p. 24) Further, the authors state, "If you genuinely think you were abused and your life shows the symptoms, there's a strong likelihood that you were." (p. 26) In addition, the book lists a number of questions the reader might ask herself. Among those questions we find, "Do you feel self-destructive or suicidal? Or that you simply want to die?" (p. 39) These are the same thoughts and feelings expressed by [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] was infatuated by Father Bennett. She reported that she "loved Father Bennett" when she was a young girl. (p. 3) She said she wanted to be a priest like Father Bennett and wanted to marry him. (p. 3) Even when telling the false story of being abused by him, she adds that he was kind to her "because he loved me." (p. 5) This kind of fixation seems to be at the root of the false allegations.

4. [REDACTED] infatuation with Father Bennett continued into adulthood. When she would return home for visits, she would accompany her mother to Masses said by Father Bennett. (p. 5) She expressed her hurt feelings when she perceived Father being "aloof" in front of her mother or at school. (p. 5) She said "I always wanted his attention." (p. 5) This kind of infatuation continued [REDACTED]

Even after she had allegedly recovered her memories of abuse (Fall, 2003) (p. 3) she tracked down Father Bennett and called him on the phone (November or December, 2003). (p. 6) [REDACTED] reported that she had a pleasant conversation with Father and "reminisced about St. John's and different nuns." (p. 6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was her pastor who had to advise her to stop

talking to Father Bennett. (p. 6) She would have continued to engage him as a friend. She was very disappointed that Father Bennett could not celebrate the funeral of her mother and she perceived that Father "did not remember their mother." (p. 6)

fully one year after she "recovered" her memories of abuse by Father, requested that her pastor say a Mass for Father on his birthday, (p. 6) When that date was not available, she reported that she "felt badly for him [Father Bennett]." (p. 6) This is not the reaction of someone who has recently remembered the horrible and devastating alleged abuse meted out by Father Bennett. This shows how befuddled and confused is. Her allegations are not to be given credibility.

Refutation of Each Element of the Allegation Made by

also "recovered" her memories of abuse by Father Bennett. Again, as I have stated above on page 3 of this response, Dr. Gregory Van Rybroeck, Ph.D., J.D., has concluded that a recovered memory cannot be given credence without corroborating evidence. (Exhibit 2) It is my intention to demonstrate that no such corroborating evidence exists.

1. alleged that when she was 12 or 13 years old (1969 or 1970), Father abused her in his private quarters while giving her instructions in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. (Unless otherwise noted, the page numbers are from the memo from Ms. McCluskey summarizing her August 31, 2004 interview with – Exhibit 26.)
2. alleges that Father Bennett gave her private Confirmation instruction and that the instruction took place on Saturday in Father's private quarters. (pp. 2 & 6) None of the priests in the parish, neither the pastor nor the associate pastors, gave sacramental instruction or any catechetical instruction. Father Bennett (Exhibit 2, n. 5), Sister the former principal (Exhibit 9, p. 2), the former school and parish secretary (Exhibit 10, p. 3) and a former teacher (Exhibit 11, n. 10) all testify to this fact. The Sisters in the school always performed this ministry. stated that she began the Confirmation instruction while in seventh grade and was confirmed in the eighth grade. (pp. 2 & 6) She offers no explanation of why she did not receive such instruction as part of the CCD program that her sisters were involved in. She would have come to the parish school on Wednesdays for religious instruction as her sisters did. There was no need for private instruction and none was given by Father Bennett.

3. There was a policy in the rectory against having visitors in the priests' private quarters. [REDACTED] the former parish secretary testifies to this policy and to its implementation. (Exhibit 10) Father Leonard Dubi who served as a Deacon in the parish in 1967-1968 testifies to this policy. (Exhibit 25). The housekeeper, [REDACTED] monitored this activity. Young [REDACTED] did not go to Father's room on a regular basis to receive such instruction.

4. [REDACTED] testified that Father Bennett forced her to give him oral sex. (p. 2) When she was given the written draft of the summary of the meeting with Ms. McCluskey, [REDACTED] added this sentence, "The first time I had my eyes open and noticed the freckles on his left testicle." (p. 2) Five months earlier [REDACTED] testified that she had seen freckles in the exact same place. It is very suspicious that [REDACTED] did not recall this detail until she received the draft copy of her interview and had a chance to talk to her sister. Of course, we know with certainty that no such freckles existed on Father Bennett. (See this response above, p. 5, #5)

5. [REDACTED] described Father Bennett's room as overlooking King Drive. (p. 6) Father's private quarters were not on King Drive. The pastor's quarters were facing that street. [REDACTED] testifies to this (Exhibit 10, p. 2) and the floor plan of the rectory makes this clear (Exhibit 7, #7).

Additional Reasons to Judge the Allegation of [REDACTED] to be False

1. [REDACTED] story is contradictory in regards to when she recovered her memories of abuse and when she and the other members of the family talked about them. She says that her memories began to come back in 1997 after her [REDACTED] (p. 4) That would have been in early in 2002. Earlier in the interview, she stated that all this abuse came out in the family in the Fall of 2003. (p. 3) Then she says that she shared her memories of abuse with [REDACTED] presumably for the first time, in April and May, 2004. (p. 5) [REDACTED] It is to be noted that at her interview with Ms. McCluskey (p. 2) she kept referring to written notes she had bought with her.

2. [REDACTED] is filled with guilt that she was not able to protect [REDACTED] from harm and from mental pain. (p. 3) She is now trying to defend [REDACTED] not only by accepting [REDACTED] allegations as true, but adding some of her own allegations to bolster the accusations.

3. [REDACTED] stated that prior to [REDACTED] (April-May, 2004), [REDACTED] called [REDACTED]

Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.
May 3, 2006
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the evidence presented that Father Bennett is guilty of the delict of canon 1395, §2.

I believe that in this response, I have shown that such solid and true evidence does not exist. Almost every element of the allegations is not rooted in the truth. I have presented facts, dates, testimony and drawings to demonstrate that what has been alleged did not happen. Therefore, Father Bennett cannot be held imputable for this crime.

If you would like further information or would like to discuss this case before you make your final decision, Father Bennett and I will make ourselves available to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul L. Golden, C.M." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Paul L. Golden, C.M., J.C.D.
Director

cc: Reverend Joseph Bennett
Ms. Leah McCluskey
Archdiocesan Review Board
Mr. Frederick A. Muth, Jr.
Mr. Patrick Reardon

AOC 000446

**RESPONSE OF FATHER JOSEPH BENNETT
TO ALLEGATIONS OF SEX ABUSE OF MINORS**

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May 3, 2006

**RESPONSE OF REVEREND JOSEPH BENNETT
TO ALLEGATIONS OF**

[REDACTED]

On April 29, 2004, Father Bennett met with Professional Fitness Review Administrator, Leah McCluskey, at the office of the Vicar for Priests. Also present for the meeting were Patrick Reardon, attorney for Father Bennett, Father James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests, and Father Leonard Dubi, friend of Father Bennett. Ms. McCluskey read notes of allegations of misconduct made by [REDACTED]. Father completely denies the allegations. The following will specifically address the allegation made by Ms. [REDACTED].

BACKGROUND

Though never close friends, Father Bennett has been familiar with the [REDACTED] family, mostly through [REDACTED] father of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] mother. Both persons are now deceased. During Father Bennett's term at St. John de LaSalle, [REDACTED] had contacted him to receive instructions in the Catholic faith. Father Bennett knew [REDACTED] because she was a daily communicant. Father knew of the [REDACTED] children and regarded them as fine people, although he never felt particularly close to them. He was unaware of [REDACTED].

Father Bennett remembers being contacted at the time of [REDACTED] death. He certainly remembered her, but was unable to attend her funeral because of scheduling conflicts.

SPECIFIC RESPONSES

The accusations made by [REDACTED] revolve around alleged "memories" of experiences at St. John de LaSalle parish during 1969 to 1971, when she would have been between 9 and 11 years of age. Father Bennett has previously made a forceful verbal denial to these accusations. He reiterates that denial here. While vague as to dates and times, these "memories" relate to matters that would have to be approximately 35 years ago. Despite the inherent unfairness of having to respond to an accusation so distant in time, Father Bennett will attempt to point out some of the factual flaws that undermine the objective truth of these "memories."

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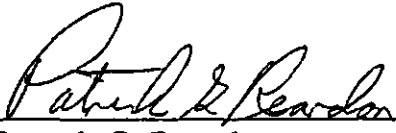
Father notes numerous factual discrepancies in the interview of [REDACTED]. For example, no CCD classes were held in the basement of the school. Indeed, there were no classrooms in the basement of the school or church. Classes were held in class rooms on the first or second floor of the building. Sister [REDACTED] and Sister [REDACTED] were never assigned to St. John de LaSalle at the same time. While he has no firm recollection, Father feels that it was unlikely that Sister [REDACTED] was ever involved in the training of First Communicants at the parish.

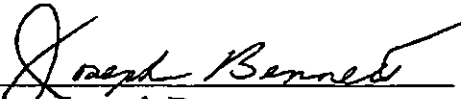
[REDACTED] purported to describe Father Bennett's quarters in the rectory at St. John de LaSalle. This description is grossly inaccurate. Father's quarters were in an annex that was for practical purposes a separate building. It would be reached only after a lengthy and circuitous walk from the housekeeper's area or kitchen. Father Bennett's room contained no corner shelf and accordingly no statue of Mary.

Father Bennett states unequivocally that he was never alone with [REDACTED] in any context such as she describes in her interview. He never engaged in any sexual misconduct with her at any time. Indeed, he had almost no contact or interaction with this person at all.

Father Bennett further states that if a Sister [REDACTED] was assigned to St. John de LaSalle, he has no memory her. He states categorically that the bizarre description of sexual actions performed with and in the presence of this nun did not occur.

Father Bennett has provided an affidavit from his regular physician who has known him and performed physical examinations on him for over thirty years. The affidavit is attached to this response as an exhibit. The distinctive physical characteristics described in detail by [REDACTED] do not exist, and have never existed, on the body of Father Bennett. He respectfully submits that these descriptions are products of [REDACTED] imagination in the same manner as the entire misconduct allegation.


Patrick G. Reardon,
Attorney for Father Bennett


Father Joseph Bennett

COPY

**RESPONSE OF REVEREND JOSEPH BENNETT
TO ALLEGATIONS OF**

On April 29, 2004, Father Bennett met with Professional Fitness Review Administrator, Leah McCluskey, at the office of the Vicar for Priests. Also present for the meeting were Patrick Reardon, attorney for Father Bennett, Father James Kaczorowski, Vicar for priests, and Father Leonard Dubi, friend of Father Bennett. Ms. McCluskey read notes of allegations of misconduct made by [REDACTED]. Father completely denied the allegations and provided a formal written response.

Since that time, Father has been advised of a related accusation made to Leah McCluskey on August 31, 2004, by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Father Bennett makes the same complete denial and will provide the following formal written response. In so doing, he will necessarily duplicate some of the information he provided regarding the [REDACTED] accusation.

BACKGROUND

As Father Bennett has already stated that, though never close friends, Father Bennett has been familiar with the [REDACTED] family, mostly through [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] father and mother. Both parents are now deceased. During Father Bennett's term at St. John de LaSalle Parish, [REDACTED] had contacted him to receive instructions in the Catholic faith. Father Bennett knew [REDACTED] because she was a daily communicant. Father knew of the [REDACTED] children and regarded them as fine people, although he never felt particularly close to them. He was unaware of [REDACTED]. He had very little contact with the children, including [REDACTED]. He was also unaware that [REDACTED].

Father Bennett remembers being contacted at the time of [REDACTED] death. He certainly remembered her, but was unable to attend her funeral because of scheduling conflicts.

SPECIFIC RESPONSES

██████████ says that Father Bennett had her perform oral sex upon him in his bedroom in the rectory during private instructions for Confirmation. According to ██████████ these alleged events would have been during 1969 or 1970 at St. John de LaSalle parish, when she was either 12 or 13 years old. Father Bennett has previously made a forceful verbal denial to these accusations. He reiterates that denial here. While vague as to dates and times, these "memories" of ██████████ relate to matters that would have been approximately 35 years ago. The allegations contain few factual statements that would allow for objective verification. Despite the inherent unfairness of having to respond to an accusation so distant in time, Father Bennett will attempt to show that where there are allegedly factual statements, objective evidence does not corroborate them.

The first factual error is that Father Bennett conducted private instructions of any kind for any young people. Any sacramental preparation taught by Father Bennett would have been in the context of preparing for the sacramental liturgy and occurred in a large group settings. Specifically, he never taught religious education classes to the school children or CCD children. Specifically, he never gave one on one instructions to any young people. Furthermore, no such meeting in the rectory could have taken place since the pastor, Father Ralph Mollan, had a rule that no priest could bring any young persons into the area of the priests' living quarters.

Like ██████████, ██████████ purported to describe Father Bennett's quarters in the rectory at St. John de LaSalle. Her description is equally inaccurate. She states that his room overlooked King Drive. It did not. King Drive runs north and south. Father Bennett's quarters were on 102nd Street, an east-west street, eastward down the street from the corner of King Drive. Only by leaning out the window and looking sidelong down the block would one have been able to view King Drive. Father Mollan's quarters were the only ones that overlooked the street that is now called King Drive; the only time Father Bennett would be in that area would be when Fr. Mollan called a staff meeting.

The housekeeper at St. John de LaSalle rectory was named ██████████. ██████████ would not have permitted ██████████ or any other young person to go to the priests' quarters in the rectory. ██████████ is now deceased.

Like [REDACTED], [REDACTED] purported to describe intimate details of the Father's anatomy, stating that, "The first time I had my eyes open and noticed the freckles on his left testicle." Like [REDACTED]'s description, [REDACTED]'s description is untrue. The reader is referred to the sworn affidavit of Doctor [REDACTED], Father Bennett's physician for over 37 years. Doctor [REDACTED] states in relevant part, "I further state that Father Joseph Bennett has no freckles on either of his testicles. The above observations have been true of Father Joseph Bennett during the entire time I have been his physician." (This affidavit was originally submitted with the response to the [REDACTED] allegation; a copy is also attached to this response as an exhibit.)

In her accusation, [REDACTED] recalled that the other priests at St. John de LaSalle at the time were "the pastor, Fr. Mollan and Fr. Ted, who was tall with dark hair." Father Bennett submits that there was a permanent deacon at the parish named "Ted." However, he does not believe this man was assigned to the parish until 1972 or after. There was also another associate pastor, Father Frank Kub, who left one year before the end of Fr. Kub's five year term.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It is submitted that [REDACTED]'s statement appears to be an attempt to corroborate and provide credibility to the rather fantasy-like statement of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She made no statement to the Archdiocese at that time. Only after [REDACTED]'s quite strange allegation did [REDACTED] come forward. As noted above, in her apparent attempt to corroborate, she repeats some of the same false information as [REDACTED]. While Father Bennett is saddened and disappointed to hear this false accusation, he wishes to pass no judgment of malicious intent. He is willing to believe that in her obvious stress over [REDACTED]'s condition, [REDACTED] has convinced herself that she really "remembers" these false experiences. Nevertheless, he states in no uncertain terms that her allegations are false. He has had no unlawful contact of any kind with [REDACTED]. He has had no unlawful contact of any kind with [REDACTED]

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Father Bennett has separately composed some of his thoughts on this matter and wishes to include them as a personal statement:

I cannot help but feel badly for both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] because of all the pain that they are experiencing due to their apparent memories of sexual abuse so many years ago. I form no opinion about how they acquired such memories or whether they were abused by any person. I know that I am not the one who sexually abused them, if indeed their memories have some reality. I wonder how they can put any kind of closure on this. I only know that I never touched any child of any family at any time in my life.

I never had to give private instructions to any child for his or her preparation for the reception of a sacrament while assigned at St. John De La Salle or Our Lady of the Ridge. Both parishes had programs in place that were conducted by both religious and lay catechists. Their mother [REDACTED] was a catechist herself. I was never requested by the principals or by the directors of religious education to give private lessons, even to assist in updating a child. Any religious instructions that I gave to children were always in a group setting in the church or in a classroom always with the teacher or catechist or parents present. This is true at every parish where I was assigned. This is still the case to this day.


Furthermore, my recollection of both [REDACTED] is that they were wonderful people and excellent parents. I don't see how any sexual abuse or any other kind of abuse could have happened to any one of their children without their knowledge. [REDACTED] kept a very close eye on her children. If she had seen or heard of any abuse she would have acted at once.

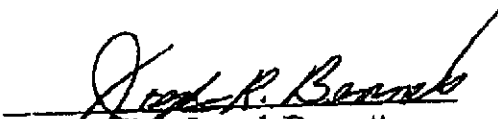
While it is true that I did not have much contact with the [REDACTED] in social settings, I still feel that I got to know both parents fairly well through church liturgies and other parish functions as well as telephone

conversations and person to person meetings. In addition, I met with [REDACTED] a good number of times for instruction in the Catholic faith because of his interest in converting to Catholicism. I do remember some fine meetings with him along with personal conversation which led me to believe that he was an excellent family man and a most vigilant parent. This is why I know I would have never said that I did not remember [REDACTED] at the time of her funeral.

Of course I remembered both [REDACTED] Who could ever forget them. [REDACTED] was at mass every morning of the year. [REDACTED] was there most every weekend. You don't forget people like them. Being asked to preside at [REDACTED] funeral was an honor to me, as it always is when someone requests me to preside at a loved one's funeral. The only reason why I was unable to say [REDACTED] funeral mass was because my present parish's duties prevented me; and the [REDACTED] family was unable to move [REDACTED] funeral to another day. I have to wonder why in the world would [REDACTED] ask me to preside at their mother's funeral if I had sexually abused them or done any other thing that was inappropriate.

I also remember and still to this day will never forget [REDACTED] kindness to me when he came to my parents' house and installed an outdoor TV antenna on the chimney. He did this as an avocation as a side job for different households. There is no way I could ever forget either [REDACTED] They have always been in my prayers. Also now each day I ask the Lord to bring healing to [REDACTED] and to restore their memories so they will come to know that I never sexually abused them.


Patrick G. Reardon,
Attorney for Father Bennett


Father Joseph Bennett

10. From July 1, 1978 to January 1, 1981, I was in residence and celebrating Masses at St. Christina while retaining primary duties as Chaplain at Cook County Jail. St. Christina has never been a Spanish-speaking Church.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2006.

By: Joseph R. Bennett
Joseph R. Bennett

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of May, 2006.

Susan P. Morini
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission: 7/19/2009

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6

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim IB's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on February 12, 2010, formalizing his allegation of abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett. According to Victim IB he was abused over a period of approximately 5 to 6 years between approximately 1968 and 1974 and while he was an altar boy at St. John de LaSalle. The abuse occurred at the St. John de LaSalle rectory as well as at the home of one of Bennett's relatives. Victim IB reported that the abuse consisted of Bennett giving Victim IB massages, beginning when he was 9 years old, and progressed over time to disrobing and fondling. Victim IB also reported that Fr. Bennett showed Victim IB pornography as many as a dozen times. Fr. Bennett also masturbated Victim IB, performed oral sex on Victim IB, and attempted anal sex. Victim IB also reported that Fr. Bennett provided drugs and alcohol to Victim IB. On one occasion when he was 16 years old he drank alcohol with Bennett and another priest while Victim IB was at the rectory. Victim IB also reported inappropriate interactions with other priest-acquaintances of Fr. Bennett, including being propositioned for sex when he was approximately 14-15 years old and that he stayed overnight at the rectory on one occasion.

St. John
property

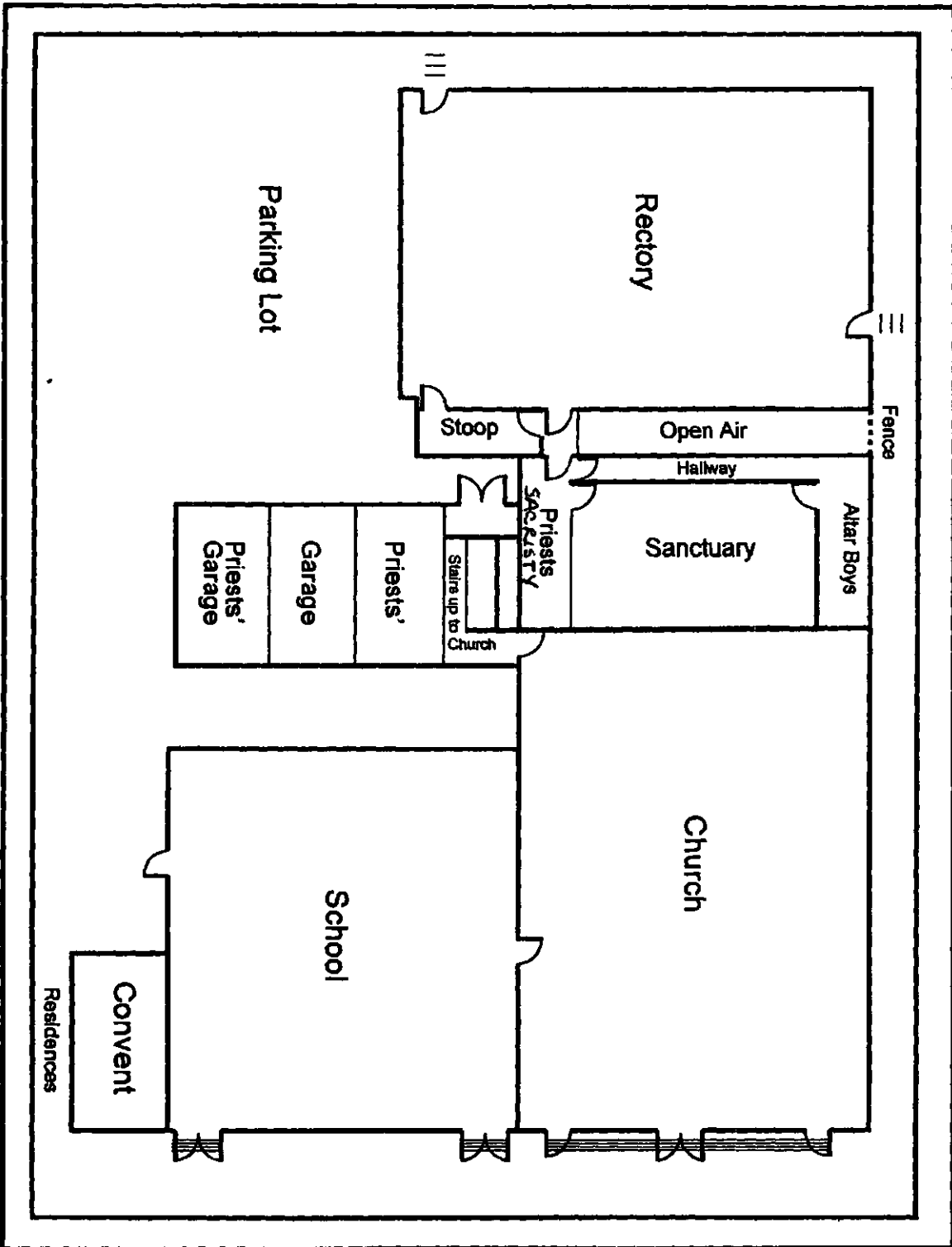
LaSalle Church

Drawings Not to
scale



Martin Luther King Dr.

102nd St.



103rd St.

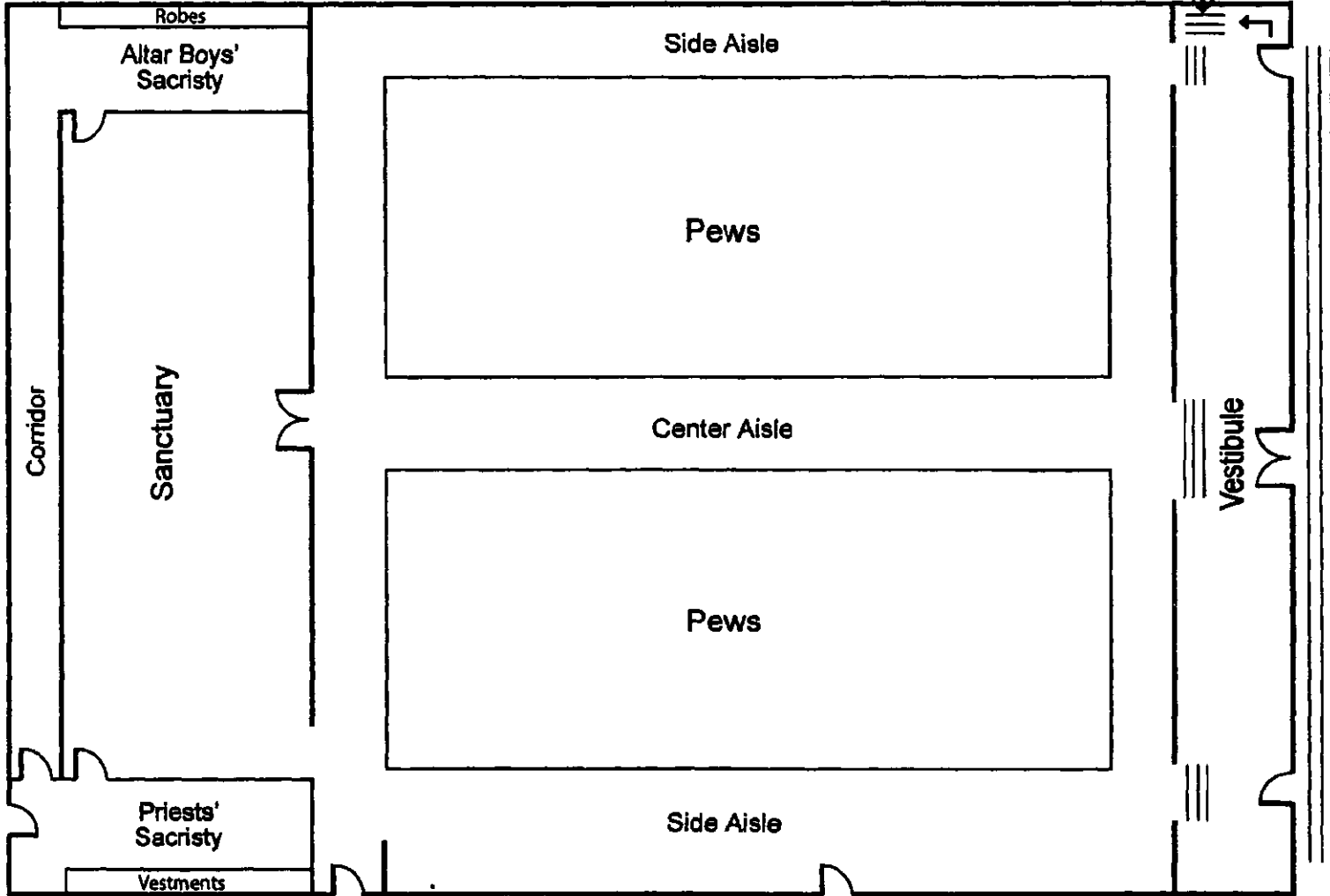
Vernon Ave.

St. John LaSalle Church
Main Floor



102nd St.

Stairs to Church Basement Hall



Martin Luther King Dr.

Vernon Ave.

To School

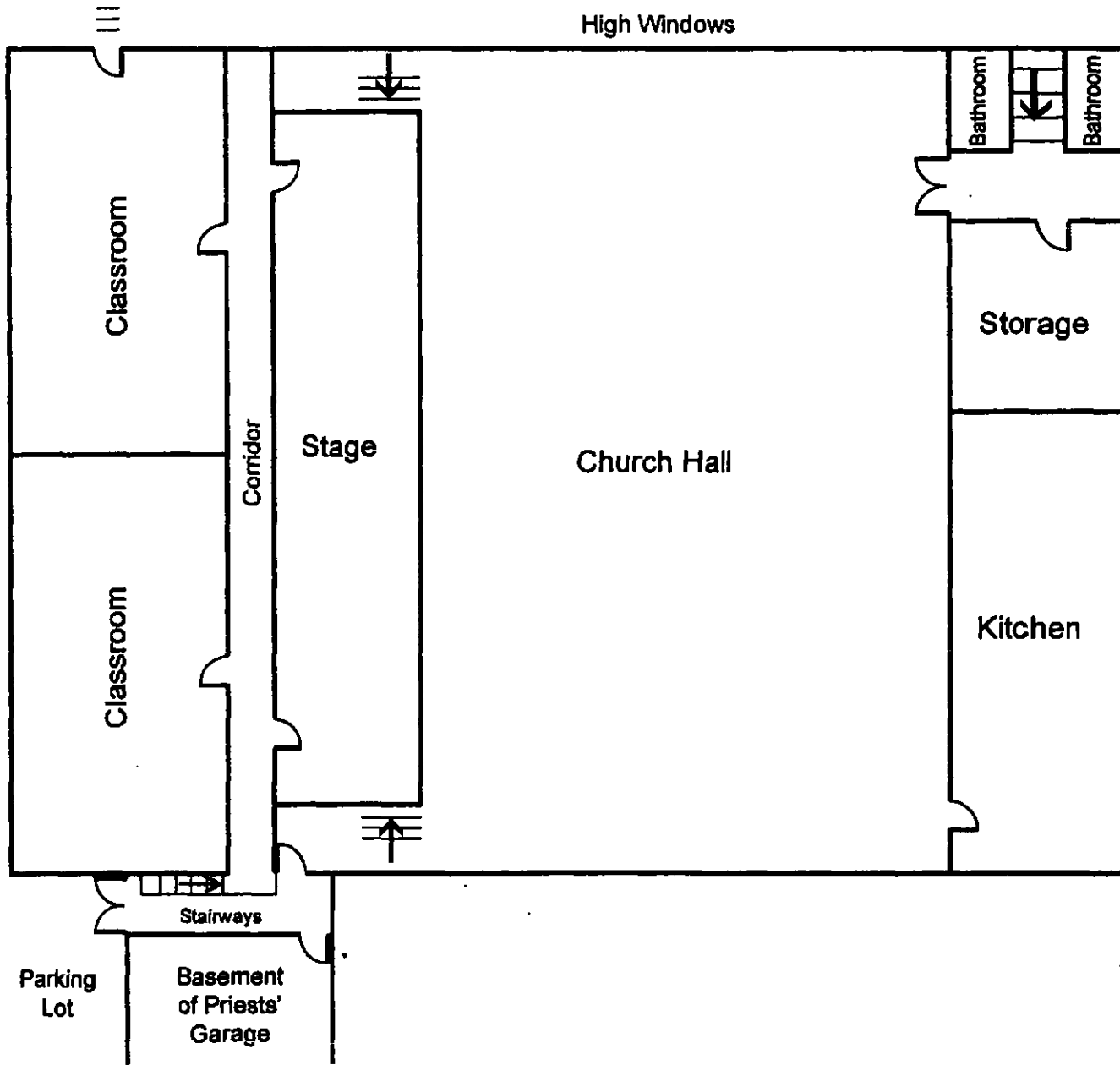
103rd St.

**St. John de LaSalle Church
Church Basement**

102nd St.



Martin Luther King Dr.



Vernon Ave.

103rd St.

AOC 000468

St. John's LaSalle School
1st Floor

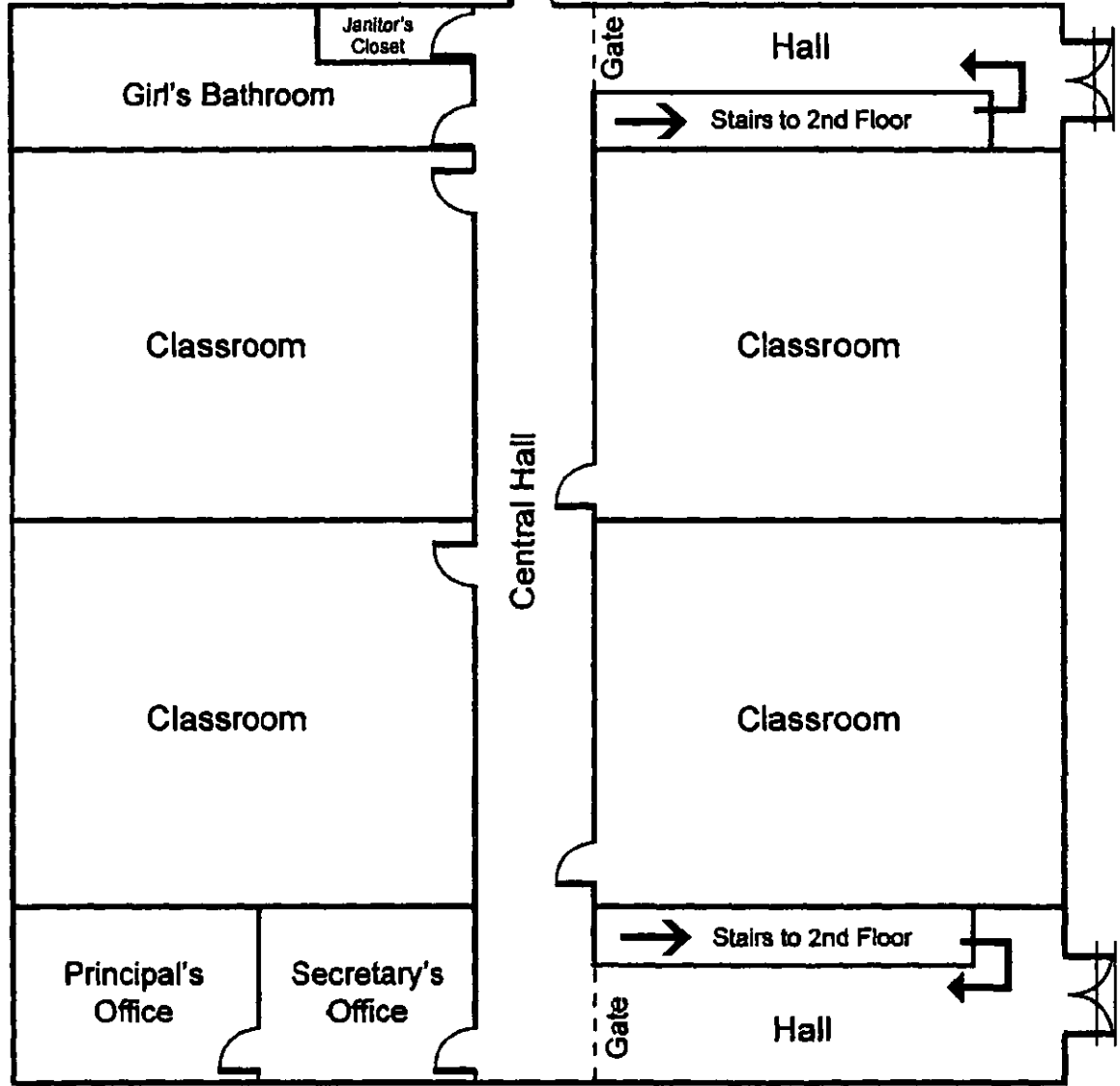


102nd St.

Church



Martin Luther King Dr.



103rd St.

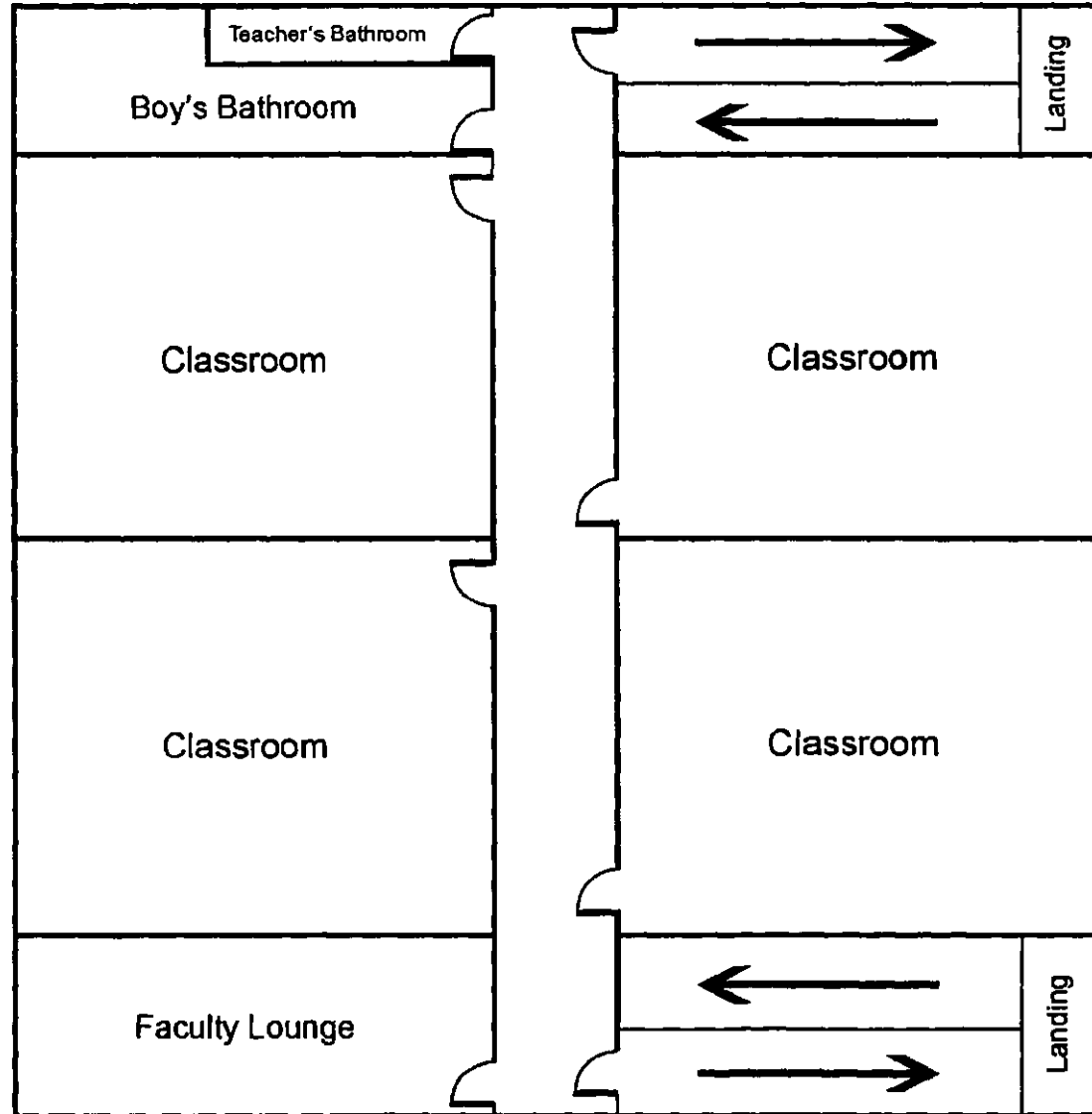
Vernon Ave.

#5 St. John de LaSalle School
2nd Floor

102nd St.



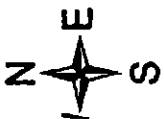
Martin Luther King Dr



Vernon Ave.

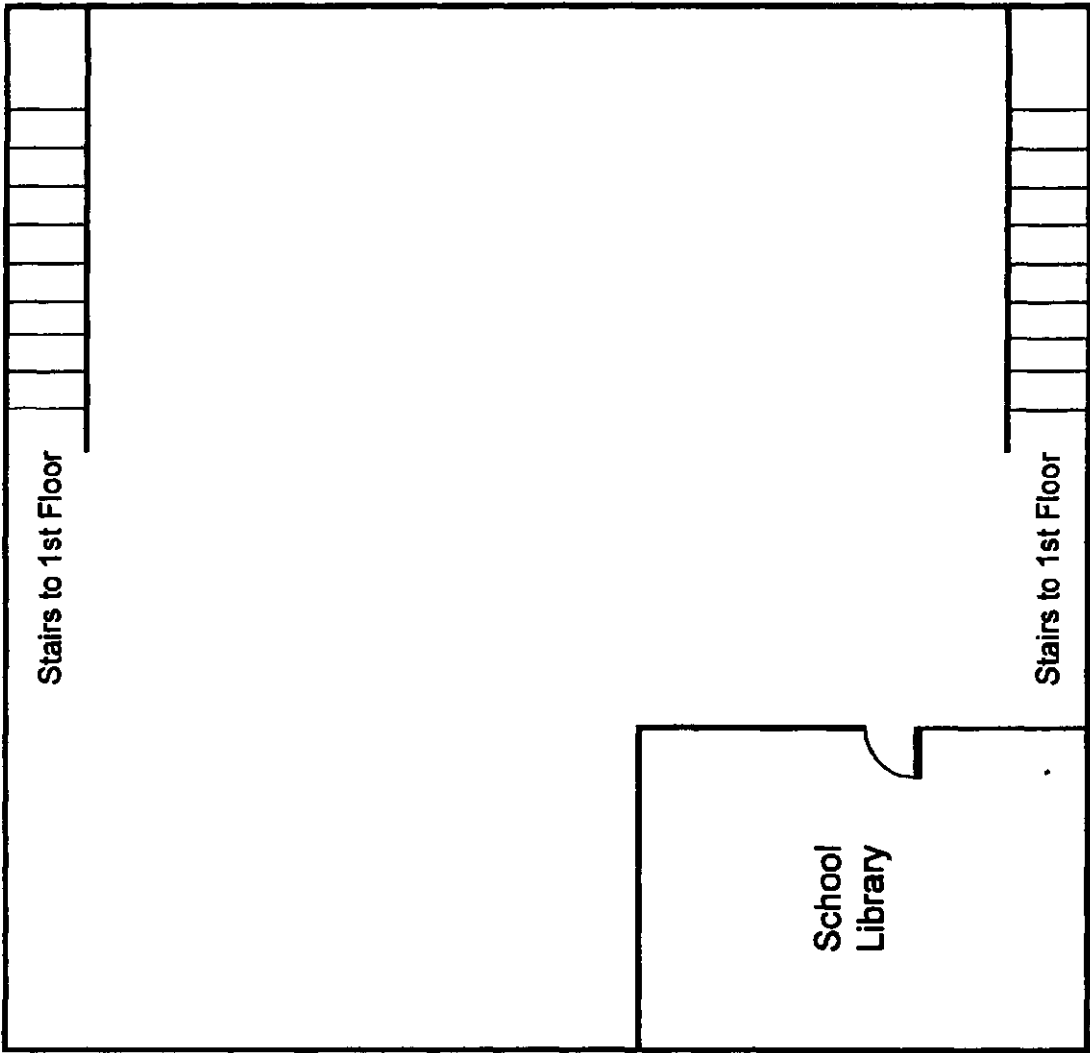
103rd St.

St. John de LaSalle Church
School Basement



Martin Luther King Dr.

102nd St.

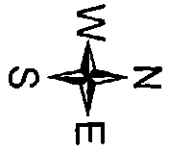


Tunnel to Convent

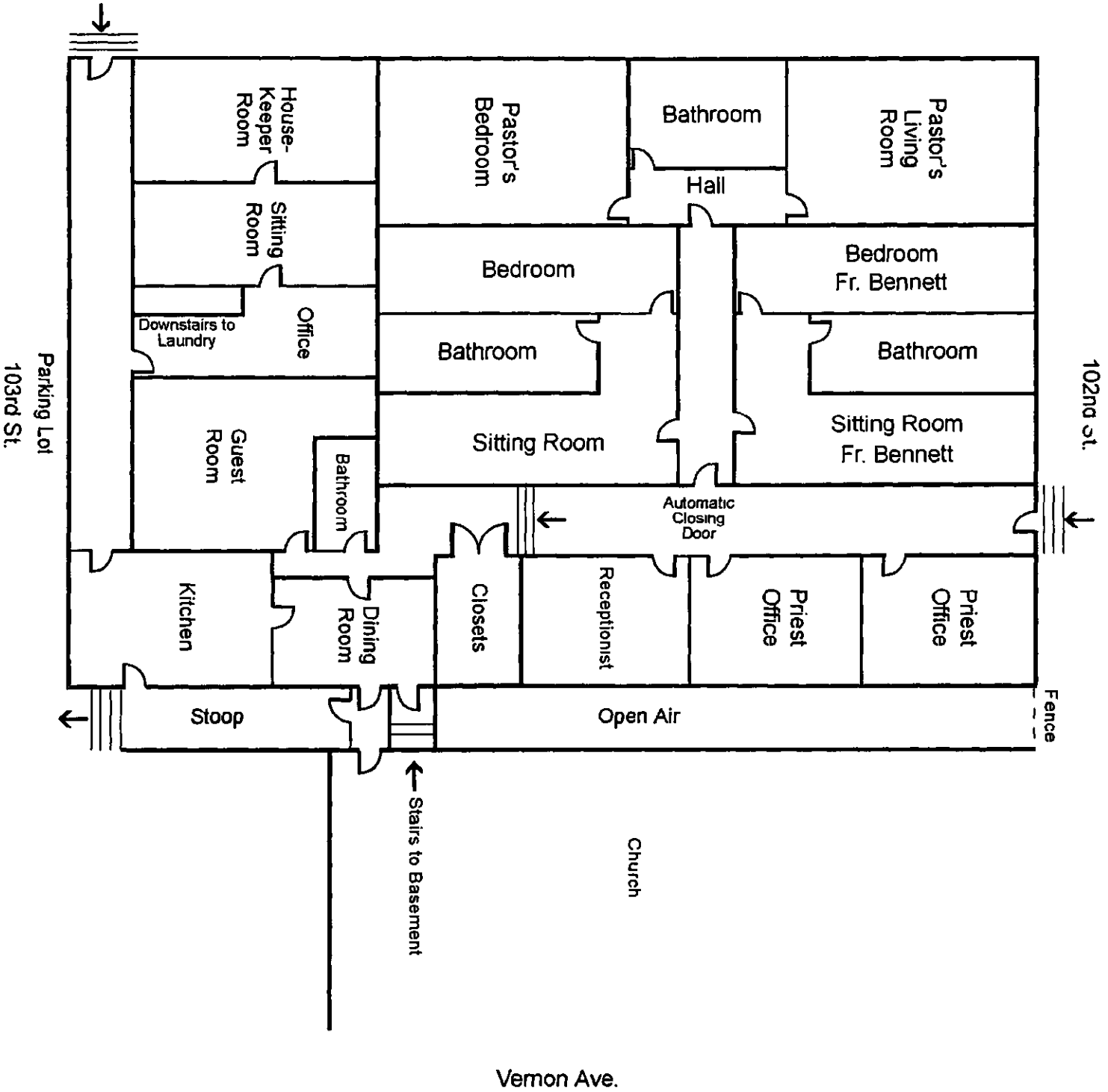
103rd St.

Vernon Ave.

#7 St. J
Rectory
de LaSalle



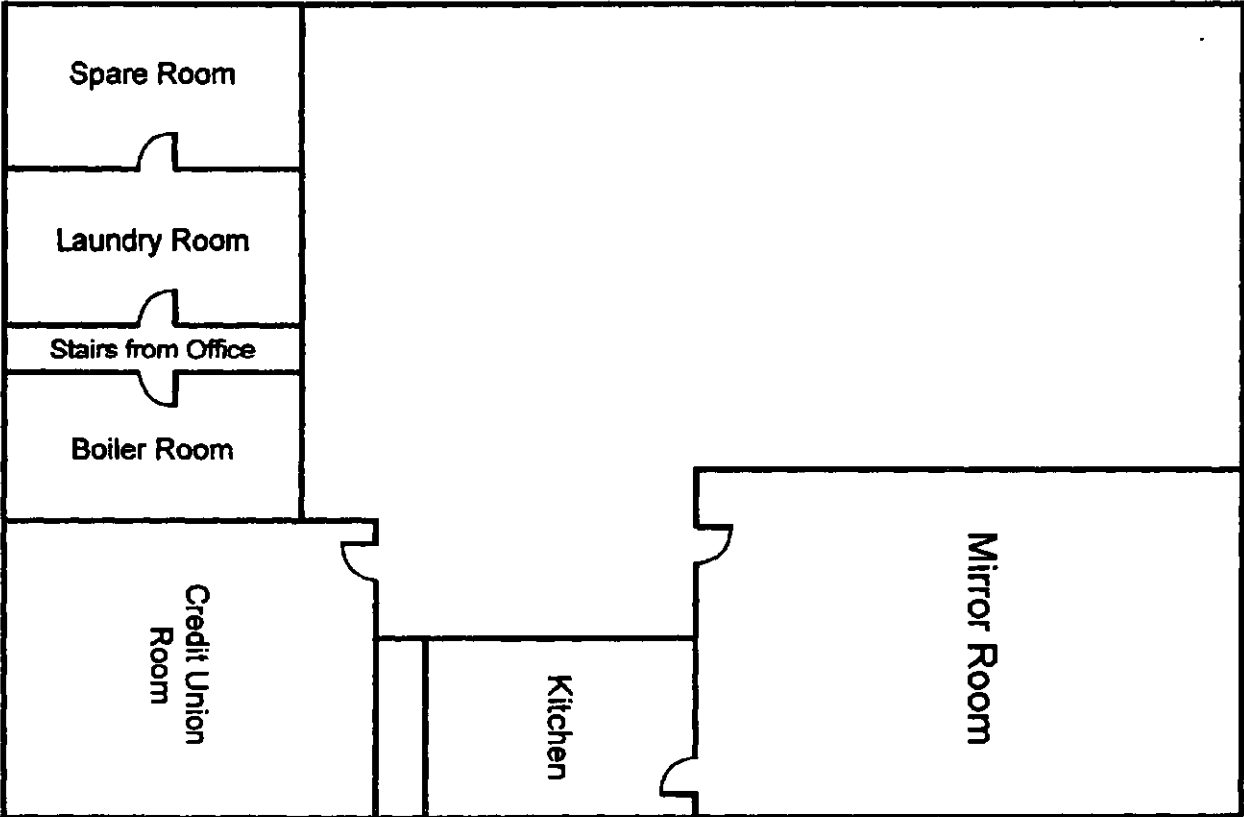
Martin Luther King Dr.



St. John's Lasalle Church
Factory Basement



Martin Luther King Dr.



102nd St.

103rd St.

Vernon Ave.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom it May Concern
From: [REDACTED]
Date: April 13, 2006
Re: Floor Plans of St. John De LaSalle Parish Buildings

These floor plans have been drawn by me based on my conversations with Fr. Joseph Bennett with Fr. Bennett describing the interior and exterior of the parish buildings of St. John De LaSalle Parish. They are not to exact scale.

[REDACTED]

4/12/06

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom it may Concern [REDACTED]
FROM: [REDACTED]
Date: April 9, 2006
Re: Priests' Living Quarters in St. John DeLaSalle Rectory

I visited my brother, Fr. Joseph Bennett, at the Rectory of St. John DeLaSalle Parish several times after his assignment in May of 1966 to August of 1968 at which time I moved to California. I clearly remember the layout of his living quarters and the dining room and kitchen. Fr. Bennett, the other associate priest and the pastor all had their private quarters off a long hallway that was most easily accessed from the 102nd street entrance. Fr. Bennett's and the other associate's quarters were across from one another at one end of the hallway, and the pastor's was at the end of the hallway. I never saw the interior of the other associate's rooms, however, in 1979 and in again in 1981, I saw the pastor's quarters because at that time, Fr. Bennett was pastor of St. John's. Those quarters were much larger than his previous quarters and consisted of a very large sitting room, and a larger bathroom and bedroom than he had as the associate priest.

Fr. Bennett's living quarters consisted of a very small sitting room that contained a sofa, and a couple of chairs. There was a narrow passageway off of the sitting room to his bedroom. A small bathroom was between the sitting room and bedroom. All of the rooms of Fr. Bennett's living quarters had windows that faced 102nd Street.

There was no public living room or parlor in the rectory. Parishioners saw a priest in one of the offices that was directly off the hallway of the 102nd street entrance. To get to the dining room and kitchen, you had to go down the hallway past the offices. This led you (with a little jag) into the dining room and then the kitchen, which was off the dining room. I only entered the rectory from the 102nd street entrance unless I was with Fr. Bennett, and then I entered through the kitchen.

The housekeeper, [REDACTED], had her private quarters in a separate wing of the house, which was accessed down a hallway from the kitchen or the entrance on King Drive. I never saw the interior of any of those rooms nor did I enter the rectory from King Drive.

I do recall the rectory had a very strange layout that was the result of several additions made to the original house. The building did not flow easily and was somewhat "choppy."

8

State of Illinois)
) SS.
County of Cook)

AFFIDAVIT

On affirmation and oath the affiant, Sister [REDACTED] states the following:

I am a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

In the Summer of 1968 I was assigned to Saint John De LaSalle parish school. I remained in that assignment for approximately ten years. I was the school principal and taught the eighth grade students. During that time I lived in the convent residence with other members of my religious community. The convent was located directly south of the school building.

The school had two floors of classrooms. The upper grades were located on the first floor. The eighth grade classroom was close to the office of the principal and of the school secretary. The primary grade classrooms were on the second, or top floor of the school building.

The religion classes for public school students (CCD) were taught according to the released time program. Our students would leave early on one afternoon a week and the public school children would be released so they could come for what would normally be the last class session of that day. The regular school faculty taught the CCD classes to their respective grade levels in their regular classrooms. In other words, a third grade CCD class would be taught by the regular third grade teacher in her second floor classroom.

CCD classes were dismissed promptly and children were not allowed to remain in the building after school. I routinely stayed in the building until after dismissal and made sure that all left so the building could be cleaned and often worked in my office well after dismissal time.

To my knowledge no priest ever taught individual students or took any individual student privately to prepare for any sacraments. If any priests participated in preparation for the sacraments, it was in large class groups.

Sister [REDACTED] was in our community at Saint John De LaSalle, but at this time I have no memory of her.

Date: 4/25/06

Signed: Sister [REDACTED]
Sister [REDACTED]

SIGNED AND AFFIRMED
to before me on 25 day of April, 2006

Jon Monteverde
Notary Public



10

State of Illinois)
) SS.
County of Cook)

AFFIDAVIT

On affirmation and oath the affiant, [REDACTED] states the following:

From 1963 to 1968 I was a volunteer secretary at St. John De LaSalle School at 10200 S. Vernon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. During those years I served in this position from one to three days per week. This work made me very familiar with the layout and operation of the school.

The Saint John De LaSalle School building had classrooms for the upper four grades on the first floor and the primary grades on the second (top) floor. No classes, CCD or otherwise, were conducted in the basement of the school building.

CCD classes were conducted one afternoon a week, when children would be released early so the public school children could arrive to participate in the religion classes. The CCD classes for each grade were taught in the same classrooms as for the grade level of the full time students. In other words, a third grade CCD class would be held in the regular third grade classroom on the second floor of the school building. Each CCD class was taught by the same teacher for that grade level. The faculty and principal remained in the school building until all children were dismissed. CCD classes began in the afternoon at 2:15PM and were dismissed at 3:00PM. There were no CCD activities after classes were dismissed. All children left the building so cleaning of the school could begin.

In 1968 I was hired as the full time parish secretary and receptionist. I worked in the front office of the rectory. As parish secretary, I was very aware of the rectory policies set and observed by the pastor, Father Mollan, and the associates. The policy relating to the priests' living quarters was very clear. No one other than priests were allowed in the rectory living area. I am aware that this

policy pre-dated Father Mollan's time. He rigorously continued it. Like everyone else, I was instructed to observe this policy. If I had correspondence or business matters for the priests, they would come to the front office. I can remember only one occasion when I had to bring papers to Father Mollan in his quarters. Only [REDACTED], the housekeeper, made very limited visits to the priests' living areas for housekeeping duties.

My office as parish secretary was between the rectory entrance and the door to the priests' living quarters. There was a closed door past my desk marking the entrance to the priests' living quarters. No one could enter the priests' living space without passing me. During the entire time that I worked as parish secretary no young children ever entered or visited in the priests' living area.

When visitors came to the rectory I answered the rectory door on 102nd Street. Visitors were taken to a waiting office area and priests would meet them at that location. If a person came to the kitchen door entrance, they could be admitted by [REDACTED], the housekeeper. However, anyone who wished to reach the priests' living area would have to pass my desk. If I was not on duty at the front of the rectory [REDACTED] would answer the door. She always let me know of any persons who had come while I wasn't there. In my entire career at the parish I never saw any young person go into the priests' living area, whether alone or escorted by any priest, including Father Bennett. [REDACTED] would have told me of any exception to the visiting rules. At no time did [REDACTED] ever inform me that any young person had ever entered the priests' living area, either alone or in the company of a priest.

I am familiar with the general layout of the rectory. I know that the pastor's suite of rooms faced west to the main street that is now called Martin Luther King Drive. I know that when Father Bennett was an associate at the parish, his room faced north to 102nd Street. No window of his quarters faced King Drive. Years later when Father Bennett returned as pastor, he occupied the pastor's rooms facing King Drive.


During all the time that I worked or volunteered at St. John De LaSalle parish, Father Bennett never gave any child private instructions for Communion or for Confirmation. These instructions were given by the school faculty or later by a staff of catechists that handled all instructions for both these sacraments. These instructions were given to children in classroom groups, not individually.

I have read the contents of this affidavit and find them to be true and complete as to the matters discussed.

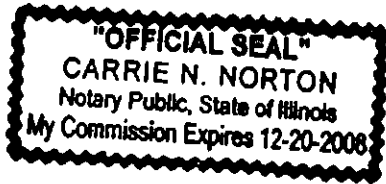
Date: 3-20-06

Signed: 

SIGNED AND AFFIRMED
to before me on 20 day of March, 2006



Notary Public



State of Illinois)
) ss.
County of Cook)

AFFIDAVIT

██████████, Affiant, states and affirms as follows:

1. I am currently a lawyer practicing in the City of Chicago.
2. I was a lay teacher at St. John De LaSalle grammar school during the period that spanned September, 1968 to June, 1971.
3. During that period at various times I taught classes four through eight, as required.
4. The four upper grades were on the main floor of the school building; the lower grades, first through fourth, were on the second, or upper, floor of the building.
5. During the time that I worked at St. John De LaSalle School no classes were taught in the basement of the school or church.
6. I am familiar with the CCD released time program as we taught it at that time. All released time CCD classes were taught in the same room as the corresponding grade level of the full time classes.
7. No CCD classes were taught in the basement of the school or church during any time while I worked at St. John De LaSalle.
8. I am familiar with the basement area because I went there daily during the lunch break to smoke a cigarette with the janitor.
9. I was a law student during the time I taught at St. John De LaSalle school. I stayed after the school was dismissed to do my own studying. No children were allowed to remain in the school building after dismissal; this was also true for CCD children.

10. I am not aware of any priests ever teaching CCD classes at St. John De LaSalle School. These classes were taught by the same teachers who taught the full time students.

11. During the time I worked at St. John De LaSalle no personnel or students were allowed access to the private living quarters of the priests in the rectory.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

[Redacted Signature]

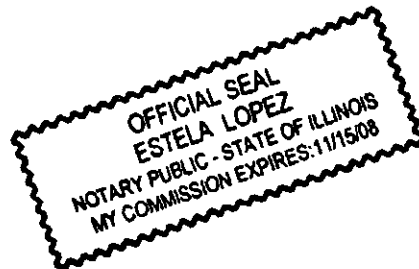
Affiant

4/25/06

Date

SIGNED AND AFFIRMED
to before me on 25th day of April, 2006

[Signature]
Notary Public



2-152/10 5-48
3003185299

DATE

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

DOLLARS

The Northern Trust Company
Chicago, Illinois

MEMO

SAFETY FIRST

13

04/25/06 15:48 FAX [REDACTED]

@018

@017

P. 1

P. 1

04/25/2006 11:32 FAX
MPF 24 08 05:08P

Apr 24 06 02:08p SEND

Fax

To:	[REDACTED]	From:	Sr. Barbara Bowers
Fax:	[REDACTED]	Fax:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Phone:	[REDACTED]
Date:	4/24/2006		
Subject:	Information requested		

Comments:

With the files which are here in Baltimore, I have found that Sister [REDACTED] was assigned to St. John de la Salle School for the school years 1964-65, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68. In the next school year, 1968-69, she was no longer present and Sr. [REDACTED] was principal.

I can continue to look for the years 1968 through 1973, but that will take me longer as I need to request records from Chicago.

04/25/2006 TUE 12 29 [TX/RX NO 6664] @017

AOC 000490

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

November 5, 2004

[Redacted]

Dear Ms. [Redacted]

As we discussed yesterday on the phone, I have enclosed a copy of a Memorandum I have written based upon our September 7, 2004 meeting. Again, as I expressed yesterday, I apologize for delay in forwarding this information to you attention. I do assure you that this matter has been taken extremely seriously by the Archdiocese of Chicago and myself.

Ms. [Redacted] I ask that you please review this memorandum and make any additions or changes to ensure its accuracy. The purpose of this memo is to summarize the information that you graciously agreed to share with Mrs. Mayra Flores and me, not only for yourself, but also for the support of your sister [Redacted] and [Redacted] as well. When you have made your changes to the enclosed document, I ask that you return them to me in the envelope provided. I will then write a final memo based upon your changes and return it to you for your signature of approval.

Upon my receipt of a final memorandum that you have approved, the information that you have shared will be presented to the Review Board in addition to all other information provided by your sisters with their allegations of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Bennett.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey ^{CNP}

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

NOTE:
Report was not
returned by Ms. [Redacted]

AOC 000492

16

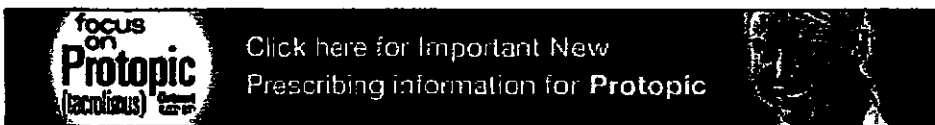
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April 14, 2006

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Author: **Joseph J Shaffer, MBBS**, Fellow, Dermatologic Surgery, Department of Cutaneous Surgery, Fairview University Medical Center

Coauthor(s): **Vincent De Leo, MD**, Chair, Program Director, Department of Dermatology, St Luke's and Roosevelt Hospital Center

Joseph J Shaffer, MBBS, is a member of the following medical societies: [American Academy of Dermatology](#)

Editor(s): **Timothy McCalmont, MD**, Director, UCSF Dermatopathology Service, Professor of Clinical Pathology and Dermatology, Departments of Pathology and Dermatology, University of California at San Francisco; **David F Butler, MD**, Professor, Texas A&M University College of Medicine; Director, Division of Dermatology, Scott and White Clinic; **Edward F Chan, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; **Catherine Quirk, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology, Brown University; and **Dirk M Elston, MD**, Teaching Faculty, Department of Dermatology, Geisinger Medical

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Background: In 1896, John Addison Fordyce first described angiokeratomas of Fordyce on the scrotum of a 60-year-old man. Angiokeratomas are typically asymptomatic, 2- to 5-mm, blue-to-red papules with a scaly surface located on the scrotum, shaft of penis, labia majora, inner thigh, or lower abdomen. Histologically, they are composed of dilated ectatic capillaries in the superficial dermis with overlying epidermal hyperplasia.

Precise data on their frequency and distribution are lacking, although estimations have been made. The principle morbidity comes from bleeding, anxiety, and overtreatment due to misdiagnosis by physicians. Usually, they do not require treatment. If treatment is needed, then locally destructive methods including laser, electrocoagulation, excision, or cryotherapy may be used.

Pathophysiology: The pathophysiology of angiokeratomas remains unknown, although it has been proposed that an increased venous pressure may contribute to their formation.

There are many reports of angiokeratomas occurring in the presence of a varicocele or other conditions of increased venous pressure (eg, hernias, epididymal tumors, urinary system tumors). One series reports that up to two thirds of patients have associated conditions. One case exists where the varicocele was treated and the angiokeratomas resolved, and one report exists in which varicocele treatment failed to produce improvement.

Equally, there are many cases where no cause for increased venous pressure was found. In a study of 435 military recruits aged 18-19 years, 10% (n = 46) were found to have varicoceles; none had angiokeratomas. They also surveyed 30 soldiers aged 45-55 years with varicoceles but found no angiokeratomas. They propose that the coexistence of varicocele and angiokeratomas are coincidental. Similarly, a study of 1552 Japanese males found no history of any venous obstructive disorders.

In a study of vulval angiokeratomas 54% of patients were noted to have a predisposing factor (eg, pregnancy, vulval varicosity, post partum, post hysterectomy), while the rest had none.

AOC 000499

Frequency:

- **Internationally:** The precise incidence of angiokeratomas of Fordyce is unknown, but they are considered common especially with increasing age.

Mortality/Morbidity: No fatalities have been reported from this condition. The most significant morbidity comes from bleeding. The papules can bleed spontaneously if traumatized or during intercourse. Many of the cases report patients concern that the lesions represent a sexually transmitted disease.

Race: Large series of angiokeratomas have been reported from America and Japan, which give a picture of disease predominantly in whites and in Japanese populations. Cases in blacks exist but are few in number. The only publications on vulval lesions have been in white women.

Sex: Males have been reported far more often than females, although direct figures of comparison do not exist. It has been commented that female angiokeratomas are probably as common as males but grossly underreported and underrepresented in the literature.

Age: Cases have been reported ranging from children born with lesions to lesions developing in patients in their sixth decade. The only publication on vulval lesions, identified by pathology reports of removed lesions, showed that 68% of lesions occurred in women aged 20-40 years. A study of 1552 Japanese males found that the condition occurred at all ages but was most prevalent among people older than 40 years. Prevalence was as follows:

- Age 16-20 years - 0.6%
- Age 21-30 years - 1.5%
- Age 31-40 years - 6.2%
- Age 41-50 years - 13.1%
- Age 51-60 years - 13.4%
- Age 61-70 years - 15.9%
- Age 70 years or older - 16.6%



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Surgical Care:

- **Excision:** This is not practical if more than a few lesions exist. However, excision can be performed under local anesthesia with a good cosmetic result.
- **Cryotherapy:** Application of liquid nitrogen has been used with resolution of the lesions but with residual hypopigmentation and scarring.
- **Electrocautery:** Light electrocoagulation has been used with or without local anesthesia to produce effective resolution of lesions.
- **Laser:** Successful resolution has been reported with single treatments using both the 578-nm copper laser and the argon laser, resulting in minimal scarring. A 2004 study showed benefit using a 532-nm potassium-titanyl-phosphate (KTP) laser. Any visible laser may be expected to have benefit.


Consultations:

- Consult a dermatologist if the diagnosis is in doubt; alternatively, a biopsy can be performed on the lesions and can be submitted to a dermatopathology laboratory for microscopic diagnosis.
- Consult a urologist if suspicion of a varicocele is present.

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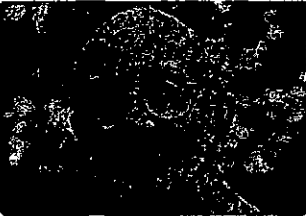
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MEDICATION

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Angiokeratomas are a benign neoplasmlike condition and are not amenable to drug therapy.

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Further Outpatient Care:

- If a surgical procedure is performed, follow-up care at 3 months post treatment is indicated to assess the cosmetic result and

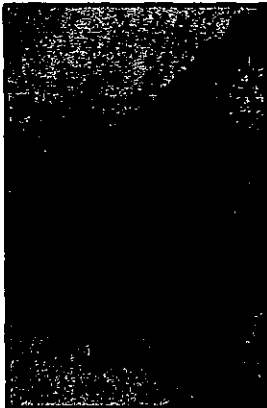
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Caption: Picture 1. Image courtesy of Hon Pak, MD, and reviewed by Ross Levy, MD.



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Picture Type: Photo

Caption: Picture 2. Close-up of the eruption in patient in Image 1. Image courtesy of Hon Pak, MD, and reviewed by Ross Levy, MD.



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Picture Type: Photo

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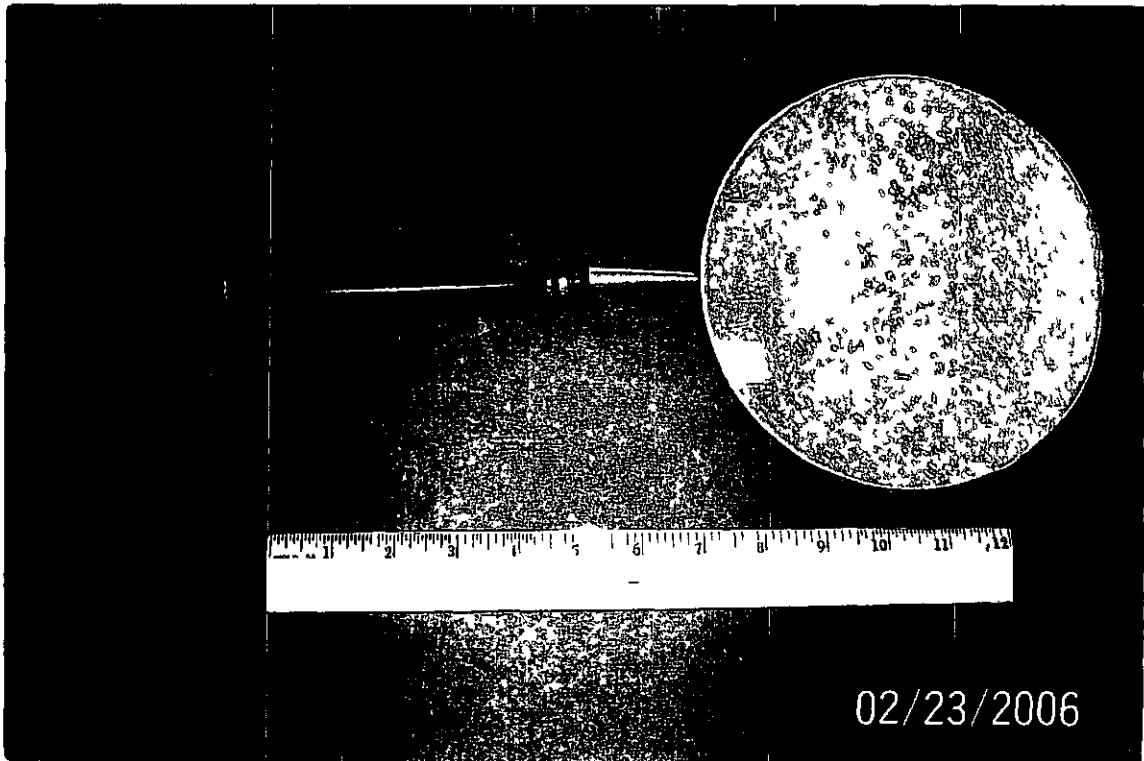
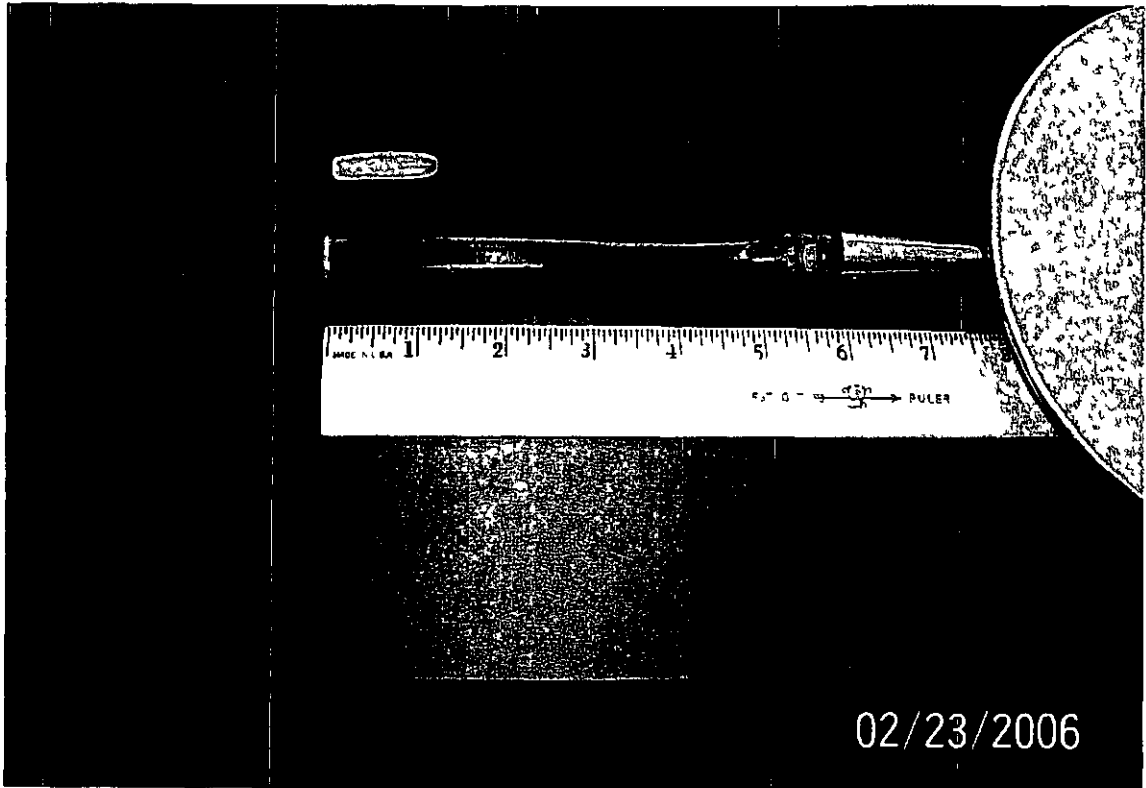


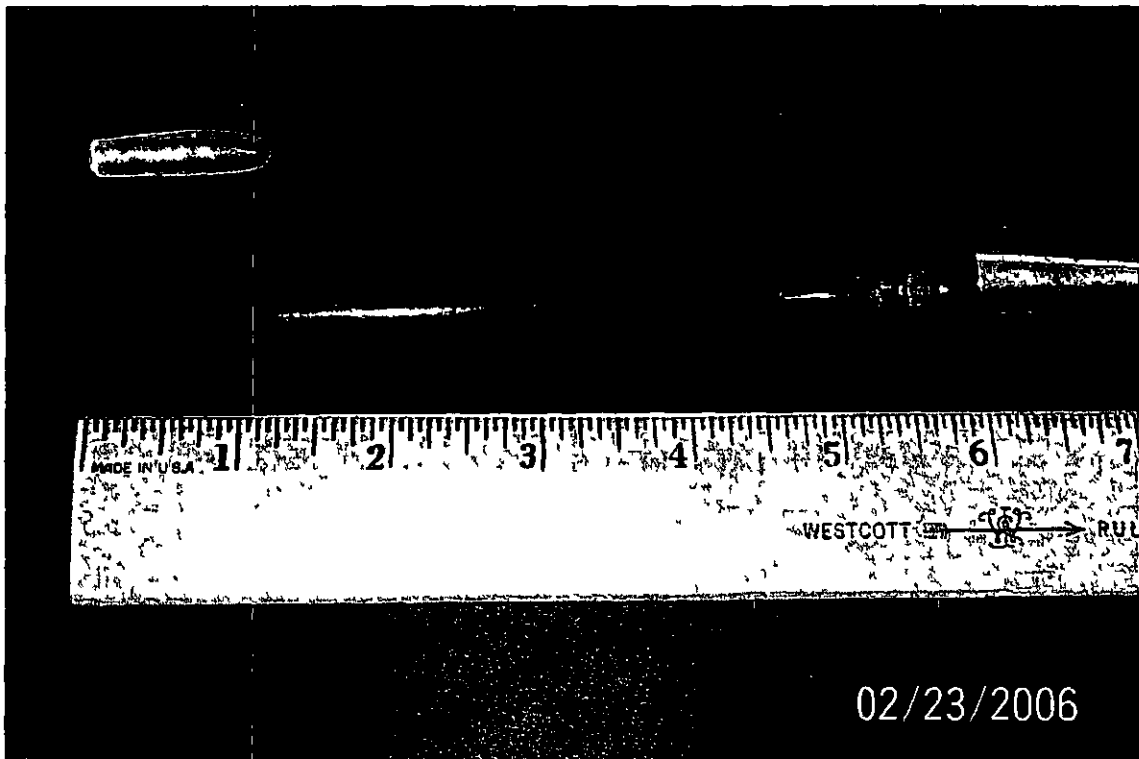
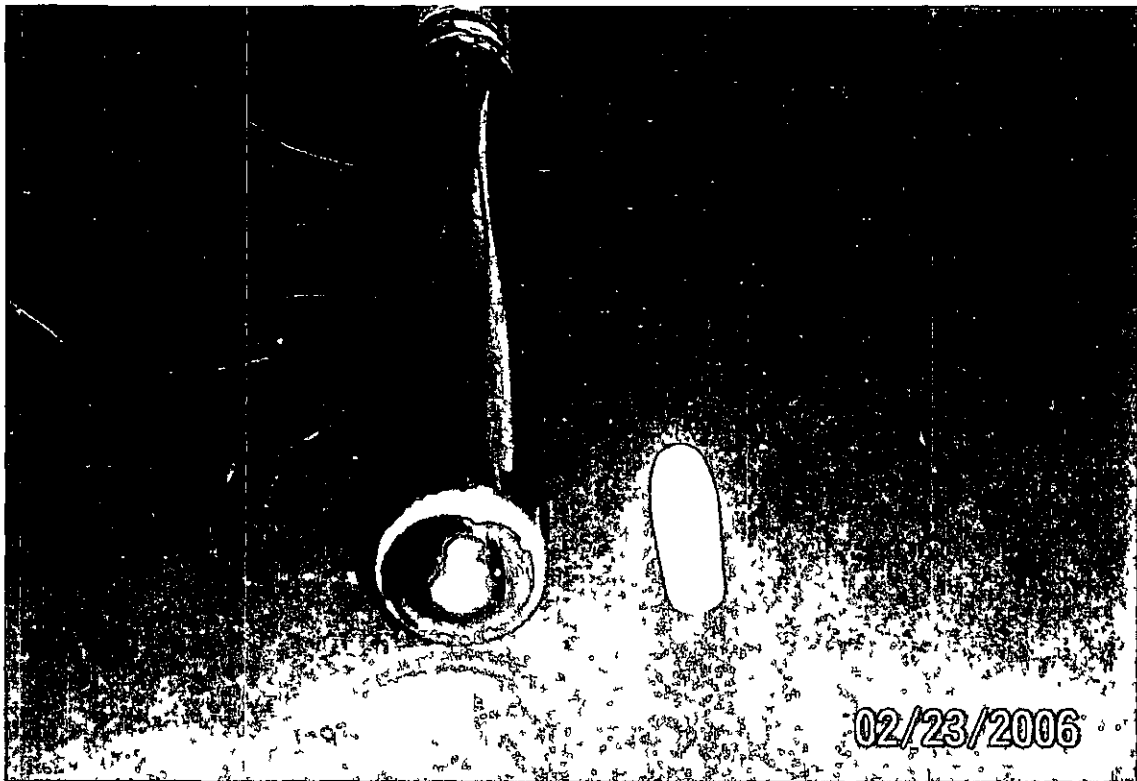
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Mary F. Otterson, M.D., M.S., FACS
Professor

Department of Surgery
Divisions of Minimally Invasive/Gastrointestinal Surgery

April 28, 2006

Rev. Paul L. Golden, C.M., J.C.D.
Vincentian Canonical Services
2340 S. University Blvd.
Suite 402
Denver, CO 80210

Dear Father Golden,

Per your request I have reviewed the picture of the artifact which you sent to me. The artifact is smaller than a standard proctoscope which is used to obtain the entry through the anal canal into the patient's rectum. The size of the rectum and the direction that the colon assumes is dependent on colonic attachments. The rectum is fixed in position but the sigmoid colon can move within the abdominal cavity and will flop toward the head when the buttocks are up and the head is down. Although each patient is different, the artifact could be inserted into a young adult's rectum. It is also possible, depending on the size of the child, that this may be accomplished in a child as young as 12 years old. In general, the size of the abdominal contents are fairly stable by that phase of development. The recipient's tolerance of the artifact being inserted through the anal canal depends upon the violence with which it is inserted, the character of the ornamentation at the end and lubrication. For example, if an artifact is placed with sufficient lubrication slowly through the anus, it is much more likely to be tolerated. Penetration of a child using that artifact depends upon how far the artifact is inserted. As you know from reports of brutality as were reported with the death of Jeffery Dahmer or the assault of Haitian immigrant, Abner Louima, violent penetration of the rectum with a long object can cause perforation of the colon into the free peritoneal space. This would cause a surgical emergency. From what was described, this degree of brutalization never occurred.

The sensation of pain around the anus is dependant upon stimulation to the anal canal. The squamous epithelium of the anus allows the person to perceive pain. Injury to the rectum itself would not cause the patient pain. The rectum perceives some chemical stimulation, as would be caused by bile salts and distention or ischemia. None of these occurred with this event.

Finally when mucosal damage occurs within the rectum, the mucosa heals rather quickly. For example, we frequently biopsy or remove polyps from the rectum that may be as large as several centimeters and, within several weeks to months, no visible evidence of

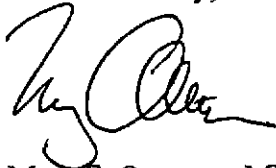
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Office: (414) 805-5734
Fax: (414) 454-0152
Email: otterson@mail.mcw.edu

AOC 000514

the damage can be seen on repeat endoscopy. Thus, permanent damage to the rectal mucosa would not be anticipated.

I hope that this answers the questions that you had. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me.


Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Otterson', written in a cursive style.

Mary F. Otterson, MD, MS, FACS

24





February 10, 2006

To whom it may concern:

I was employed at St. John de La Salle School as a janitor assisting the full-time janitor during the 1965 through 1969 school years. During this time I was a student at Quigley South, 7740 S. Western, Chicago. I would be released from my school at approximately 3:00 PM daily & go directly to St. John School normally arriving between 3:50 and 4:10 PM. After signing-in in the school boiler-room I would begin sweeping & dry-mopping the classrooms & school halls which would usually take about 1 hour.

St. John School classrooms were divided over 2 floors in the main building with 2 classrooms on the other side of the church hall beneath the church. There is one hall in the basement beneath the school building & another beneath the Church. I would clean the floor in the classrooms, the school hall & then proceed to the church hall, and finally the 2 classrooms beneath the church.

Under normal circumstances, the classrooms & the halls were empty. Occasionally, there would be teachers & a few students working after normal release time. It would be very unusual for any of the students whether they be St. John School or CCD students anywhere in the building without a classroom teacher. In fact I can't remember seeing any students in the building outside of a classroom at any time that I was working. Students were not allowed the freedom to wander about without teacher supervision.

It is also my recollection that none of the parish priests would spend much time in the school. The school was the domain of the School Sisters, & the priests were not usually active in either the school or the CCD programs. It would be very unusual to see Fr. Bennett or any of the priests in the school or the school halls, & they would have attracted my attention because of the unusual nature of their being there.

Sincerely



25



Saint
VICTOR
Parish

553 Hirsch Avenue Calumet City, IL 60409

PHONE: 708-891-8920 FAX: 708-891-8929
www.stvictorcc.org E-mail victorcc53@aol.com

April 12, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Leonard Allen Dubi. I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 2, 1968. My home parish was St. John De LaSalle, 10205 S. King Drive in Chicago. Presently, I am completing 2.5 months as pastor of St. Victor Parish in Calumet City, Illinois.

As a transitional deacon I was assigned to Catholic Charities in my last year of seminary, May or June of 1967 to September of the same year. I was one of the people who fell through the cracks in the program and was not given another assignment after the time at Charities ended. I did continue to have involvement with cases of adolescent placement at Charities during the final school year.

On the week-ends I volunteered my services to Msgr. John Murphy, the pastor of St. John De LaSalle Parish. Because I was already assigned to a full time position at Charities I really did not have many responsibilities at St. John De La Salle beyond liturgical roles on the week-end and volunteer work with Fr. Joseph Bennett. I was always at the parish on Saturday night and Sunday. I was also around the rectory during the week, even eating the evening meal with the priests, on occasion.

Joe Bennett was assigned to St. John De LaSalle in 1966 replacing Fr. Hubert Hoffman. Joe and I had been friends in the seminary and I was delighted to have him assigned to my home parish. He was given the responsibility of the teen group and I assisted him with this responsibility, attending dances on occasions and functioning as a chaperone on one occasion when he took the group to Shaefer Lake, Indiana for an outing.

On the week-ends I would serve as the deacon of the mass at several of the masses. I would also lead music as cantor. I always stood outside the church building and greeted the people on their way in and out. Fr. Bennett and I would visit people that I had met while standing outside the church building on the week-ends.

During my diaconal year Msgr. Murphy was transferred to St. Edmund Parish in Oak Park. A while later (I don't remember the exact time intervals) Fr. Ralph Mollan was assigned to the parish as pastor.

I remember the very first time I met Fr Mollan. Before he moved to the parish and shortly after he was assigned to the parish (within a few days of being assigned) he made a visit. We were there to receive him along with the housekeeper, [REDACTED] I remember Fr. Mollan coming into the rectory and walking the corridor from the back door of the rectory that led to the corridor that led to the priests' suites. The pastor's suite was at the end of the long corridor that passed the two associates' rooms. Fr. Mollan met us in the pastor's room. We talked for about 30 – 45 minutes and then Fr. Mollan stood to leave. I will always remember the dialogue that ensued. I asked Fr. Mollan what he wanted us to call him. Were we to address him by his name or call him Father? He became very agitated and turned red-faced and let me know that we were to call him Father. He went on to say that this is what he had done to his pastors since he had been a priest. I will always remember this encounter because I thought that this was probably the typical answer that I was going to get from any pastor of that era.

During the meeting before this dialogue we talked about the other procedures in the rectory including visitation of the priest's rooms by lay people. My distinct memory is that Fr. Mollan was opposed to having lay people visit the rooms. He may have made an exception for a family member; but he was very clear that the priests' rooms and the corridor leading to the rooms was out of bounds for the people of the parish and for lay people in general. The only lay person that I every remember seeing in the priest's quarters was [REDACTED] the housekeeper.

This same prohibition did not apply to the basement of the rectory where meetings were held. I remember visiting with people there on many occasions; but never in the priests' quarters upstairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Leonard Dubi". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Fr. Leonard Dubi

26

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO


Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office




P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax


MEMORANDUM



To: File – PFR - 170



From: Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review 



Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Withdrawn] 







Date: December 5, 2008

On November 28, 2008 I received a voice mail message from  She stated that she did not know if I remembered her, but that we had met a few years ago when she came forward to formalize her allegation against Rev. Joseph Bennett.

 stated that the reason for her call was to schedule a time so that she could review her file. She also wanted to ensure that a specific document “that should be there [in our file] is there.”  left a message with one of the support staff in this office on the same day with the same information.

 asked that I call her back at 

I attempted to reach  via phone on December 2, 2008. I left a voice mail message for  informing her that I did receive both of her messages and was returning her call.

 left me a return voice mail message on December 3, 2008. She began by leaving a cell phone number  and her home phone number  , noting that she would not be home for most of the day.  said that she did receive my message the day before and just wanted to schedule a time so that she could obtain access to her file. She referred to Cardinal George’s deposition and that she understood from the deposition that the archdiocese was going to promote openness, which is why she wants to review her file.  added that by reviewing her file, she can ensure that “something that should be in there is in there.” She then said, “I heard that we, and when I say ‘we,’ I mean victims, could look at our files.”

I

AOC 000522

After listening to [REDACTED] message, I asked Matt Hunnicutt and Mayra Flores of the Office of Assistance Ministry to come to my office so that I could play the message for them as well. Upon listening to the message, it was agreed that either Mr. Hunnicutt or Ms. Flores would return the call to [REDACTED] due to the fact that the file that she is requesting to review is in the Office of Assistance Ministry. However, Mr. Hunnicutt and Ms. Flores expressed that it is no longer the policy in their office to allow victims to review their files and that [REDACTED] would be informed of this.

On December 4th, I received a message that [REDACTED] had called again. Ms. Flores and I decided to return the call together that same morning in order to respond to as many of her questions as we could. We did reach [REDACTED] shortly after she had called. Ms. Flores explained to [REDACTED] the change in Assistance Ministry's policy on allowing victims to review files [see file for Ms. Flores' 12/4/08 e-mail].

[REDACTED] stated that the other reason for her initial call to me was to ask about a specific document that should be in her file. As per [REDACTED], her pastor had originally called the Chancery at the Archdiocese of Chicago [AOC] to report that [REDACTED] had disclosed to him that she was sexually abused as a minor by Fr. Bennett, that her pastor believed her, and that her pastor told her to call the AOC. I explained to [REDACTED] that if such documentation existed it would be in Fr. Bennett's file, which is in the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review [CAIR]. [REDACTED] said that she did not understand why such a document would not be in her file [in the Office of Assistance Ministry]. I explained to [REDACTED] that as per AOC policy, any employee is to forward any receipt or knowledge of an allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric to CAIR. I added that once such information is received, a file is opened in CAIR and an internal memorandum is circulated to the appropriate AOC offices to notify of the receipt of a new allegation. I told [REDACTED] that this is how the Office of Assistance Ministry would have opened a file in their office.

While Ms. Flores was responding to another question asked by [REDACTED], I was able to obtain and review Fr. Bennett's file. I found no documentation that noted that [REDACTED] pastor had first called the Chancery prior to her calling to speak with me. However, there is a memorandum that I wrote documenting my first phone conversation with [REDACTED] [in December 2003] and her telling me that after she had disclosed the alleged abuse by Fr. Bennett to her pastor, her pastor directed her to call the AOC.

During the December 4th phone conversation, [REDACTED] asked if anyone from the AOC had contacted the civil authorities where the former Sr. [REDACTED] currently resides to inform them that Sr. [REDACTED] "is an abuser." I explained to [REDACTED] that upon receiving any allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor in the AOC, the director of Legal Services notifies the Cook or Lake County State's Attorney's Office. I told [REDACTED] that the Cook County State's Attorney's Office was notified upon the receipt of her allegation and that it would be the discretion of the State's Attorney to contact any other public authorities. [REDACTED] then asked if she could contact the local authorities where the former Sr. [REDACTED] resides. I told [REDACTED] that she had the right to contact any public authority she chose.

██████████ informed Ms. Flores and me that she wanted to write letters to Fr. Bennett and Sr. ██████████ and asked if I would deliver them if she sent them to me. ██████████

██████████ I told ██████████ that if she sends the letters to me, I would give Fr. Bennett's letter to the Vicar for Priests and ask that it be then forwarded to Fr. Bennett. As for a letter to Sr. ██████████, I told ██████████ that I would send it to either Sr. ██████████'s attorney or former religious community and ask that it be then forwarded to Sr. ██████████. Ms. Flores informed ██████████ that we could request to have the respective letters sent, but that we could not promise that they would be received or read by Fr. Bennett or Sr. ██████████. ██████████ said that she does understand that.

The phone call ended with ██████████ expressing her appreciation for Ms. Flores and me returning her call and providing her with information [for additional information provided to ██████████ by Ms. Flores, see file for Ms. Flores' aforementioned e-mail].

██████████ did not ask again about the documentation from her former pastor. If ██████████ calls again requesting a specific response about the existence of a document that her pastor had called the AOC, I will share with her the information that I did not find any such documentation in the file—but that I did document that she had shared some information with me about her pastor when we first spoke in December 2003.

Cc Matt Hunnicutt, Office of Assistance Ministry

From: Matthew Hunnicutt
To: McCluskey, Leah
Date: 3/24/2010 2:40 PM
Subject: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED] meeting with Cardinal outcome 03-20-10.doc

**** Confidential ****

Hi Leah,

The Cardinal asked me to see if you could look into nos. 3 and 4 on the attached sheet. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Matt Hunnicutt, M.A., L.C.S.W.
Director
Office of Assistance Ministry
Archdiocese of Chicago
(312) 534-8267

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

To: File V-242
From: Matt Hunnicutt
Re: [REDACTED] Meeting with Cardinal
Date: March 24, 2010

On Saturday March 20, 2010, [REDACTED] met with Cardinal George at his residence. The meeting was arranged at the request of [REDACTED]. Those in attendance were [REDACTED], Cardinal George, [REDACTED] (friend and advocate for [REDACTED]), Ruth Robinson (Assistant Director, Office of Assistance Ministry) and Matt Hunnicutt (Director, Office of Assistance Ministry).

The meeting primarily consisted of [REDACTED] citing a legal deposition the Cardinal was involved with, and asking the Cardinal for explanations and clarification. The meeting lasted for approximately two hours. During the meeting, it was determined that the Office of Assistance Ministry would follow-up with [REDACTED] in the following manner:

- 1) Try to determine if exceptions can be made to [REDACTED] escrow conditions, to allow her to purchase a treadmill and a computer.
- 2) Provide [REDACTED] with the name of a Catholic spiritual director.
- 3) Find out if authorities in [REDACTED] were informed of allegations against Sister [REDACTED].
- 4) Ask Leah McCluskey if a copy of Fr. Barr's letter is in her file.

AOC 000526

RECEIVED

JUL 01 2010

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF REV. JOSEPH BENNETT
CASE NO. PFR-170

Confidential & Proprietary

DELIVERED ON JULY 01, 2010

MS. LEAH MCCLUSKEY, DIRECTOR
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW
737 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 900
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

July 1, 2010

Ms. Leah R. McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
737 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611

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JUL 01 2010

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

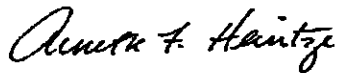
Hillard Heintze has completed the investigation requested for the May 17, 2010 case referral in the matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett. Attached you will find our investigative report which has been prepared as a confidential work product between Hillard Heintze and the Archdiocese of Chicago, independent Review Board. With this transmittal, one (1) original hardbound copy and one (1) electronic version of our report are being submitted to you as Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review.

During the course of this investigation, Hillard Heintze reviewed the documentation provided by the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review and conducted a limited background investigation of the accuser, [REDACTED], as well as interviews, site visits and a canvass. Investigator Robert Evans conducted interviews of Fr. Wayne Svida, [REDACTED], Fr. Michael Knotek, Fr. Michael Wulsch, Fr. William Devine, Fr. Martin O'Donovan, Fr. Francis Kub, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Additionally, Investigator Evans conducted site visits to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, St. John De La Salle Parish and 110 De Windt Rd in Winnetka, IL along with a canvass of houses in the immediate vicinity of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish.

Utilizing proprietary databases, the background investigation conducted on [REDACTED] found [REDACTED]

Should you need any additional information on our investigation, please do not hesitate to call me at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,
HILLARD HEINTZE, LLC



Arnette F. Heintze
Partner and CEO

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 17, 2010, Hillard Heintze received a request from the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review for investigative assistance in the matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett. Specifically, we were asked to assist in learning more about the background of the accuser [REDACTED] a 52-year-old male subject, who alleges that he was sexually abused by Rev. Bennett when he [REDACTED] was approximately nine years old at both St. John de La Salle Parish and Our Lady of the Ridge Parish as well as at the home of Fr. Bennett's [REDACTED]. Specifically, [REDACTED] alleges that Rev. Bennett: had [REDACTED] take off his pants and rubbed his forearm over [REDACTED] underwear on his penis while massaging [REDACTED] legs; showed [REDACTED] heterosexual pornographic movies on at least six and less than 12 occasions; "masturbated" [REDACTED]; performed oral sex on [REDACTED] and attempted to have anal sex with [REDACTED] while he and Fr. Bennett slept in the same bed.

In the scope of this investigation, Hillard Heintze gathered relevant information on [REDACTED] which included, but was not limited to his current life situation, personal identifiers, social security number, business affiliations, professional licenses, real property ownership, criminal history checks, arrest records, court records query, financial records, media records and U.S. Military records. With this insight, we then assessed the investigative findings to provide you information regarding the subject's character, integrity, ethics, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living.

Hillard Heintze conducted the requested limited background investigation of [REDACTED]. This investigation found [REDACTED]

Investigator Robert Evans conducted interviews of Fr. Wayne Svida, [REDACTED], Fr. Michael Knotek, Fr. Michael Wulsch, Fr. William Devine, Fr. Martin O'Donovan, Fr. Francis Kub, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Additionally, Investigator Evans conducted site visits to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, St. John De La Salle Parish and 110 De Windt Rd in Winnetka, IL along with a canvass of houses in the immediate vicinity of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish.

Following a careful analysis of the statements made by [REDACTED] in his allegation and during the various interviews conducted, certain key findings were determined and are contained in the Findings section of this report.

CASE REFERRAL TO HILLARD HEINTZE

On May 17, 2010, Director Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, referred the matter of Rev. Joseph Bennett to Hillard Heintze for further investigation. Specifically, we were requested to:

- Conduct a site visit at the rectory of St. John De La Salle Parish, located at 10205 S. King Drive, in Chicago, with telephone number (773) 785-2022. The purpose of the site visit would be to either support or refute the description given by [REDACTED]
- Obtain the names of other priests assigned to St. John De La Salle, as well as any employees who worked at the parish during Joseph Bennett's tenure and interview any who are still living.
- Attempt to verify or refute [REDACTED] claim that he was an altar boy at St. John De La Salle.
- Conduct a site visit at the rectory of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, located at 10811 S. Ridgeland Avenue in Chicago Ridge, Illinois, with telephone number (708) 425-3800. The purpose of the site visit would be to either support or refute the description given by [REDACTED]. Also attempt to identify, from line of sight, which house had a view of the movie shown to [REDACTED]. Conduct a canvass of possible houses.
- Obtain the names of other priests assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge, as well as any employees who worked at the parish during Joseph Bennett's tenure and interview any who are still living.
- Attempt to identify any property that was owned by Joseph Bennett during 1972 to 1974. Attempt to identify any other person who might have been a co-owner.
- Seek a clarification from [REDACTED] either through interview or via the Archdiocese if the "other priest", whom he says they visited at his rectory on the north side, was the same priest from the lake house who wrestled with [REDACTED] in the water. It might be necessary to identify and interview this priest.

On May 27, Hillard Heintze Senior VP Harvey Radney assigned Investigator Robert Evans the primary responsibility of conducting the follow-up investigation.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

CASE REVIEW

Beginning on May 17, 2010, Hillard Heintze CEO Arnette Heintze, Radney and Investigative Associate James Molloy initiated a comprehensive case review of Rev. Bennett's investigative file provided by the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review. This file included [REDACTED] allegations.

Specifically, [REDACTED] alleges that Rev. Bennett: had [REDACTED] take off his pants and rubbed his forearm on [REDACTED] penis over his underwear while massaging [REDACTED] legs; showed [REDACTED] heterosexual pornographic movies on at least six and less than 12 occasions; "masturbated" [REDACTED]; performed oral sex on [REDACTED] and attempted to have anal sex with [REDACTED] while he and Fr. Bennett slept in the same bed.

INTERVIEWS

JUNE 8, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF FR. WAYNE SVIDA CURRENT PASTOR, OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH

Fr. Svida stated that he had never been approached with information regarding allegations against Joseph Bennett, nor has he ever met Bennett. Fr. Svida contacted the former parish secretary, [REDACTED], who is still a parishioner in order for Evans to interview her.

JUNE 8, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] FORMER PARISH SECRETARY, OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH

[REDACTED] said that she had never witnessed sexual abuse, nor had she heard allegations of sexual abuse against Bennett. She said that Bennett used to take the young people of the parish to a local restaurant and buy them food. She recalled that Mr. Bennett's [REDACTED]. When asked, [REDACTED] stated that the nuns of the parish school trained the altar boys. She did not recall a neighbor coming to the rectory to complain about a pornographic film visible through the window, nor did she recall any strange odors (specifically marijuana) in the rectory when Bennett was there. When asked, she stated that she had no knowledge of who stayed the night in the rectory after she left the parish for the day. [REDACTED] said that all the staff members who worked at Our Lady of the Ridge while Bennett was there had passed away.

JUNE 9, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF FR. MICHAEL KNOTEK CURRENT PASTOR OF ST. JOHN DE LA SALLE PARISH

Fr. Knotek stated that he had not met Joseph Bennett until after the allegations made by [REDACTED] were publicized. Bennett called Fr. Knotek, requesting to see the renovations made to St. John De La Salle Parish and arrived and began taking pictures of the sitting room in the Pastor's suite. Fr. Knotek stated that none of the current parish staff worked there during Bennett's tenure. He did not know who trained the altar boys while Bennett was at St. John De La Salle, but said he would ask a retired teacher who might know, [REDACTED]. Fr. Knotek found copies of parish bulletins from August 1968 to August 1990, but none from Bennett's time at the parish contained a list of altar servers.

**JUNE 9, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF FR. MICHAEL WULSCH
FORMERLY ASSIGNED AT OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH**

Fr. Wulsch said he had no knowledge of sexual abuse on the part of Joseph Bennett, and that he had not seen Bennett with young people at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish rectory. Fr. Wulsch had not witnessed Bennett giving alcohol to anyone underage, nor does he recall any of the priests smoking during Fr. Wulsch's tenure at Our Lady of the Ridge, including marijuana. Fr. Wulsch recalled [REDACTED] having been employed in the rectory, but could not recall the names of young people [REDACTED]

**JUNE 9, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF FR. WILLIAM DEVINE
FORMER ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH**

Fr. Devine said he recalled Joseph Bennett, but that he did not spend much time with Bennett while they were both assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. Fr. Devine did not recall the names of former rectory employees at Our Lady of the Ridge. He did not have any knowledge of allegations of sexual abuse against Joseph Bennett and had not seen Bennett with young people in the parish rectory. Fr. Devine said he did not know what burning marijuana smells like.

**JUNE 21, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF FR. MARTIN O'DONOVAN
CURRENT PASTOR OF SAINTS FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY PARISH**

Investigator Evans inquired with the current Pastor of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish if the late [REDACTED] was buried from the parish and if he was a registered parishioner. Evans also asked if any of the current parish staff knew if Joseph Bennett was related to [REDACTED] Fr. Martin O'Donovan (the Pastor) said that a funeral mass was held for [REDACTED] at the parish on [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] said the mass. Fr. O'Donovan stated that he could not find a member of the staff who knew if Bennett and [REDACTED] were related. Fr. O'Donovan said that [REDACTED] was a registered parishioner of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish and that his address was listed as [REDACTED]

**JUNE 23, 2010 - FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]
FORMER PARISH SECRETARY, OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH**

[REDACTED] was questioned about [REDACTED] in the parish rectory beginning in about 1975. She recalled that some young women began working on Sunday afternoons, answering phones and performing other clerical tasks. She could not recall the names of the young women, but told Investigator Evans that her daughter worked at the rectory in this position. [REDACTED] was asked to contact her daughter to see if she would agree to be interviewed. [REDACTED] daughter, [REDACTED] agreed to an interview.

**JUNE 23, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF FR. FRANCIS KUB
FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO ST. JOHN DE LA SALLE PARISH**

Fr. Kub said he did not have knowledge of any sexual abuse committed by Bennett while they were assigned to St. John De La Salle Parish together. He said that he saw young people in Bennett's bedroom suite on several occasions and always requested that Bennett leave the door open. Fr. Kub had no knowledge of Bennett giving alcohol to anyone underage. Although Fr. Kub said he knew what burning marijuana smelled like, he said he never smelled it at St. John De La Salle. Fr. Kub described the guest policy in the rectory - priests were allowed to have visitors in their suites, but

the Pastor, Monsignor John Murphy, required doors to remain open. He said that anyone staying overnight in the rectory was a priest. Fr. Kub recalled the altar servers having been trained by one of the nuns from the school. He also recalled that Bennett was [REDACTED]

**JUNE 24, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]
FORMER EMPLOYEE AT OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH RECTORY**

[REDACTED] stated that she usually worked in the parish office from 1:30 or 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM, answering the phone or the door and logging collection envelopes. She said she had no knowledge of sexual abuse or allegations of abuse involving Bennett. When asked, she said that if a priest was expecting a visitor, they would leave instructions for her as to what to do when the party arrived. [REDACTED] did not recall Bennett having visitors while she worked in the parish office. She recalled one other girl who would fill in at the office for her when she could not work: [REDACTED]. Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] to pass his phone number on to [REDACTED] and to request that she agree to be interviewed. She agreed.

**JUNE 25, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF FR. MICHAEL KNOTEK
CURRENT PASTOR OF ST. JOHN DE LA SALLE PARISH**

Fr. Knotek stated that he spoke to [REDACTED] a long-time teacher at St. John De La Salle School who had recently retired. She stated that she had trained the altar servers during the past ten years, but did not know who did the training when Bennett was assigned there. She did not have any altar server rosters from that time and despite searches conducted by him and his staff, Fr. Knotek could not locate any additional rosters. Fr. Knotek also spoke with parishioners who had known Bennett and voiced negative thoughts about him. One such woman had since passed away and the other individuals wished to remain anonymous.

**JUNE 29, 2010 - ATTEMPTED INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]
FORMER EMPLOYEE AT OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH RECTORY**

Investigator Evans gave [REDACTED] a friend of [REDACTED] his phone number and requested that [REDACTED] contact him. On June 29 at approximately 6:30 PM, Evans left a voicemail on the cellular telephone of [REDACTED] but was not contacted by either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

**JUNE 30, 2010 - INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]
FORMER EMPLOYEE AT OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH RECTORY**

[REDACTED] said she did not recall when she started working at the parish rectory or for how long she worked there. She believed that she and [REDACTED] worked alternating Sundays, answering the phones and door and recording donations. [REDACTED] said she had no knowledge of either acts or allegations of sex abuse by Bennett. When a priest had a visitor, [REDACTED] said she would page the priest on the intercom and wait for instructions from them. She could not recall the names of other young women who may have also worked in the rectory.

SURVEILLANCE

No surveillance was conducted during this investigation.

SITE VISITS

JUNE 8, 2010 – SITE VISIT OF OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH RECTORY

Fr. Wayne Svida, the current Pastor of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, along with [REDACTED] the former parish secretary, accompanied Investigator Evans on a tour of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish rectory.

JUNE 9, 2010 – SITE VISIT OF ST. JOHN DE LA SALLE PARISH RECTORY

Fr. Michael Knotek, the current Pastor of St. John De La Salle Parish, accompanied Investigator Evans on a tour of St. John De La Salle Parish rectory.

JUNE 24, 2010 – SITE VISIT OF [REDACTED]

Investigator Evans traveled to [REDACTED] to the address of the late [REDACTED] as identified through [REDACTED]'s registration as a parishioner of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish.

RESEARCH

JUNE 10, 2010 – CANVASS OF RESIDENCES NEIGHBORING OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH

Investigator Evans conducted a canvass to attempt to identify the nearby resident who complained about the pornographic images being projected onto the window shade. No such complainant was able to be identified.

Research was conducted to attempt to identify a roster or list of altar servers while Bennett was assigned to St. John De La Salle Parish, as [REDACTED] stated he was an altar boy there. No records of altar servers during that time could be uncovered and parish bulletins from that era did not include a roster or listing.

LIMITED BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

As of July 1, 2010

SUBJECT IDENTIFIERS

Name:

Current Address:

Current or Most Recent Phone:

Date of Birth:

SSN:

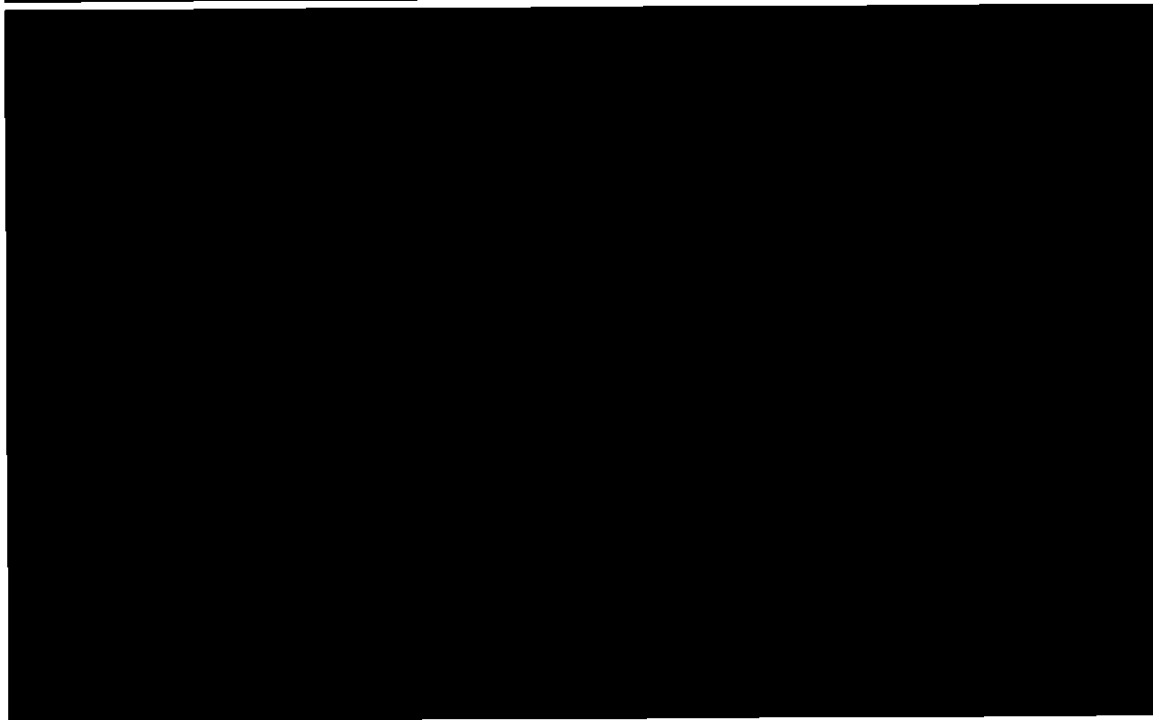
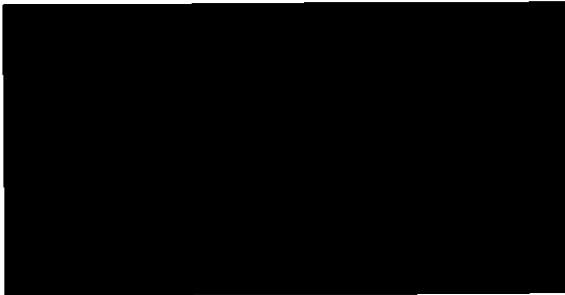
Email Address:



issued in Illinois between 1972 and 1973

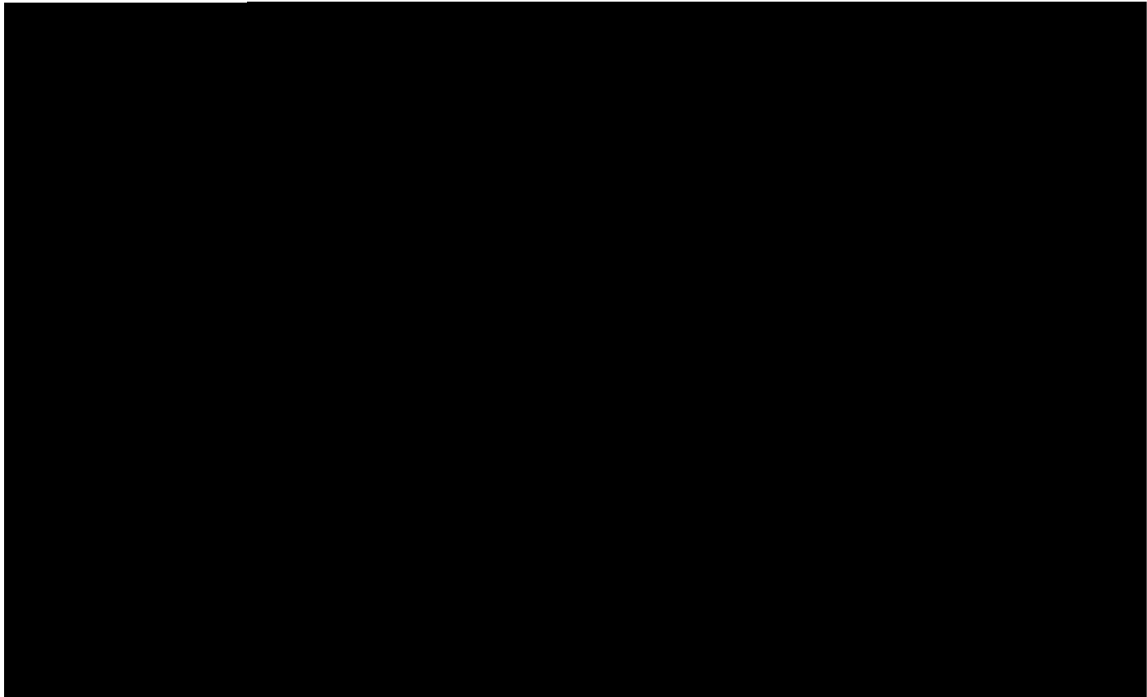
None identified

ASSOCIATED ADDRESSES





CIVIL FILINGS HISTORY



NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

A search of sex offender public registries indicates the subject is not registered as a national or state sex offender.

MISCELLANEOUS

No additional relevant information was identified.

KEY FINDINGS

As a result of our investigation into PFR-170, the following key findings were made:

- [REDACTED] gave an accurate description of the entrance to the basement of St. John De La Salle rectory from the garage. [REDACTED] also accurately described the rectory entrance from the kitchen. Photographs taken by Investigator Evans during his site visit depict these entrances to the St. John De La Salle rectory.
- [REDACTED] stated that he went to a separate room in the basement of the St. John De La Salle rectory with Bennett and the room had a couch, recliner and television. In Fr. Kub's interview, he recalls that the "mirror room" in the basement of the rectory was used for meetings, but also could have been used to entertain guests. Investigator Evans' site visit shows that this room, as well as the pastor's suite with the spiral staircase leading directly to the basement, could be accessed via the basement entrance from the garage area without anyone on the first floor of the rectory being aware of it.
- [REDACTED] said that he was an altar boy at St. John De La Salle Parish. This statement could not be verified or refuted because a review of the incomplete set of parish bulletins from that era did not list any altar servers. Additionally, no parish records were found that included altar server rosters.
- [REDACTED] stated that he was trained by Bennett to be an altar server. This statement was refuted by Fr. Kub's statement that one of the nuns from the parish school trained the altar servers. Additionally, [REDACTED] a long time teacher at St. John De La Salle School, could not recall who trained the altar servers before she was tasked with that responsibility about ten years ago.
- [REDACTED] stated that he watched pornographic movies with Bennett at St. John De La Salle rectory and Our Lady of the Ridge rectory via a reel-to-reel movie projector. This statement could not be verified or refuted. Although Fr. Kub stated the parish owned a reel-to-reel movie projector, he did not recall ever seeing Bennett operate it. [REDACTED] long-time parish secretary at Our Lady of the Ridge, stated that she did not know if Bennett owned a reel-to-reel movie projector, but stated that he was very knowledgeable when it came to operating audio-visual equipment.
- [REDACTED] stated that once, when he and Bennett were viewing a pornographic movie on a window shade in the second floor den of Our Lady of the Ridge rectory, a neighbor came to the rectory to complain. Although [REDACTED] description of this room is accurate, this statement cannot be verified or refuted because a canvass of the homes in the line of sight of the windows of the second floor den failed to identify this unknown neighbor and several people canvassed did not live in their home during Bennett's time at Our Lady of the Ridge. It is also possible that a neighbor, who may have been driving by on Ridgeland Avenue, saw the alleged pornographic images and stopped at the rectory to complain.
- While [REDACTED] statement of viewing pornographic movies with Bennett prior to their sexual encounters cannot be proven, it mirrors the same pattern of behavior described in the [REDACTED] case. Although the Review Board did deem this case "no reasonable

cause to suspect" in April 2003, it should be noted that [REDACTED] passed a polygraph examination.

- A questionable practice of Bennett was closing his bedroom door while entertaining young people. Fr. Kub stated that he personally talked to Bennett about it and that on a few occasions Monsignor Mollan knocked and immediately opened Bennett's bedroom door when Bennett had young people in his room. Fr. Kub also stated that he never observed anything untoward occur on any of these occasions and that there were always two or more young people in Bennett's room.
- [REDACTED] stated that Bennett was [REDACTED]. This statement was verified. [REDACTED] stated that she once met Bennett's parents. Although [REDACTED] could not recall their first names, she said that Mrs. Bennett's maiden name was [REDACTED] and that Mrs. Bennett was the sister of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] gave this statement without being prompted or asked. Fr. Kub was asked if Bennett was related to [REDACTED]. He stated that Bennett was [REDACTED].
- In an effort to locate the home of [REDACTED] and determine if it appears as described by [REDACTED] a public records search was conducted. This search revealed that [REDACTED] passed away in [REDACTED] 1996 and was buried from [REDACTED]. Being very acquainted with [REDACTED] Fr. Martin O'Donovan, Investigator Evans contacted him and learned that the funeral mass for [REDACTED] was held [REDACTED] 1996 and that the celebrant was Fr. [REDACTED] a priest of the Order of the Holy Cross and [REDACTED]. No concelebrant is listed in the parish record, but verification of whether Bennett did so could be obtained through an interview with Fr. [REDACTED]. Investigator Evans also learned that [REDACTED] was a registered parishioner who resided at [REDACTED].
- Investigator Evans travelled to [REDACTED] after verifying that this location was owned by [REDACTED] via a proprietary database. [REDACTED] described this location as being far from his home, located in the woods and with a lake in the back. This statement is verified because this location is over forty miles from the south side of Chicago and the home is in a heavily wooded area with a pond in the rear yard.
- [REDACTED] stated that Bennett went to [REDACTED]'s home to do some electrical work. This statement could not be verified, but is supported by one of Bennett's own entries on the Clergy Daily Log of April 7, 2010 that shows Bennett logging out at 3:30 PM to [REDACTED] "to do electric fixture installation."
- [REDACTED] stated that Bennett would take him out to eat on occasion. In [REDACTED] description of Bennett, she said Bennett was a generous person. When asked what she meant, [REDACTED] stated that Bennett would take young people of the parish, including her own son [REDACTED] to a local hamburger place named Pooch's for hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream, etc.
- [REDACTED] describes the vehicles driven by Bennett as "big cars." While it is not possible to determine what vehicles were registered to Bennett from 1966 through 1976, the last two vehicles registered to Bennett have been a 2000 four-door Buick Le Sabre and a 2003 four-

door Chevrolet Impala. These vehicles could be described as big cars and it is unlikely that a person of the stature of Bennett, 6 foot 2 inches and 230 lbs., would be driving anything but a big car.

- ██████████ stated that he and Bennett smoked marijuana and drank beer before engaging in sexual acts. No one interviewed recalls smelling marijuana in either rectory. Fr. Kub stated that he did not know that Bennett even drank alcohol.
- In the interviews of Fr. Knotek and Fr. Kub, both priests stated that they spoke with people who were not surprised about the allegations of sexual abuse against Bennett. However, none of these people came forward and identified themselves so that they could be interviewed.
- ██████████ states that he told ██████████ about the incidents of sexual abuse at the hands of Bennett when the Daniel McCormack matter became public. Unless permission is granted by ██████████ to interview ██████████ this statement cannot be verified or refuted.
- ██████████ states that he had a conversation with ██████████ ██████████ about not going with Bennett. ██████████ also states that ██████████ told him of an incident where Bennett gave ██████████ beer and asked if they wanted to watch some porn. Unless permission is granted by ██████████ to interview ██████████ these statements cannot be verified or refuted.
- ██████████ said that as a minor, he was sexually abused by Bennett on a number of occasions over a period of time. Joseph Bennett declined to offer any response to the allegation after having it made known to him on April 14, 2010. As of this writing, June 29, 2010, it is not known if Bennett will ever offer a response to this allegation.
- ██████████ described an incident in which Bennett took him to a lake with another priest. During this trip, the "other priest" and ██████████ went skinny dipping and this priest began wrestling with ██████████ in the water. The identity of the "other priest" could not be identified or interviewed and because of this, ██████████ account of this incident could not be verified.
- Records of Bennett's property ownership records during 1972 and 1974 could not be uncovered.

APPENDIX A – INTERVIEWS

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: FR. WAYNE SVIDA

Current Pastor, Our Lady of the Ridge Parish

Date: June 8, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett, [REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans interviewed Reverend Wayne Svida on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at about 11:30 AM at the Our Lady of the Ridge Parish Office, located at 10811 S Ridgeland Avenue, Chicago Ridge, Illinois. Investigator Evans explained to Fr. Svida the reason for the interview was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Fr. Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, from June, 1973 through January, 1976.

Fr. Svida is the current Pastor of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 18, 2002. Fr. Svida was installed as Pastor of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish in July of 2009.

Investigator Evans asked if Fr. Svida, since becoming pastor at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, had been approached by anyone with information or allegations regarding Fr. Joseph Bennett. Fr. Svida said no, he had not.

Fr. Svida also stated that he does not know nor has ever met Fr. Joseph Bennett.

When setting up the interview with Fr. Svida, Evans asked if he knew of any former or present parish staff members who were working at Our Lady of the Ridge when Bennett was assigned there. Fr. Svida stated that none of the current parish staff members were working at the parish during that time, however the former parish secretary, [REDACTED] was still a parishioner and lived nearby.

Fr. Svida then took Investigator Evans on a tour of the Our Lady of the Ridge Rectory.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: [REDACTED]

Former Parish Secretary, Our Lady of the Ridge Parish

Date: June 8, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett/[REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans interviewed [REDACTED] on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at approximately 12:00 PM at the Our Lady of the Ridge Parish Office which is located at 10811 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Chicago Ridge, Illinois. Investigator Evans explained to [REDACTED] the reason for the interview was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Reverend Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish which was from June 1973 through January 1976.

[REDACTED] was the parish secretary of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish from 1973 to 1985.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if, during her tenure at Our Lady of the Ridge whether she witnessed, was advised of or heard about any allegations of sexual abuse involving Fr. Joseph Bennett. She stated that she had not.

[REDACTED] stated that she cannot say anything bad about Joe Bennett. She also stated that she had four sons who were all altar boys and she never heard a bad word about Joe Bennett from any of them. [REDACTED] stated that when the stories of sexual abuse by Bennett appeared in the newspapers, she was stunned.

[REDACTED] described Bennett as generous and polite. When asked by Investigator Evans what she meant by generous, she stated that Bennett routinely took young people of the parish to a hamburger place called Pooch's. Pooch's was located nearby on the Southwest Highway and Route 83 and Bennett would buy the young people hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream, etc. She said that one of the kids who used to go with Bennett to Pooch's was her son [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] stated that Bennett came from a nice family and that she once met his parents. She could not recall Mr. or Mrs. Bennett's first names, but she did recall that Mrs. Bennett's maiden name was [REDACTED]. The reason was because Mrs. Bennett's [REDACTED]

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] who was responsible for training the altar boys at Our Lady of the Ridge. She stated that the nuns from the parish school trained them.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if she recalled an incident in which a neighbor came to the rectory to complain about pornographic images being projected onto a window shade in the rectory. [REDACTED] stated that no, she had no such recollection and that such an occurrence would be hard to forget.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if she knew what burning marijuana smelled like. [REDACTED] stated no, she did not. Investigator Evans then asked if she ever had occasion to smell some strange odor in the rectory while Bennett was there. She stated that she did not.

Investigator Evans asked her if Bennett would bring any young people upstairs in the rectory or if she had any knowledge of anyone staying overnight in the rectory. [REDACTED] stated that at the time Bennett was assigned there, it was common for priests to have visitors to the residence section (second floor) of the rectory. She said that most of the priests' friends were other clergy and that Monsignor Roche, Pastor at the time, allowed the younger priests to have their friends over. She stated that once she left for the day, she had no way of knowing if anyone, other than the assigned clergy, spent the night in the rectory.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if she knew the whereabouts of any other parish staff members that were at Our Lady of the Ridge when Bennett was assigned there. [REDACTED] said that all of the staff members from that era have passed away, including the three or four live-in cooks.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if she had knowledge of Bennett owning a reel-to-reel projector. She said that Bennett was very knowledgeable when it came to audio-visual equipment. In fact, when the parish put on its yearly fund raiser called Potpourri, Bennett would be the person who set up the sound system and help the production staff. But as far as Bennett owning a reel-to-reel projector, [REDACTED] said she had no knowledge of that.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if she would accompany him and Fr. Svida on a tour of the rectory. This was so she could identify which bedroom suite was occupied by Bennett and if there were any changes in the layout of the rectory since she left in 1985. [REDACTED] agreed.

Investigator Evans relayed to [REDACTED] that he appreciated her time and information.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: FR. MICHAEL KNOTEK

Current Pastor of St. John De La Salle Parish

Date: June 9, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett/ [REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans interviewed Fr. Michael Knotek on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at about 9:00 AM at the St. John De La Salle Rectory, located at 10205 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Chicago, Illinois. Investigator Evans explained to Fr. Knotek the reason for the interview was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to St. John De La Salle Parish as an Associate Pastor from May 1966 through June 1973.

Fr. Knotek is the current pastor of St. John De La Salle Parish and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1996. Fr. Knotek was named Pastor of St. John De La Salle Parish in December 2003. St. John De La Salle School has 226 students currently enrolled.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Knotek if he knows or ever met Fr. Joseph Bennett. Fr. Knotek stated that he never knew of or met Bennett until about three months before the Therese Albrecht matter hit the news. Bennett called Fr. Knotek saying that he heard Fr. Knotek had recently done some remodeling of the rectory and that Bennett wanted to stop by for some ideas. Fr. Knotek stated that he reluctantly agreed and Bennett stopped by armed with a camera. Fr. Knotek said that Bennett pulled open the drapes and drew up the blinds in what once was the sitting room of the Pastor's suite. Bennett then began taking photos.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Knotek if anyone ever approached him with information or allegations about Bennett since he became Pastor of St. John De La Salle. Fr. Knotek stated that after he announced the allegations against Bennett to the congregation at Mass, as is the Archdiocese current practice in these matters, he did not learn of any other allegations of sexual abuse against Joseph Bennett. However, Fr. Knotek said that a parishioner came forward and told him of an allegation of sexual abuse by a different priest from a different parish. Fr. Knotek passed along this information through channels to the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Fr. Knotek also said that once he told the congregation about the allegations against Bennett, the feedback he received was divided into thirds. One third said that Bennett could not possibly have done what was alleged and they would never

believe otherwise. Another third were indifferent about the matter. The remaining third made comments that Bennett had problems with alcohol, he was a womanizer and that he gave alcohol to young people in the rectory and they were not surprised by the allegations. Fr. Knotek was asked if he could identify any of the people who made such comments and contact them to see if they would agree to be interviewed. Fr. Knotek stated that he would try to do so and then contact Investigator Evans.

Fr. Knotek was asked if any of the current parish staff were working at the parish from 1966 through 1973. He stated that they were not and added that a long time parish secretary, [REDACTED] had just passed away in March of 2010.

Fr. Knotek was asked if he knew who trained the altar boys at St. John De La Salle during the Bennett era. Fr. Knotek stated that he did not know, but he knew of a teacher who might, [REDACTED] who recently retired. Fr. Knotek said he would ask [REDACTED] if she recalled who trained the altar boys and if she would agree to be interviewed.

Fr. Knotek was asked if he knew of any copies of altar boy lists or parish bulletins from 1966 through 1973. Fr. Knotek stated that he would have the staff look for any altar boy lists. After searching with a parish staff member, he furnished a binder that had copies of parish bulletins from August 1968 to August 1990. Fr. Knotek stated that he would look further for the bulletins from 1966 to 1968 and let Investigator Evans know the results of his search.

Evans examined the St. John De La Salle Parish bulletins and discovered that they were an incomplete set. There were only a few bulletins from the years that Bennett was assigned to St. John De La Salle as an Associate Pastor. All of the bulletins in the binder were a four-page pamphlet. The front page was used for parish contact information or an artistic rendition of the theme of the gospel message of the day. The next two pages contained information on meeting dates for parish organizations, a recap of parish finances, etc. The last page was advertisements. A list of altar servers did appear in a bulletin from February 1989, but no such list appeared from any of the issues of the Bennett era.

Fr. Knotek then took Investigator Evans on a tour of the St. John De La Salle Rectory.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: FR. MICHAEL WULSCH

Former Priest at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish

Date: June 9, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 - Bennett/ [REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans contacted Fr. Michael Wulsch via telephone to set up an appointment for an interview. At Fr. Wulsch's suggestion, this interview was conducted via telephone on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at approximately 9:30 AM. Investigator Evans explained to Fr. Wulsch the reason for the interview was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish as an Associate Pastor, from June 1973 through January 1976.

Fr. Wulsch was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1972 and first assignment was to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish from 1972 through 1978.

Fr. Wulsch is the current pastor of St. Peter Parish, located at 8116 Niles Center Road in Skokie, Illinois. He has been pastor at St. Peter since 2004.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Wulsch if he ever had witnessed, was advised of or heard about any sexual abuse involving Fr. Joseph Bennett while they were both assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. Fr. Wulsch stated that he had not.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Wulsch if he ever saw Bennett with young people at the Our Lady of the Ridge Parish rectory. He stated he had not.

Fr. Wulsch was asked if he ever saw Bennett give alcohol to anyone underage. He said that he had not.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Wulsch if he knew what burning marijuana smelled like. Fr. Wulsch said that he thinks so. Fr. Wulsch was then asked if he ever smelled marijuana in the rectory at Our Lady of the Ridge. Fr. Wulsch stated that no, he did not and that he does not recall any of the priests of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish being smokers during his tenure there.

Fr. Wulsch was asked if he recalled the names of the adults or young people who worked in the rectory during his time there. He stated that he remembered two older women working there. One during the day and the other at night, but he cannot recall their names. Investigator Evans asked Fr. Wulsch if he recalled one

of the women who worked in the rectory was named [REDACTED]. He said he remembered her to be [REDACTED]. Fr. Wulsch stated that he has occasionally gotten cards from [REDACTED] over the years. He described her as a very thoughtful person.

Fr. Wulsch also stated that it wasn't until after the other woman retired that young people began working at the Our Lady of the Ridge Rectory. He estimated this to be sometime around 1975, but that he could not recall the names of the young people who worked in the rectory.

Investigator Evans thanked Fr. Wulsch for his time and concluded the interview.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: FR. WILLIAM DEVINE

Former Associate Pastor at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish

Date: June 9, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett/ [REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans interviewed Fr. William Devine on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at about 1:30 PM at 11141 Cottonwood Drive, Palos Hills, Illinois. Investigator Evans explained to Fr. Devine the reason for the interview was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish as an Associate Pastor, from June 1973 through January 1976.

Fr. Devine is 88 years old and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1948. He was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish from 1968 through 1973.

Fr. Devine was asked if he remembered Fr. Joseph Bennett, as they were both assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. Fr. Devine stated that in 1973, he was in transition from being an Associate Pastor at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish to being the first pastor of a new parish opened in Tinley Park, Illinois, St. Julie Billiart Parish, that is now located at 7399 W 159th Street.

Fr. Devine said that from July 1973 until St. Julie Billiart Parish opened, he spent very little time at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish because of his duties in opening St. Julie Billiart. Consequently, Fr. Devine stated that he had very limited contact with Bennett.

Fr. Devine stated that he has not seen Bennett since he (Fr. Devine) left Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. Fr. Devine also said that typically priests only socialize with members of their ordination class and that it is "rare to do otherwise."

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Devine if he recalled the names of the adults or young people who worked in the rectory during his time there. Fr. Devine stated that he only remembered adult women working there and that he cannot recall their names.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Devine if he ever had witnessed, was advised of or heard about any sexual abuse involving Fr. Joseph Bennett while they both were assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. Fr. Devine stated that he had not heard

anything and that no one has mentioned anything to him regarding allegations against Bennett since Fr. Devine left Our Lady of the Ridge Parish.

Fr. Devine was asked if he saw young people in the company of Bennett at Our Lady of the Ridge rectory. He stated that he had not.

Fr. Devine was asked if he knew what burning marijuana smelled like. Fr. Devine said that no, he does not and that he always had a poor sense of smell.

Investigator Evans thanked Fr. Devine for his time and concluded the interview.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: FR. MARTIN O'DONOVAN

Current Pastor of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish

Date: June 21, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett/[REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans contacted Fr. Martin O'Donovan via telephone on Monday, June 21, 2010 at about 10:10 AM. Fr. O'Donovan is the current pastor of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish located at 191 Linden Street, Winnetka, Illinois. Investigator Evans explained to Fr. O'Donovan he was gathering information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to St. John De La Salle Parish as an Associate Pastor, from May 1966 through June 1973, as well as when Bennett was assigned as Associate Pastor at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, from June 1973 through January 1976.

Investigator Evans explained to Fr. O'Donovan that he was attempting to verify information about the late [REDACTED]. Investigator Evans told Fr. O'Donovan that he was trying to determine if [REDACTED] was buried from [REDACTED] on or about [REDACTED] 1996, and if [REDACTED] was a registered parishioner of the church. Evans also asked if any parish staff member might know if Bennett was related to [REDACTED]. Fr. O'Donovan told Investigator Evans that he would attempt to find these answers and call back with results.

A short time later, Fr. O'Donovan returned Investigator Evans' phone call and said that a funeral mass was held for [REDACTED] at Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish on [REDACTED] 1996. When asked, Fr. O'Donovan stated that the celebrant of the mass was Fr. [REDACTED]. Fr. O'Donovan stated that Fr. [REDACTED] is a priest of the Order of the Holy Cross.

Investigator Evans asked if this mass was concelebrated with any other priest(s). Fr. O'Donovan stated that the parish record only shows one celebrant (Fr. [REDACTED]).

Fr. O'Donovan was asked if any of the current parish staff of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish worked was on staff at the parish from 1966 through 1976 and might know if Bennett was related to [REDACTED]. Fr. O'Donovan stated no, no parish staff member has been there that long and no one knew of a family relationship between Bennett and [REDACTED].

Fr. O'Donovan did state that [REDACTED] was a registered parishioner of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Church and that he listed his address as [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Investigator Evans thanked Fr. O'Donovan for his time and for the information he gathered.

MEMORANDUM OF FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW: [REDACTED]

Former Parish Secretary, Our Lady of the Ridge Parish

Date: June 23, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 - Bennett, [REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

In light of the statement by Fr. Michael Wulsch that young people worked in the rectory at Our Lady of the Ridge Rectory beginning in about 1975 (when one of the staff members retired), Investigator Evans re-contacted [REDACTED] former parish secretary. Investigator Evans conducted a follow-up interview of [REDACTED] on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at about 12:20 PM via telephone. Investigator Evans reminded [REDACTED] of the reason for the follow-up was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish.

Investigator Evans reiterated to [REDACTED] what Fr. Michael Wulsch said about young people working in the rectory beginning in about 1975. Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if this was her recollection as well. After thinking about it for awhile, she said once one of the original parish staff members, [REDACTED] retired, young girls would work on Sundays in the rectory from about 3 PM to 8 PM answering the telephone and doing other clerical tasks.

Investigator Evans asked if only girls worked this job or if boys did as well. [REDACTED] said that only girls were employed and they ranged in age from 8th grade through high school.

[REDACTED] said that although she does not remember the names of any of the other girls who worked in the rectory on Sunday, her daughter, [REDACTED] was employed in this position. Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if she would contact her daughter and ask her to be interviewed. [REDACTED] said she would ask her daughter and then re-contact Investigator Evans.

[REDACTED] re-contacted Investigator Evans on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at about 3:20 PM and said that her daughter, [REDACTED] agreed to be interviewed via telephone on Thursday, June 24, 2010.

Investigator Evans thanked [REDACTED] for her time and concluded the interview.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: FR. FRANCIS KUB

Formerly Assigned at St. John De La Salle Parish

Date: June 23, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett/ [REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans traveled to St. Simon the Apostle Parish, located at 5157 S. Californio Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, to interview Fr. Francis Kub on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at approximately 2 PM. Investigator Evans explained to Fr. Kub the reason for the interview was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to St. John De La Salle Parish.

Fr. Kub is 70 years old and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on April 29, 1965. He was assigned to St. John De La Salle Parish from June 4, 1965 through December 26, 1968.

Fr. Kub is the current Pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Parish and has been in that position since January 1, 1988.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Kub if he ever had witnessed, was advised of or heard about any sexual abuse involving Fr. Joseph Bennett while they both were assigned to St. John De La Salle Parish. Fr. Kub stated no, he had not.

Fr. Kub was asked if anyone made comments to him regarding allegations of sexual abuse against Bennett after the allegations became public. Fr. Kub stated that some people made statements to the effect that they were not surprised. When asked to identify these people, Fr. Kub declined to do so.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Kub if he ever saw Bennett with young people at the St. John De La Salle rectory. Fr. Kub stated yes. On several occasions he saw young people hanging around in Bennett's bedroom suite and that when Bennett closed the door, Fr. Kub told Bennett to leave the door open. Bennett told Fr. Kub that he thought the noise might disturb Fr. Kub and that is why he shut the door. Fr. Kub said that he never saw only one person in Bennett's room, that there always were two or more young people.

Fr. Kub was asked if he ever saw Bennett give alcohol to anyone under age. He said no, that he did not even know if Bennett drank.

Investigator Evans asked Fr. Kub if he knew what burning marijuana smelled like. Fr. Kub said yes he did. Fr. Kub was then asked if he ever smelled marijuana in the rectory at St. John De La Salle. Fr. Kub stated no, he never smelled it there.

Fr. Kub was asked if he recalled the names of the adults or young people who worked in the St. John De La Salle rectory during his time there. Fr. Kub said that [REDACTED] was the live-in house keeper and cook. Fr. Kub described [REDACTED] as running a tight ship: she rarely had any visitors and would not tolerate any "horse play" by anybody visiting the rectory. Fr. Kub stated that [REDACTED] has been deceased for some years. Fr. Kub stated that [REDACTED] was the parish secretary for quite some time but that she just recently passed away. Fr. Kub also identified a maintenance man by the name of [REDACTED] who has also passed away. Fr. Kub said he does not recall any young people working in the rectory during his tenure at the parish. He said [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were the two people who ran the rectory without much help from anyone else.

Fr. Kub was asked if he recalled Bennett owning or operating a reel-to-reel movie projector. He stated that the parish owned one but that he does not recall Bennett ever owning or seeing him operate a reel-to-reel movie projector.

Fr. Kub was asked if the priests at St. John De La Salle Parish were allowed to have visitors in the rectory. He stated that such policy depended on who the Pastor was at the time. Fr. Kub said that Monsignor John Murphy, Pastor at St. John De La Salle from the founding of the parish in 1948 through October 1967, allowed the priests to have visitors to an extent, but demanded that their bedroom suite door remained open. Fr. Kub said that he was Parish Administrator for four months after Monsignor Murphy left and Monsignor Ralph Mollan then became Pastor on February 1, 1968. Monsignor Mollan's policy was that he also allowed visitors in the rectory but if a bedroom suite door was closed, Monsignor Mollan would knock on it and immediately open it. Fr. Kub stated that this happened a few times when Bennett had young people in his bedroom suite but as far as he knew, nothing untoward was ever observed.

Fr. Kub was asked what room was generally used in the St. John De La Salle rectory when the priests would entertain guests. He said visitors would be allowed to visit in the priests' bedroom suites. Fr. Kub was asked if any other room in the St. John De La Salle rectory could be used to entertain guests. He stated that there was a room in the basement known as "the mirror room" that was used for meetings. He said this room ran the length of the rectory addition along 102nd Street under the bedroom suites of the associate priests and under the sitting room of the Pastor's suite. Fr. Kub said that this room could possibly be used to entertain

guests, but he does not recall it ever being used in such a way. It should be noted that the room directly below the Pastor's suite was observed by Investigator Evans during the site visit to have mirrors along the east wall that now has a door leading to a larger room with tables and chairs that is currently used to hold meetings.

Fr. Kub was asked who trained the altar servers at St. John De La Salle Parish while he was there. He relayed that one of the nuns from the parish school was charged with that responsibility. He said he does not recall her name, but that the nuns were from the Sisters of Notre Dame order.

Fr. Kub was asked if he knew who scheduled the altar servers for the various liturgies and if a list of altar servers was kept by someone. He responded that it was the nun in charge of the altar servers who did the scheduling. And that the schedule would be posted in the sacristy on the side of a cabinet. As far as knowing if a list of servers was kept, Fr. Kub stated that he thought one of the nuns kept such a list.

Fr. Kub was asked to identify the people who occupied each of the bedroom suites at St. John De La Salle rectory when he was assigned there with Bennett. Fr. Kub said that Bennett occupied the bedroom suite that ran along 102nd Street. This bedroom suite would be north of the common hallway that runs west to east, or front to back of the addition to the rectory. Fr. Kub stated that he had the bedroom suite directly across the hall from Bennett. This bedroom suite was south of the common hallway and looked out onto the space between the original rectory and the addition. Fr. Kub said the housekeeper and cook, [REDACTED], occupied a bedroom suite in the original rectory. Another bedroom suite located next to [REDACTED]'s was used as a guest bedroom suite.

Fr. Kub was asked if he recalled anyone else staying overnight in the rectory while Bennett was assigned there. He said it was rare that anyone stayed overnight at the rectory and that if they did, they were priests. Fr. Kub cited the example of Monsignor Mollan's brother, who was also a priest, would come and visit from [REDACTED] where he was assigned.

Fr. Kub was asked if he recalled an entrance to the basement that went directly from the pastor's suite down to the basement. Fr. Kub stated that he does not recall such an entrance being there during his time at the parish.

Fr. Kub was asked if Bennett was related to [REDACTED] Fr. Kub said that Bennett was [REDACTED]

Fr. Kub was asked if he knew where [REDACTED] lived. He said he knew that Bennett's family was from St. Barnabas Parish in Beverly (Chicago) but that he did not know where [REDACTED] lived.

Fr. Kub was asked if he knew if [REDACTED] owned a summer home. He stated that no, he did not know.

Fr. Kub stated that even though from time to time he had to remind Bennett to keep his door open when he had young people in his room, that his personal feeling is that Joe Bennett did nothing wrong during the time they both were assigned to St. John De La Salle Parish.

Fr. Kub also stated that the other allegation against Joe Bennett from St. John De La Salle involving a young girl, in his estimation, did not quite add up. He said that the time frame of the allegations did not match with his recollection of things while he was at the parish.

Regardless of this, Fr. Kub said that some people, both clergy and lay people from the Archdiocese of Chicago, blame him (Fr. Kub) for Fr. Joe Bennett's current status as a priest.

Investigator Evans thanked Fr. Kub for his time and concluded the interview.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: [REDACTED]

Former Employee at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish Rectory

Date: June 24, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 - Bennett/[REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans interviewed [REDACTED] on Thursday, June 24, 2010 via telephone at approximately 4:20 PM. Investigator Evans explained to [REDACTED] the reason for the interview was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, from June 1973 through January 1976.

[REDACTED] is the daughter of [REDACTED] the former parish secretary of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. [REDACTED] worked in the parish office of Our Lady of the Ridge on Sundays from late 1971 through 1974. [REDACTED] graduated from Our Lady of the Ridge School in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that on Sundays, her family would attend 8:30 mass and her mother, along with other members of the parish, would then help count the money from the weekend collection. Because the women who normally worked in the parish office were busy, [REDACTED] said her duties were to answer the telephone or door and log in the collection envelopes by hand because their system was not yet automated.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] what hours she worked. She stated that she would get to the parish office sometime between 1:30 and 2:00 PM and would usually work until about 7:00 PM.

[REDACTED] said she worked Sunday afternoons at the parish office because Monsignor Roche ran a tight ship and he always wanted someone to be there to answer the telephone or the door.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if she ever witnessed, was advised of or heard about any allegations of sexual abuse involving Joseph Bennett while she worked at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. She stated no, never.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] about the procedure when one of the priests had a visitor come to the rectory. She said that if a priest was expecting a visitor, he would usually tell her the name of the party that he was expecting. The priest

would then leave instructions as to what to do when the expected party arrived (e.g., send them upstairs, have them wait in the office, etc.).

█ was asked if Bennett had any visitors when she was working in the rectory. █ stated that she never recalled Bennett having any visitors when she worked in the parish office.

She was asked if other young people worked in the parish office on Sunday afternoons. █ said that she always worked alone, but if for some reason she was unable to do so, there were a couple of other girls who would fill in for her. She was asked if she could recall the names of the girls who filled in for her, but she could only remember one girl in particular, █ Ann said that █ is a lifelong friend and she expected to see her this coming weekend. Investigator Evans gave █ his telephone number and asked if she could have █ contact him. She said that she would.

Investigator Evans asked █ about her recollection of Bennett during his tenure at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. █ said that Bennett was always nice to her and that he would come into the parish office to say hello and ask how she was doing in school. She stated that Bennett was professional, kind and thoughtful and said Bennett was a “gentle sort of person.”

█ stated that when the stories of sexual abuse by Bennett appeared in the newspapers, she was stunned.

Investigator Evans thanked █ for her time and concluded the interview.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: FR. MICHAEL KNOTEK

Current Pastor of St. John De La Salle Parish

Date: June 25, 2010

Reference: PFR 170, Bennett/[REDACTED]

From: Investigator Robert Evans

Investigator Evans was contacted by Fr. Michael Knotek on Friday, June 25, 2010 at about 11:35 AM via telephone.

As previously reported, Fr. Knotek, the current Pastor of St. John De La Salle Parish, stated he was going to contact [REDACTED] a long time teacher at St. John De La Salle School who recently retired.

Fr. Knotek was going to find out if [REDACTED] knew about the training of altar servers at St. John De La Salle Parish and if she knew the whereabouts of any altar server rosters from when Joseph Bennett was assigned as an Associate Pastor.

Fr. Knotek stated that [REDACTED] trained the altar servers for St. John De La Salle Parish, but only for about the past ten years. Fr. Knotek said that [REDACTED] had no recollection of who trained the altar servers when Bennett was assigned there.

Fr. Knotek stated that [REDACTED] does not have or know the whereabouts of any altar server rosters. Fr. Knotek stated that searches conducted by him and his parish staff have also failed to locate any altar server rosters.

Fr. Knotek was going to speak with some long-time parishioners of St. John De La Salle Parish who previously told him that Bennett had problems with alcohol, was a womanizer, that he gave alcohol to young people in the rectory and that they were not surprised by the allegations of sexual abuse when they were made public.

Fr. Knotek stated that the woman who was most vocal about these impressions of Bennett has since passed away. Fr. Knotek did speak with several other parishioners who told him that they did not want to talk about it. Fr. Knotek did not divulge the identities of these individuals who wished to remain anonymous.

Investigator Evans thanked Fr. Knotek for his time and the information he gathered.

MEMORANDUM OF ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW: [REDACTED]

Former Employee at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish Rectory

Date: June 29, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 - Bennett/[REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans interviewed [REDACTED] on Thursday, June 22, 2010. [REDACTED] is the daughter of [REDACTED] the former parish secretary of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. [REDACTED] worked in the parish office of Our Lady of the Ridge on Sundays from late 1971 through sometime in 1974.

[REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] is a lifelong friend and she expected to see her sometime during the weekend of June 24-25, 2010. Investigator Evans gave [REDACTED] his telephone number and asked if she could have [REDACTED] contact him. [REDACTED] said that she would.

As of Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at about 6:30 PM, Investigator Evans has left a voicemail message on the cellular telephone of [REDACTED] and has not been contacted by either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW: [REDACTED]

Former Employee at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish Rectory

Date: June 30, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett/[REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans was contacted by [REDACTED] via telephone on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at about 4:30 PM. [REDACTED] is a lifelong friend of [REDACTED] daughter of [REDACTED] former parish secretary of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. During a previously reported interview, [REDACTED] named [REDACTED] as one of the young women who worked in the parish office. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to contact Investigator Evans regarding the period of time [REDACTED] worked in the parish office at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. Investigator Evans explained to [REDACTED] the reason for the interview was to gather information regarding allegations of sexual abuse made against Joseph Bennett during the time Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish.

[REDACTED] was asked if she recalled when she started working in the parish office and for how long. [REDACTED] stated that she had no idea when she started working there or for how long. She said that it was during the 1970s, when she was in high school.

[REDACTED] said that she believed that she and [REDACTED] would work in the parish office on alternate Sundays. She stated that her duties included answering the telephone and door and recording the Sunday donations in a log book.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] if she ever witnessed, was advised of or heard about any allegations of sexual abuse involving Fr. Joseph Bennett while she worked at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. She said no, she had not.

Investigator Evans asked [REDACTED] what the protocol was when one of the priests had a visitor come to the rectory. She said that she would page the priest on the intercom and await their instructions.

[REDACTED] was asked if Bennett had any visitors when she was working in the rectory. She stated that at some time he must have had a visitor, but no one in particular stands out.

██████████ was asked if other young people worked in the parish office on Sunday afternoons. She said that some other girls did on occasion, but she did not recall their names.

Investigator Evans asked ██████████ about her recollection of Bennett during the time she worked in the parish office. ██████████ said Bennett was pretty mellow. She added that Bennett was talkative and friendly.

██████████ was asked what she thought when the allegations of sexual abuse against Bennett become public. She responded that she found the allegations against Bennett hard to believe. She said she heard rumors about other priests having problems with alcohol and such, but that Bennett's name never came up in these discussions.

Investigator Evans thanked ██████████ for her time and concluded the interview.

APPENDIX B – SITE VISITS

MEMORANDUM OF SITE VISIT: OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE RECTORY

Date: June 8, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 - Bennett, [REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans traveled to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 and was given a tour by the current Pastor, Fr. Wayne Svida. A former parish secretary, [REDACTED] also accompanied Investigator Evans and Fr. Svida in order to identify the bedroom suite occupied by Fr. Joseph Bennett while he was assigned there and to point out any changes in the layout of the rectory.

The rectory is a two-story brick structure with a three-car, attached garage and no basement. The building is located at 10811 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Chicago Ridge, Illinois. There are three entrances to the building. The public entrance is located on the west side of the building, a rear entrance is located on the north side of the building (and accesses the parking lot) and what [REDACTED] describes as a "private entrance" on the south side of the building that opens to an area between the rectory and the school.

The west end of first floor houses the parish offices. A hallway running west to east down the middle of the structure divides the first floor. On the north side of this hallway is a door that accesses the three-car garage. On the south side of the hallway are two more offices and a bathroom. According to [REDACTED] this area was at one time a bedroom suite assigned to one of the parish priests.

At the east end of the first floor hallway is the kitchen and dining room. The kitchen is on the north of the hallway and the dining room is on the south. Just outside of the kitchen is a door leading to a parking lot located on the north side of the rectory.

There are two stairways that lead to the second floor. One is on the east end, or rear of the building just off the kitchen, and one is on the west end, or front of the building, near the parish offices.

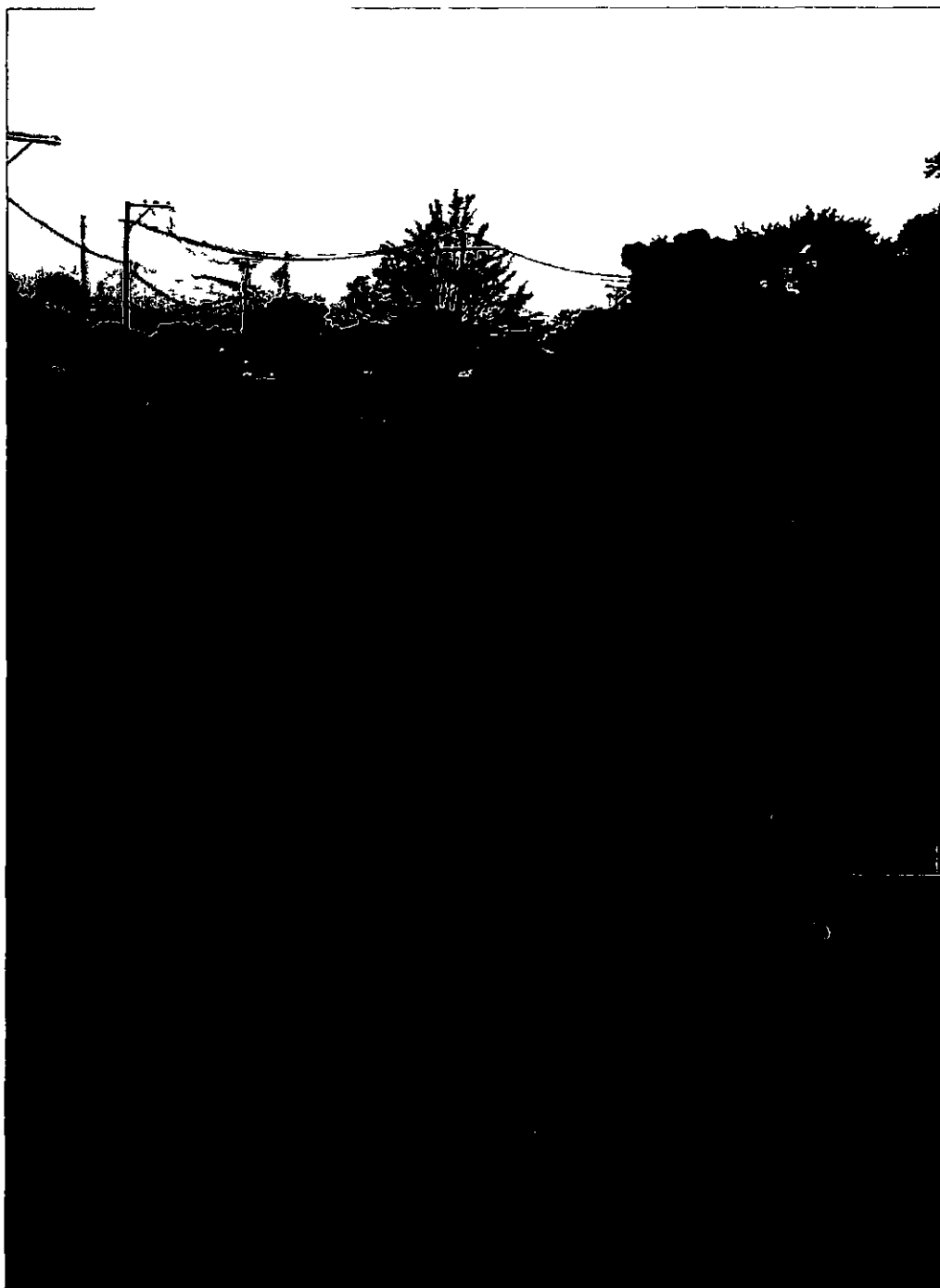
The second floor houses five bedroom suites and a large room that has a television, couches and chairs. This room is located on the south side of the hallway and has three windows facing south toward the school. A photograph depicting this view is attached.

Four of the bedroom suites consist of a bedroom, a sitting room and a shared bathroom. Two of these suites are located along the north side of a common hallway that runs along the center of the building from west to east. Two other bedroom suites are located at the east end of the common hallway. On the west end of second floor is the fifth bedroom suite described as the Pastor's suite by [REDACTED]. This bedroom suite also has a sitting room, a bedroom and a bathroom, but the rooms are larger than those of the other bedroom suites and the bathroom is not shared.

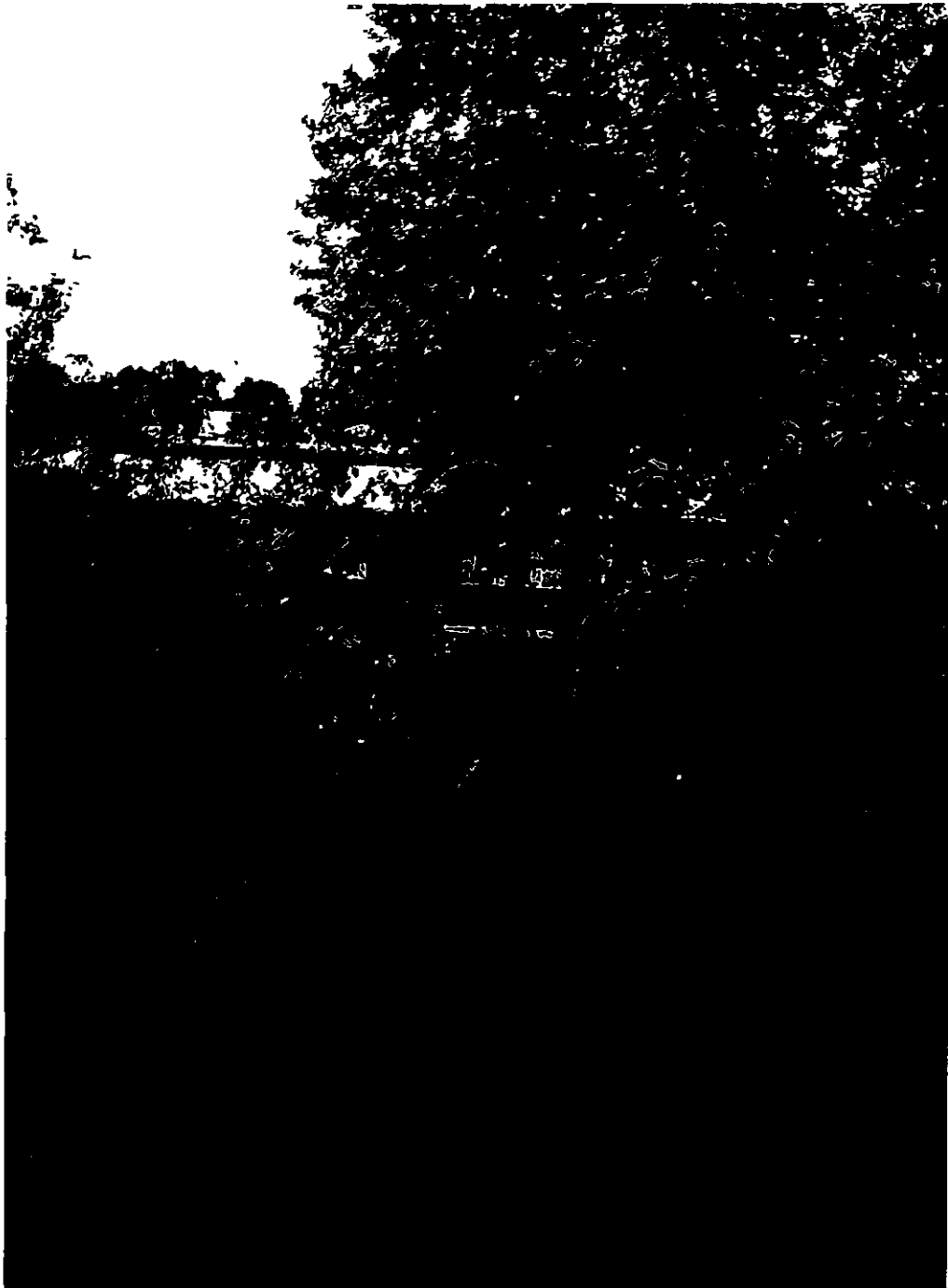
[REDACTED] identified the priest(s) who occupied each bedroom suite during her tenure at Our Lady of the Ridge as the tour progressed. She identified the bedroom suite immediately east of the Pastor's suite as the one occupied by Bennett when he was assigned there. The windows to this suite face north and look out over the parking lot toward the Glenn Maker American Legion Post #1160, located at 10739 S. Ridgeland Avenue. A photograph depicting this view is attached.

Vertical blinds can be found throughout the rectory, not shades. Fr. Svida stated that when he became pastor he had these blinds installed. When asked about the window treatments from years ago, [REDACTED] stated that there were draperies on all the windows that pulled shut. When asked whether there were ever shades on the windows, [REDACTED] said that she does not specifically recall, but there could have been pull-down shades along with the draperies.

At the conclusion of the tour, Investigator Evans thanked Fr. Svida and [REDACTED] for their time.



View north along Ridgeland Avenue from Bennett's bedroom window at Our Lady of the Ridge rectory.



View south from the second floor TV room at Our Lady of Ridge rectory.

MEMORANDUM OF SITE VISIT: ST. JOHN DE LA SALLE PARISH RECTORY

Date: June 9, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett/

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans traveled to St. John De La Salle Parish on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 and was given a tour by the current Pastor, Fr. Michael Knotek.

The original rectory is a one-story brick structure with a basement, built in the late 1940s. Brick additions were built sometime in the 1950s. These additions more than double the living space of the original rectory. The additions form the shape of a left bracket ([) and tie into the original rectory at the west end, or front of the building and the east end, or rear of the building. There is about a three foot space between the buildings that is inaccessible from either building.

The west end of the addition is now the Pastor's office. This once was the Pastor's bedroom suite when Joseph Bennett returned to St. John De La Salle as Pastor in 1981.

Of the many bedroom suites that have since been converted to office space, Fr. Knotek did not know which bedroom suite Bennett occupied when he was assigned to St. John De La Salle as an Associate Pastor from May 1966 through June 1973.

There are three entrances to the buildings' first floor. The public entrance, located on the west side of the building off King Drive, a rear entrance that is located on the east side, or rear of the building where the kitchen is located and accesses the driveway leading to a one and a half car brick parking garage and the third first floor entrance is located on the north side of the building and was once used as the public entrance located off 102nd Street.

There are two outside entrances to the basement, one immediately below the former public entrance on 102nd Street and one immediately below the rear, or kitchen entrance from the driveway. Photographs are attached depicting these entrances.

No one now lives in the former rectory. Fr. Knotek said that this has been the case since he arrived at St. John De La Salle as Pastor in December 2003.

Upon entering the original rectory building via the public entrance, there are small offices located to the north and south of a hallway that serpentine through the first floor from the west to the east. These offices were once bedroom suites.

To the south of this hallway is a dining area and adjacent to the dining area is the kitchen. It should be noted that one of first floor entrances is located on the east wall of the kitchen. Below this entrance is one of the two basement entrances, as shown in the attached photos.

Several more offices that were formerly bedroom suites can be found along the east, or rear of the building. A hallway that runs north to south connects with the hallway from the public entrance. At the north end of this hallway is the former public entrance off of 102nd Street. Directly below this entrance is the other basement entrance, as portrayed in the attached photos.

There is another hallway running east to west, or back to front in the addition to the rectory. This now houses offices, but at one time there were two bedroom suites, one on the north and the other on the south of this common hallway. Each suite consisted of a bedroom, a sitting room and a private bath.

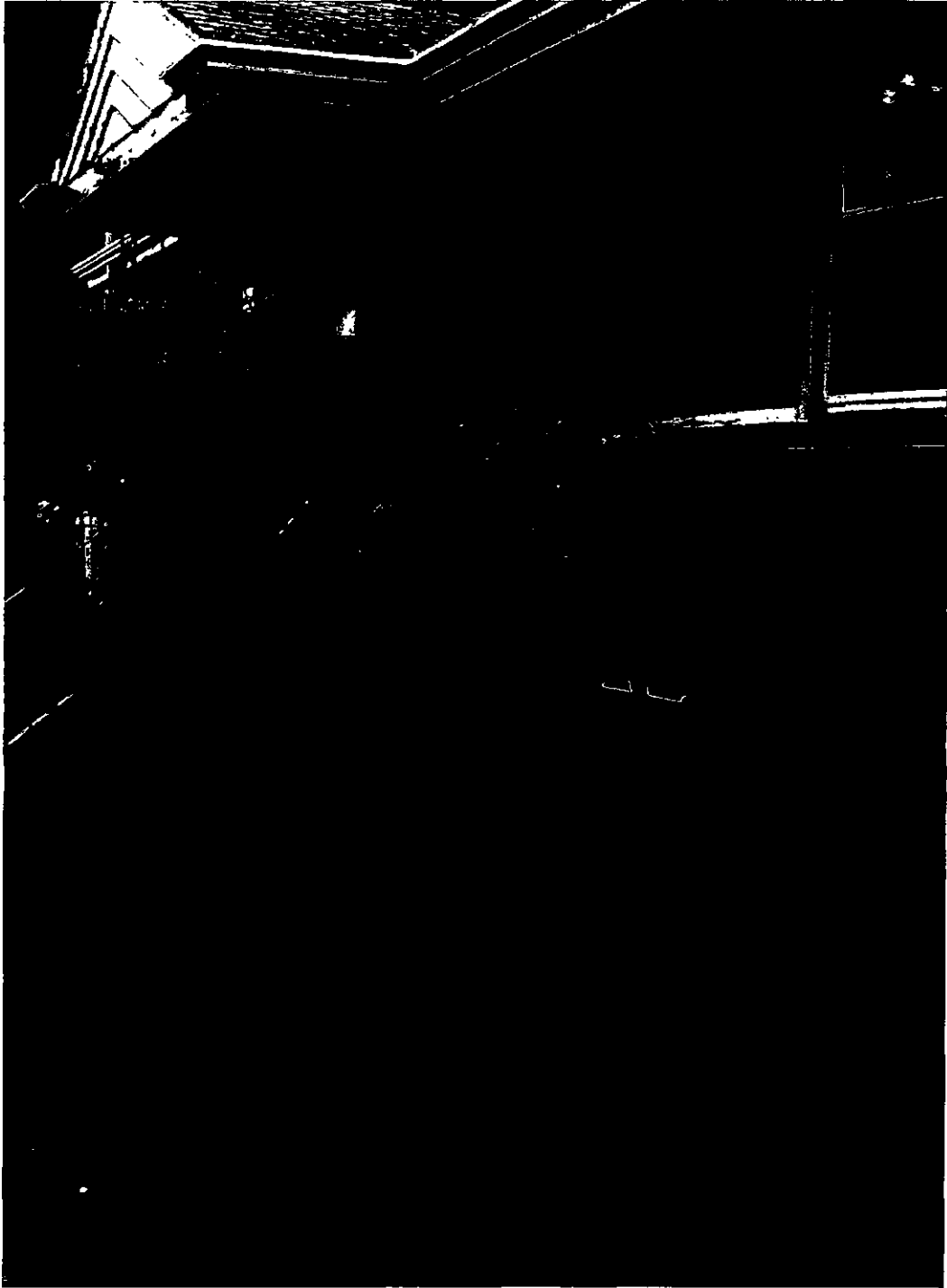
At the west end, or front of the addition is now the office of the Pastor. This once was the Pastor's bedroom suite that consisted of a large sitting room, a bedroom and a private bath. It should be noted that while viewing the pastor's suite, Fr. Knotek pointed out a unique feature. Fr. Knotek pulled a large bookcase away from the east wall, revealing a spiral staircase that leads to the basement. This basement access is from what once was the Pastor's sitting room to a room directly below that has glass block windows and is paneled. Photos of this staircase are attached.

It should also be noted that there are four ways to access the basement from the first floor. One near the northeast end of the building, off the north-south hallway in the rectory addition, one near the southeast end of the building off the kitchen in the original rectory building, another from the southwest of the original rectory building and the one from the spiral staircase in the pastor's sitting room. It is possible for someone to enter via the rear basement entrance off the driveway and get to the pastor's suite via the spiral staircase, undetected by any one on the first floor.

The basement has one large meeting room and several other rooms of various sizes that are now used mostly for storage. Most of the rooms in the basement are paneled and all windows are of the glass block variety.

According to Fr. Knotek there have been a few fires in the building over the years and that is why some of the areas appear newer than others.

Investigator Evans thanked Fr. Knotek for his time at the conclusion of his tour.



102nd Street entrance to first floor and basement at St. John de la Salle rectory.



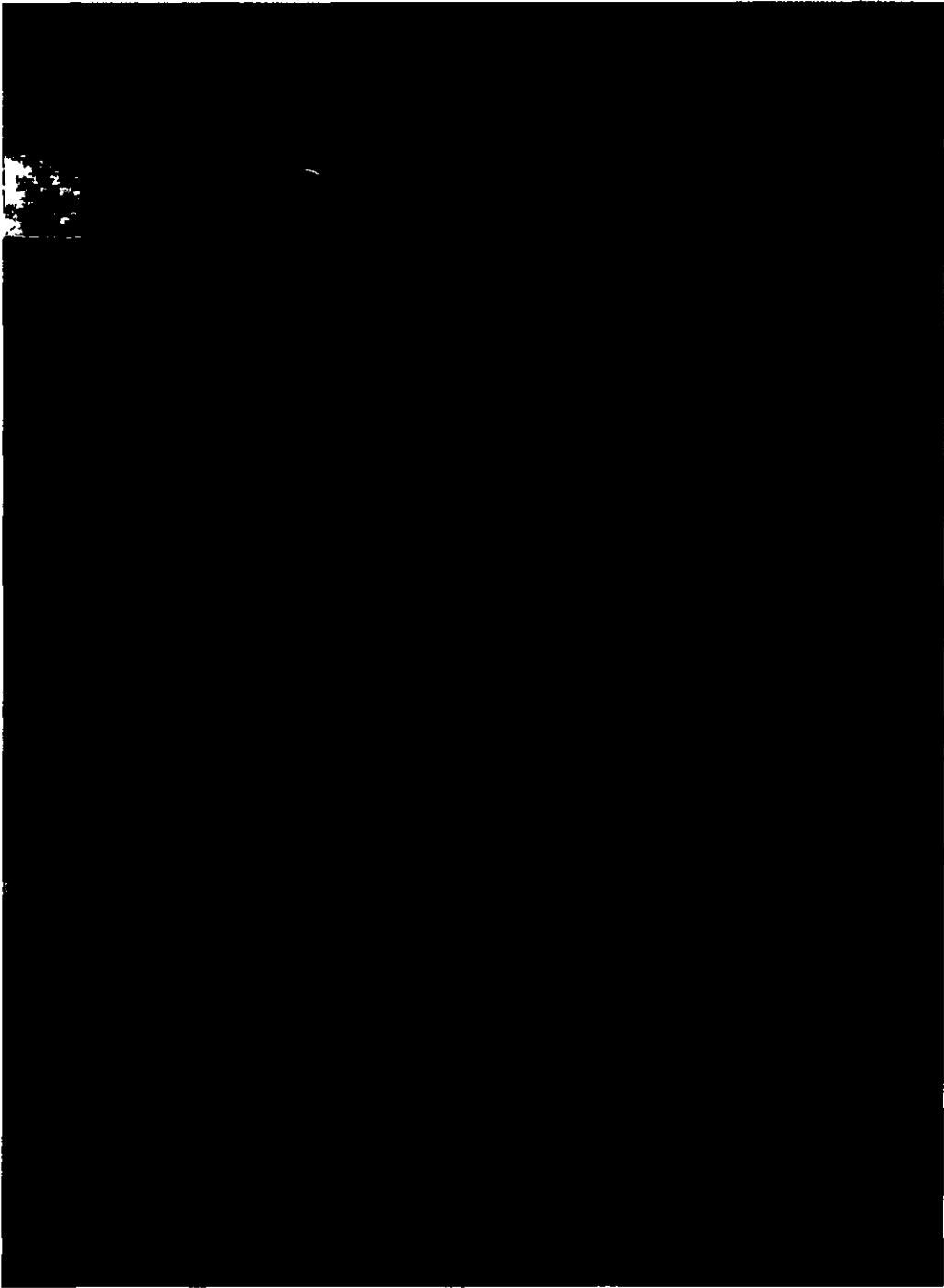
Rear entrances to kitchen on first floor and basement at St. John de la Salle rectory.



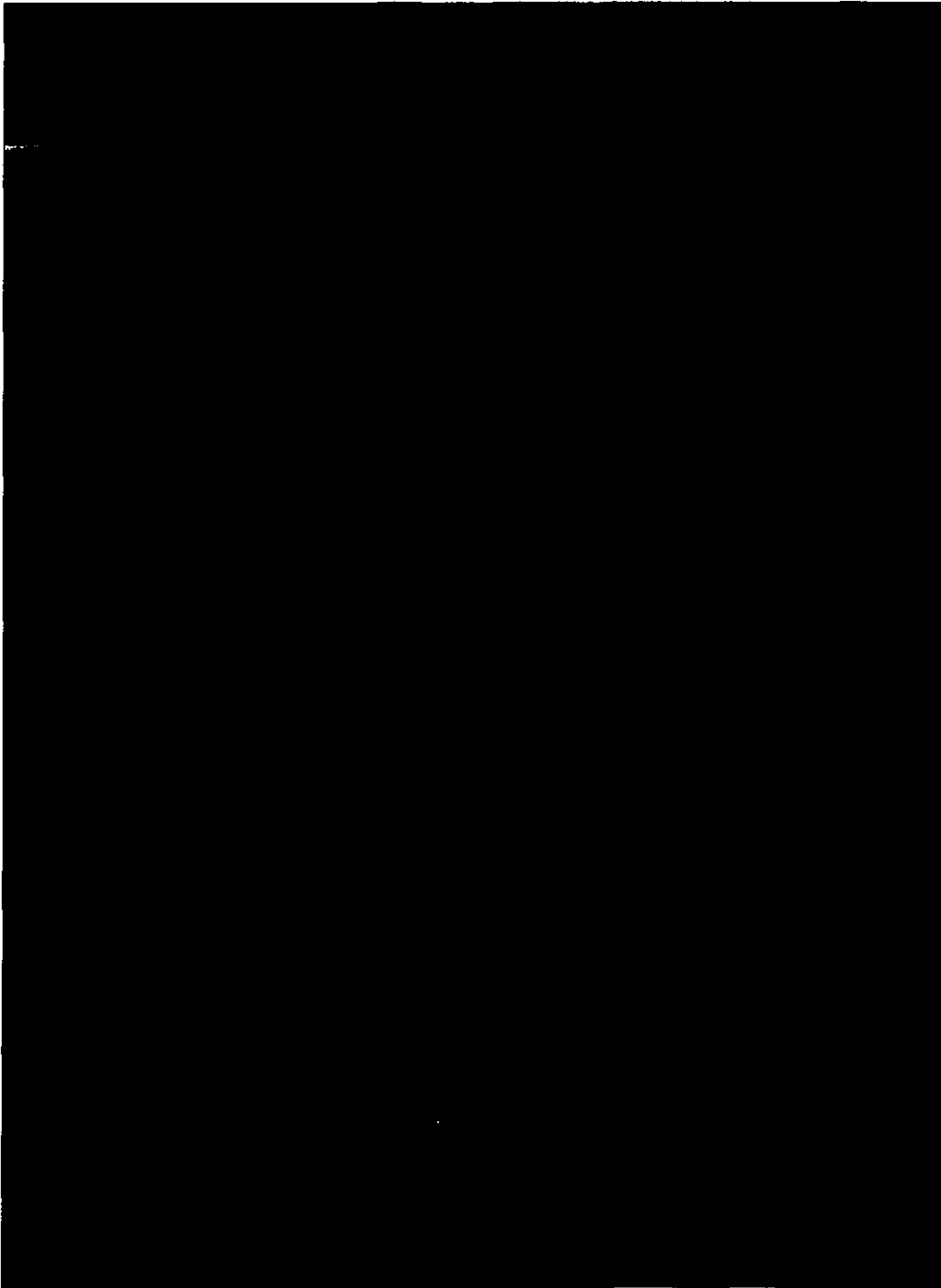
View from rear (kitchen) entrance toward driveway and garage at St John de la Salle rectory



Bookcase hiding spiral staircase to basement from pastor's suite at St. John de la Salle rectory.



Top of spiral staircase from pastor's suite to basement at St. John de la Salle rectory.



Bottom of spiral staircase leading from pastor's suite to basement at St. John de la Salle rectory.

MEMORANDUM SITE VISIT: [REDACTED]

Former Residence of the Late [REDACTED] **of Joseph Bennett**

Date: June 24, 2010

Reference: PFR 170, Bennett/[REDACTED]

From: Investigator Robert Evans

Investigator Evans travelled to [REDACTED] after learning that this location was the address the late [REDACTED] used when he was a registered parishioner of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish. Prior to travelling to the [REDACTED] address, Investigator Evans requested a check of a proprietary database for assessments, deeds, and mortgages that showed [REDACTED] to be the former owner of the property at [REDACTED] Cook County with an APN of [REDACTED]

This location was observed to be a large, single-family, two-story brick and stone residence on a large wooded lot. Investigator Evans took exterior photos of this residence and grounds. These photos are attached.

This property is now for sale by the real estate firm of Koenig & Strey. Additional information regarding this property can be found at the following URL:

[REDACTED]

Photographic images of this property from this website are also attached.

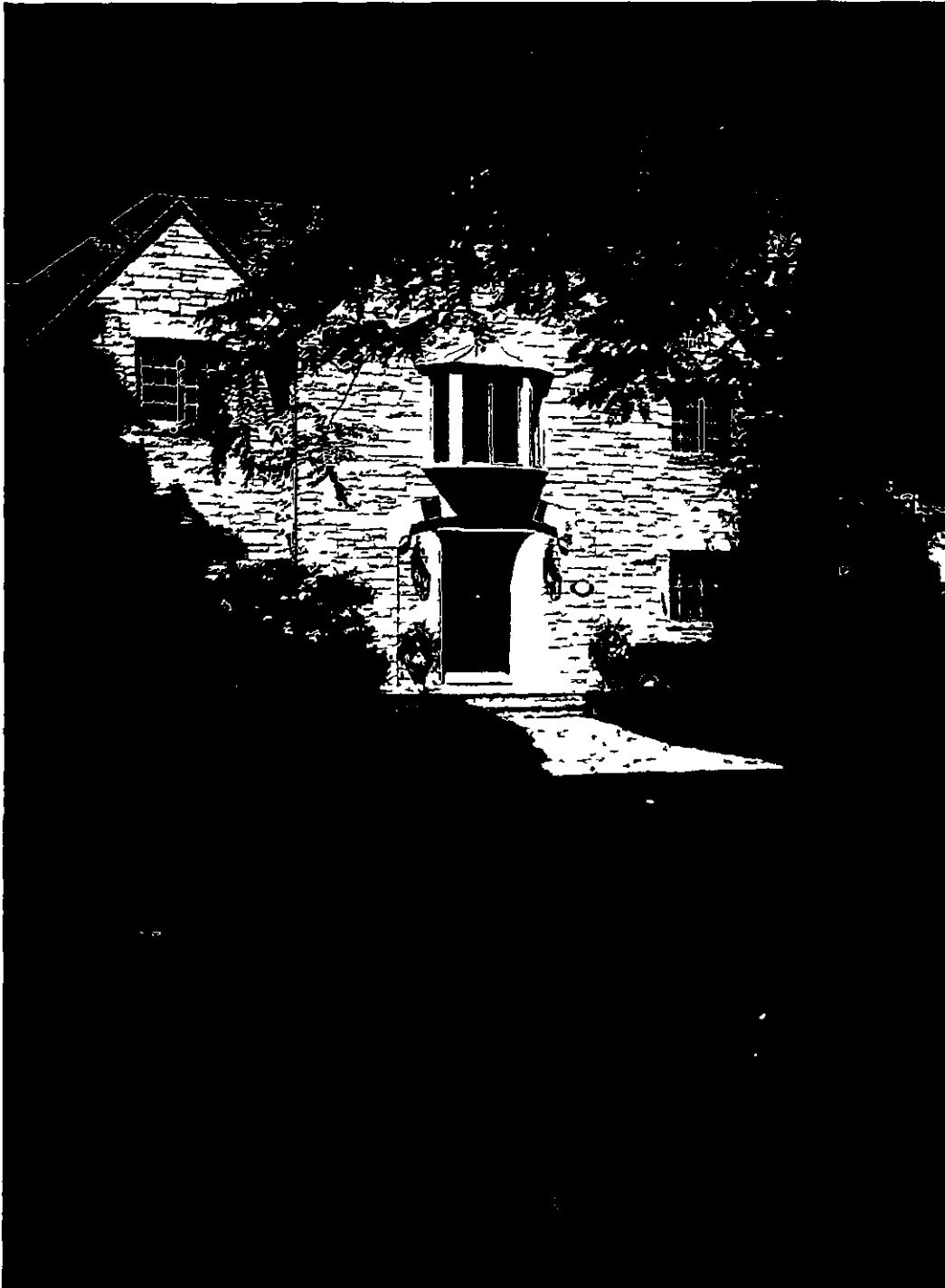


Photo of front view of [REDACTED]

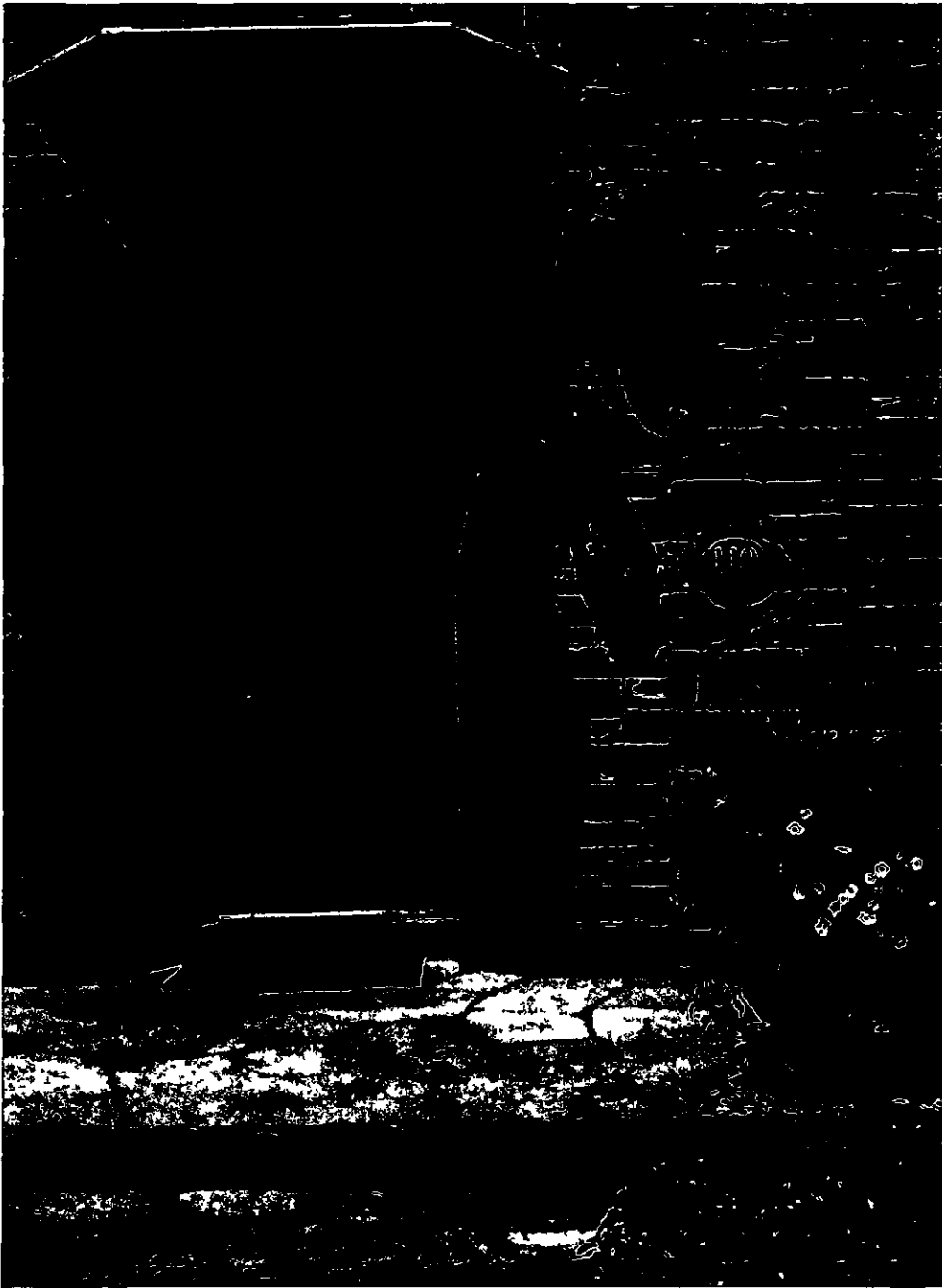


Photo of front entrance to [REDACTED]



Photo of real estate sign posted in front of [REDACTED]

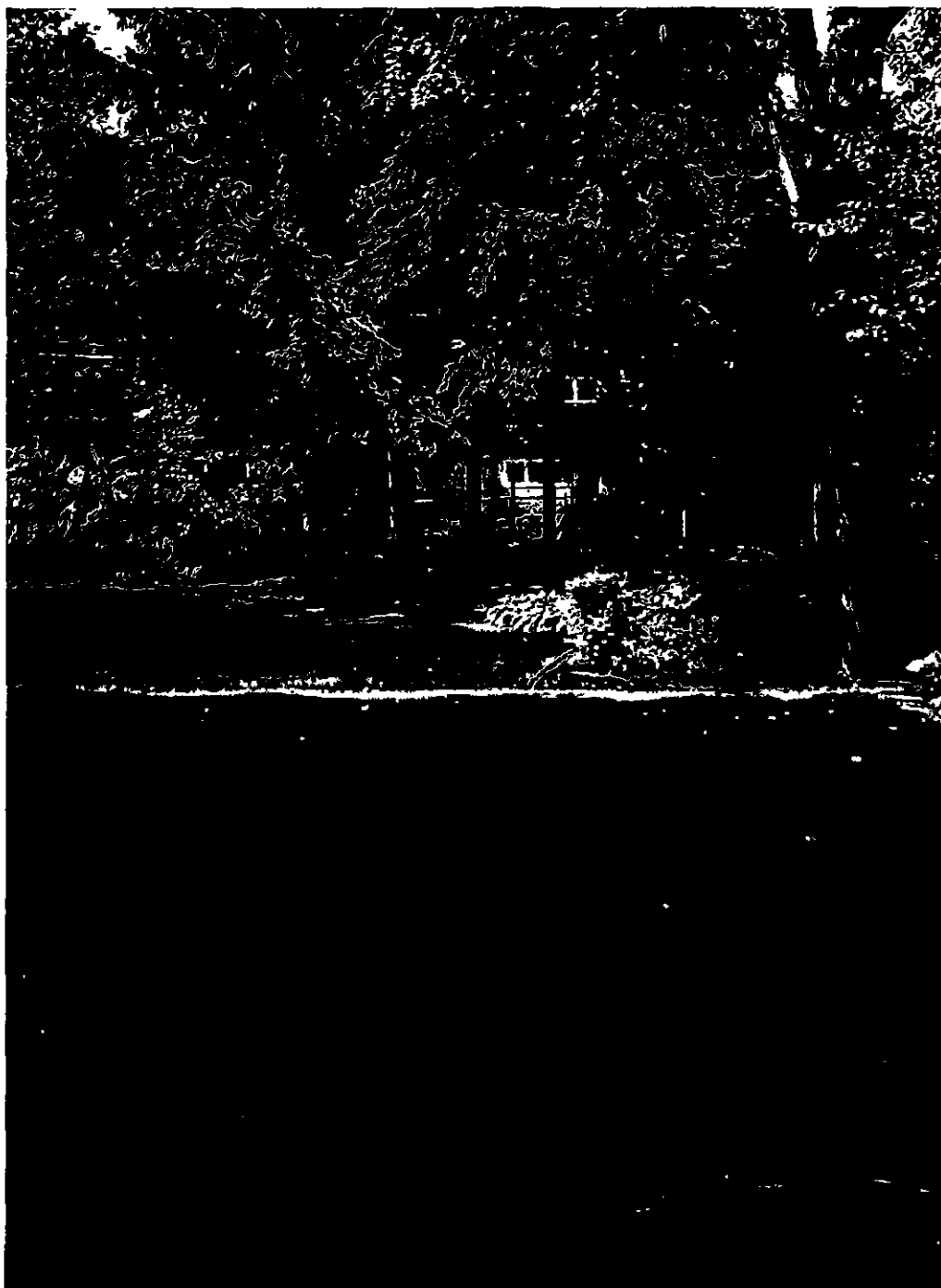


Photo of rear yard of [REDACTED] Photo taken from the driveway.

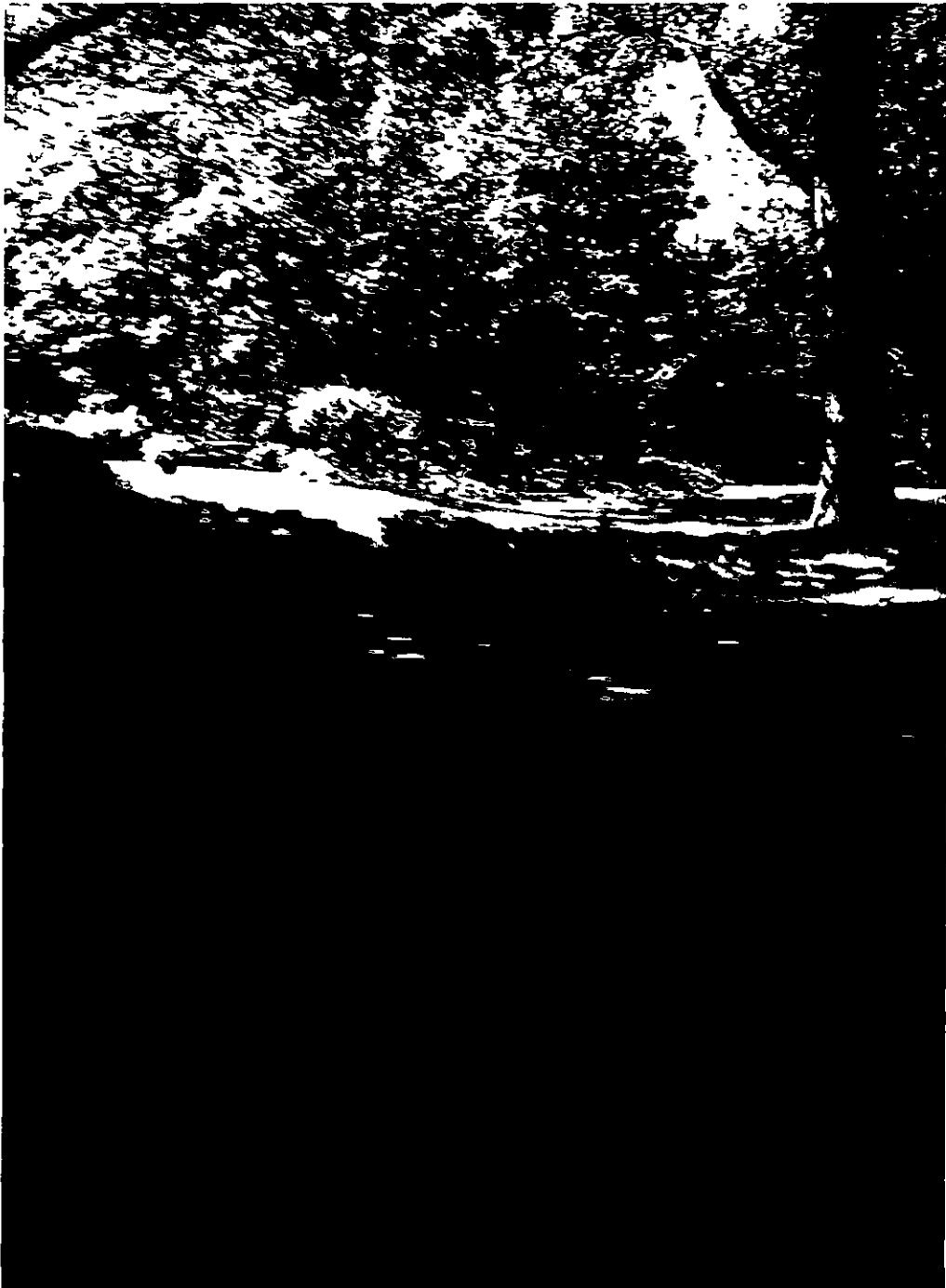


Photo of patio area with small pond and fountain at [REDACTED]
Photo taken from driveway.



Front view of [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] website.



Rear view of [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] website.



View of rear yard from patio with pond and fountain of [REDACTED]
from the [REDACTED] website.

APPENDIX C - RESEARCH

MEMORANDUM OF CANVASS: RESIDENCES NEIGHBORING OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE PARISH

Date: June 10, 2010

Reference: PFR-170 – Bennett/[REDACTED]

Investigator: Robert Evans

Investigator Evans conducted a canvass on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at about 5:30 PM along the line of sight from the windows of the bedroom suite of Fr. Joseph Bennett and the room described as a "den" on the second floor by accuser [REDACTED] while Bennett was assigned to Our Lady of the Ridge Parish. This canvass was conducted in response to the accusation by [REDACTED] that a pornographic movie was projected onto a window shade and a neighbor came to the rectory to complain.

The only possible homes that have a clear view of the described windows are along Ridgeland Avenue from 10750 to 10850 south. Photos of these views were taken from the windows described above and are attached. It should be noted that the trees and bushes depicted in these photos are as seen as of today, and not as they were in 1976.

It is also quite possible that a nearby resident driving by the rectory on Ridgeland Avenue saw the pornographic images and stopped to complain.

[REDACTED]
Investigator Evans interviewed Mr. [REDACTED] who stated that he has lived at this address since 1973 when he built an addition onto a home and opened his [REDACTED] business. Mr. [REDACTED] also lives on the property. He stated that he has no knowledge of any such complaint and aside from the Maday matter, the only other thing he ever heard about is that Fr. Len Dubi, a former Associate Pastor at Our Lady of the Ridge, was "a little too friendly" with some of the women of the parish. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that was why Fr. Dubi was removed from the parish.

[REDACTED]
Investigator Evans interviewed Mr. [REDACTED] who stated that he purchased the home in November 2009. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he did not know who lived there between 1973 and 1976.

[REDACTED]
Investigator Evans interviewed [REDACTED] who stated that she moved into the home in February 2004. [REDACTED] stated that she does not know who lived there between 1973 and 1976.

██ are all new homes that were constructed within the past two years. Prior to that time, these properties were vacant lots. This information was obtained from ██████████ of ██████████

██
Investigator Evans interviewed ██████████ who stated that they moved into their home in 1976. They stated that they do not know the whereabouts of the people whom they purchased their home from. The ██████s also stated that they have no knowledge of any complaint about pornographic images.

██
Investigator Evans interviewed ██████████ who stated that she has lived in her home since 1971. ██████████ stated that she had no knowledge of any such complaint. She also stated that ██████████ attended Our Lady of the Ridge School and that ██████████ worked in the rectory during the time Norbert Maday was assigned there. She said ██████████ had any adverse encounters with any of the priests of the parish.

Each person interviewed was thanked for their time and a business card was left with the instructions to contact Investigator Evans, should they have any information regarding this or any other investigation.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P O Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-534-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

May 19, 2010

Rev. Joseph Bennett
[REDACTED]

Dear Fr. Bennett,

Enclosed, please find a final copy of the report of your response to [REDACTED] allegations of the sexual abuse of a minor against you. Pursuant to your request, please send any additional response to [REDACTED] allegation to my attention by May 28, 2010.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (312) 534-5205 or lmcccluskey@archchicago.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Enclosure

Cc Rev. John Collins, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Paul Golden, C.M., J.C.D., canonical advocate

BC: John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 000589

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-534-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax


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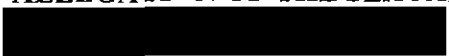
MAY 13 2010

MEMORANDUM

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

To: File – PFR- 170

From: Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review 

Re: **RESPONSE OF REV. JOSEPH BENNETT (WITHDRAWN) TO
ALLEGATION OF THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR MADE BY**


Date: May 3, 2010

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2010

Time of Meeting: 10:00 am

Present at Meeting


Rev. Joseph Bennett
Rev. Leonard Dubi, pastor of St. Victor and friend of Fr. Bennett
Rev. John Collins, Vicar for Priests
Ms. Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Meeting

Rev. John Collins arranged for the April 14, 2010 meeting with Rev. Joseph Bennett to take place at the Vicar for Priests' Office beginning at 10:00 am.

Rev. Leonard Dubi accompanied Fr. Bennett to the April 14th meeting. Once greetings took place, Fr. Collins and I thanked Fr. Bennett for agreeing to come to the office to meet with us.

I provided Fr. Bennett with an envelope and informed him that it contained a copy of archdiocesan policies (*§1100 Clerical Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance to Victims and Procedures for Determination of Fitness for Ministry*), information on the professional investigation firm that may be used by CAIR during the continued investigation of this matter, and CAIR's statement on confidentiality. I also provided

PFR – 170
Bennett 
Page 1 of 2

AOC 000590

Fr. Bennett with a copy of the report of [REDACTED] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against him.

The meeting continued with me reading the report of [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Bennett in its entirety. I invited Fr. Bennett to stop me at any time while I was reading if I was not speaking clearly and/or if he had a comment or question.

When I concluded reading the report, Fr. Bennett indicated that he planned to get together with an attorney. I informed Fr. Bennett that if he notified me when he has identified an attorney, I would send copies of everything that I had given to him concerning this matter to his attorney. Fr. Collins and I then asked Fr. Bennett if he had a canon lawyer. Fr. Bennett stated that he had used Fr. (Paul) Golden in the past and that he would give Fr. Golden a call. I informed Fr. Bennett that if he informed me who his canonist would be, I would also send to his canonist copies of all information that I provided to him (Fr. Bennett).

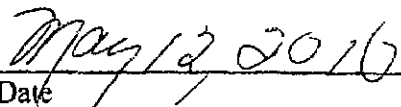
I told Fr. Bennett that I would send to him a draft report of the April 14th meeting for his review.

Fr. Collins and I again thanked Fr. Bennett for his time. Fr. Bennett was asked to contact Fr. Collins or me with any questions or concerns.

It is to be noted that this report is intended only to provide a summary of the April 14, 2010 meeting where the report of [REDACTED] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor was presented to Rev. Joseph Bennett for his response.



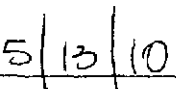
Rev. Joseph Bennett



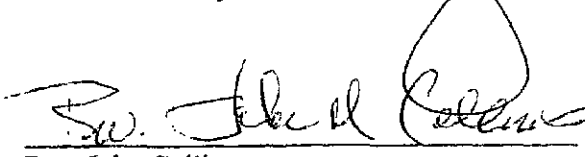
Date



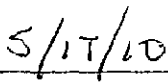
Leah McCluskey



Date



Rev. John Collins



Date

Leah McCluskey, Director
Office for Child Abuse Investigation and Review
Archdiocese of Chicago
Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

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MAY 13 2010

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

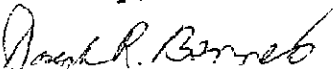
Dear Leah,

I received your letter along with the draft report of our meeting on April 14, 2010.

I mailed a copy of the allegation to Father Paul Golden. He and I have had three telephone conversations concerning the case. In our conversation yesterday he asked that I make the request for the two-week extension to continue the review. I have mailed him a copy of your letter along with the draft report.

If there is any additional material, you can mail it to him. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,


Joseph R. Bennett

May 12, 2010

AOC 000592

May 29, 2010

His Eminence
Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Your Eminence,

As you remember, I serve as the canonical consultant for Father Joseph R. Bennett, a priest of your Archdiocese.

Over the past years, you received several allegations against Father Bennett concerning sexual misconduct with minors. After investigating these claims, you judged that there was reasonable cause to suspect that some of these acts occurred. You referred Father Bennett's case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on January 11, 2008 requesting that you be authorized to impose a penal precept on Father that would permanently bar him from exercising public ministry and impose other conditions. In his April 4, 2008 response, Cardinal William Lavada accepted your recommendation and granted you permission to impose such a penalty.

You issued the Penal Decree and Precept against Father Bennett on May 5, 2008. You stated that because of Father's age and medical conditions and serious issues raised in his defense, you did not deem it necessary to seek the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state. You further decreed that Father live a life of prayer and penance in his current residence, that his Archdiocesan faculties be withdrawn, that he may say Mass privately in his room, that he is dispensed from the obligation to wear ecclesiastical garb and that he is not to present himself as a priest nor act as an agent of the Archdiocese of Chicago. You reminded Father of his obligations to refrain from all things unbecoming or foreign to the clerical state and urged him to be faithful to his obligation of living perfect and perpetual chastity.

According to the policies of the Archdiocese Father Bennett is living under the restrictions of a monitoring program. This includes among other things, a daily log of activities, individual and group counseling, monthly group meetings with the compliance supervisor, permission to reside in another location overnight and periodic visits by the same supervisor. Father has been meticulously faithful to this safety plan and he reports that there have been no complaints of violations.

Paul L. Golden, C.M., J.C.D.
Director

DePaul House
2340 South University Boulevard
Suite 402
Denver, Colorado 80210-5405

Tel: 303/698-0458

Fax: 303/777-0468

paul@goldenconsulting.com

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JUN 4 2010

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

*✓ Paul Golden
Vicar for Finance
D. J. J. J.*

Your Eminence, sadly another allegation against Father for the same kind of misconduct has been reported recently. Father is shocked and upset at this report.

As in the previous allegations there are many false, inaccurate and misleading statements. Some examples are:

1. While assigned to St. John de la Salle parish from 1966-73, Father denies ever giving [REDACTED] a massage or rubbing his forearm over [REDACTED]'s underwear on his penis. (Allegation, p. 3) During that same timeframe, Father denies masturbating [REDACTED] (Allegation, p. 4)

2. Father denies ever showing pornographic movies to [REDACTED] or to any other person. Father did not own a reel-to-reel projector nor did he ever rent or purchase any such pornographic films. (Allegation, pp. 3 & 4) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Allegation, p. 4)

3. Father has no recollection of any other priest being present while Father Bennett was with [REDACTED]. So Father denies the stories of some older priest grabbing [REDACTED]'s crotch and another unnamed priest skinny-dipping with [REDACTED] in a lake. (Allegation, p. 5)

4. Father denies ever acting inappropriately with [REDACTED] while they were together at [REDACTED]'s summer cottage. Father never stayed overnight at [REDACTED]'s cottage and Father never slept in the same bed with [REDACTED] there or any other place. (Allegation, pp. 4 & 7)

After much reflection and prayer, Father Bennett does not feel it advantageous to try to refute all the false details of this latest allegation. He has already been accused and penalized because the previous allegations have been deemed credible. No matter how strenuously he tries to separate what is true and what is false in this allegation, he knows his removal from ministry will continue.

Father accepts his present situation and has worked to integrate it into the spirituality of his priesthood. He draws consolation and peace from the daily celebration of the Eucharist and the recitation of the Divine Office.

This latest allegation should not change Father's status. He will continue in the same monitoring program and he commits himself to following all the restrictions and activities that the program demands.

Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.
May 29, 2010
Page Three

Finally, Father Bennett respectfully declines the invitation to meet with the Review Board to discuss this allegation.

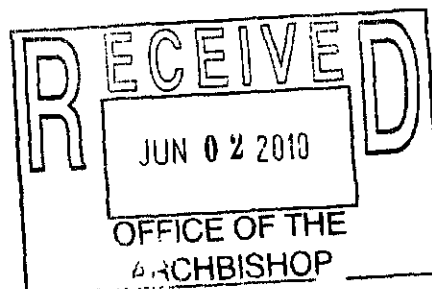
If you have any questions or want further information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Golden, C.M.
Director

cc: Reverend Joseph Bennett
Ms. Leah McCluskey
Rev. John Collins



SUMMARY TIME LINE OF ALLEGATION

	ACCUSED	ACCUSER
Name:	Rev. Joseph Bennett	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED]	Chicago, IL area
Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Current age:	69	52
Name of civil attorney:	unknown	Jeff Anderson

Date of Ordination (of accused): 4/26/66

Location: Mundelein

Age at ordination: 25

Assignment location of accused: N/A

Status of accused: Withdrawn

Name of canonical advocate: unknown

Date allegation received: 4/14/09

Date allegation formalized: 2/12/10

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: approximately 1967

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: approximately 1973

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: several

Brief summary of alleged abuse: massaging; Fr. Bennett rubbing his forearm over [REDACTED] underwear on his penis; Fr. Bennett showed [REDACTED] pornographic films between 6-12 times; Fr. Bennett masturbated [REDACTED] to climax; Fr. Bennett performed oral sex on [REDACTED] Fr. Bennett provided [REDACTED] with alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 4/14/10; Fr. Bennett did not provide a response when [REDACTED] allegation was presented to him; Fr. Bennett indicated that he would contact a canon lawyer and attorney and provide a written response at a later date

Stage of disposition by Review Board: Initial Review

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: 49

Name of civil attorney: [REDACTED]

Date allegation received: 10/23/02

Date allegation formalized: 11/25/02

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1976

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1979

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: several

Brief summary of alleged abuse: Oral sex at age 15; occurred over three year period on at least 25 occasions at Our Lady of the Ridge; [REDACTED] passed [REDACTED]; Fr. Bennett gave victim alcohol, gifts, and showed him pornography, both print and video/movies, prior to the sexual encounters; [REDACTED] also alleged that [REDACTED] was fondled by Fr. Bennett; [REDACTED] stated that Fr. Bennett also suggested that he was engaging in sexual activity with another teenager, a [REDACTED] boy named [REDACTED] during the identified time period

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 12/17/02

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 4/03; no reasonable cause to suspect

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

[REDACTED] PFR - 170
[REDACTED] Summary Time Line
May 3, 2010
Page 3 of 10

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: 49

Name of civil attorney: Jeff Anderson and David Haynes

Date allegation received: 12/3/03

Date allegation formalized: 3/2/04

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1968

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1971

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: several

Brief summary of alleged abuse: Several incidents of abuse; Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] performed oral sex on Fr. Bennett; mutual masturbation; mutual oral sex involving Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED]; Fr. Bennett penetrated [REDACTED] rectum with handle of a paten; [REDACTED] witnessed Fr. Bennett and Sr. [REDACTED] having sex

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 4/29/04; Fr. Bennett denied the allegation

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 10/05; reasonable cause to suspect

Additional allegations made by accuser: Sr. [REDACTED] (allegation was forwarded to religious community for its process)

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: 53

Name of civil attorney: David Haynes

Date allegation received: 3/2/04

Date allegation formalized: 8/31/04

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1969/1970

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1969/1979

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: one

Brief summary of alleged abuse: Fr. Bennett exposed himself and then instructed [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 1/6/05; Fr. Bennett denied the allegation

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 10/05; reasonable cause to suspect

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: 55

Name of civil attorney: N/A

Date allegation received: 2/6/06

Date allegation formalized: N/A

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1963

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1964

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: unknown

Brief summary of alleged abuse: oral sex - Per information request forwarded from Jimmy Lago's office: abuse started in 1962-1963. In 1963-1964, [REDACTED] the abuse continued, at this point it went to oral sex. This would take place at state parks or other places that there were not any people, his car for example. [REDACTED]

Brief summary and date of response from accused: N/A

Stage of disposition by Review Board: not presented to the Board due to the fact that [REDACTED] has not chosen to provide additional information and/or formalize his allegation against Fr. Bennett

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: 57

Name of civil attorney: N/A

Date allegation received: 2/9/06

Date allegation formalized: 2/14/06

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse:

Date of last incident of alleged abuse:

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse:

Brief summary of alleged abuse: less than five incidents; after serving mass, Fr. Bennett would take [REDACTED] into the rectory and down into the basement where collection money was counted; Fr. Bennett would ask [REDACTED] to change into a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (which [REDACTED] would not do in the same room as Fr. Bennett) and return to the room; Fr. Bennett would then have [REDACTED] lay on his lap, either face up or face down; Fr. Bennett would then rub [REDACTED] chest or back and genital area over and under his clothing

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 6/27/06; Fr. Bennett denied the allegation

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 6/07; reasonable cause to suspect

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

[REDACTED] PFR – 170
Summary Time Line
May 3, 2010
Page 7 of 10

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: Unknown (1)

Date of Birth:

Current age:

Name of civil attorney:

Date allegation received: 2/24/06

Date allegation formalized:

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse:

Date of last incident of alleged abuse:

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse:

Brief summary of alleged abuse: Mr. John O'Malley received a document from DCFS saying Fr. Bennett was under investigation for an allegation involving "Substantial Risk of Sexual Injury. The facility/school name on the document is 'Holy Ghost'." There is no other information available regarding this matter.

Brief summary and date of response from accused:

Stage of disposition by Review Board: N/A; matter is inactive

Additional allegations made by accuser:

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: Unknown (2)

Date of Birth:

Current age:

Name of civil attorney:

Date allegation received: 2/24/06

Date allegation formalized:

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse:

Date of last incident of alleged abuse:

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse:

Brief summary of alleged abuse: Mr. John O'Malley received a document from DCFS saying Fr. Bennett was under investigation for an allegation involving "Substantial Risk of Sexual Injury. The facility/school name on the document is 'Holy Ghost'." There is no other information available regarding this matter.

Brief summary and date of response from accused:

Stage of disposition by Review Board: N/A; matter is inactive

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: unknown

Current age: unknown

Name of civil attorney: N/A

Date allegation received: 2/13/08

Date allegation formalized: N/A

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1976

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: unknown

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: unknown

Brief summary of alleged abuse: third party allegation received from [REDACTED] refused requests to speak with PRA (now known as Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review)

Brief summary and date of response from accused: not presented to Fr. Bennett for a response due to lack of information

Stage of disposition by Review Board: N/A; matter is inactive

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

Signature of Director:



Date: 5/3/10

PFR - 170
Summary Time Line
May 3, 2010
Page 10 of 10

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

MEMORANDUM

To: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
From: Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Withdrawn]
Date: September 16, 2008

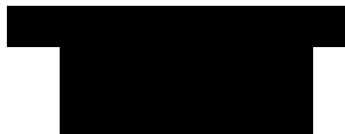
As per your verbal request from our meeting on September 13, 2008, I have gathered information concerning the allegations of the sexual abuse of minors against Rev. Joseph Bennett that the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review has received.

This office has received eight allegations of the sexual abuse of minors against Fr. Bennett, where three of the eight have been substantiated. Please refer to the attached sheet for additional information. Also please note that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are sisters, [REDACTED] are brothers, and the same third party reported the Unknown #1 and Unknown #2 alleged victims.

If you are in need of any additional information, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Attachment

ALLEGED VICTIM	DATE RECEIVED	CASE STATUS
[REDACTED]	10/23/2002	unsubstantiated
	12/3/2003	substantiated
	3/2/2004	substantiated
	2/6/2006	inactive - [REDACTED] chose not to speak with AOC
	2/9/2006	substantiated
Unknown #1	2/24/2006	inactive - no information on alleged victim, third party report
Unknown #2	2/24/2006	inactive - no information on alleged victim, third party report
[REDACTED]	2/13/2008	inactive, as per third party, alleged victim will not pursue



August 27, 2008

Francis Cardinal George
Archdiocese of Chicago
155 W Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611

*Fr. John Costello
Vicar for Parish
- J. Payne
There is a list of names
in the file - can we
check the records - that
you were with - with
your name -
telling about?*

Dear Cardinal George,

Not only were those who were sexually abused by priests scarred by poor decisions executed by Archdiocesan officials. There are others out there with deep wounds as well. My case in point involves Fr. Joseph Bennett and [REDACTED]

It is unfortunate that the need for the August 12th sexual abuse settlement had occurred. But there are still people who were hurt due to his lifestyle and the choices he made along with his ability to and the assistance he received in order to "cover-up" the truth.

[REDACTED] was a victim as well. I have known her for over 30 years and she was a very dedicated, loyal, and good-hearted employee of the Archdiocese. Trying to keep the parish solvent, she was victim to Fr. Bennett's revenge and need to obstruct the truth.

I was employed at St. Joseph and St. Anne/Our Lady of Fatima Church while Fr. Bennett was the pastor. I worked in the office in the evenings and weekends. All that was reported by [REDACTED] to the Archdiocese was true. He was guilty - she reported it.

When things were getting rough towards the end of his term, he talked with her telling her he was sorry and to have faith in him to right the wrongs he did. He admitted he used funds to pay bills at a home in LaPorte, Indiana [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I could only guess that this might be the same property that he and Fr. Dubi now own; however, there was a Fr. Burns involved with that property at the time. He also confessed that he used church money to buy his new car; and he didn't even have a clue how much money he had taken from the parish in total.

Every Sunday, Fr. Bennett, Fr. Dubi, Fr. Bullwith and another priest from a different diocese would meet for their weekly Sunday night card games. Because he was gone so much, he would ask me many times if I would mind waiting after 9:00 p.m. until at least one of the other priests would get back to the rectory before leaving. If he arrived first, I would see him bringing up offertory envelopes, then, he would bring them down after they were emptied and place them on my desk so I could record them on the parishioners' statements.

Many times, there were "deliveries" - small packages - probably drugs brought by young men. Fr. Bullwith was especially anxious to receive them.

On one occasion, he had a couple young men go up to his room asking them to wash his windows. I also received several telephone calls from a mother, who used very graphic language, telling me to tell Fr. Bennett to leave her son alone. I was floored and didn't know how to handle it. Then, there were his gentlemen friends - adorned in feathered boas and painted faces as they ascended to Fr. Bennett's room. His lifestyle required a lavish pocketbook.

He spent a lot of time on the north side. I'm aware of this because [redacted] said they would frequent the same bars. When [redacted] died, his funeral was held at Our Lady of Fatima. Fr. Bennett was extremely uncomfortable as he was greeted by his fellow friends who attended the funeral in front of me and [redacted] before the mass began.

The granddaughter of the church's housekeeper, [redacted] confided in me that her friend, [redacted] was approached by Fr. Bennett at a north side bar. I could go so much further.

When [redacted] reported his misappropriation of parish funds - money he admitted to her that he took and promised her he would pay back, her trouble started. At the Archdiocese, he changed the truth and accused her of being prejudice. He had friends write letters to the Archdiocese against her. Isn't it ironic that she became a bad employee only after he arrived? Now we could see how the Archdiocese plays the game.

If you took the time to look at the extensive list formulated for [redacted]'s dismissal, you would easily see that her discharge was wrong. I know she has documentation proving her innocence on all the charges.

It didn't end with her dismissal - she even had to battle with the Archdiocese to obtain unemployment compensation. I feel, at the least, she deserves your time to look into these issues.

[redacted]'s devotion to the parish was unending.

When?

[redacted]

Then, she was told her financial report was late. It was obvious that she was set-up.

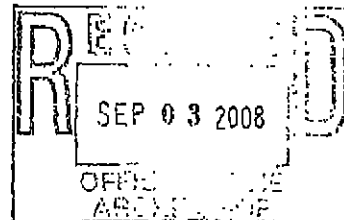
Someone who had done so much to keep the church going should not have been dismissed with so much turmoil. If the Archdiocese - you - wanted to have the parish head in a different direction, the least that could've been done was to handle it with truth and dignity. Closing your eyes to the truth doesn't grant you immunity.

It is sad the path Fr. Bennett's life took. The Archdiocese covered for him long enough and at least some justice was realized, however, more should be done.

When I read the Catholic New World and there is acknowledgment that a person or priest had faithfully served his/her church for many years...I think of [redacted] who had served longer but was dealt a dirty hand by none other than those who lead our Archdiocese.

Sincerely,

[redacted]



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-534-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

May 20, 2010

[REDACTED]
C/o Jeff Anderson
Jeff Anderson & Associates
366 Jackson Street, Suite 100
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to inform you that the independent Review Board met on May 15, 2010 and conducted an Initial Review of your allegation of sexual abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett pursuant to Article §1104.9 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. As you may know, Fr. Bennett is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago whose faculties have been withdrawn.

At the Initial Review, after considering all information received, the Review Board determines whether additional investigation is warranted and may recommend that interim action be taken pending the further development of the case.

Based upon the initial information obtained concerning your allegation against Fr. Bennett, the Review Board determined that additional investigation is warranted and that this matter should continue forward. Cardinal George has accepted this determination.

If there is anything further that you wish to share concerning your allegation, please forward it to my attention so that it may be presented to the Review Board. I would also like to remind you of your right to appear before the Board. If you wish to do so, please contact me directly so that we may schedule a date and time for you come to a future Review Board meeting.

[REDACTED], if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time. I may be reached at (312) 534-5205 or lmcluskey@archchicago.org. Also, please know that Matt Hunnicutt and Ruth Robinson of the Office of Assistance Ministry continue to be available to you. You may reach Mr. Hunnicutt at (312) 534-8267 or mhunnicutt@archchicago.org and Ms. Robinson at (312) 534-8256 or rrobinson@archchicago.org.

PFR - 170
Initial Review
Page 1 of 2

AOC 000610

Sincerely,



Leah McCluskey

Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Cc Matt Hunnicutt, Office of Assistance Ministry

B.C.: John O'Malley, Legal Services

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P O Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-534-2254, general
312-534-1-8307, fax

July 27, 2010



[REDACTED]
C/o Jeff Anderson
Jeff Anderson & Associates
366 Jackson Street, Suite 100
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to inform you that the independent Review Board met on July 17, 2010 and conducted a Review for Cause of your allegation of sexual abuse against Rev. Joseph Bennett pursuant to Article §1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. As you may know, Fr. Bennett is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago whose faculties have been withdrawn.

At the Review for Cause, after considering all information presented to it, the Review Board determines whether there is reason to suspect that the accused cleric has engaged in the sexual abuse of a minor.

Based upon the information obtained concerning your allegation against Fr. Bennett, the Review Board determined that there is reason to suspect that Fr. Bennett did sexually abuse you when you were a minor. Cardinal George has accepted this determination.

[REDACTED] if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time. I may be reached at (312) 534-5205 or lmclluskey@archchicago.org. Also, please know that Matt Hunnicutt and Ruth Robinson of the Office of Assistance Ministry continue to be available to you. You may reach Mr. Hunnicutt at (312) 534-8267 or mhunnicutt@archchicago.org and Ms. Robinson at (312) 534-8256 or rrobinson@archchicago.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey

Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Cc Matt Hunnicutt, Office of Assistance Ministry

Bc: John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 000612

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

April 29, 2008

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2008

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the independent Review Board met on April 26, 2008 and was presented with civil attorney [REDACTED]'s request for a Supplementary Review of his client [REDACTED] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against Rev. Joseph Bennett pursuant to Article §1104.12.2 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Bennett is a withdrawn priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board made the determination that in light of the information presented, that this matter is not reopened for a Supplementary Review.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

*I accept the
determination.*

*F. G.
Apr 30, 2008*

FILE COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P O Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rev. John Canary, Vicar General
Rev. Vince Costello, Vicar for Priests
Carol Fowler, Personnel Services
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Matt Hunnicutt, Assistance Ministry
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board

FROM: Santa Garcia, Secretary *SG*

DATE: February 14, 2008

RE: [PFR-170] Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Withdrawn) [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on Feb. 13, 2008.

Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Bennett, Rev. Joseph (Withdrawn) [REDACTED]

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled. Thank you.

Attachment

cc: John O'Malley, Attorney

bcc: James Serritella

AOC 000614

COPY

FEB 13 2008
ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

February 11, 2008

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Office of Child Abuse Investigation and Review
Olympic Center
737 North Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Re: [REDACTED] and Rev. Joseph Bennett

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

Enclosed please find my letter of January 30, 2008, with the declaration of
✓ [REDACTED] The letter, as you will note, was sent to your previous address.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Enclosure

AOC 000615

RECEIVED

FEB 13 2008

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

January 30, 2008

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator
The Archdiocese of Chicago
676 North St. Clair
Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Re: [REDACTED] and Rev Joseph Bennett

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

Pursuant to our discussion, on behalf of my client [REDACTED] I would request that the Fitness Review Board reconsider my client's case.

Previously, I (a) submitted the results of a polygraph examination of my client conducted by [REDACTED] who conducts polygraph examinations for the Joliet Diocese, (b) allowed my client to be interviewed by Mr. Seritella and his associates, and (c) responded to inquiries concerning whether Father Bennett attended my client's wedding by submitted photographs of him at wedding reception.

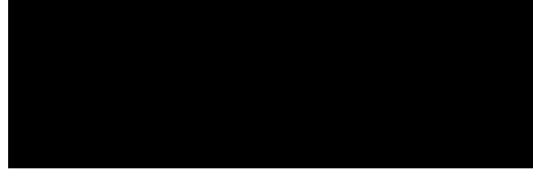
Since the Board's consideration of my client's claim, new allegations concerning Father Bennett were published in various newspapers. Those allegations prompted my telephone conversations with you and Ms. Carlson of Mr Seritella's office. It is my understanding that in order for my client's case to be considered and evaluated by Mr Seritella's office it is necessary that the Board first reconsider my client's case. Additionally, you asked if I had any additional evidence to submit to the Board. In that regard, enclosed is the statement of [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] which supports my client's claim and gives further insight into Father Bennett's actions concerning the [REDACTED] family.

AOC 000616

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Page 2
January 30, 2008

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A small black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the sender.

Enclosure

cc: Mr. James A. Seritella with enclosure

Declaration of [REDACTED]

1. My name is [REDACTED]. I am ⁴²42 years old. I am a resident of

2. [REDACTED]

3. I am a lifelong Roman Catholic.

4. About 1976, [REDACTED] and I were members of St. Josephs parish at 39th and California, Chicago, Illinois. Father Bennett was a priest at St. Josephs.

5. [REDACTED]

6. It was at this time, [REDACTED] and I started spending a lot of time with Father Bennett. Father Bennett would [REDACTED] take either [REDACTED] or I out in his car. [REDACTED] and I were never both with Father Bennett. He always took us separately.

7. I remember that Father Bennett always dressed with a ^{white}black T-shirt and with his "white priest collar" on. He drove a Cadillac [REDACTED]

8. When Father Bennett would pick me up sometime he would take me to the rectory at St. Josephs. Other times he would take me for ice cream [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He also took me to [REDACTED]

lunch at [REDACTED]

Sometimes he would take me to other people's homes. At no time did Father Bennett and I ever spend any time around my house with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. I was with Father Bennett on at least 20-25 separate occasions.

9. Father Bennett was always talking about sex, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10. When we were at the rectory, Father Bennett would give me beer. At times, he would smoke marijuana. I would drink the beer [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11. Whenever we were at the rectory Father Bennett would tell me to take off my shirt so that he could give me a back rub. The times that I did take off my shirt and Father Bennett was rubbing my back, he would always try to turn it into a sexual activity. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told me that Father Bennett performed oral sex on him during that time period.

14. This is the first time that I have ever given a statement on this matter.

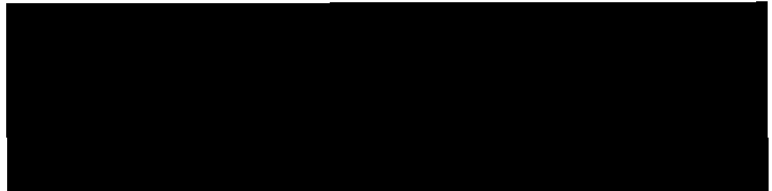
15. No one has not threatened me to give this statement nor have I been promised anything in exchange for this statement.

[REDACTED]

16. I am willing to testify in court as to the above matters.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.

Date: 1.30.09



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Cardinal



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

November 23, 1998

Dear Joe:

I wish to express my deep appreciation to you for your many years of dedicated service as a Dean. Your willingness to accept the responsibilities of a dean has been a great benefit to me and to the parishes and educational institutions in Vicariate V.

Deans are crucial to the ministry of the Archdiocese in achieving effective communication and planning with the many parishes and schools. Your service as Dean has also been an important asset to both the Vicars you served, Bishop Alfred Abramowicz and Bishop John Gorman.

Be assured of my gratitude for your work and ministry, Joe, and of my prayers and best wishes as you continue to serve the Lord. Please remember me in your prayers, too.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Reverend Joseph Bennett
Holy Ghost Parish
700 East 170th Street
South Holland, Illinois 60473

PRECEDES FILES

AOC 000621

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690

October 6, 1995

Dear Father Bennett:

In accord with canon 553 of the Code of Canon Law, I am pleased to appoint you as Dean of Deanery V-A. I will ask your Episcopal Vicar, Bishop John Gorman, to receive your Profession of Faith. Your term of office, which is renewable, is effective immediately and will conclude on June 30, 1998.

I am grateful for your continued willingness to serve the Archdiocese and, in particular, the people of God in your Deanery through the office of Dean. As Dean, you will be assisting me, the Vicar for Regional Services and your Episcopal Vicar to better provide for the pastoral governance of this local church.

The office of Dean is described in canons 554 and 555. In general, it is the Dean's responsibility to promote and coordinate common pastoral activity within the Deanery, to see to it that the priests and deacons in the Deanery diligently perform their proper roles and duties, and to ascertain that the parishes in the Deanery are being administered properly in accord with liturgical norms and canon law, as well as Archdiocesan policies and procedures. Among your particular duties, the Dean is responsible to inspect and verify that parish sacramental records are correctly inscribed and being kept in good condition. In addition to these provisions, your role as Dean will be more fully explained and discussed in future meetings with the Episcopal Vicars and other Deans.

Joe, please know of my personal support and prayers for you in this ministry. I am sure that the priests and people of the Deanery will welcome your leadership and unique contribution of Christian service.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph Carl Bernardin
Archbishop of Chicago

Thomas J. Paprocki

Ecclesiastical Notary

Reverend Joseph R. Bennett
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2751 West 38th Place
Chicago, Illinois 60632

cc: Most Reverend Raymond E. Goedert, Vicar General/Vicar for Regional Services
Most Reverend John R. Gorman, Episcopal Vicar, Vicariate V

AOC 000622

Reverend Joseph Bennett
Saint Agnes Parish
2648 W. Pershing Road
Chicago, Illinois 60632

November 2, 1990

Dear Joe,

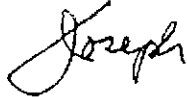
I returned home from Rome and learned of
your recent [REDACTED].

Be assured of a special remembrance in
my prayers and thoughts these days. It is my
hope that you will have a speedy recovery.

May the Lord be with you to give you His
strength and help.

God bless.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph".

Priest file



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Archbishop

May 30, 1973

C

Reverend Joseph R. Bennett
St. John de La Salle Rectory
10205 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60628

O

Dear Father Bennett,

In accordance with Canon 476, and following the recommendation of the Clergy Personnel Board, His Eminence, Cardinal Cody, is pleased to appoint you as Vicarius Cooperator to

P

Rev. Msgr. M. Edward Roche
Our Lady of the Ridge Parish

and grants you the necessary faculties for the faithful discharge of that duty.

Y

This appointment will be effective June 11, 1973, but I would ask you to make arrangements with the pastor about the exact date when you will assume your new duties.

Wishing you every blessing and priestly success in this pastoral assignment, I am, dear Father Bennett,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Vicar General and Chancellor

cc: Rev. Msgr. M. Edward Roche - Pastor, Our Lady of the Ridge Parish
Rev. Ralph R. Mollan - Pastor, St. John de La Salle Parish

AOC 000624



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

169

(Please type all information)

Name BENNETT JOSEPH ROBERT
(last) (first) (middle)

Born [REDACTED] Evergreen Park Illinois St. Barnabas
(city) (state) (parish)

Baptized Chicago Illinois St. Barnabas
(city) (state) (parish)

Ordained 4-26-66 Mundelein Illinois St. Mary of the Lake
(date) (city) (state) (location)

Ordaining Bishop John Cardinal Cody Chicago
(name) (diocese)

First Solemn Mass 5-1-66 Chicago Illinois St. John Fisher
(date) (city) (state) (parish)

Name of Father [REDACTED] Living Deceased

Name of Mother (maiden) [REDACTED] Living Deceased

Nationality Irish/German

Home Parish St. Barnabas

Social Security Number [REDACTED]

Present Residence Chicago Illinois St. John De La Salle 785-2022
(city) (state) (parish) (telephone)

In case of emergency notify:

1. [REDACTED] Brother
(name) (relationship)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
(address) (telephone)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
(city) (state) (zip code)

2. [REDACTED] Brother
(name) (relationship)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
(address) (telephone)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
(city) (state) (zip code)

How is your health at the present time? Good Fair Poor

Comment: _____

Schools Attended

Elementary Sutherland Public Chicago Illinois 1
(name) (city) (state) (years)

St. Barnabas Chicago Illinois 8 1955
(name) (city) (state) (years)

Secondary Leo High School Chicago Illinois 1
(name) (city) (state) (years)

Quigley Prep. Sem. North Chicago Illinois 4 1960
(name) (city) (state) (years)

College _____
(name) (city) (state) (years)

Philosophy St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein Illinois 3 1963
(name) (city) (state) (years)

Theology St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein Illinois 4 1967
(name) (city) (state) (years)

Post Graduate _____
(name) (city) (state) (years)

Degrees Earned _____
(degree) (college or university) (year)

Degrees Honorary _____
(degree) (college or university) (year)

Works Published _____
(degree) (college or university) (year)

Works Published _____
(title) (date) (publisher)

Ecclesiastical Honors Received _____
(date)

I am familiar with the following modern languages. Please indicate degree of fluency.

Language	Reading Proficiency			Speaking Proficiency			Proficiency to Celebrate Sacraments		
	High	Moderate	Slight	High	Moderate	Slight	High	Moderate	Slight
<u>Italian</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Spanish</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In addition to my official assignment(s) I am currently engaged in the following priestly activities (Example: Cursillo, confessor to religious)

Field Advocate with Marriage Tribunal

Care - Most Holy Sacraments / Marriage

Team Member with Catholic School Office

Member of Advisory Council/United Charities of Chicago

Member of Grievance Committee/Cook County Dept. of Corrections

My personal preference with regard to PARISH work that would favor my assignment to

(mark as #1 the kinds of parishes in which you have the deepest interest, mark as #2, those in which you have a moderate interest, mark as #3, those in which you have a little interest, mark as 0 those in which you have no interest)

- No Special Preference
- Suburban Parish
- Black Parish
- City Parish
- Bilingual Parish (specify language) _____
- Changing Parish
- Hispanic Apostolate Parish
- Other (describe) _____

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Please describe any special experience, training, and talents that should be considered in making your assignments

Skills Inventory

Administration	What	When	Description*	Pastoral and description of experience, education and/or certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Supervision	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Development	_____	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crisis Counseling Cook Cty / Dept of Corr
<input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Management	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Marital Counseling
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Development	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Visitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Inactive Visitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Goal Setting	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Visitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Budgeting	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Liturgical & Homiletical
<input type="checkbox"/> Office Management	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Written Communication	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Oral Communication	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Listening Skills	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Renewal Program
<input type="checkbox"/> Negotiating Skills	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Parish School Involvement (specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Team-Building Skills	Cath. School Office	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education (specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Skills	United Charities - Chi	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Visitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Organization	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home Visitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Parish Renewal
				<input type="checkbox"/> New Member Recruitment
				<input type="checkbox"/> Funerals
				<input type="checkbox"/> Weddings

*Describe in 20 letters or less

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

(Please type all information)

NAME BENNETT JOSEPH ROBERT
(last) (first) (middle)

BORN [REDACTED] Evergreen Park Illinois St. Barnabas
(date) (city) (state) (parish)

BAPTIZED Sept. 15, 1940 Chicago Illinois St. Barnabas
(date) (city) (state) (parish)

ORDAINED April 26, 1966 Mundelein Illinois St. John Fisher
(date) (city) (state) (parish)

ORDAINING PRELATE Most Rev. John P. Cody Chicago
(name) (diocese)

FIRST SOLEMN MASS May 1, 1966 Mundelein Illinois St. John Fisher
(date) (city) (state) (parish)

NAME OF FATHER [REDACTED] Living
 Deceased *Deceased 1-2-85*

NAME OF MOTHER (maiden) [REDACTED] Living
 Deceased

NATIONALITY Irish/German

HOME PARISH St. John Fisher

KNOWLEDGE OF MODERN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

	Poor	Average	Fluent
Reading <u>Italian</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spoken _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confessional Work Only _____			

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY:

1. [REDACTED] Father
(name) (relationship)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
(city) (state) (zone)

2. Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Murphy Pastor
(name) (relationship)

10205 South Park Avenue PU. 5-2022
(address) (telephone)

Chicago Illinois 28
(city) (state) (zone)

SCHOOLS ATTENDED

ELEMENTARY	St. Barnabas (name)	Chicago (city)	Illinois (state)	8 (years)
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)
SECONDARY	Leo High (name)	Chicago (city)	Illinois (state)	1 (years)
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)
	Quigley Prep. Sem. (name)	Chicago (city)	Illinois (state)	4 (years)
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)
COLLEGE				
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)
PHILOSOPHY	St. Mary of the Lake (name)	Mundelein (city)	Illinois (state)	3 (years)
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)
THEOLOGY	St. Mary of the Lake (name)	Mundelein (city)	Illinois (state)	4 (years)
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)
POST GRADUATE				
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)
	(name)	(city)	(state)	(years)

DEGREES EARNED

(degree)	(college or university)	(year)
(degree)	(college or university)	(year)
(degree)	(college or university)	(year)

DEGREES HONORARY

(degree)	(college or university)	(year)
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WORKS PUBLISHED

(title)	(date)	(publisher)
(title)	(date)	(publisher)
(title)	(date)	(publisher)

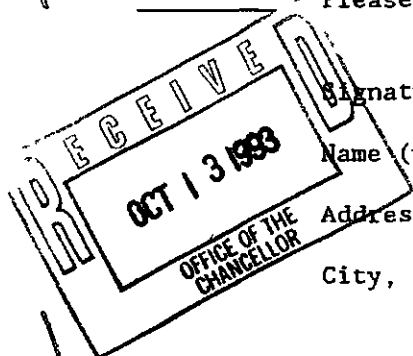
ECCLESIASTICAL HONORS RECEIVED

(date)
(date)
(date)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MISCONDUCT POLICIES

X I acknowledge that I have read and am familiar with the Archdiocesan policies and procedures regarding sexual misconduct with minors, adopted September 21, 1992.

Please send me a copy of these policies and procedures.



Signature: _____

Joseph R. Bennett

Name (printed): _____

JOSEPH R. BENNETT

Address: _____

2751 W 38th Pl.

City, State, Zip: _____

CHIC, IL 60632

1966



Joseph Bennett

BENNETT, Rev. Joseph R.		Date of birth [REDACTED]	Ordained Apr. 26, 1966
Nationality American			
Date Appointed	Assignment	Charge	Date Left
5/16/66	St. John Baptist de La Salle	Asst .	6/13/73
6/13/73	Our Lady of the Ridge (Chicago Ridge)	Assistant	1/76
1/14/76	Cook County Jail	Chaplain	
2/4/76	St. Joseph and St. Anne	Associate	7/78
7/1/78	St. Christina	Associate	



Joseph Bennett

Extraordinary Appointmen

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS:

NATIONAL OR N.C.W.C.

	(position)	(from)	(to)
DIOCESAN	Chaplain-Cook County Jail	1/12/76	
	<i>Blaney V-A</i>	<i>Dean</i>	<i>10/6/85 - 6/30/98</i>
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)

PAROCHIAL AND CHAPLAIN ASSIGNMENTS. (Chronological)

	(position)	(from)	(to)
St. John Baptist De La Salle	curate	May 16, 1966	
Our Lady of the Ridge, Chicago Ridge	assoc.	6-11-76	1-12-76
St. Joseph and St. Anne	assoc.	1-12-76	July 1, 78
St. Christina - residence		July 1, 78	10/21/78
St. Christina Chgo	Associate	10/21/78	1/1/81
St. John de La Salle	Pastor	1/1/81	5/1/89
St. Agnes	Pastor	5/1/89	7/1/91
O.L. of Fatima	Pastor	7/1/91	6/15/97
Holy Ghost, St. Holland	Pastor	6/15/97	
	(position)	(from)	(to)

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS: (e.g. Moderator of diocesan organizations, etc.)

Chaplain, Cook County Jail		Jan 5, 1976	
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)

MILITARY SERVICE

(name of service)	(position)	(rank)	(dates)
(name of service)	(position)	(rank)	(dates)
(name of service)	(position)	(rank)	(dates)

HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE Blue Cross/Blue Shield
(insuring company)

AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE Allstate
(insuring company)

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
(date of most recent copy) (place)

Do you have a copy in a sealed envelope on file in the Chancery?

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
PREFERRED PLACE OF BURIAL [REDACTED]

(Filed at the Chancery Office, together with a recent copy of the Will, should be a letter of instructions to be opened at the time of death.)

June 9, 1966
DATE

Rev. Joseph Robert Bennett
SIGNATURE

Full Time Assignments (Chronological)

St. John De La Salle	Associate (position)	1966 (from)	1973 (to)
Our Lady of the Ridge	Associate (position)	1973 (from)	1976 (to)
Cook County Jail	Chaplain (position)	1976 (from)	1981 (to)
St Joseph & St. Anne	Resident (position)	1976 (from)	1979 (to)
St. Christina	Resident (position)	1979 (from)	1981 (to)
St. John De La Salle	Pastor (position)	1981 (from)	5/1/89 Present (to)
St. Agnes	Pastor (position)	5/1/89 (from)	7/1/91 (to)
O.L. of Fatima	Pastor (position)	7/1/91 (from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)

Administrative Assignments

National or USCC	(position)	(from)	(to)
Diocesan	Ministry V-A	Dean	10/6/95 - 9/30/98
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)
	(position)	(from)	(to)

Other Assignments

(position)	(from)	(to)
(position)	(from)	(to)
(position)	(from)	(to)
(position)	(from)	(to)
(position)	(from)	(to)

My present major, official assignment is Pastor of St. John De La Salle Parish
 at 10205 King Dr. Chicago since Jan. 1, 1981
(address) (month) (year)

Military Service _____
(name of service) (position) (rank) (dates)

(name of service) (position) (rank) (dates)

(name of service) (position) (rank) (dates)

Hospitalization Insurance Blue Cross/Blue Shield
(insuring company)

Automobile Liability Insurance Aetna
(insuring company)

Last Will and Testament June, 1967 Chicago
(date of most recent copy) (place)

Do you have a copy in a sealed envelope on file in the Chancery? NO

Funeral Arrangements
Preferred Place of Burial [REDACTED]

(Filed at the Chancery Office together with a recent copy of the Will should be a letter of instructions to be opened at the time of death)

November 11, 1987
Date

Joseph R Benzels
Signature

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Diocesan Priests' Placement Board
Reverend John W. Clemens
312 751-5270



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
Fax 312 751-5281

September 11, 2003

COPY

Dear Joe:

On July 1, 2003 you completed your first term as pastor of Holy Ghost Parish. The members of the Placement Board hope you found the years both challenging and rewarding.

Now that your evaluation is completed, the Board can conclude this process. If you choose to apply for a second term as pastor, we ask you to write to the Placement Board with your formal request. After we receive your written request, your Vicar and Dean will be consulted, and upon receipt of their letters the Board will make a formal recommendation to the Cardinal.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions concerning this process, please do not hesitate to call me at (312) 751-5270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clem".

Reverend John W. Clemens
Executive Secretary
Diocesan Priests' Placement Board

JWC/ljb

Reverend Joseph Bennett
Holy Ghost Parish
700 E 170th St.
South Holland, IL 60473

AOC 000637

Date Filled Out: 11-2-82

1.1 Name JOSEPH R. BENNETT

Year of Ordination 1966

2.0 Current Assignment Profile

Starting Date of Present Assignment 1-1-81

2.1 Pastor Associate Retired Special Work (Specify) _____ (Check One)

2.2 Name of Parish (or Agency): ST. JOHN DE LA SALLE

2.3 Name of Pastor (or Supervisor): _____

2.4 Name(s) of Fellow Associates: RONALD W. DUSSMAN

2.5 Work Description: In what activities do you spend your time and effort and what proportion of your time is taken up by each of these activities?

PARISH COUNCIL, LITURGY COMMITTEE, PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, FACULTY MEETINGS, WOMENS GUILD, SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, REGULAR PARISH ADMINISTRATION, FIELD ADVOCATE FOR TRIBUNAL

2.6 What degree of satisfaction do you experience in this assignment?

Well Satisfied Satisfied Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

2.7 How would you evaluate your present assignment: a) Rectory Life (e.g. regular staff meetings, communication, collegiality, etc.) b) Parish Life?

FAIR COMMUNICATION WITHIN RECTORY
DISSATISFIED WITH NUMBERS OF PARISHIONERS WHO ARE LAX WITH MASS ATTENDANCE

2.8 How is your health at the present time? Good Fair Poor

Have you had a physical exam within the past 2 years? YES Comments: _____

3.0 Background Profile

3.1 You may describe any special experience, talents, degrees, courses of study that you feel should be considered in making recommendations for your assignments: _____

3.2 Language Skills: _____

(Over)

4.0 Current Interest Profile

4.1 Special Interests: At some time in the history of my ministry, perhaps on a limited term basis, I would be interested in:

Hospital work:

- a) Full time Chaplaincy (Catholic or non-Catholic Hospital) _____
- b) Parish serving a hospital _____

Ministry in the Black Community:

_____ Pastor _____ Associate _____ Shared Ministry

Ministry in the Spanish Speaking Community:

_____ Pastor _____ Associate _____ Shared Ministry

Ministry in an Ethnic Community (Specify) _____

_____ Pastor _____ Associate _____ Shared Ministry

Comments: _____

4.2 Check the areas of work in which you feel the most interest and competence

_____ Adult Education	_____ Liturgy	_____ Other Fields
_____ Community Work	_____ Campus Ministry	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counseling	_____ Chancery Work	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Parish Work	_____ Marriage Tribunal	_____
_____ Religious Education	_____ Military Chaplain	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth Work	_____ Seminary Work	_____

4.3 Though your term of office may not have expired, would a change from your present assignment be:

_____ Desirable; _____ Very Desirable; Acceptable, if needed elsewhere

4.4 Type of Parish you would be willing to serve in your next assignment.

Mark line at left: #1 = most willing #2 = willing #3 = unwilling

_____ No special preference	<u>3</u> Inner City Black Parish
<u>1</u> City Parish	<u>3</u> Middle Class Black Parish
<u>3</u> Lake County	<u>3</u> Multi-Lingual (Specify) _____
<u>1</u> Suburban Parish	_____ Other (Describe) _____
<u>3</u> Changing Parish	_____

4.5 Type of Parish Work in which you think you would be effective. (e.g., general parish work, emphasis on CCD, grammar school teaching, community work, adult education, etc.) Please specify your preference: GENERAL PARISH WORK + CCD

4.6 If you are not now a Pastor, would you be interested? _____ Yes _____ No

Thank you for filling out your Personal Data Form. We would like to remind you that all the Board Members are available for personal interviews.

N. B. For your own future reference, you might want to make a copy of the more important information you have provided in this form.

DIOCESAN CLERGY PERSONNEL BOARD

PERSONAL DATA FORM

CONFIDENTIAL

Date filled out: 3-29-73

1.1 Name JOSEPH BENNETT Year of Ordination 1966

2.0 Current Assignment Profile Starting Date of Present Assignment MAY, 1966

2.1 Name of Parish (or Agency): ST. JOHN DE LA SALLE

2.2 Name of Pastor (or Supervisor): RALPH MOLLAN

2.3 Name (s) of Fellow Associates: NONE

2.4 Work Description: In what activities do you spend your time and effort?
CONVERT INSTRUCTIONS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL - INSTRUCTION AND COUNSELLING
TEEN ACTIVITIES - SPORTS, SOCIALS, RETREATS

2.5 What degree of satisfaction do you experience in this assignment?
 Well Satisfied Satisfied Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

2.6 Comments:

2.7 How is your health at the present time?
 Good Fair Poor Comments: _____

3.0 Preference Profile:

3.1 You may describe any special experience, talents, degrees, courses of study that you feel should be considered in making your assignments:

3.2 Language Skills:

(Over)

3.3 Special Interests

At some time in the history of your ministry, perhaps on a limited term basis, would you be interested in:

Hospital Chaplaincy work: Yes No
Ministry in the Black community:
 As Pastor As Associate As Team Member
Ministry in the Spanish Speaking community:
 As Pastor As Associate As Team Member

Comments: _____

3.4 Type of Parish you prefer in your next assignment.

Mark line at left: #1 deepest interest, #2 moderate interest,
#3 a little interest, #0 no interest

No special preference Inner City Black Parish
 City Parish Middle Class Black Parish
 Suburban Parish Bi Lingual Parish (Specify) _____
 Changing Parish Other (Describe) _____

3.5 Type of Parish Work you prefer in your next assignment. (e.g., general parish work, emphasis on CCD, grammar school teaching, community work, adult education, etc.)

Please specify your preference: GENERAL PARISH WORK
CCD, TEENS

3.6 After consulting the list of available associate positions, please list no less than five names of parishes you feel would be productive assignments. You may also list reasons why you feel such an assignment would be mutually beneficial to you and the parish.

Preference:	Reasons:
1. <u>ST. GERALD, OAK LAWN</u>	<u>ST. ROSE OF LIMA</u>
2. <u>ST. BERNADINE, FOREST PARK</u>	<u>OUR LADY OF LORETTO</u>
3. <u>ST. MARY, DES PLAINES</u>	<u>ST. JOHN BREBEUF</u>
4. <u>OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE</u>	<u>ST. MARY OF THE WOODS</u>
5. <u>ST. PATRICIA, HICKORY HILLS</u>	_____

†

SAINT JOHN DE LA SALLE PARISH
10205 KING DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60628

File: To Bennett

*Please consider...
mentioned that he would
have to deal directly
with the Cardinal for
a special job.
3/1/73*

March 15, 1973

Office of the Personnel Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Hillside, Illinois 60162

Dear Fathers:

On February 28, 1973 I had a telephone conversation with Father Michael Adams concerning Associate Assignments. I indicated to him that I would be "open" for a transfer this June. I have been at St. John De La Salle for seven years since my ordination. I asked him a few questions about another assignment and he instructed me to write a letter to the Board.

I wish to make application to one of three institutions engaged in child care:

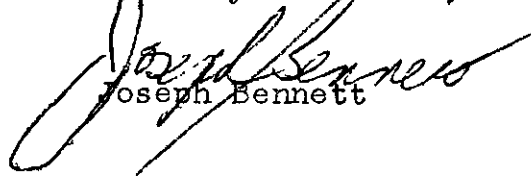
1. Mission of Our Lady of Mercy
2. Maryville Academy
3. Angel Guardian Orphanage

I list these in the order of preference.

My interest in youth work goes back a number of years even before ordination beginning with summer assignments while in Philosophy at CYO park programs. During the same years and also while in Theology I volunteered time with the chaplain at Audy Home and with other case workers of Juvenile Court and of Catholic Charities, from which a great number of children are referred to the above institutions. Over the years and up to the present time I have had many contacts and relationships with children who have lived at Maryville and at the Mission. Since my assignment in the parish I have given special attention to the young people. In addition to parish school and other youth activities I have worked with the Police Department in the Youth Division on the juvenile cases of the community.

I still have this great interest in youth work and a strong desire to be assigned as a priest working in one of our Archdiocesan institutions. I request that the Personnel Board give me consideration in such an assignment, especially now at this time that I am open for a transfer and also that I am at an age that I consider young enough to be able to devote full time and energy to youth work.

Sincerely in Christ,


Joseph Bennett

CONTACTS WITH MEN REGARDING POSSIBLE CHANGE
(Associates in present assignments five years or more)

3-6-72

('66)

J. Bennett, '66 - St. John Baptist de La Salle

Would like to remain here - no complaints -
happy here - pastor agrees

But open to further talk if Board thinks it necessary.

THE DIOCESAN CLERGY PERSONNEL BOARD
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

A G E N D A

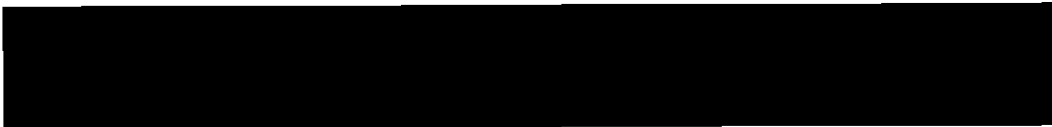
Meeting No. 84 - Third Board
Friday, March 23, 1973 - 10:30 A.M.
Place: Clergy Personnel Board Office

1. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting No. 83.

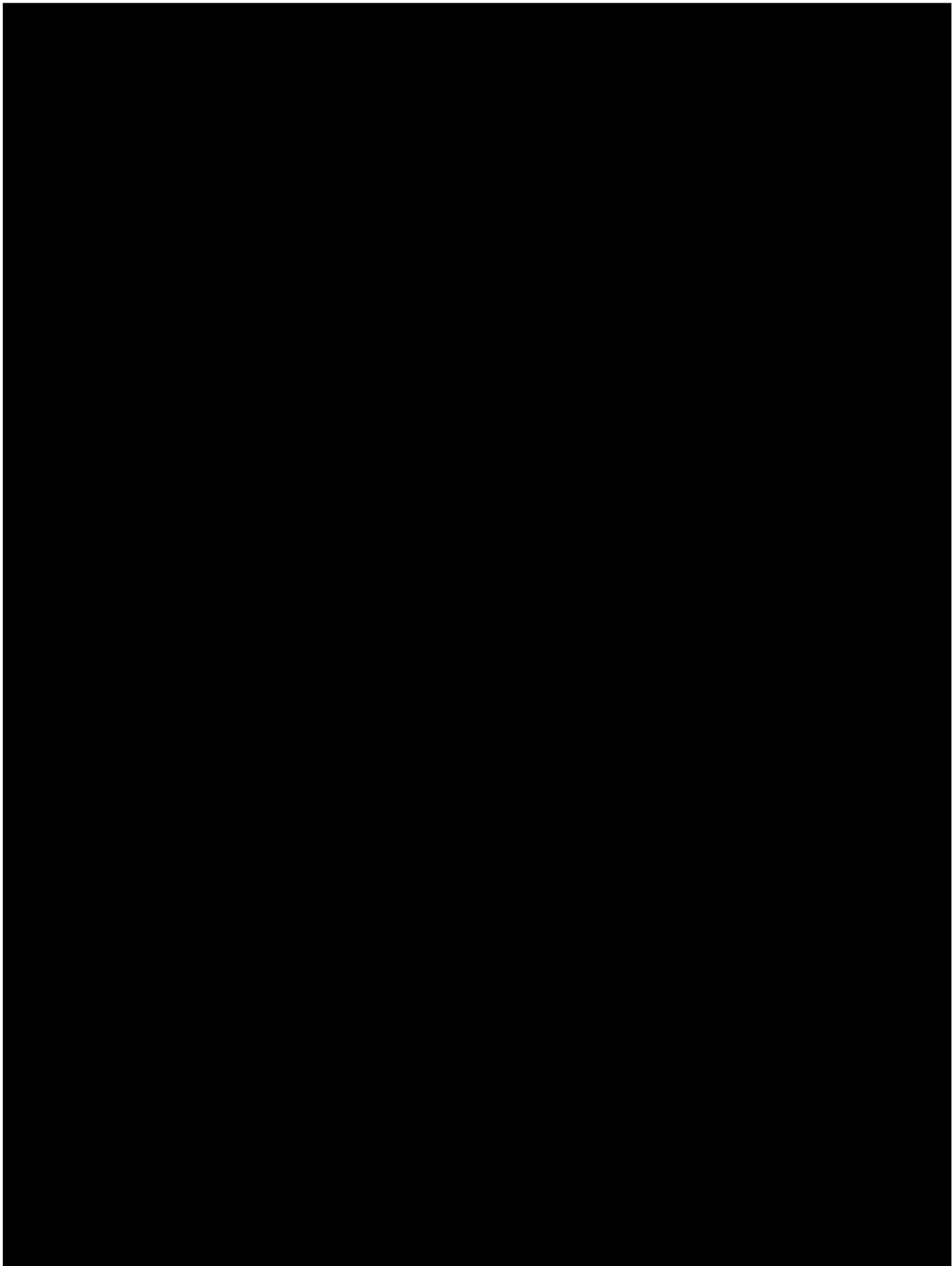
2. Reports



H. Joseph Bennett requests consideration for one of the Archdiocesan institutions that cares for Youth. In order of preference: 1. Mission of Our Lady of Mercy. 2. Maryville Academy 3. Angel Guardian Orphanage.

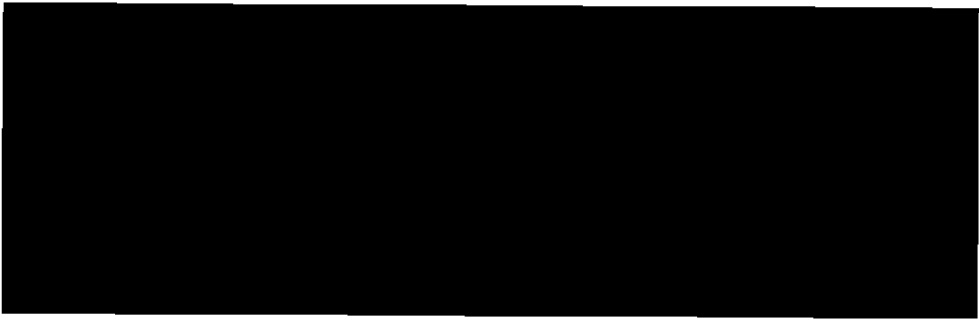


II-225

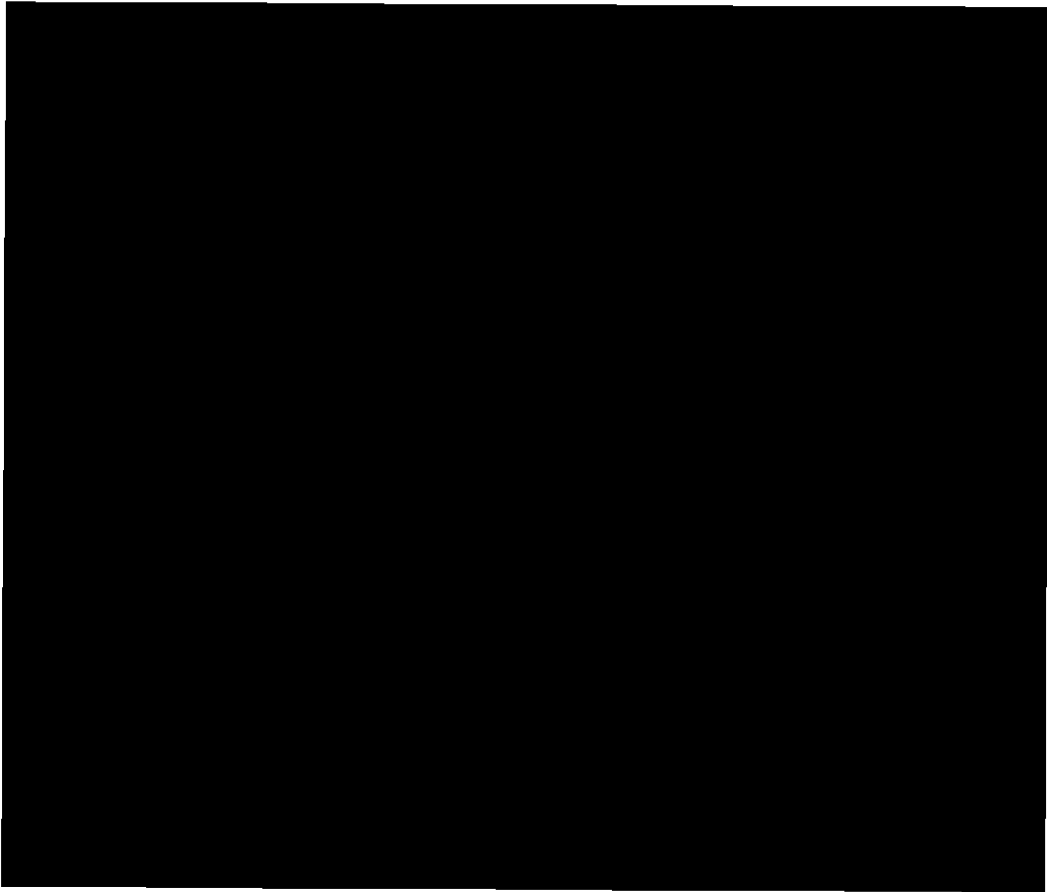


--2--

II-226



3. Approval of the Agenda



--3--

II-227

MINUTES

#61st -Meeting of the Twenty-First Board

Date: June 2, 2006

Priests' Placement Board/Pastoral Center

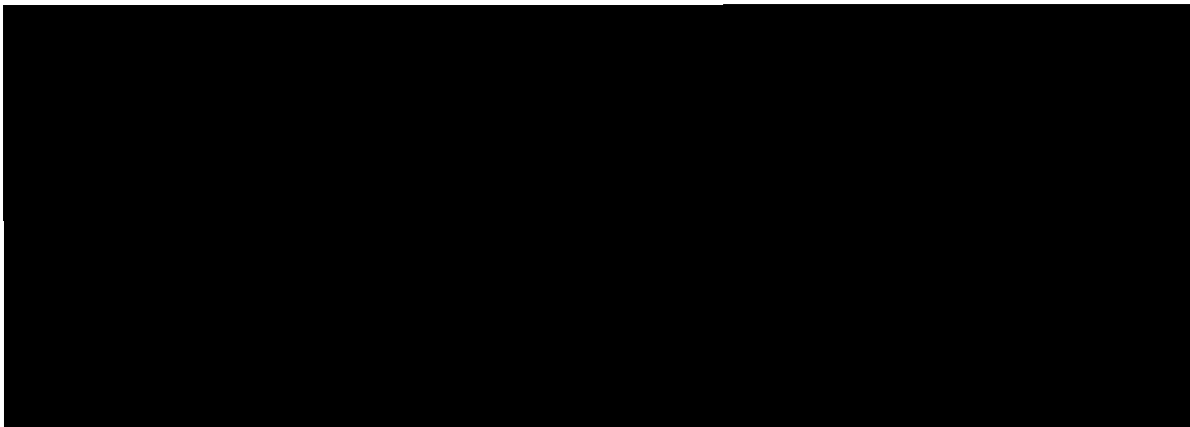
Present: Rev.: Kevin Birmingham, John W. Clemens, William T. Corcoran,
James Donovan, Matthew E. Foley,
Thomas Hickey, David A. Jones

Absent: Rev. Richard Milek

I Opening Prayer: Rev. Thomas Hickey 10:14 A M

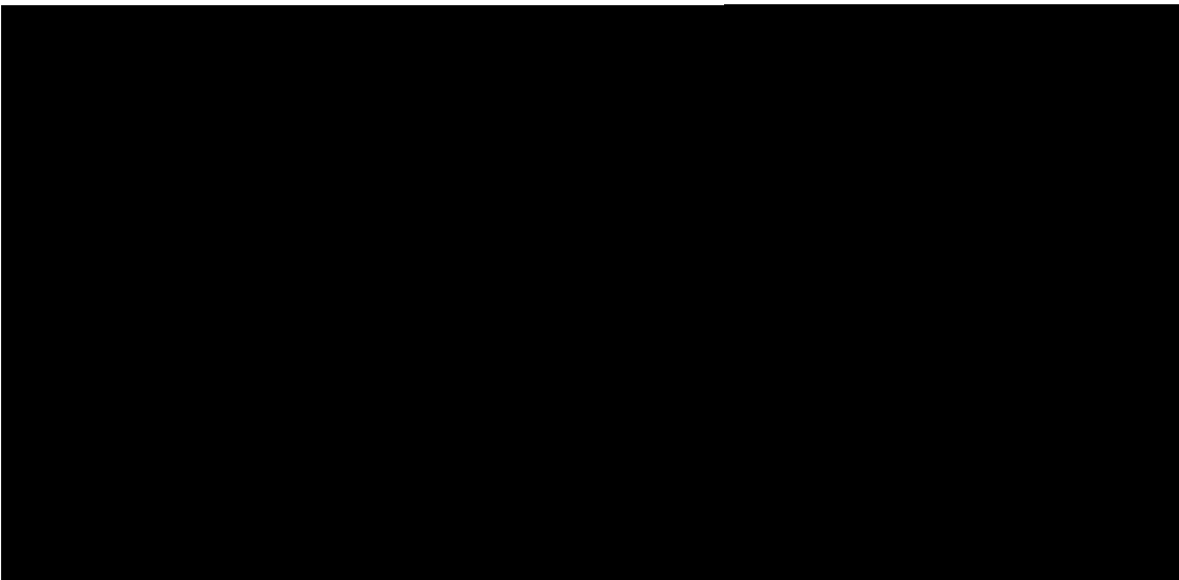
II Acceptance of Minutes: 6 - 0 - 0

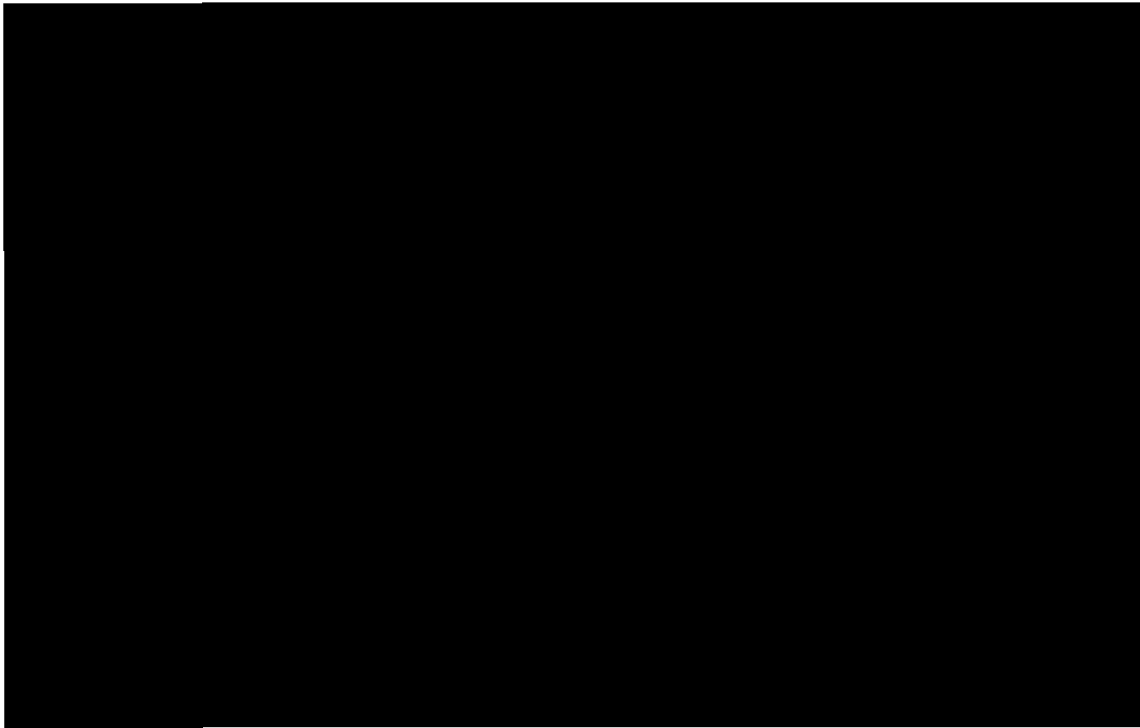
III



IV Acceptance of Agenda: 6 - 0 - 0

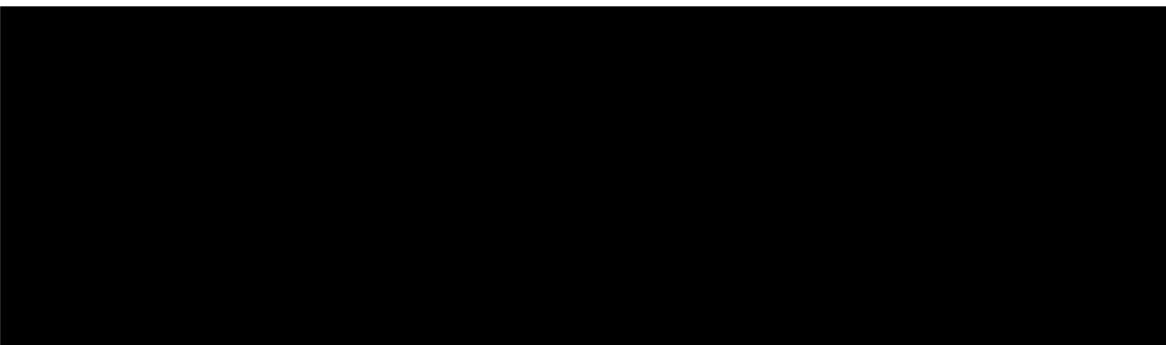
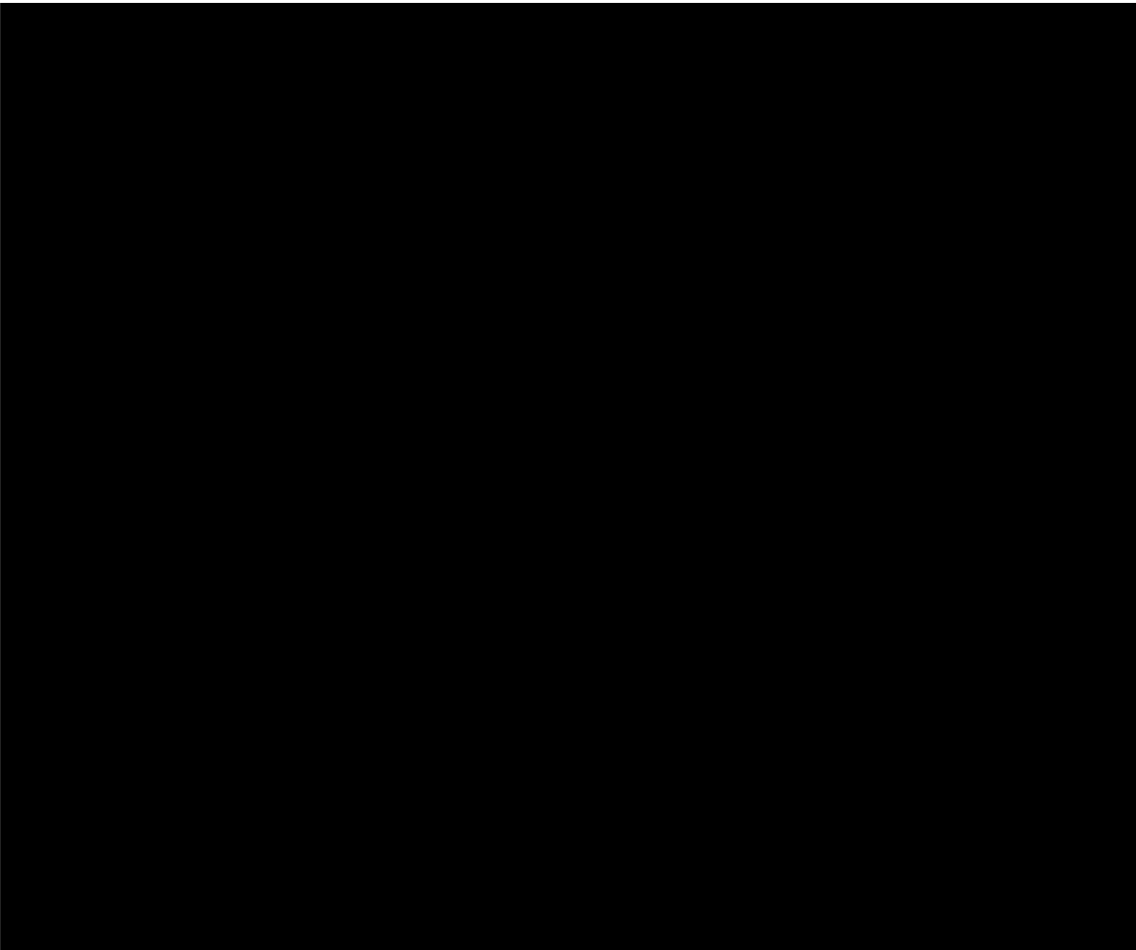
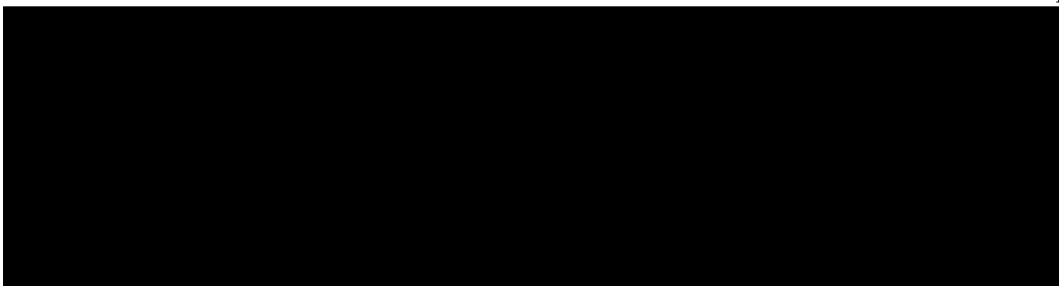
V Business:

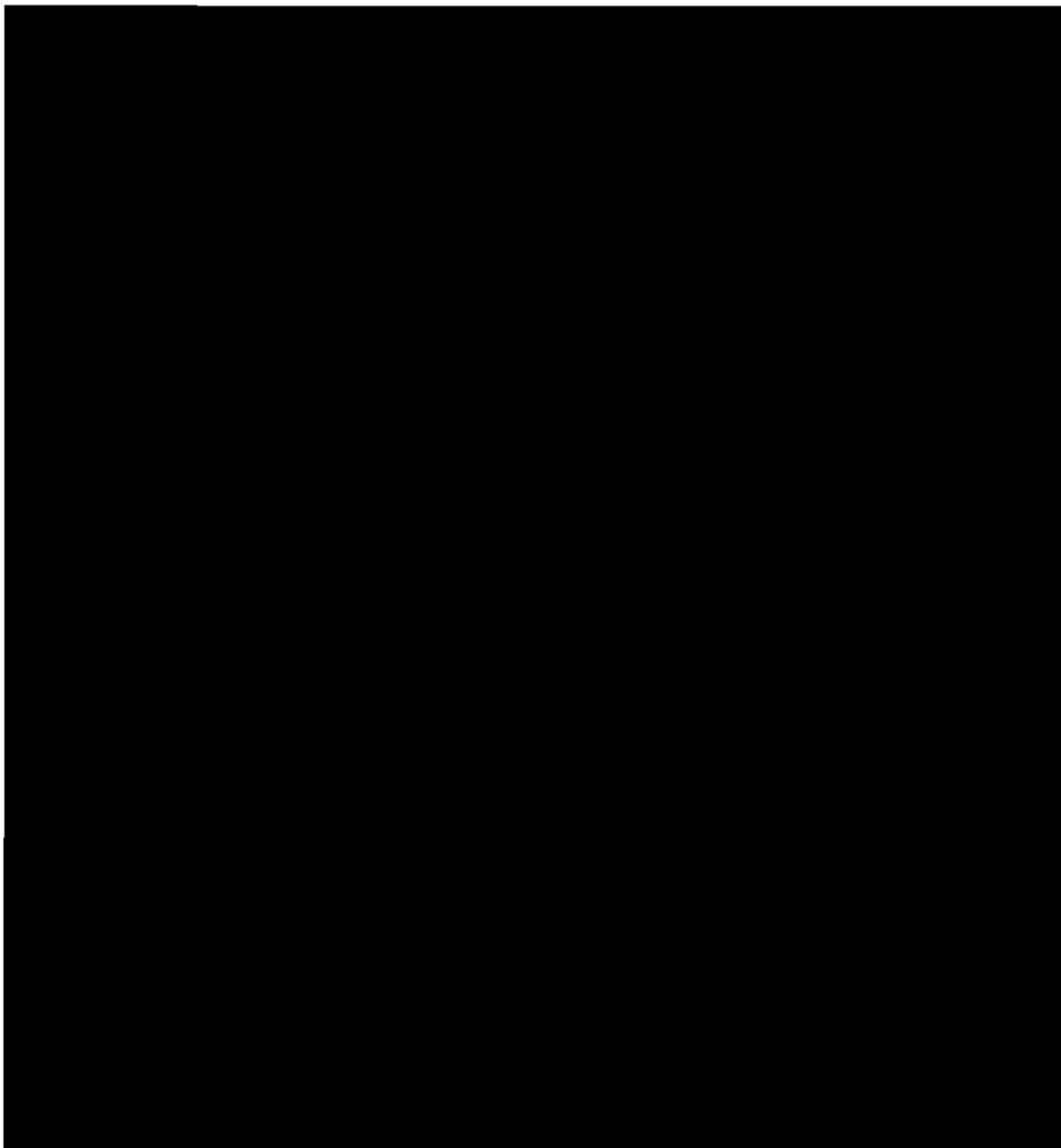
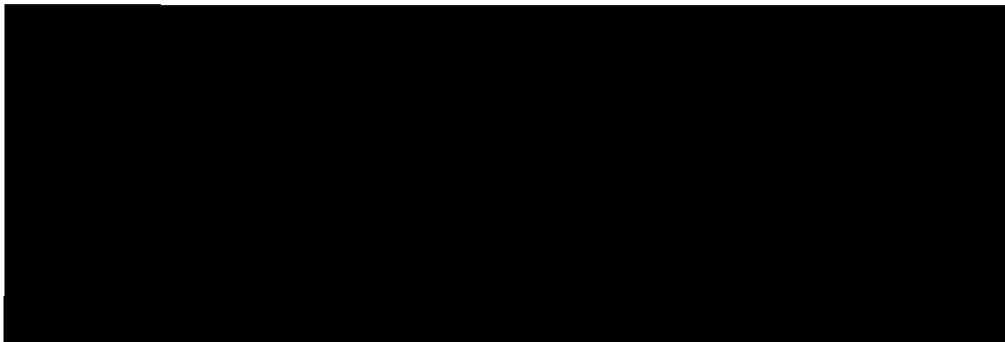


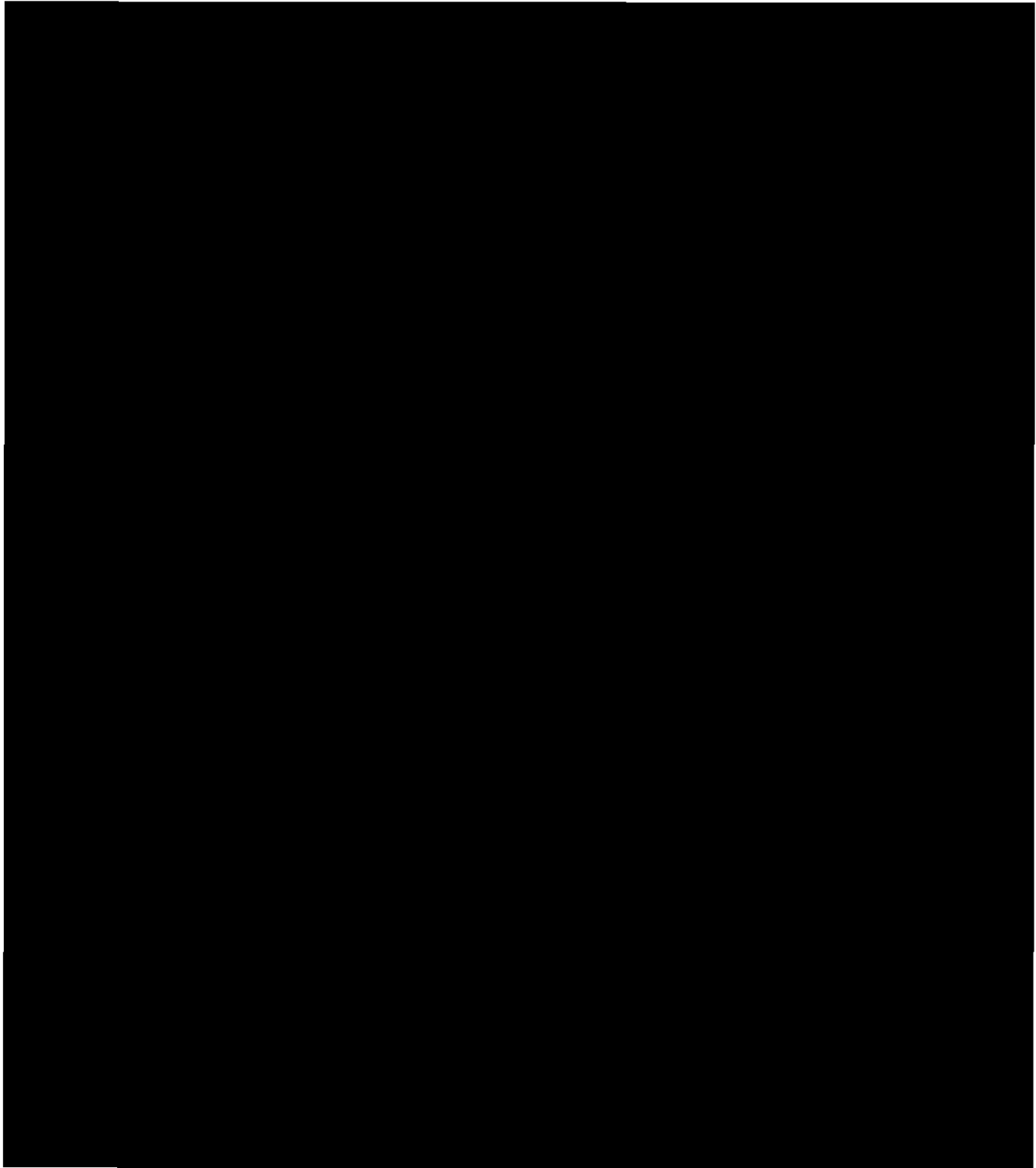


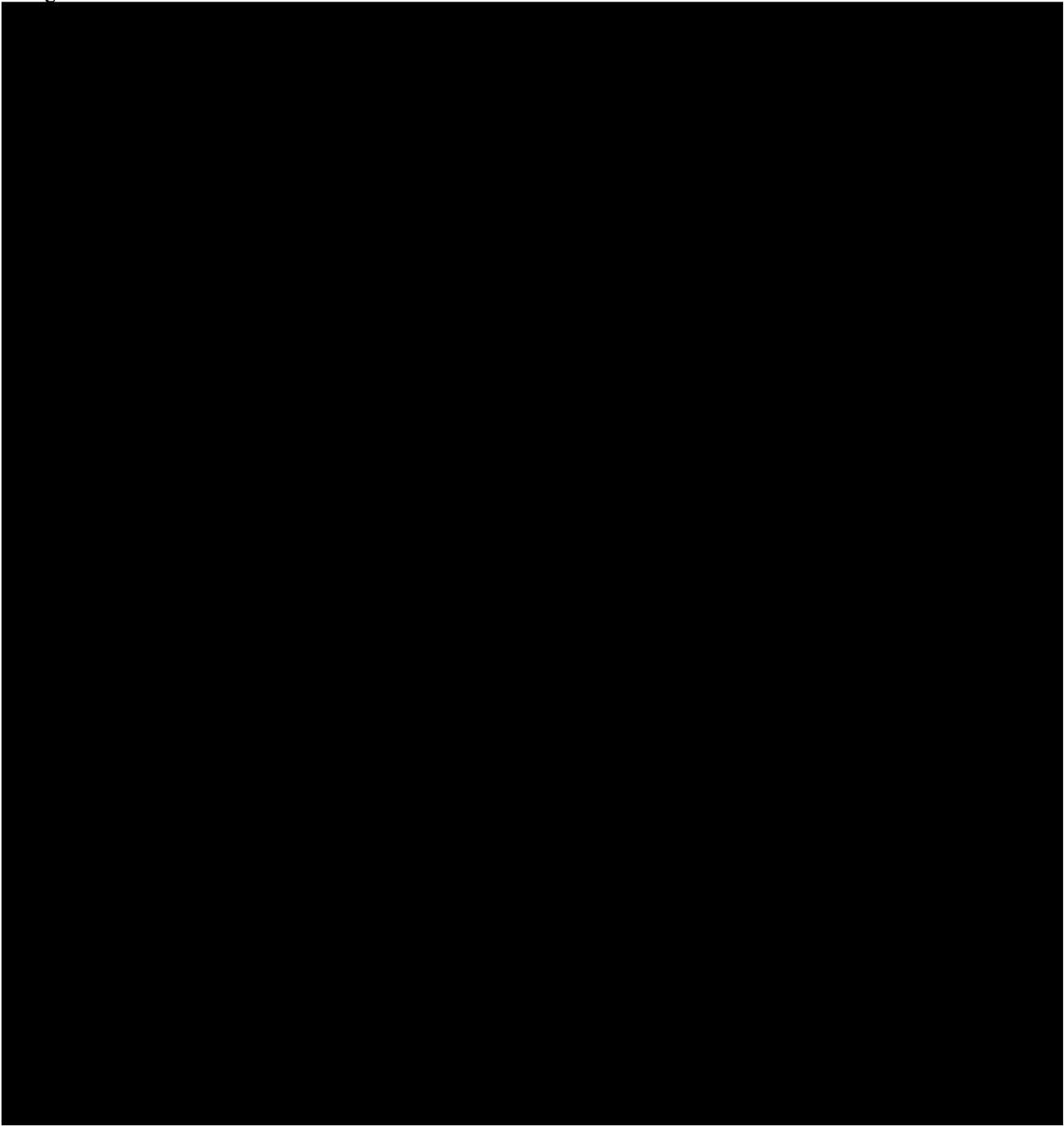
9. **Joseph Bennett '66:** Joe's case is going to Rome. Bishop Joseph Perry is suggesting that we need an administrator at Holy Ghost. He is suggesting either Donald Fenske '58 or Joseph Cook '86. Clem will follow up on this.





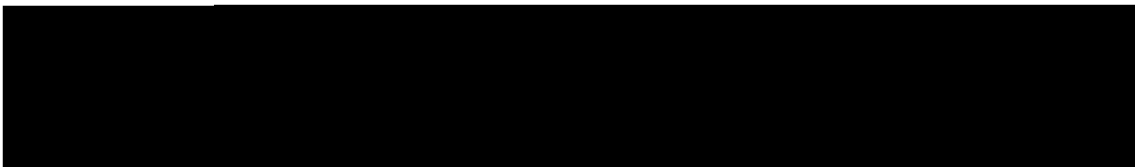








VI



VII



VIII Adjournment: 1:50 p.m.
MOTION: 6 - 0 - 0

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

