



## 1 APPEARANCES :

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12 By Ms. Jane Freud (telephonically)  
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14 MARTIN BISCHOFF TEMPLETON LANGSLET & HOFFMANN LLP  
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15 By Mr. Scott Kamin  
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17 ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Paulette Furness/Portland Archdiocese;  
Videographer Jason Quigley  
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## 1 BISHOP KENNETH STEINER

2 having first been sworn by the Certified Shorthand Reporter,  
3 testified under oath as follows:

4  
5 EXAMINATION BY MR. MOREY:

5:08:34 6 Q Good morning, Bishop Steiner.

7:09:20 7 A Good morning, Mr. Morey.

8:09:21 8 Q We have been introduced previously. Just  
9:09:23 9 for the record again, my name is Michael Morey. I  
10:09:26 10 introduced myself as Mickey as most people know me  
11:09:29 11 and this is the date set for your deposition.

12:09:32 12 A Yes.

13:09:32 13 Q Prior to coming here today, have you had  
14:09:34 14 adequate time to prepare for this deposition?

15:09:38 15 A Yes.

16:09:38 16 Q Okay. And I won't ask what you talked  
17:09:41 17 about, but have you had adequate time to meet with  
18:09:45 18 Mr. Dulcich, Ms. Furness, anyone else in order to  
19:09:48 19 prepare for the deposition?

20:09:49 20 A Yes.

21:09:50 21 Q Have you ever had your deposition taken  
22:09:52 22 before?

23:09:52 23 A Not that I can recall.

24:09:53 24 Q All right. I'm sure this has all been  
25:09:56 25 explained to you, but let me just make sure.

01:55 1 issue coming up, it would have perhaps become a  
:01:58 2 topic," I'm not understanding what you're meaning.

:02:02 3 A Well, I'm just saying in maybe informal  
:02:05 4 conversation, people might have asked us as bishops  
:02:08 5 of Portland, "Oh, we see you're in the news" or  
:02:12 6 something. I just can't remember it specifically.

1:02:14 7 Q Okay. Other than your limited  
1:02:17 8 recollection of it perhaps coming up in conversation  
1:02:21 9 by other bishops asking you about it because it had  
1:02:24 10 made the news, do you remember anything else about  
1:02:26 11 the issue of childhood sexual abuse being discussed  
1:02:30 12 by you or by anyone in your presence at any of the  
1:02:34 13 national meetings between 1983 and 1986 when you  
1:02:39 14 were serving as auxiliary bishop?

1:02:43 15 A No, I do not specifically remember.

1:03:02 16 Q We've been going for about an hour, I  
1:03:05 17 don't need a break, do you?

11:03:07 18 A No, it's fine.

11:03:46 19 (Exhibit No. 1 marked.)

11:03:47 20 Q Bishop Steiner, I've had handed to you  
11:03:51 21 what has been marked as Exhb. 1. It's a copy of a  
11:03:53 22 newspaper article that I'll represent to you was  
11:03:56 23 published on August 31st, 1983, by The Oregonian.

04:03 24 Do you -- first, do you recall that you  
11:04:06 25 were present at the sentencing of Thomas Laughlin,

04:10 1 what is actually the second sentencing when he was  
1:04:13 2 actually sent to jail?

1:04:14 3 A I remember that I was present at that  
1:04:16 4 case.

1:04:17 5 Q Okay. And at the top of the second  
1:04:19 6 column, you were actually quoted as saying "The Most  
1:04:25 7 Reverend Kenneth D. Steiner, Auxiliary Bishop of the  
1:04:28 8 Archdiocese of Portland, which serves all of Western  
1:04:29 9 Oregon," and then, "Steiner said some things."

1:04:38 10 Is that accurate?

11:04:38 11 A Yes.

11:04:38 12 Q Okay. Further down on column two, it  
11:04:38 13 says -- right at the bottom, if you'll read with me,  
11:04:41 14 it says, "Church officials said steps are being  
11:04:44 15 taken to ensure that such a thing will not happen  
11:04:48 16 again."

11:04:49 17 Now, do you recall if that was a statement  
11:04:51 18 by you, was it a statement by Pam Keezer, was it a  
11:04:56 19 statement by Bertram Griffin, or by anyone else? Do  
11:05:00 20 you remember?

11:05:01 21 A I do not remember at the time.

11:05:02 22 Q Can you say for certain whether or not it  
11:05:03 23 was a statement by you?

05:05 24 A No, I cannot.

11:05:07 25 Q Do you recall that such a statement was

05:08 1 made when you were in the courtroom?

:05:12 2 A No, I do not.

:05:16 3 Q In the next paragraph, talking about

:05:20 4 Michael Haglund, he states that "The Archdiocese" --

:05:24 5 and I'm reading the second paragraph, he said "The

1:05:27 6 Archdiocese and the parish are beginning a major

1:05:30 7 education program about sex abuse and child abuse

1:05:33 8 that he believes will help the church move beyond"

1:05:36 9 what he termed a "tragic event."

1:05:39 10 Do you recall Mr. Haglund making that

1:05:41 11 statement?

1:05:42 12 A No, I do not.

1:05:44 13 Q Do you recall that those types of --

11:05:48 14 excuse me, that's a bad question.

11:05:50 15 Do you recall that representation having

11:05:52 16 been made to the Court by anyone?

11:05:55 17 A No, I don't.

11:05:57 18 Q Okay. The next full paragraph down states

11:06:04 19 "In addition to the general Diocesan program,

11:06:09 20 special programs on childhood sexual abuse will be

11:06:15 21 presented at All Saints School and Central Catholic

11:06:17 22 High School where Laughlin taught from 1948 through

11:06:23 23 1965."

06:25 24 Do you recall that statement being made?

11:06:27 25 A No, I do not.



06:27 1 Q All right. The top right column, the top  
:06:31 2 paragraph says, "Griffin" -- meaning Bertram  
:06:35 3 Griffin -- "said that the Archdiocese, the Multnomah  
:06:39 4 County District Attorney's office and the State  
06:42 5 Childrens Service Division were developing  
06:44 6 guidelines for priests to use in reporting suspected  
06:48 7 child abuse cases."

06:50 8 Do you remember that representation having  
06:54 9 been made by Bertram Griffin?

06:56 10 A No, I do not.

06:57 11 Q Okay. Although you have no present  
06:59 12 recollection of any of those statements being made,  
07:02 13 did the Archdiocese, in fact, begin a major  
07:06 14 education program about sexual abuse and child abuse  
07:13 15 soon after this -- soon after August of 1983?

07:22 16 A I believe so.

07:23 17 Q Okay. What did it consist of?

07:26 18 A Well, one of the things I can remember is  
07:33 19 that we as a body of priests met together to talk  
07:36 20 about this subject.

07:39 21 Q And what did you do?

07:43 22 A What did I do?

07:45 23 Q What did the -- what did the body of  
07:47 24 priests do? What came out of that meeting or those  
07:50 25 meetings?

07:56 1 A I'm not sure what came out of it.

:07:58 2 Q Was there any -- I'll strike that.

:08:07 3 The term used is a "major education

:08:11 4 program."

:08:12 5 Do you recall after that representation

1:08:14 6 was apparently made that there were major education

1:08:17 7 programs on this subject adopted by the Archdiocese?

1:08:22 8 MR. DULCICH: I will object to the

1:08:23 9 question as argumentative and lacking foundation;

1:08:27 10 assuming facts not in evidence.

1:08:29 11 Q You can answer.

1:08:33 12 A Could you repeat that question, please.

1:08:36 13 Q Sure.

1:08:37 14 You had -- let me ask it a little

1:08:39 15 differently. When I asked the question the first

1:08:42 16 time, you said you recall meeting with a group of

1:08:45 17 pastors about it.

1:08:46 18 A Uh-huh.

1:08:47 19 Q Can you remember anything else that came

1:08:48 20 about as a result of this -- or in this time period

1:08:54 21 with respect to a major education program?

11:09:05 22 A No, I do not.

11:09:06 23 Q Okay. So other than some meetings with

09:08 24 some pastors on the subject, can you recall anything

11:09:11 25 else that was done to institute a major education

09:18 1 program on the issue of childhood sexual abuse?

1:09:24 2 A I have a vague recollection that the  
1:09:27 3 office of education handled that in regards to the  
1:09:32 4 schools throughout the Archdiocese, but I'm not that  
1:09:38 5 clear on exactly what program they instituted.

1:09:43 6 Q And the office of education, do you recall  
1:09:46 7 who was the head of the office of education in  
1:09:49 8 August of 1983?

1:09:56 9 A There was a Sister Molly Gillar -- no, I  
11:10:03 10 really don't remember. There -- there were  
11:10:07 11 different directors of that office. I don't know  
11:10:09 12 who was the director in that time frame.

11:10:12 13 Q Okay. In that time frame, you're serving  
11:10:15 14 as auxiliary bishop, and you've already told me  
11:10:18 15 about the, you know, meetings that you had with  
11:10:20 16 Archbishop Power, et cetera.

11:10:28 17 Can you recall there being anything that  
11:10:32 18 actually happened, that was done, a procedure, a  
11:10:38 19 program put on, can you remember anything about  
11:10:40 20 there being any major education program about sex  
11:10:44 21 abuse and child abuse?

11:10:57 22 A No, I do not remember specifics about the  
11:11:00 23 program.

11:02 24 Q My question is a little more specific.  
11:11:05 25 Do you remember there being anything, not

11:08 1 specifics, can you tell me anything that would  
:11:14 2 indicate that a program was actually adopted,  
:11:21 3 conducted, or otherwise instituted?

:11:22 4 MR. DULCICH: Let me object to the form of  
:11:24 5 the question as argumentative; lacks foundation.

1:11:27 6 A No, I do not remember.

1:11:33 7 Q The same series of questions with regard  
1:11:35 8 to the representation that there would be special  
1:11:41 9 programs on child and sex abuse presented at All  
1:11:43 10 Saints and Central Catholic High School.

1:11:46 11 Do you have any recollection of there  
1:11:48 12 actually being special programs presented at All  
1:11:51 13 Saints and Central Catholic soon after or after this  
1:11:55 14 representation in 1983?

1:11:57 15 MR. DULCICH: Object to the question as  
1:11:59 16 lacking foundation and assuming facts not in  
1:12:01 17 evidence and argumentative.

1:12:03 18 A No, I do not remember that.

1:12:08 19 Q And lastly, with regard to Bertram  
1:12:11 20 Griffin's comment that the Archdiocese was working  
1:12:14 21 with the Multnomah County District Attorney's office  
1:12:16 22 and the State Children's Welfare Division to develop  
1:12:22 23 guidelines for priests to use in reporting suspected  
12:27 24 child abuse cases, do you recall any of that  
11:12:29 25 actually being instituted?

12:36 1 A I presume it was instituted, but I don't  
:12:39 2 remember specifically.

:12:40 3 Q Okay.

:12:41 4 A That was 23 years ago.

1:12:43 5 Q That representation by Bertram Griffin  
1:12:46 6 indicates that they were going to be developing  
1:12:48 7 guidelines.

1:12:49 8 Do you recall there ever being any written  
1:12:52 9 guidelines of any sort adopted after this  
1:12:57 10 representation in 1983 dealing with how priests are  
1:13:02 11 to deal with reporting suspected child abuse?

1:13:09 12 MR. DULCICH: Object to the form; lacks  
1:13:09 13 foundation; assumes facts not in evidence;  
1:13:12 14 argumentative; vague.

11:13:25 15 A I'm sorry, but I don't recollect any  
11:13:28 16 specifics. I know that at one point, the clergy  
11:13:33 17 adopted a code of ethics, but that may have been a  
11:13:43 18 little bit later. I'm not sure.

11:14:14 19 (Exhibit No. 2 marked.)

11:14:18 20 Q Bishop Steiner, I've handed you a document  
11:14:21 21 marked as Exhb. 2 and I will represent to you that  
11:14:26 22 it is the first page of the child abuse policy of  
11:14:28 23 the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon adopted in  
14:33 24 2002.

11:14:34 25 Are you familiar with that document? I

08:34 1 Q Betty also ran the lunch program at All  
:08:34 2 Saints.

:08:34 3 A Okay.

:08:34 4 Q Now, having told you that, I'll ask you to  
:08:34 5 assume those facts are accurate.

:08:34 6 Does that jog your recollection as to who  
:08:34 7 is?

:08:34 8 A Just that she was a mother of one of the  
:08:34 9 victims, yes.

:08:34 10 Q Okay. Were you aware that it has been  
:08:34 11 reported that went directly to  
:08:34 12 Archbishop Power about problems Laughlin was having  
:08:34 13 with children?

:08:34 14 A No, I wasn't aware of that.

:08:34 15 Q Even up to today, you hadn't heard of  
:08:34 16 that?

:08:34 17 A I think I heard that somebody, I don't  
:08:34 18 know if it was or who, but I  
:08:34 19 wasn't -- no.

:08:34 20 (Exhibit No. 4 marked.)

:08:34 21 Q Handing you Exhb. 4, Bishop Steiner, it's  
:08:34 22 a letter dated February 13th, 1986. It's written by

:08:34 23 who is who is the

08:34 24 father of one of the victims of Father Laughlin.

:08:34 25 Have you ever seen this letter before?

08:34 1 A '86. I don't remember. I don't remember  
5:08:34 2 ever seeing this.

5:08:34 3 Q Take your time to look through it. You  
5:08:34 4 may not have. I just want to know if you remember  
5:08:34 5 ever having seen it.

5:08:34 6 Just to speed things up, the real  
5:08:34 7 substance of the letter really is on pages 3 and 4,  
5:08:34 8 where he details a number of reports he believes  
5:08:34 9 were made to Archbishop Power.

5:08:34 10 A Okay. (Witness reviews document.)

5:08:34 11 Q I didn't have my watch running, but it  
5:08:34 12 looks like you took five or six or seven minutes to  
5:08:34 13 review the complete letter.

15:08:34 14 Is that correct?

15:08:34 15 A Well, I skipped over a couple pages, but  
15:08:34 16 yes.

15:08:34 17 Q Having had a chance to review that letter  
15:08:34 18 pretty much at length, does it refresh your  
15:08:34 19 recollection as to whether or not you have seen that  
15:08:34 20 letter before?

15:08:34 21 A I think maybe I may have seen it in '86  
15:08:34 22 or -- '86; sometime around then.

15:08:34 23 Q Okay. It's dated February 13, 1986.

08:34 24 A Uh-huh. I would have -- yeah, I remember  
15:08:34 25 seeing it someplace.

08:34 1 Q Now, you'll note on page 6, it indicates  
:08:34 2 that among others, it was copied to you.

:08:34 3 A Oh, on page 6, yes, I see that.

:08:34 4 Q Okay. Do you remember receiving a copy of  
:08:34 5 it relatively contemporaneous with the time in which  
:08:34 6 it was written, February 13th, 1986?

:08:34 7 A No, I do not.

:08:34 8 Q Do you remember the circumstances under  
:08:34 9 which you first read this letter?

:08:34 10 A No, I don't. This was like three years  
:08:34 11 after Laughlin was arrested and I think I knew there  
:08:34 12 were some legal cases, but I wasn't involved in  
:08:34 13 those.

:08:34 14 Q Now, Bishop Steiner, this was -- and by  
:08:34 15 "this," I mean what is the time frame contained in  
:08:34 16 this letter, there are various reports that  
:08:34 17 details, is all during the tenure of  
:08:34 18 Archbishop Power, correct?

:08:34 19 A Yes.

:08:34 20 Q And you have previously described  
:08:34 21 Archbishop Power's management style has being  
:08:34 22 collaborative and that you met with him on a regular  
:08:34 23 basis, correct?

08:34 24 A Yes.

15:08:34 25 Q Did Archbishop Power at any time relate to



08:34 1 you any of the information contained in the letter

08:34 2 of

:08:34 3 A No.

:08:34 4 Q Did Archbishop Power at any time relate to  
:08:34 5 you any of the information contained in Exhb. 3 from  
:08:34 6 Father Gregory Gage?

:08:34 7 A No.

:08:34 8 Q Are you aware of what the policies were of  
:08:34 9 the Archdiocese of Portland under Archbishop Power's  
:08:34 10 tenure with respect to documenting reports of  
:08:34 11 childhood sexual abuse?

:08:34 12 A Let's see.

5:08:34 13 Can you ask it one more time?

5:08:34 14 Q Sure.

5:08:34 15 Are you aware of Archbishop -- strike  
15:08:34 16 that.

15:08:34 17 Are you aware of the policies of the  
15:08:34 18 Archdiocese of Portland with respect to documenting  
15:08:34 19 reports of childhood sex abuse during the tenure of  
15:08:34 20 Archbishop Power?

15:08:34 21 A Well, on some of this, I guess I would  
15:08:34 22 have to rely on the person that it was reported to,  
15:08:34 23 so I can't speak for Archbishop Power, if he came up  
08:34 24 with this information, and --

15:08:34 25 Q Let me interrupt you for a second. I

08:34 1 think you misunderstood my question.

:08:34 2 A Uh-huh.

:08:34 3 Q Put aside the contents of the letter. I'm  
:08:34 4 asking you a very general question, okay?

:08:34 5 A Uh-huh.

:08:34 6 Q Are you aware of what the policies were of  
:08:34 7 the Archdiocese of Portland during Archbishop  
:08:34 8 Power's tenure with respect to reports of childhood  
:08:34 9 sexual abuse of children by clergy?

:08:34 10 A The policies of the Archdiocese, you're  
:08:34 11 referring to?

:08:34 12 Q Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

:08:34 13 A No, at that particular period in '86, I  
:08:34 14 don't know what the policies of reporting were.

:08:34 15 Q Okay.

:08:34 16 A Of the Archdiocese.

:08:34 17 Q When you became auxiliary bishop in  
:08:34 18 1978 --

:08:34 19 A Yes.

:08:34 20 Q -- was there any policy with respect to  
:08:34 21 the documentation of reports of child sex abuse by  
:08:34 22 clergy?

:08:34 23 A Not that I was aware of and --

08:34 24 Q Was there any general practice of the  
:08:34 25 Archdiocese of Portland with respect to documenting?

08:34 1 reports of childhood sex abuse?

08:34 2 A Not that I know of.

08:34 3 Q Were there any procedures that were  
08:34 4 generally followed by the Archdiocese of Portland  
08:34 5 with respect to reports of childhood abuse by  
08:34 6 clergy?

08:34 7 A Not that I'm aware of.

08:34 8 Q Was there anything that you are aware of  
08:34 9 that would have resulted in the documentation,  
08:34 10 written documentation, of reports of childhood sex  
08:34 11 abuse by clergy in the Archdiocese during Archbishop  
08:34 12 Power's tenure?

08:34 13 A Maybe toward the end of his tenure when  
08:34 14 this meeting took place in the mid '80s.

08:34 15 Q You're talking about the meetings in the  
08:34 16 mid '80s --

08:34 17 A Uh-huh.

08:34 18 Q -- including the Red Lion meeting?

08:34 19 A Right, but up to that point, I'm not aware  
08:34 20 of any. I guess maybe you have to understand that  
08:34 21 as personnel director, I was involved primarily in  
08:34 22 the assignment of clergy and we met with clergy to  
08:34 23 evaluate the ministry, we met with them to talk  
08:34 24 about different assignments, we met with them for  
08:34 25 other purposes, but I wasn't, say, the one that

08:34 1 somebody would report about a priest.

08:34 2 I was only 41 years old when I became a  
08:34 3 bishop and it wouldn't be -- the logical person  
08:34 4 would be the Archbishop or Bishop Waldschmidt, who  
08:34 5 was an older bishop, about 18 years older than I  
08:34 6 was, so it seems like sex abuse would be reported to  
08:34 7 someone other than myself who was really just  
08:34 8 dealing with the assignments of clergy. We weren't  
08:34 9 dealing with any problems or difficulties.

08:34 10 If a priest had an alcohol problem, that  
08:34 11 wasn't reported to me. That would be either the  
08:34 12 health plan that we had at that time, or the  
08:34 13 Archbishop, so I wasn't aware of policies of  
08:34 14 reporting any child abuse by a priest.

08:34 15 Q Okay. Thank you for the clarification.

08:34 16 A (Witness nods head.)

08:34 17 Q When you were appointed auxiliary bishop  
08:34 18 in 1978, would the report of childhood sex abuse by  
08:34 19 a clergy have been an important piece of position to  
08:34 20 you?

08:34 21 A Would it have been an important piece of  
08:34 22 information? Sure, as it related to a priest,  
08:34 23 definitely.

08:34 24 Q Sure.

08:34 25 And would you have taken any report that

08:34 1 was given to you or provided to you about the sex  
:08:34 2 abuse of a child by a priest very seriously?

:08:34 3 A Yes.

:08:34 4 Q Are you aware of any written documentation  
:08:34 5 by Archbishop Power or by anyone else in the  
:08:34 6 Archdiocese with respect to the various reports that  
:08:34 7 are in Exhb. 4 that you just read?

:08:34 8 A Okay. You have -- repeat the question,  
:08:34 9 please.

:08:34 10 Q Sure.

:08:34 11 In Exhb. 4, details a whole  
:08:34 12 series of reports to Archbishop Power and others,  
:08:34 13 correct?

:08:34 14 A Yes.

:08:34 15 Q Okay. And Exhb. 3, Father Gage details --

:08:34 16 A Yes.

:08:34 17 Q -- a number of reports to Archbishop Power  
:08:34 18 and others --

:08:34 19 A Right.

:08:34 20 Q -- including you, correct?

:08:34 21 A Uh-huh.

:08:34 22 Q Each of those reports involve either the  
:08:34 23 sex abuse of a child or suspected sexual

08:34 24 inappropriate conduct of a child by Father Laughlin,  
15:08:34 25 correct?

08:34 1 A Yes.

5:08:34 2 Q Would you agree that every one of those  
5:08:34 3 reports back in '74 to '79 to '80 to '83 would have  
5:08:34 4 been very important when they were made?

5:08:34 5 A Yes.

5:08:34 6 Q Are you aware that Archbishop Power at any  
5:08:34 7 time in any way documented any of the alleged  
5:08:34 8 reports that were made to him in Exhbs. 3 and 4?

5:08:34 9 A No, I am not aware that he documented any  
5:08:34 10 of those. When I was in the personnel department, I  
15:08:34 11 don't think we would have received anything like  
15:08:34 12 that from the files of the personnel department.

15:08:34 13 Q Okay. Let me represent to you, Bishop  
15:08:34 14 Steiner, that other than reports made by others,  
15:08:34 15 that there is no report by Archbishop Power of any  
15:08:34 16 of these reports.

15:08:34 17 Do you find that surprising?

15:08:34 18 MR. DULCICH: Objection. That -- I think  
15:08:34 19 that's asking for his expert opinion.

15:08:34 20 MR. MOREY: It's not.

15:08:34 21 MR. DULCICH: It is.

15:08:34 22 You don't need to answer that, Bishop.

15:08:34 23 (INSTRUCTION BY COUNSEL)

08:34 24 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll pass.

13:13:21 25

08:47 1 BY MR. MOREY: (Continuing)

09:00 2 Q If any type of documentation would have  
09:03 3 been made by Archbishop Power --

09:07 4 A Yes.

09:08 5 Q -- where would it have been kept?

09:10 6 MR. DULCICH: Objection to the form, calls  
09:12 7 for speculation; incomplete hypothetical; vague.

09:21 8 A I really don't know.

09:21 9 Q Okay. You have no idea as to where an  
09:21 10 Archbishop would document reports of childhood sex  
09:25 11 abuse?

09:26 12 MR. DULCICH: Now you're asking for his  
09:28 13 expert opinion.

09:29 14 MR. MOREY: No, I'm not asking for his  
09:32 15 opinion. I'm asking for his knowledge as a priest  
09:35 16 in the Portland Archdiocese.

09:37 17 MR. DULCICH: You tried that in the first  
09:39 18 question, he didn't know, so now you're trying  
09:43 19 through a back door. I appreciate your skill and  
09:48 20 your efforts, but I don't agree that it's consistent  
09:54 21 with the judge's order.

09:57 22 MR. MOREY: Are you instructing him not to  
09:58 23 answer that one?

10:00 24 MR. DULCICH: I am on that one.

14:10:01 25 (INSTRUCTION BY COUNSEL)

10:02 1 MR. MOREY: Okay.

:10:02 2

:10:02 3 BY MR. MOREY: (Continuing)

:10:04 4 Q As a personnel director, when a priest is  
:10:07 5 transferred to a new assignment, is the reason why  
:10:10 6 the priest is transferred usually included in the  
:10:13 7 personnel file?

:10:15 8 A Never, no.

:10:16 9 Q And why not?

:10:18 10 A Okay. Usually when you hear all these  
:10:23 11 things about priests being moved, well, they're not  
:10:26 12 really moved. They're assigned or reassigned to a  
:10:30 13 different ministry, parish, or some other ministry,  
:10:33 14 and today we have a tenure policy, so after six  
:10:38 15 years, priests are moved.

:10:43 16 In those days, priests -- some priests  
:10:45 17 were not moved for 30 years, other priests were  
:10:49 18 moved every three years, there was no rhyme or  
:10:52 19 reason as to when priests were moved and --

:10:55 20 Q My question is: When they were moved, was  
:10:58 21 the reason they were moved ever put in the personnel  
:11:01 22 file?

:11:02 23 MR. DULCICH: Objection; asked and  
11:03 24 answered.

:11:04 25 You can answer it again.



11:08 1 A No, there wasn't a reason other than time.

4:11:15 2 Q Are you aware from any source that there  
4:11:20 3 had been destruction of any documents in which there  
4:11:25 4 was written documentation of Father Laughlin's  
4:11:31 5 sexual abuse of children?

4:11:33 6 MR. DULCICH: Also asked and answered, but  
4:11:34 7 you can answer it again.

4:11:36 8 A No, I'm not aware.

4:11:39 9 Q Did Father -- excuse me, did Archbishop  
4:11:42 10 Power ever discuss with you the destruction of any  
4:11:49 11 documents with relation to Father Laughlin's sexual  
4:11:53 12 abuse of children?

4:11:54 13 A No.

4:11:55 14 Q Did you ever learn that that had been done  
4:11:57 15 at his behest or request from any source?

4:11:59 16 A No.

4:12:23 17 (Exhibit No. 5 marked.)

4:12:27 18 Q Showing you, Bishop Steiner, what's been  
4:12:29 19 marked as Exhb. 5, it's a letter -- or a memorandum  
4:12:33 20 dated September 16th, 1983, to Owen Alstott from you  
4:12:39 21 and it's signed by you at the bottom of page 3.

4:12:43 22 Do you recognize that letter?

4:12:44 23 A Yes, I do.

12:46 24 Q Okay. And do you remember the series of  
4:12:48 25 circumstances that led to you writing this letter to

12:51 1 Mr. Alstott?

:12:53 2 A Yes, I do.

:12:55 3 Q And in the second paragraph, you indicate  
:12:57 4 that you withdrew your request in the face of  
:13:00 5 threats.

:13:01 6 What request had you withdrawn?

:13:06 7 A My request that I withdrew was for The  
:13:11 8 Catholic Sentinel to stop printing more and more  
:13:16 9 articles on the case of Father Laughlin.

:13:22 10 Q And why had you made the request of  
:13:24 11 The Sentinel to stop publishing, to desist, I think  
:13:30 12 is the word you used, from printing any more  
:13:33 13 articles, editorials or letters regarding Father  
:13:36 14 Laughlin?

:13:37 15 A Well, it had been reported at great length  
:13:39 16 in the public press and this after seven weeks in  
:13:46 17 our Catholic press, for the sake of the victims, for  
:13:52 18 the sake of the people of the Archdiocese. This was  
:13:54 19 a tremendous scandal.

:13:56 20 Why would we advertise bad news when we're  
:13:59 21 involved in good news?

:14:02 22 Q And in the second paragraph, you detail  
:14:04 23 the threats that Mr. Alstott had made to you,  
14:07 24 correct?

14:14:10 25 A Yes, apparently.

14:12 1 Q And one of those -- one of those threats  
:14:15 2 that you claim he made was that there would be --  
:14:17 3 and it's No. 3 -- that other confidential  
:14:20 4 information that The Catholic Sentinel held could be  
:14:25 5 made public.

:14:27 6 Do you know what other information they  
:14:29 7 had that they were threatening -- apparently  
:14:32 8 threatening to make public if you didn't desist from  
:14:35 9 your --

:14:36 10 A I have -- I have no idea.

:14:42 11 Q What happened as a result of your  
:14:44 12 withdrawing your request in the face of their  
:14:49 13 threats?

:14:54 14 A I think -- well, first of all, they  
:14:57 15 continued to print The Sentinel. For a while, they  
:15:01 16 were not even going to print, but then they decided  
:15:05 17 to go ahead and print, but I don't think they  
:15:07 18 continued to write letters to the editor or  
:15:09 19 whatever.

:15:10 20 I'm not sure that satisfied my concern and  
:15:17 21 I wasn't -- they just toned it down, so maybe I was  
:15:27 22 a little precipitous in my decision, but I just --  
:15:32 23 the other two bishops at the time were in Rome, and  
15:38 24 I, as the acting bishop, the vicar general of the  
:15:44 25 Diocese had thought I was doing something for the

15:48 1 good of the church.

:15:51 2 Q Why did you decide to withdraw your  
:15:54 3 request in face of these threats?

:16:01 4 A I was advised to do that by our business  
:16:09 5 manager, Bob McMenamin -- I mean Bob McCorey at that  
:16:10 6 time.

:16:10 7 Q And what did he tell you as to the reasons  
:16:13 8 why you should withdraw your request?

:16:16 9 A Well, first of all, that there would be  
:16:20 10 resignations and that this would become much more a  
:16:25 11 public issue and it would appear that we were in  
:16:28 12 some way covering this up, so I withdrew my request.

:17:00 13 MS. OLSON: Why don't we take a  
:17:02 14 five-minute break.

:17:04 15 MR. MOREY: Let's go off the record.

:17:26 16 (Pause in deposition: 2:17 - 2:27 p.m.)

:27:50 17

:27:57 18 BY MR. MOREY: (Continuing)

:28:03 19 Q Bishop Steiner, I'm going to ask you a  
:28:05 20 whole series of questions about a whole bunch of  
:28:08 21 priests, okay?

:28:09 22 A Okay.

:28:09 23 Q I'm going to try to do this in a very  
:28:12 24 succinct and well defined way.

:28:16 25 A Okay.

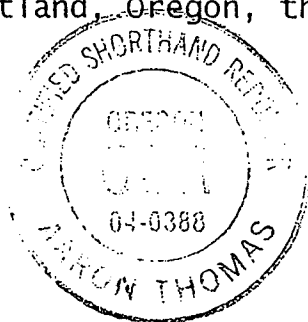
1 STATE OF OREGON )


2 County of Multnomah )

## Certified Copy

3  
4 I, Aaron M. Thomas, Certified Shorthand  
5 Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, and  
6 Notary Public for the State of Oregon, do hereby  
7 certify that BISHOP KENNETH STEINER personally  
8 appeared before me at the time and place mentioned  
9 in the caption herein; that the witness was by me  
10 first duly sworn on oath and examined upon oral  
11 interrogatories propounded by counsel; that said  
12 examination, together with the testimony of said  
13 witness, was taken down by me in stenotype and  
14 transcribed through computer-aided transcription;  
15 and that the foregoing transcript constitutes a  
16 full, true and accurate record of said examination  
17 of and testimony given by said witness, and of all  
18 other oral proceedings had during the taking of said  
19 deposition, and of the whole thereof.

20 Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at  
21 Portland, Oregon, this 7th day of February, 2006.



  
Aaron M. Thomas  
Oregon CSR 04-0388

# Church tries to heal pain of priest, those he abuse

... priest and specialist in church law. Griffin said that the archdiocese, the Clatsop County district attorney's office, the state Children's Services Division were developing guidelines for priests to use in reporting such child abuse cases.

Oregon law requires clergy, in all groups such as teachers, to report such to police, but Griffin said he and other priests have been aware of that requirement. He added information provided in some circumstances as in a confession or counseling session, can be passed on to police because that is private confidential information.

Other diocesan actions include expansion of the Health Panel to deal with psychological and emotional problems as well as alcohol and drug dependency, and consideration of the development of a professional code of ethics for priests, Griffin said.

"There is a lot of anger among the clergy among the people who feel betrayed by the archdiocese," Griffin said. "Because it (the actions) is so rare, the anger is so intense." Griffin noted that Foundation House, the Mexico program Laughlin will attend, serves his jail term, reported only five priests involved in sexual abuse in the last seven years.

Most Rev. Kenneth D. Steiner, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Portland, which serves all of Western Oregon.

Steiner said the church was asking for prayers for Laughlin's victims, their families and for the priest. The church in no way condones Laughlin's actions, Steiner said, but added, "Our faith in a loving and merciful God urges us to love, to forgive and to heal."

He said that any church action against Laughlin would have to be tainted by Archbishop Cardinal.

"We're trying to deal with the aftermath and to move forward," he said. "I'm personally pleased to see the diocese respond in the way that it has." In addition to the general diocesan program, special programs on child and sexual abuse will be presented at All Saints School and at Central Catholic High School, where Laughlin taught from 1948 to 1965.

The archdiocese also has offered to pay counseling costs for Laughlin's victims and is negotiating financial settlements with some of the families, according to the Rev. Bertram F. Griffin, a diocesan

officials said steps are being taken to ensure that such a thing will not happen again.

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## 'Our faith in a loving and merciful God urges us to love, to forgive and to heal'

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1-25-06  
EXB  
MOORE, HENDERSON,  
ALLEN AND THOMAS  
STEINER

February 13, 1986

Most Reverend Cornelius M. Power, D.D., J.C.D.  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon  
The Chancery Office  
2838 East Burnside Street  
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Archbishop Power:

I have agonized about how to write this letter to you and others on my feelings of being betrayed by the leadership at the Roman Catholic Church of Portland, Oregon. Besides betraying me, you failed to meet the personnel and spiritual needs of my family as a result of your gross dereliction of duty.

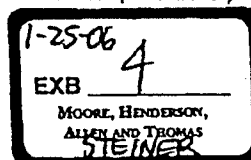
Perhaps the only way to substantiate these charges is to give an account of the events of my investigation of the Portland Archdiocese' liability for the actions of Reverend Thomas B. Laughlin. Only then will you understand how my family has been victimized as a result of your poor decision making.

On approximately May 1983, Detective Gary Sussman, Portland Police Department, came to our home seeking information about Laughlin's sexual molestation of altar boys. My son, \_\_\_\_\_ was an altar boy, however, he denied any sexual contact or sexual overtures on the part of Laughlin. As a parent and longtime parishioner at All Saints Parish, I refused to believe there was any creditability in the charges against our pastor. Also, as an alumnus from Central Catholic High School (CCHS) where Laughlin had taught, I at that time held him in high regard as a teacher and friend, having known him for the past twenty years as a priest, heavily involved in promoting our diocese' educational and spiritual programs. Thus, my family and I could only believe that someone had initiated a revenge crusade against Laughlin for a reason unknown to us.

At about this same time, however, before I knew the truth about Laughlin's sexual molestations of children, my brother died of pneumonia at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland. I went to Laughlin asking for prayers and masses in behalf of the deceased. He was very sympathetic and offered his condolences to the family.

The significance of this is that my son told me later that Laughlin had molested him at his private living quarters after offering a Mass for my deceased brother. He further told me how Laughlin would conduct confession; asking leading questions about sexual preferences and then exploring whether his sexual fantasies were true. As a Catholic, I was appalled at these revelations. Never, in all my entire Catholic life, have I experienced or heard of someone so sacred as a priest, conduct

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"Confidential - Pursuant to Protective Orders In re Roman Catholic  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon, Case Nos.04-37154-e  
lp11;04-03326-elp;04-03373-elp;04-03375-elp"

PD 0364

February 13 1986

a confession in such a manner.

During this time, fellow parishioners discreetly discussed Laughlin's covert activities. Some discussions actually accused you and your fellow bishops of having received complaints from parishioners but refusing to believe or to intervene. So, on June 27, 1983, I meet with Reverend Joseph Wood, Director of Priest Personnel, at the Chancery Office. You and both auxiliary bishops were unavailable. At this meeting, I told Wood of my family involvement with Laughlin as well as of the many allegations that I had heard about you from many parishioners at All Saints parish. I asked Wood to relay to you two requests: first, if rumors circulating about you having prior knowledge of Laughlin's activities were true, I demanded an apology; second, I requested that any professional counselling needed by the family would be paid for by the Archdiocese of Portland. Wood said he would speak to you of these requests.

The following day, at about 6 p.m., I received a phone call at my home from Wood. He said that the requests had been relayed to the Archbishop and that he felt that I would be hearing from him soon.

In mid-July 1983 not having received a reply, I met with Attorney at Law. During this time I found two other victimized families that agreed to pursue the matter legally (the Westphal and Coleman families).

On August 22, 1983, you agreed to a meeting as set forth in our demand letter letter to Archbishop Power, July 21, 1983). At the meeting, you admitted to receiving two reports containing allegations of sex abuse by Laughlin. The first complaint was brought to your attention directly by and in the spring of 1981. You supposedly confronted Laughlin and Laughlin admitted that he had engaged in child molesting, but said that he had never done so previously, and would not do it again. You apparently bought this story hook, line, and sinker and instructed Laughlin to obtain counselling. You then left him in the position of pastor, in which capacity Laughlin had served the All Saints Parish since 1972. Approximately one year later you received a report from Reverend Joseph Jacobberger concerning a sex abuse incident involving an unnamed individual which had previously occurred at some unspecified time. Without asking any questions as to the name of the victim or the time of the occurrence, you assumed that it was the same incident that had previously been related to you by You, therefore, took no action upon receipt of Jacobberger's report.

Also, you denied that prior to May 1983, you knew of any information about Laughlin's activities other than that related by Jacobberger and the Westphals. You also indicated that

End of Page 2



February 13 1986

neither of the auxiliary bishops, Waldschmidt or Steiner, had come to you with reports from other individuals about Laughlin's child molesting activities.

After this meeting I decided to conduct my own investigation in order to provide my family and others with as much evidence as possible. Consequently, I found beyond any excusable doubt that you knew about Laughlin's activities and had been forewarned. The bottom line to this matter is that you failed to tell all the truth.

As early as the winter of 1974, [redacted] confronted you after Mass at All Saints Church and told you that her son, [redacted] had been questioned by Laughlin in the confessional concerning his sexual desires. Her son had related to her specific questions which Laughlin asked about masturbation. [redacted] said that your response was that she had a "filthy mind" and that you did not want her speaking of Laughlin in such a fashion.

On May 30, 1975, [redacted] saw you in the chancery office. They related to you complaints about Laughlin's sexual overtures to their son. They told you that Laughlin had asked their son, both at a one-on-one meeting in his office at All Saints prior to their son's Confirmation and in the Confessional, "What are your sexual fantasies?".

On June 5, 1975, [redacted] telephoned you to advise that she was lodging a complaint about Laughlin's bizarre behavior when she mentioned the "Dignity" group. This occurred the night prior at the Archdiocesan Educational Board Commission.

In January, 1979, [redacted] met with you in the chancery office. She was manager of the cafeteria at All Saints. [redacted] related to you the abuse of the confessional by Laughlin that she had learned about through reports from many children to this effect. [redacted] said you stopped her and indicated that you did not want the families names mentioned. She then told you that some of the parents and victims told her it was okay for her to reveal their names. At this time you insisted she say nothing further, that she was merely slandering the name of Laughlin and that you did not want to hear about it.

In January, 1979, [redacted] former President of All Saints Parish Council, met with Reverend Joseph Jacobberger at the chancery office. [redacted] advised Jacobberger that the Council was finding it difficult if not impossible to work with Laughlin, and they were requesting that Laughlin be disciplined or removed from the parish. Jacobberger advised him that the seriousness was not severe enough, but that he would notify the

End of Page 3

Archbishop.

In February, 1979, [redacted] confronted Bishop Waldschmidt at the chancery. [redacted] was the President of P.S.A., All Saints Parish. He told Waldschmidt that "children warned each other to be sure their pants were buttoned and belts secured before seeing him (Laughlin)". Waldschmidt's response was, "the Archbishop takes the morality of his priests highly," and he left [redacted] with the impression that this conversation would be relayed onto the Archbishop.

In July, 1979, Reverend Gregory Gage met with Bishops Waldschmidt and Steiner at the chancery. Rev. Gage reportedly told them both about many parents coming to him with concerns for their children, concerns of sexual contact being made by Laughlin with seventh and eighth grade altar boys. This information was supposed to be given to you upon your return from vacation.

On or about March, 1981, [redacted] came to see you at the chancery. Accompanying them was their son [redacted]. They told you that Laughlin had sexually molested their son and that something should be done to prevent any further abuse. Your response to the accusations was that you would confront Laughlin about his actions and would get back to the [redacted]. The [redacted] never heard from you until our meeting on August 22, 1983.

In April or May, 1982, Sister Antoinette Kennedy, a teacher at CCHS, had been told by a student, [redacted] about Laughlin's sexual molestations. He informed her about Laughlin's sexual perversions and how he had been victimized in years past. [redacted] confided in Kennedy to inform someone so that Laughlin would be stopped.

Apparently, Kennedy took her story to the Principal, Timothy Edwards, who in turn notified Rev Arthur Dernbach. Dernbach had been the Principal at CCHS and a close associate of [redacted]. Both Kennedy and [redacted] were led to believe that Dernbach had relayed to Archbishop Power the story told by [redacted].

Again in early 1983, Reverend William Karath found out about Laughlin's sexual contact with minors. Karath at the time was an associate pastor at All Saints and a teacher at CCHS. Parents of several victims came to him with their concerns, and he also learned from a source at CCHS about Laughlin's sexual molestations. Eventually, Karath took his information to Rev Jacobberger, who wrote a report to you about Laughlin. Apparently, Jacobberger assumed his report was being handled by you and that no further intervention on his part was necessary.

End of Page 4

February 13 1986

In addition, I have discovered that Laughlin, while a teacher at CCHS twenty years ago, had difficulties with some of his students. Reportedly, Laughlin's difficulties stemmed from an affair with a male student. It was learned by the school Principal and Archdiocesan authorities that Laughlin had sexually molested one of his students. Consequently, as a result of a mutual agreement with the Archdiocesan authorities, Laughlin left CCHS in 1965 and was reassigned to parish work.

It was discovered several years later that while serving as a Pastor in Corvallis, Oregon he had similar experiences with boys. Some of Laughlin's victims were classmates of mine at CCHS, who went to Oregon State University in Corvallis. It has been reported that Archbishop Dwyer had received a complaint about Laughlin sexually molesting a Lutheran Minister's son around that time. Dwyer, acting upon this information, removed Laughlin from Corvallis and Laughlin was eventually reassigned to All Saints Parish in approximately 1972.

Robert McMenamin, diocesan legal council, told our attorney during one of their many conversations, that the previous Archbishop, Dwyer, was aware that Laughlin was transferred from Corvallis due to complaints received from parishioners about his sexual overtures toward a young boy or boys. McMenamin further advised Bodie that although Archbishop Dwyer might have known about it at the time of transfer, he would have destroyed any "secret" personnel files in which this information was contained.

It is apparent that many rumors and statements concerning Laughlin's sexual perversities are true. I can only say that I am shocked and disgusted to have learned that the local bishops have known about his sexual conduct with boys but have failed to intervene. All too often, complaints against Laughlin were disregarded by the bishops and he was given the benefit of the doubt. Consequently, the Roman Catholic Church is partly to blame for Laughlin's twenty years of sex crimes against boys, and I think the Catholic Church has its atonement to do.

Members of the clergy should be those people to whom we can turn to in times of depression. Unfortunately, my family can not do so. The traumatic effect of this matter has caused severe depression and emotional unrest. I have had to deal with my son's threats of suicide as well as with my discoveries about you and others. The pain sometimes is unbearable, but perhaps, through counselling, someday my life will resume.

As you may have gathered by now, I do not respect you as a man, and it is hard for me to respect your office of Archbishop when you have so abused it.

May God show me the way to forgive.

End of Page 5

Most Rev Cornelius M. Power

February 13 1986

Sincerely,

cc: The Most Reverend Pio Laghi, S.T.D., J.C.D.,  
Apostolic Delegate in the United States  
Most Reverend Paul E. Waldschmidt, C.S.C., D.D., S.T.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Portland in Oregon  
Most Reverend Kenneth D. Steiner, D.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Portland in Oregon

End of Page 6

"Confidential - Pursuant to Protective Orders In re Roman Catholic  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon, Case Nos. 04-37154-e  
lp11;04-03326-elp;04-03373-elp;04-03375-elp"

PD 0369

ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND IN OREGON

1204 EAST BURNSIDE, P O BOX 351  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97207

OFFICE OF  
AUXILIARY BISHOP

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Bishop Steiner

TO: Owen Alstott

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: September 16, 1983

RE:

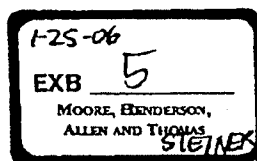
This is a letter of record to chronicle the events of the past few days. Last evening I rescinded my oral request of you that you desist at this time from printing any more articles, editorials or letters to the editor regarding Father Laughlin.

I withdrew my request only in the face of threats, which, if carried out, could be more harmful to the Church in Oregon. Those threats made to me, or to Robert McMenamin, or to Robert McQuarry by you or your staff include: (1) A number of resignations by your staff if I prohibited your publishing the letters in question; (2) That I would have to "face the consequences of my action;" (3) That other confidential information that the Catholic Sentinel held could be made public; (4) That my actions against the freedom of the Catholic Press might attract nationwide publicity. I continue to hope that none of these would occur, and so in the name of peace and unity within our Archdiocese I withdrew my request.

Now to explain my request and the background information that I was acting on. I met with you in my office three times in the past two weeks, talked with you via phone four or five times (twice at great length), and put my feelings and concerns in three confidential communications to you or your staff.

I had made a judgment that the issue at hand had been covered extensively in five separate issues of the Catholic Sentinel and that further coverage could be counterproductive and divisive and injurious to the Archdiocese of Portland and the Diocese of Baker. In a special way, I was concerned for the families involved and the clergy of our Archdiocese.

I also made a judgment that promoting a letter-writing campaign could actually do a disservice to the Catholic Sentinel and Catholic Press, could divide our people, could attempt to try this case in the press, or discredit the Archdiocese (or any individual within the Archdiocese). Specifically, I was led to believe from our meetings on August 30 that you would not sensationalize this story. On September 6 I spoke with you before giving you my written request that further articles and letters to the editor would only exacerbate the situation. You were on your way to Phoenix and implied that there was insufficient time to stop the printing of an editorial (which you were kind enough to show me in advance and which I did revise and you were good enough to approve the revisions) and the printing of four letters to the editor (two pro and two con). There were seven related letters to the editor in the September 9 issue. On September 14, when I heard that there would probably be more letters to the editor printed, I began calling your office at 8:15 a.m. and reached you at 9:45. At the end of a lengthy conversation with you at that time, you agreed to call Bob McMenamin. Both he and I tried to call you again until noon, at which time I asked you not to print any further letters to the editor on this subject. You asked me if "I knew the consequences." I did reply yes, but in hind-



"Confidential - Pursuant to Protective Orders In re Roman Catholic  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon, Case Nos.04-37154-e  
lp11;04-03326-elp;04-03373-elp;04-03375-elp"

PD 0370

MEMO to Owen Alstott from Bishop Steiner  
September 16, 1983.

sight I really did not know.

I was then gone from the Chancery Office from 12:45 p.m. until 5 p.m., by which time we resolved the conflict by phone. I must explain my alibi - I was 45 minutes late in attending a meeting of Bishops and Executive Officers of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (normally attended by Archbishop Power and Bishop Waldschmidt). I was there to present these denominational leaders with the materials we were providing to our clergy and religious on the issue of Child Abuse.

Then I had to go beyond Gresham where I arrived about 40 minutes late for the Confirmation ceremony for an 11-year-old boy. This youth had taken instructions on his own, been baptized and later received his First Holy Communion. His parents and grandparents present were not Catholic. The unique aspect of this case is that the boy suffers from lymphoma, which has reached his liver, and he has been told by his doctors that he has only two to four weeks to live. In the midst of all else that has been happening these past weeks, I was truly inspired and refreshed with this young boy who has such deep faith and joy, despite his pain and the knowledge of imminent death. Would that similar stories that happen daily in the lives of our priests, bishops and religious and are "good news" would find their way to a greater extent into the press.

I called the Chancery Office at 4:30 from Gresham and was told to contact Bob McMenamin and then Bob McQuarry. Mr. McMenamin advised me that I was acting rightly in the absence of the Archbishop and in my role and responsibility for the good of the Church in the Archdiocese, which is the owner of the "official Catholic newspaper for the Archdiocese," and at the same time the people served by the Catholic Sentinel. However, in speaking with Mr. McQuarry about the threats of further harm to the Church, I reluctantly withdrew my request.

Another piece of background information regarding my actions. Until Wednesday's conversation with you, I did not feel that my requests were taken seriously. When I mentioned in passing that I was acting in my role as Vicar General and not as Auxiliary Bishop, you expressed consternation. I was not sure if you did not know that I was a Vicar General or if you were not aware of the scope of authority of a Vicar General in the absence of the Ordinary. I guess I presumed that you knew this because of your previous training, or certainly in your role as the publisher of a Catholic newspaper. And since the Archbishop met with you previously on this matter, I presumed the same was my role in his absence.

Another point of clarification for the record. You may be correct in your assumption that the Catholic Sentinel is not a Diocesan "organ" and that you are protected by the freedom of the press even from the Archbishop's control. Either the Archbishop has control or he doesn't. In his absence, as Vicar General, I have control or I don't. In the minds of the average Catholics, the Catholic Sentinel does speak for the Catholic Church, because:

- 1) The Sentinel is printed in the Chancery Office building;
- 2) The name of the Archbishop appears in each issue on the masthead.
- 3) It (the Catholic Sentinel) has "Catholic" in its title.
- 4) It (the Catholic Sentinel) is sold and distributed primarily through our Catholic parishes.
- 5) It (the Catholic Sentinel) is the major source of communicating Catholic news among our parishes.

MEMO to Owen Alstott from Bishop Steiner  
September 16, 1983.

The last source of disagreement that has surfaced in our conversations is that of some "deal" which is alleged to have been made between the District Attorney's office or the Children's Services Division and the Archdiocese or the Catholic Sentinel regarding coverage of this case. I have spoken with people who would know if this were the case with the Archdiocese and have been informed that such is not the case. If you have knowledge of any agreement that has been made with the Catholic Sentinel, please inform me.

This letter and the previous ones have been painful and time-consuming for me, and again I offer to meet with you again and discuss these questions with you at any time.

You may have a different interpretation of events as they have happened, and I am willing to stand corrected for the record.

Respectfully,

+Kenneth D. Steiner  
Auxiliary Bishop of Portland

Copies to Archbishop Power  
Bishop Waldschmidt  
Robert McMenamin  
Fritz Meagher  
Robert Pfohman  
Robert McQuarry