

July 18, 1974

Rev. John Feeney
St. Benedict Parish
Suamico, Wisconsin 54178

Dear Fr. Feeney:

This is the written summary from our recent sessions. To comply with informed consent, it is sent to you for forwarding to the Bishop.

As I indicated, our evaluation conclusion is that under stress your usual controls over ~~your responses~~ may fail and cause some indiscretions in this aspect of your functioning. Our data would suggest some arrestation in the psychosexual sphere of development not altogether uncommon in persons reared in rigid sexually inhibiting environments.

Psychotherapy is indicated to understand the mental mechanisms in operation in order to diminish tension, minimize acting out, and influence heterosexual growth.

If you are agreeable, I would be pleased to recommend a psychiatrist.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas J. Kelley, M.D.

Thomas J. Kelley, M.D.
Educational and Mental
Health Director

TJK/smm

Ex. 1

ST. BENEDICT CONGREGATION

SUNSET BEACH ROAD

414-494-6850

September 10, 1974

SUAMICO, WISCONSIN 5417

Most Reverend Bishop:

Enclosed is a carbon of the written evaluation sent to me by Dr. Kelly. I accept his recommendation of psychotherapy and have been trying to act upon it. I started this letter some weeks ago but deferred it hoping to be able to give you a name (since Dr. Kelly is not able to see me on a continuing basis). I prefer if possible to consult with a priest psychiatrist but as yet I have not been able to confirm any arrangement. I will keep you informed.

Bishop, Dr. Kelly told me two things that were very welcome and which I am sure he will affirm upon request, . . . namely, that I am not homosexual and that as far as he could judge, I could continue as a pastor.

Father Canavera was here today, as you know, and I was sorry to learn that you have received more complaints about me. I knew of some (eg. a petition and the comment made to you on the radio) but I had hoped they would not be many or significant. I can only say that I am certain I have not given any cause for this since our last conversation in May, that the Parish Council sent you a statement of unanimous support last Month and that I dearly wish to remain here.

I am willing to do whatever you wish and I am trying to appreciate the pressures on you, but I plead with you to allow me to remain here. My vicar, Fr. Al Heitpas, supports me in this desire. Today I suggested to Fr. Canavera that he meet with the parish council to explore ways to heal whatever rift there is in the parish.

Bishop, I can only state again how I regret this situation and fervently pray that it can be resolved. I am at your disposal and do not anticipate being away except for Retreat next week.

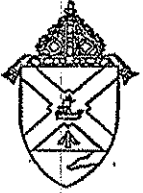
I much need your prayers, your blessing and your understanding.

Please pardon the typing errors.
It's the best I could do.

Yours in Christ,

John Feeney
(Fr.) John Feeney

Ex. 2



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

BOX 66

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305

CONFIDENTIAL

BRIEFING AND RESUME

Father Feeney has been at the Stockbridge parish for almost five years. During this time, there has been a continuous stream of calls from the parish in regard to his absences and his improper, erratic and disruptive behavior.

He was transferred from the pastorate of Freedom under the cloud of a charge of sexual assault involving two young boys. The District Attorney had already been approached and was pursuing the matter. The charges were dropped by the parents of the boys on assurance by the Diocese that Father Feeney was going to be removed and would be given counseling.

Father was transferred to the position of Administrator at Stockbridge with the warning that, if there was another repeat of such incidents, he would be removed.


In the recent past assignments, there have been accusations of improprieties of a sexual or quasi-sexual nature in each assignment. These have been the cause of scandal and widespread rumor.

Each time, there have been strong and vehement denials of any wrongdoing.

The accusations and the record of allegations date back years and include assignments at Chilton, Appleton, Freedom, Suamico, De Pere and, most recently, Stockbridge.

Attempts were made to have Father Feeney undergo counseling. He has been in either counseling or psychological testing with Father Martin Pable, Dr. Thomas Kelley and, most recently, with Father John Van Deuren.

These attempts were not successful since there has always been the strong denial and thus, no problem, as far as Father Feeney was concerned, to be worked out.

At this time, it would seem difficult for the Diocese to continue to transfer the problem or even to try to protect from any possible prosecution. 

Ex. 3



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

BOX 66

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305

September 14, 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

ACCUSATIONS REGARDING REVEREND JOHN P. FEENEY

I. MORAL-SEXUAL

- a. Accusation of possible sexual assault (Wisconsin State Statutes, Fourth Degree) in the context of hearing the confession of a young girl. h
 - Father Feeney was given a warning by Bishop Wycislo in a September 8, 1978, letter to be more prudent in the hearing of confessions, especially of young people.
- b. Accusation of exposure on the part of Father Feeney by an appliance repair and installation person. This young man, a non-Catholic, stated in writing that Father Feeney exposed himself while he (i.e., the appliance person) was installing an air conditioner in Father's bedroom.

A second accusation involves taking showers at the high school locker room and being in locker room while boys were taking showers.

 - Again, this after a warning by the Bishop and a request by Bishop Wycislo to restrict recreational activities which involve youth.
- c. A third incident of exposure in the presence of young boys in the case of a canoeing outing with seventh - eighth graders from the parish. The incident involved being dunked by Father Feeney and then joining them in clothing change.
 - This after being advised by Bishop to stay away from young people altogether.

II. FINANCIAL

- a. Accusation that personal phone calls were being charged to the parish, especially phone calls to travel agencies, airports, family members, and others of a personal nature.
- b. Accusation of attempting to bilk money from the parish in connection with the appearance of his singer brother, Joe Feeney. The advertising and band were charged to the parish, even though the advertising was for other appearances in Northeastern Wisconsin.

(Over)

Ex. 4

- e. Widespread accusations, allegations and rumors regarding sexual improprieties on the part of Father Feeney from previous parish assignments: St. Therese, Appleton; Freedom; Suamico; De Pere; Chilton, etc.
- f. Young people getting married in surrounding parishes, having children baptized in other parishes to avoid having Father Feeney baptize them.
- g. Rudeness to members of the parish.
- h. Refusal of trustees to serve because of inability to work with Father Feeney.
- i. Loss of respect among people of the parish.

VI. DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT AND INFLUENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

- a. Irresponsibility in attending to schedule for release time for students.
- b. Attempt to undermine the influence of school authorities.
- c. Trespassing in private lockers of students.
 - After incident, instruction has been put out that Father Feeney is not to be left alone in the public high school building.
- d. Repeated traffic violations: Shawano County, Kewaunee County, Outagamie County, Calumet County; harassing issuing officers.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

BOX 66

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305

POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ORDINARY

1. Leave Father Feeney at his present assignment as Administrator of Stockbridge, and allow the people involved to attempt prosecution on the sexual misconduct issue.

There will probably be an attempt to solicit people for testimony from previous parishes. The resulting publicity in this case will be damaging both for Father Feeney and for the Diocese.

The investigative reporter from Channel 11 has already inquired what action will be taken on Father Feeney. He is willing to follow through and expose the Diocese's inaction should there be no action taken regarding Father Feeney.

2. Father Feeney could be given another temporary assignment in the Diocese in an area in which his reputation is not well known.
3. Father Feeney could be removed from assignment in the Diocese, given a leave of absence for reasons of health and sent by the Ordinary to a place such as the House of Affirmation or the treatment place in New Mexico.
4. Following a period of treatment, Father Feeney could find another diocese willing to accept him.
5. Father Feeney could be removed from assignment and retired early.
6. ✓ Father Feeney could request, on his own, to be released from assignment in the Diocese and attempt to find a position in another diocese willing to take him. The Ordinary would give a recommendation to another bishop to accept him for assignment. This would be done quietly without any damage to Father Feeney. Father will be responsible for finding a willing Ordinary and diocese.
7. Father Feeney could be placed in assignment with another priest who would serve as either a mentor or supervisor, to whom he would be accountable. Father Feeney would seek out one of the priests of the Diocese who would be willing to work with him.

SUGGESTION: Of the above possibilities, the first and second

Ex. 5

File

October 3, 1983

Rev. John P. Feeney
St. Mary of the Seven Dolors Church
Box 8
Stockbridge, WI 53088

Dear Father Feeney:

Writing this letter in the twilight of my resignation as the Bishop of the Green Bay Diocese saddens me very much. Humanly speaking, I could have hoped to leave the problem to my successor, but that would not be fair. As I go through the total file of the hearings, your meetings with the Personnel Board and your response, the conclusion seems to be that in your best interest another diocese, another atmosphere, new people and new faces might be the answer to your problem.

It is a pity that serving the Diocese of Green Bay for thirty years ends in this way, but, really, haven't we all tried? Again and again there were so many assignments. In my case, I am capable of forgetting about all this and writing a good letter of recommendation for you to a new Bishop, and I hope and pray you will find one.

Summarizing, therefore, the recommendations of the Personnel Board to me I would concur with that Board that I support your request to be released from assignment in the Green Bay Diocese for work in another diocese. To this end, you have my permission to seek a meeting with another Bishop, and as I said above, I will be happy to be in contact with such a Bishop.

As for particulars, you have until January 1, 1984, to find such an assignment. If you feel that you need to devote all of that time to such a search, the diocese would provide you with an appropriate salary and benefits for that three month period. This, of course, would necessitate a replacement for you at Stockbridge.

However, if you desire to remain at the parish as Administrator until January 1st, and working in the meantime on making arrangements for a new assignment, the parish would be responsible for your salary and benefits.

The Personnel Board has set January 1st as the deadline and has advised me that if you do not find a Bishop willing to accept you by that time you would need to report to a treatment center to begin a program to assist you with your problems. I think you see the wisdom of this alternative since time and time again I have been advised by civil servants, specifically the Attorney General, that unless the diocese promised to provide for treatment you would be prosecuted.

Ex. 6

COPY

Rev. John P. Feeney
October 3, 1983
Page 2

You have indicated to yourself, and we all tend to agree, that it is impossible to successfully reassign you in the Diocese of Green Bay. As for other details, you have the option of participating in the Diocesan Insurance Program or selecting coverage through your new assignment. The same would hold true for the LBA, wherein the new assignment would provide for you or you would need personally to make the appropriate contribution toward your retirement program, or, as you note, I believe you have vesting rights in the LBA.

Therefore, John, I do believe that the course you have chosen is the right one, and believe me, I shall pray for your success in finding happiness and the fulfillment of your priestly desires in another place. I am sure you have tried to be a very good priest, and indeed you have given wonderful talents, gifts God has given you. I truly hope that you will now, out of the experience of all the years in the Green Bay Diocese, turn those gifts toward the many good things you can do for people.

With every blessing and good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Aloysius J. Wycislo
Apostolic Administrator

cc: Rev. Msgr. Roy M. Klister
Personnel Board

C
O
P
Y



ST. BERNARDINE CLINIC

January 16, 1987

CONFIDENTIAL

Bishop Adam Maida, J.C.L., J.D.
Diocese of Green Bay
Box 66
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305

Re: Rev. John P. Feeney
SLI #11546

Dear Excellency:

This letter will serve to document our evaluation of Father John Feeney, a 60 year old priest from the diocese of Green Bay who was recently here at the St. Bernardine Clinic for evaluation. The evaluation was arranged by Father David Kiefer. It was precipitated by the events of October, 1986. At that time Father Feeney was serving in Las Vegas in the diocese of Reno-Las Vegas. He was accused of bringing drug paraphernalia, alcohol and articles of women's clothing into a prison where he was serving as chaplain. He denies doing this on a volitional basis but allows the possibility that such contraband items may have been included in some of the many packages that he would bring to prisoners. It was further alleged that he brought these articles into the prison in exchange for sexual favors with inmates. It is our understanding that as many as three prisoners were willing to testify that this was what happened. Father Feeney denied this and believed that he did not have any psychological or behavioral problem. When the matters mentioned above became public, Bishop McFarland removed his faculties and suggested that he return to his own diocese. These circumstances certainly argued for a thorough psychological and emotional evaluation pending any further assignments for Father Feeney.

Father Feeney arrived here in Suitland in late December and underwent a comprehensive assessment process. Although he did not believe he had a problem he was friendly and superficially cooperative, doing all that was asked of him. When asked for details of his sexual behavior he tended to answer with explanations or generalities rather than a simple sharing of facts. He said he had been subjected to innuendos about his sexual behavior while in Green Bay. Upon close and aggressive questioning he admitted that in fact he had touched at least a couple of children improperly but he could not see the relevance of this history to the current evaluation effort. Human behavior derives from a wide range of influences and motivations. In assessing behavior that is problematic we use as wide angle an approach as possible. Our assessment protocol includes the following elements:

1. Structured interview by three members of the professional staff including a psychiatrist,
2. Physical and neurological examination,
3. Electrocardiogram (EKG),
4. Chest x-ray,
5. Electroencephalogram (EEG),
6. Computerized tomographic brain scan study (CT brain scan),
7. Neuropsychological testing including Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Wechsler Memory Scale, Halstead-Reitan Neuropsychological Battery, and Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory,
8. Informal meetings with current residents in the Saint Luke Institute rehabilitation program,
9. Formal psychological interview with mental status examination,
10. A dexamethasone suppression test. This is a biochemical challenge test which measures the way the pituitary gland controls certain adrenal function. Positive test correlates highly with depressions that have a strong biochemical component and are frequently helped by antidepressant medication.

On January 9, 1987 after all of the elements of the evaluation had been accomplished our team met with Father Feeney and shared our findings with him along with our recommendations. A great deal of information is shared at this feedback session and we have found it useful to provide the person being evaluated with a copy of the report. Going over it away from the emotional intensity of the evaluation setting can help them to use the information to maximum advantage.

PSYCHOSOCIAL HISTORY: Father Feeney is the oldest of three boys. He was born into an intact family in Iowa. Both parents are deceased but he maintains active contact with his brothers. His father is described as a "good Irish Catholic" who drank to excess. His drinking caused talkativeness and occasional embarrassing behavior but did not result in abuse of either his mother or the children. Father Feeney believes that his alcohol habit may have hindered the family bettering itself financially. His mother on the other hand is described as a "saint" about whom Father Feeney cannot recall any faults. He credits her patience with keeping the family together. He remembers her as nurturing, loving and fair in disciplinary matters.

No particular trauma is noted through childhood and the early school years. He did well academically receiving As throughout elementary school and highschool. He says that he had many friends and enjoyed sports. In the latter part of WW II he entered the U.S. Navy in a V-12 officer training program. This took place at the University of Idaho. With the ending of the war he was mustered out of the Navy in July of 1946 and entered seminary training. He was originally in a Nebraska diocese but transferred to the Green Bay diocese and was ordained in 1952.

In his 30 years of priestly service in the Green Bay diocese he had approximately 14 parochial assignments. He was aggressive and forceful and got things done but he was also known as a polarizer of parishes. On more than one occasion he was moved at the request of the pator but later on when he himself became a pastor the diocese had to move him three times because of complaints from parishoners. Father Feeney does acknowledge traits of abrasiveness and arrogance but he tends to regard the various interpersonal troubles he has had as the responsibility of others who did not know how to get along with him. He knows how to relax and enjoy himself and in recent years has taken a major trip almost every year, going to such places as India, an African safari and so forth. He is also an avid sports fan.

In 1983 the diocese of Green Bay suggested to Father Feeney that he find work in another diocese. Because he had family living in the Las Vegas area he applied there and was given an assignment. At first he was assigned to a parish but he soon got involved in prison ministry. He found this rewarding and gratifying and eventually was servicing several facilities, including some juvenile detention centers. Father Feeney explained his move to Nevada as his wish and minimized the difficulty in Green Bay and the desire of the diocese that he go elsewhere.

ALCOHOL USE HISTORY: Alcohol excess is such a common phenomenon in our culture and the disinhibiting properties of alcohol on behavior so well known, that we are careful to include an alcohol use history as part of our evaluation. As noted above Father Feeney's own father drank to excess at least on occasion. In addition Father Feeney believes that one of his brothers has a problem with drinking. His father's trouble impressed him so much that he made a promise to himself that he would not do the same thing. In fact, he has been a minimal drinker throughout his life. He is not totally abstinent but can recall no experiences of intoxication and it is our opinion that alcohol or other drug use is not a contributing factor in his problems.

SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT HISTORY: Because of the nature of the referral extra care was taken in reviewing the development of Father Feeney's sense of his own sexual nature. What follows includes information of an intensely personal and sensitive nature. Its inclusion however is necessary to fully grasp the extent of Father Feeney's sexual difficulties. We trust that it will be treated with the confidentiality that such sensitive material requires. Father Feeney recalls no unusual early sexual experiences. He was not abused as a child. He experienced some masturbation conflict beginning around age 12 but through the counseling of a priest resolved this in mid adolescence. In highschool and during his brief Navy career he dated occasionally and enjoyed the company of women. Some time after ordination, around age 30, he became aware of some sexual attraction to other men. He experienced some conflict and apprehension over this. A little later on he was able to discuss his emerging feelings with some other priests and eventually came to terms with his orientation. Complaints arose while he was still serving in Green Bay about his behavior with some children. They were not terribly specific but some parents thought it inappropriate that he showered with youngsters and engaged in certain forms of rough-housing. After considerable pointed questioning he was eventually able to acknowledge inappropriate sexual activity with between five and ten children over a period of time. The youngest of these was 15 and they ranged upward in age to 18. The behavior consisted of genital touching and Father Feeney tended to minimize its inappropriateness by denying actual intercourse. As noted at the outset of this report, Father Feeney was accused of sexual behavior with prison inmates and he eventually acknowledged at least two instances of genital touching. In addition to these complaints the bishop had received accusations by parents of improper touching of children by their parents, and in these instances the children were between the ages of 12 and 15. What is clear is that there have been recurrent episodes of inappropriate sexual behavior with children extending over many years. Father Feeney's assertion that he is 60 now and his age argues against any repetition of such behavior is simply invalid. Some of these complaints have stemmed from behavior as recent as the last couple of years. Both in actual practice and in terms of fantasy life there is ample data to support a diagnosis of ephebophilia, that is, sexual attraction to adolescent children. The fact that Father Feeney also finds adults sexually appealing does not rule out this diagnosis.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND LABORATORY EXAMINATION: There are a variety of physical factors and metabolic illnesses that can affect behavior and we include a careful physical evaluation as a part of our assessment protocol. Father Feeney's medical history is quite benign. He has not been hospitalized. He takes no medicine nor does he smoke. He has generally enjoyed good health. While with us he received a thorough physical examination by Dr. David Isaacs, our consultant in internal medicine. On examination he was noted to be 69 inches tall with a weight of 192 pounds. His temperature was 97.4, his pulse 76, and his blood pressure was 112/70. Examination of the head and neck was normal without evidence of lymphatic or thyroid pathology. Chest and cardiac examinations were normal. The abdominal examination showed no liver or other organ enlargement. There was no evidence of hidden gastrointestinal bleeding. There was a mild perirectal dermatitis for which he was prescribed some Hydrocortisone cream. The neurologic examination was negative with symmetrical reflexes and good coordination. Scattered moles were noted on his back. Chest x-ray and EKG were both normal. An extensive laboratory review was performed yielding results almost entirely within normal limits. Significant normals included blood sugar, serum electrolytes, liver enzymes and tests of kidney and thyroid function. He was noted to have positive antibody to the Hepatitis A virus suggesting some exposure to this infectious agent in the past. Special tests were done of those hormones associated with sexual function and they were all entirely within normal limits. His serum testosterone was 506 nannograms/deciliter, in the middle of the normal range which goes from 360 to 990. The HTLV-3 antibody test was negative. The toxicology screen showed no substance of abuse present in his system. The dexamethasone suppression test was negative with both 4 PM and 10 PM post suppression values well below 5 micrograms/deciliter. Overall Father Feeney, who appears younger than his stated age, was considered in good physical health.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION AND PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT: The human brain is the organ of the body responsible for the highest level of integration of both experience and behavior. For this reason we are most careful in assessing its state of health. To this end we use the CT scan, the EEG and an extensive battery of specialized tests. With regard to the CT scan the radiologist noted a minimal asymmetry of the tips of the frontal lobes, the left being slightly larger than the right. There was no evidence of tumor or abnormal blood flow and this was basically a normal scan. Similarly the EEG was normal. Enhancement procedures did not alter this record. The neuropsychological tests indicated Father Feeney to have a Verbal IQ of 120, Performance IQ of 110 and a Full-Scale IQ of 119, putting him in the superior range of basic intellectual endowment. An incidental finding was crossdominance with Father Feeney being right-handed but tending to be dominant in his left eye. The neuropsychological results basically indicated no pattern of impairment or significant decrement in brain function. One of the sub tests of the WAIS, the picture arrangement task, produced a relatively low score. This was suggestive of a certain degree of visual inattentiveness which may relate a bit to a perceptual style commented upon below. His verbal memory was very good with especially good delayed recall. A test of abstract thinking and logical problem solving capacity was in the mildly impaired range. This finding would probably not translate to any difficulty in day to day function. Special tests of frontal lobe function were within normal limits. This is especially significant given the inhibiting role of the frontal lobes in modulating behavior.

The personality assessment instruments yielded some useful information. The Draw a Person Test produced figures of striking immaturity. Our interpreting psychologist suggested that this was consistent with a substantial psychosocial developmental

lag. Given the degree of trouble that Father Feeney has been in, a striking finding on the projective measures was that he was remarkably free from stress. He seemed to have no inner turmoil or disturbance. This of course was entirely consistent with his repeated statement that he did not see himself as having a problem. In terms of perceptual style he is what is known as an underincorporator. That is a person who does not take in all of the relevant information in a given social situation. This parallels the visual inattentiveness cited above. This of course is very consistent with his interpretation of problematic behavior which is at such variance with what has been seen by others. Test results indicated him to be an independent man without much need for affection. He is impulsive and acts promptly on feelings with little need to conform his behavior to the demands of the environment. When a need is felt it tends to be acted upon and gratified quickly without much demand to placate an internalized value system. Although impulsive and opportunistic he was not seen as predatory. He does not harbor deep resentments or large stores of hostility. It is more a matter of being nonempathic and unable to put himself in another person's place and see things clearly from their point of view. Given this psychological structure it is easy to understand how Father Feeney could have such a history of interpersonal difficulties.

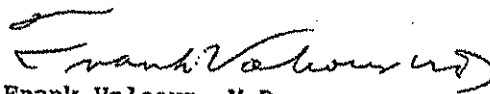
DIAGNOSIS: Axis I: Ephebophilia (~~sexual attraction to adolescents~~).
Axis II: Antisocial personality.
Axis III: No physical illness.

RECOMMENDATION: Given all of the information at our disposal and the evaluation findings cited above, it is our view that Father Feeney, despite having a diagnosable sexual disorder, is untreatable. At this point he appears totally unable to acknowledge the existence of a sexual behavioral problem and is unmotivated to work on something that he doesn't believe exists. He had stated at the outset of the evaluation that if inpatient treatment were recommended he would probably leave the active priesthood. In the evaluation feedback session he asked what our recommendation would be regarding assignments. I said that was your decision, Bishop Maida, and that we would restrict our comments to clinical observation and analysis. It is our view that Father Feeney is at great risk for acting out again. Not only does he not acknowledge the problematic nature of his behavior, it is clear that it has been repetitious over a period of several years. To forestall dire consequences to himself, the diocese and others, it is our recommendation that he not be alone in the presence of anyone under 18, particularly males. The drug Depo-Provera has some potential usefulness in reducing sexual acting out but Father Feeney would be unlikely to cooperate in the administration of this complicated drug.

We deeply regret that this evaluation did not produce more constructive recommendations. Hopefully what we have learned and conveyed with you in this report will provide a basis for dialogue and discernment so that a course of action may be taken which will serve the needs of Father Feeney, the Green Bay diocese and the faithful. We stand ready should you seek any further clarification regarding our comments or position.

Thank you very much for your trust in us. We ask for your continued prayers in support of our work and those we serve.

Respectively,


Frank Valcour, M.D.
Medical Director

EV:jf

CC: Rev. Joseph P. Feeney



Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 (505) 829-3586

March 13, 1989

Most Reverend Adam J. Maida, D.D., J.C.L., S.T.L.
Bishop of Green Bay
Chancery: Box 66
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305

Dear Bishop Maida,

Enclosed are February therapy reports for the Reverend John Feeney. My own comments, as director, are as follows.

Father Feeney is making efforts to be cooperative with the treatment program at Villa Louis Martin. He is also striving to be sensitive to the feelings and thoughts of others, and is respectful of their individuality and autonomy, i.e. is not attempting to dominate over others. He is, however, still pleading his case, i.e. maintaining that he has worked through the sexuality issue, is no longer a risk, and does not need the present program at Villa Louis Martin. He sees himself as different from the rest of the program participants and is sharing little of himself in group therapies.

Fr. Feeney believes that since he has spent three years outside of active ministry, has undergone individual psychotherapy in California, has lived with a religious community, and has a strong sense of commitment to the priesthood and the Church, that he is no longer a danger in terms of sexual acting out, and does not need a treatment module. On the other hand the fact that he presents himself in such a secure manner, does not react, on a feeling level, the way most other people can be expected to react, (cf. art therapy report, 2/1 and 2/22), speaks little about his own vulnerabilities, and is sometimes very defensive about inappropriate behavior causes the staff at VLM and myself to have serious concerns regarding whether or not he will be a risk in the future and whether or not therapy, such as is provided here, will be able to help him.

Ex. 8

Rev. John Feeney, Eval. Reports, (page 2)

The only time I saw Fr. Feeney show concern about his past behavior and about the possibility of a return to such behavior was when I presented him last month with a cover letter to the January reports, which in effect, indicated that if he did not change, there was little hope that he could benefit from therapy here. After his reaction to that letter, which appeared positive and genuine, I worded the letter in a less forceful way. Since then, however, he continues to defend himself, and appears unable to speak of internal feelings and vulnerabilities, past experiences, and dangers to his celibacy.

On a more positive side, it must be said that his focal therapist, Dr. Ellis, has noted that on occasion Fr. Feeney does appear to recognize that there are parts of his personality that need healing and growth. Such a recognition, however, appears to be having little effect on his participation in group therapy.

Our current goal with Fr. Feeney is to help him become less defensive and develop more sensitivity to his own vulnerability, both past and present, as well as future. At the same time we hope to support him in his current efforts to maintain good peer relationships and cooperate with the program, certainly externally if not internally. If, however, the issues of defensiveness and sensitivity to vulnerability are not dealt with better than they are at present, I would see our goal in his regard to be assisting him to be more reconciled to a future which does not include pastoral ministry.

When you have read the enclosed reports please destroy them or return them to us and we will see to their disposal. This procedure has been mandated by present legal advisement and our concern for the welfare of individuals and Dioceses.

If you have any questions or observations concerning this report please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

Peter Lechner, S.P.
(rev.) Peter Lechner, S.P.



Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 (505) 829-3586

August 9, 1989

Most Reverend Adam J. Maida, D.D., J.C.L., S.T.L.
Bishop of Green Bay
Chancery: Box 66
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305

Dear Bishop Maida,

Enclosed are June and July therapy reports for the Rev. John Feeney. Fr. Feeney has made progress in the past two months. He is more willing to discuss his sexuality, and is showing more ability to look at his feelings. As during the previous report period he continues to show good will and cooperation.

By now I am sure you have received a copy of the summary of the recent planning meeting with Bishop Morneau, Father Kiefer, Fr. Feeney and staff members from VLM. You may also be aware that after the meeting, over a bowl of soup, Father Feeney indicated to Father Kiefer that nothing really happened in Freedom or Stockbridge. This statement, after months of therapy, is alarming in view of the complaints that the Diocese received several years ago. I have indicated to Father Feeney that it is incumbent on him to understand why others find this, on its face value, to be an alarming statement, and to clarify what exactly did happen and what he meant by that statement. I have asked Fr. Feeney to write to Fr. Kiefer in regards to the above.

Statements such as this seem to me to be in keeping with long standing traits in Father Feeney, that have not yet been fully overcome. Fr. Feeney does himself an injustice by saying such things, because he actually does know and has admitted that certain of his behaviors at Freedom and Stockbridge were sexually very inappropriate for a priest and is convinced that he must avoid them in the future. The fact that he continues to make such statements seems to indicate that certain defenses have not yet been fully overcome.

Ex. 9



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In a previous letter I recommended that Fr. Feeney move on from here at the end of August, and that he be considered for a return to ministry. If that is not possible I recommend that he be considered for the Paraclete house in Cherry Valley, California. Whether or not he receive an assignment in the Diocese of Green Bay, or elsewhere, would depend at least, I suppose, on how well he is able to work through his defenses and understand the above matter. After Fr. Feeney has responded to Fr. Kiefer's letter, the staff and, no doubt, Fr. Feeney would appreciate hearing from you regarding his future.

When you have read the enclosed reports please destroy them or return them to us and we will see to their disposal. This procedure has been mandated by present legal advisement and our concern for the welfare of individuals and Dioceses. If you have any questions or observations concerning this report please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

Peter Lechner, S.P.
(rev.) Peter Lechner, S.P.
Director: Villa Louis Martin

copy/ Bishop Robert Morneau, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop
/ Msgr. Paul Koszarek, V.G.
/ Rev. David Kiefer, Director of Clergy Personnel
/ Rev. John Feeney,