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November 12, 2002

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

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

received  
11-13-02 LJP

Re: [REDACTED] and Rev. Joseph Bennett

Dear Ms. McCluskey and Mr. Seritella:

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

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

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

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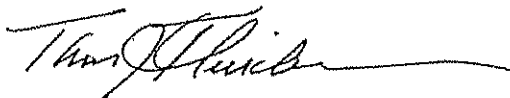
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the Joliet Diocese. The report states many of the facts of the case. Additionally, during the time Father Bennett was "seeing" my client, Father Bennett was also the chaplain for the Cook County Jail. According to Father Bennett, one of the individuals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

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

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Fleischmann

em

Enclosure

cc: [REDACTED] w/enclosure

BEN-CB3-00162

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October 14, 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Steven L. Kirby  
IL License 094-000279

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