

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

November 7, 2005

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

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you with regard to the matter of Reverend Joseph Bennett, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by [REDACTED]. I had initially indicated that I accepted the Review Board's recommendation that there was a reasonable cause to suspect that the misconduct did occur. However, I have since reconsidered this matter and would like to postpone a final decision for the time being. I need more time to review the material gathered in the preliminary investigation and to consider it in light of the Review Board's recommendation.

I realize this creates a rather awkward situation, but I believe I need to reflect on this matter further. Thank you for your understanding. Please communicate this decision to the members of the Review Board and assure them that this does not represent any lack of confidence in them for the fine work they do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Francis Cardinal George in cursive.

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



Rev. Richard Saundis
Ecclesiastical Notary

75

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