

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Vicar General



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February 1, 2006

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

Dear Bishop Melczek:

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



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

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

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

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George J. Rassas
Vicar General

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

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