

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility





P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MEMORANDUM




To: File -- PFR-170


From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 



Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn] 




Date: February 10, 2006


PRA received two voice mail messages from  one on February 7th and the other February 8, 2006 regarding his alleged sexual abuse by Rev. Joseph Bennett.

PRA reached  via phone on February 8th. He then identified himself as  and stated that the abuse by Fr. Bennett took place "at the church on 103rd and King Drive [St. John de LaSalle]" in Chicago. Mr.  stated that he was 11 or 12 years old at the time of the abuse.

Mr.  informed PRA that this "all came back" to him when he "...saw on the news that Fr. Bennett molested two girls." His call to PRA was to inform the Archdiocese of Chicago that, "...it [the alleged abuse of two girls by Fr. Bennett] was more than that."

When asked, Mr.  agreed to have PRA verbally provide him with information on the Office of Professional Responsibility. PRA also provided him with information regarding the Office of Assistance Ministry. Mr.  indicated that he would be interested in scheduling a time to meet to formalize his allegation against Fr. Bennett.

Mr.  then provided some information of the time period of the alleged abuse. He stated that he was adopted and that for a point in time, his adoptive parents placed him in "the Audi Home" where he says he was raped. Mr.  then continued by stating "Fr. Bennett was a Brother at the time..." He stated that Fr. Bennett was "...at the church at 103rd and King Drive." PRA identified the church as St. John de LaSalle. Mr.  stated "...other young males [besides himself] were involved..." and lived in the area of St. John de LaSalle.

Mr.  stated that he first met Fr. Bennett while a resident at the Audi Home. He informed PRA that once he left the Audi Home and was back with his adoptive parents, he would travel on Sundays from the North Side of Chicago to the South Side to serve as

90

BEN-CB3-00338

an altar boy at St. John de LaSalle. As per Mr. [REDACTED] Fr. Bennett invited him and another boy to stay overnight at the rectory. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he declined Fr. Bennett's invitation. Mr. [REDACTED] mentioned that the abuse by Fr. Bennett included the cleric "playing" with him. When asked for clarification by PRA, Mr. [REDACTED] stated that Fr. Bennett "grabbed my privates [genitals]."

Mr. [REDACTED] also mentioned that he knows of a boy who did stay overnight at the rectory with Fr. Bennett. When asked, Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he does not remember the boy's name. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he met Fr. Bennett's parents and that the cleric invited him to his ordination.

Mr. [REDACTED] had become audibly emotional as the February 9th phone call continued. PRA spent some time on the phone with Mr. [REDACTED] attempting to settle him.

It was agreed that PRA and Mrs. Mayra Flores from the Office of Assistance Ministry would travel to [REDACTED] to meet with Mr. [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] a Catholic Church in the Joliet Diocese near to his home. The meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 14th at 11:00am. It was agreed that PRA would contact Mr. [REDACTED] with confirmation of where to meet at [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] provided the following personal information:

[REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] also informed PRA that his is disabled and living on Social Security.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

BEN-CB3-00339