

Saint John de la Salle Catholic Church
10205 S. Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago, IL 60628
Phone: 773-785-2022 Fax: 773-785-0112

February 14, 2006

Rev. Vincent Costello
Vicar for Priests
Archdiocese of Chicago
645 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite # 543
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Vince,

At the advice of Fr. Dan Smilanic I am sending along some information that parishioners of St. John de la Salle conveyed to me regarding Father Joe Bennett days after the allegations against him went public. This information was given to me out of concern for Joe by very upstanding parishioners who claim to have known him well when he was stationed here. I encouraged all four of them to call the 800 number but all four people vigorously declined stating that did not want to be directly involved.

Three of the people mentioned that they had knowledge of Fr. Joe Bennett being sexual active with women in the parish when he was here back in the late 1960s and later when he was Pastor. One of the people mentioned that when he was a teenager here in the late 1960s his teenaged friends "often" spoke of going to the rectory and being given alcoholic drinks by Fr. Joe Bennett. Please note that none of the four stated that they had been directly involved personally with the alleged behavior mentioned above.

I pass this information along without passing any judgment on Joe Bennett. I have just been uneasy receiving this information and keeping it to myself and taking the risk that it could be an issue in the future. The four people who came forward told me these things with the understanding that I would be pass it on.

I continue to hope and pray that soon there will soon be a just and equitable resolution to all this for all parties involved.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Copy: Leah McCluskey

BEN-CB3-00257

Ex 91