

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-170

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Bennett, Rev. Joseph [Temporarily Withdrawn]

Date: June 29, 2006

PRA contacted Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] investigator Brigitte Broadway via phone on June 28, 2006 regarding the status of the DCFS investigation concerning Rev. Joseph Bennett.

Ms. Broadway initially expressed her frustration that her DCFS supervisor[s] would not let her “close” this matter. She noted that each time she has attempted to close this DCFS investigation, her supervisor gives her additional questions to ask/requests additional information regarding Fr. Bennett. When asked, Ms. Broadway stated that her supervisor is Carla Jackson.

Ms. Broadway then asked PRA the following questions [PRA’s responses are noted in bold print]:

- What is the status of the allegations made by [redacted] and [redacted] **The Review Board process is concluded in the matters of Ms. [redacted] and Ms. [redacted] allegations. Cardinal George will send these cases to Rome [the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith] for their final decision on the matters. PRA just presented Mr. [redacted] allegation to Fr. Bennett yesterday [June 27<sup>th</sup>]. This matter will be before the Review Board at the next scheduled meeting for an Initial Review.**
- Asked if PRA feels that the “adult survivors [those who have come forward with allegations against Fr. Bennett]” were truthful or not. **Ms. Broadway was informed that PRA does not make any oral or written opinion if an individual who comes forward to report abuse is telling the truth or not.**
- Asked if PRA has been in the any of the “rectories” identified in any of the allegations against Fr. Bennett. **Ms. Broadway was informed that PRA and Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal’s Delegate to the Review Board viewed the**

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rectory at St. John de LaSalle in December 2005. When asked, Ms. Broadway was informed that some details of the description of the rectory provided separately by Mr. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] seemed to be accurate, but not all. When asked, PRA directed Ms. Broadway to contact the current pastor of St. John de LaSalle to request to walk through the building. Ms. Broadway did not ask for the pastor's name or any contact information for him.

- Asked PRA for contact information for Rev. James T. Kaczorowski [former Vicar for Priests], as he was present when PRA "talked to the adult victims." PRA clarified for Ms. Broadway that Fr. Kaczorowski was not present for any meetings with any of the aforementioned "adult victims" of Fr. Bennett. Ms. Broadway was informed that Fr. Kaczorowski was present for meetings where PRA read/presented the allegations to Fr. Bennett. Ms. Broadway then indicated that she would not need to speak with Fr. Kaczorowski.
- Asked PRA if she had ever heard of an alleged victim of Fr. Bennett named [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]. PRA responded that the name [REDACTED] was not known to the Archdiocese of Chicago as a reported victim of Fr. Bennett. Ms. Broadway informed PRA that Mr. [REDACTED] has an attorney who has "filed suit." When asked, Ms. Broadway stated that she would locate the name of Mr. [REDACTED] attorney and contact information and forward it to PRA.
- Asked PRA if anyone at the Archdiocese of Chicago has spoken with either Ms. [REDACTED] or Ms. [REDACTED]. PRA provided Ms. Broadway with Dr. Michael Bland's name and contact information. Ms. Broadway was informed that Dr. Bland is the Clinical and Pastoral Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Chicago and that he may have spoken [REDACTED]. Ms. Broadway was also informed that PRA has not spoken with either Ms. [REDACTED] or Ms. [REDACTED].

Ms. Broadway thanked PRA for the information provided. She had informed PRA earlier in the phone conversation that she has admittedly "pushed" this case aside [the DCFS investigation of Fr. Bennett], as she has 27 other cases on her desk to address. Ms. Broadway again expressed her frustration that "...they [supervisors at DCFS] won't let me close this case [DCFS investigation of Fr. Bennett]."

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Dr. Michael Bland, Clinical & Pastoral Coordinator, Office of Assistance Ministry  
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Office of Assistance Ministry

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