

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 North St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL
60611

January 28, 2006

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 East Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611

COPY

Dear Cardinal George,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Professional Review Board members who participated in the January 24, 2006 teleconference regarding Rev. Daniel McCormack.

We are extremely dismayed that yet another claim of clerical sexual abuse of a minor has been brought to our attention, and that action was not taken in a timely manner. Consequently, we are revisiting this allegation through the media.

The media statements that "[the board was] unable to reach a decision because they did not have access to the alleged victim or his mother" (Sun Times, January 25, 2006), and "After the family made the accusation in August, the Archdiocese's Office of Professional Responsibility referred the allegation to the Independent Review Board" (Tribune, January 24, 2006), imply that we as a Board chose not to act. Clearly this is not the case.

While it is true that there was not a formal presentation of this allegation, we were apprised of the situation on October 15, 2005, evaluated the information at length, and made our recommendations to you. These included removing Rev. McCormack from St. Agatha's and suspending him from ministry pending further criminal investigation. These steps were recommended to ensure that a basic Board function, the safety of children while pursuing credible allegations, be maintained.

Our recommendations were presented to you on October 17, 2005 at the post-Review Board meeting. You chose not to act on them, and we now have a situation that reflects very poorly, and unfairly, on the Board.

Some have come to the conclusion that we allowed a situation where there was reasonable cause to suspect clerical sexual abuse of a minor to go un-pursued. We resent the media implication that the Professional Review Board did not find Rev. Daniel McCormack to be a threat to the safety of children. These reports do not accurately reflect the situation, and we take offense at the lack of truth telling.

We are extremely disappointed in the development of this case. We take our responsibilities very seriously, and we look forward to your addressing our concerns.

Respectfully,

Carol Richter, Vice-Chair
Richard Donohue, JD
Rev. Lawrence Dowling
Michael Jenuwine, PhD., JD

Domeena Renshaw, M.D.
Rev. Charles Rubey
Patrick Walsh, LCSW

