

Msgr. Steven P. Rohlf's V.G.

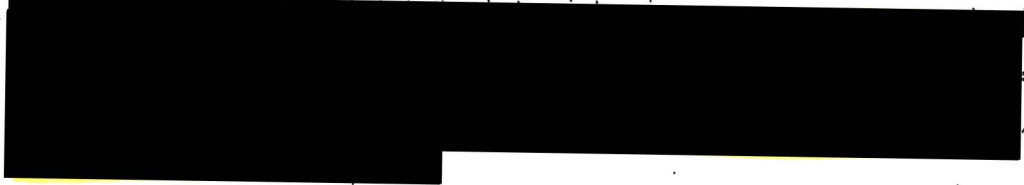


September 01, 2000

Most Reverend Bishop Myers
Diocese of Peoria
Diocesan Office
607 NE Madison Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61603

Dear Bishop Myers,

It is with great prayer and love for our church that we are writing to you. We have been concerned about a particular situation for quite some time. After counseling with our priest and prayer, we have decided that writing you was the right thing to do.



The concern is regarding what we and many others believe to be the unacceptable and inappropriate behavior of Father Maloney. Despite giving him every opportunity to learn more about him and give him every benefit of the doubt, we finally had to leave Epiphany Church and School, transferring to Holy Trinity. The past two years have been both difficult and painful. Many, many times it has been difficult to us, as parents, and their teachers at Epiphany to explain Father Maloney's behavior. Let us be specific.

- On Super Bowl Sunday, as he was administering communion, he said, "The Body of Christ, is the Body cold yet?" My oldest son, sitting next to me in the front row gasped and said to me, "Mom, I can't believe he said that."
- His "homilies," if any, are usually 3 minutes long and consist of inappropriate jokes.
- While in the confessional, as I was explaining my difficulties with moving, getting new schools and a new job, etc- he said, "You women are just too emotional, maybe you should just get a life."
- Coincidentally, I saw him in a Walgreen's parking lot, after 9pm on a school night in his car with a grade school girl. She went in alone and purchased about \$20.00 worth of candy, then returned to his car.
- He typically takes eighth grade girls from school out to lunch at a place called, "The Pub."

*Besting
- White frog -
- 3 kids away*

Here are but a few of the many specifics. We've encountered many more, and have talked with other parents who have similar stories. Sure, his masses are packed, but don't we want more for our brothers and sisters than a 20 minute Sunday mass that is referred to as the "Drive-through Mass of Bloomington/Normal?"

After a difficult 18 months, I felt both angry and guilty for having these concerns and feelings about a priest. I contacted my long-term confessor and good friend back home. Father assured me that even Christ felt anger with the money-changers, and what I was feeling was appropriately called "righteous indignation." He encouraged us to write Father Maloney and explain our concerns. We did.

Handwritten note:
From this
and from
to see him

We wrote a polite, yet direct letter regarding our concerns, our encounters and our specifics. The night he received our letter, he called our home about 8 times, leaving messages on caller ID. Finally, about 11pm (on a school night) he reached us. He told my husband that we were "out of line," and totally out to get him. He spent about 20 minutes talking about how well-loved he is and how he doesn't drink at all. He was incredibly rude and did not act Christian at all.

It is clear that he has problems. We have heard the same excuse for his behavior-- "Oh we all know Father has problems," from the principal, teachers, and even his sister who works in the rectory.

Our final encounter with Father occurred after the phone conversation at my youngest son's first communion. As my husband went up for communion, Father was not only visibly angry but said something rude to my husband, which he will not repeat to me. Thought we were just being overly reactive, the next day at work my friend who was also at first communion approached me. (Not knowing about the letter or the phone call from Father) She said, "Oh my, what on earth happened between [redacted] and Father Maloney?" They apparently got the whole thing on videotape.

This behavior is truly unacceptable. Yes, we have moved to another parish and school, but Father still has influence over people, especially children.

It with the utmost love and sincere concern that we respectfully ask you to give attention to these issues.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

[Redacted signature block]