



# DIOCESE OF TUCSON

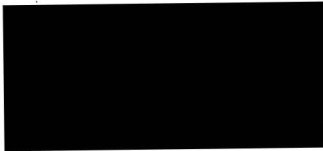
192 SOUTH STONE AVENUE

P.O. Box 31 • Tucson, Arizona 85702-0031

520-792-3410 FAX 520-792-0291

MRS. JUNE KELLEN  
CHANCELLOR

March 8, 2002



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your call late this afternoon informing me of the inappropriate sexual behavior toward you in the summer of 1974, by a priest that you knew as Father Burns. You had stated that the priest you had known as Father Burns had been the pastor at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Springerville, Arizona in 1974, but went to Thatcher, Arizona in the summer of 1974.

I informed you that we did not have a Father Burns listed in Thatcher, which is a mission church of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Parish, Safford, Arizona, during the period of time in question nor had we shown a Father Burns at any time being assigned in the Safford area.

During our telephone conversation, I assured you that we would make every attempt to find out who this Father Burns could be.

I had asked you to document your experiences with this Father Burns and what had occurred in the summer of 1974. I await your documentation.

[REDACTED] I want you to know how truly sorry we are for what you have gone through and pray that our Lord will be with you and help you in your healing and recovery process.

Please be assured that we are looking into this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Mrs. June Kellen  
Chancellor

cc: Rev. Van A. Wagner, Vicar General  
Deacon Tim Lujan, Chancellor, Diocese of Gallup  
Mr. Thomas Murphy, Esq.

March 16, 2002

Mrs. June Kellen, Chancellor  
Diocese of Tucson  
P.O. Box 31  
Tucson, Az. 85702-0031

Dear Mrs. Kellen:

This is in response to letter received on 03-15-02 dated 03-08-02 in regards to a sexual experience confronted by Father Burns in the Summer of 1974.

I am a past resident of St. Johns, Arizona, graduating from St. Johns High School on May, 1974.

Apparently Father Burns contacted someone in St. Johns as to where I was working my summer job. He did find the work site I was at and asked if he could see me after work inviting me to dinner and a movie in Show Low, Az. and to discuss about attending Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, Az. and about the possibility of working at his parish. I agreed and he picked me up about 6:00 p.m. and we went to Show Low for dinner and then to a movie at a movie (drive-in) theater.

of some foul language and at times showing breasts of women. He did make remarks ~~as~~ to such I would never expect from a priest, I being an alter boy under Father Alfred Tachias and Father Lawrence O'Keefe for many years till about June, 1974 when we celebrated our annual fiestas under Father O'Keefe, serving as MC as a special honor for the many years I served as an alter boy and for the invited priests and bishop from the Diocese of Gallup for a special mass for our fiestas celebration, having so much respect for priests.

During the movie, he began fondling me causing me to have an erection and at that time began giving me oral sex after unzipping my pants.

I felt VERY NERVOUS, which went on for about 5 to 10 minutes and zipped my pants back up.

After the movie, we left back toward St. Johns and after leaving the city limits of Show Low, he pulled over to a rest area. I told him I didn't want to do anything and felt very uncomfortable and then began our drive back to St. Johns. When we arrived in St. Johns, he drove through the back street of our home and asked me if I would like to go to his motel room located at Trail Riders Inn in St. Johns.

I was very confused by the actions by a priest and knew that this just can't be true and did feel very uneasy about his behavior.

I told him that I couldn't because my mother would be upset about me getting home late having to get up at 6:00 a.m. in the morning the next day for work using that as an excuse not to go with him.

Ever since, I lived with the vivid memory of my past, especially hearing about situations of this type happening through out the nation and feel I do need to somewhat release my past experience to someone.

I have regular appointments with a therapist, [REDACTED] located at Southeast, Inc. Recovery and Mental Health Care Services since the latter part of year 2000 and constantly there after which is located at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His phone number is [REDACTED] if you need to contact him. I also have had several appointments with a Psychiatrist with [REDACTED] and do have appointments scheduled with [REDACTED] and another Psychiatrist by the name of [REDACTED] since [REDACTED] has left the agency, both appointments on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002. I have been diagnosed as having Major Depressive Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress disorder and have not been employed since September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000, along with other complications

and have been placed on long term disability from [REDACTED]

I believe this is something that I will be living with ~~this~~ for the rest of my life. This will never leave my mind. I have been diagnosed as physical / sexual abuse survivor and other chronic health issues I have to deal with on a daily basis.

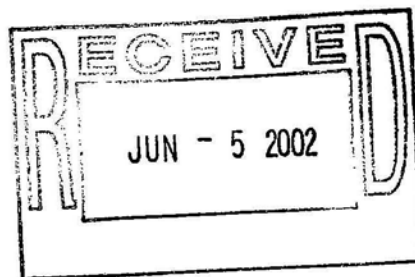
Mrs. Kellen, I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to write this letter to you. I will also give a copy of this letter to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I feel that I did have to let you know about this situation and at the time of writing it gave me time to release a little stress built within.


You do have my permission to contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I have my phone number and address if you do need to contact me for any more information.

I am still a practicing devout Catholic attending St. Johns Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Columbus.

Sincerely yours,  
[REDACTED]

SAINT JOHN'S  
JUN-3 '82  
0.57



**Most Reverend Donald E. Pelotte**  
P.O. Box 1317  
Gallup, NM 87305  


March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002

AG/ADM  
RECEIVED  
367  
MAR 27 2002

Az State Attorney General Office  
[REDACTED] Attorney General  
1275 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Attorney General:

I am sending this in writing on a past experience involving a Priest who at that time did say his assignment was in Thatcher, Arizona of an incident involving him in the summer of 1974.

I have contacted the Diocese of Tucson and have received a response back from the office of the Diocese Chancellor.

I have since responded back and would like to pursue a lawsuit in this individual, known as Father Burns who was also previously assigned to the parish of St. Peter's Catholic Church located in Springerille, Arizona.

Please find enclosed correspondences in regards to this matter.

I would like <sup>to</sup> receive more information, forms,  
etc. on filing and proceeding with these charges,

Sincerely Yours,



CC: Mrs. June Kellen, Chancellor  
Diocese of Tucson  
P.O. Box 31  
Tucson, AZ 85702-0031

Personel File





RECEIVED

MAY 01 2002

APACHE COUNTY  
ATTORNEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

JANET NAPOLITANO  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

1275 WEST WASHINGTON, PHOENIX, AZ. 85007-2926

MAIN PHONE: (602) 542-5025  
FACSIMILE: (602) 542-4085

April 26, 2002

Apache County Attorney  
Honorable Stephen Udall  
P.O. Box 637  
St. Johns, AZ 85936

To Whom it May Concern:

Please find enclosed a letter that our office received from [REDACTED] requesting help with filing procedures on a Priest.

The issues presented are not under the jurisdiction of our office, therefore, I am referring this letter to you for your review and any action you deem necessary.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

Constituency Services Coordinator  
Office of the Attorney General, State of Arizona

Enclosures

***Russell H. Burdick, Jr.***

***Apache County Attorney***

P. O. Box 637, St. Johns, AZ 85936 (928)337-7560 Fax (928)337-2427



*Michael P. Roca*  
Deputy

*Nancy E. Dean*  
Deputy

*Robert F. Edwards*  
Deputy

*James D. DeVaney*  
Deputy

*John P. Bene*  
Deputy

*Stephen D. Alfrey*  
Deputy

*Henry R. Thompson*  
Victim Assistance Coordinator

May 30, 2002

Most Reverend Donald E. Pelotte  
Diocese of Gallup  
P.O. Box 1317  
Gallup, NM 87305

Dear Bishop Pelotte:

I have enclosed materials forwarded to our Office from the Arizona Attorney General's Office concerning possibly criminally charging a priest who allegedly committed a sexual offense in the summer of 1974.

We are forwarding this to you because the victim has attempted to contact the diocese where he believed the priest was assigned. It appears to our office that he may have been assigned to your diocese.

I have also reviewed the materials and determined that the alleged crime occurred in Navajo County, Arizona and therefore the materials have been forwarded to Melvin Bowers, Navajo County Attorney for his consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Apache County Attorney.

Apache County Attorney

RHB/rmm  
Encl.