

Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Released April 2014

nt:

Monday, December 04, 2006 8:00 PM

.J:

Subject: [REDACTED]

I would like to know what is going on with the review board. I do know about the other party that also went to the review board. I know that there must be some kind of answer by now. I know I got abused way worse than [REDACTED] did. I feel that my suffering will never end because of the abuse and the fact of his denial it happened. now there are 2 people and if I can get him to come forward there will be more people who have the courage to do so it will help everyone. It will help the non believers and the victims and if the priests admit it and say sorry to us victims it would bring alot of closure to us. please respond with your answer.  
God Bless

[REDACTED]

Sr. Judith Davies

Received April 2014

TMJA  
Received April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 4:01 PM  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister Judith

Thank you for your timely response. I will look forward to the decision.  
God bless you too and happy holidays

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 10:55 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

In answer to your message, I can say that it is anticipated that the Review Committee could have the matter resolved by the end of January.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 8:00 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

I would like to know what is going on with the review board. I do know about the other party that also went to the review board. I know that there must be some kind of answer by now. I know I got abused way worse than [REDACTED] did. I feel that my suffering will never end because of the abuse and the fact of his denial it happened. now there are 2 people and if I can get him to come forward there will be more people who have the courage to do so it will help everyone. It will help the non believers and the victims and if the priests admit it and say sorry to us victims it would bring alot of closure to us. please respond with your answer.  
God Bless

Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014  
TMA  
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2006 9:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister Judith

I feel that not enough is being done for the amount of time this investigation has been going on. If there is no answer by the end of January I will make copies of the dvd I have in my possession of the accusations by [REDACTED] and send them to the press and maybe that will put a little fire under the people in charge. I do not want to do this but if I have to I will. I feel that for this amount of time it has been that nothing is being accomplished. I never thought I would get a trial in a week or two but over 6 months that's wrong. I have suffered nearly my entire life with this abuse from Father Burnett and now another boy comes to the review board but won't go public. I'm outraged. I know it is very hard to do but as a parish don't you want to protect the children and root out these types of priests? I also know [REDACTED] stance of how embarrassing it is to come forward but if he really cares then he should come forward. If he truly cares about the victims like he says on his interview with his lawyer. Please share this with your colleagues and respond.

Thank you  
God Bless  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 10:55 AM  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

In answer to your message, I can say that it is anticipated that the Review Committee could have the matter resolved by the end of January.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 8:00 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

I would like to know what is going on with the review board. I do know about the other party that also went to the review board. I know that there must be some kind of answer by now. I know I got abused way worse than [REDACTED] did. I feel that my suffering will never end because of the abuse and the fact of his denial it happened. Now there are 2 people and if I can get him to come forward there will be more people who have the courage to do so it will help everyone. It will help the non-believers and the victims and if the priests admit it and say sorry to us victims it would bring a lot of closure to us. Please respond with your answer.  
God Bless  
[REDACTED]



Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]

Friday, December 15, 2006 6:45 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED]

sister davies, This is really bothering me because father burnett was able to put a statement in the st Raymonds parish bulletin about him claiming his innocence. i wrote them a email asking if I could share what happened to me and claim his abuse he did to me. nobody responded to me. They ignored my emails. No response. I am so frustrated that since the diocese and the review board got this other guys dvd of what happened to him by father Burnett why hasnt the diocese gone public about this. At least saying we have another person who came forward to the diocese about abuse from father Burnett. Now in my situation what they put in the paper a while back from 2-3 students was father burnett never did anything to me so I dont believe it could have happened to [REDACTED] Well look at my point of view because so far as alot of the public is concerned they believe only 1 person myself has came forward. Now dont you think people would say wow mom dad I cant believe another person has come forward about beign abused by father Burnett. Dont you think that would be fair? It took all the guts in the world to do what I did and was fully ready for the consequences about alot of parishoners not believing me. [REDACTED] who was in my class told me his parents wouldnt let him be an alter boy at all or anymore because they felt that something was right with Father Burnett. [REDACTED] was in my St Marys class and I have not talked to him before this for 20 years. [REDACTED] he thought something might have happened to me during st marys. I want to know why is this taking so long? And why hasnt the diocese came forward about this other guy? i feel you seem like you are in the middle but are concerned but Im so irritated, frustrated and I need their review boards answer about my deposition. Like I said before if there is no answer by the end of January I will be making copies to give out to the press so that I can show other non believers that yes there is another victim and quite surely going to be more victims. I feel that all of the professionals on the review board especially attorneys ex judge and whoever else have already made up their minds about my case.

sincerely  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, December 09, 2006 6:17 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your communication will be shared with the appropriate persons.  
God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2006 9:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister Judith

al that not enough is beign done for the amount of time this investigation has been going on. If there is no answer by the end of january I will make copies of the dvd I have in my possession of the accusations by [REDACTED] and send them to the press and maybe that will put a little

fire under the people in charge. I do not want to do this but if I have to I will. I feel that for this amount of time it has been that nothing is beign accomplished. I never thought I would get a trial in a week or two but over 6 months thats wrong. I have suffered nearly my entire life with this abuse on Father Burnett and now another boy comes to the review board but wont public. Im outraged. I know it is very hard to do but as a parish dont you want to protect the children and root out these types of priests? I also know [redacted] stance of how embarassing it is to come forward but if he really cares then he should come forward. If he truly cares about the victims like he says on his interview with his lawyer. Please share this with your colleagues and respond.

Thank you

God Bless  
[redacted]

00 480

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 10:55 AM

To: [redacted]

Subj: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

In answer to your message, I can say that it is anticipated that the Review Committee could have the matter resolved by the end of January.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 8:00 PM

To: [redacted]

I would like to know what is going on with the review board. I do know about the other party that also went to the review board. I know that there must be some kind of answer by now. I know I got abused way worse than [redacted] did. I feel that my suffering will never end because of the abuse and the fact of his denial it happened. now there are 2 people and if I can get him to come forward there will be more people who have the courage to do so it will help everyone. It will help the non believers and the victims and if the priests admit it and say sorry to us victims it would bring alot of closure to us. please respond with your answer.

God Bless  
[redacted]

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Redacted April 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014 December 18, 2006

00 482

Dear [REDACTED]

The message you sent on Friday, December 15, arrived after I had left the Chancery. That is why you have not heard from me until now.

I am sorry for the irritation and frustration you are experiencing because of the length of time that has elapsed since you first brought forward your allegation, and I thank you for letting me know how you feel.

I wish I could answer all of your questions, but, as I mentioned in my message of December 6, I anticipate that the Review Committee could have the matter resolved by the end of January.

May the Lord bless you.

Sister Judith



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Sister you never did answer my question about [REDACTED] and letting the public know about another victim. Is it because they are investigating still? I have a feeling that the review committee has made up their minds already but are waiting until the end of january for a 3rd person to come forward and if that happens then they will probably say lets wait until a 4th person comes forward before we let the public know. Thats my opinion on whats going on. I know that from what I have heard who the review committee is made up of seems very professional but I do not know anything else about anyone of them. I just hope that they come to a just conclusion.  
Thank you  
God bless you again  
[REDACTED]

## FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 493

00 485

Redacted April 2014

DNL  
TMA  
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2006 6:57 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2006 4:37 AM  
> To: [REDACTED]  
> Cc: [REDACTED]  
> Subject: [REDACTED]

> Sister it is 4:15 am here in [REDACTED] I was up most of the night thinking  
> about this. This was the last time that I can remember of beign abused by  
> father Burnett. I was in 5th grade and sister Doris was my teacher we had  
> the last room on the southeast side of the main hallway going towards  
> church. Right across from the library. I just got out of confession with  
> Father Burnett and he was playing with my penis and my butthole with his  
> finger. I got an erection and I remember going across from the  
> confessional  
> and trying to go to the bathroom but I couldnt go because I didnt want to  
> pp  
> all over my clothes because I had an erection and we had black toilet  
> seats  
> in the bathroom back then and I kept trying to push my penis in the toilet  
> but it wouldnt go down so I couldnt pee because it would have been all  
> over  
> everything around me, plus I dont think I could pee with an erection  
> anyhow.  
> I was sitting down trying to poo because my but hurt from father Burnett  
> touching me there. I ran to my classroom after a while and sister Doris  
> wouldnt let me go back to the bathroom because my bus was coming. [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED] was my bus driver. [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED] to name a few [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED] This still  
> comes  
> to me on occasions after having bad dreams. This seems like the last time  
> I  
> was abused by father burnett. I had to tell you this to get it off my  
> chest.  
> God Bless [REDACTED]



**Sr. Judith Davies**

Received April 2014

TMJA  
Received April 2014

ht:

Monday, January 15, 2007 2:16 PM

to:

Subject:

Sister, I want to tell you this. I really cannot believe how nice sister [REDACTED] was to me she was my 8th grade teacher after I told her. She was very supportive and many prayers from her. Sister Kathleen was so cold to me and just so very rude after I told her. I could understand maybe shocked but she was just so rude to me and I thought all of the nuns and priests and bishops are always supposed to be so loving through Christ. I was totally disappointed. I know you are stuck in the middle. But to have someone act like I was the devil or something after I told them about what happened to me and then to be treated so cold and distant. I still have my faith in Christ because he did not cause anything bad ever in my life. I will never lose faith in Christ the almighty but I have lost some faith in the Catholic Church. Please respond with the review committee's answer because I am quite sure that they have come to a decision.  
God Bless  
[REDACTED]

**Sr. Judith Davies**

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Redacted April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Released April 2014

Tuesday, January 16, 2007 10:17 AM

.o:  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Sister I have not heard back from you please respond thank you.  
God Bless  
[REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** Fr. Joseph Tapella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 06, 2007 1:34 PM  
**To:** Judith  
**Subject:** FW: Burnett

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Fr. Joseph Tapella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 03, 2007 11:08 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Burnett

Bishop, I've been doing some thinking and, honestly, some parental consulting in a general way, and I have the following comments about Jim Burnett's situation.

1. A child, especially a nervous child, which [REDACTED] mother said he was on that day, do not sit still on an adult's leg. [REDACTED] said he sat on Jim's right leg, not both legs, and that Jim's right hand was underneath his buttocks. I don't imagine having a child on my right leg and not having my right hand on his right arm or back to keep him from toppling off, especially if the child is sitting only on one leg.

2. There is no mention that [REDACTED] then feared Jim or that he never again wanted to go to confession. He didn't drop out of CCD from my understanding.

3. A mom has told me that children can have a vivid imagination. The mother said that her boys gave each other "wedgies". It is possible that [REDACTED] said Jim told him to take his pants off(down) and was just kidding or just imagining it. She scolded him and the matter never came up again until 2005 for her and he didn't mention it further since he had been scolded. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His lawyer asks him on p. 41, "was there ever a time during your sophomore year that you said something to the effect, gee, that MIGHT (my emphasis) have happened to me, referring to sexual abuse by a clergy?"

Answer: "Yes." Such matters were in the news [REDACTED] Perhaps [REDACTED] did sit on Jim's lap, perhaps he did go home and say that his pants were down (in his imagination or in a kidding way), but the circumstances of being able to have a child on one's right leg only and to be able to maneuver one's right hand around and about under his "bottom" is not reasonable.

Thus, in relation to what is possible in the manner which [REDACTED] "vividly" recalls, I'm very sure it could not have been done. I know that Jim might seem like he's not fighting in his defense, not responding to your calls, etc. However, the style I have seen him portray goes along with that type of behavior. He is wonderful when he is ministering to someone, but he is avoidant also and that includes avoidant of children. Having spoken to a classmate of Jim's who talked about Jim's early days in the priesthood, he hasn't changed. Depression, which I imagine must have hit him hard by now, would possibly make him "give up" and be avoidant all the more in the sense of "what's the use."

As for the Board, it seems like we need a solid "normal" person, who is not a lawyer and not a therapist, but someone who is simply experienced as a parent, who can look at things objectively and understand how it is in relation to what kids might say, imagine, and even how they sit on an adult's lap.

I think that exhausts my observations for today. I do think that the manner in which [REDACTED] describes what happened is not possible, physically, or in light of the 1st confession procedures. I don't see how Jim could be kept from ministry if the same procedures as are being used for [REDACTED] are in place for Jim, in light of what is, to me, more evident that nothing really happened in the way of abuse.

Joe

2/6/2007



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 495

February 6, 2007

To whom it may concern:

The following is a summary of the procedure for First Confession in the early 1980's at St. Mary Parish in Mokena, Illinois, when Father James Burnett was the pastor.

The children were required to have their parents present for the ceremony; otherwise they were not permitted to celebrate their First Confession. After some prayers, scripture readings, homily, and an examination of conscience, the children lined up with their parents outside the room where the priest would hear their confession. The children wore a "sorry" sash, purple in color, as they entered the room. Confession consisted of the sign of the cross, the child stating that it was his/her first time coming to Confession, the verbal listing of their sins, a brief comment by the priest to encourage them to be good, and then a prayer of absolution. The child then left the room and the parents, who remained immediately outside the room, greeted the child as soon as he/she left the room and turned the "sorry" sash over, from purple to the white color on the other side. The parents then accompanied the child back to their pew.

It is noted that the room at St. Mary's in which First Confession was celebrated had glass block around the door. While it was not clear glass, forms could be seen and it was possible to see two forms separated and/or coming together.

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General



Diocese of Joliet

The Tribunal Office

310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

00 503

815-722-2256  
Fax 815-722-6692

February 13, 2007

MEMORANDUM

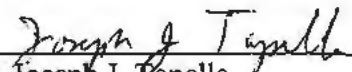
TO: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

FROM: Father Joseph J. Tapella

RE: [REDACTED]

After consulting with Father James Dvorscak, the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Mokena, it is evident that [REDACTED] received the Sacrament of Confirmation on [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]

It appears that there was no sense of fear or dread on the part of [REDACTED] in continuing to attend religious education classes after the alleged incident of abuse in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. This would have included the continued celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Advent and Lent during his grade school years. His mother noted no mention of any fear on [REDACTED] part toward Father Burnett or the Sacrament of Reconciliation during these years.

  
Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General

00 505

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2007 12:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Sister this is [REDACTED] I am back in Chicago. This is my new email address and if there isnt no decision by now Then I am going to get the press and snap to start launching protests in front of st. Marys church in Mokena. I am fed up with the diocese not letting the public know about [REDACTED] and Father Burnett and rumor has it there might be another victim. I am going to stay here in Chicago until the diocese owns up to this abuse or else lets the public know there is another person who came forward months ago but the dioces didnt ever say anything they once again kept it a secret to the public. I will be letting the press know about [REDACTED] if they do not tell me their decision. I am fed up with beign in the dark I was in the dark with my sexual abuse from father Burnett for 27years and the diocese isnt going to do it to me again.

Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

2/17/2007



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

00 506

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2007 5:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I want to acknowledge that I received your message of Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

I can understand your impatience and am sorry to have been a part of it. I realize that the past few times you have asked for information, I have given you a date by which I thought your request would have been honored, and then was not able to do so. For that reason, I am reluctant to estimate again and once more disappoint you. I can only ask for your understanding and further patience as the process continues.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2007 8:56 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sub** [REDACTED]

Sister I'm not ever going to run out of love for Christ but I am not fighting this like I should be because of my lawyer. There is so much I want to do to get the word out about the other victim and all sexual abuse victims. It is so sad and wrong. I know you said father Burnett is still out of the parish but really he should be locked in a cell thinking about all the abuse he did to me and anyone else. He knows what he did and it has done an enormous amount of damage to my life. I know you are stuck in the middle but my patience is running out. I am at a boiling point with all of this. It is so sad that there are thousands of victims like myself and they say for everyone that comes forward there are 100 that don't. I do not believe that but I do believe the priests need to pay for their punishments for years behind bars yet Christ will still forgive them but they need to know the priesthood isn't a place for abusing kids and molesting them and each other. I need some answers very quickly from the review board before I turn this into a personal battle. I am living in Chicago now because this seems like it might be a personal battle. I have so many supporters but I don't need any of them to begin my own exposure and I will put ads in the newspapers about the abuse that happened to me and let the press know about the other victim that came forward and the diocese never said a word to anyone. I am very angry and have been about the denial from father Burnett the parish of St. Raymonds letting father Burnett put something in the bulletin about his innocence. I tried to put an ad in the St. Raymonds parish and they ignored my emails both times. I know the press will not ignore me nor will all the news stations. My patience is clearly running out.

Thank you

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2007 9:37 AM  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received the message you sent on Saturday.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2007 11:13 AM

2/22/2007

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

515-13

Rosemary -  
I'm inclined  
not to respond since  
they are from children -  
identical letters. + JMB

00 525

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:**

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2007 4:58 PM

**To:**

**Subject:**

Sister Judith

This is [REDACTED] again. you told me when I asked you that middle of february would have an answer from the review committee. Do you really think this is fair all the years of pain and stress I have gone through with this abuse and now the review board wont tell me about the decision.Dont you think i have suffered enough from the abuse alone? This is not what Christ would be doing. I have suffered along with all the other victims like my brother and it is not fair to keep putting this decision off .Now since the review board has made their decision what more do they need to do?

[REDACTED]

3/23/2007



Redacted April 2014

TMJA **Sr. Judith Davies**

Released April 2014

00 526

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2007 9:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Sister Im waiting for a reply from you. Also I was wondering if you let the Bishop Accountability know about the other victim? If not Im going to let them know and Im going to tell the press about this. I will not reveal his name but I am going to let them know. i feel the diocese is doing nothing except waiting for the time to pass and maybe this will blow on by. Not with me its only going to get more exposure.Im tired of the diocese just ignoring what they said was going to happen. They didnt let the pulic know about the other victim and Im just tired of beign ignored.

[REDACTED]

3/23/2007

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



## Diocese of Joliet

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax: 815-722-6632

The Review Committee of the Diocese of Joliet has processed two  
(2) allegations of child sexual abuse against Father James Burnett.

The first allegation made by [REDACTED] alleges that while he  
was a parishioner and student at St. Mary Parish in Mokena he was sexually  
abused from approximately 1978 to 1982.

The Review Committee, pursuant to its policies and procedures, has  
found that [REDACTED] allegations have not been sufficiently substantiated  
and has made a finding that the allegations are "not credible."

[REDACTED] has filed a civil lawsuit in DuPage County, which is  
pending.

The second allegation was made by a [John Doe] who was also a  
parishioner at St. Mary Parish in Mokena. He has alleged a single act of sexual  
abuse dating back to 1983.

The Diocese of Joliet first learned of Mr. Doe's accusations through his  
attorney in July of 2006. From the beginning Mr. Doe has made clear his  
intention to make his accusation public. The Diocese of Joliet has respected his  
decision as to when to do so.

Mr. Doe and his attorney have both deferred to the Diocesan Review Committee process and have been fully cooperative with the Committee. The Review Committee, deliberating in accordance with its policies and procedures, has not been able to resolve the credibility of that accusation. It is our understanding that Mr. Doe will shortly file a civil lawsuit and thereby have the court system determine credibility.

The Diocese informed the State's Attorney's Office of both allegations and will continue full cooperation throughout the process.

During the interim and pending the outcome of the lawsuits, Father James Burnett continues to remain out of ministry.

Doug Delaney  
Executive Assistant to Bishop Sartain  
Office Phone Number: 815-722-6606, Ext. 228





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

March 29, 2007

[REDACTED]  
% Attorney Marc Pearlman  
70 West Madison Street, Suite 5350  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to inform you that the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee has completed its review of your allegations against Father James Burnett. After much deliberation, the Committee has concluded that the allegations you presented are not credible. This does not mean that the Committee has decided that your allegations are false but that there is insufficient information available to substantiate your allegations.

This finding of *not credible* for your allegations is the result of an internal process of the Diocesan Review Committee that cannot negatively impact a civil lawsuit.

Thank you very much for your patience throughout these past months while the case was pending before the Diocesan Review Committee. Be assured of a remembrance in my prayers.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



**Diocese of Joliet**

**Office of the Bishop**

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax: 815-722-6632

March 29, 2007

Dear Friends of the St. Raymond Cathedral Parish Family,

As you know, last year Fr. Jim Burnett was withdrawn as rector of the Cathedral of St. Raymond after the diocese received an allegation that, approximately 29 years ago, he engaged in sexual misconduct with a person under 18 years of age, [REDACTED]. In accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Joliet and the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocesan Review Committee conducted a thorough review. The committee recently determined that the allegations have not been sufficiently substantiated and made a finding that the allegations are "not credible." [REDACTED] has filed a civil lawsuit in DuPage County that is pending.

A second allegation has been made by (Mr. John Doe), and the Diocesan Review Committee has not been able to resolve the credibility of that accusation. The Diocese of Joliet first learned of Mr. Doe's accusation through his attorney in July of 2006, although at first that allegation was not specific. From the beginning, Mr. Doe has made clear his intention to make his accusation public, and the Diocese has respected his decision as to when to do so. It is our understanding that Mr. Doe will also file a civil lawsuit shortly. If any parishioner has additional information or concerns, please contact Sister [REDACTED] [REDACTED] diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, at [REDACTED].

When addressing any allegation of sexual abuse by clergy, as Bishop I have many significant concerns and obligations. First and foremost I must consider the safety of children. I am also keenly aware of my obligation to consider the impact upon a priest who for almost 40 years has carried out his ministry and has affected many lives in a positive way. I know that you have been praying for Fr. Burnett and all those involved in his case for more than a year, and I want you to know how much that means to him and to me. This has been a difficult year for you as a parish family, and you have carried on the life of the Cathedral in an exemplary way. I am particularly grateful to Fr. Brad Baker and the staff of the Cathedral for their leadership in trying circumstances, and I want to assure you of my prayers and deep concern.

I am sure that this second allegation comes as sad and unsettling news to you. Please know that everyone involved in Fr. Burnett's situation has worked diligently and seriously in following diocesan policies in order to respect the rights and dignity of all. As more information is available, I will share it with you.

I believe it is in the best interest of all that Father Burnett continues to remain out of ministry for the time being. Fr. Brad Baker will continue to serve as administrator of the Cathedral parish, and I have assured him that your parish will have the assistance you need going forward.

Thank you for your patience, compassion, and understanding and most especially your prayers for those who have brought forth these allegations and for Fr. Burnett. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as well, that God will heal all hurts.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax: 815-722-6632

March 29, 2007

Dear Brother Priests,

As you know, last year Fr. Jim Burnett was withdrawn as rector of the Cathedral of St. Raymond after the diocese received an allegation that, approximately 29 years ago, he engaged in sexual misconduct with a person under 18 years of age, [REDACTED] in accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Joliet and the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocesan Review Committee conducted a thorough review. The committee recently determined that the allegations have not been sufficiently substantiated and made a finding that the allegations are "not credible." [REDACTED] has filed a civil lawsuit in DuPage County that is pending.

A second allegation has been made by (Mr. John Doe), and the Diocesan Review Committee has not been able to resolve the credibility of that accusation. We first learned of Mr. Doe's accusation through his attorney in July of 2006, although at first that allegation was not specific. From the beginning, Mr. Doe has made clear his intention to make his accusation public, and we have respected his decision as to when to do so. It is our understanding that Mr. Doe will also file a civil lawsuit shortly.

When addressing any allegation of sexual abuse by clergy, as Bishop I have many significant concerns and obligations. First and foremost I must consider the safety of children. I am also keenly aware of my obligation to consider the impact upon a priest who for almost 40 years has carried out his ministry and has affected many lives in a positive way. I know that you have been praying for Jim and all those involved in his case for more than a year, and I want you to know how much that means to him and to me. I am particularly grateful to Fr. Brad Baker and the staff of the Cathedral for their leadership in trying circumstances.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

PAGE 2

00 559

At the same time, with you I feel the anxiety that comes whenever one of our brothers is accused of sexual misconduct, and I think of all the difficult questions such an accusation raises within us as priests. I am sure that this second allegation comes as sad and unsettling news to you, as it did to me. Please know that everyone involved in Jim's situation has worked diligently and seriously in following diocesan policies in order to respect the rights and dignity of all. As more information is available, I will share it with you.

I believe it is in the best interest of all that Jim continues to remain out of ministry for the time being. Fr. Brad Baker will continue to serve as administrator of the Cathedral parish, and I have assured him that the parish will have the assistance it needs going forward.

Thank you for your patience, compassion, and understanding and most especially your prayers for those who have brought forth these allegations and for Jim. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as well, that God will heal all hurts.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ 

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax: 815-722-6632

## STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS

The Review Committee of the Diocese of Joliet has processed two (2) allegations of child sexual abuse against Father James Burnett.

The first allegation made by [REDACTED] alleges that while he was a parishioner and student at St. Mary Parish in Mokena he was sexually abused from approximately 1978 to 1982.

The Review Committee, pursuant to its policies and procedures, has found that [REDACTED] allegations have not been sufficiently substantiated and has made a finding that the allegations are "not credible."

[REDACTED] has filed a civil lawsuit in DuPage County, which is pending.

The second allegation was made by a [John Doe] who was also a parishioner at St. Mary Parish in Mokena. He has alleged a single act of sexual abuse dating back to 1983.

The Diocese of Joliet first learned of Mr. Doe's accusations through his attorney in July of 2006. From the beginning Mr. Doe has made clear his intention to make his accusation public. The Diocese of Joliet has respected his decision as to when to do so.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 561


PAGE 2

Mr. Doe and his attorney have both deferred to the Diocesan Review Committee process and have been fully cooperative with the Committee. The Review Committee, deliberating in accordance with its policies and procedures, has not been able to resolve the credibility of that accusation. It is our understanding that Mr. Doe will shortly file a civil lawsuit and thereby have the court system determine credibility.

The Diocese informed the State's Attorney's Office of both allegations and will continue full cooperation throughout the process.

During the interim and pending the outcome of the lawsuits, Father James Burnett continues to remain out of ministry.

Doug Delaney  
Executive Assistant to Bishop Sartain  
Office Phone Number: 815-722-6606, Ext. 228





**Sr. Judith Davies**

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014**From:** [REDACTED]**Sent:** Saturday, April 07, 2007 11:39 AM**To:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Sister Judith,

This will not end by any means. I cannot believe that they came up with this decision. it is unjust and just like O.J. Simpson a murderer and a sexual abuser have gotten off with the criminality of this. I will be doing everything in my power and my attorneys power to get justice ourselves. I cannot believe and will never believe this. This fight has now just begun and I still cannot believe the number of times he played with me and they didnt find enough evidence. I was willing to go to the school and show everything where it happened. I have not been to St.Marys since 1991 [REDACTED] im sick to my stomach and father Burnett will goto HELL FOR THIS AND We are fighting this all the way forever as long as Im alive.

[REDACTED]

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Sr. Judith Davies" [REDACTED]**Dear** [REDACTED]

I can understand your concern about receiving information. In addition to a letter being mailed to you this morning, a copy of that letter was faxed to your attorney. If you have not already done so, please contact him.

God bless you.

Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2007 1:02 PM**To:** [REDACTED]**Sub** [REDACTED]

sister judith,

I have not heard anything from you and was wondering what information you were going to pass on to me.

Thank you

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies**To:** [REDACTED]**Sent:** Saturday, March 24, 2007 3:40 PM**Subject:** F [REDACTED]**De** [REDACTED]

I have been out-of-town for the past two weeks and have just picked up your message.

Please know that I have not been ignoring you. You should have some information by a week from today.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith

4/9/2007



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 589

May 3, 2007

Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

As you know, it has come to my attention that recently you made reference to the fact that Fr. James Burnett acted inappropriately with you when you were a child. Mr. [REDACTED], I take such matters very seriously, and that is the reason I am writing you today.

First, if you were harmed by Fr. Burnett when you were a child, I want to extend the help of the Church to you. When children are abused, the effects can be serious and long-lasting, and if you are in need of help in order to heal, I would like to offer our assistance in a caring and compassionate way. It might be very difficult for you to speak about this matter if something did occur years ago, and I want you to know that we would listen to you with great respect and concern. Also I would want to extend my profound apologies to you.

Second, you may be aware that Fr. Burnett is currently out of ministry because of allegations of misconduct from many years ago, which have not yet been fully resolved. It is very important to know if you were involved in any type of misconduct by Fr. Burnett so that I can make the right decision regarding Father's future ministry, and I want to make sure that children are protected.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 590

Page 2

I hope you will understand why it is necessary to have you amplify about any misconduct of Father, and I want to assure you that we will make every effort to keep your name from being made public if that is your desire.

I am willing to speak with you or meet with you to address any of your concerns. If you would prefer I can arrange to have someone else meet with you at any place that you might find convenient and comfortable. I will leave to your discretion any decision regarding the place and person to speak with.

I need to stress the importance of hearing from you as soon as possible. If you would like to call me you may do so at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

If I am not available at the moment that you call, I will make sure the message is given to me as soon as possible and contact you immediately. If you prefer to write me a letter you may do so at:

Bishop Peter Sartain  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Mr. [REDACTED] would like to thank you in advance for your help, which I truly need. And once again, I assure you that you will be treated with respect and dignity. I promise you a place in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

00 594

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr Judith Davies**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2007 7:53 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]**Cc:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** Re: May 5 article re: Fr. Burnett

I knew [REDACTED]

He was from [REDACTED] and from what I can remember, its been 20 years, he seemed pretty normal. Certainly not a [REDACTED] type. Turned out kind of a [REDACTED] though in his later years if I remember correctly. [REDACTED] He had an older brother [REDACTED] who was a pretty cool guy. Things could have changed for him though since like I said, it was probably Jr High since the last time I saw him.

Regardless, I still believe that Father Jim is innocent. [REDACTED] alligations should be thrown out the window as a nonfactor. I will say this guy is different.

The only reason I don't believe [REDACTED] is that I was arround Father at a very young age, alone, and nothing ever happend to me. Period. Not even close.

Anyone know if Father Jim can be visited?

Anyone know this person from St. Mary's grade school? Was he a student there - maybe in [REDACTED] class?

If his memory is "repressed" it is possible that Fr. Burnett is being mistaken for another priest, another time, another place. The details seem foggy to me.

5/9/2007



Redacted April 2014 Memo to file

00 601

TMJA  
Released April 2014  
July 31, 2007

██████ called today in response to my letter. He mentioned, and I agreed, that he had called on July 11 when I was not available but that he was unable to work it out to call back soon thereafter. [Rosemary had told him that I would be available the next morning between 9:30 and 10:00 should he wish to call then, but he did not call].

██████ told me he is ██████ years old, date of birth ██████

He mentioned that he had made an offhanded remark, overheard by Jim Kinsella, regarding Fr. James Burnett. He expressed some regret for having done so, adding something to the effect that he didn't know why he did that.

He mentioned that the address which Mr. Kirby visited and to which my letter was delivered was his sister's house, and the fact that we used that address caused some difficulty for him. I apologized for having caused him any difficulty in that regard.

He made mention of the fact that he was referring to something which occurred when he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade at St. ██████ in ██████. He said that his life was affected by it, and from then on he hated school. He always acted out and was the class clown. He told his mother at the time, but he was beaten for having said something about a priest. His mother recently died.

Although he hated school from then on, he is successful now.

He had pretty much blocked this out through the years.

He said several times that he wanted me to know that I had made the right decision to take Fr. Burnett out of ministry.

I asked if whatever he was referring to with regard to Fr. Burnett was just one occurrence or more than one, and he indicated it was more than one occurrence. I asked if he would be willing to give me a little detail about what happened, and he said that he was not ready "to go there."

I reiterated the offer of counseling I had made in my letter and added that I have a list of counselors who are skilled in helping people deal with this kind of situation.

He seemed grateful but is not ready to take us up on that offer, but might at some point.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



I asked if he would mind giving me a phone number to contact him, and he declined, noting that he would make contact with me later.

Redacted April 2014  
TMA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

October 9, 2007

[REDACTED]  
% Mr. Terrence Johnson  
455 East Illinois Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this letter finds you well and in good health. I have been kept informed of your allegations regarding Reverend James Burnett from the very beginning, and I want you to know that I appreciate and thank you for your cooperation in furnishing the Review Committee of the Diocese of Joliet the very detailed information on your allegation and your background. As you know, unfortunately, your allegation could not be fully resolved at this time.

[REDACTED] I want you to know that you have been continually in my prayers since I first learned of your allegation, and I also want you to know that when this matter is finally concluded, I will be most willing to meet with you. In the meantime, I want you to know that the Diocese would pay the reasonable expense of any counseling you might think would benefit you at this time. Most especially, I want you to know of my continued prayers for you and your family.

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *John Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Released April 2014  
T.M.A.  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

October 12, 2007

James Burnett

Roselle, IL 60172

Dear Jim,

Enclosed is a letter from Ms. [REDACTED] in North Aurora which arrived in our office yesterday. I was not sure at first whether it was directed toward me or you, so I opened it, but as soon as I realized the letter was for you, I sealed the envelope once again and have not read the letter. I simply wanted to forward it to you with this brief explanation. Sorry about my mistake!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Bishop Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

November 16, 2007

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Once again, I want to thank you for your phone call during the summer. I have kept you in my prayers since then and hope you are doing well. I am sorry to be contacting you again, but a brief conversation with you would be invaluable to me. I realize that this may be difficult for you, but it is important, and I have only a few questions. My office phone number is 815-722-6606, Ext. 220. Simply tell my secretary, [REDACTED] your first name and she will put you in touch with me. If you prefer to call my home, that number is 815-730-8716.

God bless and keep you, [REDACTED]

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Peter Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet



Redacted April 2011  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 604

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

*I sent the  
original*

December 29, 2008

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this letter finds you well and that the Christmas Season brings you peace and joy in the Lord. I thank you for receiving and reading yet another letter from me.

It has been more than a year since I last wrote, but I am writing once again to renew my request that you and I have an opportunity to speak either in person or over the phone.

When we spoke by phone last year you indicated that you were not ready to "go there," and among other things you were still dealing with the loss of your mother. I understood that to mean that you were not ready to disclose any details about Father's misconduct.

In order to make decisions that will be fair to all involved I need all information about any type of misconduct by Father. Therefore it is critical to have reasonable details about the type and the extent of Father's misconduct with you.

I truly understand that this can be very difficult, and I have wanted to consider your feelings and give you adequate time. However, I ask that you understand that I have no other choice than to pursue this matter.

I would be very grateful if you would call my secretary, [REDACTED] at 815-722-6606. All you need do is mention your first name and she will transfer your call to me or find me quickly if I happen not to be in the office. I will be out of state during the holidays until January 8.

I look forward to speaking with you as soon as possible. In the meantime, may the Lord bless you richly during this holy time.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Peter Sartain*

J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

OVERVIEW

000628

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

This is a case of clergy sexual abuse against a young boy which took place within the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Illinois between 1971-1973. This child was abused by Father James Burnett. The abuse began with [REDACTED] in 1971 when [REDACTED] was 9 to 10 years old. [REDACTED] mother was a devout woman of the Catholic faith. The family, therefore, entrusted their child to Father Burnett while Mr. [REDACTED] was a student at St. [REDACTED] Parish School in [REDACTED] Illinois.

As a result of the abuse by Fr. Burnett, Mr. [REDACTED] has had continued difficulties that he is attempting to overcome. This abuse, suffered as a young boy, included extensive inappropriate touching, rubbing, groping and fondling of the genital area to masturbate the victim, and fellatio. As a result, [REDACTED] suffered physical pain as well as severe and emotional damage to his psychological and psychiatric health, severe pain and mental anguish, past and future lost time and wages. He is unable to carry on an intimate relationship and feels guilt, shame and embarrassment. He is afraid employers/co-workers will find out about the abuse, therefore increasing his feelings of guilt, shame and embarrassment. Another aspect of the injuries sustained by [REDACTED] is his loss of faith and lack of any religious/spiritual relationship in his life. He has lost his trust in the Church. He also will incur the obligation to spend large sums of money for medical, psychological and psychiatric expenses necessary to ease the pain and attempt to heal his injuries.

**FACTS**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000629

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Family: [REDACTED]

Present Occupation: [REDACTED]

Identity of Abuser: Fr. James Burnett

Approximate Age at Time: 9-10 years old

Nature of Abuse: Inappropriate touching, rubbing, groping and fondling of the genital area to masturbate the victim, and fellatio

Location of Abuse: St. [REDACTED] Parish, [REDACTED], Illinois

**Details of Abuse:**

The sexual abuse of my client took place in Fr. Burnett's office at the rectory of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bensenville, Illinois.

[REDACTED] was approximately 9 or 12 years old when the abuse by Fr. Burnett began. While on school recess and lunch and/or subsequent to school prayer, Fr. Burnett would ask Mr.

[REDACTED] to go into his office at the rectory. Once behind closed doors, Fr. Burnett would proceed to molest Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] by touching him inappropriately, rubbing, groping and fondling Mr. [REDACTED] genital area in order to masturbate him, Father Burnett forced him to perform fellatio.

Fr. Burnett manipulated Mr. [REDACTED] emotions to gain control and obedience over him, thus ensuring his silence and creating an environment of confusion, guilt, shame and other disorders, so that he could exploit the power imbalance between the priest and minor parishioner for his own personal gain.



DAMAGES

000630

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Another aspect of the injuries sustained by [REDACTED] is his loss of faith and lack of any religious/spiritual relationship in his life. He has lost his trust in the Church. He has lost trust in his dealings with others.

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

000642

Redacted April 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

John P. Spesia  
E. Kent Ayers  
John R. Ardaugh  
James C. Byrne  
John M. Spesia  
Christian G. Spesia  
Jeffrey S. Taylor  
Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.  
Mark A. Lichtenwalter  
Gabriel G. Orenic  
Michael R. Sciff  
Tricia M. Pellegrini

Attorneys at Law

1415 Black Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311

Fx 815.726.6828

www.spesia-ayers.com

June 30, 2009

Of Counsel:  
Thomas M. Ewert  
Kent Slater

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Will County State's Attorneys Office  
121 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Re: *Allegations of [REDACTED]  
vs Father Burnett*

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

This letter is pursuant to the policy of the Diocese of Joliet to inform the State's Attorney of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

On January 23, 2006 you were notified of the first allegation against Father Burnett by a [REDACTED]

Thereafter on August 7, 2006 you were notified again that there was a second individual by the name of [REDACTED] who also accused Father Burnett of sexually abusing him when he was a minor.

The purpose of this letter is to report that a third individual by the name of [REDACTED] has also accused Father Burnett of sexually abusing him in the early 1970's when he was a minor.

The latest address on Mr. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED], Chicago, IL 60646.

Mr. [REDACTED] has requested that his name not be released to the public.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to call.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA, AYERS & ARDAUGH

By *James C. Byrne*  
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain

COPY

Established 1899

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

Attorneys at Law

000656

Douglas F. Spesia  
E. Kent Ayers  
John R. Ardaugh  
James C. Byrne  
John M. Spesia  
Christian G. Spesia  
Jeffrey S. Taylor  
Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.  
Mark A. Lichtenwalter  
Gabriel G. Orenic  
Michael R. Stiff  
Tricia M. Pellegrini  
Michael S. Hopkins

1415 Black Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311

Fx 815.726.6828

www.spesia-ayers.com

November 9, 2009

Of Counsel:  
Thomas M. Ewert  
Kent Slater

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Assistant State's Attorney – Criminal Division  
DuPage County States Attorney  
503 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Re: *Allegations of*  
[REDACTED]  
*vs Father Burnett*

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to advise you that a [REDACTED] who is currently [REDACTED] years of age was sexually abused by Father James Burnett in the early 1970's when he was attending St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensenville, IL.

Mr. [REDACTED] contact information is:

[REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] is represented by legal counsel out of Springfield, Illinois.

The first information that the Diocese had regarding any sexual misconduct with a minor by Father Burnett was in the years 2006 when [REDACTED] who is approximately age [REDACTED] filed a lawsuit in DuPage County alleging that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett from 1978 to 1982 at the St. Mary's Parish in Mokena which is Will County. That lawsuit has been dismissed.

COPY

Established 1899



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Mr. Alex McGimpsey  
November 9, 2009  
Page 2

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH  
Attorneys at Law

000657

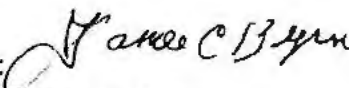
The next notice of any allegations regarding sexual misconduct of a minor was by [REDACTED] (who is approximately [REDACTED] years of age) who alleges that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett in 1983 which was also at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena.

Mr. [REDACTED] s filed a civil lawsuit in Will County, which is still pending.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to call.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA, AYERS & ARDAUGH

By:   
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm  
cc: Sister Judith Davies, OSF

COPY

Established 1899

Redacted April 2014  
 TMJA  
 Released April 2014



RECEIVED

SEP 25 2009

Bishop's Office  
 Diocese Of Joliet

000659

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 13,916

September 23, 2009

*This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer*

Your Excellency:

I write to transmit a copy of a September 18, 2009 memorandum that was faxed to me by Mr. [REDACTED] who writes: "I will be filing a Lawsuit against the Vatican" because of clergy abuse and "the way the Diocese covered up sexual abuse for so long."

Mr. [REDACTED] indicates that he reported to the Diocese of Joliet that he had been abused at St. Mary Parish by a Father Burnett. He writes: "Father Burnett had his case with me [dismissed?] by the review board saying there was not enough evidence." He indicates, however, that he has more "recently found out that [REDACTED] came forward and Father Burnett had abused he as well." Thus he concludes: "I was slapped in the face by the review board" because of "the abuse I received and then to have the diocese board say There was not enough evidence."

No response will be made to Mr. [REDACTED] by the Apostolic Nunciature. I felt, however, that I should inform you of his communication.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Pietro Sambi  
 Apostolic Nuncio

---

His Excellency  
 Most Reverend James P. Sartain  
 Bishop of Joliet  
 425 Summit Street  
 Joliet, Illinois 60435

— With one enclosure —

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

000662

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

September 29, 2009

No. 13,916

Archbishop Pietro Sambi  
Apostolic Nuncio  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3610

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2009, with regard to the correspondence you recently received from Mr. [REDACTED] I am grateful that you informed me of his communication.

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Peter Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Fr. Burnett  
Personnel File**

**-81-**  
**DUPLICATE COPIES**  
**OF**  
**DOCUMENTS IN BURNETT'S FILE**  
(The originals have  
Bate stamp – these  
copies have no Bate stamp)

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

July 24, 2006

TO: Reverend Bradley Baker  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF *JAD*  
RE: Information for Bulletin

Dear Parishioners,

As you know, it has been almost six months since Father Burnett was placed on administrative leave because of an allegation made against him. Throughout this time, the Diocese has persisted in its efforts toward seeking a resolution of the matter. As soon as there is any news regarding Father's case, I will make sure you are informed.

Please continue to remember Father Burnett in your prayers.

Wishing you every blessing, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW  
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60405

d 12-50

JAMES C. BYRNE  
J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171  
FAX (815) 744-7179

June 15, 2006

Ms. [REDACTED]  
Attorney at Law  
Illinois Department of Children &  
Family Services  
100 W. Randolph Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: *Allegations of* [REDACTED] *vs*  
*Father James Burnett*

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

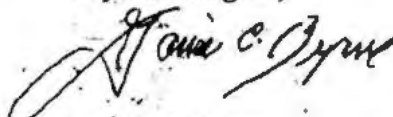
As you recall it was in late May that I called asking you for the status of the DCFS investigation regarding the above allegations by [REDACTED] against Father James Burnett. At that time, you indicated that you would check on this and get back to me.

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Joliet, Sister Judith, called the DCFS hotline and reported the above allegations on February 9, 2006.

As of this date, Father Burnett has not been informed that the allegations resulting in a finding of "indicated", or "unfounded".

Kindly advise as soon as possible.

My Best Regard,



James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch  
Most Rev. James P. Sartain  
Sister Judith Davies (via facsimile)

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P  
Y



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

MEMORANDUM

July 5, 2006

TO: Ms. [REDACTED]  
Department of Children and Family Services

FAX: 815-967-3737


FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Telephone Number

As stated previously, I was attempting to locate a telephone number for the Reverend James Burnett. You had said a telephone number would allow the Department of Children and Family Services to proceed in determining that Father Burnett was not in a position to have contact with children. This was being done because the Department was not going to investigate the case since the person bringing the allegation was not a minor.

I have been successful in obtaining a phone number for Father Burnett. It is: [REDACTED]

Thank you.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



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FILE MEMORANDUM

January 6, 2006

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Mr. [REDACTED]

This morning I spoke with Mr. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] regarding the process used with his allegation of abuse.

I told him that:

- His phone messages were received at the Bishop's office and I was responding for the Bishop since he is out-of-town at a meeting.
- His allegation was received just prior to the diocesan offices being closed for the holidays. Offices re-opened this Tuesday and that is why there was somewhat of a delay.
- The Diocese takes all allegation seriously, appreciates that he had come forward.
- The fact that an interview was conducted so quickly with him shows that the Diocese does take allegations very seriously.
- We realize this can be a very difficult time for him because the process that the Diocese uses does take time, can be difficult for the one who has made the allegation and that we do appreciate his patience.

I then asked Mr. [REDACTED] if he would be interested in knowing the process that the Diocese uses whenever an allegation is received. On hearing a positive response, I told him that a person conducts interviews on behalf of the Review Committee, i.e. gathers information from the one making the allegation. With that, Mr. [REDACTED] interrupted, saying that he had already been interviewed. I acknowledged his comment, continued with stating that information is also gathered from family members and that the time in which this can be achieved depends on the cooperation of those being interviewed, then asked if we could interview any members of his family, and asked whether he wanted to give me a list of his family members and phone numbers now or if he wanted to fax it later on. He asked whether [REDACTED] could be interviewed. I said we'd need a list so he took down our fax number: 815-722-6602. I said that I'm not sure where things are right now, don't have any information as to who might have been interviewed but I do know the process is going forward and asked once more for his patience.

Next I told Mr. [REDACTED] that the Review Committee composed of volunteers, (i.e. therapists, women attorneys, etc.) reviews the allegation

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Released April 2014

January 6, 2006

RE: Mr. [REDACTED]

and all information received, then determines if more information is necessary, decides if there is need for the temporary removal of the accused and makes a recommendation to the Bishop as to what ought to happen. I proceeded saying that the next meeting of the Review Committee is scheduled for mid-February. [REDACTED] whether [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] agreed that I could give the [REDACTED] Diocese his telephone number so there could be communication with him.

[REDACTED]

I mentioned that in the message left at the Chancery, Mr. [REDACTED] said that he spoke with two lawyers. [REDACTED]

I told Mr. [REDACTED] that things really cannot proceed until we receive more information. He said that Mr. Kirby can call him at anytime.

[REDACTED]

Other information about Mr. [REDACTED] He is age [REDACTED] The abuse happened 20 years ago. [REDACTED]

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Released April 2014

January 6, 2006

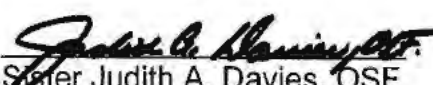
RE: Mr. [REDACTED]

The conversation ended with my telling Mr. [REDACTED] that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] If I was not available, leave a message and I would call him back as soon as possible. He was also welcome to speak with Sister Mary Frances Seeley. Mr. [REDACTED] said that he had already talked with her [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Reverend James Burnett

The following, with appropriate dates inserted, was sent to all of the parishes where Father Burnett was assigned including the Cathedral:

**Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?**

***An allegation of sexual abuse has been made against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from \_\_\_\_ of 19\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ of 19\_\_. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at 815-722-6606.***

Thank you.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



JS-20

Redacted April 1984  
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Released April 2014



Bryan Samuels  
Director

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

July 5, 2006

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Sister Judith:

I am in receipt of your faxed memorandum of July 5, 2006, which included a telephone number for the Reverend James Burnett. Thank you for the number.

Information that would be the most helpful at this point is the location of his current whereabouts. I would appreciate your assistance in obtaining a current address for him.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Title]

Department of Children & Family Services  
FAX: 815-967-3737

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW  
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

✓ 2-21

JAMES C. BYRNE

J. DANIEL MCGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

FAX (815) 744-7179

January 23, 2006

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Will County States Attorney  
121 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This letter is pursuant to the Diocese policy to inform State's Attorneys of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

At the end of December the Diocese first received an allegation by [REDACTED] that he was sexually abused in approximately 1985 while a student at one of the Diocese parishes.

Mr. [REDACTED] is currently approximately age [REDACTED] and resides in [REDACTED]

The priest that he has accused is presently in ministry assigned to one of the Diocese parishes.

The Diocese Review Committee is in the process of obtaining as much information as possible in order to make a determination whether or not the allegations is credible or not credible.

During the pendency of an allegation dating back this number of years, the Diocese ordinarily does not remove a priest from ministry, until the Review Committee has made a determination.

During this period of time the priest is obviously instructed to have no contact with children and in this particular instance there is another priest in the Rectory who is aware that allegations have been made and is monitoring the priest in question.

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Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014  
Page 2

The Diocese is committed to furnish whatever information you may request which will obviously include the full identifying information of all parties. However, before doing so I would respectfully request that you would have a Grand Jury Subpoena issued.

I understand that it is your opinion that the Freedom of Information Act would not entitle the media to this type of data furnished by the Diocese. However, your predecessor in office had a contrary opinion and there is a concern that a newspaper may be willing to litigate this issue and/or a subsequent State's Attorney at a future date may release the information if it is not provided subject to a subpoena.

My Best Regards,

*James C. Byrne*  
James C. Byrne

ICB/skm

SPEZIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

1415 BLACK ROAD  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435  
PH 815.726.4311  
FX 815.726.6828  
WEB WWW.SPEZIA-AYERS.COM

August 18, 2006

DOUGLAS F. SPEZIA  
E. KENT AYERS  
JOHN R. ARDAUGH  
JAMES C. BYRNE  
JOHN M. SPEZIA  
CHRISTIAN G. SPEZIA  
JEFFREY S. TAYLOR  
MARTIN J. SHANAHAN, JR.  
MARK A. LICHTENWALTER  
GABRIEL G. ORENIC

[REDACTED]  
Attorney at Law  
Illinois Department of Children &  
Family Services  
100 W. Randolph Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: *Allegation against  
Rev. James Burnett*

OF COUNSEL:  
DINAH LENNON  
ARCHAMBEAULT  
THOMAS M. EWERT

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

This is in reply of your letter of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, which primary addresses the allegations of [REDACTED] against James Burnett. Please note that I have since become a partner in the Spesia law firm and continue to represent the Diocese of Joliet.

At this point, clarification is needed regarding the DCFS investigation of the allegations by [REDACTED]

The first part of your letter indicates that when Sister Judith made a call to the hotline to report the allegation by [REDACTED] that DCFS advised her that "it would review the matter as an information case". Your letter of June 22<sup>nd</sup> also referenced how you would proceed with this report when you stated "in other words we would conduct an investigation of an incident in a way that is different from other cases and it would not be handled as a normal intake".

Could you please refer me to that part of the Illinois Statute or the regulations that define "an information case"?

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SPESIA, AYERS

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ARDAUGH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

August 18 2006  
Page 2

Also your letter of June 22<sup>nd</sup> refers to "we have completed the preliminary investigation".

I am familiar with the Statute that defines "an initial investigation" but not "a preliminary investigation". Could you please reference me to the Statute or regulation that defines "preliminary investigation"?

C Since the administrative code and the statutes regarding "investigation by DCFS" mandates specific time periods it is important to know what provision of the law or regulations that DCFS is proceeding under in relation to the Diocese report of the [REDACTED] allegations. Please indicate the specific part of the statute or regulations that DCFS is utilizing.

O Could you also advise what your "preliminary investigation" has consisted of, since it is our information that DCFS has not yet interviewed either the alleged victim [REDACTED] or the alleged perpetrator as required by the statutes and the regulations?

P Your response to the above requests will be most helpful in order to understand the statutory role and function of DCFS regarding the allegations of [REDACTED]

P I also wish to point out that your letter of June 22, 2006 is the first time that I [and Sister Judith] have had any request regarding any aspects of the allegations against Father Burnett or any requests for information regarding Father Burnett's history of assignments. In that regard I am enclosing Father Burnett's history of assignments in the Diocese.

Y As you know, [REDACTED] has filed a lawsuit and is represented by an attorney. I would suggest that law firm as an excellent source for any information relating to the specific allegations by [REDACTED]

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Released April 2014

Ms. Elizabeth Yore  
August 18 2006  
Page 3

I also wish to inform you that near the end of July the Diocese was furnished the name of another individual who claims that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett in approximately 1980. This individual is [REDACTED] approximately age [REDACTED] and he is represented by Attorney [REDACTED]. The Diocese contacts on this have only been with Attorney [REDACTED].

Kindly advise regarding the above questions.

My Best Regard,

*James C. Byrne*

James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain  
Sister Judith Davies

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Released April 2014  
T.M.

Diocese of Joliet

J 13-32

## Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

MEMORANDUM

June 28, 2006

TO: [REDACTED]  
DCFS

FAX: [REDACTED]

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

FAX: [REDACTED]

RE: Reverend James Burnett

This memorandum is merely to confirm the content of our conversation of early last week. I had intended to send it the day of our conversation but other items of business prevented me from so doing. Please accept my apologies.

When you asked the relationship between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I replied that they were sister and brother. I then gave you the e-mail address I had for [REDACTED] namely, [REDACTED]. When asked how to contact Sister [REDACTED] I provided you with her work number: [REDACTED]

I believe I heard you say that my call to DCFS which was followed with written documentation from me on February 9, 2006 was not strictly speaking a report. It was my understanding that the investigation by DCFS had to be concluded in 60 days and no longer than 90 days. I think you said that DCFS does not re-investigate or investigate things that happened back in the 80's; that DCFS is concerned about making sure that the priest in question is not in the community and that children are protected; that statutes only allow DCFS to be concerned with the reporting of abuse of a child, i.e., someone under the age of 18, not someone who is now over the age of 18, and hence would not investigate allegations made by someone who is in their 20's or 30's. You stated that you would ask [REDACTED] to verify the above in writing.

Our conversation concluded with your asking for a phone number at which Father Burnett could be reached. Since I did not have that information, I stated that I would check into locating it for you. You gave me your cell phone number [REDACTED] as well as an office number [REDACTED]

Later that afternoon I called you and asked for your fax number [REDACTED]. You gave me the name and phone number of your secretary [REDACTED] and instructed me to call her prior to sending this memo by fax. During that call I stated that I was still attempting to locate a telephone number for Father Burnett.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



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Released April 2014

J B-41



ROMEO R. BLANCHETTE

[REDACTED]  
MISERATIONE DIVINA ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
EPISCOPUS JOLIETTENSIS IN ILLINOIS

Omnibus praesentes litteras inspecturis salutem et in Domino benedictionem.

Notum facimus et testamur Nos Missam in pontificalibus celebrantes in oratorio

**Seminarii Sancti Procopii, Lisle, Illinois**

dilectum Nobis in Christo

**JACOBUM BURNETT**

omnibus de iure requisitis fideliter expletis, ad ordinem ~~subdiaconatus~~

[REDACTED]  
rite, Deo iuvante, promovisse.

In quorum fidem has praesentes litteras a Cancellario Curiae Joliettensis  
subscriptas, sigilloque munitas, dari iussimus.

Datum Joliettae

Episcopus Joliettensis in Illinois

*Roger H. Kaffen*  
X ~~Cancellarius~~ X Delegatus  
De mandato Episcopi