

Redacted February 2014  
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Released April 2014

# SPESIA & AYERS

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August 15, 2011

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.  
North Pier Chicago  
455 East Illinois Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Of Counsel:  
Thomas M. Ewert  
Kent Slater

Douglas F. Spesia  
(1940-2010)

Re: *Rudofski vs Diocese of Joliet*  
=====  
*Father Anthony Ross*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As per a Court Order, I am enclosing Diocesan records of Father Anthony Ross consisting of the following:

- 1.) **Priest file of Father Anthony Ross** (total pages 506)
- 2.) **Three separate Privilege Logs**, for documents in this priest file. One is for medical, mental health and attorney-client. One is for privacy rights of third parties and one consists of deletions of records with a victim's name.

**Name of Accuser**

[REDACTED]

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: *James C. Byrne*  
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD  
The Honorable Michael Powers  
Mr. Patrick Bradley, Esq.  
Mr. Joseph M. Laraia, Esq.  
Mr. Stuart L. Bressler, Esq.

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ORDERS	DATE CONFERRED	ORDAINING BISHOP	PLACE	DATE CONFERRED	EXTRAORDINARY APPOINTMENTS	DATE RECEIVED
TONSURE						
FIRST MINORS						
SEC. MINORS						
SUB-DIACONATE	4/12/71	Bp. Romeo Blanchette	St. Charles Borr., Lkpt.			
DIACONATE	4/16/71	Bp. Romeo Blanchette	St. Charles Borr., Lkpt.			
PRIESTHOOD	11/11/72	Bp. Romeo Blanchette	Winfield, St. John the Bar.			

DATE APPOINTED	ASSIGNMENT	DATE LEFT	DATE OF BIRTH	HOME ADDRESS	HOME PARISH	NATIONALITY	FATHER'S NAME	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME	READING KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH	SPEAKING KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH	PUBLIC SPEAKING RATING	PREPARATORY EDUCATION	DEGREES	REMARKS:
11 11 1972	Winfield, St. John the Baptist	Assoc. 6 2 1977	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Anthony P. Ross	Rose Kupcso				Quigley North; St. Mary of the Lake, Niles	B.A. ; Masters of Divinity	
6 2 1977	Joliet, St. Raymond Cathedral	Assoc. 6 19 80										St. Chas. Borr. -Lewis University; St. Meinrad, Ind.		
6 19 80	Itasca, St. Peter's	Assoc 12 27 82												
12 27 82	leave & back to St													
12 1 83	Peter's, Itasca	6 18 86												
6 18 86	Lombard, Sacred Hg.	Assoc 6 1 88												
6 1 88	leave of absence - Calif	6 21 89												
6 21 89	Bloomington, St. Ignace	Assoc 6 20 90												
1 9 90	"	Temp. 6 20 90												
6 20 90	Roseville, St. Chas Borromeo	Pastor 2 21 93												
2 21 93	leave of absence													
8 4 97	Incardinated into Santa Rosa, Calif, diocese													



ROSS, Rev. Anthony J.

ROSS, ANTHONY

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HOUSE OF AFFIRMATION, INC.

205 *ross*

International Therapeutic Center for Clergy and Religious

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CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Thomas A. Kane, Ph.D., D.P.S.  
International Executive Director

Sr. Anna Polcino, S.C.M.M., M.D.  
International Psychiatric Director

Bro. Sean D. Sammon, F.M.S., Ph.D.  
Director of Research and Education

Rev. Eymard Galligan, S.S.E.  
Director of Development

456 Hill Street  
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AFFIRMATION BOOKS

Sr. Marie Kraus, S.N.D.  
Executive Editor  
456 Hill Street  
Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588  
617/234-6266

11 June 1982

Father Anthony Ross  
519 Rush Street  
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Dear Father Ross

This letter comes to you as a confirmation of Assessment dates reserved for Sunday, August 22 through Wednesday, August 25, 1982.

If you plan to fly to the San Francisco International airport, and communicate to us your flight number, airline and arrival time we will pick you up by car. We suggest you plan your arrival on Sunday between 12:00 Noon and 4:00 P.M. You are free to leave on Wednesday after 2:00 P.M. We will take you to the airport should this be necessary.

If you plan to arrive by car please let us know the approximate time of your arrival and a staff member will be available for greeting and orientation purposes. We are enclosing maps of the Montara, California area for your convenience.

Enclosed please find forms for the assessment process. Please return them directly to us before your arrival on 8/22 at your earliest possible convenience. We also request the following: 1. a statement from your therapist if you have had previous therapy or psychological testing; 2. a general medical report based on a physical examination which took place within the past 6 months; 3. the medical results of an E.K.G., C.B.D., chest x-ray and a urinalysis test if you are forty years or over. For your convenience we have enclosed "Release of Information" forms. Please sign them and request your therapist/physician to forward the data to us as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to meeting and working with you.

Cordially yours,



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MH/sf  
Enclosures

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# HOUSE OF AFFIRMATION, INC.

## International Therapeutic Center for Clergy and Religious

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International Executive Director

Sr. Anna Polcino, S.C.M.M., M.D.  
International Psychiatric Director

Bro. Sean D. Sammon, F.M.S., Ph.D.  
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Executive Editor  
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Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588  
617/234-6266

16 December 1982

Reverend Anthony J. Ross  
~~Saint Peter Church~~  
519 North Rush Street  
Itasca, Illinois 60145

Dear Father Ross:

Thank you for accepting our invitation to join us in residency at the House of Affirmation in MONTARA, CALIFORNIA, on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29.

We certainly appreciate your willingness to come on such a short notice.

We ask you to arrive before 4:00 PM on December 29. I am enclosing a map to assist you in driving to Montara. Should you decide to go by plane, please arrange to arrive at the SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

Once you have finalized your travel plans, please call Sister [REDACTED] Acting Director at the Montara facility, to inform her of your arrival time, airlines, etc. If necessary she would have a staff member meet your airport arrival.

You will have a private room so feel free to bring a radio if you so wish. TV sets for individual use are not permitted. Bring along a cassette type tape recorder to listen to lectures, etc.

All towels and linens are provided by the House. Your personal laundry will be taken care of on a weekly basis. Bring comfortable clothes. Your clerical attire may be needed for special liturgical celebrations and for outside ministry (optional).

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January 17, 1983

Reverend Anthony Ross  
House of Affirmation  
1185 Acacia Street, Box 437  
Montara, California 94037

Dear A.J.;

I received your note and was glad to hear that you had arrived safely. There's nothing like a little excitement along the way to break up a rather long trip! I can't think of a better place to be snowed in for two days than a motel in Nebraska!!

Right now I am feeling a little envious of you, since I am dictating this while looking out the window, and it is trying mightily to snow. They have predicted about two inches for tonight and maybe some more over the weekend. You certainly picked a fine time to leave-----I wonder if that would make a good song title? If you plan this properly, you could return here in the spring!

I was delighted to hear that you had [REDACTED] as your main counsellor. I think he would be excellent. I listened to him a few times at the Seminar I attended last year and enjoyed him. Please give him my regards. He sent me a note, accopy of which you received I am sure, telling me of your arrival and of everything that is planned for you. I was really intrigued with the dance therapy. I'm wondering if I should send you a tutu? Do you think you would like to perform upon your return? You have no idea how just the mention of that particular program has triggered my imagination. I see a room full of priests and nuns most of whom probably have never danced in their lives, trying mightily to express themselves by that means. When some people dance it always looks so simple and easy, and when others try to do it, it becomes real work. Good luck! You will have to tell me how you are progressing in that field.

If everything works out, I think [REDACTED] is due to come out there at the end of February.

I was glad to hear that you were off to a good start, although I can certainly believe the comments of the others. There

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will be some very difficult times, but little happens without pain. Please know that you are in my prayers each day by name and that I support your decision to seek assistance wholeheartedly. Keep in touch and I will try to do the same. At the end of this month I will be going to Rome to attend the ceremony for Archbishop Bernardin.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] is celebrating their 25th anniversary and invited me to go down.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Best wishes and prayers. The Lord fashions us in His own good way and that is reassuring. We are truly in His hands!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph H. L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

FR. ROSS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 223

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*Rev. Anthony Rose*

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MEMORANDUM

August 25, 1983

TO: Bishop Daniel Ryan  
Father William Donnelly

FROM: Bishop Joseph Imesch

Father ~~Tom~~ Ross wrote that he will be leaving the House of Affirmation on November 8th. He would like to take a couple of weeks before going back to work, starting with the first Sunday of Advent. He wishes to return to St. Peter's, unless there is some other position we would like him to take. He would like to meet with Bishop Ryan and myself sometime after his return.

---

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

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House of Affirmation, Inc.  
International Therapeutic Center for Clergy and Religious

October 5, 1983

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Rev. Thomas A. Kane, Ph.D., D.P.S.  
INTERNATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC DIRECTOR  
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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
Rev. James P. Madden, C.S.C.  
229 Berkeley Street - Suite 31  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116  
617 - 266-8792  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
Sr. Fiona Vallance, M.A.  
St. Paul's at Selly Park  
Birmingham B297 LL England

To John Doe and Family

I have been wanting to write to you for many months now, but it is only recently that I have felt able to do so. I have wanted to write because I have felt the need to express to you my apology for the hurt and sorrow that I have caused to John Doe in particular and to all of you as a family. I feel that there are no words that can do this adequately; but even if they are an imperfect vehicle I wish you to know that I am sorry. I think of you often and hope that my actions have not caused too much hardship or disruption in your lives. I feel sadly about having betrayed the friendship and hospitality that you so often showed to me. And I do miss the welcome that you once extended to me.

I have been in California now about ten months. In that time I have come to accept what I did, to take responsibility for my actions. It has been both a painful and a revealing process that has brought me to accept the reality of who I am and what caused me to act in the way that I did. Your role in this unfortunate incident was one of the necessary elements that helped me to face up to myself, and I am grateful

House of Affirmation, Inc.  
International Therapeutic Center for Clergy and Religious

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Rev. Thomas A. Kane, Ph.D., D.P.S.  
INTERNATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC DIRECTOR  
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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
Sr. Fiona Vallance, M.A.  
St. Paul's at Selly Park  
Birmingham B297 LL England

I will be leaving the House of Affirmation in the  
evening of November and returning to St. Peter's in  
Texas where I was before. As I get back to the routine  
of my life I will on occasions be back in Joliet. There  
is the possibility that I might meet up with one or all  
of you at some time. The thought of this makes me feel uneasy and  
uncomfortable. It will be difficult for me to deal with my feelings  
of that should happen. I do feel guilty and ashamed about what I did,  
- but may show in my words as mannequins. I feel the need to  
tell you this in the hope that you might understand what would be going  
on inside of me.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I would like to express my  
feelings to you all personally when I return to Illinois. However, I respect your  
feelings and wishes that I leave you alone. I would not come to your home without  
your first inviting me. I ask God to watch over you all everyday in my prayers,  
hoping that He will help you to have peace in your personal lives and in your  
life as a family. Please pray for me that I may continue the healing and  
accepting process that I have begun here at the House of Affirmation in my own

Sincerely,

F. Tom Ross

000022  
Rev. Anthony  
Ross

MEMORANDUM

March 25, 1986

TO: Bishop Roger Kaffer .  
FROM: Bishop Joseph Imesch  
RE: Father [REDACTED] - Father Anthony Ross

After confirmation at St. Peter's in Itasca on Saturday, I spoke to both Father Bill White and Father Anthony Ross. I mentioned to Father [REDACTED] that the people who were signing petitions for Tony Ross were not only concerned about his leaving the parish, but were also giving an expression to their dissatisfaction with him. He agreed that this was the case. I asked him what he was doing or not doing which made the people so unresponsive to his ministry. He said he really did not know except that he felt that the parish has somewhat of a history of a negative attitude towards the pastor. He mentioned something about Father [REDACTED]. I mentioned to him that in the past we had discussed his stay there and he had always emphasized that he planned to be there until he died. He has spent 14 years there, all of which he says have been happy ones. Much to my surprise he said that he would be willing to take another parish, a fact which he indicated to you. He said that he would prefer to have a place that did not have a school.

I think we should capitalize on this turn of events and do something. I see a difficulty which perhaps might be mentioned at the Presbyteral Council Meeting in April. If that is to happen it would be good to be able to discuss this matter with the Personnel Board first. The situation arises over something particularly like this, where two priests might want to move, but since there is no vacancy, we can hardly announce their giving up their own parishes, if we have no place to send them, at least no place to announce that we are sending them. In the past we have worked from a vacancy, but there are situations, and you know several, where we would like people to move and yet our hands are tied because we have to announce every vacancy.

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I think what I would like to do is to be able to consider everyone eligible for a move and thereby make moves without necessarily announcing a vacancy. Whenever possible we would announce a vacancy, but there are situations where we cannot announce a vacancy. I feel my hands are tied unless I am able to approach different individuals and inquire if they are willing to move. There are situations in which pastors should move, for any number of reasons, but nothing can be done till there is a vacancy. Perhaps we can discuss this further.

With regard to Father Ross we discussed again the possibility of his going to a diocese in California. I told him once more that I was not comfortable with releasing him permanently for another diocese. I was not opposed to allowing him to go somewhere for three years but was not exactly enamored of it being one of the dioceses in California. I indicated to him that this would be very difficult to understand on the part of the other priests, particularly since those dioceses are hardly looked upon as missionary dioceses. I suggested several other dioceses to him and also told him that I would be willing to contact the bishop on his behalf. For some reason he is quite determined to go to California. He feels that since he has been in the area he knows it somewhat and it would be a source of support to him, especially since he does not know many people out there. He has not entirely given up on his plan to leave permanently but I am equally determined that he should not. He says that he feels a need to be in control of his own life and to determine his destiny. I mentioned to him that he has already somewhat determined his destiny by making a promise to the Bishop of Joliet at the time of ordination in which he agreed to serve in this diocese.

What we finally came down to, I think, was that I would ask the Personnel Board of what they would think of allowing him to go a diocese in California, probably Santa Rosa, for three years. Even that makes me a little uneasy because I am quite certain that at the end of three years he will ask for an extension and will in effect make it a permanent change. I would feel much

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more comfortable if he were going to a "missionary" diocese which needed priests. He would like to go out to Santa Rosa and see what the situation is like in the diocese and whether he could work there. Perhaps you would want to bring this up with the Personnel Board, or if you wish, you could arrange a meeting at which I would meet with them.

---

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

May 13, 1986

RE: Reverend Anthony Ross

On Friday, May 9th, I spoke with Father [REDACTED], the director of the House of Affirmation in regard to Tony Ross' request to be allowed to go to the Santa Rosa diocese to minister and eventually to become incardinated there. In my previous conversations with Tony I have indicated to him that while I was open to have him go to another diocese in order to solve his familial problems, I thought it should be a diocese that had a more missionary character. I said I would not consider such a move with eventual incardination into that diocese. I indicated that I would allow him to go for a period of three years or so and I would expect him to return to Joliet.

In a subsequent conversation with Bishop Kaffer, Tony mentioned once more his desire to go to Santa Rosa and added the reason that this would allow him to be close to the House of Affirmation for support. I indicated when I heard this from Bishop Kaffer that this had never been brought up in our previous conversations. In addition, I thought it strange that after almost two years he would bring up the support that might be offered from the House of Affirmation, when nothing had been mentioned about that previously, and the House had not suggested that he stay in that area to receive additional counseling or support.

As a result of all this I called Father [REDACTED] the director of the House of Affirmation in Montara, to discuss Tony's request. Father Bush told me that two or three months ago Tony had called him and asked him what he thought about relocating in Santa Rosa. At the time, Father [REDACTED] said he was rather rushed, and indicated his approval of the move. About a week later he called Tony to discuss the matter more fully, having had second thoughts about it. Tony indicated that in the northern part of Santa Rosa there are rural parishes and he wanted to be located in a rural area. When Father [REDACTED] asked him what I thought about his request, Tony told him that I was not in favor of it, and that if he wished to go to another

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diocese he should find one that has more of a missionary character. Father [REDACTED] asked Tony some rather difficult questions and then indicated that he was in accord with the bishop's feelings. He saw no particular reason to locate near the House of Affirmation, nor in Santa Rosa. In fact, Father [REDACTED] feels that Tony's problems cannot be resolved by a geographical move, but that he should make an effort to solve his familial problems right here. He said that he should bite the bullet and say what has to be said and then get on with his life. He indicated to me that he had told Tony quite clearly that he should not make the proposed move.

Now we shall see what unfolds!

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

August 4, 1986

RE: Reverend Anthony Ross

I met with Tony on July 23rd. We talked about his assignment at St. Peter's in Itasca and his present assignment at Sacred Heart - Lombard. We spent most of our time talking about Tony's future plans to go to California.

He speaks of his need to make his own decision about his future and to exercise some independence. His choice of Santa Rosa, however, seems to be more than an exercise of independence. As a matter of fact he chose that over some other less sparsely populated dioceses so that he might be close to other priests, which is not really dependence but a recognition of interdependence.

I told Tony, as I have in the past, that I would have a very difficult time justifying allowing him to leave to go to Santa Rosa. I recognize the areas of concern in his own life, but I also must be concerned about the priests who are here.

In speaking with his therapist, Father [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am told that he does not recommend Tony come to Santa Rosa. [REDACTED] feels that Tony should resolve his difficulties here.

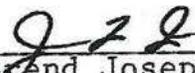
I finally agreed with Tony that he should meet with the Personnel Board and explain his request. (Bishop Kaffer should set this up for September at the latest) I then told him that I wanted to talk to the Personnel Board myself. Tony is engaged in therapy here and perhaps it would be well to talk to his therapist to discover why it is so necessary and important for him to leave this area.

When I initially talked to Tony he was adamant about leaving open the question of his returning to the diocese. He now gives an indication that he would be willing to return after a 3 - 5 year period away. I do not remember talking about this previously but Tony said we discussed this at St. Peter's in Itasca after confirmation. My recollection of that meeting was that

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he had not changed his intention of possibly becoming  
incardinated into the diocese.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

September 17, 1986

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bishop Joseph Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger Kaffer  
RE: Father A. J. Ross

On September 12, 1986, the Personnel Board met with Father Anthony J. Ross, as you requested. The meeting was rather lengthy, the discussion rather complete, the questions direct and probing, and we felt his responses were very candid. We recommend that Father Ross take a week before Christmas and, preferably, before Thanksgiving to visit both the House of Affirmation and the Bishop and some of the parish possibilities in Santa Rosa, California. Father Ross said he spoke only twice and rather briefly with Father [redacted] from the House of Affirmation. It seems Father [redacted] initially told him and Bishop Imesch that he was not much in favor of Father Ross coming to California. We believe it would be good for a thorough and open discussion between Father Ross and Father [redacted], that would not be hurried and over the phone. We also think an early visit to a few parishes and with the Bishop of Santa Rosa might be sufficient for Father Ross either to change his mind about wanting to go out there or to be more eager to go. We did not feel his preparation of looking at a couple of maps was very satisfactory.

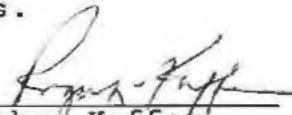
After he has the opportunity to do both of the above, we would like again to discuss the matter with Father Ross, and if he still has not modified his desire to try Santa Rosa for three years, we would not object to it.

We would also like to hold open the possibility of offering him a rural parish in Joliet, should one become available. This would not be to bribe or entice him to stay, but with the thought that such an assignment might, within a few months, give him both the distance and the independence he thinks he needs to go to California to get.

There was surfaced some little concern that since Father Ross will take himself wherever he goes, it is by no means certain that a change of diocese will be as necessary or as significant as Father Ross seems to think it will be.

The board members did want to note how candid and honest Father Ross was with us.

The above recommendation is unanimous.

  
Bishop Kaffer

RLK:bjd

MEMORANDUM

September 26, 1986

TO: Bishop Roger Kaffer  
FROM: Bishop Joseph Imesch  
RE: Father A.J. Ross

I read your memo concerning the meeting of Father Ross with the Personnel Board. As I understand it, Father Ross will make the arrangements to go to speak to Father [REDACTED] at the House of Affirmation himself. In other words he would not need such an indication from me. Did the matter of paying for the transportation there come up? I think that should be clear, that this is his own responsibility, and not a diocesan one.

In addition to speaking with [REDACTED], I think it would be important for someone, probably you, to have permission from Tony to talk to his counselor here. I think it would be important to find out what he thinks.

---

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

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October 9, 1986

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

[REDACTED]

With a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Vicar General

RLK:bjd

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

November 6, 1986

RE: Reverend Anthony Ross

On Wednesday, November 5th, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] called from Montara. He had just spoken to Tony Ross and had refused to meet with him. Tony had called me just 5 minutes prior to [REDACTED] call informing me that he had contacted [REDACTED] and asked to go out there to meet with him to discuss his plan to work in Santa Rosa for three years. It had been the recommendation of the Personnel Board that Tony contact his former counselor.

[REDACTED] told me that he did not see any reason for him to meet with Tony. [REDACTED] had already expressed his opinion to me some months earlier that Tony should not leave the diocese, but rather should work out any of his problems here. [REDACTED] said that he has not been in contact with Tony for these past three years and therefore he did not feel there was anything to be gained by Tony being with him. I told [REDACTED] that we were going to meet with Tony's present counselor and [REDACTED] agreed with that.

[REDACTED] does not feel that Tony should leave the diocese. In fact, [REDACTED] is somewhat suspicious of Tony's motives in asking to leave, although he said this was just a feeling that he had.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

January 8, 1987

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERVIEW WITH FATHER TONY ROSS

The visit with Tony was really good. As he left, I told him I am proud of him, and I say that not to gild the lily, but in sincerity. He believed it and accepted it as such. It was very true.

I had thought that Tony had gone to California to talk to the Chancellor of Santa Rosa. He did not, but has simply had an exchange of letters with him. He was quite disappointed that he was turned down without the interview or the opportunity to present himself. Tony will meet with Bishop Imesch next week to discuss seeking the same program in another diocese. Tony has asked his therapist to get in touch with me, and asked me if he had. When I told him he had not and he gave me his name, I realized that the doctor has called me, and I have returned the call a couple of times and will certainly make contact.

Tony said this is certainly the toughest assignment he has had, but he is not opposed to it. He is growing in it and through it. He has talked with Father [redacted] Tony said Father [redacted] jumped him recently because he has been gone so much. He did tell him that at times he feels guilty by being gone so much. However, Tony does do a lot of visiting in nursing homes, people in their homes, etc. It is the kind of pastoral contact work that Monsignor [redacted] had insisted he do when he was with him, and Tony buys it. Yet Tony said he also has been doing some shopping and has also gone home from time to time, but always leaving word where he can be contacted. Yet Father [redacted] gets upset because he is the one to get the doors, etc.

[Large redacted block]

Interview with Father Tony Ross

-2-

January 8, 1987

██████████  
His pastoral sense seems awfully good. He really seems to have pastoral zeal after 14 years of Ordination.

We spoke a little bit about Father ██████████. All things considered, Tony likes Art. He said he is very good about cooperating, covering whenever need be, and doing what he is supposed to do. However, he is gone a great deal. He said he has had one tough assignment after another, has never been appreciated, and has always been criticized. It is natural to run away. I asked him specifically about the content of his sermons and his theology. He said he has heard Father ██████████ criticized for being a poor theologian. He said his sermons are rather shallow, the few times he has heard them, but they are good. Tony said he has heard good comments from people after the sermons. In summary, he said that if he were a pastor and needed an associate, he would seriously consider taking Father ██████████ as his associate. They do get along well together and go out from time to time for dinner.

I asked if Father Richter's mother was a great problem in the house. Tony said she is not really a great problem for him. The greater problem is that Father Richter never leaves. Tony does not think he has taken a day off for vacation in over 10 years, or at least not much more than a retreat. He says it is tough when the pastor is never gone. Once in awhile he ought to be gone so the associates can feel they are in charge, and they can have their own friends in, etc. I concurred with him in that and told him I once came back a week early from vacation at the Cathedral, but would never have considered returning to the rectory, because it was my hope that ██████████ would be having some friends in and being in charge, and I just thought the presence of "the boss" around would be a bit inhibiting.

*+RZK*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

January 20, 1987

RE: Father Anthony Ross

I met with Tony Ross on Monday, January 12th. He repeated again his desire to go to another diocese, preferably Santa Rosa, as a means of exercising some independence and making his own decisions for his life. We discussed this at great length, particularly in regard to his commitment to the Diocese of Joliet upon ordination, a fact that does indeed limit his independence in making a decision where he will work. Nevertheless, at this time he feels that it is more important for him to exercise some control over his own decisions, rather than having them made for him.

When I pressed him specifically in regard to Santa Rosa, he said that he felt that this is where he belongs. He said that he had visited there and felt very much "at home." It is a rather strange phenomenon, but I believe that Tony feels there is some connection between himself and Santa Rosa.

I pointed out to him that while I could understand the need for exercising some independence in decision making, I really found it very difficult to accept the fact that Santa Rosa was "the place" where he was to find himself. I mentioned that it would be extremely difficult for me to justify his loan to Santa Rosa, especially to other priests, particularly when being "at home" there seemed to be the reason for allowing him to go. I again mentioned that I would have less difficulty in allowing him to go to a missionary diocese, one that was in need of priests, and indicated that I would even be willing to assist him in finding a place. That prospect did not seem very acceptable to Tony. He is more or less determined to go to Santa Rosa, or possibly San Jose, Monterey, and maybe even Fresno. To me, he seems to be limiting his choices to places that are near the ocean. Needless to say, I have a great deal of difficulty in accepting this.

Tony seems to have backed off from his notion of permanent leave, particularly since I indicated that I

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would never consider such a possibility. He then talked about 3 - 5 years, but I indicated I was thinking more of three years. I did mention to him that I had the suspicion that once he was there, he would ask to remain there when his time was completed. Tony did not deny that possibility.

On Thursday, January 15th I spoke to Dr. [REDACTED], the counselor Tony has been seeing. I expressed my concerns to Dr. [REDACTED], particularly in regard to Tony's insistence on leaving and his "obsession" with going to Santa Rosa. The doctor indicated that at this time in Tony's life it is necessary for him to assume some responsibility for his life, namely by making his own decision as to where he will minister. The doctor is less convinced about the Santa Rosa persistence, and said he would pursue that in future talks with Tony. I pointed out to the doctor my uneasiness with releasing someone to work in the Diocese of Santa Rosa, a place that does not have a particular need of priests, at least as far as I know. I did not learn a great deal from Dr. [REDACTED] except for the fact that he feels Tony would benefit from making his own decision both as to his ministry and where he will carry it out.

I pointed out to Dr. [REDACTED] that I did not feel comfortable with acceding to Tony's request, particularly since the man who had been his counselor for a year, [REDACTED], did not think that Tony should leave the diocese. I had even mentioned to Tony earlier the awkwardness of a decision that would ignore the advice of a man who probably knew Tony better than anyone else. It still seems strange to me to engage a man as a counselor for a period of a year and then ignore his advice.. That does not sound very "wise" to me.

I think there is probably a need for Tony to make some decisions in his life at this time. While I cannot fully understand all of this, I think I might be willing to go along with this, but I really cannot see myself approving Santa Rosa (I'll probably end up eating those words). I asked Tony what would happen if I did not let him go. He said that he did not think anything would happen, although he might feel some anger and resentment, he did not think he would act upon that.

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Released April 2014

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I don't know where we go from here, except probably to spend more time talking to Tony. He feels that if I would contact the Diocese of Santa Rosa, they would reverse their negative response and would accept him.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

*Jan. 31*  
February 3, 1987

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bishop Joseph Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger Kaffer  
RE: Reverend Tony Ross

I have just read your memo of January 20th concerning Tony Ross. The only thing that struck me was Dr. [REDACTED] indication that "at this time in Tony's life, it is necessary for him to assume some responsibility for his life; namely, by making his own decision as to where he will minister..."

I don't know if you told me of if Tony told me, that Dr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] They operate very much on the call from a parish, rather than relationship to a diocese, I think. Just an observation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

Redacted February 2014  
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Released April 2014

February 3, 1987

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bishop Joseph Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger Kaffer  
RE: Reverend Tony Ross

I have just read your memo of January 20th concerning Tony Ross. The only thing that struck me was Dr. [REDACTED] indication that "at this time in Tony's life, it is necessary for him to assume some responsibility for his life; namely, by making his own decision as to where he will minister..."

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Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

Redacted February 2014

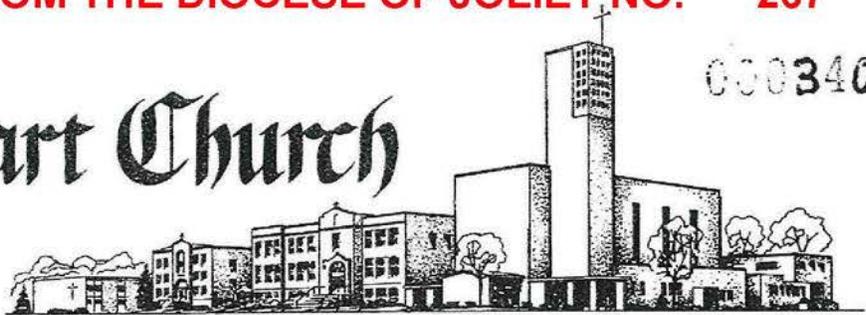
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# Sacred Heart Church

114 SOUTH ELIZABETH STREET  
LOMBARD, IL 60148 • 627-0687



March 24, 1988

The Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.  
The Chancery Office  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

I am writing you to formally request that I be granted a one year leave of absence from the Diocese, effective June 6, 1988.

I have given this request a great deal of careful thought and prayerful consideration and have talked at length with several people who's counsel I value. As a result it is now clear to me that I need time away from the Doicese in order to discern and establish the direction of my ministry for my remaining years.

I appreciate your prayers and support for me over the past years. I feel confident that you will understand the importance and necessity of my request and will respond positively.

If you would like to discuss this request with me I would be happy to do so. I know that Holy Week is a busy time for both of us and I will be gone the two weeks after Easter to baptize my neice. Anytime after April 15 would be fine with me.

Bishop, I hope the peace and holiness of Easter will be with you in a special way. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours in Christ:

*Rev. Anthony J. Ross*  
Rev. Anthony J. Ross

*acknowledged 3/30  
asked to set up appt.  
after april 15th.*



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I asked Tony what he expected to do at the end of his leave. He said that he hoped that he would be able to find a bishop out there who would accept him. I told him that I was opposed to his leaving the diocese and that I would not look favorably on a request to go work in another diocese after his leave of absence. I have the feeling that this was Tony's intent all along, namely to take a leave of absence, establish a residence in a place where he would like to function and then ask to be readmitted to priesthood in that particular diocese.

I told Tony how difficult this was for me, how I did not agree with his understanding of a leave of absence, nor his theology about priesthood, if he could simply walk away that easily. I said that I felt the needs of the people called for a response from him other than that he needed to make some decisions, himself, for his own personal life. He feels that this decision to take a leave is the beginning of his taking control of his life. He said that he would make the other decisions as he goes along, even though it is very difficult for him not to want to jump in and try to make all of them at once.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

June 1, 1988

Reverend Anthony Ross  
Sacred Heart Parish  
114 S. Elizabeth Street  
Lombard, IL 60148

Dear Tony,

At your request, I am granting you a leave of absence for one year effective, June 22nd. At that time your appointment as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Lombard will be terminated. You know that it is with great reluctance that I grant your request. We have discussed your desire to go to a diocese in California, Santa Rosa in particular, for almost two years.

I can recognize the need for you to assume some responsibility for decisions in your life. At the same time, I feel that a commitment to ministry in a particular diocese places some limitations on those desires. I would certainly have preferred that you find some way to achieve your personal needs within this diocese. Since that does not seem possible to you, I have granted your request for a leave of absence, although such a leave normally means a crisis in vocation. I do not feel that is true in your case, since you have told me that you want to be a priest and enjoy ministering. That fact makes it all the more difficult for me to grant your request.

You know that the ministerial needs in the diocese are great. When you leave Sacred Heart, there will be no replacement for you, and yet the needs of the people must continue to be met.

I also feel that your taking a leave has a detrimental effect on all of the priests of the diocese, first of all, because they respect you, and secondly because they realize that their numbers are diminished while the work load is not. I think every priest carries the burden of your leaving. Psychologically it is difficult for them.

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I did not intend in this letter to make matters more difficult for you, but simply to state my particular concerns about your request, a concern which I am sure you are already aware of.

I am granting your request for a period of one year. I would ask that during that time you do not function as a priest. I release you from your obligation to recite the Divine Office daily, but I would ask that you spend some time in prayer and reflection each day. I know that you probably intended to do that in any case.

I hope that the enclosed will be of some little assistance to you in becoming settled. I am sure that leaving must be difficult for you, especially realizing that you are going some place where you do not have any family or friends to support you. I sincerely hope that during this leave you will make an effort to seek some spiritual direction or counseling. When one is trying to reach a decision, it is usually helpful to have an experienced person assisting. Sometimes, our own thoughts and ideas need to be reflected to us by others. You know that I wish you well and have the fervent hope that you will return to active ministry in the diocese. I continue to keep you in my prayers twice each day by name. May the Lord bless you and may His Spirit guide you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

*Mr - Bishop Kopper*

June 17, 1988

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo re: Father A. J. Ross

I had Tony over to my house for dinner. He arrived about 90 seconds after I did, so we prepared dinner together. He was used to that from the Cathedral. He was pleasant, affable, and seemed genuinely pleased that I had invited him over. I made it very clear that my purpose was simply to show that I am concerned about him, and wish to affirm and support him in any way that I can. I did ask if he knows what he is going to do, but quickly added I certainly did not ask in order to pry, but simply to show my interest. He said he is going to California, but apparently doesn't know for sure what he will do when he gets there. That is a little scary. Tony assured me he is not going because of dissatisfaction with the Diocese of Joliet. He is concerned that people will read that into the situation, especially because several others are taking leaves this year. I told him I had already been approached by a member of the Presbyteral Council, wanting to discuss the leaves, yet recognizing that so often the reasons are confidential and will never be fully known. Tony just assured me that I could assure others that he is not going because of dissatisfaction with us. He said this is simply something he has to do. He recalled his having met with the Personnel Board a couple of years ago, his several meetings with Bishop Imesch, and he said he feels badly that the Bishop could not understand or agree with where he was coming from, and he could not understand or agree with where the Bishop is coming from. But he has no animosity for Bishop Imesch. He said perhaps if he were in his place, he would take the same position. I told him I had to say I was more understanding of Bishop Imesch's position than Tony's. Tony indicated he would have much preferred to go to California without a leave of absence, open-ended, I gather. He said it may be that he will return here and be content. But this is just something he has to do. We really did not get into a lengthy rehashing of this whole matter, because I did not want it to overshadow the purpose of the invitation, which was to show concern and keep in contact. Tony told me he will give both me and the Chancery Office a box number. Since he doesn't know what he is going to do or where he will wind up, he either has or will immediately get a post office box number so that he can receive mail. He initiated his departure about 8

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o'clock (he had come at 5:30). It was cordial and, I think, good that we met. My one regret was that we did not pray together, but somehow it would have seemed a little contrived to suggest doing so the way things turned out.

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch

Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014

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*Copy*

October 5, 1988

Reverend Gregory Ingels  
Tribunal  
Archdiocese of San Francisco  
445 Church Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114-1799

Dear Father Ingels:

I received your recent letter concerning Reverend Anthony J. Ross. I was somewhat surprised to hear from you, particularly in the role of an advocate for Father Ross. It is my understanding that the role of advocate indicates some sort of process. Since I was under the impression that Father Ross and I had parted on good terms, I would have thought that he would write me personally before pursuing this particular approach. As it is, I have had no contact with Father Ross since he left the diocese.

I do not believe that I do any injustice to Father Ross. I had spoken with him on numerous occasions about the significance of taking a leave of absence. It was very clear to me that he understood clearly what the impact of such a leave would be, namely that he would not be allowed to function as a priest. Knowing all of this, he still insisted that he wished to go to Santa Rosa. With great reluctance I granted his request. I feel that it is quite inappropriate after three months that he should seek my permission to function again as a priest through an advocate.

I do not think it is appropriate for me to discuss the extensive dialogue I have had with Father Ross over the last few years concerning his request to move permanently to California. He has refused to consider any other alternatives and continually insisted that Santa Rosa was the one and only area of the country where he could possibly function. Knowing his complete history and the history of our own diocese, I have considerable trouble in accepting that vision of ministry and still do so now.

2.

I do not think Father Ross should be allowed to function as a priest in Santa Rosa. His request to me was to take a leave of absence for one year. He did not inform me that he intended to go to Santa Rosa and seek employment as a priest. It seems as if it were the plan of Father Ross to go to Santa Rosa and then try to exert pressure on me to allow him to serve there as a priest, a ministry which I would not agree to earlier.

I do not wish to act harshly or unjustly toward Father Ross, but I do not feel that his situation, which was made very clear to him on a number of occasions, should be changed at this time.

I do not consider this letter a response to your letter in regard to Canon 271. If an appeal is to be made to me on the basis of that Canon, I will respond according to the statements made in that Canon. While I am certain that Father Ross is not comfortable with his leave of absence from the active ministry, I can assure you that I also feel considerable pain in having first heard from him through an advocate.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Reverend Anthony J. Ross  
Most Reverend John T. Steinbock, D.D.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

October 27, 1988

RE: Father Anthony Ross

I met with Father Tony Ross on Wednesday, October 26th to discuss his situation. We both had quite different perceptions of what has taken place. Tony says that he had told me previously that he could not accept my limiting of his priestly functions. I replied that I was certain that I had made it very clear to Tony, as I have with every priest who takes a leave of absence, that the leave means "from active ministry," and therefore a priest should not function as a priest during this leave. I told Tony that I had no written record of his saying that he could not accept that, nor did I recall his saying that to me. I had stated very clearly to him that a leave of absence means not functioning as a priest.

Because of my understanding of a leave, and my recollection of our conversation, I felt that Tony only waited until he went to Santa Rosa before having an Advocate write requesting that he be allowed to function as a priest. I told him that I felt this was the plan from the beginning and that I did not appreciate being manipulated in that way. He said that he certainly did not intend to manipulate, but felt that he had a right to function as a priest, and that I had no right to limit that functioning, unless I wished to suspend him.

When we spoke about the letter from the priest in the San Francisco Tribunal, who was acting as an Advocate for Tony, Tony simply said that he had attempted to write several letters to me requesting to be allowed to function, but either they were all too angry, or they were so mealy-mouthed, that he did not send them. He had asked several people to help him write a letter, which was finally done by the Tribunal official from San Francisco.

I asked Tony what he expected to obtain from this visit. He said that he was asking that he be allowed to function as a priest in order to carry on his ministry in the prison, namely celebrating Eucharist there and hearing confessions, and wearing

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the collar while visiting. I asked if that was all he intended to do, and he replied "Yes," although he was hopeful that I would allow him to celebrate Mass and help out anywhere in the diocese. I told him that I was uncertain what I would do, but that limiting him just to saying Mass in prison seemed strange to me.

I also asked him if it was his intention to ask in June to be allowed to function in Santa Rosa. He said that it was. We then talked about some time commitment to that diocese and I asked him if he would be willing to come home after a period of time in Santa Rosa. He said that he was not willing to say that he will return at that time, but rather that he would discuss the matter with me. I then told him that I had considerable difficulty in granting any of his requests, unless he indicated that he would be willing to return to the diocese after a period of time. I said that if I were to accede to his request to function now, and then also to function in June as a priest in Santa Rosa for a period of time, there would be little question in my mind that a strong case could be made that I had permitted him to function previously for a number of years, therefore why not permanently. Tony said that he simply could not make a definite decision that he would return to Joliet after serving in Santa Rosa. I pointed out that the likelihood would be that after serving there for a number of years, he would have become very acclimated to the place, have found friends, and it would not be much of a choice, choosing between Joliet and Santa Rosa.

We again talked for a long time about his desire to go to Santa Rosa. I said that I understood the necessity for him to make some personal decisions about his life, but asked him also about his commitment to the Diocese of Joliet and what that meant to him. He said that he wanted to go to Santa Rosa, because he feels very much "at home there," since 1975 when he first visited there. He also wished to work in rural ministry, in prison ministry, or serve the Native Americans. These last two were a revelation to me, but Tony insists that he had mentioned them to me previously.

I told him that I did not see how I could grant his initial request unless he were willing to make some

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commitment to return to the diocese. I brought up the fact that [REDACTED] had said that Tony should not be allowed to function in Santa Rosa as a priest. Tony claims that [REDACTED] has withdrawn from his situation, because he has not counselled him for several years and had no objection to his going to Santa Rosa. I asked Tony to get in touch with [REDACTED] and to have him send me a letter to that effect. Tony asked if that would be sufficient to convince me to allow him to go there. I said that it would certainly eliminate one of the obstacles I had, although I still was not willing to simply grant him carte blanche to go to Santa Rosa.

I further told Tony that if he would soon be allowed to function as a priest, I would find it necessary to speak directly with Bishop Steinbock and explain everything that I knew about Tony's situation. I also indicated that were Bishop Steinbock to accept him, even on a temporary basis, that I would expect that Santa Rosa would assume all responsibility for him and that Joliet would not be obligated for health benefits, retirement, liability or any particular need that might arise.

Tony said that one of the reasons he had chosen Santa Rosa, also, was that it would be near some of the counselors from the House of Affirmation and some of the priests with whom he was familiar. I told him that I was not aware that this reason had been offered at any time previously, although Tony says it was.

Evidently he has met with Sister [REDACTED], whom he knew at the House of Affirmation.

From what I can gather, Tony was working in a food distribution center for approximately \$100 a month, but is now earning \$700 a month. He indicated that he did not take a job because Bishop Steinbock had told him that if I allowed him to function as a priest, he did not want Tony to be a part-time priest, functioning only on Sunday and working during the week.

Evidently during all of this time Tony has been very angry because I would not allow him to function as a priest, although Bishop Steinbock was willing to have him. He said that I had approached Bishop Steinbock at

Collegetown and told him that Tony was in Santa Rosa and that he should not be allowed to function as a priest. Unfortunately, I have no recollection of approaching Bishop Steinbock on that matter. I believe what happened was that he asked me about Tony Ross and I told him that it was my practice not to allow priests who are on a leave of absence to function as a priest. He said he was willing to abide by that.

I offered Tony the possibility of rural or prison ministry here, although he did not express any interest in pursuing that. He feels that he must assume some responsibility for decisions in his life. We talked a little about his counselor here and his recommendation that Tony go to Santa Rosa. I told Tony that I felt his counselor here was making a legitimate recommendation, but was not aware of Catholic practice regarding incardination, etc. I told Tony that I would be in agreement to allow him to go to Santa Rosa for a time, but that he would have to agree to return to Joliet at the end of that time. I also told Tony that I did not feel he was making any concession or accommodation regarding his decision.

We left the matter with Tony intending to get in touch with [REDACTED] my proposal that I would do some further consulting. Tony repeated that he had no ill feelings, and I assured him that I had none either. We both thought that we were right and are trying to find some way to resolve what has become a dilemma.

I should mention that earlier on in the conversation, I expressed some disappointment that Tony had not even bothered to acknowledge a financial gift when he left the diocese. He apologized for that and said that he had intended to do that, but then felt uncomfortable doing it when he was experiencing such frustration and anger at not being able to function as a priest. He said that he really misses not being able to celebrate Eucharist. He asked why I was being so willful in not allowing him to function as a priest. I replied that I had made it very clear to him before he left that it was his choice to choose not to function as a priest by taking a leave of absence. He said that he wanted a leave of absence but did not agree to the curtailment of his priestly function.

(A copy of this memo will be sent to Tony for his verification of what took place.)

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Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

March 2, 1990

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bishop Joseph Imesch  
FROM: Bishop Roger Kaffer  
RE: Father A. J. Ross

We first talked about the parish. Things seem to be going incredibly well. A. J. recently asked the secretary if he is missing something and not doing something he is supposed to be doing. She said he wasn't, why? He said he just can't believe things are going as smoothly as they are, and she said she felt the same. The staff seems to be working well together. [REDACTED] has a bit more pressure because he is the acting religious ed coordinator. A. J. said the nun who had been fired by [REDACTED] (and it was the right decision) had written a letter to the teachers that re-encouraged a bit of upset among them, but A. J. feels it will handle itself and the poor woman will do more harm to herself than to the parish by continuing this.

I asked about [REDACTED] Tony is concerned about [REDACTED], but thinks that he is handling the situation well. Tony has tried to help him, and has also told him that he must have someone with whom he can talk things out. [REDACTED] does have a spiritual director with whom he does talk. Tony encourages him in this, and tells him to see either him or somebody. Tony has expressed his own openness to talk anytime [REDACTED] wants to. Tony does feel that his own experience at the House of Affirmation has helped him help other people needing help.

I asked Tony how he is doing himself. He thinks he's doing all right. He knows what his limitations are, and knows how to take care of himself. I gather he has not gotten away as much as he might like to, but he also is not putting himself under more stress than he can handle. He has told the people that both he and [REDACTED] must have a day off, and he will ordinarily see to it that that happens.

Memo re: Father A. J. Ross -2-

March 2, 1990

I then asked Tony why he had talked to [redacted] about a month before this incident, and had told him he would have to go to the Bishop if [redacted] didn't get some help. I asked what the signs were. He said [redacted] had been drinking. A time or two he went to a youth meeting, and the youth minister asked him to leave, because he obviously had had too much to drink. The secretary also had noticed it a few times. I believe they said Henry was incoherent a time or two. A couple of others who work closely with the staff also had noticed it. A. J. does not think [redacted] is an alcoholic, but that he was just drinking too much under a great deal of tension and pressure. A. J. also noticed compulsivity in [redacted]. They were going to furnish a room, and [redacted] went to about five or six stores within three days, buying furniture, taking it back, getting more, etc. It was something that simply did not require that kind of urgent treatment. Evidently there were a couple of instances like that. [redacted] had to do yesterday what really didn't have to be done for several weeks. A. J., probably from his House of Affirmation learning, simply recognized signs of stress. There was no indication of anything like the incident that happened, but simply that the man was under a great deal of pressure and needed to get some help. A. J. figured the upcoming sabbatical would be what was needed, especially with the availability of counseling during it.

Finally, I repeated my question of a month ago: "Does A. J. think a new pastor should be sent in before June." He does not. He thinks both he and Joe are handling the situation, and the stability and tranquility of the situation. Now is better than the upset of bringing in a new pastor at this time. I then asked A. J. what kind of an assignment he was looking for himself, with the hope that we might be able to name him as pastor. He surprised me by saying he has thought and prayed much over this, sees it as poetic that St. Isidore was a farmer and he always wanted a farm parish. Though he has always dreamed of a little country parish, he is quite comfortable at St. Isidore's, thinks he is doing a good job, and that the parishioners also think so, and would like to be considered for the pastorate of St. Isidore's. If that is to be the case, he thinks it would help the stability of the parish to have this announced before the June appointments.

Memo re: Father A. J. Ross -3-

March 2, 1990

I told him I would bring his request to the Personnel Board, but pointed out that it would be highly unusual to give one of the two largest parishes in the diocese as the first parish for a new pastor. He responded that [REDACTED] got a big parish as his first one. A. J. said he has been affirmed by many of the parishioners, staff and board, and told me that he thinks some of the board will urge that we

appoint him pastor when the Personnel Board comes to meet with the parish council, but he just wanted me to know that he has not put them up to this. They have come forward with it on their own. I told A. J. that the reaction of the presbyterate would be a factor to take into consideration, but surely not the determining factor. It might have been then that he pointed out the assignment of [REDACTED].

I asked A. J. what kind of an assignment he would like if he doesn't get St. Isidore's. I pointed out that the closest we could come to a rural parish of those already known to be open would be St. Anthony's in Frankfort and Immaculate Conception in Morris. He said Bishop Imesch had mentioned Immaculate Conception in Morris in some context, and he would be open to considering that. I pointed out there might be a more rural parish open up in a domino effect.

---

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

January 22, 1993

Reverend Anthony Ross  
St. Charles Borromeo Parish  
1135 Daniel Drive  
Bensenville, IL 60106-3484

Dear Tony,

In accord with our conversation I am granting you a leave of absence, effective Sunday, February 21st. I regret having to write this letter but I understand the reasons for your request. I will certainly meet with you before you leave.

During this time I would ask that you not celebrate the Eucharist. I relieve you of your responsibility to recite the Divine Office and ask that you spend sometime each day in prayer and meditation.

Be assured of my prayers for you and my best wishes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer



*St. Charles Borromeo Church*

1135 Daniel Drive  
Bensenville, Illinois 60106-3484  
708/860-1120

29 January 1993

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.  
Bishop of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435-7193

Dear Bishop Imesch:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 22, 1993. I received it on January 26, 1993.

I am in the process of consulting with civil and canonical counsels as to what choices and future directions I will be able to pursue. I hope that negotiations will be helpful in resolving some of these difficulties.

Know that you are in my prayers. Please keep me, my family, and the staff and people of St. Charles in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Anthony J. Ross". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rev. Anthony J. Ross  
Pastor

Redacted February 2014  
TMM  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

000405

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

July 16, 1993

██████████  
Sheriff-Coroner  
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice  
600 Administration Drive, Room 103-J  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Mr. ██████,

It is our policy only to verify a person's employment with the Diocese of Joliet.

Reverend Anthony Ross ministered in the Diocese of Joliet from 1972 - 1993.

Thank you for your understanding of our policy in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Judith A. Davies, OSF.*

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

FR. ROSS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 329

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000406

February 28, 1994

Dear Fr. Roger Kaffer:

In our discussion concerning Fr. Anthony J. Ross and Fr. Larry Mullins on Tuesday, January 12, 1993, I consulted you in confidence as a priest. I wish to have that confidence respected.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of John Doe.

John Doe

May 11, 1994

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Anthony Ross

[REDACTED]  
Santa Rosa, CA [REDACTED]

Dear Tony:

In a lawsuit brought by a plaintiff against another priest and the diocese, a court order has been entered requiring the diocese to produce any documents concerning any clergy which contain allegations, admissions or even inquiries about the sexual abuse of children.

Since, as you know, there have been such allegations, pertinent documents from your file had to be turned over. In this initial stage, our attorney was able to obtain from the judge a ruling that the names could be deleted of all persons involved: priests, children and those coming forward with such allegations or inquiries.

Bishop Imesch did alert the Presbyteral Council to this possibility, so you may already be aware of it. However, we wanted to be sure that you are aware of this. There is no need for you to take any action at this time, but you may want to consult with Mr. James Byrne, our diocesan attorney, or another attorney about this.

With cordial personal regards and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet  
Vicar General

RLK:bjd

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

PHONE (707) 545-7810



DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA  
CHANCERY OFFICE  
P. O. BOX 1287  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA  
95402

000413

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Diocese of Joliet  
The Chancery Office  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

July 13, 1997

Dear Joe,

I am writing to inform you that

FR. ANTHONY J. ROSS  
24-A Ursuline Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

has officially requested incardination into the Diocese of Santa Rosa. Enclosed is his formal request to you for excardination from the Diocese of Joliet.

With this letter I am formally requesting excardination for Fr. Anthony Ross so that the Diocese of Santa Rosa is allowed to incardinate him. We have done the necessary investigations on his background, the relevant letters of scrutiny from the people and priests he has served with in this Diocese, and the obligatory consultation with the Personnel Board and the Priests' Council. All are in favor of his incardination, and I concur with that.

We would need some determination about his retirement assets from the Diocese of Joliet, and if the Diocese of Santa Rosa should pay into your plan or place him on ours permanently for one third of his future benefits. Any assistance on the determination of this question would be helpful.

Thank you, Joe, for your consideration into this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Patrick Ziemann".

+ G. Patrick Ziemann  
Bishop of Santa Rosa



000422

August 28, 1997

Reverend Anthony Ross

██████████  
Santa Rosa, CA ██████████

Dear Tony,

Thanks for your letter, enclosed in such a wonderful envelope! Thank you for your kindness. I look forward to enjoy the fruit of your land. I smile as I look back on our conversation of several years ago about your going to California. So much for the wisdom of bishops and the plans of God!

I am hopeful that things will go well here in Joliet, but I am not optimistic, especially in view of the Dallas decision. I do not think there is much of a case, but if it does go to court there is no telling what a jury might decide. I think their lawyer has an exaggerated amount in his mind.

I am certainly glad that things are going so well for you in Santa Rosa. I am grateful, as I know you must be, for someone like ██████████ I know that he appreciates your ministry.

Sometime, either you or ██████████ should notify me with regard to your pension plans. The likelihood is that both ██████████ and I will not be around when you are ready to retire and it would be good to have something on file.

As of now, I do not know of any bishops meetings being scheduled in your area, but if there are, I will certainly get in touch with

August 28, 1997

2

you. If you should get home and have time it would be good to get together for breakfast or just for a few minutes.

Prayers for you and keep me in your prayers also.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

April 17, 2002

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh  
Diocese of Santa Rosa  
320 Tenth Street  
P.O. Box 1297  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1297

Dear Bishop Walsh,

Enclosed is the file of Reverend Anthony J. Ross. Bishop Imesch asked that I inform you that it is possible that the file may not be complete because Auxiliary Bishop Roger Kaffer may have some documents in his possession not included in this mailing.

Bishop Kaffer will be returning to the Chancery tomorrow morning. At that time, I will send you via fax any documentation missing from this shipment.

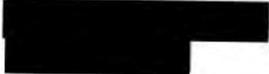
May God bless you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

April 16, 2002  
For Immediate Release

Contact: 

### DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA CONFIRMS STATUS OF DETENTION MINISTRY PRIEST

The Diocese of Santa Rosa today confirmed that Rev. Anthony Ross, who heads the Detention Ministry, has served as an active priest in this diocese since his arrival here in 1993.

Reports surfaced today that Father Ross, who formerly served in the Diocese of Joliet, IL, had been named in a 1983 allegation of sexual misconduct with a teenage boy. No charges were filed at that time. According to the *Herald Journal* in Joliet, parents of the victim are now demanding that he be removed from active ministry within the Church. The Diocese has informed the Sonoma County District Attorney and the Sheriff of the issues now being raised, and will cooperate fully in any investigation.

Speaking for the Diocese, Deirdre Frontczak noted that Father Ross was not transferred by his former bishop, but came to Santa Rosa at his own initiative after leaving Joliet in 1993. His assignments here have included Detention Ministry and AIDS Ministry Outreach (AMO), but no parish assignments during the past ten years. In response to questions regarding his current status, diocesan attorney Dan Galvin stated that "We have had no previous knowledge of the emerging allegations, and are unaware of any current complaints regarding Father Ross's conduct in this Diocese. Consistent with diocesan policy, the matter has been referred to the Sensitive Issues Committee for their review this week. Bishop Walsh has asked them to recommend an appropriate course of action."

# # #



### Sports Buehrle moves to 4-0

Page C1



**John Whiteside**  
Domestic violence  
victims real, not numbers  
Page A2

**New Lenox**  
Mayor calls for investment  
in development  
Page A3

Anthony Ross  
324  
Open Line  
Page A3  
(815) 729-6125

Final  
EDITION

85/56  
Details A2

# The Herald News



THURSDAY  
April 18, 2009

4 sections, 44 pages

Serving Will and Grundy counties since 1839

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Good  
Morning

A look inside today's  
Herald News

going



## Priest facing suspension

■ **Formerly of Joliet:**  
Rev. Anthony J. Ross,  
now in California,  
accused of sex abuse

By Ted Slowik  
STAFF WRITER

JOLIET — A priest who served at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in the 1970s is facing suspension today by the Diocese of Santa Rosa, Calif., for allegedly sexually

abusing a 15-year-old Joliet boy in 1981.

The Rev. Anthony J. Ross is director of detention ministry and has worked in AIDS Ministry Outreach in California, but has had no parish assignments during the past decade, the diocese said in a statement.

"We have had no previous knowledge of the emerging allegations, and are unaware of any current complaints regarding Father Ross' conduct in this diocese," said Dan Galvin, an

attorney for the diocese.

Also Wednesday, the three bishops of the Joliet Diocese issued a statement apologizing for angry remarks that Ross' brother, the Rev. Richard Ross, pastor of St. Bernard Church in Joliet, made to

❖ Turn to **PRIEST, A7**

### Inside

- Prosecutors assess time limits on trying sex cases. **A7**
- Bishop speaks on sex abuse. **A7**



Rev. Anthony J. Ross, accused of sexually abusing Joliet boy 21 years ago.

### Bishops' statement

Statement from the bishops of the Diocese of Joliet:  
Our profound apology for Father Richard Ross' statements which are absolutely contrary to our beliefs and sensitivities and all that we stand for.

All can attest to Father Richard Ross' lifelong excellent reputation for faith-filled and dedicated ministry, especially to those most in need.

Therefore, we cannot reconcile his statements with his exemplary ministry, nor can we attempt to explain them.

We can only apologize on behalf of ourselves, the clergy and all of our parishioners to all victims, their families and to all who are hurt by what was said.

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch, Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Most Reverend James E. Fitzgerald

April 30, 2002

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

*John Doe Family  
Address omitted*

Dear *John Doe Family*

I trust you found my "Calling Card" on your door that I left, I believe one night last week. I simply have not been able to get back because I've been tied up every night with Confirmations or other commitments. But I did want to assure you that I did not even know for years that A. J. Ross was doing prison ministry as a priest (see enclosed clipping). I know the Herald News in one edition said I had lied to you in 1993, and I did not, but I have no intention of telling them that. I have known, loved and respected both of you since you were kids, and I still do. I apologize once again to both of you and to your children for the absolutely inexcusable behavior of priests. I can remember as a deacon being told by Monsignor Foley, our rector: "Never put a chasuble on over a mortal sin." I was absolutely scandalized because I could not believe that a priest would ever commit a mortal sin. I had a lot to learn!

My one consolation is that not only has Christ died, but He has also risen.

Enclosed find a newspaper article you may or may not have seen.

If I can ever help you in any way at any time, please don't hesitate to call. In these last weeks, I have been praying for you and your family explicitly and by name many, many times, and always at every Confirmation Mass. Please pray for me.

With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RLK:bjd

Enclosure

p.s. I presume you still have both my home number and my office number. The office number is at the top of this page. My home number is [REDACTED]

p.p.s. Though I marked this letter "Personal & Confidential," I would have no objection to your sharing it with your immediate family.

EST

11. m page A1

434-13

The Herald News this week in response to an inquiry about the abuse claim.

Anthony Ross is the fifth religious figure associated with the Joliet Diocese to face discipline since April 5 because of past claims of sexual abuse.

On Wednesday, the Diocese of Joliet said Santa Rosa Bishop Daniel Walsh placed Ross on administrative leave in response to a new report of sexual misconduct that allegedly occurred in 1983.

The Santa Rosa Diocese said that contrary to the Joliet Diocese's statement, Ross is still an active priest.

"He's on a restricted ministry. His status has not changed at this point in time," said Deirdre Frontczak, communications director for the Santa Rosa Diocese. The diocese's sensitive-issues committee meets today and could decide to place Ross on administrative leave, she said.

A 36-year-old Joliet-area man says Anthony Ross molested him twice in 1981 — not 1983. The molestations allegedly happened in a residence at St. Peter Church in Itasca and at a cabin in Lake Geneva, Wis. The man contacted The Herald News and shared handwritten letters that he claims Ross wrote from California in 1983.

The Joliet Diocese sent Ross to California in January 1983 to undergo therapy for sexual misconduct, documents show. However, the Joliet boy's claim was not reported to the diocese until February 1983, when the boy's parents discovered letters that Ross sent the youth while undergoing counseling for sexual misconduct.

In one letter, dated Jan. 16, 1983, the author wrote: "Get somebody to take some pictures of you clothed and unclothed (so to say) so I can see how you're doing and I won't forget what you look like. Take care and say hello to your family and the kids I know for me. Love, Fr. Ross."

In 1992, the Joliet-area man attended a conference sponsored by The Link-Up, a Chicago-based

organization that was one of the first groups devoted to survivors of clergy abuse. On Jan. 14, 1993, the young man met with Bishop Joseph Imesch, head of the Joliet Diocese, and was angered by Imesch's "forgive and forget" attitude.

"(Imesch) assured me that Father Ross would no longer be a priest," the man said. "I was insistent about that point."

In his statement Sunday to the Joliet's Diocese's estimated 620,000 Catholics, Imesch encourages people who suffered abuse years ago to approach the diocese for counseling. But attorneys and survivors' groups say that's the wrong thing to do, since it starts the clock ticking on the statute of limitations. Even if the abuse occurred years ago, a victim can report the crime to local law enforcement the moment he discovers it caused him harm.

"The counseling is their way of ensuring that never again can you come forward. That's their way of sealing these (court) files," said Joliet attorney Keith Aeschliman.

Sister Judith Davies, chancellor, said Wednesday that the diocese

would respond to details of the allegation and the diocese's response to abuse claims later in the week.

The man's parents today are still angered by what they consider Imesch's arrogance and insensitivity toward survivors of abuse. His mother said she met many years ago with Imesch, who reportedly told her he was appalled at her inability to forgive Ross.

"I said I was appalled at your inability to face the fact that our young boys are being raped," the mother said.

Imesch has declined requests for an in-person interview with The Herald News, but Davies said on Wednesday that she would relay the newspaper's most recent request.

The man's father said he's tired of the Catholic Church's ineffective response to the issue of sexual abuse.

"They're focusing on the good priests ... instead of saying, 'Let's clean the \*\*\*-damn closet and get these clowns out of here,'" the father said.

Ted Slowik can be reached at (815) 729-6053 or via e-mail at tslowik@scn1.com.

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

000446

MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE FILE

May 28, 2002

RE: Father Anthony Ross

I met with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He told me that he had been an altar boy. He had become friends with Father Anthony Ross because both of them had an interest in fish. Father had a 15 gallon tank, evidently a large one for that time, in his room.

One day, Father Ross took [REDACTED] to his room to see the fish. Father excused himself and went and changed into summer shorts and a t-shirt. [REDACTED] said that he was stunned because he had never seen a priest out of uniform before.

After watching the fish for awhile, Father Ross invited him to take a seat. There was only one chair in the room, a rather large high backed leather chair, which Father Ross was using. [REDACTED] said he felt uncomfortable, but did sit on the corner of the chair. [REDACTED] said that nothing occurred, at least not with him. He was uncertain whether he should pursue this "foggy" memory to discover if anything had occurred.

I told him that if this was gnawing at him I would suggest that he see a counselor. I had in mind [REDACTED], a member of our Review Committee. I mentioned the possibility of seeing a therapist who serves on our Review Committee several times to [REDACTED] but he eventually said that he thinks he is finished with it.

He wanted this to be his "contribution" to the diocese. He said that he was not looking for money. He loves his Church and does not want to see anything more happen to it. He simply wanted to bring this forward and make me aware of it.

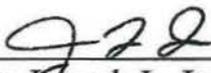
Redacted February 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

000447  
2.

All of this was triggered by the suicide [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] but wondered if perhaps something had  
happened to him with Father Ross.

He said that he had told no one about the incident in Father  
Ross' room. I was the only one he had ever told. I think he left feeling  
comforted that he had shared whatever information he had.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer  
Bishop James Fitzgerald  
Mr. James Byrne

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

000453

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

**PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL**

Feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, S.J.  
June 21, 2002

*John Doe*  
*Address*  
*Omitted*

Dear *John Doe*

I want to thank you! The final version of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People accepted by the Conference of U. S. Bishops last week was stricter than the original draft version. And I think you, through me, were very instrumental in that happening.

*John Doe* you had a profound impact on me when we talked several years ago. When I received the draft version earlier, I wrote both to the Conference of Bishops and to every single Bishop, Archbishop and Cardinal in the country, urging a stricter policy - which prevailed. One Archbishop told me he had disagreed until he received my letter, and I convinced him. But I just want you to know that you helped convince me. *John Doe* this may be of little consolation to you, but I just wanted you to know.

I continue to pray for you and your family every day. Once again, if I can ever help you, please don't hesitate to call on me.

With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RLK:bjd

cc: *John Doe Family*

bc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop James E. Fitzgerald ✓  
Sister Judith Davies, O.S.B.  
Mr. James C. Byrne

FR. ROSS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO.

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA

Released April 2014

379  
*Anthony Ross*

000457

March 2, 2004

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
FROM: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
RE: *John Doe*

As I mentioned to you, I received a letter from Bishop Dan Walsh regarding a canonical trial for Tony Ross. I spoke to Dan regarding this matter. Evidently, Dan initiated a process for laicization for Tony and he is contesting that. He said that both you and I will be interviewed, either in Joliet or by phone, regarding this matter. The alleged victim will also be interviewed. I don't know how to go about getting an address and phone number for him. I certainly can't call his family, but wondered if you might feel comfortable in doing that or, at least, in writing to them. Dan asks if there are others who should also be called as witnesses. Whatever you can do to provide any information would be helpful. Many thanks.

---

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

*Anthony Ross*

000458

March 8, 2004

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh, D.D.  
Bishop of Santa Rosa  
P. O. Box 1297  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1297

Dear Bishop Walsh,

I received your letter concerning the penal judicial trial to be held in the case of Reverend Anthony Ross.

The young man involved, *John Doe* as far as I know, lives at *Address Omitted* His phone number is *Phone Number Omitted*

His parents might also be willing to be interviewed. They are *Name and address of John Doe Parents omitted* Their *PHONE NUMBER* *Phone Number of John Doe Parents omitted.*

I do not know if either the young man or his parents will be willing to be interviewed. There is a great deal of anger that continues, I think, until this day. The parents say that I promised that Tony Ross would never again be in ministry. I do not remember saying that, but I certainly could have. If I said it, I may have meant in this diocese, but I do not remember ever saying that. As you know, once a thing is said, it takes on a life of its own. I know that the newspapers here have reported what the parents said, namely, that Tony Ross would never be in ministry again.

In writing to them, or contacting them, I think it would be very important to make clear that you are requesting laicization for Father Ross and that before it would be granted, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith requires a judicial trial. I think that if they knew they had an opportunity to give testimony that would assure that Tony would be laicized they might be willing to cooperate.

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

March 8, 2004

000459 2

I wish you well. I just want to repeat, that you, or whoever contacts these individuals, should be prepared for a great deal of anger.

If I can be of any further help, please let me know.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA  
CHANCERY OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 1297  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA  
95402-1297

PHONE (707) 545-7610

FAX (707) 542-9702

000460

February 24, 2004

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Catholic Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

Last summer I submitted a preliminary investigation to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the case of Reverend Anthony Ross, an incardinated priest of this diocese, who has been accused of the sexual abuse of a minor when he was an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois.

Earlier this year the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith directed me to hold a penal judicial trial in this case. Presently I am in the process of establishing a court of three judges from outside this diocese to ensure impartiality, and I have directed the promoter of justice to prepare the *libellus*. When the court officials have been duly appointed, the *libellus* submitted, and the respondent cited in accord with the norms of law, then the witnesses named in the *libellus* will be cited. You and Bishop Kaffer have been named as witnesses.

My expectation is that the court will ask for an auditor from this diocese to interview all the witnesses (both the petitioner's and the respondent's). The auditor may conduct a personal interview with you in Joliet or do it by phone. I know you and Bishop Kaffer will cooperate. In addition, the alleged victim will be interviewed. Could you provide me with a current address and phone number for him? Are there others whom you believe we should name as witnesses?

This has been difficult for Father Ross who is on administrative leave and for the diocese which since 1994 has faced one scandal after another. But God is good and his presence is our hope.

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

With every best wish, I am

Your Brother and Servant in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel F. Walsh".

Reverend Daniel F. Walsh  
Bishop of Santa Rosa in California

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA  
CHANCERY OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 1297  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA  
95402-1297

PHONE (707) 566-3325

FAX (707) 566-3310

000461

March 11, 2004

Mot Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear +Joe:

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2004, giving me the information concerning *John Doe* and his family. Be assured by Judicial Vicar will take great care in dealing with this person and his parents. Hopefully, it will not stir up a hornets nest. I appreciate your help in this and I will keep you informed as things develop.

Wishing you the best, I am

Your Brother and Servant in the Lord,

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh  
Bishop of Santa Rosa

DFW/ph

MAR 15 2004

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA

THE TRIBUNAL

Post Office Box 1297 • Santa Rosa, California 95402 • (707) 566-3370 • Fax (707) 566-3385

September 28, 2004

000462

Most Reverend Joseph Imesch  
Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

First of all I wish to thank you for your gracious welcome when I met with you in your office on September 14<sup>th</sup>. I enjoyed a delightful lunch with Bishop Schlarman and some of your staff.

Enclosed is the transcript of your testimony for the penal judicial process in the case of Father Tony Ross, a priest of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, which you gave when I interviewed you. I ask that you review the transcript carefully and make any additions, corrections, deletions etc., that you deem necessary.

One matter that needs to be clarified is that Father Ross was at the House of Affirmation, Montara, California, from December 29, 1982 to November 8, 1983. The accusation of sexual abuse by *John Doe* was not made until 1983 after Father Ross had sent a letter to *John Doe* that was discovered by his parents who in turn learned from *John Doe* of the sexual abuse and then came to you. The question is: why did Father Ross go to this therapy in 1982 when this particular accusation had not come to light. Was there another accusation? Is there anything in the records? I would appreciate if you would type your response to this question at the end of the transcript.

I ask that you sign the enclosed "Oath of Having Spoken the Truth," date it and have Sister Judith notarize it in her office as Chancellor and return it to me at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your cooperation in this process. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me: [REDACTED]

I wish you every blessing.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Handwritten signature of Daniel P. Whelton in cursive.

Reverend Msgr. Daniel P. Whelton, JCL  
Auditor

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

000483

October 5, 2004

Reverend Monsignor Daniel Whelton  
Auditor of the Tribunal  
Diocese of Santa Rosa  
P. O. Box 1297  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Dear Monsignor Whelton,

I received the transcript of the testimony I gave in the case of Father Anthony Ross. I have carefully read the transcript and have made a few minor corrections. I also provided some additional comments regarding Father Ross' attendance at Montara and his subsequent assignments upon his return to Joliet.

I certainly appreciate the manner in which you conducted your interview. I hope that whatever is finally decided will be beneficial to all involved.

My prayers and best wishes to you.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Imesch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

000464

**Interview with Bishop Joseph Imesch**  
Bishop of Joliet  
At the Chancery Office, Joliet, Illinois

Interview taken by Father Daniel P. Whelton  
September 14, 2004

**Father Dan:** Bishop thank you for your gracious welcome.

**Father Dan:** When did you become Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet?

**Bishop Imesch:** August 28, 1979.

**Father Dan:** Were you a priest of the Diocese prior to this?

**Bishop Imesch:** No, I was a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, I was an auxiliary bishop there for six years before I came here. I came here in 1979.

**Father Dan:** So, Father Ross was a priest ministering in the diocese here at that time?

**Bishop:** Right. Father Ross was already a priest here. He was stationed at the *Parish*

**Father Dan:** Did any one give you a report on Father Ross, upon your appointment as Bishop of Joliet?

**Bishop:** No.

**Father Dan:** Did anything come up about him, or about his ministry at the *Parish*?

**Bishop:** He was very well liked. He was kind of in charge of the ceremonies. I don't know of any indication from anyone that there was something strange or unusual about him. He kept birds, that was about the most unusual thing about him.

**Father Dan:** After his assignment at the *Parish* where was Fr. Ross assigned?

**Bishop:** I don't remember but I can look it up... He went to *Parish* as an Associate in June of 1980. So he had been at the *Parish* for one year after I had become Bishop of Joliet.

**Father Dan:** Was his assignment in *Parish* Pastor?

**Bishop:** No he went as Associate. He wouldn't have been old enough yet to be Pastor.

**Father Dan:** In late December, 1982 he left the Diocese of Joliet. What was the reason?

**Bishop:** Well ... I think that was the incident where there was an allegation and we sent him, I think at that time, it was a House of Affirmation in California, I don't even remember where.

**Father Dan:** It was in Montara.

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**Bishop:** Yes, you're right.

**Father Dan:** Who made the allegation?

**Bishop:** I think it was *John Doe*. That's my recollection but I'm not certain of that.

**Father Dan:** Did he come in to see you about it?

**Bishop:** At the time I don't think he came in. He came in to see me later on, perhaps after Tony had already left, but again, I'm not certain of that. I would have to check records.

**Father Dan:** So when Father Ross went for therapy, had the allegation been made at that point?

**Bishop:** I think that's why he went. I don't know why else he would have gone there, except that there was an allegation.

**Father Dan:** Were there any other allegations besides *John Doe*

**Bishop:** Not to my knowledge. I don't recall anyone else. Even in recent years I don't think anyone else has come forward and accused him.

**Father Dan:** Then he was in Montara for about a year, from the end of '82 and most of '83.

**Bishop:** That's right.

**Father Dan:** Do you remember how they kept you informed as to his progress?

**Bishop:** Oh yes, they were very good about reporting progress, nothing specific but saying that he was coming along or was doing well.

**Father Dan:** During Father Ross' stay at the House of Affirmation, *John Doe* said he received a letter from Fr. Ross. Included in that letter was a pair of speedo trunks and Fr. Ross suggested to *John Doe* that he take a picture of himself with or without the trunks on. *John Doe* parents found this letter in his room. They questioned *John Doe* and this is when they first learned of the sexual abuse of their son by Fr. Ross.

**Bishop:** I think so. I don't know how the initial allegation came forward. It had to have come from *John Doe* his parents discovered this letter and I remember them coming to my house and showing it to me.

**Father Dan:** What happened after that?

**Bishop:** Aside from being extremely angry I really don't know what happened. I know what they have said here in the newspapers but I have no recollection of that.

**Father Dan:** What did it say in the local newspaper?

**Bishop:** They said that I assured them that he would never be assigned to a parish, or never function as a priest, one or the other, I don't know. At that time I can't imagine that I would have said that. But that's what they claim.

**Father Dan:** Did anybody else know about Fr. Ross?

**Bishop:** Oh sure. At that time ~~whether~~ Bishop Ryan was here as Auxiliary, but he would certainly know about it, the Chancellor would know about it, Father Donley. That would be about it.

*Donnelly*

**Father Dan:** But the parents of *John Doe*, they're saying now that you had said he shouldn't be in ministry but you don't recollect this?

**Bishop:** I certainly don't, but they have said it so many times that I know they believe that but at that particular time, 1982, that was the first inkling I had of anything like this and I can't imagine, especially after I had sent him for therapy and getting a good report. The usual practice was, if I get a good report the priests were placed back into service.

**Father Dan:** Did *John Doe* ever describe to you what happened?

*John*

**Bishop:** I have a vague recollection that Tony supplied him with drink, *Doe* fell asleep and woke up with Tony masturbating him, or at least touching him.

**Father Dan:** And did that happen once or more?

**Bishop:** My understanding is that it happened twice.

**Father Dan:** And the parents never discussed any details with you?

**Bishop:** No, not to my knowledge.

**Father Dan:** So when Fr. Ross was in therapy did you know about that letter he sent? Did they show you the letter?

**Bishop:** They showed me the letter.

**Father Dan:** What did you think when you read it.

**Bishop:** I was aghast. I couldn't believe that someone, first all would send such a letter, but to send it when he's in therapy, blew my mind. So what good is therapy if he's doing this and taking therapy.

**Father Dan:** Yet the people at the House of Affirmation gave him a good recommendation?

**Bishop:** Yes.

**Father Dan:** Did he come back then to ministry in the Diocese of Joliet?

**Bishop:** He went back to the parish where he had been assigned in *Town*

**Father Dan:** How long was he there?

**Bishop:** For three more years, until 1986.

**Father Dan:** Where did he go then?

**Bishop:** He went to *Parish* for two years.

**Father Dan:** And that was the point where he asked you for a leave of absence?

**Bishop:** Yes, and this is even more vague to me because I don't really remember that except that I think he said he felt he was born in Santa Rosa or in that area of California, and that is where he was 'at home' compared to here. I'm not even sure that he went out there during the leave of absence. He probably did but I don't recall that, except...

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**Father Dan:** He did live in Santa Rosa from 1988 to '89...

**Bishop:** And I think I visited him out there. I think I was visiting someone else, one of our priests at Montara at the time, I'd have to look back on that, but I do remember his taking me around that area for a couple hours one afternoon.

**Father Dan:** According to our records he was there from 1988 to '89. He did not have the faculties of your diocese. The Bishop in Santa Rosa at the time was Bishop John Steinbock. And Fr. Ross approached him about being able to minister in Santa Rosa but Bishop Steinbock would not allow him to minister because he did not have faculties from you, do you recall any of that?

**Bishop:** No, except normally when a priest went on a leave of absence he was not allowed to function as a priest and I'm sure when he left I told him "of course you cannot function as a priest"

**Father Dan:** And that's why Bishop Steinbock didn't allow him to function?

**Bishop:** Right.

**Father Dan:** Did you and Bishop Steinbock discuss why Fr. Ross was on sabbatical without faculties?

**Bishop:** As far as I know it had nothing to do with abuse. I think he may have been unhappy as a priest although I don't think that was... I think generally he was very content with his ministry so I don't know what to say about that. I think it was more that he felt he belonged in California.

**Father Dan:** Then he came back to Joliet and according to our records he was here in Joliet from '89 to '93.

**Bishop:** That's right.

**Father Dan:** So when he came back did he do parish work?

**Bishop:** He was assigned as Associate at a parish for six months and was then made a temporary Administrator of that parish for five months, then he was named Pastor for about two and one half years.

**Father Dan:** and in 1993, he asked for a leave of absence.

**Bishop:** Right.

**Father Dan:** Did that have anything to do with any allegations?

**Bishop:** I think there were some rumors to the effect that they were going to bring a law suit against him or were going to go public about... up until now this had not been public... and I'm sure that's why he left then because of the fear of this becoming public. 1993 was in the middle of all this stuff.

**Father Dan:** So he took another leave of absence?

**Bishop:** Right.

**Father Dan:** And he did go to the Diocese of Santa Rosa then?

**Bishop:** Right.

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**Father Dan:** At that time Bishop Ziemann was the bishop of Santa Rosa so he did take him?

**Bishop:** He did. I talked to Pat Ziemann and asked him if he would take him, that I had a priest who had been guilty of inappropriate behavior but had gone through therapy and his record, since he came back here, was clean, and he was a good priest. Tony was well-loved.

**Father Dan:** In Santa Rosa he worked in Detention Ministry.

**Bishop:** That's right.

**Father Dan:** Then in 1997 he was incardinated into the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

**Father Dan:** Did you tell Bishop Ziemann about the inappropriate behavior and accusation of sexual abuse?

**Bishop:** Absolutely. I would not dump a priest on someone without the bishop knowing about his background.

**Father Dan:** So Bishop Ziemann knew about the sexual abuse, when he incardinated him?

**Bishop:** Right.

**Father Dan:** Have you had any contact with Father Ross since?

**Bishop:** I would write him annually on his ordination. First couple years I would hear back from him but probably in the last five years... I still write, but I don't hear back from him.

**Father Dan:** And there was no other allegation of sexual abuse against him?

**Bishop:** I have no recollection of anyone else bringing an allegation against him. Certainly not after he returned from therapy. Before that, I don't know of any.

**Father Dan:** The victim and his family, did you reach any resolution with them at the time when they came to you. Did the victim ask for counseling?

**Bishop:** I don't remember that. I'm fairly certain that, at the time, <sup>John Doe</sup> ~~he~~ was living in City and I think he may have had some counseling sessions that we told him we would provide for him if he wanted to go. I have a recollection that he went but not for a long period of time.

**Father Dan:** Did you make any settlement with him?

**Bishop:** No. There was never any request and I was dumb enough not even to know that you're supposed to do that or should do that.

**Father Dan:** Did you make any promises to <sup>John Doe</sup> or his parents about Father Ross not ministering as a priest?

**Bishop:** Mr. and Mrs. <sup>John Doe's parents</sup> in a later newspaper article, claimed that I assured them that he would never function as a priest, or that he would never serve in a parish. I have no recollection of saying that but that doesn't mean I didn't say it. I don't remember telling them that. If I did, it may have been that he would not function as a priest in this area, but that in California it would be a different matter, he would be far away and

would not be involved in a parish. And he wasn't. Obviously Bishop Pat Ziemann knew about the allegations, that's why he was assigned to Prison Ministry.

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**Father Dan:** This covers my questions. Is there anything you would like to add?

**Bishop:** I always felt that Tony's behavior was because of drinking, that he lost some of his inhibitions, because aside from that he was very well loved by parishioners, by the kids and there was never any hint that maybe there was something going on. That just didn't happen.

**Father Dan:** With regard to *John Doe*, the victim, the allegation of sexual abuse became public about two years ago. Did he go to the Press or how did it happen, to your knowledge?

**Bishop:** I don't know how that happened but I think the local newspaper gentleman here was producing a number of stories about priests and victims and he would make connections through phone calls--- get this name from that person, and someone must have known about *John Doe* because I think that's how this local writer heard his name and he would pursue that.

**Father Dan:** Bishop I think I have asked you all the questions; if not, if I have other questions, I can ask you by phone?

**Bishop:** Oh sure.

**Father Dan:** Thank you Bishop, and this ends the interview.

**Bishop:** You asked me why Father Ross went for therapy when knowledge about the abuse only came to light after he was in therapy. Before Father Ross went to Montara he was receiving counseling here. He was suffering from depression and "burn-out." The therapist thought that he could not be of assistance to Father Ross and so suggested that he go to the House of Affirmation in Montara. When Father Ross went there it was my understanding that he was going because of depression and "burn-out."

**Bishop:** In reflecting upon the *John Doe* Family's claim that I said Father Ross would never be assigned to a parish, I cannot imagine how I would have made that statement and then assigned Father Ross, upon his return, to the same parish where he had been assigned before he left for the House of Affirmation. That assignment was published in the diocesan newspaper, as were his two subsequent assignments. If I had made a statement about not assigning Father Ross to a parish, I find it hard to believe that I would then reassign him upon his return from the House of Affirmation. In addition, if I did not want people to know about the assignment, that would not have been mentioned in the newspaper, nor would his two subsequent assignments.

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



PHONE (707) 545-7610

FAX (707) 542-9702

DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA  
CHANCERY OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 1297  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA  
95402-1297

000475

August 8, 2005

Most Reverend Joseph Imesch  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

As you are aware, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith authorized me to conduct a judicial penal trial in the case of Father Anthony Ross, who was accused of sexual abuse of a minor when he ministered as a priest of the Diocese of Joliet.

An impartial court of first instance, with judges from other dioceses in the country, was established. Father Ross did have the services of a canonical advocate. The decision of this court found Father Ross guilty of the delict mentioned in canon 1395 §2 and as a penalty this court declared him removed permanently from ecclesiastical ministry; he is not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to administer the sacraments and he is not to wear clerical garb or present himself publicly as a priest.

The penalty imposed by the court of first instance was appealed to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith by the Promoter of Justice of first instance who believed that this case warranted that Father Ross be dismissed from the clerical state. Last month the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith responded, stating that, after an examination of the appeal, the Promoter of Justice of this dicastery renounced the appeal and upheld the penalty imposed by the court of first instance as outlined above. In addition, they stated that Father Ross was to live a life of prayer and penance and they also stated that this case is now *res judicata*.

This means that Father Ross remains an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, although he is permanently removed from ecclesiastical ministry and, as such, will receive some sustenance from the diocese and, when he reaches the age of seventy, he will be eligible to receive a pension for about eleven years of service to this diocese.

I am aware that this final decision is a painful one for Father Ross but in conscience I believe it was my obligation to pursue this process in order to restore justice and to see that the scandal caused was sufficiently repaired. I wish to thank you for your participation in this process.

With cordial best wishes, I remain

Your Brother and Servant in the Lord

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel F. Walsh".

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh  
Bishop of Santa Rosa

AUG 11 2005

March 2, 2006

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000481

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ADAM DOE,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSEPH L. IMESCH, Individually and as  
Bishop and Trustee of the Diocese of Joliet  
Trust, DIOCESE OF JOLIET TRUST, and  
ANTHONY J. ROSS,

Defendants.

06 L 135

NO. :

Sheriff Please Serve:

Diocese of Joliet any agent  
625 North Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Bishop Joseph Imesch  
c/o Diocese of Joliet  
625 N. Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

SUMMONS

To each defendant:

YOU ARE SUMMONED and required to file an answer to the complaint in this case, a copy of which is hereto attached, or otherwise file your appearance and pay the required fee, in the office of the Clerk of this Court located in the Will County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, within 30 days after service of this summons, not counting the day of service.

IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU.

To the officer:

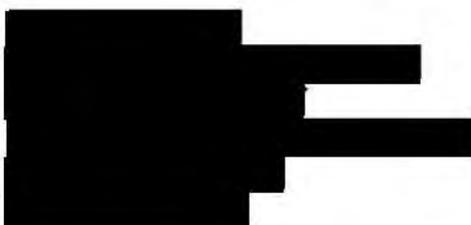
This summons must be returned by the officer or other person to whom it was given for service, with endorsement of service and fees, if any, immediately after service. If service cannot be made, this summons shall be returned so endorsed. This summons may not be served later than 30 days after its date.

MAR 02 2006

WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

PAMELA J. MOGULKA

Clerk of Court



Date of Service: \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

To be inserted by officer on copy left with defendant or other person served.

Redacted February 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000482

IN THE  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED  
MAR -2 PM 2:21  
CIRCUIT COURT  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ADAM DOE (a fictitious name), )  
)  
Plaintiff, )  
v. )  
)  
JOSEPH L. IMESCH, Individually and as )  
Bishop and Trustee of the Diocese of Joliet )  
Trust, DIOCESE OF JOLIET TRUST, )  
and ANTHONY J. ROSS, )  
)  
Defendants. )

No.:  
06 L 135

COMPLAINT AT LAW

Now comes plaintiff, ADAM DOE (a fictitious name), by his attorneys MICHAEL L. BOLOS, LTD., and complaining of the defendants JOSEPH L. IMESCH, Individually and as Bishop and Trustee of the Diocese of Joliet Trust, DIOCESE OF JOLIET TRUST ("Diocese"), and ANTHONY J. ROSS ("Ross"), states and alleges as follows:

Background

1. At all times relevant herein, defendant JOSEPH L. IMESCH (hereinafter, "Imesch") was Bishop and Trustee of the Diocese of Joliet Trust, the legal entity engaged in conducting the business of the Diocese of Joliet. As Bishop, defendant Imesch was, in title and in fact, chief operating officer of the operations of the Diocese of Joliet and, as such, responsible for the training, assignment and supervision of both lay and clergy Diocesan personnel including, Anthony J. Ross, a diocesan priest.

2. At all times relevant herein, Anthony J. Ross was a priest ordained and incardinated into the Diocese of Joliet. During the period 1975-80 Ross was assigned as a

Initial case management set for

6-20-06 at: 9:05 am

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parish priest to St. Raymond Nonnatus (hereafter, St Raymond's or St. Ray's), Joliet, Illinois. Assigned to St. Raymond's at the same time as Ross was Fr. Lawrence Mullins.. While assigned to St. Raymond Parish, Ross cultivated inappropriate relationships with a number of adolescent boys who were present or former students at St. Raymond parochial school.

3. Plaintiff **ADAM DOE** (whose correct identity has been or will be furnished to counsel for defendants) was born in April 1966 into and was raised in a strictly and devoutly Catholic household where many of the family activities were centered on Church and church-related activities. Defendant Bishop and priests were treated with a reverent deference verging on awe. After some early years in a non-parochial school, plaintiff became a student at St. Raymond's parochial school in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

4. Both of plaintiff's parents were employed and the demands of their professions consumed much of the afternoon and early evening time when plaintiff could otherwise have been interacting with them at home. Because of the respect and esteem in which plaintiff's parents and plaintiff held the Church and church-related activities, plaintiff was encouraged and willing to become involved in extra-curricular and after school activities at St. Ray's. Plaintiff became involved in basketball on the St. Ray's team and as an altar server. Fr. Mullins was a constant hanger-on during and after basketball games and practices; Fr. Ross was in charge of the altar boys.

5. Shortly after becoming involved in the basketball program, plaintiff learned that Fr. Mullins would appear in the locker/changing room before and after practices and watch the boys changing between basketball and street clothes and seeking an opportunity to isolate a boy and stick his hand in the boys pants. Mullins' propensities in

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this regard were so well known, and so frequently demonstrated, that the boys ruefully referred to him as "Father Gacy". After basketball games and practices the boys were at pains to hurry out of the locker room; being last out virtually guaranteed groping by "Father Gacy".

6. Lawrence "Fr. Gacy" Mullins' sexual abuse of boys at St. Raymond's school is well-documented before in this Court. Mullins is the sexually abusive priest identified in [REDACTED], John Doe 1, John Doe 2 and John Doe 3 v. Imesch and Mullins, et al. (02 L 494), [REDACTED] v. Imesch and Mullins (04 L 400), [REDACTED] and Benedict Doe (06 L \_\_\_\_ ) all filed in the Circuit Court of Will County, Illinois.

7. Plaintiff was told of, observed, and was on more than one occasion the unwilling recipient of Mullins perverse attentions. In an effort to be free of Mullins impositions, plaintiff confided in and sought intervention and assistance of Fr. Anthony Ross. Plaintiff told Ross of Mullins' offensive conduct and asked Ross to intercede and get Mullins to refrain from approaching plaintiff.

8. Fr. Ross was known for selecting personal favorites among the middle school age (junior high school age) boys at St. Ray's as companions. Fr. Ross's favorites were invited on trips Ross's parents condominium on Lake Geneva in Wisconsin. Ross's favorites were further permitted and encouraged to "hang out" with Ross in Ross's personal quarters in the rectory. On the trips to Lake Geneva, Ross invariably furnished his adolescent companions with their fill of beer and hard liquor.

9. After plaintiff confided in Ross, plaintiff found that Ross drew plaintiff into his group of favorites. Plaintiff was invited to hang out in Ross's private quarters in the

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rectory and invited along on trips to purchase supplies for Ross's pet fish and birds, and those of Ross's parents in Addison, Illinois.

10. Plaintiff graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 1980 and, sometime during plaintiff's freshman year in high school, defendant Ross was transferred by Imesch to a parish in Itasca, Illinois. On information and belief, plaintiff alleges that Ross's transfer was prompted by reports or suspicions of inappropriate actual or potentially sexual conduct between Ross and one or more boys from St. Raymond's. Despite his transfer, Ross continued to socialize with plaintiff and other boys he had befriended during his posting at St. Raymond's.

11. In February 1981 or 82, Ross invited plaintiff with a couple of "Ross's group" to hang out with Ross for a weekend at the rectory in Itasca. While there, Ross furnished alcoholic beverages to his young guests to the point that plaintiff became intoxicated, went to sleep on a cot in Ross's office and awoke to find Ross touching his genitals. Uncertain how to react, plaintiff feigned continued sleep. Later, on what may have been the same weekend, plaintiff was awakened from a Ross-initiated inebriated slumber by the rub of Ross's whiskers against plaintiff's lower abdomen to discover that Ross was sucking plaintiff's penis.

12. Plaintiff felt unable to report the above matters to his parents who held the clergy in inordinately high esteem, and was perceived futility in attempting to report the conduct to Ross's superior—Mullins—against whose conduct plaintiff had already complained to Ross.

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13. Instead, plaintiff contrived to try to arrange for other friends invited along to be present whenever he was invited anywhere by Ross, who directed his invitations via plaintiff's parents who, despite plaintiff's expressions of disinclination.

14. Even after plaintiff was able to induce his parents to cease accepting Ross's invitations, Ross still continued throughout 1981 and 1982 to call on plaintiff at his parents' home both by phone and by personal visits.

15. In December 1982 Ross was transferred to California for psychological therapy. The specific reason for Ross's transfer was not disclosed, but later acquired information has revealed that Ross was transferred to a facility for the treatment of pedophile priests.

16. From the facility where he was under "therapy" for pedophilia, Ross wrote plaintiff on January 16, 1983, stating that Ross was able:

...to go to the ocean 2 to 3 times a week...[that Ross] hasn't got into San Francisco to much yet but I'm sure that will change with time...You know that I love you and care about you very much. Now I need to know and feel your love and care for me. That's the best medicine I can get...And get somebody to take some pictures of you clothed and unclothed (so to say) so I can see how you're doing and I won't forget what you look like."

See: Ex.A1-2 attached; misspellings in original.

17. From the facility where he was under "therapy" for pedophilia, Ross again wrote plaintiff on February 7, 1983, in a letter contained in a package, informing plaintiff that plaintiff's Valentine's package contained a card (Ex. C, attached) and:

...a yellow sack with 2 posing trunks—I got the blue one at a store...but I didn't like it after I bought it so I, out of deepest love for you, drove all the way into San Francisco to world famous Gold's Gym to get the black one for you. Was that some sight—talk about heavenly bodies—I thought I was in the giant redwood forest—are some of those guys big!...So you're all set for my pictures. Did you get that battery yet? You probably haven't so get

your ass to a camera shop today!!! and get it. I of course want you to pose in the black trunks. They are a little full so turn down the sides (HaHa)...And make sure you pump up before you have them taken so you look your best.

See: Ex. B1-2 attached; emphasis in original.

18. Plaintiff's parents discovered Ross's letters in 1983 and thereafter confronted defendant Imesch with the letters (Exhibits A and B) and the inappropriateness of Ross's conduct. Thereafter the matter was apparently dropped by both sides; plaintiff was not informed by defendant Imesch that was in need of or could or should seek counseling or psychological therapy.

19. The sexual conduct and suggestions alleged in preceding paragraphs 11, 16 and 17, was initiated by Ross and uninvited by plaintiff. Although the conduct alleged was uninvited, plaintiff did not perceive or sustain any physical injury or damage and lacked sophistication (as more fully alleged hereinafter) to perceive psychological or emotional harm or injury proximately resulting therefrom.

20. Determining whether there is a causal relation between the perception of an event and subsequent adverse psychological, emotional or mental changes (hereinafter collectively denoted as psychological dysfunction), requires advanced study, training, experience and expertise in the forensic application of principles of normal and abnormal child, developmental and adult psychiatry and psychology, which knowledge and skills are not possessed by plaintiff herein, nor by lay persons generally. This is so because:

- a. psychological dysfunction may develop without the occurrence of any identifiable exogenous cause or trigger; and,
- b. psychological dysfunction may be caused or precipitated in some persons as a consequence of perceptions of events while other persons, of similar age, background, education and experience exposed to the same event may

experience little or no such change; and,

- c. a temporal relation between perception of an event and psychological dysfunction is not a reliable indicator of causal relation; that is, some persons may experience onset of psychological dysfunction in close temporal relation to the perception of an event without a causal relation existing between the event and the development or onset of psychological dysfunction while, in other persons, psychological dysfunction caused by perception of an event may manifest after the lapse of considerable time; and,
- d. Plaintiff lacks the requisite study, training, experience and expertise to competently determine the cause(s) or origin(s) of the psychological and emotional injuries and damages he has sustained.

21. In 1992, plaintiff was approached by then Auxiliary Bishop Roger Kaffer who asked plaintiff to related what had transpired at the hands of Mullins and Ross, whether plaintiff was contemplating litigation, and whether plaintiff would wish a trial of counseling to determine whether he was in need of same.

22. Plaintiff expressed to Bishop Kaffer that plaintiff's primary concern was that Ross be removed from the ministry so that he could not utilize his position as a priest to perpetrate further harm and that plaintiff was willing to forego litigation if that result could be assured. Bishop Kaffer assured plaintiff that Ross had been removed from active ministry and that he would not be returned to a position working with youth.

23. At Kaffer's suggestion, plaintiff attempted a trial of counseling with he did not find beneficial. In reliance on Kaffer's assurance that Ross had been removed from active ministry, plaintiff withheld pursuing legal remedy.

24. In 2002 plaintiff learned that Ross in fact had remained a priest with the Joliet Diocese until 1993, and that he was then transferred to the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California, where he was engaged in active ministry as Director of Detention Ministry involving ministry to juveniles in the penal system.

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25. By reason of the matters alleged in paragraphs 19-24 preceding, this action is brought within the period limited by 735 ILCS 5/13-202.2.

**COUNT I**

**Against Imesch and Diocese**

Complaining of defendants Imesch and Diocese, plaintiff states:

1-25. Plaintiff repeats and realleges numerical paragraph 1-25 inclusive of "Background" as and for numerical paragraphs 1-25 inclusive of this Count I.

26. In connection with the operation and conduct of the Diocese, including St. Raymond and St. Peter the Apostle parishes, Defendants Bishop and Diocese were under a duty to exercise due care in the selection, training, hiring, assignment and supervision of priests, including defendant Ross, to prevent injury including sexual abuse of minors; notwithstanding, defendants Bishop and Diocese, both individually and by reason of the imputed conduct of Diocesan parish personnel, were individually and collectively serially negligent in one or more of the following respects:

a. before assigning him to parish duties, defendants negligently failed to adequately screen Ross to determine whether he was possessed of suitable moral and personal self-restraint to be placed in a position of control and trust with children;

b. before assigning him to parish duties, defendants negligently failed to adequately train Ross to exercise restraint and control of inappropriate sexual urges toward children, including plaintiff herein;

c. after assigning him to parish duties, defendants negligently failed to adequately monitor and supervise Ross's activities so as to prevent or early detect inappropriate conduct towards children by Ross;

d. after learning of the fact or facts giving rise to reasonable suspicion of inappropriate sexual conduct toward minors at St. Raymond's and St. Peter the Apostle, defendants negligently failed to remove Ross from active ministry, or at least from access to children as part of a limited ministry;

e. after learning of the fact or facts giving rise to reasonable suspicion of inappropriate sexual conduct toward minors at St. Raymond's and St. Peter the Apostle, defendants negligently failed to require that Ross undergo necessary counseling and retraining before being returned to parish ministry;

f. after learning of the fact or facts giving rise to reasonable suspicion of inappropriate sexual conduct toward minors at St. Raymond's and St. Peter the Apostle, defendants continued to permit Ross to engage in unsupervised and unmonitored activities with parish children, including unchaperoned overnight and weekend trips.

i. were otherwise careless and negligent.

20. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' negligence, Ross was enabled to and did engage in the sexual abuse of plaintiff in Ross's RV, causing plaintiff to sustain severe, permanent and disabling psychological and emotional injury, which injury has and will impair plaintiff in his employment, interpersonal relations and other day to day activities, all to plaintiff's damage in a sum in excess of \$1,000,000.00 dollars.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against defendants Imesch and Diocese in such sum in excess of \$50,000.00 as will fully, fairly and adequately compensate him for injuries and damages sustained, together with costs of suit herein.

### COUNT II

Complaining of defendant Ross, Plaintiff states:

1-25. Plaintiff repeats and realleges numerical paragraphs 1-25 of "Background" as and for numerical paragraphs 1-25 inclusive of this Count II.

26. Ross's conduct was outrageous, beyond the bounds of human decency and calculated to inflict severe and enduring emotional harm and distress on plaintiff and did in fact inflict severe and enduring emotional and psychological injury on plaintiff, which injury has and will impair plaintiff in his employment, interpersonal relations and other day to day activities, all to plaintiff's damage in a sum in excess of \$1,000,000.00 dollars.

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WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against defendant Ross in such sum in excess of \$50,000.00 as will fully, fairly and adequately compensate him for injuries and damages sustained, together with costs of suit herein.

