

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

SPESIA & AYERS

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September 13, 2011

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Of Counsel:
Thomas M. Ewert
Kent Slater
Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.
North Pier Chicago
455 East Illinois Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

Re: ***Rudofski vs Diocese of Joliet***

Father John Slown

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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

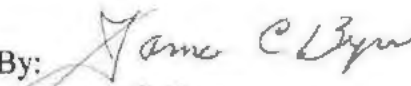
- 1.) **Priest file of Father John Slown** (total pages 727)
- 2.) **Privilege Logs** for documents in this priest file.

Names of Accusers

The names of the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were made public when they filed a lawsuit. The names of all other individuals who have made accusations have never been made public and the existing Protection Order prohibits their disclosure.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

Enclosures

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

COPY

Established 1899

000001

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FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 10

ORDERS			DATE CONFERRED	ORDAINING BISHOP	PLACE	DATE CONFERRED	EXTRAORDINARY APPOINTMENTS	DATE RELIEVED	
TONSURE									
FIRST MINORS									
SEC. MINORS									
SUB-DIACONATE									
DIACONATE									
PRIESTHOOD			5-30-59	Martin D. McNamara	Cathedral, Joliet, Ill.				
DATE APPOINTED			ASSIGNMENT			DATE LEFT			
6	12	59	St. Michael's, Wheaton			Asst.	6	15	63
6	15	63	Kinfield, St. John			Asst.	6	15	68
6	15	68	post grad work on psych.				7	7	68
-	-	-	Woodlidge, St. Scholastica			Asst	7	7	68
7	7	68	" "			Asst			
11	3	72	Joliet, St. M. Magdalen			Pastor	9	10	77
9	10	77	Leave of Absence				8	4	78
8	4	78	Bradley, St. Joseph			Pastor	6	19	80
5	15	81	Kleinbre Service, Downers Grove			Assoc.	11	6	81
11	6	81	Wheaton, St. Mark			Admin	3	3	82
3	3	82	Warrensville, St. Irenes			Pastor	9	1	83
9	1	83	On leave				10	1	83
10	1	83	Lombard, Christ the King			Assoc			
11	1	83	On sick leave						

PUBLIC SPEAKING RATING

PREPARATORY EDUCATION St. Joseph, Wilmette, -8 yrs.; Loyola Academy, Chicago, 4-yrs.; St. Procopius College, Lisle- 2 yrs.; St. Procopius Seminary, Lisle, -6 yrs.
DEGREES B.A.

REMARKS:

SLOWN, JOHN

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DIOCESE OF JOLIET

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Name JOHN C. SLOWN
(first) (middle) (family)

Born _____
(date) (place)

Father's Name Mother's Maiden Name

Ordained _____
(date) (place)

Parish of First Mass _____

Other Parishes of Residence

SCHOOLING

Philosophy _____ Theology _____

Languages _____

Graduate _____ Degrees _____

Executor of Will _____ Relatives in Religion _____

APPOINTMENTS

Parish

City/

Appointment Date

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Slown
000006

January 25, 1951

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Neumann
St. Joseph Church
1747 Lake Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

Dear Monsignor Neumann:

I have been told that you are interested in a certain young man named Slown, and are in a position to recommend him to study for the priesthood. Would you be kind enough to send us this letter of recommendation and ask the young man to come to see me some morning within the next week.

With best wishes I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette
Chancellor

rrb/nf

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2 Slown
000007

January 31, 1951

The Rev. Francis M. Flynn, S.J.
Loyola Academy
6525 Sheridan Road
Chicago 26, Illinois

Dear Father Flynn:

John Slown of 1533 Washington Street, Wilmette, Illinois, has requested permission to study for the priesthood for our diocese. We would like to know if you would be kind enough to send a letter of recommendation for him. Any information which you may have concerning this young man would be of service to us.

With sincere thanks, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette
Chancellor

rrb/mf

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1533 Washington Ave. 00010A
Wilmette, Ill.

St. Joseph Parish

Cap. - St. Joseph, Wilmette

father - non-Catholic - professes no religion.
mother - Catholic
- parents married by a priest.

- St. Joseph grammar school

- Loyola Academy - 4th year.

C.83
average

about a month ago he saw
Meyr. Schmid of Enigley.
His pastor advised his studying
elsewhere.

Cradle of Evanston has information
regarding his background.
Adopted at age of c. 3 weeks.

- Recommendation: - Fr. Francis Flynn, S.J.
Principal of Loyola Academy
- Meyr. Neenan

(over)

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Have him pre-register. 10 B

- R. Blanchette

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

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LOYOLA ACADEMY

6525 Sheridan Road
Chicago 26, Illinois

000013

Office of the Principal

February 19, 1951

G. M. Flynn
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette,
Chancellor, Diocese of Joliet
4 E. Clinton Street
Joliet, Illinois

Dear Monsignor,

John C. Slown has been a student here for three and a half years. He has good talents - certainly sufficient to enable him to do the studies for the Priesthood. He has been a fair student, a good and dependable boy, generally well liked by his classmates and teachers. He is manly; has good judgement; is of pleasing appearance and manners.

Sincerely, in Christ,

F. M. Flynn, S.J.
Francis M. Flynn, S.J.

February 23, 1951

The Rev. Thomas J. Havlik, O.S.B.
St. Procopius Seminary
Lisle, Illinois

Dear Father Havlik:

Would you be kind enough to let me know if you have
pre-registered John Slown, Jr., of Wilmette?

With best wishes I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette
Chancellor

Fr. Havlik called Feb. 26, 1951, and said John
rrb/mf Slown was pre-registered.

M.F.

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO.

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27 *slow*

000017

John Slown is registered at St. Procopius Seminary - Feb. 1951

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St. Procopius SEMINARY

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR TO THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP OF JOLIET CONCERNING HIS ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS

John Slown *May 18, 1953* Joliet
 Name of Student Date Diocese
 1952-'53 *None*
 Scholastic year completed Last Order received

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best: Latin

II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
2. Ability as a leader: a) Inspiring leader; b) Average; c) No leadership ability.
3. Obedience to authority: a) Obeys with alacrity; b) Merely obeys; c) Disobedient.
4. Amenability to correction and advice: a) Docile; b) Fails to amend; c) Incurigible.
5. Ability to cooperate: a) Very Cooperative; b) Negative; c) Uncooperative.
6. Sociability: a) Gracious and kindly; b) Shy and silent; c) Anti-social.
7. Conduct in Chapel: a) Exemplary; b) Average; c) Careless about ceremonies.
8. Fidelity to spiritual exercises: a) Faithful; b) Frequently tardy; c) Frequently absent.
9. Observance of seminary rules: a) Faithful; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
10. General Demeanour: a) Becoming; b) Frivolous; c) Worldly.
11. Humility: a) Humble and submissive; b) Average; c) Proud and haughty.
12. Mortification: a) Satisfactory; b) A grumbler; c) Lacks spirit of mortification.
13. Silence: a) Faithful observer; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
14. Attitude in general: a) Tactful; b) Cheerful; c) Reverent; d) Tricky; e) Irascible.

III. GENTELMANLINESS

1. Personal appearance: a) Neat and clean; b) Average; c) Slovenly and unkempt.
2. His own room: a) Neat and clean; b) Careless; c) Disorderly.
3. Table manners: a) Good; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
4. Courtesy: a) Well mannered; b) Average; c) Poor.
5. Impression he makes on others: a) Virile and manly; b) Effeminate; c) Disagreeable; d) Negative personality.
6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions:

Fr. Valentine Sklyzack - Dean of Men
Fr. Gilbert Laketer Rector
V. Paul Potick - Prefect

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Did not take speech this year. IV. VOICE *G. last year's report.*

- 1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
- 3. Defects of speech (if any): _____
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

Fr. Mathias Kucera

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Surgical operations (if any): none
- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; c) Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects: none

VI. ABILITIES

- 1. His abilities seem to recommend him for the following occupation: a) Journalism; b) Work in the chancery office; c) Work among young people; d) An assistant pastorate; e) Work as a teacher; f) A position in which public speaking plays a major role; g) Athletic work.
- 2. He is able to speak a language other than English, viz., _____
- 3. He seems to have a natural aptitude for _____, and therefore the faculty can safely recommend him for higher studies in this matter.

VII. REPORT ON HIS VACATION LETTERS

- 1. Vacation letter received and a) The pastor recommends him favorably or highly; b) The pastor has the following adverse criticism to make: _____

VII. OPINION OF THE FACULTY

- 1. The faculty feels that: a) He should be allowed and urged to continue; b) That he should be admonished of his faults and given an opportunity to amend; c) That he should be given another opportunity but should not be allowed to receive further Orders until he amends; d) That he should be dropped from the seminary.

IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

Recommend him.

Thomas J. Smith
Rector

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ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR CONCERNING ECCLESIASTICAL
STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR 1954

Slown John C. 5/5/1954 Joliet
 Name of Student Date Diocese
First Philosophy
 Scholastic year completed Last Order received

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best: History of Philosophy

II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
2. Ability as a leader: a) Inspiring leader; b) Average; c) No leadership ability.
3. Obedience to authority: a) Obeys with alacrity; b) Merely obeys; c) Disobedient.
4. Amenability to correction and advice: a) Docile; b) Slow to amend; c) Incurable.
5. Ability to cooperate: a) Very Cooperative; b) Negative; c) Uncooperative.
6. Sociability: a) Gracious and kindly; b) Shy and silent; c) Anti-social.
7. Conduct in Chapel: a) Exemplary; b) Average; c) Careless about ceremonies.
8. Fidelity to spiritual exercises: a) Faithful; b) Frequently tardy; c) Frequently absent.
9. Observance of seminary rules: a) Faithful; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
10. General Demeanour: a) Becoming; b) Frivolous; c) Worldly.
11. Humility: a) Humble and submissive; b) Average; c) Proud and haughty.
12. Mortification: a) Satisfactory; b) A grumbler; c) Lacks spirit of mortification.
13. Silence: a) Faithful observer; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
14. Attitude in general: a) Tactful; b) Cheerful; c) Reverent; d) Tricky; e) Irascible.

III. GENTLEMANLINESS

1. Personal appearance: a) Neat and clean; b) Average; c) Slovenly and unkempt.
2. His own room: a) Neat and clean; b) Careless; c) Disorderly.
3. Table manners: a) Good; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
4. Courtesy: a) Well mannered; b) Average; c) Poor
5. Impression he makes on others: a) Virile and manly; b) Effeminate; c) Disagreeable; d) Negative personality.
6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions:

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IV. VOICE

- 1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
- 3. Defects of speech (if any): None
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor. ²
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Surgical operations (if any): don't know of any
- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects: _____

VI. ABILITIES

- 1. His abilities seem to recommend him for the following occupation: a) Journalism; b) Work in the chancery office; c) Work among young people; d) An assistant pastorate; e) Work as a teacher; f) A position in which public speaking plays a major role; g) Athletic work.
- 2. He is able to speak a language other than English, viz., _____
- 3. He seems to have a natural aptitude for _____, and therefore the faculty can safely recommend him for higher studies in this matter.

VII. REPORT ON HIS VACATION LETTERS

- 1. Vacation letter received and a) The pastor recommends him favorably or highly; b) The pastor has the following adverse criticism to make: _____

VIII. OPINION OF THE FACULTY

- 1. The faculty feels that: a) He should be allowed and urged to continue; b) That he should be admonished of his faults and given an opportunity to amend; c) That he should be given another opportunity but should not be allowed to receive further Orders until he amends; d) That he should be dropped from the seminary.

IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR CONCERNING ECCLESIASTICAL
STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR 19⁵⁴-55

<u>John Slown</u>	<u>Feb. 3, 1955</u>	<u>Joliet</u>
Name of Student	Date	Diocese
<u>Midterm Philosophy II</u>		**
Scholastic year completed		Last Order received

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best: _____

II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
2. Ability as a leader: a) Inspiring leader; b) Average; c) No leadership ability.
3. Obedience to authority: a) Obeys with alacrity; b) Merely obeys; c) Disobedient.
4. Amenability to correction and advice: a) Docile; b) Slow to amend; c) Incurable.
5. Ability to cooperate: a) Very Cooperative; b) Negative; c) Uncooperative.
6. Sociability: a) Gracious and kindly; b) Shy and silent; c) Anti-social.
7. Conduct in Chapel: a) Exemplary; b) Average; c) Careless about ceremonies.
8. Fidelity to spiritual exercises: a) Faithful; b) Frequently tardy; c) Frequently absent.
9. Observance of seminary rules: a) Faithful; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
10. General Demeanour: a) Becoming; b) Frivolous; c) Worldly.
11. Humility: a) Humble and submissive; b) Average; c) Proud and haughty.
12. Mortification: a) Satisfactory; b) A grumbler; c) Lacks spirit of mortification.
13. Silence: a) Faithful observer; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
14. Attitude in general: a) Tactful; b) Cheerful; c) Reverent; d) Tricky; e) Irascible.

III. GENTLEMANLINESS

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4. Courtesy: a) Well mannered; b) Average; c) Poor.
5. Impression he makes on others: a) Virile and manly; b) Effeminate; c) Disagreeable; d) Negative personality.
6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions: _____

IV. VOICE

- 1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
- 3. Defects of speech (if any): None
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Surgical operations (if any): _____
- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects: None

VI. ABILITIES

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IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

A good seminarian.

ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR CONCERNING ECCLESIASTICAL
STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR 19.....

Slaw J. John
Name of Student

1954-55
Scholastic year completed

6/13/1955
Date

Joliet
Diocese

Last Order received

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best:

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9. Peculiar home conditions:

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- 3. Defects of speech (if any):
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Surgical operations (if any):
- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects:

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IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY
LISLE, ILLINOIS

000033

Released April 2014

OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

arch- I, the undersigned, *John Charles Sloun, Jr.*, of the
diocese of *Chicago*, feeling
myself called by God to the clerical state, freely, and moved thereto
by no consideration other than the promotion of the glory of God in
the service of the Church and the salvation of my own soul, intending
ultimately to embrace the Sacred Order of Priesthood, do hereby petition
His Excellency, *Martin J. J. [unclear]*,
the Bishop of the diocese of *Joliet in the State of Illinois*, that I
may be admitted to tonsure and minor orders.

Jan 9 1956
.....
(Date)

John Charles Sloun, Jr.
.....

*Maur J. Joliet at
9 January 1956*

Released April 2014

ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR CONCERNING ECCLESIASTICAL
STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR 19 56

Slown John 2-2-56 Joliet
Name of Student Date Diocese

I Theology _____
Scholastic year completed Last Order received

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best: _____

II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
2. Ability as a leader: a) Inspiring leader; b) Average; c) No leadership ability.
3. Obedience to authority: a) Obeys with alacrity; b) Merely obeys; c) Disobedient.
4. Amenability to correction and advice: a) Docile; b) Slow to amend; c) Incurable.
5. Ability to cooperate: a) Very Cooperative; b) Negative; c) Uncooperative.
6. Sociability: a) Gracious and kindly; b) Shy and silent; c) Anti-social.
7. Conduct in Chapel: a) Exemplary; b) Average; c) Careless about ceremonies.
8. Fidelity to spiritual exercises: a) Faithful; b) Frequently tardy; c) Frequently absent.
9. Observance of seminary rules: a) Faithful; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
10. General Demeanour: a) Becoming; b) Frivolous; c) Worldly.
11. Humility: a) Humble and submissive; b) Average; c) Proud and haughty.
12. Mortification: a) Satisfactory; b) A grumbler; c) Lacks spirit of mortification.
13. Silence: a) Faithful observer; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
14. Attitude in general: a) Tactful; b) Cheerful; c) Reverent; d) Tricky; e) Irascible.

III. GENTLEMANLINESS

1. Personal appearance: a) Neat and clean; b) Average; c) Slovenly and unkempt.
2. His own room: a) Neat and clean; b) Careless; c) Disorderly.
3. Table manners: a) Good; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
4. Courtesy: a) Well mannered; b) Average; c) Poor.
5. Impression he makes on others: a) Virile and manly; b) Effeminate; c) Disagreeable; d) Negative personality.
6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions:

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

IV. VOICE

- 1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
- 3. Defects of speech (if any): None
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Surgical operations (if any): _____
- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects: None

VI. ABILITIES

- 1. His abilities seem to recommend him for the following occupation: a) Journalism; b) Work in the chancery office; c) Work among young people; d) An assistant pastorate; e) Work as a teacher; f) A position in which public speaking plays a major role; g) Athletic work.
- 2. He is able to speak a language other than English, viz., _____
- 3. He seems to have a natural aptitude for _____, and therefore the faculty can safely recommend him for higher studies in this matter.

VII. REPORT ON HIS VACATION LETTERS

- 1. Vacation letter received and a) The pastor recommends him favorably or highly; b) The pastor has the following adverse criticism to make: _____

VIII. OPINION OF THE FACULTY

- 1. The faculty feels that: a) He should be allowed and urged to continue; b) That he should be admonished of his faults and given an opportunity to amend; c) That he should be given another opportunity but should not be allowed to receive further Orders until he amends; d) That he should be dropped from the seminary.

IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

QUESTIONNAIRE

A decree from Rome, issued Dec. 27, 1930, urges the Reverend Pastor of the candidate for Subdeaconship to answer the following questions conscientiously:

1. Is the cleric zealous and devout in fulfilling the duties of piety, i.e., meditation, attendance at Mass, visits to the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Rosary? *Yes*
2. Does he receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist frequently and devoutly? *Yes*
3. Does he perform his ministry diligently and conscientiously while he assists at Sacred Functions? *Yes*
4. Was he zealous in teaching Catechism during vacation?
5. Does he devote care and diligence toward enhancing divine worship, toward the good implied in the care of souls; does he manifest interest in the exact performance of ministry while he assists at Sacred Functions? *Yes*
6. In what study does he manifest interest and with what diligence?
7. Is he given over to reading profane books and papers which harbor hatred against faith and good morals? *No*
8. Does he wear the clerical garb when he is at home during vacations? *Yes*
9. Did he associate with anyone of ill repute, or even with such of good repute, to such an extent as to cause scandal and admiration among the faithful; does he cherish familiarity with persons of the opposite sex, or did he frequent places that are scarcely free from suspicion? *No*
10. Was he honest and upright in speech? *Yes*
11. Has he occasioned critical remarks about Ecclesiastical customs, doctrine and precepts? *No*

2.

- 12. How did he conduct himself toward boys and girls and other persons of both sexes? *very properly*
- 13. Is he inclined toward the comforts of life; is he addicted to drinking and prone to worldly pleasures? *no*
- 14. Does he manifest charity, submission and respect toward his superiors? *yes*
- 15. What is the public opinion concerning his vocation? *very good*
- 16. Are there in his parents any indications of some infirmity especially of the mind, or some evil habits which give grounds for suspecting them of atavism? *no*
- 17. Are the parents or anyone else of the family forcing the candidate to receive Holy Orders? *no*

The Reverend Pastor is to inquire from lay people concerning the candidate the following:

- 1. Did the cleric conduct himself reverently, seriously and prudently in church and in his contact with others? *yes*
- 2. Is there any ground for doubting his vocation? What is the nature of this doubt? *no*
- 3. Can the parents or anyone else be suspected of forcing the candidate to receive Holy Orders? *no*
- 4. Is he familiar with such as can be suspected of having no faith or are of bad morals? *no*
- 5. What is the opinion of prudent men concerning the morals of the candidate and of his vocation? *very good*

Signed.....*J. Neumann*.....

Date.....*Feb. 12 1956.*.....

(Parish Seal)

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Taxa L. 5 doll.

Agentia L. _____

At antequam ad Ss. Ordines Maiores promoveatur, Orator supplices preces iterum porrigat per suum Ordinarium, qui referat:

- 1) quaenam sint oratoris morales et intellectuales qualitates;
- 2) quaenam de studio, disciplina et pietate argumenta habeantur ex quibus erui possit candidatum talibus esse praeditum dotibus quae defectus eius conditionis iuridicae compensare valeant;
- 3) utrum orator cum parente acatholico commoraturus sit, et, in casu affirmativo, pro ipso perversionis periculum timendum sit;
- 4) utrum admiratio exoritura praevideatur si orator ad Sacerdotium promoveatur.

Contrariis quibuscumque non obstantibus.

Linus Laviolette
Subst. pot.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY

000053 A

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR CONCERNING ECCLESIASTICAL
STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR 19⁵⁶

Slown, John

Name of Student

June 8, 1956

Date

Joliet

Diocese

I Theology

Scholastic year completed

Tonsure

Last Order received

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best:

II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
2. Ability as a leader: a) Inspiring leader; b) Average; c) No leadership ability.
3. Obedience to authority: a) Obeys with alacrity; b) Merely obeys; c) Disobedient.
4. Amenability to correction and advice: a) Docile; b) Slow to amend; c) Incurable.
5. Ability to cooperate: a) Very Cooperative; b) Negative; c) Uncooperative.
6. Sociability: a) Gracious and kindly; b) Shy and silent; c) Anti-social.
7. Conduct in Chapel: a) Exemplary; b) Average; c) Careless about ceremonies.
8. Fidelity to spiritual exercises: a) Faithful; b) Frequently tardy; c) Frequently absent.
9. Observance of seminary rules: a) Faithful; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
10. General Demeanour: a) Becoming; b) Frivolous; c) Worldly.
11. Humility: a) Humble and submissive; b) Average; c) Proud and haughty.
12. Mortification: a) Satisfactory; b) A grumbler; c) Lacks spirit of mortification.
13. Silence: a) Faithful observer; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
14. Attitude in general: a) Tactful; b) Cheerful; c) Reverent; d) Tricky; e) Irascible.

III. GENTLEMANLINESS

1. Personal appearance: a) Neat and clean; b) Average; c) Slovenly and unkempt.
2. His own room: a) Neat and clean; b) Careless; c) Disorderly.
3. Table manners: a) Good; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
4. Courtesy: a) Well mannered; b) Average; c) Poor.
5. Impression he makes on others: a) Virile and manly; b) Effeminate; c) Disagreeable; d) Negative personality.
6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions:

53B

Released April 2014

IV. VOICE

- 1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
- 3. Defects of speech (if any): None
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Surgical operations (if any): _____
- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects: None

VI. ABILITIES

- 1. His abilities seem to recommend him for the following occupation: a) Journalism; b) Work in the chancery office; c) Work among young people; d) An assistant pastorate; e) Work as a teacher; f) A position in which public speaking plays a major role; g) Athletic work.
- 2. He is able to speak a language other than English, viz., _____
- 3. He seems to have a natural aptitude for _____, and therefore the faculty can safely recommend him for higher studies in this matter.

VII. REPORT ON HIS VACATION LETTERS

- 1. Vacation letter received and a) The pastor recommends him favorably or highly; b) The pastor has the following adverse criticism to make: _____

VIII. OPINION OF THE FACULTY

- 1. The faculty feels that: a) He should be allowed and urged to continue; b) That he should be admonished of his faults and given an opportunity to amend; c) That he should be given another opportunity but should not be allowed to receive further Orders until he amends; d) That he should be dropped from the seminary.

IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

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Released April 2014

000054

VACATION REPORT

To

Confidential

ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY

Lisle, Illinois

Reverend and dear Father:

The Third Council of Baltimore (Titulus v. No. 177), the Roman Normae (Art. 166) and the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities burden pastors with the obligation of watching over the conduct of their students during vacation and at its end of reporting it to the Seminary authorities.

Kindly return this report, which shall be kept under the seal of strictest confidence, to the Very Reverend Rector.

Name of Student *John Slown*

Vacation at Home *yes*

Vacation Away From Home *no*

Attending Week-day Mass *yes*

Reception of Sacraments *yes*

Associates *good*

Employment *Construction Work*

Department (Example, Habits, Industry, Piety) *Exemplary*

Remarks

Date *Aug 21* 19*56*

Signature of Pastor

Telephone

Address

J. Neumann
1747 Lake Ave
Wilmette Ill

ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY
LISLE, ILLINOIS

030056

OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

I, the undersigned *John Charles Slown, Jr.* of the diocese of *Joliet*, feeling myself called by God to the clerical state, freely, and moved thereto by no consideration other than the promotion of the glory of God in the service of the Church and the salvation of my own soul, intending ultimately to embrace the Sacred Order of Priesthood, do hereby petition His Excellency, *Bishop Martin D. McManara*, the Bishop of the diocese of *Joliet*, that I may be admitted to ~~tenure~~ and minor orders.

October 4, 1956
.....
(Date)

John Charles Slown, Jr.
.....

*James J. Daly arch
4 October 1952*

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR TO THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP OF JOLIET CONCERNING HIS ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS

<u>Slown, John</u>	<u>May 1, 1957</u>	<u>Joliet</u>
<i>Name of Student</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Diocese</i>
<u>II Theology</u>		<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Scholastic year completed</i>		<i>Last Order received</i>

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best: _____

II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
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6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions:

b) B

Released April 2014

IV. VOICE

- 1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
- 3. Defects of speech (if any): None
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
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- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; c) Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects: None

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- 1. His abilities seem to recommend him for the following occupation: a) Journalism; b) Work in the chancery office; c) Work among young people; d) An assistant pastorate; e) Work as a teacher; f) A position in which public speaking plays a major role; g) Athletic work.
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VII. REPORT ON HIS VACATION LETTERS

- 1. Vacation letter received and a) The pastor recommends him favorably or highly; b) The pastor has the following adverse criticism to make: _____

VIII. OPINION OF THE FACULTY

- 1. The faculty feels that: a) He should be allowed and urged to continue; b) That he should be admonished of his faults and given an opportunity to amend; c) That he should be given another opportunity but should not be allowed to receive further Orders until he amends; d) That he should be dropped from the seminary.

IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

Generally satisfactory. Took diligent care of sacristy. Patient and understanding with others. Backbone condition warrants medical attention.

LITTERAE TESTIMONIALES ORDINATIONIS

000062



Martinus D. McNamara

MISERATIONE DIVINA ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS JOLIETTENSIS IN ILLINOIS

Omnibus praesentes litteras inspecturis salutem et in Domino benedictionem.
Notum facimus et testamur Nos Missam in pontificalibus celebrantes in oratorio
Seminarii Christi Regis, apud West Chicago, Illinois,
dilectum Nobis in Christo

Joannem Slown

omnibus de iure requisitis fideliter expletis, ad ordinem/s exorcistatus et
acolythatus

die 29 mensis aprilis anno Domini 1957
rite, Deo iuvante, promovisse.

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

Datum Joliettae

Die 3 mensis maii anno 1957

+ *Martinus D. McNamara*

Rome Blanchette
Episcopus Joliettensis in Illinois

Cancellarius
De mandato Episcopi

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000066

September 4, 1957

[REDACTED]
636 Church Street
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Doctor Mead:

In the absence of Monsignor Blanchette, I wish to thank you for the report sent to us recently on Mr. John Slown, Jr.

With best wishes and sincere thanks, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Roger L. Kaffer
Ecclesiastical Notary

RLK:pf

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Penki 000070

November 18, 1957

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Ernest J. Primeau
Collegio S. Maria del Lago
Via Sardegna, 44
Rome, Italy

Dear Ernie:

Enclosed you will find two (2) petitions from Mother Adelina of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Joliet; one for permission to say the English Breviary and the other to obtain a dispensation from the constitution so that only one member of the counsel need live at the Mother-house with the Mother General.

Enclosed you will find a check for \$10.00 to cover the rescript granted by the Holy Office in favor of John Slown (#57/56) and in favor of Donald Wright (#199/57). We note that the favors have been granted in forma commissoria for these young men to receive various orders.

With best wishes and sincere thanks, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo E. Blanchette,
Vicar General

RRB:mls
Enclosure

P.S. I am also enclosing \$55.00 for the Childs-Wager marriage case, Holy Office #214a/57.

Released April 2014

000076

QUESTIONNAIRE

A decree from Rome, issued Dec. 27, 1930, urges the Reverend Pastor of the candidate for Subdeaconship to answer the following questions conscientiously:

1. Is the cleric zealous and devout in fulfilling the duties of piety, i.e., meditation, attendance at Mass, visits to the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Rosary? *yes*
2. Does he receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist frequently and devoutly? *yes*
3. Does he perform his ministry diligently and conscientiously while he assists at Sacred Functions? *yes*
4. Was he zealous in teaching Catechism during vacation?
5. Does he devote care and diligence toward enhancing divine worship, toward the good implied in the care of souls; does he manifest interest in the exact performance of ministry while he assists at Sacred Functions? *yes*
6. In what study does he manifest interest and with what diligence?
7. Is he given over to reading profane books and papers which harbor hatred against faith and good morals? *no*
8. Does he wear the clerical garb when he is at home during vacations? *yes*
9. Did he associate with anyone of ill repute, or even with such of good repute, to such an extent as to cause scandal and admiration among the faithful; does he cherish familiarity with persons of the opposite sex, or did he frequent places that are scarcely free from suspicion? *no*
10. Was he honest and upright in speech? *yes*
11. Has he occasioned critical remarks about Ecclesiastical customs, doctrine and precepts? *no*

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000077

- 2.
12. How did he conduct himself toward boys and girls and other persons of both sexes? *very well*
 13. Is he inclined toward the comforts of life; is he addicted to drinking and prone to worldly pleasures? *no*
 14. Does he manifest charity, submission and respect toward his superiors? *yes*
 15. What is the public opinion concerning his vocation? *very good*
 16. Are there in his parents any indications of some infirmity especially of the mind, or some evil habits which give grounds for suspecting them of atavism? *no*
 17. Are the parents or anyone else of the family forcing the candidate to receive Holy Orders? *no*

The Reverend Pastor is to inquire from lay people concerning the candidate the following:

1. Did the cleric conduct himself reverently, seriously and prudently in church and in his contact with others? *yes*
2. Is there any ground for doubting his vocation? What is the nature of this doubt? *no*
3. Can the parents or anyone else be suspected of forcing the candidate to receive Holy Orders? *no*
4. Is he familiar with such as can be suspected of having no faith or are of bad morals? *no*
5. What is the opinion of prudent men concerning the morals of the candidate and of his vocation? *very good*

Signed.....*J. Neumann*.....

Date.....*March 25 1958*.....

(Parish Seal)

Released April 2014

This is to certify that on March 30 1958
I have announced the intended promotion of John Slown
to the subdiaconate in the parish church. The following
impediments and irregularities were discovered. (If none,
write "none")

None.

Date:

Parish Seal

J. W. ...

Signature of Pastor

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000079

Ego...*Joannes C. Slown*.....candidatus
 ad ordinem subdiaconatus titulo servitii dioecesis
 suscipiendi, ad normam iuris spondeo ac iuro me
 Dioecesi...*Jolietensis*.....perpetuo inserviturum,
 sub Ordinarii praedictae Dioecesis pro tempore
 Auctoritate.

Sic me Deus adiuvet, et haec sancta Dei Evangelia
 quae manibus tango.

Joannes C. Slown

Die...*23*.....,mensis...*April*.....,anni...*1958*.....

Hoc iuramentum die suprascripto coram me praestitum.

Paul J. Slowny

 Delegatus Episcopi

PROFESSIONIS FIDEI ET IURISIURANDI FORMULA

000080A

Praescripta in Motu Proprio "Sacrorum Antistitum" Pii PP. X. die 1. mensis Sept., anni 1910.

Ego, N.N.,

Joannes C. Slown

firma fide credo et profiteor omnia et singula, quae continentur in symbolo Fidei, quo sancta Romana Ecclesia utitur, videlicet: Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem Patri: per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine, et Homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro nobis; sub Pontio Pilato passus, et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria iudicare vivos et mortuos; cuius regni non erit finis. Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vivificantem; qui ex Patre Filioque procedit. Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur, qui locutus est per Prophetas. Et Unam, Sanctam, Catholicam et Apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum Baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum. Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen. Apostolicas et ecclesiasticas traditiones, reliquasque eiusdem Ecclesiae observationes et constitutiones firmissime admitto et amplector. Item sacram Scripturam iuxta eum sensum, quem tenuit et tenet sancta Mater Ecclesia, cuius est iudicare de vero sensu et interpretatione sacrarum Scripturarum, admitto; nec eam unquam, nisi iuxta unanimem consensum Patrum, accipiam et interpretabor. Profiteor quoque septem esse vere et proprie Sacramenta novae Legis a Iesu Christo Domino nostro instituta, atque ad salutem humani generis, licet non omnia singulis, necessaria, scilicet, Baptismum, Confirmationem, Eucharistiam, Paenitentiam, Extremam unctionem, Ordinem et Matrimonium: illaque gratiam conferre; et ex his Baptismum, Confirmationem et Ordinem sine sacrilegio reiterari non posse. Receptos quoque et approbatos Ecclesiae Catholicae ritus in supradictorum omnium Sacramentorum sollemni administratione recipio et admitto. Omnia et singula, quae de peccato originali et de iustificatione in sacrosancta Tridentina Synodo definita et declarata fuerunt, amplector et recipio. Profiteor pariter in Missa offerri Deo verum, proprium et propitiatorium Sacrificium pro vivis et defunctis; atque in sanctissimo Eucharistiae sacramento esse vere, realiter et substantialiter Corpus et Sanguinem una cum anima et divinitate Domini nostri Iesu Christi, fierique conversionem totius substantiae panis in corpus et totius substantiae vini in Sanguinem, quam conversionem Catholica Ecclesia Transubstantiationem appellat. Fateor etiam sub altera tantum specie totum atque integrum Christum, verumque Sacramentum sumi. Constanter teneo Purgatorium esse, animasque ibi detentas fidelium suffragiis iuvari. Similiter et Sanctos una cum Christo regnantes venerandos atque invocandos esse, eosque orationes Deo pro nobis offerre, atque eorum Reliquias esse venerandas. Firmiter assero imagines Christi, ac Deiparae semper Virginis, nec non aliorum Sanctorum habendas et retinendas esse, atque eis debitum honorem ac venerationem impertiendam. Indulgentiarum etiam potestatem a Christo in Ecclesia relictam fuisse, illarumque usum Christiano populo maxime salutarem esse affirmo. Sanctam, Catholicam et Apostolicam Romanam Ecclesiam, omnium ecclesiarum matrem et magistram agnosco, Romanoque Pontifice, beati Petri Apostolorum Principis successori, ac Iesu Christi Vicario veram obedientiam spondeo ac iuro. Caetera item omnia a sacris Canonibus et Oecumenicis Conciliis, ac praecipue a sacrosancta Tridentina Synodo, et ab oecumenico Concilio Vaticano tradita, definita ac declarata, praesertim de Romani Pontificis Primatu et infallibili magisterio, indubitanter recipio atque profiteor; simulque contraria omnia, atque haereses quascumque ab Ecclesia damnatas et reiectas et anathematizatas, ego pariter damno, reiicio, et anathematizo. Hanc veram Catholicam Fidem, extra quam nemo salvus esse potest, quam in praesenti sponte profiteor et veraciter teneo, eandem integram et inviolatam usque ad extremum vitae spiritum

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constantissime, Deo adiuvante, retinere et confiteri, atque a meis subditis, seu illis, quorum cura ad me in munere meo spectabit, teneri, et doceri et praedicari, quantum in me erit, curaturum, ego idem N. spondeo, voveo ac iuro.

— Item firmiter amplector ac recipio omnia et singula, quae ab inerranti Ecclesiae magisterio definita, adserta ac declarata sunt, praesertim ea doctrinae capita, quae huius temporis erroribus directo adversantur. Ac primum quidem Deum, rerum omnium principium et finem, naturali rationis lumine per ea quae facta sunt, hoc est, per *visibilia* creationis opera, tamquam causam per effectus, certo cognosci, adeoque demonstrari etiam posse, profiteor. Secundo: Externa revelationis argumenta, hoc est, facta divina, in primisque miracula et prophetias admitto et agnosco tamquam signa certissima divinitus ortae Christianae Religionis, eademque teneo aetatum omnium atque hominum, etiam huius temporis, intelligentiae esse maxime accommodata. Tertio: Firma pariter fide credo, Ecclesiam, verbi revelati custodem et magistram, per ipsum verum atque historicum Christum, cum apud nos degeret, proxime ac directo institutam, eandemque super Petrum, apostolicae hierarchiae principem eiusque in aevum successores aedificatam. Quarto: Fidei doctrinam ab Apostolis per orthodoxos Patres eodem sensu eademque semper sententia ad nos usque transmissam, sincere recipio; ideoque prorsus reiicio haereticum commentum evolutionis dogmatum, ab uno in alium sensum transeuntium, diversum ab eo, quem prius habuit Ecclesia; pariterque damno errorem omnem, quo divino deposito, Christi Sponsae tradito ab Eaque fideliter custodiendo, sufficitur philosophicum inventum, vel creatio humanae conscientiae, hominum conatu sensim efformatae et in posterum indefinito progressu perficiendae. Quinto: Certissime teneo ac sincere profiteor, Fidem non esse caecum sensum religionis e latebris *subconscientiae* erumpentem, sub pressione cordis et inflexionis voluntatis *moraliter* informatae, sed verum assensum intellectus veritati extrinsecus acceptae ex auditu, quo nempe, quae a Deo personali, creatore ac domino nostro dicta, testata et revelata sunt, vera esse credimus, propter Dei auctoritatem summe veracis.

“I . . . firmly hold and accept each and every definition of the unerring teaching of the Church, with all she has maintained and declared, but especially those points of doctrine which expressly combat the errors of our time. In the first place I profess my belief that God, the beginning and end of all, can be certainly known and therefore proved to exist by the natural light of reason from the things that are made, that is, from the visible works of the creation as a cause from its effects. Next I recognize and acknowledge the external arguments of revelation, that is, divine facts, especially miracles and prophecies, as most certain signs of the divine origin of the Christian religion, and I hold that these are altogether suited to the understanding of every age and of all men, also of our times. Thirdly, I likewise hold with firm faith that the Church, the guardian and exponent of the revealed Word, was proximately and directly founded by the true and historic Christ Himself, while He dwelt amongst us, and that she was also built upon Peter, the Prince of the Apostolic Hierarchy, and upon his successors to the end of time. Fourthly, I sincerely accept the teaching of faith as transmitted down to us from the Apostles through the orthodox Fathers in the same sense and even in the same wording; and, therefore, I wholly reject the heretical notions of the evolution of dogmas, which pass from one sense to another alien to that which the Church held from the start; and I likewise condemn every error whereby is substituted for the divine deposit, entrusted by Christ to His Spouse and by Her to be faithfully guarded, a philosophic system or the creation of a human consciousness, gradually refined by the striving of men and finally to be perfected hereafter by indefinite progress. Fifthly, I hold for certain and sincerely profess that Faith is not a blind religious sense making its way out of the hidden regions of the sub-liminal consciousness, morally tinged by the influence of heart and will, but is a true assent of the intellect to truth received from without by hearing, an assent whereby we believe to be true, because of the authority of the all-true God, whatever by the personal God, our Creator and Lord, has been spoken, testified and revealed.

Me etiam, qua par est, reverentia, subiicio totoque animo adhaereo damnationibus, declarationibus, praescriptis omnibus, quae in Encyclicis litteris "Pascendi" et in Decreto "Lamentabili" continentur, praesertim circa eam quam historiam dogmatum vocant. Idem reprobo errorem affirmantium, propositam ab Ecclesia fidem posse historiae repugnare, et Catholica dogmata, quo sensu nunc intelliguntur, cum verioribus Christianae religionis originibus componi non posse. Damno quoque ac reiicio eorum sententiam, qui dicunt, Christianum hominem eruditorem induere personam duplicem, aliam credentis, aliam historici, quasi liceret historico ea retinere, quae credentis fidei contradicant, aut praemissas adstruere, ex quibus consequatur dogmata esse aut falsa aut dubia, modo haec directo non denegentur. Reprobo pariter eam Scripturae Sanctae diiudicandae atque interpretandae rationem, quae, Ecclesiae traditione, analogia Fidei, et Apostolicae Sedis normis posthabitis, *rationalistarum* commentis inhaeret, et critice textus velut unicum supremamque regulam, haud minus licenter quam temere amplectitur. Sententiam praeterea illorum reiicio qui tenent, doctori disciplinae historicae theologicae tradendae, aut iis de rebus scribenti seponendam prius esse opinionem ante conceptam sive de supernaturali origine Catholicae traditionis, sive de promissa divinitus ope ad perennem conservationem uniuscuiusque revelati veri; deinde scripta Patrum singulorum interpretanda solis scientiae principiis, sacra qualibet auctoritate seclusa, eaque iudicii libertate, qua profana quaevis monumenta solent investigari. In universum denique me alienissimum ab errore profiteor, quo *modernistae* tenent in sacra traditione nihil inesse divini; aut, quod longe deterius, pantheistico sensu illud admittunt; ita ut nihil iam restet nisi nudum factum et simplex, communibus historiae factis aequandum; hominum nempe sua industria, sollertia, ingenio scholam a Christo eiusque Apostolis inchoatam per subsequentes aetates continuantium. Proinde fidem Patrum firmissime retineo et ad extremum vitae spiritum retinebo, de charismate *veritatis certo*, quod est, fuit eritque semper in *episcopatus ab Apostolis successione*; non ut id

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 "I further, with all due reverence, submit and with my whole mind adhere to all the condemnations, declarations, and ordinances contained in the Encyclical letter *Pascendi* and in the Decree *Lamentabili*, particularly regarding what is called the history of Dogma.

"I also reject the error of those who aver that the Faith proposed by the Church may be in conflict with history, and that Catholic dogmas in the sense in which they are now understood cannot be harmonized with the more truthful "origins" of Christianity. Moreover, I condemn and reject the opinion which declares that a Christian man of better culture can assume a dual personality, one as a believer and another as an historian, as if it were permissible for the historian to hold fast what his faith as a believer contradicts, or to lay down premises from which there follows the falsity or the uncertainty of dogmas, provided only that these are not directly denied. Likewise I reject that method of estimating and interpreting Holy Writ, which, setting aside the Church's tradition and the analogy of Faith and the rules of the Apostolic See, adopts the rationalists' principles and with equal arbitrariness and rashness considers criticism of the text the one only supreme rule. Furthermore, I reject the opinion of those who hold that a teacher of the science of Historical Theology or the writer on the subject must first put aside the notions previously conceived about the supernatural origin of Catholic tradition or about the divine aid promised for the perpetual preservation of each revealed truth; then, that the writings of individual Fathers must be interpreted solely by the data of science, without any reference to sacred authority, and with that freedom of judgment where-with every profane record is usually examined.

"Finally and in general, I declare myself to be far removed from the error of the modernists who hold that in sacred tradition there is nothing inherently divine; or who—far worse still—admit it in a pantheistic sense; so that thus there would remain only a bare simple fact equal to the ordinary facts of history, viz., that the school started by Christ and His Apostles finds, in the ages that follow, men to carry it on by their energy, their skill, and their genius. Wherefore most firmly do I retain and to my last breath will I retain the Faith of the Fathers of the Church concerning the sure endowment of truth, which

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teneatur quod melius et aptius videri possit secundum suam cuiusque aetatis culturam, sed ut *nunquam aliter credatur, nunquam aliter* intelligatur absoluta et immutabilis veritas ab initio per Apostolos praedicata.

Haec omnia spondeo me fideliter, integre sincereque servaturum et inviolabiliter custoditurum, nusquam ab iis sive in docendo sive quomodolibet verbis scriptisque deflectendo. Sic spondeo, sic iuro, sic me Deus adjuvet, et haec sancta Dei Evangelia.

is, has been, and ever will be in the succession of the Episcopate from the Apostles; not in such a way that what seems best and most fitting according to the refinement of each age may be held, but that the absolute and unchangeable truth preached from the beginning by the Apostles may never in any different wise be believed, never in any different wise be understood.

All this I promise that I will faithfully, entirely and sincerely keep and inviolably guard, and from this never in teaching or howsoever by word or writing in the least depart. So I promise, so I swear, so help me God and these His holy gospels.

Subscribitur Joannes C. Slown
Ex loco St. Procopii Seminary, Lisle, Illinois
Die 23 mensis April A.D. 1958

Iuramentum rite coram nobis emissum testamur.

N. John J. Slowny
Episcopus (vel Delegatus Episcopi) Rector

"Si quis autem, quod Deus avertat, iusiurandum violare ausus fuerit, ad Sancti Officii tribunal illico deferatur." (Motu Proprio "Sacrorum Antistitum.")

REMARKS

1. The Profession of Faith is made and the Oath taken before the *Ordinary* of the place or his *Delegate* by:
 - a) the Vicar General,
 - b) the Diocesan Consultors,
 - c) the Censor of books,
 - d) Pastors,
 - e) Confessors and Preachers before they receive the faculty to exercise their functions,
 - f) Clerics called to Subdeaconship,
 - g) Superiors and Professors in the Grand Seminary.

(Cf. C. 1406 et Motu Prop. Pii PP. X., Sept. 1. 1910.)
2. When several take the Oath at the same time, one may read the formula aloud; at the end each one, placing his hand on the gospels reads the words "Haec omnia spondeo," etc., and signs his name. (S. C. Consist. Oct. 25, 1910.)
3. The document is to be kept in the safe of the diocesan curia.

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St. Procopius SEMINARY

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR TO THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP OF JOLIET CONCERNING
HIS ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS

Slown, John

Name of Student

4/58

Date

Joliet

Diocese

III Theol.

Scholastic year completed

Acolyte

Last Order received

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best: _____

II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
2. Ability as a leader: a) Inspiring leader; b) Average; c) No leadership ability.
3. Obedience to authority: a) Obeys with alacrity; b) Merely obeys; c) Disobedient.
4. Amenability to correction and advice: a) Docile; b) Fails to amend; c) Incurable.
5. Ability to cooperate: a) Very Cooperative; b) Negative; c) Uncooperative.
6. Sociability: a) Gracious and kindly; b) Shy and silent; c) Anti-social.
7. Conduct in Chapel: a) Exemplary; b) Average; c) Careless about ceremonies.
8. Fidelity to spiritual exercises: a) Faithful; b) Frequently tardy; c) Frequently absent.
9. Observance of seminary rules: a) Faithful; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
10. General Demeanour: a) Becoming; b) Frivolous; c) Worldly.
11. Humility: a) Humble and submissive; b) Average; c) Proud and haughty.
12. Mortification: a) Satisfactory; b) A grumbler; c) Lacks spirit of mortification.
13. Silence: a) Faithful observer; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
14. Attitude in general: a) Tactful; b) Cheerful; c) Reverent; d) Tricky; e) Irascible.

III. GENTELMANLINESS

1. Personal appearance: a) Neat and clean; b) Average; c) Slovenly and unkempt.
2. His own room: a) Neat and clean; b) Careless; c) Disorderly.
3. Table manners: a) Good; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
4. Courtesy: a) Well mannered; b) Average; c) Poor.
5. Impression he makes on others: a) Virile and manly; b) Effeminate; c) Disagreeable; d) Negative personality.
6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions:

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IV. VOICE

- 1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
- 3. Defects of speech (if any): None
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Surgical operations (if any): Condition known to His Excellency
- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; c) Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects: —

VI. ABILITIES

- 1. His abilities seem to recommend him for the following occupation: a) Journalism; b) Work in the chancery office; c) Work among young people; d) An assistant pastorate; e) Work as a teacher; f) A position in which public speaking plays a major role; g) Athletic work.
- 2. He is able to speak a language other than English, viz., _____
- 3. He seems to have a natural aptitude for _____, and therefore the faculty can safely recommend him for higher studies in this matter.

VII. REPORT ON HIS VACATION LETTERS

- 1. Vacation letter received and a) The pastor recommends him favorably or highly; b) The pastor has the following adverse criticism to make: _____

VII. OPINION OF THE FACULTY

- 1. The faculty feels that: a) He should be allowed and urged to continue; b) That he should be admonished of his faults and given an opportunity to amend; c) That he should be given another opportunity but should not be allowed to receive further Orders until he amends; d) That he should be dropped from the seminary.

IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

The postponement of his ordination was accepted with resignation and his keen disappointment is indicative of the high value of the priesthood for him. He works well under a superior, though all do not find working for him as easy. He has exhibited resourcefulness as a sacristan and might be considered for an M.C. role.

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JOHN C. SLOWN
ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY
LISLE, ILLINOIS

Released April 2014

Wednesday, July 16, 1958

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette
310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois

Dear Msgr. Blanchette:

This is to inform you that I plan to attend
this year's Seminary "Get-Together" on July 26 at
St. Jude's Cabin.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Please let me know at your convenience,
and I will ask the doctor to send one to you.

I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John Slown

[REDACTED]

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000084

17 July 1958

John C. Slown
1533 Washington Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

Dear John:

We are very happy that you will be present for the picnic.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I take it from your letter to Monsignor Blanchette
that the operation was a success.

With all best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Daniel L. Ryan
NOTARY

DLR:dlt

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VACATION REPORT

000087

To

Confidential

ST. PROCOPIUS SEMINARY

Lisle, Illinois

Reverend and dear Father:

The Third Council of Baltimore (Titulus v. No. 177), the Roman Normae (Art. 166) and the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities burden pastors with the obligation of watching over the conduct of their students during vacation and at its end of reporting it to the Seminary authorities.

Kindly return this report, which shall be kept under the seal of strictest confidence, to the Very Reverend Rector.

Name of Student Jack Slown

Vacation at Home yes

Vacation Away From Home

Attending Week-day Mass Regularly

Reception of Sacraments Daily

Associates good

Employment none

Department (Example, Habits, Industry, Piety) Excellent

Remarks

Date Aug. 24, 1958

Telephone AL 1-0771

J. M. Gorman
Signature of Pastor

1747 LAKE AVE
Address

Wilmette Ill

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000088

17 September 1958

Reverend ~~Maher~~ Dlouhy, O.S.B.
Rector
St. Procopius Seminary
Lisle, Illinois

Dear Father Maher:

In your letter of September 12, I noticed that you have Slown as a candidate for the Subdiaconate. The report his doctor sent us immediately after the operation, stated that while the operation itself was successful, the success of the healing would not be known for about four months. We asked the doctor to notify us as soon as he had a definite report on this. I spoke to Monsignor Blanchette about this a few weeks ago, and Monsignor told me that Mr. Slown's call to the Subdiaconate would not be given until after we have received this report. He suggested that there might be an Ordination somewhere near by in the winter where Mr. Slown could catch up. In any case, I believe we cannot count on his receiving the Subdiaconate on October 28, 1958.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:dt

Bro.

6 October 1958

Newton C. Mead
636 Church Street
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Dr. Mead:

On August 1, 1958, you kindly sent us a report immediately after the operation on John Slown's back. You stated that it would be some months before the ultimate result of the success of fusion would be known. We would very much appreciate it if you could send us a report of that progress at the present time and your prediction (which we realize may not be an absolute guarantee) regarding the final outcome. If at all possible, I would like to receive this report at once, as John's class is due to take another step forward in preparation for the priesthood this month; and we wish to know John's present condition before deciding whether or not we will allow him at this time to join them.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:dt

cc: Reverend Maur Dlouhy, O.S.B.
St. Procopius Seminary
Lisle, Illinois

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 110

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000090

This is to certify that on Oct. 19 1958
I have announced the intended promotion of John C. Slown
to the diaconate in the parish church. The following
impediments and irregularities were discovered. (If none,
write "none")

Date:

Oct 20 1958

Parish Seal

[Signature]
Signature of Pastor

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John Slown

000092

22 October 1958

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

On October 6 I sent you the following letter:

[Redacted]

John's Ordination as a subdeacon next week hinges on this report from you. Hence, it is very important to him and to us that we might receive this reply immediately, if at all possible.

For your convenience in replying, I am enclosing a self-addressed special delivery envelope.

With sincere thanks for all that you have done and all you are doing for John Slown, and wishing you God's blessings, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:dt
Enc.

Released April 2014

This is to certify that on Oct. 26 1958 1958
I have announced the intended promotion of John C. Slown
to the subdiaconate in the parish church. The following
impediments and irregularities were discovered. (If none,
write "none")

Date:

Parish Seal

F. Williamson
Signature of Pastor

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SLOWN

DATE _____

NEWTON C. MEAD, M. D.
HOWARD J. SWEENEY, M. D. **000094**
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

636 CHURCH STREET

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

AFTERNOONS BY APPOINTMENT GREENLEAF 5-2563

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ AGE _____

R

*P.S. Got your
"Special" today.
This letter was
awaiting my signature
for 3 days but
I was out of the
office - Sorry!
N.C.M.*

M. D.

REG. No. _____

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000095

28 October 1958

[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your kind reply to my special delivery letter. Bishop McNamara agrees with you, and has decided to wait to be reassured by further examination of Mr. Slown. Hence, would you be kind enough to give us your report after you have again examined Mr. Slown. Your gracious cooperation throughout and the help that you have given Mr. Slown by your skill is truly appreciated.

With sincere thanks and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:dt

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000099

26 November 1958

Dear [REDACTED]

We are very grateful to you for your kind report on John Slown. We are also very happy that the report is so favorable.

With sincere thanks and wishing you God's blessings, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:dt

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000100

John Slown

1 December 1958

Very Reverend Raymond Wahl
Diocese of Rockford
1245 North Court Street
Rockford, Illinois

Dear Father Wahl:

We have a boy in fourth theology who has received only minor orders. Due to an operation he was unable to receive the subdiaconate and diaconate with his class. We now have the doctor's all clear signal.

Would Bishop Lane happen to be having ordinations to the subdiaconate and/or the diaconate sometime between now and the Spring? If so, I would very much appreciate knowing the places and dates of any such ordinations and the possibility of having this candidate join the class.

With sincere thanks and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:dt

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John Slown

000101

1 December 1958

Et. Rev. Msgr. George A. Carton, J.C.L.
Diocese of Peoria
607 NE. Madison Avenue
Peoria, Illinois

Dear Monsignor Carton:

We have a boy in fourth theology who has received only minor orders. Due to an operation he was unable to receive the subdiaconate and diaconate with his class. We now have the doctor's all clear signal.

Would Bishop Cousins happen to be having ordinations to the subdiaconate and/or the diaconate sometime between now and the Spring? If so, I would very much appreciate knowing the places and dates of any such ordinations and the possibility of having this candidate join the class.

With sincere thanks and best wishes, I remain,

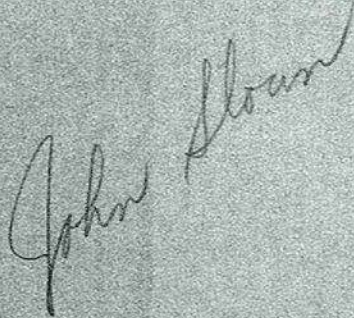
Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:dt

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



000102

1 December 1958

Very Reverend Maur Dlouhy, O.S.B.
Rector
St. Procopius Seminary
Lisle, Illinois

Dear Father Maur:

Bishop Sheil will confer second minors at 7 a.m. at St. Andrew's in Chicago on December 21. Archbishop O'Brien will confer second minors on December 14 at Techny, the exact time is not available to me at the moment. Would either of these dates be suitable for the ordinations of Daniel Stempora and Michael Lyons? If so, which date would be preferable? As soon as I receive your reply, I will try to make arrangements with the Chicago Chancery Office for inclusion of these two lads in the ordination class, and I shall obtain dimissorial letters from the Bishop for the same.

Chicago apparently will not be having ordinations to the subdiaconate in the immediate future. I am today writing to Peoria and Rockford to see if they might be having some ordinations, since John Slown will have to receive both subdiaconate and diaconate. We received a very favorable report from his doctor.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Assistant Chancellor

RLK:dt

* However, say nothing to John yet.

(Propria manu subscribenda a candidatis in singulis Sacris Ordinibus suscipiendis, iuramento coram Ordinario praestito - A.A.S., Vol.23, p. 127)

Ego subsignatus Joannes K. Slown, cum petitionem Episcopo exhibuerim pro recipiendo subdiaconatus Ordine, sacra instante Ordinatione, ac diligenter re perpensa coram Deo, iuramento interposito, testificor in primis, nulli me coactione seu vi, nec ullo impelli timore in recipiendo eodem sacro Ordine, sed ipsum sponte exoptare, ac plena liberaque voluntate eundem velle, cum experiar ac sentiam. Deo me esse revera vocatum.

Tateor mihi plene esse cognita cuncta onera caeteraque ex eodem sacro Ordine dimanantia, quae sponte suscipere volo ac propono, eaque toto meae vitali curriculo, Deo opitulante, diligentissime servare constituo.

Praecipue quae caelibatus lex importet clare me percipere ostendo, eamque libenter explere atque integre servare usque ad extremum, Deo adiutore, firmiter statuo.

Denique sincera fide spondeo iugiter me fore, ad normam ss. Canonum, obtemperaturum obsequentissime iis omnibus, quae mihi praecipient Praepositi, et Ecclesiae disciplina exiget, paratum virtutum exempla praebere sive opere sive sermone, adeo ut de tanti officii susceptione remunerari a Deo merear.

Sic spondeo, sic voveo, sic iuro, sic me Deus adiuvet et haec sancta Dei Evangelia, quae manibus meis tango.

(Nomen) John C. Slown

De expositorum veracitate fidem facio Datum ex Seminario S. Procopii, Lisle, Ill.

Die 4 Mensis IV Anni 1958 Die 4 Mensis decembris Anni 1958

Manu J. Slown ob

John Slown

000104

MARTINUS D. McNAMARA

Miseratione Divina et Sedis Apostolicae Gratia

Episcopus Joliettensis in Illinois

Lecturis Has Litteras Salutem in Domino:

Praesentium Nostrarum vigore dimittimus Joannem Slown Dioceseseos hujus alumnus eum in finem, ut a Reverendissimo ac Excellentissimo D. D. Alberto Gregorio Meyer vel alio Episcopo communionem Sanctae Sedis Apostolicae habente ad ordines majores subdiaconatus et diaconatus promoveri possit, dummodo nihil obstet et omnia documenta necessaria, quae a Jure Canonico requiruntur, exhibeat.

In quaerita fidei has praesentes Litteras manu Nostra subscriptas, sigilloque Nostro et Cancellarii Nostri subscriptione munitas fieri jussimus.

Datum Joliettiae ex Aedibus Cancellariae Nostrae
Die 4a decembris, 1958.

Episcopus Joliettensis in Illinois

Cancellarius assistens

Declaratio

000106

Ego subsignatus Joannes K. Slown, cum petitionem Episcopo exhibuerim pro recipiendo diaconatus Ordine, sacra, instans Ordinatione, ac diligenter se perpensa coram Deo, iuramento interposito, testificor in primis, nulla me coactione seu vi, nec ullo impelli timore in recipiendo eodem sacro Ordine, sed ipsum sponte exoptare, ac plena liberaque voluntate eundem velle, cum experiar ac sentiam a Deo me esse revera vocatum.

Tateor mihi plene esse cognita cuncta onera caeteraque ex eodem sacro Ordine dimanantia, quas sponte suscipere volo ac propono, eaque toto meae vitae curriculo, Deo opitulante, diligentissime servare constituo.

Praecipue quae caelibatus lex importet clare me percipere ostendo, eamque libenter explere atque integre servare usque ad extremum, Deo adiutore, firmiter statuo.

Denique sincera fide spondeo iugiter me fore, ad normam ss. Canonum, obtemperaturum obsequentissime his omnibus, quae mihi praecipient Praepositi, et Ecclesiae disciplina exiget, paratum virtutum exempla praebere sive opere sive sermone, adeo ut de tanti officii susceptione remunerari a Deo merear.

Sic spondeo, sic voveo, sic iuro, sic me Deus adiuvet et haec sicut Dei Evangelia, quae manibus meis tango.

Juan J. Slown, ob
 16 XII 1958
 Ludo Illuminis

Joannes K. Slown
 Sancti Procopii Seminarium
 16. Decembris, 1958

Petitio Candidati Promoturi ad Sacram Ordinem

Ego, infrascriptus, Joannes R. Slown, alumnus Seminarii Sancti Brocopii, annum IV curriculum theologicum frequentans, cum matura deliberatione ac sincera fide me esse ad statum sacerdotalem vocatum existimem ad ordines accedere cupio atque hisce praesentibus ab Ex.mo Antistite meo, diocesis Joliettensis Ordinario, admissionem ad ~~subdiaconatum~~ (supra) diaconatum vel presbyteratum humillime postulo.

Fateor et declaro, me cuncta, quae ad naturam et obligationes status clericalis, ac praesertim ad legem caelibatus sacris ordinibus adnexam, pertinent, plane perspecta habere; volo pariter et constituo omnia et singula eiusdem status onera suscipere, eaque etiam propono ac spondeo, ope divinae gratiae, integre constanterque servare toto tempore vitae meae.

Testificor, me propositum habere ascendendi ad omnes ordines, nec vero importunis aliorum precibus, suasionibus, obtestationibus vel pollicitationibus pressum aut allectum ad sacram militiam impelli, sed libera omnino ac spontanea voluntate, semotis minis, metu, vi vel coactione, sacram ordinationem expetere.

Quibus precibus ut qua Episcopus meus benigne annuere velis, revertenti atque obsequenti animo supplico,

Excellentiae Tuae Reverendissimae,

Servus humillimus.

Joannes R. Slown
Orator

Datum die 16 mensis Decembris, anni 1958.

Petitionem praemissam mihi tempore et loco, uti supra, fuisse oblatam testor.

Paul J. Daly
Rector

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000108

Litterae Testimoniales Rectoris Seminarii de Requisitis ad Ordines Suscipiendas

Ego, infrascriptus Rector Seminarii Sancti Procopii,
 Lisle, Illinois, testor Joan. Slown omnia
 juris requisita ut possit promoveri ad ordinem (~~es~~)
~~sac. diaconatus~~ rite explevisse. In specie,
 testor eum esse baptizatum, chrismate signatum, bonis
 moribus praeditum, a parrocho suo commendatum, a Rectore et
 facultate hujus seminarii approbatum, hunc ordinem (~~hos~~
 ordines) sua sponte petivisse, studia secundum praescripta
 Canonis 976 peregisse et examen in quantum necessarium ad
 normam Canonis 996, #2 feliciter explevisse, examen de
 ordine (~~ibus~~) suscipiendo (~~ois~~) subiisse, exercitia spiri-
 tualia per tres (~~sex~~) integros dies peregisse (~~vel peracturum~~
 esse), litteras testimoniales in quantum necessarias obtinuisse,
 nulli impedimento vel irregularitati obnoxium esse, et ordinem
 praevium subdiaconatus iam recipisse.

per disp.
 Romi. Ordinarii
 Disp. over laws
 of interdicts
 granted M.

Max J. Slown
 Rector

Datum ex aedibus Seminarii Sti. Procopii die 17 mensis Decembris Anno 1958

Max J. Slown

(sigillum)

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000109

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
Chancery Office
719 NORTH WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

December 19, 1958

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that John Slown of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois was ordained to the Subdiaconate by His Excellency, The Most Reverend William D. O'Brien, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop - Archbishop of Chicago on December 14, 1958 at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Illinois.

C. F. O'Donnell
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Cletus F. O'Donnell
Vice - Chancellor

Entered 12/19
P.Z.K.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
Chancery Office
719 NORTH WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

000110

December 29, 1958

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that John Slown of the Diocese of Joliet was ordained to the Diaconate on December 21, 1958 at St. Andrew's Church, Chicago, Illinois by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Vincent Brizgys, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Kaunas, Lithuania.

C.F. O'Donnell
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Cletus F. O'Donnell
Vice - Chancellor

*Entered
1/2/59
R.Z.K.*

Released April 2014

St. Procopius SEMINARY
Lisle

000112 A

A REPORT OF THE RECTOR TO THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP OF JOLIET CONCERNING
HIS ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTSJohn Slown

Name of Student

2 - 13 - 59

Date

Joliet

Diocese

I Sem. Theo. IV

Scholastic year completed

Diaconate

Last Order received

I. INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

(In answering please underscore)

1. Application to study: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
2. Written work: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
3. Subject in which he seems to do best: _____

II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Willingness to work outside of class: a) A volunteer worker; b) Does what he is told; c) Reluctant to work.
2. Ability as a leader: a) Inspiring leader; b) Average; c) No leadership ability.
3. Obedience to authority: a) Obeys with alacrity; b) Merely obeys; c) Disobedient.
4. Amenability to correction and advice: a) Docile; b) Fails to amend; c) Incurable.
5. Ability to cooperate: a) Very Cooperative; b) Negative; c) Uncooperative.
6. Sociability: a) Gracious and kindly; b) Shy and silent; c) Anti-social; d) satisfactory.
7. Conduct in Chapel: a) Exemplary; b) Average; c) Careless about ceremonies.
8. Fidelity to spiritual exercises: a) Faithful; b) Frequently tardy; c) Frequently absent.
9. Observance of seminary rules: a) Faithful; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
10. General Demeanour: a) Becoming; b) Frivolous; c) Worldly.
11. Humility: a) Humble and submissive; b) Average; c) Proud and haughty.
12. Mortification: a) Satisfactory; b) A grumbler; c) Lacks spirit of mortification.
13. Silence: a) Faithful observer; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
14. Attitude in general: a) Tactful; b) Cheerful; c) Reverent; d) Tricky; e) Irascible.

III. GENTELMANLINESS

1. Personal appearance: a) Neat and clean; b) Average; c) Slovenly and unkempt.
2. His own room: a) Neat and clean; b) Careless; c) Disorderly.
3. Table manners: a) Good; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
4. Courtesy: a) Well mannered; b) Average; c) Poor.
5. Impression he makes on others: a) Virile and manly; b) Effeminate; c) Disagreeable; d) Negative personality.
6. Punctuality: a) Punctual at all times; b) Frequently tardy; c) Unsatisfactory.
7. Ability to get along with people: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
8. Consideration for others, especially inferiors: a) Superior; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
9. Peculiar home conditions:

IV. VOICE

- 1. Ability to read in public: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Voice: a) Strong and robust; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Has foreign accent.
- 3. Defects of speech (if any): None
- 4. Ability to preach: a) Excellent; b) Average; c) Poor.
- 5. Conversation: a) Good; b) Hesitant and disjointed; c) Poor.

V. PHYSICAL REPORT

- 1. General health: a) Good; b) Average; c) Poor; d) Unsatisfactory.
- 2. Surgical operations (if any): Known to Chancery Office
- 3. Mental disorders: a) Normal; b) Melancholic; c) Superiority complex; d) Inferiority complex; e) Delusions of grandeur; f) Excessive nervousness; g) An oddity; h) Prefers to be alone rather than with others.
- 4. Physical defects: None

VI. ABILITIES

- 1. His abilities seem to recommend him for the following occupation: a) Journalism; b) Work in the chancery office; c) Work among young people; d) An assistant pastorate; e) Work as a teacher; f) A position in which public speaking plays a major role; g) Athletic work.
- 2. He is able to speak a language other than English, viz., _____
- 3. He seems to have a natural aptitude for _____, and therefore the faculty can safely recommend him for higher studies in this matter.

VII. REPORT ON HIS VACATION LETTERS

- 1. Vacation letter received and a) The pastor recommends him favorably or highly; b) The pastor has the following adverse criticism to make: _____

VIII. OPINION OF THE FACULTY

- 1. The faculty feels that: a) He should be allowed and urged to continue; b) That he should be admonished of his faults and given an opportunity to amend; c) That he should be given another opportunity but should not be allowed to receive further Orders until he amends; d) That he should be dropped from the seminary.

IX. OBSERVATIONS OF THE RECTOR

His spirits have revived with his promotion to Orders. Rev. Mr. John Slown confines his leadership abilities to his assignment.

Petitio Candidati Promoturi ad Sacram Ordinem

Ego, infrascriptus, Joannes Slown, alumnus Seminarii Sancti Procopii, annum quartum curriculum theologicum frequentans, cum matura deliberatione ac sincera fide me esse ad statum sacerdotalem vocatum existimem ad ordines accedere cupio atque hisce praesentibus ab Ex.mo Antistite meo, diocesis Joliettensis Ordinario, admissionem ad ~~subdiaconatum~~ (~~seu diaconatum vel presbyteratum~~) humillime postulo.

Fateor et declaro, me cuncta, quae ad naturam et obligationes status clericalis, ac praesertim ad legem caelibatus sacris ordinibus adnexam, pertinent, plane perspecta habere; volo pariter et constituo omnia et singula eiusdem status onera suscipere, eaque etiam propono ac spondeo, ope divinae gratiae, integre constanterque servare toto tempore vitae meae.

Testificor, me propositum habere ascendendi ad omnes ordines, nec vero importunis aliorum precibus, suasionibus, obtestationibus vel pollicitationibus pressum aut allectum ad sacram militiam impelli, sed libera omnino ac spontanea voluntate, semotis minis, metu, vi vel coactione, sacram ordinationem expetere.

Quibus precibus ut qua Episcopus meus benigne annuere velis, revertenti atque obsequenti animo supplico,

Excellentiae Tuae Reverendissimae,

Servus humillimus.

John C. Slown
Orator

Datum die 8 mensis martius, anni 1959.

Petitionem praemissam mihi tempore et loco, uti supra, fuisse oblatam testor.

Man J. Slonick
Rector

J. M. J.

000114

April 3, 1959

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette,
Vicar General,
310 Bridge Street,
Joliet, Illinois.

Rev. Mr. John Slown
St. Procopius Seminary
Lisle, Illinois

Dear Msgr. Blanchette:

The following is the information that you requested from the candidates for the priesthood - 1959.

1. 3 glossy prints of self enclosed with this letter.
2. Date of birth.
February 15, 1933
3. Place of birth.
Chicago, Illinois
4. Home address.
1533 Washington Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois
5. Home parish.
St. Joseph Church
Wilmette, Illinois
6. Nationality.
German
7. Father's full name(deceased - Oct. 2, 1958)
Mr. John Charles Slown
8. Mother's maiden name (living)
Margaret Helen Schinler
- 9 & 10. Reading and speaking knowledge of language other than English.
Eight years ago, I was capable of reading and speaking Spanish quite well. In that I have not used this language for this length of time, I have become very rusty in its use. But with some brushing up on the subject, I feel confident that I could once again read and speak Spanish fluently.
11. Preparatory Education.
grade - St. Joseph, Wilmette, Ill. - 8yrs.
high - Loyola Academy, Chicago, Ill. - 4yrs.
college - St. Procopius, Lisle, Ill. - 2yrs.
seminary - St. Procopius Seminary, Lisle, Ill. - 6yrs.

- 12. Degrees earned.
Bachelor of Arts
- 13. Time and date of First Solemn Mass.
11:00 a.m.
June 6th, 1959
- 14. Church of First Solemn Mass.
St. Joseph Church
Wilmette, Illinois
- 15. Assistant Priest.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Neumann - pastor of home parish
- 16. Deacon.
Rev. Herbert Boesen - assistant at home parish
- 17. Subdeacon.
Rev. Robert F. Sauer - assistant at home parish
- 18. The Most Rev. Raymond P. Hillinger, D.D. - Preacher.

On Saturday, June 13, 1959, I have been asked to be deacon at a wedding in my home parish. I am wondering whether or not I will be able to accept this date, due to the fact that the newly ordained priests might have to report to their assigned parishes also on this day. Would you please inform me, at your earliest convenience, as to what I should do concerning this matter?

Thanking you for your kind consideration of this matter and with best wishes, I remain

*OK - RRB -
acknowledged.*

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

TELEPHONE 2-6613

Released April 2014



DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

310 BRIDGE STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS

000116

His Excellency,
The Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara,
Bishop of Joliet in Illinois,

Your Excellency:

Realizing what it may mean to me in the future, conscious of the source of edification which it will certainly be for others, and glad of an opportunity to comply with your wish, which has as its object my own welfare and the welfare of those who may be entrusted to my care, I willingly bind myself for five years from the day of my ordination to the priesthood to abstain from all intoxicants.

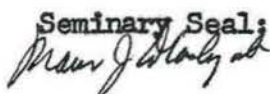
With sentiments of reverence and obedience, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Signature

Date: *April 6, 1959*

Place: *St. Procopius Seminary*

Seminary Seal:


Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000117

April 7, 1959

Rev. John Slown
St. Procopius Seminary
Lisle, Illinois

Dear John:

I wish to thank you for having sent the data on your coming ordination. I believe that you can accept the request to be Deacon at a wedding in your home parish on Saturday, June 13th. If you have to report that day to your new pastor, I am sure that that would be in the afternoon.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette
Vicar General

RRB:pf

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 139

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Ex Ecclesia S. Josephi
Wilmette, Illinois

Die 20 mensis Aprilis, anno 1959

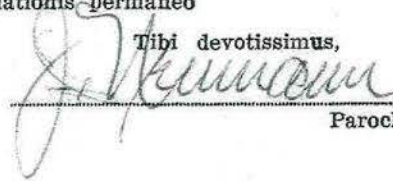
Reverende Domine,

Per has litteras te monitum velim, me die 20 mensis Aprilis
anno 1959, instantem promotionem D. Joannis Slown 000120

ad sacrum Presbyteratus ordinem proclamasse, nec ullum, quod referrem,
impedimentum mihi exinde innotuisse.

Cum sensibus peculiaris aestimationis permaneo

Tibi devotissimus,



Parochus.

Reverendo D. Seminarii Rectori,
Lisle, Illinois.

(L.S.)

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

+

Saint Joseph Rectory
1747 Lake Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

000121

May 10 1959

To whom it may concern,

Fr. John Slown

in my opinion has the necessary
qualifications to advance to Holy Orders
of the Priesthood.

In Christ,
J. Kullmann

DECLARATIO

000122

(Propria manu subscribenda a candidatis in singulis Sacris Ordinibus suscipiendis, iuramento coram Ordinario praestito - A.A.S., Vol.23, p. 127)

Ego subsignatus Joannes K. Slown, cum petitionem Episcopo exhibuerim pro recipiendo presbyteratus Ordine, sacra instante Ordinatione, ac diligenter re perpensa coram Deo, iuramento interposito, testificor in primis, nulla me coactione seu vi, nec ullo impelli timore in recipiendo eodem sacro Ordine, sed ipsum sponte exoptare, ac plena liberaque voluntate eundem velle, cum experias ac sentiam a Deo mihi esse revera vocatum.

Tateor mihi plene esse cognita cuncta onera caeteraque ex eodem sacro Ordine dimanantia, quae sponte suscipere volo ac propono, eaque toto meae vitae curriculo, Deo opitulante, diligentissime servare constituo.

Praecepis quae calibatus lex importet clare me percipere ostendo, eamque libenter explere atque integre servare usque ad extremum, Deo adiutore, firmiter statuo.

Denique sincera fide spondeo iugiter me fore, ad normam ss. Canonum, obtemperaturum obsequentissime iis omnibus, quae mihi praecipiant Praepositi, et Ecclesiae disciplina exigit, paratum virtutum exempla praebere sive opere sive sermone, adeo ut de tanti officii susceptione remunerari a Deo merear.

Sic spondeo, sic voveo, sic iuro, sic me Deus adiuret, haec sancta Dei Evangelia, quae manibus meis tango.

(Nomen) Joannes K. Slown
Datum ex Seminario S. Procopii, Lisle, Ill.
Die 15 Mensis Maii Anni 1959

De expositorum veracitate fidem facio
die 15 Mensis V Anni 1959
M. O. P. A. A.

Litterae Testimoniales Rectoris Seminarii de Requisitis ad Ordines Suscipiendas

Ego, infrascriptus Rector Seminarii Sancti Procopii,
 Lisle, Illinois, testor Joan C. Slown omnia
 juris requisita ut possit promoveri ad ordinem ~~(os)~~
sac. Presbyteratus rite explevisse. In specie,
 testor eum esse baptizatum, chrismate signatum, bonis
 moribus praeditum, a parrocho suo commendatum, a Rectore et
 facultate hujus seminarii approbatum, hunc ordinem ~~(hos)~~
~~ordines)~~ sua sponte petivisse, studia secundum praescripta
 Canonis 976 peregisse et examen in quantum necessarium ad
 normam Canonis 996, #2 feliciter explevisse, examen de
 ordine ~~(-us)~~ suscipiendo ~~(-is)~~ subiisse, exercitia spiri-
 tualia per ~~tres~~ (sex) integros dies peregisse ~~(vel peracturum)~~
 esse), litteras testimoniales in quantum necessarias obtinuisse,
 nulli impedimento vel irregularitati obnoxium esse, et ordinem
 praeivium discretus iam recipisse.

Maurice J. Delaney
 Rector

Datum ex aedibus Seminarii Sti. Procopii die 16 mensis Maii Anno 1967

(sigillum)

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000125

June 12, 1959

My dear Father Slown:

I hereby appoint you assistant to the Reverend James Lynch, administrator of St. Michael Parish, Wheaton, Illinois. You will kindly report to Father Lynch on Saturday, June 13, 1959.

I hereby grant you general delegation for marriages in St. Michael Parish, Wheaton, Illinois.

Wishing you every blessing in this, your first appointment, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara, D.D.
Bishop of Joliet in Illinois

The Reverend John Slown
St. Michael Parish
314 Willow Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois

PROFESSIONIS FIDEI ET IURISIURANDI FORMULA

Praescripta in Motu Proprio "Sacrorum Antistitum" Pii PP. X. die 1. mensis Sept., anni 1910.

000126A

Ego, N.N., Joannes Slown

firma fide credo et profiteor omnia et singula, quae continentur in symbolo Fidei, quo sancta Romana Ecclesia utitur, videlicet: Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem Patri: per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine, et Homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro nobis; sub Pontio Pilato passus, et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria iudicare vivos et mortuos; cuius regni non erit finis. Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vivificantem; qui ex Patre Filioque procedit. Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur, qui locutus est per Prophetas. Et Unam, Sanctam, Catholicam et Apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum Baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum. Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen. Apostolicas et ecclesiasticas traditiones, reliquasque eiusdem Ecclesiae observationes et constitutiones firmissime admitto et amplector. Item sacram Scripturam iuxta eum sensum, quem tenuit et tenet sancta Mater Ecclesia, cuius est iudicare de vero sensu et interpretatione sacrarum Scripturarum, admitto; nec eam unquam, nisi iuxta unanimum consensum Patrum, accipiam et interpretabor. Profiteor quoque septem esse vere et proprie Sacramenta novae Legis a Iesu Christo Domino nostro instituta, atque ad salutem humani generis, licet non omnia singulis, necessaria, scilicet, Baptismum, Confirmationem, Eucharistiam, Paenitentiam, Extremam unctionem, Ordinem et Matrimonium: illaque gratiam conferre; et ex his Baptismum, Confirmationem et Ordinem sine sacrilegio reiterari non posse. Receptos quoque et approbatos Ecclesiae Catholicae ritus in supradictorum omnium Sacramentorum sollemni administratione recipio et admitto. Omnia et singula, quae de peccato originali et de iustificatione in sacrosancta Tridentina Synodo definita et declarata fuerunt, amplector et recipio. Profiteor pariter in Missa offerri Deo verum, proprium et propitiatorium Sacrificium pro vivis et defunctis; atque in sanctissimo Eucharistiae sacramento esse vere, realiter et substantialiter Corpus et Sanguinem una cum anima et divinitate Domini nostri Iesu Christi, fierique conversionem totius substantiae panis in Corpus et totius substantiae vini in Sanguinem, quam conversionem Catholica Ecclesia Transubstantiationem appellat. Fateor etiam sub altera tantum specie totum atque integrum Christum, verumque Sacramentum sumi. Constanter teneo Purgatorium esse, animasque ibi detentas fidelium suffragiis iuvari. Similiter et Sanctos una cum Christo regnantes venerandos atque invocandos esse, eosque orationes Deo pro nobis offerre, atque eorum Reliquias esse venerandas. Firmiter assero imagines Christi, ac Deiparae semper Virginis, nec non aliorum Sanctorum habendas et retinendas esse, atque eis debitum honorem ac venerationem impertiendam. Indulgentiarum etiam potestatem a Christo in Ecclesia relictam fuisse, illarumque usum Christiano populo maxime salutarem esse affirmo. Sanctam, Catholicam et Apostolicam Romanam Ecclesiam, omnium ecclesiarum matrem et magistram agnosco, Romanoque Pontifice, beati Petri Apostolorum Principis successori, ac Iesu Christi Vicario veram obedientiam spondeo ac iuro. Caetera item omnia a sacris Canonibus et Oecumenicis Conciliis, ac praecipue a sacrosancta Tridentina Synodo, et ab oecumenico Concilio Vaticano tradita, definita ac declarata, praesertim de Romani Pontificis Primatu et infallibili magisterio, indubitanter recipio atque profiteor; simulque contraria omnia, atque haereses quascumque ab Ecclesia damnatas et reiectas et anathematizatas, ego pariter damno, reiicio, et anathematizo. Hanc veram Catholicam Fidem, extra quam nemo salvus esse potest, quam in praesenti sponte profiteor et veraciter teneo, eandem integram et inviolatam usque ad extremum vitae spiritum

constantissime, Deo adiuvante, retinere et confiteri, atque a meis subditis, seu illis, quorum cura ad me in munere meo spectabit, teneri, et doceri et praedicari, quantum in me erit, curaturum, ego idem N. spondeo, voveo ac iuro.

Item firmiter amplector ac recipio omnia et singula, quae ab inerranti Ecclesiae magisterio definita, adserta ac declarata sunt, praesertim ea doctrinae capita, quae huius temporis erroribus directo adversantur. Ac primum quidem Deum, rerum omnium principium et finem, naturali rationis lumine per ea quae facta sunt, hoc est, per *visibilia* creationis opera, tamquam causam per effectus, certo cognosci, adeoque demonstrari etiam posse, profiteor. Secundo: Externa revelationis argumenta, hoc est, facta divina, in primisque miracula et prophetias admitto et agnosco tamquam signa certissima divinitus ortae Christianae Religionis, eademque teneo aetatum omnium atque hominum, etiam huius temporis, intelligentiae esse maxime accommodata. Tertio: Firma pariter fide credo, Ecclesiam, verbi revelati custodem et magistram, per ipsum verum atque historicum Christum, cum apud nos degeret, proxime ac directo institutam, eandemque super Petrum, apostolicae hierarchiae principem eiusque in aevum successores aedificatam. Quarto: Fidei doctrinam ab Apostolis per orthodoxos Patres eodem sensu eademque semper sententia ad nos usque transmissam, sincere recipio; ideoque prorsus reiicio haereticum commentum evolutionis dogmatum, ab uno in alium sensum transeuntium, diversum ab eo, quem prius habuit Ecclesia; pariterque damno errorem omnem, quo divino deposito, Christi Sponsae tradito ab Eaque fideliter custodiendo, sufficitur philosophicum inventum, vel creatio humanae conscientiae, hominum conatu sensim efformatae et in posterum indefinito progressu perficiendae. Quinto: Certissime teneo ac sincere profitor, Fidem non esse caecum sensum religionis e latebris *subconscientiae* erumpentem, sub pressione cordis et inflexionis voluntatis moraliter informatam, sed verum assensum intellectus veritati extrinsecus acceptae ex auditu, quo nempe, quae a Deo personali, creatore ac domino nostro dicta, testata et revelata sunt, vera esse credimus, propter Dei auctoritatem summe veracis.

"I . . . firmly hold and accept each and every definition of the unerring teaching of the Church, with all she has maintained and declared, but especially those points of doctrine which expressly combat the errors of our time. In the first place I profess my belief that God, the beginning and end of all, can be certainly known and therefore proved to exist by the natural light of reason from the things that are made, that is, from the visible works of the creation as a cause from its effects. Next I recognize and acknowledge the external arguments of revelation, that is, divine facts, especially miracles and prophecies, as most certain signs of the divine origin of the Christian religion, and I hold that these are altogether suited to the understanding of every age and of all men, also of our times. Thirdly, I likewise hold with firm faith that the Church, the guardian and exponent of the revealed Word, was proximately and directly founded by the true and historic Christ Himself, while He dwelt amongst us, and that she was also built upon Peter, the Prince of the Apostolic Hierarchy, and upon his successors to the end of time. Fourthly, I sincerely accept the teaching of faith as transmitted down to us from the Apostles through the orthodox Fathers in the same sense and even in the same wording; and, therefore, I wholly reject the heretical notions of the evolution of dogmas, which pass from one sense to another alien to that which the Church held from the start; and I likewise condemn every error whereby is substituted for the divine deposit, entrusted by Christ to His Spouse and by Her to be faithfully guarded, a philosophic system or the creation of a human consciousness, gradually refined by the striving of men and finally to be perfected hereafter by indefinite progress. Fifthly, I hold for certain and sincerely profess that Faith is not a blind religious sense making its way out of the hidden regions of the sub-liminal consciousness, morally tinged by the influence of heart and will, but is a true assent of the intellect to truth received from without by hearing, an assent whereby we believe to be true, because of the authority of the all-true God, whatever by the personal God, our Creator and Lord, has been spoken, testified and revealed.

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Me etiam, qua par est, reverentia, subiicio totoque animo adhaereo damnationibus, declarationibus, praescriptis omnibus, quae in Encyclicis litteris "Pascendi" et in Decreto "Lamentabili" continentur, praesertim circa eam quam historiam dogmatum vocant. Idem reprobam errorem affirmantium, propositam ab Ecclesia fidem posse historiae repugnare, et Catholica dogmata, quo sensu nunc intelliguntur, cum verioribus Christianae religionis originibus componi non posse. Damno quoque ac reiicio eorum sententiam, qui dicunt, Christianum hominem eruditorem induere personam duplicem, aliam credentis, aliam historici, quasi liceret historico ea retinere, quae credentis fidei contradicant, aut praemissas adstruere, ex quibus consequatur dogmata esse aut falsa aut dubia, modo haec directo non denegentur. Reprobam pariter eam Scripturae Sanctae diiudicandae atque interpretandae rationem, quae, Ecclesiae traditione, analogia Fidei, et Apostolicae Sedis normis posthabitis, *rationalistarum* commentis inhaeret, et critice textus velut unicam supremamque regulam, haud minus licenter quam temere amplectitur. Sententiam praeterea illorum reiicio qui tenent, doctorum disciplinae historicae theologicae tradendae, aut iis de rebus scribenti seponendam prius esse opinionem ante conceptam sive de supernaturali origine Catholicae traditionis, sive de promissa divinitus ope ad perennem conservationem uniuscuiusque revelati veri; deinde scripta Patrum singulorum interpretanda solis scientiae principiis, sacra qualibet auctoritate seclusa, eaque iudicii libertate, qua profana quaevis monumenta solent investigari. In universum denique me alienissimum ab errore profiteor, quo *modernistae* tenent in sacra traditione nihil inesse divini; aut, quod longe deterius, pantheistico sensu illud admittunt; ita ut nihil iam restet nisi nudum factum et simplex, communibus historiae factis aequandum; hominum nempe sua industria, sollertia, ingenio scholam a Christo eiusque Apostolis inchoatam per subsequentes aetates continuantium. Proinde fidem Patrum firmissime retineo et ad extremum vitae spiritum retinebo, de charismate *veritatis certo*, quod est, fuit eritque semper in *episcopatus ab Apostolis successione*; non ut id

"I further, with all due reverence, submit and with my whole mind adhere to all the condemnations, declarations, and ordinances contained in the Encyclical letter *Pascendi* and in the Decree *Lamentabili*, particularly regarding what is called the history of Dogma.

"I also reject the error of those who aver that the Faith proposed by the Church may be in conflict with history, and that Catholic dogmas in the sense in which they are now understood cannot be harmonized with the more truthful "origins" of Christianity. Moreover, I condemn and reject the opinion which declares that a Christian man of better culture can assume a dual personality, one as a believer and another as an historian, as if it were permissible for the historian to hold fast what his faith as a believer contradicts, or to lay down premises from which there follows the falsity or the uncertainty of dogmas, provided only that these are not directly denied. Likewise I reject that method of estimating and interpreting Holy Writ, which, setting aside the Church's tradition and the analogy of Faith and the rules of the Apostolic See, adopts the rationalists' principles and with equal arbitrariness and rashness considers criticism of the text the one only supreme rule. Furthermore, I reject the opinion of those who hold that a teacher of the science of Historical Theology or the writer on the subject must first put aside the notions previously conceived about the supernatural origin of Catholic tradition or about the divine aid promised for the perpetual preservation of each revealed truth; then, that the writings of individual Fathers must be interpreted solely by the data of science, without any reference to sacred authority, and with that freedom of judgment wherewith every profane record is usually examined.

"Finally and in general, I declare myself to be far removed from the error of the modernists who hold that in sacred tradition there is nothing inherently divine; or who—far worse still—admit it in a pantheistic sense; so that thus there would remain only a bare simple fact equal to the ordinary facts of history, viz., that the school started by Christ and His Apostles finds, in the ages that follow, men to carry it on by their energy, their skill, and their genius. Wherefore most firmly do retain and to my last breath will I retain the Faith of the Fathers of the Church concerning the sure endowment of truth, which

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teneatur quod melius et aptius videri possit secundum suam cuiusque aetatis culturam, sed ut nunquam aliter credatur, nunquam aliter intelligatur absoluta et immutabilis veritas ab initio per Apostolos praedicata.

Haec omnia spondeo me fideliter, integre sincereque servaturum et inviolabiliter custoditurum, nusquam ab iis sive in docendo sive quomodolibet verbis scriptisque deflectendo. Sic spondeo, sic iuro, sic me Deus adjuvet, et haec santa Dei Evangelia.

is, has been, and ever will be in the succession of the Episcopate from the Apostles; not in such a way that what seems best and most fitting according to the refinement of each age may be held, but that the absolute and unchangeable truth preached from the beginning by the Apostles may never in any different wise be believed, never in any different wise be understood.

All this I promise that I will faithfully, entirely and sincerely keep and inviolably guard, and from this never in teaching or howsoever by word or writing in the least depart. So I promise, so I swear, so help me God and these His holy Gospels.

Subscribitur *Joannes Slown*

Ex loco Cancellariae Joliettensis, Joliettiae, Illinois

Die 12a mensis junii A.D. 1959

Iuramentum rite coram nobis emissum testamur.

N. *James Desmond*

Episcopus (vel Delegatus Episcopi)

"Si quis autem, quod Deus avertat, iusiurandum violare ausus fuerit, ad Sancti Officii tribunal illico deferatur." (Motu Proprio "Sacrorum Antistitum.")

*June 12th - 1959
11:15 AM*

REMARKS

1. The Profession of Faith is made and the Oath taken before the Ordinary of the place or his Delegate by:
 - a) the Vicar General,
 - b) the Diocesan Consultors,
 - c) the Censor of books,
 - d) Pastors,
 - e) Confessors and Preachers before they receive the faculty to exercise their functions,
 - f) Clerics called to Subdeaconship,
 - g) Superiors and Professors in the Grand Seminary.

(Cf. C. 1406 et Motu Prop. Pii PP. X., Sept. 1, 1910.)
2. When several take the Oath at the same time, one may read the formula aloud; at the end each one, placing his hand on the gospels reads the words "Haec omnia spondeo," etc., and signs his name. (S C. Consist. Oct. 25, 1910.)
3. The document is to be kept in the safe of the diocesan curia.

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000127

June 12, 1959

The Reverend John Slown
St. Michael Parish
314 Willow Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Father Slown:

This morning you made a Profession of Faith and took the Oath Against Modernism. Consequently I hereby give you the faculties of the Diocese of Joliet, a printed copy of which was given you this morning at the Chancery Office.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Mgr. Romeo Blanchette
Vicar General

RRB:jtd

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

St. Michael's Rectory

000128

314 WEST WILLOW AVENUE
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

Released April 2014

June 15, 1959

Rt. Rev. Msgr. R. Blanchette
Chancery Office
310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois

Rev. and Dear Monsignor:

Permission is requested for the possession and use of a car (Chevrolet) by Father John Slown. The extent of our parish necessitates the use of such a time saving vehicle as does the fact that we have no local hospital. Our hospital visitations are numerous and widely scattered over Dupage County. Father's mother is a widow, living in Wilmette.

We will greatly appreciate your consideration and early approbation of this request.

Sincerely,

Rev. James F. Lynch

Rev. James F. Lynch
Administrator

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

St. Michael's Rectory
314 WEST WILLOW AVENUE
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

000129

Thursday, July 15, 1959

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette,
Chancery Office,
310 Bridge Street,
Joliet, Illinois.

Dear Msgr. Blanchette:

This letter is to notify you that I have made a Last Will and Testament, in compliance with the requirements of Statute 9 of the First Synod of the Diocese of Joliet. The Last Will and Testament is located in a safety deposit box in the vault of the Wilmette State Bank, Wilmette, Illinois. The safety deposit box is registered in the name of Rev. John C. Slown and Mrs. Margaret Slown.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. John C. Slown

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Released April 2014

000130

June 17, 1959

Rev. John Slown
St. Michael Church
314 West Willow Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Father Slown:

Since Father Lynch and you feel that a car is necessary for your work in the parish, permission is hereby given you to purchase a car that would be suitable. We ask that you take out liability insurance which will mention the Bishop as well as the parish in case of liability claims. I know that you will use the car for parochial work, except on your day off, when it is necessary for you to visit your friends or relatives or to take necessary recreation.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette
Vicar General

RRB:pf

St. Michael's Rectory
314 WEST WILLOW AVENUE
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

000131

Thursday, July 23, 1959

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette,
Chancery Office,
310 Bridge Street,
Joliet, Illinois.

Dear Msgr. Blanchette:

I am very sorry, but I will not be able to attend this years annual "Get-Together" for the major seminarians and newly ordained priests of this diocese. A wedding, that I am to officiate at on Saturday morning, August 1, is the reason why I am unable to attend the "Get-Together". Thank you very much for the invitation, but please hold me excused.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find a check for \$90. This is my personal offering for the Joliet Clergy Insurance Plan. Thank you for taking care of this matter for me.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John C. Slown

Rev. John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000136

May 20, 1963

The Rev. John Slown
St. Michael Church
315 W. Illinois Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Father Slown:

Would you be kind enough to come to see me at the Chancery Office
on Monday, June 3, 1963, at 10:00 a.m.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette
Vicar General

RRB/bl

June 3, 1963

Dear Father Slown:

Effective June 15, 1963, I hereby appoint you assistant to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Vincent Cloos, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Winfield, Illinois, transferring you as assistant to the Reverend James Lynch, pastor of St. Michael Parish, Wheaton, Illinois. You will kindly report for duty to Monsignor Cloos on Saturday, June 15, 1963.

I hereby grant you general delegation for marriages in St. John the Baptist Parish, Winfield, Illinois. For any marriages at St. Michael Parish, please obtain delegation in each case.

Wishing you every blessing in this new appointment, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette
Vicar General
By Special Mandate

The Rev. John Slown
St. Michael Church
315 W. Illinois Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Father Slown
FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 161

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI TRAPPIST KENTUCKY 40073

Released April 2014

000139

To whom it may concern,

Fr. J. Slown

has made a spiritual retreat with us

from *Tuesday a.m., Oct. 14*

to *Friday p.m., Oct. 17*

Guestmaster

(Fr) David Murphy OCSO

Name and address of the one to whom the notice
is to be sent:

*Bishop Romeo Blanchette, D.D.,
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois
60435*

000140

To whom it may concern,

Fr. John Slown ✓

has made a spiritual retreat with us

from October 20

to October 23

Guestmaster

(Fr.) David Murphy OCSO

Name and address of the one to whom the notice is to be sent:

Bishop Romeo Blanchette, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

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TELEPHONE
MONROSE 8-0918

000141



St. John the Baptist Church

217 S. CHURCH ROAD

WINFIELD, ILLINOIS 60190

April 26, 1968

Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

In September of 1966, you graciously listened to my request to go on for further study in the field of psychology. In May of 1967, you told me that there was a possibility to commence this study in the fall of 1968, because of the number of men that would be ordained that year. At this time, I am wondering what is your decision on this matter. However, as you know, whatever you decide, I will accept it as God's Will.

If your decision is to the negative, may I then make a request from you? Would it be possible for me to remain at St. John the Baptist Church, Winfield, Illinois for one or more years? Why? As you may know, I have been very active in C.C.D. both at St. Michael's and at St. John's. Two years ago one of St. John's C.C.D. Executive Board members suggested that we hire a coordinator for the program, as well as to co-ordinate the total Religious Education for the people of the Parish from the cradle to the grave. The person for this job was to be preferably a religious with a catechetical background, some administrative ability and teaching experience. Well, this suggestion is finally becoming a reality, with full approval and backing of Msgr. Vincent Cloos. We have the School Sisters of St. Francis from the Rockford Province and Sr. Jona, one of their consultants to the Mother Superior, said that she will have one of their sisters available for this position. However, Sr. Jona knows my feelings about, determination and motivation for C.C.D. and a total parish program of Religious Education. Therefore, she said that it would be easier for this sister to orientate herself into the job that lies ahead of her, if I would be able to remain stationed at St. John's for a year or more. Thus, this is the reason for this request. Msgr. Vincent Cloos told me that he was at the Chancery Office last week and made the request that if there was to be a change of assistants at St. John's this year that the replacement should be interested and active in C.C.D. If I stay, maybe this will be a help to you in making the necessary changes of assistants in the diocese. Again, whatever you decide will be accepted as God's Will.

Also, dear Bishop, I would like permission to pray my Divine Office in the vernacular - English. I feel, as stated in the "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy" that the use of Latin constitutes a grave obstacle for me in praying the office properly.

With all best wishes and thanking you for considering the above mentioned matters, I remain,

Your servant in Christ,

John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown

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000142

April 30, 1968

Reverend John Slown
St. John the Baptist Church
298 Church Street
Winfield, Illinois 60190

Dear Father Slown:

I wish to acknowledge your recent letter concerning the possibility of further study. As you know, I have a large committee that advises me on these matters of assignments. The request as well as the reasons alleged will be made known to the committee.

I would like to tell you that your request to say the Divine Office in the vernacular is hereby granted. I trust, however, that you will not abandon the Latin completely. The latter is merely an exhortation.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:gmb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000143

May 14, 1968

Reverend John Slown
St. John the Baptist Church
298 Church Street
Winfield, Illinois 60190

Dear Father Slown:

Could you please arrange your schedule so you could come to the Chancery Office, Friday, May 17, at 10:30 A.M., to see me? If this is not possible, would you call my secretary so she could arrange a time that would be mutually convenient.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:gmh

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000144

Slown

May 16, 1968

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Vincent Cloos
St. John Church
298 Church Street
Winfield, Illinois 60190

Dear Monsignor Cloos:

The request of Father Slown to be permitted to remain at St. John's Parish, Winfield, was conditioned upon his receiving a negative reply to his original request to continue studies in psychology. Since the Bishop is indicating to him that he has made an affirmative reply, to his request to continue his studies in psychology, the question of Father Slown's remaining at Winfield does not seem to be pertinent at the time.

Therefore, as we discussed, Father William Irwin will be appointed to assist you at Winfield.

With kindest wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Very Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancellor

DLR:lrn

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

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000145

May 28, 1968

Reverend John Slown
St. John the Baptist Church
298 Church Street
Winfield, Illinois 60190

Dear Father Slown:

Effective June 15, 1968, we are assigning you to post-graduate work in psychology at Loyola University, with residence at St. Scholastica Parish in Woodridge, Illinois. At Woodridge, you will be expected to say Mass in the mornings and to provide weekend help, i. e., confessions, Mass and sermons. You will report to St. Scholastica Parish on June 15, 1968, ~~at Woodridge, Illinois.~~

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:gmh

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000146

May 28, 1968

The Rev. John Slown
St. John the Baptist Church
298 Church Street
Winfield, Illinois 60190

Dear Jack:

Bishop Blanchette suggested to me today that it might be well for you to contact Father Eugene Kennedy at Maryknoll, to see if he could help you to get into graduate school.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Very Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancellor

DLR:lrm

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 169

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
Lewis Towers - 620 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago 11, Ill.

169

Released April 2014

This is your receipt

Verify the amount.

Date	Reference	Charge	Credit	
Fr. John Slown has already paid this amount.				000147
JUN 17-68	365	□ 105.00		
JUN 17-68	36623	□ 5.00		□ 110.00
JUN 17-68	367		□ 110.00	□ .00
				<i>pd - 68</i>

(Do not insert beyond this line)

Prompt notification of any change of class or withdrawal from class will prevent false charges on your account.

PLEASE NOTIFY BURSAR OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

000148

June 24, 1968

The Rev. John Slown
St. Scholastica Church
7800 Janes Avenue
Woodridge
P.O. Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear Father Slown:

I have had an opportunity to discuss with Bishop Blanchette your financial arrangements. The Diocese of Joliet, from its seminary account, will be responsible, during the course of your studies, to provide you with the appropriate salary of an assistant pastor, and with the customary automobile allowances. For this purpose, would you kindly indicate to me whether or not you are presently on the fleet plan.

The diocese will also be responsible for all of your tuitions payments. If you will indicate to me these charges as they come due, I will take care of seeing that they are paid.

It is understood that the parish of St. Scholastica will provide you with room and board in return for your services to the parish.

With kindest wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Very Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancellor

DLR:lrm

cc: The Rev. Lowell Fischer
✓ Bookkeeper, Chancery Office

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

AREA CODE 312
PHONE 964-2625

Released April 2014

000149



ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH

7800 JANES AVENUE • WOODRIDGE, ILL. 60515
POST OFFICE DOWNERS GROVE

July 1, 1968

The Very Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Father Ryan:

Thank you very much, Dan, for talking to Bishop Blanchette concerning the financial set up for me. As for my car, I am not on the fleet plan. Also as the payment for my tuition comes due, I will notify you.

With all best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Slown".

Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

REV. JOHN S. KLOEPFER
AREA CODE 312
PHONE 964-2625

Released April 2014



ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH

7800 JANES AVENUE • WOODRIDGE, ILL. 60515
POST OFFICE DOWNERS GROVE

000150

July 9, 1968

Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

At this time, I wish to thank you very much for the opportunity that you afforded me to go on for studies in psychology. I am sorry that it didn't work out the way that it was planned. As you said, it must be the working of the Holy Spirit.

In reviewing what took place over these past two weeks, I thought that the following points might be of some help to you in the future.

1. A priest needs sufficient time to fully look into the program and course of studies that he desires.
2. This priest should have adequate consultation in his field of endeavor, eg., as to the courses he should first take, what particular field of a general subject he should study, etc.
3. This priest should not have to travel more than 1/2 hour from his place of residence to the school he is attending; preferably the priest should live on campus.
4. If the priest is to reside at a parish, there should be sufficient priests assigned to the parish in order to take care of its needs. A priest can not study full time and be involved in the parish.

With all best wishes and the assurance of my prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John C. Slow
Reverend John C. Slow

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000151

July 11, 1968

Reverend John Slown ✓
St. Scholastica Parish
7800 James Avenue
Woodridge, Illinois 60515

Dear Father Slown:

I hereby appoint you as assistant to the Reverend Lowell E. Fischer, Pastor of St. Scholastica Parish in Woodridge, Illinois. This appointment is effective immediately.

I hereby grant you general delegation for marriages in St. Scholastica's Parish, Woodridge, Illinois, effective immediately also.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:gmh

DATE July 19 1968

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

Chicago, Ill.

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 174

Revised April 2013 4/21/13

Released April 2014

John C. Slown

DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT PAID

CHARGES DUE

REFUND

PARTIAL refund of payment made:

110.00

000152

LESS: 40% due at time of withdrawal: 42.00
registration fee; 5.00

47.00

63.00

The attached check is in full settlement of your account.
If not correct please return without alterations and state
differences.

Audited

mb

Approved



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

AREA CODE 312
PHONE 964-2625

Released April 2014

000153



ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH

7800 JANES AVENUE • WOODRIDGE, ILL. 60515
POST OFFICE DOWNERS GROVE

July 29, 1968

Very Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Father Ryan:

Enclosed is a rebate from Loyola University for my tuition.
I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you did
for me in this regards.

With all best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown

000154

February 20, 1969

The Rev. John Slown
St. Scholastica Church
7800 Janes Avenue
Woodridge
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear Jack:

Permission is herewith granted by way of exception, for you to make a private retreat at New Mellary or Gethsemane. You indicated to me on the phone that you are in contact with Father Brown at Mundelein about this.

It is understood, of course, that a similar permission, under the present arrangement, will not be forthcoming for another five or ten years.

Would you kindly have the director of the retreat house which you will attend send me a little notice when you have completed your retreat.

With kindest wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Very Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancellor

DLR:irm

Released April 2014

Immaculate Conception Rectory

35 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, N. J. • 08876

15 June 1971

Most Rev and dear Bishop,

This letter is written with sad reluctance.

We have good reason to believe that one of your priests is emotionally ill and in serious need of competent professional assistance.

Fr. John Slown of Woodridge, Ill visits in this parish. He visits [REDACTED] who formerly lived at Winfield, Ill. The boys of that family have informed us (each, separately) that Fr. Slown molests

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

2.

155 B

Released April 2014

Immaculate Conception Rectory

35 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, N. J. - 08876

them sexually by putting his hand inside their trousers to fondle and manipulate. This is verified by [redacted], 14, whom he has molested here three times; by [redacted], 15, whom he bothered both here and in Winfield; by [redacted], 16; by [redacted], 18.

Mr. [redacted], the father of the family is [redacted] [redacted] an intelligent, prudent and devoted Catholic. The older son [redacted], 19 was molested while the family still lived at Winfield but when he related it

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Released April 2014

Inmaculate Conception Rectory

35 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, N. J. - 08876

155-6

to his mother and father, they refused to believe it.
It is the boy's belief that Fr. Slown molested many
of the boys at their former parish.

I have given this matter considerable prayer
and thought and come to the conclusion you would
want to know. He needs help.

Respectfully and sincerely



000156

To whom it may concern,

Father John C Slown, and (1) ✓
Father James Fitzgerald, (2) ✓

has made a spiritual retreat with us

from Monday, Jan. 31

to Thursday, Feb. 3, 1972

(Fr.) David Murphy
Guestmaster O.C.S.O. ✓

Name and address of the one to whom the notice
is to be sent:

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

AREA CODE 312
PHONE 964-2625

Released April 2014

000157



ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH

7800 JANES AVENUE • WOODRIDGE, ILL. 60515
POST OFFICE DOWNERS GROVE

October 5, 1971

Most Rev. Raymond J. Vonesh, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Vonesh:

You mentioned when I saw you that I should keep in touch with you concerning my progress in the situation that was most briefly discussed with me. I have complied with your requests of (1) not visiting the families and (2) of seeking professional help.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] So, I interpret [REDACTED] actions as meaning that I was not disturbed and warped as the priest led you to believe.

It is with prayerful 'Thanks' that I look back upon this event and the past events of this last year. God has shed his abundant blessings upon me, even if at times they came as humiliating, hurtful and emotional shattering events. The main thing is that they opened the door for me to come closer to God and help me to become - slowly but surely - a better instrument in His hand. Thank God that I was strong enough to respond to Him. Yes, Bishop, this past year has escalated in me the process of 'becoming-a-person'.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Saint Patrick's Church
710 WEST MARION STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60436

000158

Oct. 8-'71

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

Since I didn't want to leave the matter hanging in the air - no positive reply from Mr. Curick - I talked with him on the phone this morning. He said there was no need to contact the priest further. He was satisfied that everything was alright. He stated there were a few problems - nothing serious - & that the priest shows the proper ability & will to correct these things. (I did not ask him to be ^{more} specific).

Have we gone as far as we want here?

In Him
+ R.Y.C.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

*Apptmt - Fri Apr 21 ✓
10:00*

000159

April 18, 1972

~~Rev. John Slown~~
St. Scholastica Church
7800 Janes Avenue
Woodridge, Illinois 60515

Dear Father Slown:

After a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Diocesan Personnel Board, I received a recommendation that it might be well if you had a chance to speak with me concerning their recommendations or lack of recommendations so that there will be no misunderstanding.

I would, then, be very happy to discuss this matter with you at your earliest convenience. I am setting Friday morning, April 21st, at 10:00 o'clock, as a tentative appointment.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/sma

4-21-72

- 1. He is satisfied now that matters have been explained to him.
- 2. He has charge of school accounts.
- 3. He has " " of CCD and highly regards the religious coordinator.

I told him he was not "black-billed", that I had requested more information for the sake of the Personnel Board, and that I already had known how his conference (Piffalo and Puffalo) felt. Thus he was not really singled out.

+ P. B

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Released April 2014

000160

November 3, 1972

The Reverend John Slown
Saint Scholastica Church
7800 Janes Avenue
Woodridge, Illinois 60510

Dear Father Slown:

I hereby appoint you to the
pastorate of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, Joliet, Illinois, to
succeed the Reverend Vincent Lavery, who has resigned. At
the same time, I hereby transfer you from Saint Scholastica
Parish, Woodridge, Illinois.

You will assume canonical
possession of and jurisdiction in Saint Mary Magdalene Parish
as soon as you make, on November 16, 1972, the customary
profession of faith before our Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor,
acting as our delegate, according to the provisions of canon
law. Kindly call the Chancery for an appointment.

Wishing you God's blessing
in your new assignment, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/dlr

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000161

S. Cong. Doct. Fidei
31-V-67

PROFESSION OF FAITH

"I, Rev. John C. Slown, with firm faith, believe and profess all and everything that is contained in the Symbol of Faith that is:"

I believe in one God, The Father almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, Born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. By Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And He became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: And was made Man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of His kingdom there will be no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and Who spoke through the prophets. And one holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

"I firmly embrace and accept all and everything which has been either defined by the Church's solemn deliberation or affirmed and declared by its ordinary magisterium concerning the doctrine of faith and morals, according as they are proposed by it, especially those things dealing with the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, its sacraments and the sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff."

Rev. John C. Slown

Date 10 November 1972
1:15 p.m.
Place Chancery, Joliet, Ill.

* * * * *

I have witnessed this profession of faith on the date and in the place indicated above: In virtue of this profession of faith, Fr. Slown, by particular law, assumed canonical possession of, and jurisdiction in, the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Joliet, Il.

David W. Slown
Bishop / Delegate

Released April 2014

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

000162

June 30, 1974

Dear Friends of Margaret Slown,

Our beloved Mother and your Friend - Margaret - was born into this world on June 10, 1900. She was born to eternal life on June 22, 1974. After eight months of trying to conquer cancer, she finally fell victim to it. Cancer won the war, but Margaret won the victory by receiving eternal joy, peace and happiness.

We will always remember her for her concern and love for people. Until only a few days before she passed away, she still enjoyed seeing people - even though she could not always hold a conversation with them.

Faith, hope and charity were the three qualities that Margaret used to guide her through this life. Yes, she was a woman who trusted and believed in God. She hoped that God would be merciful to her and give her eternal peace for the crosses that she carried during her earthly life. She loved people and God, and let them do the same to her. Let's follow her example and permit faith, hope and love to guide us through this life to the glory of heaven and the Beatific Vision.

On behalf of Mother, we Thank You very much for your friendship to her during her life and all that you did for her during her illness. Also Thank You very much for your kindness and thoughtfulness shown to us at the time of her death.

With all best wishes and asking God's blessings for you, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

Susan Bennett
Father John Slown

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

000163

Dear Bishop Blanchette,

Thank you very much for presiding at the funeral liturgy for my Mother and also for taking the commendation - farewell part.

With all best wishes, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Father John Slown ✓

000164

April 13, 1976

Reverend John Slown
St. Mary Magdalene Church
127 South Briggs
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Dear Father Slown:

Father Memenas, our dean, spoke to me today and to my surprise indicated that you are under the impression that for the last few months I have not paid any attention to you. This came as a surprise to me, for I remember joking with you at the time of the confirmations in Park Forest and in Mokena. It may be that at Wheaton I did not have much of a chance to speak to you since, as you know, I was cornered by a few of the priests and had no chance to talk to the other priests to any extent. I have on several occasions inquired how your leg was and I have even joked about the strength of the cigars that you smoked.

With reference to the question of anyone seeking your parish, I can assure you that no one has approached me on this matter and I am rather sure that no one has approached the Personnel Board, since they would be the ones to make recommendations to me.

Father Kaffer personally has told me that he hopes to stay at Providence for years and years.

I trust that this will reassure you and I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and holy Easter. Rest assured that there is no dissatisfaction or criticism on my part as far as your tenure at St. Mary Magdalene Parish is concerned. If on any special occasion I did not speak to you, it could be that I was distracted or that others had my attention so that I could not circulate among the clergy as I usually try to do at the various functions.

Again I wish you the joys of Easter and also to extend an invitation to come to the office at any time that you wish to discuss this or any other matter.

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

Confidential
Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

ST. Mary Magdalene, Joliet

August 19, 1976

000166

Dear Bishop Blanchette,

I think it is time to tell you about some problems due to the condition and behavior of Fr. John Slown, my pastor.

A priest working in a Joliet parish came to me 3 weeks ago and told me that a municipal employee here told him of a rumor that Fr. Slown had a homosexual interest in boys. This same priest also told me that on two occasions at public dinners he and other priests, laypeople, and noncatholics were apalled at the obscene speech of Fr. Slown, who had been drinking.

Another priest who is pastor of a Joliet parish and who has known Fr. Slown since seminary days, said that he was always a "tortured person" whose moods went up and down as steeply as a roller coaster, and who might feel impotent in relating to adults and thus identify with adolescents. I confided to this priest the matter of this letter, and the priest thought that Fr. Slown's behavior might indicate that he is "calling for help", or setting the stage for a more serious crisis.

A woman religious who teaches at this parish and just came here three weeks ago came to me and asked, "Is it true that Fr. Slown is leaving?" Fr. Slown has never told me of any definite plans to go, although he has hinted that he might, especially after next year (parish 25th Anniv.), and it seems that the way he talks might have given rise to such a rumor. He continually complains of not being appreciated here, and he is in contact with Fr. Fisher in Hawaii, whose departure from the diocese seems to have impressed Fr. Slown.

A college student in the parish told me that Fr. Slown made a sexual advance to him two years ago, when the boy was 19 years old. The boy had become accustomed to visit the rectory and confide his adolescent concerns to Fr. Slown who was very understanding. On two occasions Fr. Slown had become overly affectionate, putting his hand on the boy's thigh and on the boy's pants over the genital area. This had alarmed the boy and his buddy, a peer, told him that if it should happen again, he should get the h--- out of there! Well, on Nov. 28, 1974, he stopped by and Fr. Slown gave him an alcoholic drink which made him woozy. When he sat on the couch beside Fr., Fr. put his hands inside the boy's pants, in the genital area. The boy was shocked, got up and ran home, and told his parents. The dad was furious; the mother cried. The family dropped out of this parish and has not come back in two years.

The dad admits to me that the event is still troubling him, is a cause of anger and disallusionment, and that he has not been able to trust a priest yet and go back to the practice of confession. He is sending his 1st grader to a parish across town and not down the street to St. Mary Magdalene. He does not want to meet up with

Released April 2014

Fr. Slown again, and he is ashamed of the questions parishoners who might have heard of this event might raise when he sees them. So the family has self-exiled itself. The boy is bitter; he has the natural religious questioning of a college age person, but is badly shaken over the whole event, and very skeptical of the Church. From his history he is heterosexual, does not seem to be lying about the event, nor does it seem that he seduced Fr. Slown.

Several adult parishoners were cautiously questioned on their knowledge of this event. They tended to minimize what may have happened, and seemed to have kept the rumor in a small circle. The teenagers of the parish, at least some, regard Fr. Slown's constant "handling" of the boys as "queer." They mentioned the names of two other boys who were supposedly the objects of a sexual advance by Fr. Slown. As there did not seem to be much to substantiate this claim, and to avoid raising what is a healthy suspicion about Fr. Slown's character to a confirmed fear, I did not investigate these claims, nor give the impression that there was a serious inquiry underway. Without asking more questions, it is hard to access the status of the rumor and of Fr. Slown's reputation.

I myself have observed during the past year that Fr. Slown cannot keep his hands off young men and boys whenever they are present, and does always bring up the topic of sexual matters in conversations with them - as one obsessed with it might. He is extremely reliant on domineering women, religious and lay, whom he grants much power in his life and work, in return for their complete dedication to his projects and a sympathetic ear during his fits of anger, an anger which is never directed at the adults or causes which provoke it but released at others. He complains that his former pastors made him "swallow much" and he does not seem to have been affirmed by them. Fr. Slown likes to please the parishoners with lavish improvements and lots of activities. But he perhaps neglects basic needs in favor of extras (no permanent janitor; diocesan debt should come before unneeded blacktopping) and avoids the difficult task but pedagogically necessary one of disciplining altar boys, guiding the commentator program, and enforcing music appropriate to liturgy. Fr. Slown is proud to say he "made this parish what it is, and will destroy it if he wants." He has taught many to repeat after him "how much Fr. Slown has done for the parish." ~~Yet~~, like many priests, his sermons are platitudinous, with meager content that comes from homiletic outlines.

Perhaps these criticisms of the pastor ^{ARE} out of place, coming from an associate who is certainly not perfect himself. But I am drawing a general picture of the man, albiet a critical one. This year with Fr. Slown has been a strain on me. When I was interviewed for the priesthood, by the seminary board, Msgr. Stenger asked me what difficulties I anticipated in the priesthood. I told him that living and working with fellow priests was what I realistically expected to be one of my most difficult crosses. I was right.

. But the question that remains is whether or not Fr. Slown's condition and behavior will be a future crisis for the parish. In a

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000168

sincere effort to be of help to Fr. Slown, and to be of help to those who must evaluate the wisdom of his continuing pastorate, I consulted a competent psychiatrist, who knows me and was able to distinguish my own feelings in this matter from an objective account of Fr. Slown's condition and behavior.

Out of compassion for Fr. Slown, and out of a sense of justice to those persons he has and might hurt, and out of a certain anger on my part - due to what I feel I have endured - and in the interests of the good of this parish, I have prepared this letter and enclosed opinion of the doctor for you, Bishop, in the hope that it will be helpful. I am not making any recommendations by this letter. I am definitely not asking to be transferred from this parish which I am happy to continue serving. If you want, please speak to me personally about this matter.

I remain, in Christ,

Fr. William D. Virtue

Fr. William D. Virtue
Associate pastor,
St. Mary Magdalene

N.B. Bishop, Fr. Slown does not know that I am making this report.

Telephone 722-7655

Released April 2014

000169

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish

127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

August 31, 1976

Bishop Blanchette,

Enclosed are the names and addresses of those persons who are willing to come to you and make a sworn statement regarding the case of Fr. Slown.

- 1. The boy to whom Fr. Slown made a sexual advance:

[Redacted names and addresses]

tel.: [Redacted]

- 2. The former cook at the rectory who saw Fr. Slown with another boy:

[Redacted names and addresses]

If there is any further information you require of me please feel free to ask.

Sincerely,
FR Bill Vitae

Telephone 722-7653
Revised April 2019 4/19/13

Released April 2014

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish

127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois
September 26, 1976

000170

Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Bishop of the Joliet Diocese
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Ill. 60435

Bishop Blanchette,

We have had quite a week at St. Mary Magdalene's, of which you are well aware of. It has been quite an experience and a growth provoking one.

I would like you to know that I would have done it for any of the Joliet and Chicago priests with whom I had had the priviledge to work with since 1945 when I went to Holy Family Academy, Beaverville, Ill. as a Freshman from my home in Indiana.

These men of God include: Fathers Francis X. Hazen (VIP), T. U. Demarais (VI. William Kelly (VIP), Joseph Burns, Walter Mayer, John Driscoll, Robert Cesek Msgr. Desmond (VIP), Joseph Stalzer, James Duffy, Raymond Garbin, Richard Logan (?), John Sebahar, Edward O'Malley, and many Claretians while being on the St. Jude Seminary Faculty for 3 years; in Chicago: Msgr. James D. Hishen (VIP), James Cuff (VIP), Msgr. William Quinn, Robert Festal, William Shields, Henry Troy and others.

My prayers will be daily united to God for you and your priests who have a tremendous job to do in leading;the flock and building faith communities. The religious life has always been close to my heart since my Father's two brothers and a sister plus a first cousin have answered God's call in the priesthood and sisterhood.

I do hope Father William Virtue will get help because he has great potentials We all need God's help and at times help in different ways. God took over in my life when He took our father from us suddenly in an auto accident five years ago. It was a shocker and a reality eye-opener. He is truly Lord and Master and His Ways are not our ways.

Sincerely yours,



FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 194

Dr. ... Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Confidential

000171

September 28, 1976



I appreciate very much your recent letter and your very encouraging words. I was happy to review the list of priests whom you mentioned and found out that I knew practically all of them personally.

I wish to thank you for your prayers and I certainly join my own that we may have a solution for the welfare of the Church through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Again wishing you God's blessings, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:la

Released April 2014

WILL-MINOOKA DEANERY
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
195th St. & 115th Ave.
Mokena, Illinois 60448

000172

October 2, 1976

PERSONAL - CONFIDENTIAL

Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette
BISHOP OF JOLIET
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

On Wednesday, September 29, 1976, Father Daniel Ryan called me and asked whether or not he could bring two ladies to Mokena, because they wanted to discuss a Nuptial Mass which was celebrated by Father John Sloan, at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Joliet, on Saturday, September 25, 1976.

Miss Barbara Wietting, a non-Catholic, but taking instructions in Catholicism, and Mrs. Janet Gurka attended a Nuptial Mass for Lawrence Grasser and Patricia Garrett. They stated Father Sloan acted in a very unusual abnormal manner during the wedding ceremony. He was tossing papers around the altar, swearing occasionally, and shouting at times at various peaks.

At the blessing of rings Father Sloan took the bride's ring, raised it up, and said, "Ladies, take note, if there is a hole in the ring it is good, if not, your husband is a cheapie."

Mrs. Gurka stated, "He should not have been on the altar in that state. When I asked Mrs. Gurka if Father was under the influence of alcohol she thought that he was. When I asked Miss Wietting, she was not sure. Both parents, according to these ladies, were very much upset and what happened at St. Mary Magdalene Church during the wedding ceremony was the topic of the conversation at the wedding reception.

According to Mrs. Gurka, Mrs. Garrett, the mother of the bride, made a statement, "That this priest should be taken out of St. Mary Magdalene Church and a lot of people are sick over it."

The Mass started twenty minutes late and lasted one and one-half hours.

I called Mrs. Garrett and asked whether or not the description of the wedding ceremony of her daughter's by Mrs. Gurka and Miss Wietting was accurate and her reply was "yes" and she also added that Father owes them an apology. She also said her daughter tried to call the rectory before they left on their honeymoon, but she was not able to reach Father Sloan. She intends to talk to him upon her return.

Released April 2014

Bishop Blanchette - Page 2

There are many other problems regarding St. Mary Magdalene Church which you are well aware of.

With every best wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Rev. Vytas Memenas
Father Vytas Memenas, Dean

VM/js

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Re: Fr. Slown

1. "F" family: Son admitted to know of "T" incident & put gently. 000174

2. 3 boys = 2 on ground returned by different stairway - found bombing vestibule.

3. McContact: - venereal disease } Health Dept. = named Fr. S.

4. Parish Meeting:

"Can you imagine the shaming of a meeting with a psychiatrist?"

5. Wedding 3 weeks ago: age 60 & other notes - that you with him at ceremony - not: "Don't forget to take your pills."

6. Sept. 3, 1977 - Oct. 5, 20th etc. - Smith at Mass "bumped out of the queue"

7. East side Cathedral - [redacted]

8. children

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Fr. Slow interview

10/8/96

030175
-A-

just
slow

① Fr. Virtue

- "tyrant" - he calls Fr. Slow;
- doesn't want guidance; self-willed.
- failed as Holy Name Society Director.
- He wants to do it his way.
- Change of furniture; change of electric lines.

R.C. - 1) refers to letter from N.J. some years ago.

Fr. D. says Bishop Vostok handled matter in about 15 minutes; told him to see doctor; avoid contacting the families.

Didn't mention what families - indefinite. I then asked how could it be indefinite when your reply was "I'll avoid the families".

2) recent occasions.

- affidavits obtained by Miss. Stager (neutral, but I be considered prejudicial).

a) Fr. D. indicated that the approach was more for young man. When about Fr. D. put his hands inside his "I stand," he ran out.

Fr. D. - "Why did he come back again following week?"

R.C. - "Why time he fallen away from Church, disillusioned, if he was at fault?" That born out scandal. Parents stopped going to St. Mary Magdalene.

b) - Former cook came in room: Fr. D. had his hand on young boy's shoulder. Boy held cigar. Where were Fr's hands?

c) - "Dead hand": He examine altar boys to see if they have hernias - the priestly touching guidelines. (Fr. D. denied this).

- 3) bizarre actions:

- at Providence dinner - "rubbed by Bishop", cursing, etc...
- at meeting with Virtue & Fr. Newman = pounding desk, cursing, "I'll resign", "call Bishop", ran out

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and got in car, etc.,

- at recent wedding: told up ring of bride - "if there's a hole, it's a chaperon ..." - Bride felt bad, etc.

Fr. D. = my action to take a bit.

3/75-B

Fr. D. = admits he drinks

RB: We want to help; you need professional care; have been advised
Fr. D. was willing to go to psychiatrist.

Gave him Dr. Frank Murin's telephone no.; felt he
I had explained case with no success.

Asked Fr. D. to have Dr. M. put me evaluation
after he had had sufficient therapy to make a ...

- Told him Fr. Viter could stay for funeral, but would
eventually be chopped (no replacement) after
things cooled off.

- "Hands off"; "stop the drink" - thus
avoid occasion of those actions.

Resp. Stamps present for entire interview.

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DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Chancery Office
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60433

000176 A

Memorandum to Bishop Blanchette:

[REDACTED] Joliet - came to see me at the rectory the evening of 7 September 1977. They are concerned about Father John Slown. A year ago or so they had heard from friends at St. Mary Magdalene [REDACTED] friend of their oldest son [REDACTED], had been fondled sexually by Fr. Slown. Their older children already knew the incident - and told of [REDACTED] boy to whom something similar had happened, caused by Fr. Slown. Fr. Virtue then paid them a visit, "sent by the Chancery," he said, to find out if they had told anyone of the incident [REDACTED] Slown Victim 7 They assured him they had not spoken of it outside of their family, after learning from their friends that the incident had occurred.

Fr. Slown drinks heavily - they heard of 2 weddings when he was 'loaded' - one, that of a sixtyish widow, had Fr. Slown on the altar with a shotgun for the obvious humorous (?) implications - later advising her to take her 'pills' with her on her honeymoon. At 5:30 p.m. Mass, Saturday, September 3rd, they heard that he was 'bombed out of his gourd.'

They heard that [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] boy, and a third [REDACTED] were at Fr. Slown's some time ago. [REDACTED] W 1 [REDACTED] were sent on an errand by Slown; when they returned they saw Slown fondling [REDACTED] sexually. They ran out of the rectory and home, perhaps unobserved.

[REDACTED]

Fr. Slown laughed at parish meetings that he was 'sent by the Chancery to a psychiatrist.' He works too hard, really unreal. He has this fund-raiser going - t-shirts and caps: "St. Mary Magdalene, East Side Cathedral."

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[REDACTED] do not want to take Communion from him. - Their children blame him for their seeming loss of faith and refusal to go to Mass. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] do not excuse their children on this - nor do they blame Fr. Slown for their children's apparent lack of religious spirit.) But they do say that many in the parish, especially the young, know of his sexual escapades - and have really had their faith hurt.

9/9/77

[REDACTED]

Church Office: 479-5386
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WILL-MINOOKA DEANERY
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
195th St. & 115th Ave.
Mokena, Illinois 60448

000177

October 11, 1976

Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette
BISHOP OF JOLIET
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

On Saturday, October 9, I received the following letter from [REDACTED]:

"Dear Father:

Last week we received a telephone call regarding Father Slown's action at our daughter's wedding.

The woman who told you about this is not very stable. Also if a person does not know Father Slown they may not know how to take him.

We feel our parish is a family and Father Slown is the head and as in any family if there is a problem, it is better if we talk it over among ourselves.

We and many of the other parishioners feel the parish family would be damaged if anything were to happen to Father Slown. We hope you will take our feelings into consideration before anything is done on this matter.

I don't know if you are aware of the mental and physical pain Father Slown is going through with his foot.

[REDACTED]

I thought you should know their feelings in this matter.

With every best wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,
Vytas Memenas
Father Vytas Memenas, Dean

VM/js

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Dear Bishop Blansett:

000178
A-

This letter is in reference of a problem you are having with Fr John Slown of St Mary Magdalene. In Sept 1976 I received a letter from you requesting my cooperation with a problem involved, I was assured any testimony I would give would be strictly confidential. But last week Fr Slown caught me by surprise, came to my home and confronted me with the testimony almost word by word - I was taken off guard by the sudden question and putting me in this predicament. I told him I would not lie or deny it, it was a true testimony, and admitted that I had given the affidavit. Now I will be nailed to the cross because of it - I was angry & hurt because I was betrayed. I never expected my affidavit to be used to embarrass me against me by Fr Slown.

When Monsignor Stinger read my testimony to Fr Slown he said it was given by a housekeeper who worked for him for 3 1/2 yrs. I was the only house keeper there, it was obvious as to who I was. That is how Fr knew it was me. He was very calm but got teary eyed because he was not appreciated.

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by some people.
 I am so terribly sorry for all his problems and I do hope and pray he will get help for them. I decided to bring this to your attention Bishop because the questioning of me puts in in a very bad situation. Had I known it would be like this I believe I would not of cooperated. Perhaps more discretion should of been used to handle a situation such as this. But I hope and pray some thing good will come out of it.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Released April 2014

Will be 21 in November -

Cath taken

1. He is smart he has brain, he helped at first
2. He went to church, saved man, parents.
3. I started to go over all the time.

I went to see Fr. Howan about problems that occurred in the store.

- There was a friendship that developed
4. He had not made suggestions. He put his hand on my knee. This seemed strange.

5. He offered a drink. He went thru the ashtray overall and touched his penis etc. I jumped up and ran out.

Made me wonder, it occurred suddenly

6. Recently he heard that he tried it on younger children.
7. Fr. Dutro is beginning to get sick of what is happening in the rectory and would like to get out.

~~When~~ Fr. Howan brings up to little kids "staying like" how is your love life etc"

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Antimony of [REDACTED]

000180

ADDRESS Omitted

[REDACTED]

I swear that it is the truth so help you
God.

2 years ago this November event took place.

They do not go to St Mary Magdeline because
of this incident.

[REDACTED] would go to see Fr. Slown and give him
his confidence. He felt that he could really
talk to.

On this particular time ^{Fr. Slown} he called 4 times
in the one week. - He wanted [REDACTED] to
show him how to mix a drink.

Told him to stay over for a drink.
He went in while his friends were waiting
on the car.

My son had on khaki overalls - Commented on his
pants - Father struck his hands on
pants and he pushed him away.

[REDACTED] will be 21 in November.

[REDACTED] wouldn't go to Church. Fr. Virtue has had
a good influence. It took place slowly.

Father, ^{Slown} has never investigated to see why this
family stopped going to Church.

Fr. Virtue talked with [REDACTED] and has all the facts.

Slown Victim 6

Released April 2014

000181

Father under oath.

Cook for 2 1/2 years. Left because of the
man who was there.

Woman caused him to become emotionally
upset.

Young boy July 1975 - boy always come into
Father's room. One day I went to pick
up the laundry. ^{Father} ~~the boy~~ had his hand on the young
boy's shoulder. ^{The boy held Father's cigar.} From that time he did
not go thru the kitchen. I did not see Father's hands.

Woman (I cannot swear to it) said that
he was checking the ^{other} boys for her need.
This has not been verified but could be from
other parents.

The boy was freshman in high school and
comes during day, later come in the
evening. etc.

000182

November 19, 1976

CONFIDENTIAL



Dear

I appreciate very much your kind letter and want to assure you that we hope that all those who have problems will get the help and attention that they need.

Monsignor Stenger is a very conscientious person and I am sure that when he secured the affidavit, he was under the impression that it would be used only if necessary. An affidavit that is confidential is one that is not revealed to parties not involved, but it is useless if it cannot be used in any way whatsoever.

In any event, you can rest assured that he is an honorable man and nothing was done in any way deliberately to hurt you or anyone else.

I am sorry that Father Slown felt it necessary to go to your home and to confront you.

Rest assured that you have my highest regards and also my sincere appreciation and assurance of prayers for your welfare. Kindly keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine.

Most cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:cas

Released April 2014

WILL-MINOOKA DEANERY

000183

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

195th St. & 115th Ave.

Mokena, Illinois 60448

CONVERSATION WITH FATHER JOHN SLOWN, PASTOR OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE
PARISH, JOLIET, ILLINOIS, NOVEMBER 26, 1976

What I have to say is certainly somewhat confidential, but yet at the same token the truth as I feel it and as I see it and I guess as I say what I say and I risk whatever the danger is whatever the repercussions happen on such a situation. I guess what I'll say, Vytas, to you, as I said to you I find in my priesthood sad to say there are a tremendous and wonderful priests but I found in this diocese certain priests to be very jealous, find them envious, find them spiteful and those who would like to be gossip columnists hateful and certainly want to destroy their fellow priests. I have experienced this in my priesthood, sad to say. It has not begroveled me as a human being or as a priest - I don't intend to modify my way of life as a human being nor as a priest. I am what I am and I feel my success has been in being what I am. I also look and see truthfully that they put Christ on the cross because he was the fullness of a human being, the fullness of the priest that he was, because he tried to do the best he could and they would destroy him. I suppose this is why it has disturbed me to find out that priests will try to destroy priests. That is disgusting and disturbing to me because I feel in other professions, lawyers, doctors -- they really try to help one another, defend one another, but I found in the priesthood if they can stab you in the back and destroy you. I'm not saying this is a general statement, I'm saying I find it and it is disturbing to me. I guess I also find in the priesthood especially in the diocese of Joliet, because that's where I can only see it, that many priests and this is from others who have told me - others of powers to be in the diocese that have talked to me and discussed stuff with them have said you know I feel that those who do the work of the Lord here despite their human weaknesses, failings and faults, in many instances are the ones that get kicked or get hurt. And those who, shall we say, watch the world go by don't get their hands dirty, don't get involved too much are the ones that are catered to. Right or wrong what it means fine, I'm just stating this because it is not only my own opinion but other priests who have been dedicated to God & His Church in the diocese of Joliet. I still state at this point that I will continue to be me, because, shall I say, it has been most beneficial, it certainly has worked as far as it goes with my relationship with the people and relationship with others. And if people want to, here and there, try to destroy me because of being me that's the risk I as a human being have to take and I won't take the risk, because I am not going to change my ways, as I said go back into a shell and try to watch every move I make or don't make too many moves because someone might criticize me. I guess, I'll have to say, as well not in the priesthood but in industry and in the world itself. Those who are out on the playing field have the hardest thing to do - it's easy to sit in the stands and to criticize or to be the quarterback or whatever else you want to talk to or what type of sport

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you're looking at - it's easy for those in the stands to criticize what the coach and the players are doing, but when the players are doing their job I feel that's important and that's what I've tried to do. I will state here there are three things in dealing with Fr. Bill Virtue that you are going to have to worry about in placing him.

1. He is a priest above everyone else. This he has stated to close friends of mine and he has made it quite well known to people.
2. As he stated, when you and I were together, here, as a priest and as an associate the pastor should put him on a pedestal - now you heard him say that yourself, and that is one of the big reasons why, I feel because I didn't think I had to I thought each man made his own way. When I was an associate I made my own way with any pastor I was with. I did never try to undermine the pastor. I had Jim Lynch who had just undergone brain surgery - there were many times that I had to undress him, put him to bed, and to make sure that he was kept going with the minimum amount of food he could take take at the time. I never went down to the Bishop and criticized, moaned or groaned about the situation. I was then sent over with Msgr. Cloos. I catered to this man for five years practically to my own destruction. He had every type and everything going on - I'm sure the Bishop well knows as well as you probably do. I loved the man - I never expected Msgr. Cloos to put me on a pedestal. I expected as an associate to work my tail off, being dedicated to God and to my fellow man which I did. At that time, in that parish, a priest that was brought in from an institution tried to destroy me and I was hauled down to the chancery office and tried to prove through via the books that I was doing my job in comparison to what this man was accusing me of. So I feel if Fr. Virtue wants to be put on a pedestal if he isn't, and I feel at this point, what his mental problems are and they are there he has tried to destroy me as a human being, as a priest, as a pastor of this parish, in the eyes of some other people, so that he would look good.
3. Next thing you have to worry about is that he will turn any pastor in because if he doesn't agree with that person or if he feels as he calls it conscience binds him on whatever he sees to turn him in. He went to the C.C.D. office, to Fr. Valentino, because he didn't like the religion books we were using, which happened to be approved by the diocese. He didn't like something about Sr. Leona, the principal of the school, he went to Fr. Gillen unbeknown to me which got back to me. And he went to the Bishop on me -- so be my guest.

And on those three points, you as a dean, and the Bishop, as the sole ordinary and the man and the powers to be are going to have one devil of a time placing the man yet this is the type of person he is. Another point that we have to be aware of and I've tossed this to Fr. Bill himself. He loves to use transference. In other words he points to you as the criminal when he himself is the one that's the criminal or doing what he is accusing others of doing. An example, he has told the Bishop that I am moody, I don't speak, I've got moods, yet in the time that I've been downstairs the last four weeks why I would be in the bedroom and the only place to shave was in the kitchen when he would go out either for Mass or go jogging in the morning on several occasions I have said, "Good-morning, Bill" as he walked from here to you.

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I got no response, yet I'm the moody one. I could be in church and going down the aisle because there are people there and he'll say, "Oh, good morning, Father". He could say no good morning to me here, walk out the door and find some parishioners, and while it's like a long lost brother or sister, yet I'm the moody one, according to the documents against me - I do not feel, yes I have my ups and downs just as any human being does, but I don't think it's fair to call me moody - when I had a person who told me when he came here as a deacon, when I would say good morning and then finally sat down and confronted with him, he would say "do not say good-morning to me, Father, for I feel you are pressuring me to make me say good-morning back," but yet I'm the ogre, I am the bad guy, and don't forget. Also, as we stated, and in front of you, he said, I was a tyrant - he read a definition of a tyrant, and the biggest thing is that I would want to impose my will on him, yet the only imposition I have ever asked is what the liturgy would be as far as the sacraments given, his Mass and things like that. The man yet does not know how to read an ordo. He will celebrate a Mass for someone who would be a confessor, or virgin or something else in green vestments because he cannot read the ordo properly and as one of the religious coordinators, Sr. Mary Stella, once said, "I think you forgot the Glory at Sunday Mass," and he resented her telling him that. Yet, I am the tyrant imposing my will when he doesn't even know how to use the vestments and things like that. I am the tyrant, yet when I told him, I said, "Bill, I permitted you to come and go as you please -- to get involved in things like this." And his remark was, "I expect what is going on. You're not giving me any privileges to come and go as I want. I expect to come and go." At that point I did ask him, I said, "you mean if you were married you would just get in that car and go without telling your wife." He said, "Oh, yes." My comeback was, "Maybe if you got married and talked to a wife you might find out, or talked to some of the other married women and find out if a husband can come and go as he please." I said if you were in business and I said if you were going to get a job you tell the boss who has been there say maybe 20 or 30 years that you could do as you please and not listen to him. He said, "Yes." Yet I am the tyrant now and the big thing was obvious to impose my will on him. I have felt that I have never imposed my will on him, except to tell him how I would like the Mass to be celebrated, how I would like the Sacraments to be administered, and things like this - yet I am the tyrant. He can go out when I am gone, away on a vacation, and have lights hooked up the way he wants them to turn off when he wants them -- yet I am the tyrant. He can take a chair out of the pastor's quarters and move it into his and move one out of his into the pastor's quarters never even thinking a thing about it, yet the pastor, Father Slown, is the tyrant. I feel that he's got a problem with transference - that many of the things that he has accused me of doing, to the Bishop, in reality he is doing. As I have said to you and I'll say to anyone I'm open about my life - my lifestyle. I risk being me and yet I know he is most secretive. How would you like as a pastor to be told that if he's not in, if he got a midnight call, or at 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. call, when he wasn't in his room, he would be sleeping with the boys in the tent, and this is done. Precisely the day he came back from Europe that Saturday night he was not here. One morning I was sitting and meditating downstairs, about a quarter to seven in he walks with his pillow, or whatever, his cut-offs and everything else. He was out all night, not here, yet I am the problem. He can go swimming by himself with some of these boys, play handball with the boys, yet I've got the problem with the boys as he has told the Bishop. I am the one that's got the problem, not him. He

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and I wrestle with the boys insecretive. I'm sitting there doing everything open, but I have the problem, as I have said, and I mean to say it this way. A beautiful thing that he brought up to the Bishop was that I always talk about sex to the young teen-agers yet I have people who told me that at one of the week day Masses with the fourth graders and this was just the other night that he talked about intercourse to the fourth graders. I have a twenty year old in this parish who said to me is that all he can talk about from the pulpit is sex or bringing the topic up and yet I am the one who has the problem. I suppose, I guess it is wrong to ask teen-agers how their school is, how their sports are, and their love life just as a matter of topic. And if I ask a teen-ager how their love life is and that means that I am talking about sex - then I say somewhere along the line we have some damn warped minds, but this is some of the things that I'm -- Unbeknown to poor Bill I have finally sat with one of the people who the Bishop sent somebody out to take a deposition against me. And if some time comes and I'll see the Bishop I will mention it to him because I have a letter from the individual back after I sat and talked with this person who was most disturbed and most upset about the whole situation to the point of saying that Father Virtue tricked this person into giving the testimony. This person felt that she was tricked into the handling and when Fr. Virtue after the testimony was taken and given to the Bishop this person came back to Fr. Bill to the individual and asked what she had said when she gave the thing, his comment was I think we better go take a lie detector test because I think you are lying, furthermore the person said the testimony to the individual person that was sent by the Bishop took had many different things stated that she had not said, then when she read the testimony she said no this is not true, that's not true, the next thing is not true, and the person said, well, we just want to make sure you would read the testimony now, I feel that this is a trick and not valid to these various people and I then questioned the other testimony that was given against me by other people if the individual that the Bishop sent out to testify against me would throw some of these other things and these other people would be less cautious in reading over the testimony that was given then this other person had told me about it. Also, I wonder how can the Bishop let Fr. Virtue remain in the household where he said he fears because of the pastor for his very being. I question how can the Bishop let a man remain in that situation. This was given to a lay person. Now I as the pastor am to repair the damage - the questioning that I have known and the seeds of division and whatever else you want to call it, Father Vytas, to people in this parish, I must face these people, I must undo the damage done by Fr. Virtue, and I feel the only reason Fr. Virtue has done this is not out of conscience, not out of the well-being of Father Slown, but out of spite if you want to use the word hatred, jealousy or whatever it is because Fr. Slown did not put Fr. Virtue up on a pedestal. Now these things are most disturbing to me as a priest, as a pastor, yet I will continue on working despite it all - I do not have any hatred or any ill feelings against the Bishop or those who were involved in the testimony against me, nor do I have any ill feelings against poor Fr. Bill Virtue, for I feel as a human being dealing with the human being that a man that has done what he has done is very sick, and I feel sorry for the diocese of Joliet in Illinois, to try to work with a man like this, because whether the Bishop wants to accept it as such, whether anyone else let alone Bill Virtue - there is a problem. Now he was the one that said in front of the two of us if I went and saw a doctor - what did he mean - I have ideas - that's up to anyone else to find out, but I am saying these are some of the things that are most disturbing to me as a priest and as a human being, but I will continue

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO.

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on functioning to the best of my ability to work and continue to build up God, His Church and all and this parish at this point.

Father Memenas - Thanks, Jack, I just have one question. Are you willing to put up with your associate, Fr. Bill Virtue, until June, 1977, or would you like him to be transferred sooner?

Father Slown - Father Vytas, at this point knowing what I do - I would like him to be transferred by February 1, 1977 thereabouts, due to the fact that I feel he has done enough damage to the parish, as well as to me as a priest and I don't think that leaving him here any longer is going to be good for him, for me, or for the parish.

- oOo -

Personnel Board
- pending

Released April 2014

WILL-MINOOKA DEANERY

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

195th St. & 115th Ave.

Mokena, Illinois 60448

000188

November 30, 1976

CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend Eugene Parnisari, Executive Secretary
DIOCESAN CLERGY PERSONNEL BOARD
c/o Lewis College
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Father Parnisari:

Father John Slown, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Joliet, Illinois, requested that his associate, Father William Virtue, be transferred by February 1, 1977.

I related this information to Bishop Romeo Blanchette. The Bishop told me to notify the Personnel Board, so that they could start proceedings according to the norms and procedures for assignment of priests.

According to my information Father Virtue does not want to leave St. Mary Magdalene parish.

If you should need additional information pertaining to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every best wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Rev. Vytas Memenas
Reverend Vytas Memenas
DEAN

CC: Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette, D.D.
Father Joseph Burns
Father Sylvester Mulloy
Father John Slown
Father William Virtue

WILL-MINOOKA DEANERY

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

195th St. & 115th Ave.

Mokena, Illinois 60448

December 5, 1976

CONFIDENTIAL

Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette
BISHOP OF JOLIET
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

On Friday, November 26, upon request of Fr. Slown I went back to St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Joliet. Fr. Slown wanted to speak to me and share with you his feelings about the whole situation at St. Mary Magdalene. Enclosed please find a copy of my conversation with Fr. Slown.

As I told you many times the situation at St. Mary Magdalene parish is very unhealthy. I recommend that Fr. Virtue should be transferred as soon as possible.

I would recommend to you also that Fr. Slown should be retained at least until June, 1977, thus eliminating dissension among the parishioners. The people of the parish are aware that there is something wrong in the rectory.

Fr. Slown asked me, "Does the Bishop want me to resign the pastorate at St. Mary Magdalene and go somewhere else as an associate?" He also stated to me, "I don't know where I stand. Am I a hindrance to the Bishop?" Father Slown also stated, "I don't hate the Bishop in any way, fashion, shape or form nor do I think that he is out to get me or destroy me."

With every best wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Rev. Vytas Memenas
Reverend Vytas Memenas
DEAN

VM/js
Enclosure

Released April 2014

Telephone 722-7653

000190

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish

127 South Briggs Street

Joliet, Illinois

Monday, Dec. 6, 1976

Dear Bishop Blanchette,

I know you are concerned with my well-being; let that concern be a motive to keep me here. To change my assignment now would be for me the greater strain.

Why? Because it is hard to adjust to four changes in four years, with new people, places, tasks. I much prefer to weather the present storm, and stay.

A good first assignment is a boost to a new priest: this parish, with a broad range of age groups, growing families, a large number of youth, has many elements of enterprise - and support - for a young priest.

As was likely, the pastor uncovered some of my part in the report of his behavior, and I think this is why he so strongly resents my presence and wants - punitively - to deny me what he knows I treasure: being here.

The pastor might now feel his own departure inevitable, due to an inability to overcome personal problems. He might blame me, instead of himself, and thus find motive to retaliate.

I think that he might have attempted to mislead authorities by claiming that affidavits given concerning him have been retractd - when most positively they have not been- or that he is reconciled with the individuals involved,- when in fact he is not.

I think that he might have attempted to mislead authorities by claiming that my removal is necessary due to "division among the people." The parish is not divided, although some people know that the pastor and I differ.

I assert that there is not one family so alienated from me that my ministry here is rendered ineffective; nor would my staying here beyond the stay of the pastor be an affront.

The pastor is not likely to ^{TELL} others what he seems to deny in his own mind. Therefore, lest he incriminate himself, I do not think he will tell parishoners, even friends, his real objection to my presence. Therefore also, his complaints about me might be seen by many as a clash of youth with experience, or personality differences.

I myself have spoken well of the pastor to the parishoners, doing my best to protect his good name always.

Released April 2014

Telephone 722-7653

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish

000191

127 South Briggs Street

Joliet, Illinois

2

Sometimes I wonder if the lay leaders here might welcome a rest from this pastor's compulsive drive to to put this parish "on the go." Much energy has been mobilized to advance one man's need to prove his worth. Now is the time to secure the good accomplishments by making them stable under a steady hand.

The next pastor, in my opinion, should be a man who is good with organizations, lest the people feel orphaned in this area.

Although an ordinary part of parish life, having busy organizations with a number of annual activities is an extraordinary thing for these people, in light of the history of this parish.

The sunday collection here has been climbing, for a number of reasons. One is the present pastor's leadership and enthusiasm. An important reason is the increase in membership due to replacement of aged couples by new, growing families, and the development of housing on much of our open land. A current census might surprise!

The parochial school and CCD are therefore vital here. There is a woman religious for each of these works. One of them recently said of the other, "either she goes, or I go." They cannot get along, I think, because they vie for control, especially over the pastor.

Clearly his departure might signal theirs also, most surely in the case of the one closest to him, the CCD Coordinator. She has successfully established the CCD program; her departure is not a cause for panic. The transfer of the school principal would also be a setback, for she has put many things in order, but her problems with the faculty are a serious matter.

In my opinion it is essential to see the tie these two women have with the pastor and his ambitions: he needs women dedicated to his projects; they need a man who will let them take charge.

I am not a part of this triangle of the pastor and his rivaling helpers. Let me be a part of a clean slate - by staying here. This letter has been frank; let me say it all this way: yes, I hope for a new assignment - right here - with a new pastor.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Telephone 722-7653

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish

000192

127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

3

Otherwise, I must wonder what happens when a man opposes evil, as I have here. No one else has previously effectively challenged what has been going on here and in other parishes. So far as I know, this man for years has had no obstacle, either in other parishes or here.

Parishoners whose weddings and dinner dances, picnics, etc., have been disgraced by his drunkenness and obscenity, do nothing to stop him. Women who work at the rectory and see the comings and goings of boys do not interfere with his affections. The boys involved do not accuse him - out of fear and public shame.

But someone has challenged him now, and he is doing all he can to convince the authorities that I must be removed "for my own mental health." This is exactly what he wants. Perhaps he thinks that my removal means the end of resistance to his behavior.

He may have a point.

In my mind this case is a test of the ability of the Church to reform the clergy from within. I know that the Church has had to live, and does live with, much abuse of the clerical state. That is reality.

But when an associate pastor objects to abuse of the pastor's office and the response of some authorities is that the associate must move because "his mental health is strained;" I cannot help but think of Russia, where dissidents are put in mental hospitals for fighting evil.

I maintain that the worst strain on me is to know that others seem paralyzed to oppose what this man is doing, and that I must go elsewhere for standing up against him.

In conclusion; I will abide by the Bishop's decision, in peace.

"Give us joy
to balance our affliction."
Ps. 90, Mon.IV

Respectfully, in Christ,

Fr. William D. Virtue

Fr. William Virtue

Released April 2014

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

000193

December 28, 1976

Most Reverend Romeo R. Blanchette
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

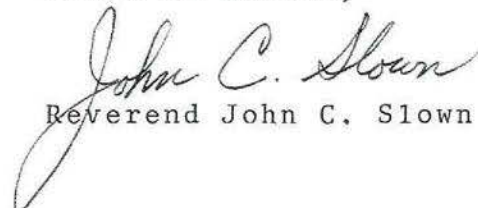
In that I will be away from January 2, 1977 till January 17, 1977, I ask that you please make Father William Virtue, the associate at St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Joliet, Illinois, the 'vicar substitutus' during this time. Thank you very much for taking care of this matter for me.

Also I desire to have an appointment with you as soon as I return, in order to discuss what has happened in this Parish rectory. There are too many loose ends left hanging and half truths that have been told.

Father Parnisari has contacted me and said that you want Father Mulloy and Father Parnisari to meet separately with Father Virtue and myself and then meet together. This is fine with me, but only after I have talked with you. Please realize that I am trying to keep going despite all that has gone on behind my back with the help of Father Virtue.

Wishing you God's blessings and health for the coming New Year, I remain,

Yours in Christ,


Reverend John C. Slown

Released April 2014

000194

December 30, 1976

The Reverend John Slown
St. Mary Magdalene Church
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Dear Father Slown:

Bishop Blanchette will be away from January 17, 1977 until the end of the month. I have made an appointment for you with him on February 3, 1977, at 10:30. If there is any reason you find that this is inconvenient, please notify the Bishop's secretary at your earliest convenience.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Msgr. Daniel J. Murray
Vice-Chancellor

DJM:kms

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000195

Virtue investigation =

Ref: - upon protests

Personnel Board -

Ref. - meeting with both suggested

"Moody": - Ref. samples ^{Providence Dinner} Visit by Dean when I was at ^{Bolingbrook}

Principal: Ref. : Fr. Virtue obeyed - & stayed out of school
Ref. : Fr. Slow & the one on the outside - he denies this

Rel. Ed. - Ref. difficult person, Fr. Virtue teaches some in home, notes don't come.

"Tyrant" = Dean called at Bolingbrook

V. doesn't communicate; doesn't want to self-question - "Don't probe."

Fr. S. - questions Mr. Stenger. Ref. Mr. Stenger is a man of integrity
" " went to Mrs. Menarino: why?
(Dean - told by Fr. S.)

Fr. V. = things he told me = Ref. not reached me; not accurate. Source is difficult.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000196

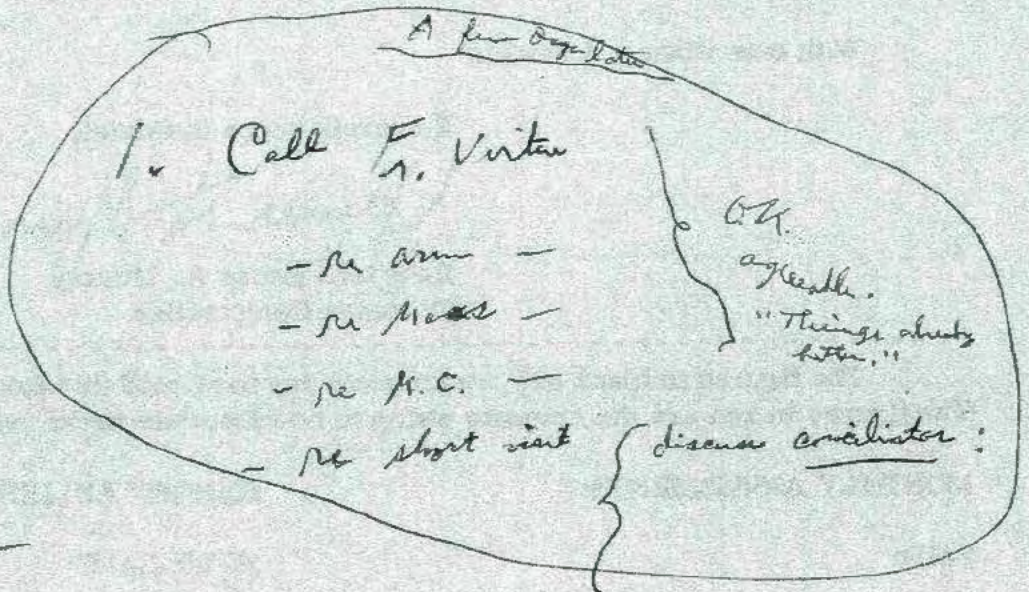
Problems at school;

Thrust of resignation = S = "Not a letter of resignation - it was subject to approval of bishop."

Prep: Last school bus meeting: resigned. = what she could be in letter?

[Redacted] wedding! - Cause omitted!

Mass - Fr. Virtas = req: bk. - permission - even if he had said.



- Outcome:
1. Give example to people of charity
 2. Get along.
 3. Faults on both sides
 4. He didn't tell psychiatrist of past incidents. Be sure to do so.
 5. Get priest counselor agreeable to both & try to have harmony. = OK with J.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



Confidential

~~Handwritten scribbles and lines over the word 'Confidential'.~~

000197

servants of the holy heart of mary

March 18th, 1977

Most Reverend Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Bishop of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop:

Thank you for your letter of the 16th. In response to your questions: I believe there is internal conflict among the Pastor, Principal and our two Sisters who work in the school. I believe a lack of clarification of rights/duties/responsibilities of the Pastor (as regards the school), the Principal and the Parish School Board is at the ROOT of the problem.

Both of our Sisters are knowledgeable about such matters and have little patience and at times imprudence in trying to cope with situations they judge deal with principles and injustices to the children. Communications and discretion are at a minimum among all concerned.

I met with the Sisters individually and as a group several times during the year. They were honest, open sessions. The Sisters do not believe they are effectively witnessing in the Parish in the situation as it stands. Yet, apparently they are not psychologically capable of bridging the gaps that exist.

I spoke with Father Slown on several occasions and he seemed very open and grateful for insights I shared with him. Mistakes and indiscretions that occurred were discussed. However, there was little or no carry over.

I really believe there is a personality clash among the four concerned. As I told Father and the Sisters, I believe there is fault on both sides. Everyone agrees that it is impossible to think of continuing this dilemma for another year. Thus, our two Sisters will withdraw.

At this point we have no other Sisters to serve at St. Mary Magdalene School. However, I would hope in the future others would be able to serve in the Parish. It is all in the designs of the Lord at this point.

Released April 2014

A letter of this nature is difficult to write. I tried to state the situation as objectively as possible. I appreciate your promise of confidentiality.

With a promise of prayerful support during this Lenten Season.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Virginia Marie Derk, sscm
Sister Virginia Marie Derk, sscm
Provincial Superior

Telephone 722-7653

Released April 2014

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

000199

May 13, 1977

Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

Several days ago our Dean, Father Vytas Memenas, informed me that Father William Virtue has asked to be transferred from St. Mary Magdalene Parish. I ask that you please honor his request as his attitude, feelings, and thoughts about me are detrimental to the Parish Community and to my physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

Ever since Father Virtue was assigned here, I tried to give him fatherly and priestly direction. He totally rejected it. He looked upon me as if I was being a 'tyrant' - one who imposes his will on others. This was not my intention - but the manner in which Father Virtue accepted it. Therefore, from day one of Father Virtue's presence in this Parish, he rejected direction, he failed to communicate with me, he has lacked taking responsibility, and made no effort to make an accountability to me of his priestly functions in the Parish. It is a sad state of affairs, but I believe that I tried my best.

Unfortunately, Father Virtue and I were unable to meet with Father Daniel Ryan. By the time we were to see him, his mother had died, Dan was away, Holy Week was upon us, and then I went away for several days after Easter. When I came home, I found out about Father Virtue's request to be transferred. I then talked with Father Daniel Ryan about meeting with him. He said that there was no reason to meet with him since Father Virtue requested a transfer.

In that Father Virtue has such a deep dislike for me, I expect that he will try once again to harm my position as Pastor and Priest in the Diocese of Joliet. So, if it happens, please don't be surprised, as I won't.

Thanking you for taking the time to read this letter and asking for your prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown

Personal & Confidential

Personal Dr. 225

Personnel Board

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Rev. Slown

000200

May 18, 1977

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend John C. Slown, Pastor
St. Mary Magdalene Parish
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Dear Father Slown:

I have received your letter of May 13th, 1977, and will certainly take it into consideration when I meet with the Personnel Board and they offer a recommendation as to where Father Virtue will be recommended for assignment. I am really sorry that the events concerning the possibility of mutual meeting with Father Ryan prevented this, but I do understand that his mother's death and so forth did make it impractical.

I must say that Father Virtue did write me a letter in which he said that he was going to request a change of assignment and there was nothing said in the letter that would be interpreted as a personal criticism.

With best wishes, I remain,

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/nb

Telephone 722-7653

Released April 2014

Personal & Confidential

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

000201

August 3, 1977

The Most Reverend Romeo R. Blanchette
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

Thank you very much for transferring Father William Virtue. I hope and pray that he will be very effective in his new assignment.

Yes, I am still seeing [REDACTED] on a monthly basis. The sessions have helped me to understand, as well as cope with, the problems that have arisen. It has also provided me with a deeper insight into my life and priesthood.

At this time, I wish to ask that you make the following Sisters of our Parish extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion:

Sister Lillian Beuza, O.S.N.
Sister Leona Bruck, O.P.
Sister Mary Stella Schellenberger, SSCM
Sister Mary Elsie Gamez, SSCM
Sister Jane McKircky, a Loretta Sister.

Thanking you for taking care of the above request and your constant kindness and understanding, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014-7653

000202

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

September 9, 1977

Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

Effective immediately I am asking you to relieve me as
Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene's Parish, Joliet, Illinois.

With all best wishes and prayers I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown
Pastor

Dear Fr. Slown,
I hereby accept your resignation as
pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Joliet,
effectively immediately upon your receiving this
acceptance.

Under separate cover I am sending an
appointment as temporary administrator.
You have my permission to announce your
resignation to the parishioners, since you have been
under doctor's care.

Cordially yours in Christ,
+ Romeo Blanchette

(SEAL)

September 9, 1977

The Reverend John Slown
St. Mary Magdalene
127 S. Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Dear Father Slown:

Confidential

Effective September 10, 1977, I hereby appoint you as temporary administrator of St. Mary Magdalene until a successor is named. In the meantime you still have the obligation of the Missa pro populo.

With best wishes and assurance of prayers, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ

Church Office: 479-5386
Recorded April 2013 09/13

Released April 2014

Fr. Slown
000204

WILL MINOOKA DEANERY
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
195th St. & 115th Ave.
Mokena, Illinois 60448

September 9, 1977

The Most Rev. Romeo Blanchette, D.D.
Bishop of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

I hereby certify that in my presence at St. Mary Magdalene Rectory, Joliet, Illinois, at 4:37 p.m., 9 September 1977, Father John Slown read the letter of the Bishop of Joliet accepting Father Slown's resignation of the pastorate of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Joliet, Illinois.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Vytas Memenas
Rev. Vytas Memenas
Dean, Will-Minooka Deanery
Diocese of Joliet

000205

September 14, 1977

Reverend John Slown
St. Mary Magdalene Church
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Dear Father Slown:

Father Memenas has kept me abreast of developments in your case, and I want to thank you for your cooperation. As Father Memenas has already told you, I would like to see you either before or after you see your physician so as to be able to discuss various questions regarding your request for a temporary sick leave of absence. At the same time, we will discuss the provisions found in our amended priests' Retirement Plan which deals with partial disability so that we can come to a definite agreement.

You may feel free to call my secretary to arrange for an appointment that will be at a suitable and mutually convenient time.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:jw

P.S. Should you prefer to see me at St. Francis Woods, my secretary can also arrange for that.

Released April 2014

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish

127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois

Sept. 20, 1977

Bishop Daniel Kucera, O.S.B.

Dear Bishop,

Enclosed is a copy the heads of our organization wrote which will be given to Bishop Blanchette and Father Slawa. I choose to send you a copy without their knowledge because I have been involved and want you to know how the people feel. I have worked closely with this man of God for four years and

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13
Released April 2014

I know Abbot Marcian O'Meara very well and know what he has gone through. I also suffered very much from members of my own community last year over school matters. It has strengthened my faith, ^{in God} yet shaken my trust in man.

I ask you to do what you can for our parish community or I fear a whole segment of the Church will be lost. These people are warm and loving, many having only grade school education and their ignorance in many things can be paralyzing.

Sincerely,
Sr. Mary Stella Schellenberger,
S. S. C. M.
Religious Education Coordinator

We the undersigned concur in the following resolution:

Released April 2014

We are grateful for the short assignment of our pastor, Father John C. Slown

We shall always be grateful for his complete dedication to his God and the people of St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Father arrived to find a group of Catholic Christians willing to strive to build a community of God. Through his efforts, he unified varied interest groups into a complete Christian community.

He practiced what he preached. He led the way in physical, mental and spiritual efforts and the people followed.

The physical facilities were refurnished to become a source of joy wherein we could enter and worship our God more meaningfully. He corrected architectural and engineering faults dating back to the original construction of the physical plant. To achieve these added expenditures of material, time and monies were needed.

He met the challenge by giving of his personal time and talents, challenging his parishioners to do likewise. No organized fund drives were developed for this effort; his personal appeals and return of supportive love from his parish family accomplished more than three fund drives. He did not "preach" money. The people came forward to the challenge, doubling the weekly income. If his successes were strictly of a material nature, it would have only lasted for a short time. The more meaningful successes of a minister of God are the spiritual accomplishments. Here too, his future accounting to his and our Creator will stand the test of continual planning, execution and development of the spiritual side of our parish.

He worked hard with the many parish committees to upgrade the parish educational facilities materially, academically and spiritually.

He organized a solid religious program by selecting and working with a sound religious coordinator. He involved the parents as well as their children in the sacramental preparation and reception of the sacraments, bringing all closer to God. Because of his personal interest in each person's sacramental life, he made each ceremony more relevant with lasting effects upon all towards their personal growth with God.

It was a celebration to attend any religious ceremony where Father was involved as he brought Christ and His teachings closer to everyone. It was not unusual to have a non-catholic come up to him after a service and express their feelings of joy at participating at such an occasion.

Each person was treated as an individual. The most lowly received as much respect as the big and mighty of any parish structure. Each was made to feel needed, wanted, loved.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13
Released April 2014

Yes, we shall suffer from this sudden departure from our parish. Hopefully, Father's efforts have strengthened each of us sufficiently that we will realize that Christian commitment is a daily, hourly commitment to our God and with the people with whom we associate or come in contact with during our daily lives.

Our community has been strengthened by the strong parish that has been revitalized through the uniting efforts of Father Slown. Our non-catholic neighbors will feel the loss and suffer with us upon his departure from our community.

Our greatest heritage from Father Slown is to nourish and harvest the seed which he has planted with his prayer, suffering and hard labor. We shall continue to share amongst our parish family the example and motivation which he brought about - giving us courage and confidence to feel needed, accepted and proud to be a part of this community.

The absence of Father Slown will be as hard to accept as losing a loved one. With each crisis, there are many ramifications. It is our prayerful hope that this man of God will be remembered by the good reactions of his parish family. We are saddened by his leaving, but his efforts will draw out more good in each person of this parish.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our Spiritual Vicar, Bishop Blanchette, for aiding in the growth of one of the many cells of God's Kingdom on earth. We are better Christians through Father Slown's total dedication to his job, we have grown spiritually and materially.

To Father Slown, we can only say, we are eternally grateful. May your future assignments bring forth continued blessings and sharing of the Good News. You will be greatly missed. We shall keep you always in our heart and prayers. You came into our midst for such a short time but will leave a lasting impression of Christian joy, what it means to be dedicated to the Church and what it takes to work for the Father. God keep you and bless you as you continue your ministry for the salvation of souls. Your reward shall be complete fulfillment in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Thank you and God love you, Father Slown for being our pastor in our parish family from November, 1972 to October, 1977.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000209

THE CHANCERY OFFICE
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435



September 21, 1977

MEMORANDUM

TO: Betty Chinderle
FROM: Bishop Blanchette

*Margaret Mary Church,
Herleher,
Ill.*

From November 1st on, on a monthly basis for six months send to Father John Slown c/o St. Mary Magdalene a check of \$400 from the Clergy Retirement Fund for disabled priests. When the six months are up you can contact me.

H. R. B.

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:kmt

Nov - Apr

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000213

September 26, 1977

Sister Mary Stella Schellenberger, S.S.C.M.
Religious Education Coordinator
Saint Mary Magdalene Church
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Dear Sister Mary Stella:

Thank you for your note of September 20 and the enclosed resolution from the heads of organizations of the parish regarding Father Slown. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and your concern for Father Slown and for the parish of St. Mary Magdalene. Back in the early fifties, I spent a very happy year as a weekend assistant at St. Mary Magdalene and so also have a warm spot in my heart for the parish.

Father Slown and I have been friends for many years and I surely will work very closely with him. As far as the pastorate of St. Mary Magdalene is concerned, however, I'm afraid I will not be able to have a direct input. Assignments to parishes are made through the Personnel Board which studies applicants and makes recommendations to Bishop Blanchette. My assignments in the diocese do not include this process and, as yet, I am not that familiar with all the priests of the diocese. I shall pray that you do receive a worthy pastor who will carry on Father Slown's work.

May I also suggest, although it is certainly unnecessary, that you and all the other leaders of the parish cooperate with the new pastor and help him in the transition. In this way, the great

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000214

- 2 -

strides made at St. Mary Magdalene will continue and will be conducive to the salvation of many souls. Please say a prayer for me that I may fulfill my obligations as a Bishop. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.

dwk:h

000215

September 27, 1977

Mr. Jessie S. Roa
1104 Davison Street
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Dear Mr. Roa:

I want to tell you that I am very happy to receive your kind letter concerning the good that Father Slown has done in your lives, and in the lives of many others at St. Mary Magdalene.

Since Father himself has indicated that he has been in the care of a physician and, I am told, that when some of the parishioners wanted to have a petition signed to send to me so that he would stay at St. Mary Magdalene, it is said that he supposedly said, "if you do this, you will destroy me physically and emotionally." Under the circumstances I believe that you should accept your pastor at his word and not try to read between lines and attribute motives that might not be correct.

Let us hope that Father health will improve and that he will be able to continue to do fruitful work in our diocese, which is growing so fast, and which needs a lot of priestly work.

I myself appreciate very much the wonderful cooperation of laity like yourself, and I ask your prayers for your welfare.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:kmt

ST. M. MAGDALENE SCHOOL
201 S. BRIGGS STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS

000216

September 29, 1977

Most Reverend Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Your Excellency:

After several weeks of contemplation, it is with both joy and deep sense of loss that I feel compelled to write this letter. Speaking for myself and those of St. Mary Magdalene School and parish, who have worked closely with Father John C. Slown, may I offer the following sentiments:

While I have only had the privilege of knowing and working for and with Father Slown for less than three years, his influence on me will always affect my life as a Religious. His strength and his deep faith and hope in God has given me the spiritual support needed during my first years as administrator, as well as helped me to understand and accept the loss of my dear mother.

As administrator of St. Mary Magdalene School, I am in the unique position to observe the influence Father has had on the lives of the students here. A special feeling of happiness is evident and the children are delighted when Father shares himself with them. His daily contact with the students at Mass has given them a broader concept of God and what it means to live as a Christian. His rapport with the youngsters exhibits joy, love, and peace. His Christlikeness in word and action has deeply impressed the students and has intensified the respect and regard they have for him as a person as well as a minister of God.

In my twenty years of professional experience, I have never known a pastor who has shown so much interest, concern, and involvement in the improvement of curriculum, the spiritual and professional growth of a faculty, as well as the upgrading of the plant facilities. His confidence and moral support have been a real source of encouragement to me.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I find it almost impossible to understand the resignation of Father Slown as pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish. Hopefully you will pray that I will be able to accept this action as the Will of God. I realize it will be most difficult to find a man to lead our parish: dynamic yet gentle, forceful yet kind, busy yet available, leading yet joining in; a man who is dedicated to his priesthood - faith-filled, prayerful, humble; a man who is also human - who understands people and can work with them as well as for them - FOR THIS IS FATHER JOHN C. SLOWN!!!

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Sister Leona Bruck, O.P.

Sister Leona Bruck, O.P.

000217

October 3, 1977

The Reverend John Slown
St. Mary Magdalene Parish
127 South Briggs Street
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Dear Father Slown:

I wish to inform you officially that I have appointed, effective October 4, 1977, the Reverend Daniel Stempora as pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Joliet, to replace you, since you have resigned and since I have given you a six (6) month leave of absence. You have my permission and my blessings in residing at St. Margaret Mary Rectory with Father James Holup during your sick leave of absence. I do hope that you will rest, see your Doctor as often as he feels it is necessary, and recover fully.

With an assurance of prayers, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:kmt

cc: The Reverend James Holup

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 246

November 1, 1977 thru April 1, 1978 (6 months)

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Mail a check in the amount of
Charge: Clergy Retirement Fund
(Disabled priests)

\$400.00

000218

To: Rev. John Slown
St. Margaret Mary Rectory
408 North Main Street
Herscher, Illinois 60941

*Send to [unclear]
April 1st
August 1st
well-behaved
check*

After April 1, 1978 see Bishop Blanchette
for further instructions.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000220

October 14, 1977

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 6 about Father Slown. I'm sure that he's gained much consolation by the loyalty and concern that all of you have shown him. God certainly will reward him for the tremendous work he has done for St. Mary Magdalene and its people.

I wish I could tell you that Father will return as pastor but, as you know, a new pastor has been appointed and it would not be fair to him to suggest an early change. I am sure that God will bless the parish and that the new pastor will continue the work that Father Slown did so ably these past years.

I have been a personal friend of Father Slown's for many years, in fact, since his seminary days. We have been in touch these past few weeks and I will continue to support him. I know that sometimes we cannot surmise the will of God, but Father has many good years of priestly work ahead of him, if not at St. Mary Magdalene then at some other place where people will need him just as much. Let us pray together for him and for his priestly work.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.

dwk:h

Released April 2014

November 1, 1977

000222

The Most Rev. Romeo Blanchette, D.D.
Your Excellency:

I've been composing this letter in my mind for a month. I've let this amount of time go by so it wouldn't be anger speaking, and now I believe I can calmly sit down and write my feelings.

The community of St. Mary Magdalene's was changed drastically one month ago when Father Slown was forced to leave. In my heart I can't believe that Father ever did anything but good for people, but if, in your opinion, there was a reason for his quick resignation I think the situation was handled very poorly. To misinform the parishioners that Father was leaving because of illness was unfortunate. His ability to carry the burden of the whole parish up to the last minute proved this to be untrue.

In the 5 years that I worked for Fr. Slown he was the most compassionate Pastor, one who really reached out to all alike in their time of need. Speaking from my own experience when my beloved Mother passed away suddenly Father was my pillar of strength. His deep faith in God greatly influenced me at this trying time and helped me except my loss.

Because of my 7 years employment at St. Mary Magdalene previous to Fr. Slown's appointment I know Father gave of himself to a much greater degree than any of the previous priests. Father Slown was always available to people: counseling, instructing, listening, encouraging, visiting the sick - always bringing Christ to the people. His dynamic personality and complete commitment to the priesthood brought many fallen away Catholics back to the faith.

This recent change to our St. Mary Magdalene Community has caused many people to lose faith in their Diocesan leaders. This is unfortunate! With a little diplomacy this could have been avoided.

It is my prayer that Father Stempora will be able to reunite our parish as it was when Fr. Slown was here. I am continuing to work in my present position and am supporting Fr. Stempora to the best of my ability. Please accept these thoughts as a token of my appreciation for the privilege of working with and for Fr. Slown.

Respectfully yours,



Letter Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000223

November 2, 1977

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

In the absence of Bishop Blanchette, who is attending the National Convention of the Council of Catholic Women in San Antonio, Texas, I wish to acknowledge your very laudatory letter on Father John Slown. The Bishop is always happy to hear such letters of praise and thankfulness from parishioners who have truly been inspired and lead by the priests of our diocese. All too often, the Bishop hears the negative side and the critical complaints of people, so I know he will truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and kind words about Father Slown.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend William F. Donnelly
Secretary to the Bishop

WED:cas

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000224

November 17, 1977

[REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your letter of October 25. You are certainly to be complimented on the many years of faithful service to St. Mary Magdalene Parish. I have some feeling for what you say because it was my good fortune many years ago to be a weekend assistant to Father Desmond for a year. It was in the early fifties. I well remember the efforts that were needed to build the parish.

What you say about Father Slown is also familiar to me because I taught him in college and have been his friend ever since. I know he worked very hard at St. Mary Magdalene to build up the parish with much success. In fact, as we now both agree, perhaps he worked too hard and overspent himself in his eagerness to do God's work. At any rate, the results have been extremely successful and fortunate for the parish. I am sure that Father Stempora will continue since he is a good priest and pastor.

You may be sure that Father Slown's contribution to St. Mary Magdalene's will not be forgotten and that he is sustained these days by the love and prayers he knows he has from you and so many others. Thank you for being so sensitive to Father Slown's work and leadership and for the input over many years that you had in building up the people of God at St. Mary Magdalene.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Daniel W. Kucera, C.S.B.

dwk:h

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

St. Margaret Mary Church

000225

408 N. Main St.
Herscher, Illinois 60941
Tele. 815-426-2153

January 10, 1978

Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

I hope that your holiday season was a most happy and blessed one. I am writing this letter to you in the form of a progress report.

First of all [redacted] has discontinued taking care of private individuals. He recommended that I use the professional competency of [redacted]

Since I have had the time to do a lot of thinking, my main problem has been brought to light and been clarified. I have finally discovered and realized that I am a work-aholic. In the months ahead, I must learn to handle and control this problem. With prayer, using God's help, the doctor's guidance, and my intellect and will power, the situation will be solved.

Having been able to resign as Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene's has proven to be a most prophetic move. With few responsibilities, I have been able to relax and put things into correct order. For years my fellow priests have said that I was the biggest fool that God created for working so hard. It is only now that I realize how right they were. Yes, one's dedication to his vocation and work must be softened and tempered with prudence.

Lastly, I want to Thank You very much for permitting me to live and work with Father James Holup. Father Holup and I were roommates and classmates in college, so we know each other quite well. He is a great priest and it is so wonderful to live with a fellow priest, who smiles, is compatible, and can communicate with people. This is something that I missed for the past two years.

Thanking you for all that you have done for me, wishing you all God's blessings during 1978, and remembering you in my Masses and prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

John C. Slown
Rev. John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000226

February 1, 1978

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend John Slown
St. Margaret Mary
408 N. Main Street
Herscher, Illinois 60941

Dear Father Slown:

I am late in replying to your letter of January 10th because I was away for a few weeks.

I appreciate the information you gave me and also your very fine comments concerning your understanding of yourself and also your happy situation at Herscher with Father Holup.

Assuring you of my prayers, I remain,

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/nb

file in slow

St. Margaret Mary Church

408 N. Main St.
Herscher, Illinois 60941
Tele. 815-426-2153

000228

April 19, 1978

Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

It is hard to believe that six months have passed since I have taken up residency at St. Margaret Mary's Parish, Herscher, Illinois. Therefore, I thought that it was time to write another progress report to you. It certainly has been a pleasant, useful, and meaningful period of time.

After taking the MMPI from Dr. John McLaughlin, he concurred with me that I am a compulsive work-aholic. It is interesting to reflect over one's life to see how this situation developed. Learning to relax and not feel guilty, because I have not done 'X' amount of work, is a new and tremendous experience for me. I am happy to have learned another dimension of myself. How true the statement is that one never stops learning or maturing until God calls one from this earthly life.

Yes, this period of time has afforded me the opportunity to deepen my spiritual life - since I have plenty of time to pray. I also have been able to catch up on my reading. And with the aid of Father Holup, I have been able to see other dimensions of the Pro-Life Movement and the need to preach about it, as well as to help people see the destructive force of ERA. So, all in all, the time that I have spent away from a permanent assignment has been very beneficial for me.

Thinking about assignments, Bishop Daniel Kucera mentioned to me that I will probably receive a new assignment sometime around the first part of June. After having time to analyze my problem and work on it, I know that I can go back as a pastor of a parish the size of the one I had or even bigger. After all, I accomplished a total reinvigoration of a parish in five years - a job that would have taken most men ten or more years to do. However, whatever assignment you give me, I will see it as God's Will.

Thanking you for all that you have done for me and remembering you in my Masses and prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Reverend John C. Slown

cc: Bishop Kucera

*Bishop Dan,
I thought that you would be interested in what I wrote to
Bishop Blanchette. Thanks for all that you have done for me in the
past. God love and bless you. Jack Slown*

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13
AREA CODE 815
TELEPHONE 722-6606
Released April 2014

fw

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Chancery Office
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000229

April 24, 1978

PERSONAL

Reverend John C. Slown
St. Margaret Mary Church
408 North Main Street
Herscher, Illinois 60941

Dear John:

In view of the fact that you sent a carbon copy to Bishop Kucera, I feel that I should do the same in my reply to you.

I am very happy to know that you have found the time at Herscher to be one that was very useful and meaningful. I am also happy to know that [REDACTED] is helping you. If it is according to your desires, you might have the doctor send a letter either to myself or to Bishop Kucera to indicate his own thoughts regarding the question of a future assignment.

As you know, as of April 15, 1978, we are following new guidelines and that is why I mention this to you.

Again thanking you for your kind letter and for remembering me in your prayers and assuring you that I remember you in mine, I remain

Most cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:jw

CC: Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B. ✓

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000231

May 30, 1978

[Redacted]

Re: Father John Slown

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you so much for your letter of May 5, 1978, regarding Father Slown and his progress. I have, with Father's permission, given a photocopy to Bishop Blanchette.

We are currently in the process of determining parochial assignments and Father Slown should be receiving one shortly. I appreciate your willingness to follow him in his new position and to assist him to further understand his problem. I'm sure that he is more than willing to do this and that it will be a great benefit to him and to his ministry.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Most Rev.) Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.

dwk:h

COPY

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000233

June 19, 1978

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I appreciate very much your kind letter concerning Father Slown. As you know, Father Slown requested a leave of absence because he was not well. As soon as he is well, I know that he will be in touch with the Personnel Advisors, and if they recommend that he be made a pastor, you can rest assured that every consideration of this recommendation will be made by me.

Thank you very much for your kind letter,
Assuring you of my prayers and asking you for your own, I remain,

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000234

July 10, 1978

The Reverend John Slown
St. Margaret Mary
408 North Main Street
Herscher, IL 60941

Dear Father Slown:

Effective August 4, 1978, I hereby appoint you to the pastorate of St. Joseph's Parish, Bradley, Illinois, to succeed the Reverend James McDermott, who has received another assignment. At the same time, I hereby transfer you from your sick leave of absence, effective August 4th.

You will assume canonical possession and jurisdiction of St. Joseph's Parish, Bradley, as soon as you come to the Chancery Office on August 4, 1978, Friday at 10:30 A.M., to make the customary Profession of Faith before me, or our Vicar Generals, or Co-Chancellors, acting as our delegate according to the provision of Canon Law.

Wishing you God's blessings, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB:kmt

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

000235

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

CONFIDENTIAL

On Friday July 28, 1978, a [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] came in to see a priest at the Chancery office. I spoke to her for some time.

She said that her family lived in Winfield eleven years ago, and that her thirteen year old son was a server at St. John. She stated that Fr. John Slown committed a homosexual act with her boy at that time. The boy told no one at the time except his eight year old sister. Mrs. [REDACTED] herself found out only last year. She was working at I.B.C. then, and knew Bishop Daniel and Fr. Best but was unable to tell them at that time. She now no longer works at the college, so she came to report this.

Her son and daughter (now 24 and 18) no longer attend church since this incident destroyed their faith in priests and the Church. [REDACTED] at first spoke about other children similarly treated although she was forced to admit that she has no actual knowledge of other incidents.

I told her that Fr. Slown was on a leave of absence for a year, and that it was possible that he could have been receiving counselling in this period for this or similar problems. I mentioned that the bishop is often aware of difficulties which are not publicized when a transfer of assignment is made. I did not mention Fr. Slown's recent assignment to Bradley since this report may have a bearing on that.

I assured her that this matter would be handled confidentially, and that only Bishops Blanchette, Kucera, and Fr. Ryan would be informed.

Fr. Slown is scheduled to see Bishop Blanchette on August 4 at 10:30. presumably to take his oath of office.

Copies to RRB, DWK, Ryan

S. Cong. Doct. Fidei
31-V-67

Released April 2014

000236

PROFESSION OF FAITH

"I, John Slown, with firm faith, believe and profess all and everything that is contained in the Symbol of Faith that is:"

I believe in one God. The Father almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God. Born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. By Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And He became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: And was made Man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of His kingdom there will be no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and Who spoke through the prophets. And one holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

"I firmly embrace and accept all and everything which has been either defined by the Church's solemn deliberation or affirmed and declared by its ordinary magisterium concerning the doctrine of faith and morals, according as they are proposed by it, especially those things dealing with the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, its sacraments and the sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff."

John Slown
John Slown

DATE: Aug 4, 1978

PLACE: Joliet Chancery Office, Ill.

* * * * *

I have witnessed this profession of faith on the date and in the place indicated above, thus by particular Law of the Church, he took canonical possession of

St. Joseph Parish Bradley, Illinois.

Romeo Blanchette
Bishop / Delegate

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

SAINT JOSEPH RECTORY
211 NORTH CENTER AVENUE
BRADLEY, ILL.
—
PHONE 939-3573

000237

August 29, 1978

Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

Once again, I want to Thank You very much for appointing me the pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Bradley, Illinois. It truly is a wonderful Parish that is filled with great people. I know of no reason why I deserve such an excellent assignment. I do know that it has humbled me and caused me to have a closer relationship with and dependence upon the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the Blessed Mother. And it will be through their help and guiding hands that God's salvific work will be accomplished at St. Joseph's. I might add that it has made me also realize the true fatherly person that you are.

Enclosed is a check for \$25,000.00 to be applied to the debt on our note #562. This should leave the parish with a balance of \$29,832.74 on the loan. If all goes well, we should be able to pay off the debt by January 1979.

As you know, St. Joseph's Parish will be celebrating their 75th anniversary this year. In that Bishop Vonesh is scheduled for the jubilee Mass in June, I was wondering if you would administer the sacrament of Confirmation, instead of Father Daniel Ryan, on Tuesday, May 8, 1979 as scheduled. I know that the people would be honored and be very happy to have you come.

Once again, I wish to Thank You very much, Bishop, for your kindness and patience that you have shown to me in the past and your trust in the present.

With all best wishes and a continual remembrance of you in my Mass and prayers, I remain,

Your co-worker in Christ,

John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000238



Dear Father Donelly:

About a month ago, I came to the Chancery Office with some personal information regarding Father John Sloan. I am sure you can recall our interview, as you did take notes.

Since this was a serious matter, and since I have a very personal interest in this situation, I am requesting a reply on the Bishop's own stationery, that this matter has been brought to his attention, and that it is being taken care of.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Father Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000239

September 6, 1978

PERSONAL

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

As I indicated to you at the time of our discussion, I did refer your information concerning Father John Slown to Bishop Blanchette. I am certain that the Bishop will take whatever action is necessary.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend William E. Donnelly
Co-Chancellor

WED:cah

SAINT JOSEPH RECTORY
211 NORTH CENTER AVENUE
BRADLEY, ILL.

PHONE 939-3573

000240

November 29, 1978

Dear Bishop Daniel,

Thank You very much for whatever part you had in me receiving the pastorate of St. Joseph's Parish, Bradley, Illinois. It is a great Parish and the people are beautiful and tremendous. To say the least, I am most happy at St. Joseph's and see a lot of possibilities to help God's people grow and deepen them in their Faith.

Even though it has taken me a long time to write this message to you, I want you to know that I truly appreciate all that you have done for me and words fail to adequately express my feelings.

Also, Thank You for the time that you spent with me the other week. It is great to know that one can express their views on a situation with ease and confidence.

May God continue to bless and love you - Bishop Dan - in your work.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain,
your priest-friend in Christ,
John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

SAINT JOSEPH RECTORY

211 NORTH CENTER AVENUE
BRADLEY, ILLINOIS

000241

PHONE 939-3573

February 24, 1979

Dear Bishop Vonesh,

Enclosed is a check for \$25.00 to go towards the dinner and TV set for Bishop Blanchette.

I was very sorry to have missed the dinner, but snow banks prevented me from attending. As long as Father Pennerlein and I weren't hurt - nor the car, we were most thankful. However, I was very happy to learn that so many of the priests were able to come for the occasion. I am sure that it made Bishop Blanchette feel great.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ,
Father John Slown

March 5, 1979

Reverend John Slown
St. Joseph Church
211 North Center Avenue
Bradley, Illinois 60915

Dear Father Slown:

I write to thank you for the larger than usual gift you made toward Bishop Blanchette's dinner gathering. This was very kind of you and is deeply appreciated.

God reward you and bless all your efforts.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RJV:jb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000246

May 31, 1979

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

You wrote a very beautiful letter about Father Slown and his impact on your life. Thank you for sharing this with me. I pray that you may continue to grow in faith and that indeed the Marriage Tribunal may work out the difficulties and permit you and Eileen to be married in Church. It would give me great pleasure to confirm you next year if I am scheduled for Bradley again.

You may be sure that I will do all that I can to help Father Slown so that he might continue to serve you and the people of St. Joseph's in Bradley. Naturally, he needs are prayers and support. From the contents of your letter, I know one wonderful family that is certainly doing that.

Thank you for writing and may God bless all of you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

~~Msgr. Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.~~
Apostolic Administrator

DWW/nb

May 31, 1979

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your note on Father Slown. It is always nice to hear that one of our priests is appreciated and that people care and are concerned for him.

I pray with you that Father may return soon to his pastoral duties. He does need your prayers since he is such a hard working person. I am sure he will be happy to know of the love and support he has in the parish.

May God bless you for taking time to write. I appreciate your concern.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000250

May 31, 1979

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your kind letter of May 25th regarding Father John Slown. I am sure that he will be greatly heartened by your concern and support for his pastoral efforts.

I am sure that he will ask and need the help of people like yourself when he returns to Bradley. From my visits to St. Joseph's, I have been greatly impressed by the parish and I know that you parishioners will do all that you can to assist Father and Father Vitus so that God's work may be accomplished as you indicated so beautifully in your letter.

With best wishes and prayer,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000252

June 1, 1979

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of May 26th regarding Father John Slown. I am sure that he will be heartened by your concern and support of his pastoral efforts.

Please pray for him that he may return quickly to Bradley and minister effectively to a very wonderful parish. From my visits to St. Joseph's, I have been greatly impressed by the parish and I know that you and the other parishioners will do all that you can to assist Father and Father Vitus so that God's work may be accomplished as you indicated so beautifully in your letter.

With best wishes and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

000254

May 31, 1979

[Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of May 26th regarding Father John Slown. Please thank the others who also signed the letter.

I am sure that Father Slown will be greatly heartened by your letter and those of others. Please pray for him that he may return quickly to Bradley and minister effectibely to a very wonderful parish. I am sure that he is counting on the support of people like yourself to help him.

With best wishes and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000256

June 1, 1979

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of May 28th regarding Father John Slown. I am sure that he will be greatly heartened by your concern and support of his pastoral efforts.

Please pray for him that he may return quickly to Bradley and minister effectively to a very wonderful parish. I know that you and the other parishioners will do all that you can to assist Father and Father Vitus so that God's work may be accomplished as you indicated in your very kind letter.

With best wishes and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000258

June 1, 1979



Dear 

Thank you for your letter of May 28th regarding Father John Slown. I am sure that he be heartened by your concern and support of his pastoral efforts.

Please pray for him that he may return quickly to Bradley and minister effectively to a very wonderful parish. From my visits to St. Joseph's, I have been greatly impressed by the parish and I know that you and the other parishioners will do all that you can to assist Father and Father Vitus so that God's work may be accomplished as you indicated in your kind letter.

With best wishes and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

FATHER SLOWN

000260

June 1, 1979

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your kind letter regarding Father John Slown. I am sure that he will be greatly heartened by your concern and support of his pastoral efforts.

I am sure that he will ask and need the help of people like yourself when he returns to Bradley. From my visits to St. Joseph's I have been impressed by the parish and I know that you and ther other parishioners will do all that you can to assist Father Slown and Father Vitus so that God's work may be accomplished.

With best wishes and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000262

June 1, 1979

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your kind letter regarding Father John Slown. I am sure that he will be greatly heartened by your concern and support of his pastoral efforts.

I am sure that he will ask and need the help of people like yourself when he returns to Bradley. From my visits to St. Joseph's, I have been impressed by the parish and I know that you and the other parishioners will do all that you can to assist Father Slown and Father Vitus so that God's work may be accomplished.

With best wishes and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000264

June 8, 1979

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your kind letter regarding Father Slown. I am sure that he will be greatly heartened by your concern and support of his pastoral efforts.

I am sure that he will ask and need the help of people like yourself when he returns to Bradley. From my visits to St. Joseph's, I have been impressed by the parish and I know that you and the other parishioners will do all that you can to assist Father Slown and Father Vitus so that God's work may be accomplished.

With best wishes and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.
Apostolic Administrator

DWK/nb

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

TELEPHONE 722-6606
Released April 26 14

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000265

Wednesday, February 13, 1980

Father Frank Vitus, Associate Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, Bradley, came to see me on February 6. He recounted a conversation he had with [redacted] [redacted]. [redacted] indicated that her son [redacted] had come home from serving a Saturday evening Mass at the parish quite subdued and uncommunicative. He finally told his father and mother about an incident that had occurred in the sacristy. According to [redacted] Father John Slown touched her son in an improper manner. Father Vitus said that the [redacted] had not told anybody except him and that he in turn had only confided in Father Shields who was resident in the rectory. The [redacted] were concerned that Father Slown needs help and that he should get it. Father Vitus also said that they would be willing to see me.

[redacted] called for an appointment. She came to see me at the Chancery on the above date. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. [redacted] quietly retold the story much as Father Vitus had indicated except that she added the fact that the incident occurred both before Mass and after Mass. She expressed concern that Father Slown needed help and I assured her that we were doing what we could for him and that he was under doctor's care which the parish is aware of. I inquired about the boy's response to the incident and [redacted] said that so far he seems to be handling it well. Since he confided in his parents there seems to be good rapport there.

[redacted] went on in some detail about Father Slown's impact on the parish. She said that she does not know of any other incident with a boy but that Father has the bad habit of punching and wrestling the boys on the playground and other places. This roughhousing (these were her words) might mean interest in the progress of the young people but apparently is irritating to some of the parents. She said that the parishioners are ill at ease when Father comes to celebrate Mass because they do not know whether he will explode, what he will say or how he will conduct himself. She then said that at one homily, Father was talking about marriages and indicated that there are several kinds of marriages: between men and women, between men and men and between women and women. I asked her specifically whether or not this was a correct interpretation of what he said because of the obvious implications but she reiterated that it was.

I asked [redacted] whether or not the parish was aware of the possibility that Father Slown was drinking. She said yes, especially the

the owners of the J&L Liquor Store in town. The impression is that cases of Scotch bought for the rectory go in and out quite frequently.

██████████ seemed satisfied with our conversation and promised to keep the matter confidential and to get back to me if any further developments occurred.

██████████ Father Vitus further corroborated what ██████████ said that Father Slown has the habit of patting young boys and men on the rear and generally roughhousing. People in the parish are aware that he is not getting better and there is some movement to report him although people are reluctant to do this. Father Vitus said that Father Slown had gotten worse since October. Since Father Slown was on vacation with Father Ruffalo in Las Vegas and was not due back till February 14, I let the matter ride until I could make an appointment with Father Slown.

Father Slown came to the chancery on Monday, February 18. I asked him how things were going and he said that he felt very much in charge of things and was able with his medication to keep a level pace. I suggested to him that this is not what he is perceived to be doing by many of his parishioners; then he said he was surprised about this because everyone tells him how well he is doing. I then asked him about the incident with the young boy in the sacristy. His response was that he was not aware of it and so I persisted in asking him whether or not he remembered the incident at all. He said no.

Father Slown's whole demeanor during our somewhat brief interview was reticent and seemed to indicate that he knew very well why I had called him in. He would not admit to the incident but he did not hotly contest my facts either. I asked him how often he sees ██████████ and he said every couple of months. I asked him about drinking and he said he takes a drink once in a while but not very much. I asked him if he drinks on Saturday prior to Mass and he indicated he does. I then told him that some people think there is an awful lot of Scotch going in and out of the rectory and he said he was surprised about this because it is not so. In his response to my question as to whether or not ██████████ is aware of his drinking in view of the rather heavy medication prescribed, Father Slown indicated that he has not told him. I then suggested that he was destroying whatever help ██████████ could give him by upsetting the level of the drugs. He agreed to this.

The final outcome of our meeting was that Father Slown said he would contact ██████████ and talk to him. Subsequent to the meeting. Father Slown

wrote me a letter, copy of which is attached, in which he fails to mention the incident with the boy and completely tries to wipe out the effect he has by his public inconsistent activities.

Since it was quite difficult to talk to Father Slown because of his reticence, I told him that this was the third such incident reported and that he knew what had happened at St. Mary Magdalene. I told him that I didn't think he would be forced to resign from his parish in an abrupt manner, which he seems to feel was an injustice to him at St. Mary Magdalene. On the other hand, I indicated that it was about time he took possession and control of his own life. He cannot expect us to keep track of him and that he must come to a conclusion as to whether or not he can really handle a parish the size of St. Josephs or indeed any parochial assignment. I suggested other possible pastoral work where he might be involved with no administrative burdens and with proper safeguards, such as living with some other priest. His response to this was far from satisfactory. I can only conclude that he was very defensive but that he is very much aware of where he stands.

D.J.K.

Bishop Kucera.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

SAINT JOSEPH RECTORY

211 NORTH CENTER AVENUE
BRADLEY, ILL.

PHONE 989-8578

000268

February 20, 1980

Most Rev. Daniel W. Kucera, D.D. O.S.B.
Illinois Benedictine College
5700 College Road
Lisls, Illinois 60532

Dear Bishop Kucera:

I contacted [REDACTED] office and I have an appointment on Tuesday, Feb. 26th. I wish to Thank You very much for the time that you spent with me and your kindness and understandingness of the situation.

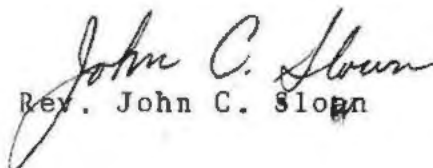
However, without seeming out of order or being on the defensive, I wonder if those people who informed you about me might be too close to the situation and thus not able to make a true, vaild, and objective critic of me. Isn't true that people can be so close to the forest, that they can't tell the trees from the forest? Maybe this is the smae situation.

The reason that I say this is that there are so many parishioners who are saying how good I look and act. In fact one of the parishioners checks on what Masses I celebrate - Saturday evenings or what Masses I celbrate on Sundays. He then comes to those Masses in order to see how I perform. He Personally has come to tell me how well I am doing. The conclusion is that there are two sides to a coin. In my case, one negative and one positive. Thus, the only reason that I am continuing in the priesthood is that I have hope in what the people have said about me. If this was not present, I would have given up long ago.

I will be in contact with you in the near future.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain,

Fraternally in Christ,


Rev. John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

425 E. Grand
 Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914
 March 7, 1980

000269A

Dearest Bishop Kucera,

I have wanted to write this letter for a long time but I kept thinking things would get better. Now, I don't think they will. We are very disappointed with Father Slown and here are a few reasons why.

Time and time again, he has ruined our Masses including our Christmas Eve (4:45) Mass at which he pouted because he wasn't getting enough attention, made a fool of our wonderful deacon Tom Boudreau, to the point that his wife cried after Mass, and ^{Father Slown} sat on the altar with a packed Church and refused to give Communion till it was almost all distributed. He has yelled at us, cursed at us, cried for us, and once as people became disgusted with his act and walked out, he ~~told~~ told them

never to come back, it was fine with him.

My daughter made her Confirmation Sunday, and it was a beautiful ceremony only because he didn't have much to do during it. We were supposed to attend Confirmation meetings, one of which we missed because we had family plans out of town for the day. Well, the following Friday he confronted the eighth graders about missing the meeting complete with yelling and cursing to the point of having Sister crying and the children completely upset. What kind of example is this for teenagers? None of my children care for Fr. Slown. They feel he is a hypocrite and are tired of his berating one minute and punching you around acting buddy, buddy the next and not meaning it.

I have belonged to this parish since I was born and have received all the sacraments here. My husband and I give much time & money to the parish. Last year as Room Mother Chairman I helped the room mothers raise \$5000 for the school. We have been very faithful about giving our \$10.00 every week above and beyond tuition costs and it is a sacrifice with a growing family. We both work the fish fry's, I work the hot lunches every Wednesday, and my husband donated all the labor to make the tree-house, puppet theatre, and bookshelves for the new kindergarten; besides making wooden sides for the altar at Christmastime. Our only regret is when we see him and when we walk into Mass and he walks on the altar and we spend the rest of the Mass praying he doesn't explode. I could go on and on but I think you get the idea? Is there any help for us or do we start looking for a new parish?

Thank you,

Father John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000270

March 14, 1980

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I received your letter of March 7th regarding St. Joseph's Parish and Father John Slown. What you say in your letter is certainly serious and will be so considered here at the Chancery.

All I can say at this time is that I have been talking to Father Slown and have done so very recently regarding some of the matters you have indicated in the letter. I know you understand that the confidentiality that must exist between a priest and his bishop would prevent me from going into detail, but I owe it to you to respond and to tell you that we are in touch with the situation.

Would you please pray for Father Slown, for the parish and, indeed, for the diocese that the Lord may help us and inspire us to serve Him in peace and joy. Thank you again for writing and may God bless you for your concern and your candor.

With best wishes and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Daniel W. Kucera, OSB
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

DWK:bjd

May 15, 1980

Most Reverend Joseph Immesch
Diocese of Joliet
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Immesch:

We, the undersigned, just found out that our Pastor, Rev. John C. Slown, will be leaving our parish on June 1 for a rest. After working closely with him for the past two years and seeing the wonderful work he has done in our parish, we hope this leave will only be on a temporary basis.

There are many of us in this parish that hope and pray that you will find it in your heart to return him to us to continue as our pastor after his leave. Thank you and may God guide you in your decision.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev Slown 313

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000279

May 30, 1980

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I received the recent letter which you, [Redacted] sent me concerning the transfer of Father Slown. I appreciate your concern and affection for him. While I would like to assure you that Father Slown will be returning to the parish, it is most probable that he will be receiving another assignment. I hope that you have taken the occasion to let Father Slown know of your appreciation of him.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph G. Ivesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

HOUSE OF AFFIRMATION, INC.

International Therapeutic Center for Clergy and Religious

000280

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

21 May 1980

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

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

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

456 Hill Street
Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588
617/234-6266

Most Reverend Raymond Vonesh, D.D.
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Vonesh:

Thank you for your telephone call and interest in the House of Affirmation.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Rev. Joseph L. Hart, S.S.E., Ph.D.
120 Hill Street
Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588
617/234-6266

Rev. James P. Madden, C.S.C.
229 Berkeley Street
Suite 31
Boston, Massachusetts 02116
7/266-8792

Rev. Bernard J. Bush, S.J.
1185 Acacia Street
Box 437
Montara, California 94037
415/728-3361

Sr. Kathleen E. Kelley, S.N.D.
4 Joy Avenue
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119
314/968-4509

Sr. Fiona Vallance
Heronbrook House
Bakers Lane
West Midlands
Knowle, England B93 8PW
05645-6214

As you requested in your telephone conversation with our nurse, [REDACTED], dates have been reserved for Father John Slown to participate in the three - day Psychotheological Evaluation and Assessment Program at the House of Affirmation at Montara, California;

SUNDAY, JUNE 22 to WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1980

Additional information with details of arrival, etc., will soon be sent to you by Father Bush, Director at Montara.

Should you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially,

[REDACTED]

Director

JLH/gpp
Encl.

CC: Reverend [REDACTED]
Director - Montara

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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International Executive Director

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Knowle, England B93 8PW
05645-6214

PERTINENT INFORMATION AND DONATION SCHEDULE

The House of Affirmation presents a total psychotheological program in which all psychotherapists are competent in the psychological sciences and have a deep understanding of the religious and priestly life.

Our Whitinsville residential center is approximately forty miles from Boston and twenty-eight miles from Providence, Rhode Island. Our California residential center is at Montara, California, which is located about fifteen miles south of San Francisco on the ocean side of the peninsula. Our Missouri residential center is located at Webster Groves, an immediate suburb of St. Louis.

DONATION SCHEDULE

The following information pertains to our donation schedule and residential program. The donations requested are \$48.00 per day for room and board including ancillary therapies, nursing services, bibliotherapy, psychotheology and spirituality programs; \$35.00 for each individual psychotherapy session usually held twice a week; \$30.00 for each group psychotherapy session held four times a week in the form of Psychodrama, Inter-Communication Lab, and Group Therapy; \$25.00 per week for group art therapy sessions; \$35.00 for each psychiatric consultation; \$25.00 for each medical consultation, and \$10.00 per week for art therapy supplies. All medication prescribed is additional.

Billing is entered at a flat rate of \$79.00 per diem.

Released April 2014

Please note that we are not a hospital but a Residential Center for religious professionals. We do not submit claims to Blue Cross or to any other insurance company. However, it has been our experience to have some communities/dioceses obtain a partial refund of the money paid House of Affirmation. Should your particular contract allow for reimbursement of payments made, we will assist you in completing your forms.

The donations requested are approximately one-half to two-thirds below the current marketable set rate for similar services. We at the House of Affirmation believe that we cannot charge the usual professional fee because the priests and Religious we serve do not have the same kind of financial income that other people have.

It continues to be our policy not to refuse assistance to anyone who is unable to meet our requested donations. Requests for assistance should be submitted accordingly. However, it must be noted that our scholarship funds are limited.

PSYCHOTHEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The client comes to the House of Affirmation for three days during which time he or she undergoes complete psychological testing and interviews. This program does allow for a more personal and complete evaluation of the client's problematic and also offers the client an opportunity to meet the Clinical Staff and personally assess the program offered here. A complete report along with the recommendations of the Clinical Staff is then forwarded to the assigned ecclesial leader as authorized by the client. Should the Clinical Staff be of the opinion that the client would indeed benefit from a period of residency at the House of Affirmation, the client is then given priority on our waiting list. The donation for the Psychotheological Evaluation and Assessment Program (including room and board) is \$500.00, and arrangements for same may be made with our nurse, Mrs. G.P. Parenteau, R.N., D.Theo.

Chauffeur services available at a minimum cost.

PERSONAL HISTORY FORM

Requests for residency are usually submitted in writing by the client seeking our assistance, although often initiated by the Superior/Ordinary. However, the client must personally indicate willingness to come to the House of Affirmation for therapy.

The enclosed Historical Data Form should be completed by the client and returned to the Director. Also enclosed is "authorization for release of personal records". This form should be signed by the client, sent to the physician and/or psychologist who is or has tended to the needs of the client, and who will forward the records to the House of Affirmation.

This information is necessary to enable the Clinical Staff to properly evaluate the client's presentation, assess his or her needs for therapy, and determine whether or not he or she would benefit from our residential psychotheological therapeutic program.

The length of a client's stay can only be determined following complete evaluation while in residency. We have but one waiting list for all our centers, Whitinsville, Massachusetts, Montara, California, Webster Groves, Missouri.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We do require a written statement from the Superior/Ordinary informing us that she/he is supportive of the client's decision and is willing to assume full responsibility for all expenses incurred throughout the client's stay at the House of Affirmation.

Should you have any questions with regard to billing information concerning our centers at Montara, Webster Groves, Boston, or Whitinsville, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. G.P. Parenteau, R.N., D.Theo. at 617-234-6266.

Released April 2014

000284

BISHOP'S OFFICE

May 23 - '80

Dear Jack,

I have confirmation now that 3 days have been set aside for an evaluation of yourself at the House of Affirmation. This will be at Montara, California - about 15 miles south of San Francisco on the ocean side. After this period is completed we are hopeful that we can arrange for you to be at the House of Affirmation in Whitinsville, Mass., - about 40 miles from Boston.

The days at Montara are Sunday, June 22 to Wednesday June 25th. Additional information with details of arrival etc., plus the informational form to be filled out will soon be sent to us by Father Bush, Director

at Montara.

We will arrange your plane flight and your transportation from the airport to Montara.

Do not become excited or nervous. We are taking the right road and I assure you, as I did before, that I am most optimistic about your future and its peace & success.

God bless & keep you always.

Cardially in Him,
+ Ray J. Jones

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

June 1, 1980

000286A

Dear Bishop Inesch:

I am writing in regard to your relieving Father Slawn of his pastorate here at St. Joseph's parish.

I believe this is a grave error on your part and would like to see something constructive done for Father Slawn and our parish.

Relieving Father Slawn of his duties here is not helping either him or this parish.

Since he came in August of 1978, he has done wonders for our Church and parish family. The inside of the Church has been painted, Air-conditioning has been installed. The Sunday Collection has increased at least \$1,000 a Sunday over what it was prior to his coming here. The school children love this man. He has started renovating the convent for the sisters. Kindergarten has been added to our school. Enthusiasm has replaced apathy here at St. Joseph.

Now, it seems, you intend to take away the man who has brought us

Released April 2014

So much joy and such a good feeling about our Church, our Community and ourselves.

I know Father Slown has emotional problems and that he has probably offended some of the parishioners. But, have you ever known anyone who could please everyone every hour of the day? Even Jesus Christ had enemies.

If this man has made any mistakes here, it would be that he has done too much for us rather than not enough.

Any person who brings charges against this man either morally or spiritually would in my mind be suspect themselves. He has not committed any acts or raised any ideas contrary to Catholic teaching or beliefs.

If you feel Father Slown needs medical help, please accord this to him, but send him back to us when he is well.

I have been a member of St. Joseph parish for almost 23 yrs. My husband has attended Mass here almost 50 yrs. My Mother I

286C

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Law has attended St. Joseph's for nearly 60 years. Never have any of us seen so much progress made in such a short time as Father Slown has made.

Coming to our Diocese with the reputation of being a pastoral minister, we do expect some compassion from you for our parish family and our pastor.

Please leave Father Slown stationed at St. Joseph.



Father Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000287

June 5, 1980

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

The letter you have written to Bishop Imesch regarding Father Slown has been referred to me in Bishop Imesch's absence. I know the Bishop is grateful to you, as am I, for your fine concern regarding Father Slown. Everyone is grateful to him for his accomplishments at the parish and we are so pleased to see that the people of the parish have been pleased and helped. It is the Bishop's pastoral and fatherly concern for Father Slown that prompts him to suggest to this priest a period of rest from the demands and obligations of administration and parish duties. Because we all are aware of the capabilities of Father Slown, we share a deep concern for his continued good health in the years that lie ahead. His future means much to us and we intend that he get the best of help.

Thank you for your concern and know that the Bishop is indeed a caring and thoughtful Father. We all share a common optimism for Father Slown's future.

Cordially yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RJV:bjd

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000288A

6-2-80

Dear Bishop

I am writing this letter in regards to our pastor Father Sloan at St. Joseph's in Bradley.

It is my understanding that he is being relieved of his duties this month without another assignment.

Father Sloan has contributed many assists to St. Joseph's and some are: air conditioning and painting of the Church and rectory. Father has paid off the parish debt and has been able to increase our monthly revenue.

There are some things that Father has said and done that I don't condone but he is only human and has been under a hardship due to his health.

Father was assigned to St. Joseph's after he had a nervous break down, and in my opinion wasn't fully recovered.

I don't understand why Father Sloan couldn't be assigned to a smaller parish with less responsibility, and allow him to regain his health.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

2888

As badly as the Catholic Faith needs priests it would be hard to understand the Joliet Diocese eliminating Father Sloan. This alone could prove to be very fatal to his health.

We are asking that you please reconsider your decision for Father's sake and place him in a position where he can continue to promote our Catholic Faith.

Our prayers will be with you and Father Sloan for a healthy and rewarding position for Father Sloan.

Best Regards



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000289

June 5, 1980

[REDACTED]

The letter you have written to Bishop Imesch regarding Father Slown has been referred to me in Bishop Imesch's absence. I know the Bishop is grateful to you, as am I, for your fine concern regarding Father Slown. Everyone is grateful to him for his accomplishments at the parish and we are so pleased to see that the people of the parish have been pleased and helped. It is the Bishop's pastoral and fatherly concern for Father Slown that prompts him to suggest to this priest a period of rest from the demands and obligations of administration and parish duties. Because we all are aware of the capabilities of Father Slown, we share a deep concern for his continued good health in the years that lie ahead. His future means much to us and we intend that he get the best of help.

Thank you for your concern and know that the Bishop is indeed a caring and thoughtful Father. We all share a common optimism for Father Slown's future.

Cordially yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RJV:bjd

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
June 4, 1980

000290

Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

I am writing with great concern after learning of the removal of Rev. John Slown from St. Joseph's Church in Bradley.

Father Slown is a very sincere, dedicated person and has shown that in all the wonderful things he has accomplished in the two short years he has been here. He goes all out to make every occasion something to be remembered.

I am very proud of our school and church and proud of the job he has done here. Father Slown loves those children which I feel is essential when having a church affiliated school.

After a much needed rest, I hope someday he will return to our parish.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000291

June 5, 1980



Dear 

The letter you have written to Bishop Imesch regarding Father Slown has been referred to me in Bishop Imesch's absence. I know the Bishop is grateful to you, as am I, for your fine concern regarding Father Slown. Everyone is grateful to him for his accomplishments at the parish and we are so pleased to see that the people of the parish have been pleased and helped. It is the Bishop's pastoral and fatherly concern for Father Slown that prompts him to suggest to this priest a period of rest from the demands and obligations of administration and parish duties. Because we all are aware of the capabilities of Father Slown, we share a deep concern for his continued good health in the years that lie ahead. His future means much to us and we intend that he get the best of help.

Thank you for your concern and know that the Bishop is indeed a caring and thoughtful Father. We all share a common optimism for Father Slown's future.

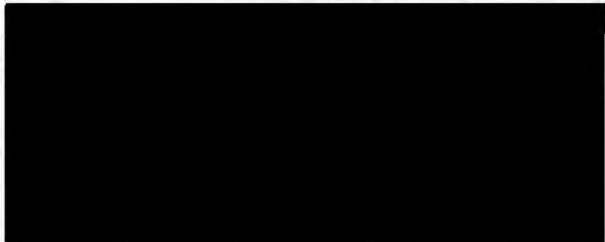
Cordially yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RJV:bjd

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



000292'

June 4, 1980

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
425 Summit Street
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch,

This is not my first letter written concerning Father Slown of St. Joseph's Parish. I feel that I'd like to go on record as one of Father's supporters. I met Father the first day he arrived in Bradley and for the past ten months have worked as his sacristan along with Mrs. Joan Busted.

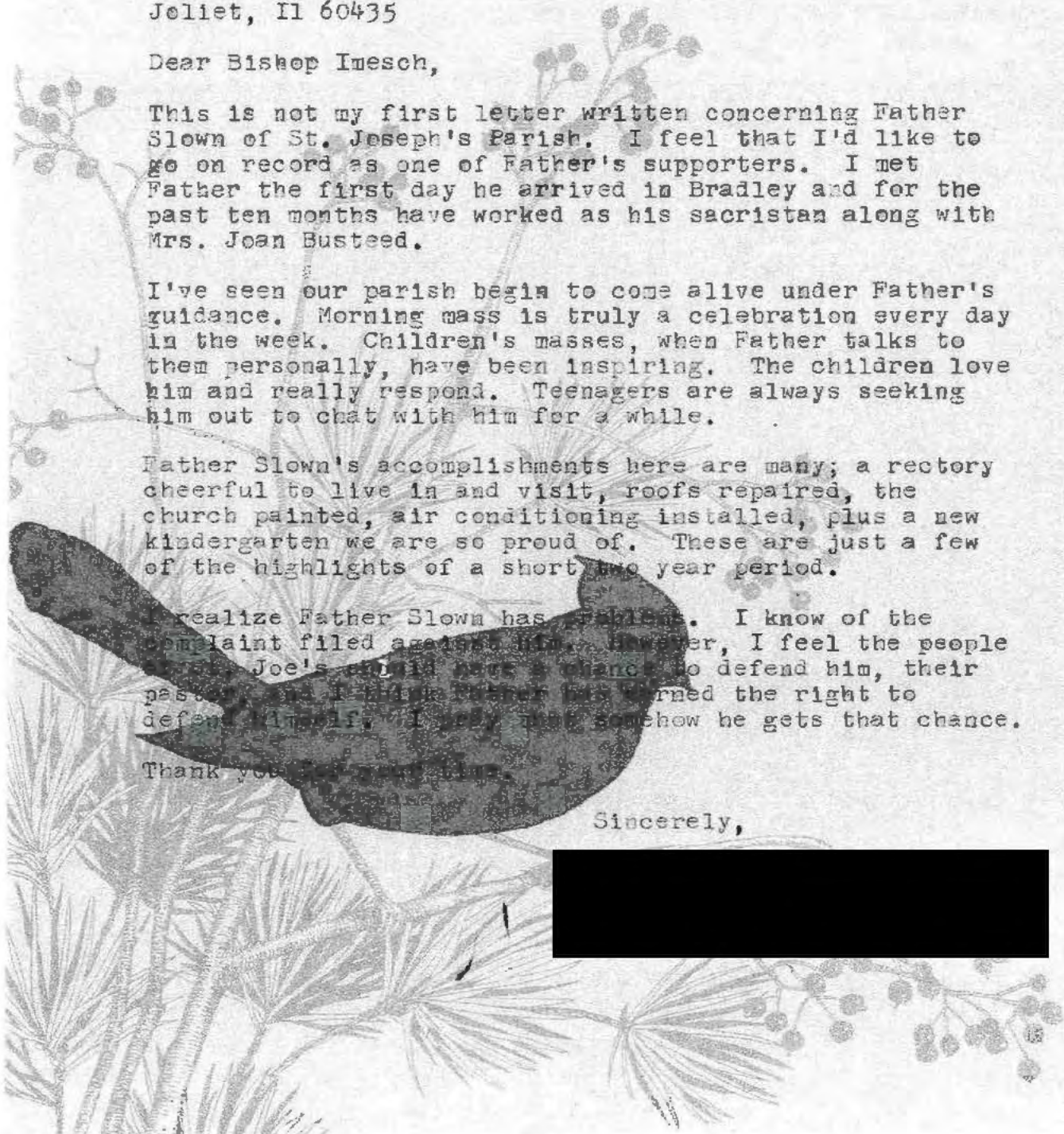
I've seen our parish begin to come alive under Father's guidance. Morning mass is truly a celebration every day in the week. Children's masses, when Father talks to them personally, have been inspiring. The children love him and really respond. Teenagers are always seeking him out to chat with him for a while.

Father Slown's accomplishments here are many; a rectory cheerful to live in and visit, roofs repaired, the church painted, air conditioning installed, plus a new kindergarten we are so proud of. These are just a few of the highlights of a short two year period.

I realize Father Slown has problems. I know of the complaint filed against him. However, I feel the people of St. Joe's should have a chance to defend him, their pastor, and I think Father has earned the right to defend himself. I hope somehow he gets that chance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



000293

June 6, 1980

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The letter you have written to Bishop Imesch regarding Father Slown has been referred to me in Bishop Imesch's absence, I know the Bishop is grateful to you, as am I, for your fine concern regarding Father Slown. Everyone is grateful to him for his accomplishments at the parish and we are so pleased to see that the people of the parish have been pleased and helped. It is the Bishop's pastoral and fatherly concern for Father Slown that prompts him to suggest to this priest a period of rest from the demands and obligations of administration and parish duties. Because we all are aware of the capabilities of Father Slown, we share a deep concern for his continued good health in the years that lie ahead. His future means much to us and we intend that he get the best of help.

Thank you for your concern and know that the Bishop is indeed a caring and thoughtful Father. We all share a common optimism for Father Slown's future.

Cordially yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RJV/nb

June 8, 1980

Reverend Joseph Imesch
Diocese of Joliet Chancery Office
424 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

It is with deepest respect to you, but with a very heavy heart that I write to you as a parishoner of St. Joseph's Church in Bradley, Illinois, to say that I have nothing but the most sincere respect and admiration for Fr. John Slown.

Since Fr. Slown has led our parish, it has come alive, with much renewed attendance. The vigor and zeal which we now see has not been evident in the 26 years with which I have been associated with St. Joseph's. Father has renewed the spiritual life to a point where we once again look forward to attending Mass and other services. He has touched the lives of our young people in such a way that I as a parent felt much gratitude to God for sending us such a pastor.

As a woman of 49 years of age, I probably fall in the average age of our parishoners. I have had my own personal problems, and Father Slown, as busy and pressured as he was by so many of us, had time to counsel me on a level which was very enlightening, and which helped to save my marriage and a home for our four children. He is a man who understands life as a human being and not some unreachable leader who only dictates, He has much contact with his parishoners, learned what we needed and wanted, and has accomplished much in the short time he has been here. In accomplishing all that he has, he has worked many, many hours more than we should have expected of him, but he is devoted to us and to his God.

Father Slown, in my opinion, is a very dedicated, religious priest. We pray that it will be God's plan to send him back to us shortly.

Sincerely,



Rev. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000295

June 11, 1980



Dear [Redacted]

I received the recent letter that you sent concerning your pastor, Reverend John Slown. I appreciate the beautiful tribute paid him as a priest and a pastor. I am aware of the fine work that Father Slown has done at St. Joseph and of his abilities. I can only assure you that it is in the best interest of Father Slown that I have decided to replace him as pastor.

While I would like to tell you that Father Slown will be returning as pastor, I must be candid about the matter and state that there would be little possibility that he would be returning to St. Joseph as pastor. Before he leaves, I know that he would be greatly supported and encouraged by hearing of your appreciation for him. I do hope that you will offer your new pastor the same encouragement and cooperation that you offered Father Slown.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

000296

June 13, 1980

Reverend John Slown
St. Joseph's Parish
211 North Center Street
Bradley, IL 60915

Dear John:

It was good to have the opportunity to talk with you the other day and clarify some of the issues. I appreciated your candor and I understand your feelings.

According to our conversation, I am relieving you of your duties as pastor at St. Joseph's in Bradley, effective June 19, 1980. I agree with the plans that are being made for an evaluation which is scheduled to take place beginning Sunday June 22nd. It is my understanding that within a few days, we hope to have a report as well as a definite date of acceptance. During the time that you will be away from the Diocese, it is understood that your monthly salary will be paid by the Diocese beginning with the month of July.

You have been in my prayers during these past several weeks, and I assure you that you will continue to be remembered in the weeks ahead. I look forward to having the opportunity of welcoming you back to ministry in the Diocese. Your ministry has been very effective, and you are well aware of that fact. I hope that this knowledge will offer you some comfort and encouragement during this difficult time.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Dear Bishop Joseph,

000297A

I'm from St. Joseph Parish in
Bardonia, Ill.

I've written to you before in a
letter that 4 of us signed. I thought
now was the time to write my own
letter. There are so many questions
I have that I would like answered.

The lady [redacted] was my best
friend, I thought. About a year ago
I and a few close friends noticed a
change in her. We went to her and
asked her what or if we did anything to
make her feel so cold towards us. She
never gave us a straight answer. Being
friends we accepted her as she was and
tried to include her in all our activities
at school (we all work a lot for our school + church).

That's enough about that. Let's get back
to the questions:

1) Why wasn't the boy [redacted] questioned?

He didn't leave for vacation til the 29th TB
afternoon of the following day.

3) Why didn't her husband [redacted] with
her to see the Bishop?

4) Why wasn't Father Slown given a fair
trial?

The reason for the last question is that
right now I am so upset that one
woman could destroy a Priest so completely
just by her words, and others (myself
being one) can't get in to see you to
speak for him.

Father Slown has brought something
to St. Joseph that was never here before.
A dedicated Priest that preached always
that the Parish is a family. He brought
light where there was darkness, he tried
to bring love where there was hate (this
one takes a lot of time here). He talked to
the people after each Mass, he makes you
feel like part of the Parish. His sermons
are beautiful. Nobody reads the bulletin
when Father Slown has Mass and the Family.

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on his every word. The young children run after him. He was even able to reach our older children (8th graders and up).

When he's around young people he is able to communicate with them at their level. Yet he makes the older people feel just as important.

I have had the privilege of being on the school board for the past 3 years.

Father Slown knows the in and out of running a well organized Parish and School.

Having Father Slown in Our Parish means to me, the door is always open when you need help - making help might just be knowing that you have someone who is willing to listen.

I know Father has problems and he needs help but how could you keep him waiting (like he says "to go to the nut house") like this so long, looking forward to what he has to look forward to. It's kind of unfair and inhumane.

I could go on and on about all the

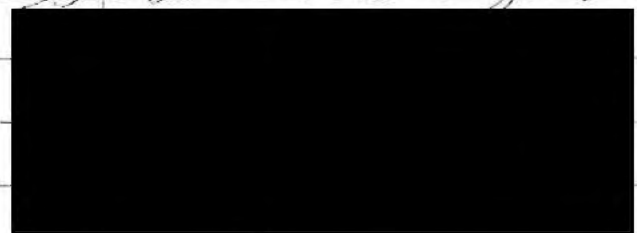
Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

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little things he does for the Parish, but I don't want to ramble on. The big things always get recognition but its the little things that make people feel that they are part of the Parish Family.

2970

God Bless and Guide you,



Rev. Slown

Released April 2014

BISHOP'S OFFICE

000298

June 17, 1980



Dear [Redacted]

I received your recent letter concerning Father Slown and want to reply to it. While I recall your earlier letter, I do not remember that you asked to see me. As far as I can I do try to see most people who ask for an appointment.

In response to your questions the matter was looked into by Bishop Kucera. I do believe that Bishop Kucera investigated the matter sufficiently to make a decision and discuss this decision with Father Slown. The decision to ask Father Slown to give up his pastorate was not dependent upon one incident. There were a number of things which I considered and after deliberating on them I felt it best to ask Father Slown to take a temporary leave of absence so that he might receive treatment.

I have met with Father Slown personally and discussed this whole matter with him. I have tried to handle this entire matter as delicately as possible, trying to be considerate of Father Slown and of the parishioners of St. Joseph as well. I did not think that it was necessary to remove Father Slown immediately, but felt that he should be transferred at the time that all of the other priests are transferred.

Your letter is a beautiful tribute to the pastoral ministry of Father Slown, and I have specifically mentioned to him how effective his ministry is. That fact, however, does not wipe away the areas in Father Slown's personality and ministry that need attention. It is for this reason that I have asked Father Slown to take sometime to receive the help that will benefit him personally and ministerially. I am anxious that Father Slown return to an active ministry in the Diocese of Joliet. I hope that you have taken the opportunity to thank Father Slown for his ministry and to let him know how much you have appreciated him. That will be very important to him.

I appreciate your writing to me and your concern, and I assure you that I share that concern.

Sincerely in Christ,

Joseph L. Imesch
Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000299

[Redacted]

June 12, 1980 .

Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet
425 Summit St.
Joliet, IL 60435

Your Excellency:

I just recently heard that Father John Slown is being transferred from St. Joseph's Church in Bradley. I know nothing about the circumstances behind this transfer but I am deeply concerned about Father Slown and I hope you will consider the following in his favor.

My husband and I have been active parishioners at St. Joseph's for many years. In the short time that Father Slown has been here, he has accomplished more than has been done in the past fifteen years. He is a very fine, conscientious man. He has supported our school with great enthusiasm which is a big concern of our parish. He loves the children and they, in turn, return that affection. He has overextended himself constantly in every capacity since he has been here. His leaving will be a great loss for our parish.

I realize there is nothing we can say at this time that will change your plans for Father Slown, but I hope you will take these things into consideration when placing him in a future assignment. We respect him and want him to be happy wherever he may go.

We would be very happy to have him return to St. Joseph's anytime in the future.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Rev. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000300

June 17, 1980

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I appreciate the letter you sent me concerning your support of the ministry of Father Slown. I share your appreciation of his efforts and I have told him so. At the present time I feel that it is in the best interest of Father Slown if he took some time off to receive some personal assistance. I have discussed this entire matter with Father Slown and I feel that while he regrets having to leave St. Joseph's parish in Bradley, he also recognizes that he should receive some personal help. I hope that you have shared with him your appreciation of his efforts. Let us both keep him in our prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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Released April 2014



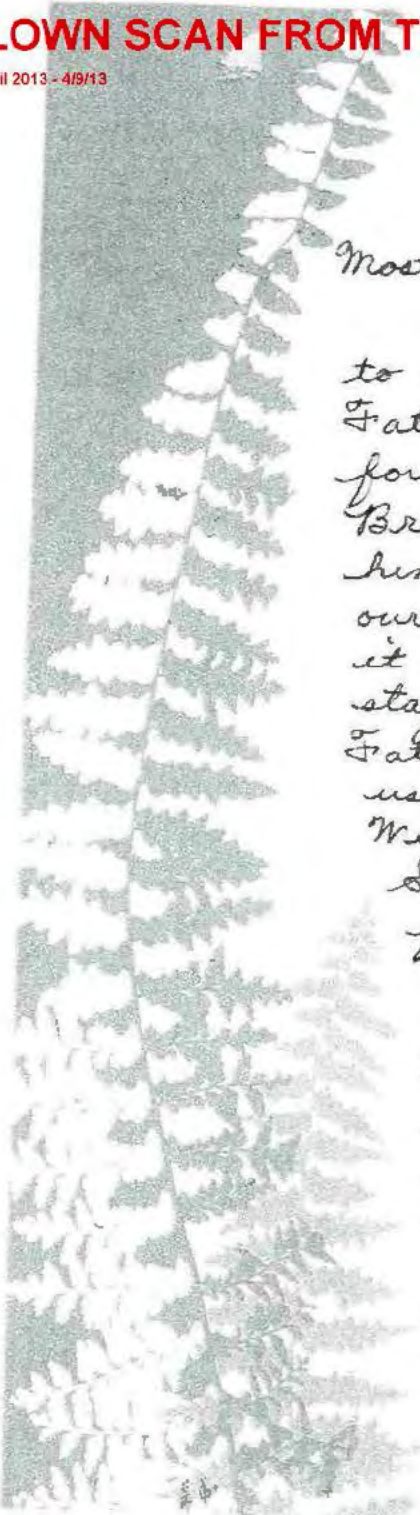
Most Rev. Bishop Imesch,

000506 H

I am writing to you in regards to our pastor, Father John Slown. Father has done a remarkable job for our parish of St. Joseph in Bradley. We needed a leader like him to put some life back into our parish. Until Father Slown came, it seemed like we had become stagnate, and were going no place fast. Father is a wonderful person, and treated us like we were all old friends. We wish he would stay here at St. Joe's. Maybe sometime in the future, he will be able to return.

My son is an altar boy because of Father's Slown and Vitus. Until they came to our church, he wasn't interested at all. Now, he really loves to serve, and feels he is doing something special for the church.

I know that Father Slown will be leaving us soon. This saddens us deeply. I just wanted you to know that there are a lot of people here at St. Joe's who will miss him. Father



FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 342

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

*will always be remembered in our prayers.
He is a special person who deserves the best.
With God's help, I hope he will find happiness
and health.*

Sincerely Yours,



3018

Rev. Slown

000302

June 17, 1980



Dear 

I appreciate the letter that you sent me recently in support of Father Slown. I assure you that I am aware of the many good things that Father has accomplished for the people of St. Joseph's in Bradley. At the same time I feel that it is in Father Slown's best interest to receive some professional help at this time. I have discussed this matter with Father Slown and he has agreed.

Leaving St. Joseph is very difficult for him, but the support of people such as yourself will mean very much to him. May I ask you to join with me in keeping Father Slown in our prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

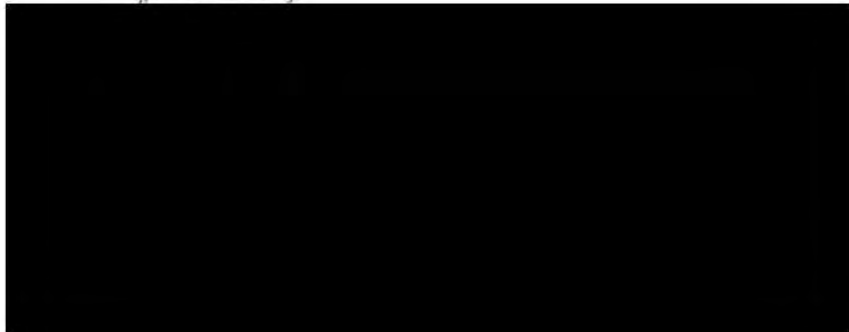


000303

Dear Bishop Imesch,

We Paul & I had
 that you had a letter from a member of our
 parish, "St. Joseph in Bradley Ill." with a
 peatation to remove Our wonderful Father
 Slown, he is such a holy Priest & does so
 much for our parish. I know he has been
 sick but since he takes his med. & with a
 lot of prayers he seems to be so much better
 and what a beautiful Mass he says every day.
 No doubt he does need a rest but I shure
 hope & pray he can come back to us after
 and soon.

from,



Rev. Slown

Released April 2014

00031
0304

June 17, 1980



Dear [redacted]

I received your recent letter in support of Father John Slown and I just wanted to assure you that I share your appreciation of his ministry. There was no letter, as far as I know of, requesting Father Slown's removal from St. Joseph's parish. I discussed with Father Slown the advisability of his receiving some professional help at this time and he agreed to that and for that reason I have made the decision to remove him as pastor of St. Josephs to allow him to receive the help that he needs.

I know that your prayers and support will mean much to Father Slown, and I hope that you have shared your opinion of his ministry with him.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

000305

June 18, 1980

Reverend John Slown
St. Joseph's Parish
211 N. Center Avenue
Bradley, IL 60915

Dear Jack:

Enclosed please find the material we've been waiting for. I notice the House would appreciate receiving the completed forms prior to your arrival.

Please tell me about your plane arrangements.

Asking God's blessing on you and placing my complete confidence in you, I am

Cordially yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RJV:bjd

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

600306

MOST REVEREND RAYMOND VONESH, D.D.
BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF JOLIET
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

DEAR BISHOP VONESH:

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND TESTING
MATERIALS PER YOUR TELEPHONE REQUEST
OF JUNE 13, 1980. IF WE CAN BE OF
FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO YOU REGARDING
THIS MATTER, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO
CONTACT THIS OFFICE.

SINCERELY,

Shirley Frediani
SHIRLEY FREDIANI
SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

13 JUNE 1980

*Sent to Fr. Slown on
June 18-'80*

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

June 26, 1980

Most Rev Vonesh,

000307A

He (my husband & kids) were shocked to hear of the way Father Slown was ousted from his parish in Bradley.

Father Slown was here with Father Holup for several months and we all grew to love him, we dreaded the day he had to leave Herscher, we feel one troubled boy in Herscher would have remained in church if Father Slown would have stayed here. He was so good to and for the teenagers. They need someone they can communicate with.

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Father Holup is a grand priest.
We know he's human and can make
mistakes just as we can. 307B

We've heard rumors that some
don't like him and we sure don't want
to lose him like St Joseph's did so
we'd just like to tell you he's no 1
with us. He's great!

Could you send me Father Slown's
address, we'd sure like to keep in
touch with him?

Thank you and when you see
Bishop Blanchette, please give him
our love.

God bless and keep you,



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

June 26, 1980 000308



Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of concern regarding Father Slown. I do not receive very kindly your expression that Father Slown was ousted. It is something of a mystery that people - especially those who care for Father Slown - would entertain such unkind and erroneous thoughts. Had you known the need of Father Slown for medical and professional help, you would be more than pleased to know that we care enough for him to see that he gets it. This is a great expression of love and concern. We are very optimistic about the active future of Father Slown and recognize the talent and potential of this fine priest.

Asking God's blessing upon yourselves and family,

I am

Cordially yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RJV:bjd

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

July 8, 1980

000316

Reverend John Slown

[Redacted]

Dear Jack:

Thank you so much for completing the test at Montara. I hope it was not too burdensome for you.

I understand that Saint Luke's Institute has been recommended for you and I'm wondering if you have been able to make contact with these people in Holliston?

Asking God's bontinued blessing on you and your work, I am

Cordially yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RJV:bjd

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000318

July 15, 1980

[REDACTED]
House of Affirmation, Inc.
1185 Acacia Street, Box 437
Montara, California 94037

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I want to thank you for the report that you sent me on the Reverend John Slown. I am very grateful to you and your associates for their detailed analysis, and especially for the promptness with which you accommodated him. I am grateful also for your suggestion that Father Slown apply to St. Luke's Institute. I have already been in contact with St. Luke's and they will be prepared to receive Father Slown in early September.

Let me repeat my appreciation for the services that you rendered, but especially for being available to assist men such as Father Slown. I am greatly indebted to all of you and assure you of my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000319

On July 23, 1980, I called Fr. John Slawn and asked him to write authorizing [REDACTED] to release his records of interviews re: Fr. Slawn. I said I would send this letter to the [REDACTED] and direct him to send the info on to [REDACTED] at St. Luke's Institute in Holliston, Mass. Fr. Slawn said he was just with [REDACTED] yesterday (Tuesday) & that the Doctor already has the address of [REDACTED]. I then asked Fr. Slawn to write to the Doctor & direct him to send the report to [REDACTED] - this at the Doctor's earliest convenience. Fr. Slawn said that he would do this.

In passing, Slawn said he was doing well & everything seemed fine.

R.G.J.

000320

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imerch,

This letter is in regard to the transfer or resignation of our Pastor, Rev. John Slown from St. Joseph's Church in Bradley, Ill.

You listened to the opinions of some women who spoke against Fr. Slown, now do me the same favor and listen to my opinion of a wonderful priest. So what if Fr. has weaknesses just like everybody else. He may have a quick temper, but sometimes the people deserve it. You weigh that against all the good things he has done for our church and the good things will FAR exceed the bad.

I have been a member of St. Joseph's Church since I was one year old (38 years, to be exact, and, if memory serves me right, Fr. Slown has been the best. He has done more for our church than anyone else. He has been there, as you know, for two years. Within one month after he arrived he fixed a door to the church that had been broke for several months. He had the inside of the church painted and encouraged everybody to dig a little deeper so that we could have air-conditioning, which we now have. He cleared the debt of the church by

increased weekly donations, from barely \$3,000 in the past to between \$4,000 and \$5,000 (his last week \$4,755). This is from approximately 1200 families. He saw to it that the altar boys had new garments. We now have plenty of altar boys, ushers, and readers, which we never had in the past. The list could go on and on of the things he has done for us.

Now, I will tell you what he has done for me. Approximately five years ago, I was a fallen-out Catholic for about one year. I came back to the church only to please my parents. The reason I fell away was that I had a hard time accepting all the changes taking place in the Mass, to me singing was for Protestants and Lutherans. I went to Church only because I had to. Then Fr. Slown arrived. He has such a beautiful voice, that I enjoyed just listening to his singing. Many, many times he said, "He wasn't singing for us, but for himself. C'mon sing." The result, myself and many more people singing than before. He would chat with people before and after Mass. He took time to know people by their first names. In general, he

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320c

made the church come alive, for he had a way of making you laugh and want to come to Church instead of having to.

My observations of how the other parishioners feel are this. After Mass the people would stop & talk to him and the grade-school kids would always flock around him. In general, the parishioners felt more like cooperating than in the past. When he said his last Mass for us and made his announcement, there were many people shedding tears, including myself.

I do not mean to be disrespectful, but I cannot understand why you would take the word of a handful of people compared to the rest of our large parish. I hope this letter has helped you learn more about Fr. Slown. I just wish you would have investigated further before transferring our beloved Pastor, especially for a bad reason. He will be sadly missed.

Sincerely concerned,



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Released April 2014

3200

P.S. I only hope the good Lord has saw to it that you have received many more good letters from St. Joseph Parishioners, for myself, my family, and all of our friends would love to have him back.



Rev. John Slown

000321

July 23, 1980



Dear [Redacted]

I received the letter you sent me recently concerning Father John Slown. I appreciate the good things you had to say about Father Slown and assure you that I share your opinion. I want you to know that I did not make this decision in haste nor without consulting with Father Slown. It was a mutually agreed decision that it would be better for him to receive some professional help to assist him in some areas. That help is now being offered Father Slown and I am sure that he will be back ministering in the diocese soon.

I am grateful for your letter of support of Father Slown and I assure you again that I recognize his great ability.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



000322

SAINT LUKE INSTITUTE

October 17, 1980

Dear Treasurer,

As you know, Saint Luke Institute is a private, non-profit organization which operates on a private fee basis supplemented by occasional donations.

During the past months, we, as well as you, have experienced ever increasing costs; however with the help of a dedicated staff and an on-going fund raising program, we have been able to provide high quality care without increasing our fees. However, in order to maintain the quality of our service we now find it necessary to increase our rates; and it is with great reluctance that we announce a ten percent increase effective October 15, 1980.

This is less than the recently approved rate increase allowed for other health care facilities in our geographic area, but we realize that your burdens are probably as great as ours, and we will make every effort to continue to provide high quality care at this minimal fee.

We are very happy to be able to serve your community, and we sincerely hope that this increase will not cause you great hardship.

Sincerely,



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



Our Lady's Hall

287 Highland Street

Milton, Mass. 02186 00323

617/696-0593

Oct. 15, 1980

Dear Jim,

In that I have not received my check for September, I was wondering what happened. Did you send it to the [redacted] in Woodridge, Illinois and it got lost, or am I no longer to receive it? If I am to receive a monthly check, please send it to Our Lady's Hall, 287 Highland Street, Milton Massachusetts, 02186. I should remain here for the next couple of months. When I move to the next place, I will send you the new address. Jim, thanks a lot for taking care of this matter.

With all best wishes, I remain,

Yours in Christ
Jack Slown

Mary Slowo

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



Our Lady's Hall

287 Highland Street
Milton, Mass. 02186

000324

617/696-0593

Oct. 20, 1980

Dear Jim,

My check was finally forwarded to me. I received it on Oct. 18th. Please send the next two checks to Our Lady's Hall, 287 Highland Street, Milton, Massachusetts, 02186. After that, I will send you the next address.

JS

In Christ,
John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000325

October 21, 1980

Reverend John C. Slown
Our Lady's Hall
287 Highland Street
Milton, Massachusetts 02186

Dear Jack:

In answer to your letter of October 15, 1980, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ter c [REDACTED] I am sure that they for-
warded it to you in Massachusetts and you should have it by now.

As of this date, your checks will be sent to you at Our Lady's Hall,
287 Highland Street, Milton, Massachusetts, 02186, until we hear from you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Reverend James M. Frederick
Diocesan Comptroller

JMF/rrh

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

P. R. P.

Archdiocese of Boston

Our Lady's Hall

000326-A

287 Highland Street
Milton, Mass. 02186
(617) 696-0593

October 23, 1980

Dear Bishop Innesch,

Greetings from Our Lady's Hall in Milton, Massachusetts. I arrived here on Wednesday, September 24th. Our Lady's Hall belongs to and is used by the Archdiocese of Boston for their priests with alcoholic problems. Also, St. Luke's Institute has been using it as a holding place for priests and brothers until space becomes available for them at their own facility. This is the case with me.

While living at Our Lady's Hall, I am following their program, which is A.A. oriented. Their program stresses the disease of alcohol, the physical aspects of it, and what alcohol does to an A.A. person. The emotional or psychological and spiritual parts of alcoholism are also dealt with via studying and discussing the 12 Steps of A.A. I also go to St. Luke's Institute on Wednesdays and Fridays and receive an hour's individual therapy session each time. The program at Our Lady's Hall runs around two months, depending on the individual.

It will probably be around December 1st before I begin the program at St. Luke's Institute. Their program runs for at least four months and stresses the psychological or emotional - feelings of one. A person goes through individual therapy, as well as large and small group therapy. The A.A. Program is used but seems to be secondary. Furthermore, I have been told that it costs \$4,000.00 per month, plus extras, at St. Luke's in contrast to \$40.00 per day at Our Lady's Hall.

(over)

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Since I have stopped drinking and I feel clear of alcohol, I have been able to think more clearly. I didn't realize what he had really done to me as a person, especially from January of 1980 - June of 1980. Just a few things that happened to me were - I had little drive to do anything, my creativity was stifled, and above all my defense mechanisms that controlled my character defects or negative emotions were practically, if not at times totally, knocked out of commission.

Having re-read several times my evaluation from the House of Affirmations in Montara, California, I realize that they only told me about my character defects which I have known about for many years. Over the past ten years, I have been involved in various types of programs that have helped me to understand, to control, to deal with, and to express them in a way that is not offensive or hurtful to an individual or to me.

In reflection, I was in control of my feelings - emotions, my very life, except for those occasions when I had too much alcohol in my system. Yes, I started out as a social drinker with no problems but eventually my body chemistry pushed me over the magic line to being a compulsive drinker, which caused me a lot of problems. Sad, but true! It will be by working the A.A. Program to its fullest extent that I will be able to regain and remain in control of my feelings - emotions, my very life.

At this point, there is something that I would like to know from you. The last time that I saw you, you mentioned that you would see me before Christmas. If I go through the program at Our Lady's Hall, I would be home by Christmas. However, if I go through the program at St. Luke's Institute, I would be home sometime in April. So, I would appreciate it very much if you would let me know what route that you want me to take. Whatever

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

P. R. P.

Archdiocese of Boston

Released April 2014

Our Lady's Hall

287 Highland Street
Milton, Mass. 02186
(617) 696-0593

way that you want me to go, I will follow it. Also, if you wish to check out Our Lady's Hall program and St. Luke's Institute - Marsalini's program, Father Bill Shanahan, the director of Our Lady's Hall, said that you could do so by contacting Father Bill Thompson of Guest House, Lake Orion, Michigan. He is knowledgeable of both programs.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Father John Slow

P.S. I hope that the convocation of priests this past week was most beneficial for all. I celebrated several Masses asking God to bless it and all those who took part in it.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000327

October 28, 1980

Reverend John Slown
Our Lady's Hall
287 Highland Street
Milton, Massachusetts 02186

Dear John,

Many thanks for your lengthy letter. It was good to hear from you. I was getting anxious about not having heard from you. I am pleased that things seem to be going so well for you. I really appreciated your letter and the understanding that you seem to have found.

You noted that you would begin the program at St. Luke's Institute around December 1st. I guess for some reason I had presumed that you would be able to begin this program almost immediately and would not have to stay at Our Lady's Hall for such an extended period. When I mentioned to you that I would see you around Christmas time, it was with the understanding that you would be there for approximately four months overall. I guess I had not planned on the long stay at Our Lady's Hall. In regard to your question about what I would want you to do, I think that I will leave that entirely in the hands of yourself and the administrators. If they feel that you are able to come home before that time, that will certainly be fine with me, and I am sure with you also. If, on the other hand, they feel that you should take the entire program, then I guess I would concur with their opinion. That is a judgment which I really am not in a position to make, and I would be satisfied with whatever is determined by you and those in charge.

Many thanks for your prayers for the convocation. I think, on the whole, it was a great success. The priests really seemed to enjoy having the opportunity of being together and I think some very positive things have come from that. As you know, many of the priests went with apprehension and misgivings. Those seem to have been dissipated and the general result was a hope filled

000328

2.

spirit. I am looking forward to good things.

You know that you are in my prayers by name daily. I hope that all is going well for you. Many people continue to ask about you and tell me that they are praying for you. Drop me a line from time to time to keep me informed about yourself.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

October 28, 1980

[REDACTED]
St. Luke's Institute
120 Goulding Street
Holliston, MA 01746

Dear [REDACTED]

I am enclosing checks for two of the statements that were received for Father John Slown. I have also heard from Father Slown and he seems to be doing very well at this early stage. He asked me if I wanted him to take the four-month program at St. Luke's or only the two-month program at Our Lady's Hall. I have written him and indicated that I feel that decision should be made by the administrators and himself and that I would abide by it. I get the impression that he feels he has recognized his difficulties and has come to grips with them and perhaps does not feel the need for the program at St. Luke's. I leave this to your good judgment.

I have not as yet received any billing for Father Slown's stay at Our Lady's Hall, except for these enclosures and one previous payment. I would appreciate it if you could explain to me the transportation costs. I don't know what all is involved, but it does seem to be excessively high for a trip to a psychologist. I mention this because Father Slown drove his own car from Joliet to Massachusetts and would certainly be able to drive himself. I recognize that it may be a policy of the Institute that men be driven to their appointments, but it strikes me strangely that his transportation costs are more than his therapy costs.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Enclosures

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

P. R. P.

Archdiocese of Boston

Our Lady's Hall

000332 A

287 Highland Street
Milton, Mass. 02186
(617) 696-0593

November 20, 1980

Dear Bishop Imesch,

Thank you very much for your letter. It was so good to hear from you. I was very happy to hear that the convocation of priests was beneficial and productive.

Concerning my next step in recovering from alcoholism, I sought what God's Will would be for me in this situation through much prayer and meditation. I also consulted with Fr. William Shanahan, director of Our Lady's Hall, where I am living and working their program, and with Mr. Michael Sy, my therapist at St. Luke's Institute, where I am supposed to go. Fr. Shanahan told me that if I was a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston, I wouldn't need any further treatment in another program. In fact, he would want me to go back as soon as possible into the active ministry doing the work that I had previously been doing. As for Mr. Sy, he made no comments either way. He did tell me about the tremendousness of St. Luke's program. He also told me that because of my open mindedness, willingness, and sharp mind that I had far surpassed others in therapy over the same period of time. Furthermore, I checked my character defects that the House of Affirmation in California said needed to be corrected and worked on. To my surprise and happiness, I discovered that my therapist and I had discussed and worked on all these character defects. Also, through the speakers at A. A. meetings, many of my character defects were touched on in their talks and valuable insights on them given, since these people had the same problems that I have. This is one of the many assets and benefits of A. A. meetings. So, with the above knowledge and

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Released April 2014

realizing the tremendous progress that I have made in recovering from alcoholism through my present program, I made the decision that I would not go to St. Luke's Institute for further treatment. I wish to stress that this decision was arrived at with much prayer and soul searching.

You might ask me why I didn't consult with Fr. Michael Peterson, the director of St. Luke's Institute. The reason is that he really doesn't know me. The longest and only conversation that we ever had was when I introduced myself to him and he to me. When he finds out that I am going to use his program, he will probably contact you. Therefore, when I see you, I will discuss some of the things about St. Luke's Institute that helped me make my decision. However, I must add that they did not play an important part in my decision.

Once I finish my present alcoholic recovery program around the latter part of December, I would like to fly to Denver, Colorado and spend the Christmas holidays with my sister, whom I have not seen for over a year. Around January 1st, I would fly back to Boston and then start the drive back to Joliet. As soon as I arrive home, I will call you for an appointment. I hope that this meets with your approval.

If my decision for no further treatment and my plans for the Christmas holidays meets with your approval, please let me know. Also, Fr. William Shanahan would like a statement from you if you approve of my decision and holiday plans. His address is: Fr. William Shanahan, Our Lady's Hall, 287 Highland Street, Milton, Massachusetts - 02186.

Thank you very much for remembering me in your daily prayers. You can be assured that you and the people of the Diocese of Joliet are remembered in mine.

Wishing you a most blessed and grateful Thanksgiving, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000333

November 24, 1980

[Redacted]
St. Luke Institute
120 Goulding Street
Holliston, Massachusetts 01746

Dear [Redacted]

I appreciate receiving the letter you sent me and also the phone call that you made to Bishop Vonesh. Thank you also for clarifying the charges for Father Slown.

I was sorry to hear about all of the difficulty that you have been having with Our Lady's Hall. It is unfortunate that those things happen, but I guess we all run into them. My immediate concern was with Father Slown. I think that both he and I had some expectations that he was going to be received into the program much sooner than will be the fact. I thought that after waiting in Joliet for three months, that when he went to Massachusetts he would only be at Our Lady's Hall for a few days. As it is, he will have been there two months and it is still uncertain as to when he can actually get into the program. I wonder what the advantage is in having him stay so long at Our Lady's Hall, especially when he could have remained here in Joliet. Although he was anxious to begin treatment, there was no urgency inasmuch as he had already been here for three months. When he was finally able to go to Massachusetts, I think both Father Slown and I had expectations that he would enter the program quickly. Naturally it is a disappointment to him to know that he must still undergo four months of treatment, and it is disappointing to me as well. In addition there is the whole financial situation. I recognize that this type of treatment is costly, but adding two months of additional expense only makes it more costly.

I have written to Father Slown, as I mentioned to you, indicating that I think he should remain for the period of treatment that is recommended by those in charge. Obviously you feel that this will require a full four months. I am content to accept that, but I would certainly hope that this treatment could begin soon.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

000334

MEMORANDUM

December 2, 1980

RE: Reverend John Slown

I spoke with Father Slown on Monday, December 1st concerning his future. Father [REDACTED] had called the previous week saying they now had a place for Father Slown at St. Luke's Institute, which was his original destination. Father Slown wanted to continue to remain at Our Lady's Hall until the end of December, and then fly to Denver to visit his sister, and then return to Joliet. He felt that he had participated in the program at Our Lady's Hall, under the direction of Father Shanahan, and that there was no need for any further assistance.

Father [REDACTED] claims that Father Shanahan is not competent to run a program, but merely has a home where priests with alcoholic problems can be given assistance. I checked with Bishop Daily in Boston and he informed me that Father Shanahan operates a home for alcoholic priests, but has no formal training in the area.

When I spoke to Father Slown I asked him to continue his program at St. Luke's Institute. I told him that I felt he had progressed a great deal and that perhaps it was not even necessary for him to continue, but since he was there I felt he should take the program. I told him that I wanted [REDACTED] to allow him to go to Denver to visit his sister during the holidays, and if there were any problems with that he should contact me.

Part of the difficulty stems from the fact that Father Slown has been in Boston since near the end of September and has been waiting to get into St. Luke's since that time. I wrote to [REDACTED] and told him that I did not understand the need to have Father Slown go to Boston for a two month waiting period, when he was certainly able to wait in Joliet, which in fact he had been doing since the first part of June. At any rate Father Slown said he was willing to go to St. Luke's, although he had misgivings about the program and especially the personnel involved.


Most Reverend Joseph L. Inesch

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

P. R. P.

Archdiocese of Boston

000335

Our Lady's Hall

287 Highland Street
Milton, Mass. 02186
(617) 696-0593

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

Dec. 7, 1980

TO The Diocese of Joliet, Illinois (Att:- Bishop Imesch)

FROM..... The Priest Recovery Program- Archdiocese of Boston, Mass.

FOR Rev. John C. Slown

Residential Rehabilitation Program of P.R.P. -
Primary Treatment Phase - preparatory to admission
St Luke Institute, Holliston Mass
(admitted there..p.m. Dec 2,1980)

HERE .. 70 Days....viz 9/24 - 12/2 ,1980

RATE \$ 40.00 per diem...viz 70days at \$40.00...\$ 2800.00

TOTAL DUE... \$ 2800.00

Respectfully submitted,

Wm J Shanahan
Wm. J. Shanahan, C.M.I - Director/P.R.P.

Wm
Encl. - To Bishop..Article Boston Pilto

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

P. R. P.

Archdiocese of Boston

033336

Dec. 7, 1980

Our Lady's Hall

297 Highland Street
Milton, Mass. 02186
(617) 696-0593

Dear Bishop Imesch :

Re John Slown...I enclosed an article from the Archdiocesan Weekly, the Pilot, which hopefully shed some light, to and for you, about what we are all about and what John Slown has been about these past seventy days.

We are a valid Facility...A.A. oriented. You are familiar with Guest House at Lake Orion..I best describe here as...as Mini Guest House. Our success rate has been above the average..a success brought about ONLY by God and His Blessed Mother. Of that I am convinced, 90% of the men here in the past six years are now back functioning and living productive lives for God and Church..obviously..they are local.

For your information, I circled # 4 in the article, to give you some idea of what John did while here. [redacted] wanted just a 'Holding Action'..but he entered Our Program as it is.

I feel that he made Definite Progress while here. His BASIC Problem is Alcohol and what it did to his mind and emotions. Take away said Alcohol and you will have a different man...that process has already begun. Hopefully, the Holliston experience will mesh with what he got here a New Man,resulting.

With Every Good wish to you in Our Lord

Sincerely.... Wm. J. Shanahan, O.M.I.

Wm. J. Shanahan

Our Lady's Hall in Milton

Released April 2014

Doston 11102
JUN 21, 1976

000337-A



Alcoholism Treated In Priests Recovery Program

In the past decade, the attitude of the Church and society toward alcoholism, the country's second greatest health problem, has changed from a do-nothing position to one of enlightened action. A special apostolate on alcoholism in priests and religious was initiated in June, 1972 when Cardinal Medeiros promulgated to the clergy and religious a policy and procedural statement on alcoholism.

In agreement with competent health authorities, the policy formally recognizes alcoholism as a disease, a threefold illness of body, mind and spirit. Its concern is with the serious impact this disease has on the physical, emotional and spiritual life of the priest, as well as its societal effect on their ministry to the people of God. As is true of any other illness, alcoholism is no respecter of person, state of life or vocation. One out of ten persons who use alcohol is liable to become an alcoholic.

FOR TOO LONG the Church has shared in the ignorance and inaction which has characterized society's attitude toward the alcoholic. Too often in the past he was stigmatized as a 'weak' person, morally deficient in the virtuous use of the beverage drug, alcohol. This attitude made 'alcoholism' virtually synonymous with wilful 'drunkenness,' the theological sin. Hence the policy of the Church was to isolate and conceal the alcoholic priest or religious, lest he occasion 'scandal' in the laity. Admittedly, this attitude was neither consonant with truth, justice nor charity. Further it impeded the sick person in accepting his illness and seeking treatment.

Because of the then current at-

titude, the dedicated work of Fathers Thomas Foley and Gerald Hogan among alcoholic priests and religious was given little official recognition and was not publically known. The present policy of openly admitting and formally accepting the alcoholic as a sick person, in need of help because he is unaware of his illness is certainly more humane and Christian.

Early identification and referral to treatment is sound preventative medicine. It alone can arrest the progression of the illness, which inevitably will lead to irreparable organic, mental and spiritual deterioration. Alcoholism is a killer disease, and bodily and spiritual life is the issue at stake. While it is an incurable disease, its progression can be arrested. Unfortunately, because of society's ignorance and misconceptions, only a small percentage of the total alcoholic population will receive and accept the treatment available.

It is on the premise of these established facts, that the policy and procedure of the Archdiocese is based. Entitled, "Priests Recovery Program" its headquarter office is located at Our Lady's Hall in Milton, Mass. The program is administered by the Rev. William J. Shanahan, O.M.I., assisted by the Rev. Terence Sullivan, O.P. Both priests have the professional training and personal experience as counselors in alcoholism rehabilitation. A professional panel of Health Advisors and an advisory board of clerics and layman are incorporated into the administrative structure.

To priests or religious who refer themselves or are referred by their

superiors or other concerned parties, the program provides the following services:

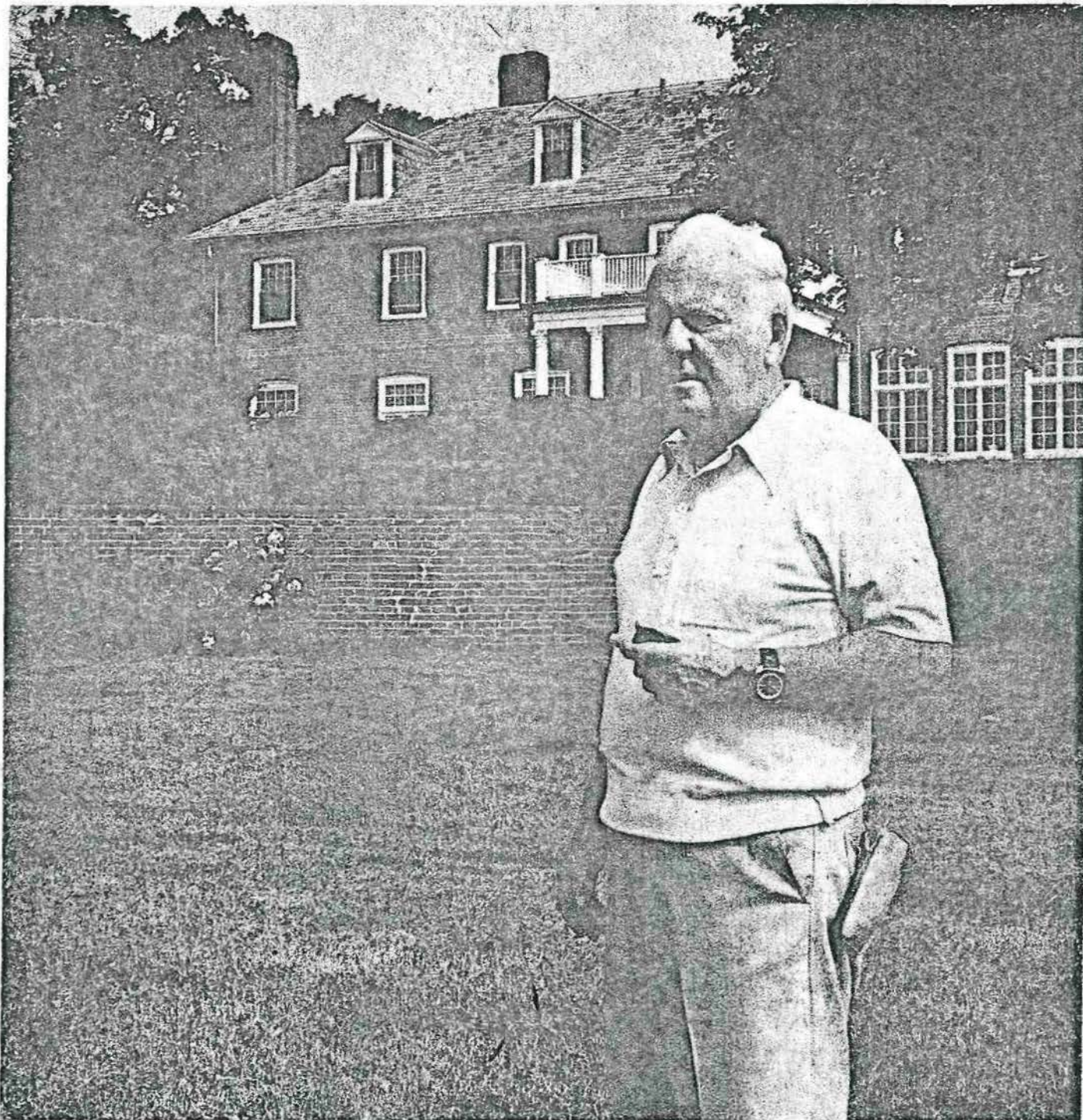
1. diagnostic evaluation of alcoholism and other chemical dependencies;
2. referral to hospitals or alcoholism facilities for acute phase of physical detoxification;
3. referral to specialized long-term therapy at alcoholism rehabilitation centers when necessity so indicates;
4. residential rehabilitation therapy at Our Lady's Hall, including didactic lectures on multiphasic aspects of alcoholism, individual and group therapy and counseling, daily participation in the open and closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in the area, weekly meetings with fellow priests who have undergone treatment;
5. a drop-in center for informational and supportive therapy;
6. a center for the spiritual renewal of its members;
7. a Clearinghouse of information and guidance for priests and religious who encounter alcoholism in their apostolic ministry.

His Eminence, Cardinal Medeiros has given this apostolate a high priority, under his immediate jurisdiction, and hopefully anticipates the cooperation of the clergy and religious in implementing the goals of this apostolate.

Bro. J. J. Roy M.S. - Assistant

0337-B

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SURVEYING THE GROUNDS ... Rev. William J. Shanahan, O.M.I., administrator of the Priests Recovery Program, looks over the grounds of Our Lady's Hall in Milton. Fr. Shanahan and his assistant, Rev. Terence

Sullivan, O.P., have had professional training and personal experience as counselors in alcoholic rehabilitation. This special apostolate was initiated in June, 1972.

(PILOT Photo by Stack)

000347

December 18, 1980

Reverend William J. Shanahan, O.M.I.
Our Lady's Hall
887 Highland Street
Milton, Mass. 02186

Dear Father Shanahan:

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$2,800 to cover the cost for Father Slown's stay with you. Obviously, there has been much confusion over this entire situation. I thought that Father Slown was going to Our Lady's Hall for only a brief period of time until he could enter [REDACTED] program. The purpose of his being sent to Massachusetts was to have him take advantage of the program at Holliston. I had no idea that he would remain at your place for such a lengthy period of time. If I had known, I would have advised him to stay here in Joliet and wait until an opening was available. As it was, he had already waited three months here in Joliet.

While I recognize that Father Slown has had a problem with alcohol, were this the only consideration I would have asked him to go to Guest House.

At any rate I am sure that staying with you at Our Lady's Hall has been very helpful to Father Slown and I am hopeful that the stay at Holliston will be helpful as well.

With every best wish for a blessed Christmas,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Enc.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000348

December 22, 1980

[Redacted]
Director, St. Luke Institute
120 Goulding Street
Holliston, MA 01746

Dear [Redacted]:

At the request of Bishop Joseph Imesch, I am enclosing the information form which you sent to him. Bishop Imesch sent the four similar forms to the priest indicated in his questionnaire.

Bishop Imesch is fully aware of the need for continuing support for those persons who have gone through your program, and would consider a visit to Massachusetts at the end of this period, if possible. Due to the heavy press of official duties here in Joliet, this visit may not be possible. However, Bishop Imesch feels that he does have a good rapport with Father Slown and that Father Slown would certainly realize why he might not be able to come to St. Luke's.

The Bishop questions the need to have a member of your Institution come to the diocese for a follow-up program. We have had several priests in past years attend similar Institutes and their follow-up program did not require the presence of someone from the rehabilitation program. The Bishop believes that we have resource people in our own area who could follow through with the work begun in Massachusetts.

With every best wish,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend William E. Donnelly
Co-Chancellor

Dear Bishop Loresch,

It was so good to hear from you. Your letter conveyed to me your concern, support, and love for me. I certainly appreciate this fact, as it makes me feel good and comfortable as a person in my present situation of life. It also gives me hope and assurance of my worth as one of God's children and makes the future bright.

It has been over two months since I entered treatment at St. Luke's - Marcellin. Truly, this is a unique and tremendous program. It deals in depth with one's physical, psychological, and spiritual life. All of these have, in one way or another, been infected by the disease of alcoholism. It took me two months to break through my high and low psychological pattern of life, which has caused me many problems in the past. I am now living and operating in my normal psychological state. It is great. Something that I hadn't experienced in years. The break-through was due to my coming in grips with who the true John Slow really is. At this point of time, I see my alcoholism as a blessing, a gift, as it has thus far been the key to opening a whole new and productive life for me. It has not been easy. I have experienced several times my own passion, death, but above all my resurrection. The resurrection makes it a lot easier for me to accept the pain and suffering that accompanies my present growth.

Just a couple of weeks ago, we participated in a workshop with the graduates of this program. Each graduate is expected to participate in four workshops over the first two years of recovery. This is just another instance of St. Luke's - Marcellin's thoroughness in helping each person going through the program to attain the fullest possible recovery from their disease of alcoholism and to arrest it. From what the graduates say - to say, they praised the program at St. Luke's and said that it works if you follow it. They also spoke highly of the institute's concern for them after their re-entry into the real world. From what I can see, St. Luke's Institute is one of a kind, and I am very happy to be part of it.

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Released April 2014

351-13

The morning I saw Fr. Michael Peter Heise that he met you in Dallas last week, at the sexuality workshop for the bishops. He was very impressed with you. He may have told you that we are having a sexuality workshop at St. Luke's this week. This is going to be a very important week for me in relationship to my sexuality. I am looking forward to it and to its outcome. It just dawned on me that this is a first for me - a bishop paying for one of his priests to view sexual stimulating movies. I wonder if the N.C.R. paper would print this type of story. I mention this kidding, as I read a story in last week's issue of the N.C.R. and saw you made the front page in regards to Bishop White's ordination to the order of bishops.

You might be interested to know that I am living with four other residents in a house a block away from the institute. I am the youngest in time at the institute of this group. They all have been in treatment for over four months. I believe that this is a compliment, a feather in my cap to have been removed from the main residents house after only two months and moved in with them. I have been told by members of the staff that I am working the program very hard. Thus far, the rewards have been minimal for me.

Words fail to express my gratitude to you and the people of the diocese for affording me this great opportunity for this type of treatment that I am receiving. I know that it is a costly program, but I believe that John Slow is worth it and this is the first time that I have admitted it. Furthermore, I feel that God has a reason for me going through it. What He will ask of me after re-entry, I will leave in His hands, as He does a better job running my life than I do.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ,
Father John Slow

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000352

February 20, 1981

Reverend John Slown
St. Luke Institute
120 Goulding
Holliston, Massachusetts 01746

Dear John,

I received your letter of February 11th and have read it several times. You probably don't realize it, but that is a great letter! I really would like to share that with all of the priests of the diocese, at least parts of it, but will not do so. Your positive appreciation of what has been happening in your life is a great blessing, and I am thankful to the Lord that the opportunity arose to take advantage of the program at the Institute. You will have an opportunity that many of our priests could use, but will never be able to. Your knowledge and appreciation of yourself will be founded on facts, and you will be able to know why and how you operate and what to do about it. I have no doubt that this has been a time of blessing for you.

I can well understand your statement that you look upon your alcoholism as a gift. I have long felt that those who are able to admit the illness become better priests. I think frequently of the phrase, I think it is during the Easter vigil ceremony, "Oh happy fault". I feel that only those who have found it necessary to experience the forgiveness of the Lord really can look upon Jesus as Savior and know how much he really does love them. I am so pleased that this is happening to you, and I am anxious for you to return to active ministry in the diocese. I think you will be a great blessing for our people and will be a much more effective priest.

I am delighted, and I know you must be, with the obvious progress you are making as evidenced by your being placed in a separate home. That must really make you feel good. I felt all along that when you went to St. Luke's, you would be way ahead of the others who were there. I believe you started working on your problem as soon as you could without waiting for someone else to assist you. I think you deserve a lot of credit for making that effort by yourself. What

2.

happens at St. Lukes will give you the necessary foundation to help you in the future.

I don't know what the weather is like in Massachusetts, but we are experiencing an unbelievable warm spell. It has been in the sixties for the past two days and while its too early for spring, it sure makes one think of it. I don't know how much longer this will last, but no one is complaining about it. Even if the heavy snow fall comes now, it will disappear quickly. Just a week ago we got hit with a real blizzard of about 9 inches worth of snow and extremely cold weather. In a week it was all gone with this warm spell.

I can tell from your letter that you are doing well, and I am grateful for that. I am sure that you heard that Father Dick Ruffalo's mother passed away. Dick held up very well during the funeral. Bill Jaeger preached the homily and gave me a good idea of what Mrs. Ruffalo must have been like. She seemed like a delightful women. Losing a mother is always difficult and painful experience. I am sure that Dick would appreciate hearing from you if you have not already written to him.

Again, my thanks for your great letter. It helped to make my day. I keep you in my prayers daily and ask that you remember me and the people of the diocese in yours.

Sincerely in Christ, .

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000357

May 8, 1981

[REDACTED]
St. Luke Institute
2420 Brooks Drive
Washington, D.C. 20023

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your recent letter informing me that Father John Slown is able to return to the diocese to accept an assignment. I am very grateful to you and the members of your staff for your work with Father Slown. I am looking forward to having him return. I have had the opportunity to speak with him several times, yesterday most recently, and he sounds just fine.

Father Slown mentioned to me that you are planning on coming to Joliet on May 22nd. If that date is still definite, I have scheduled some time at 1 P.M. when I could meet with you. Should there be any change, please drop me a letter or give me a call.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Released April 2014

000358

MEMORANDUM

May 8, 1981

TO: Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh

FROM: Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

John Slown called me and I discussed his placement at Divine Savior and he is agreeable to that arrangement. I think he may be calling Vic Rudden but you might want to give Vic a call also to say that everything is alright.

In talking to John he said that a little more was read into his statement than he intended. He knew very well that he would be going as an associate and knew that he was not in a pastoral role and therefore would not interfere. As of now he feels that it is because of the concern he expressed to Dick Ruffalo that the change has occurred. Perhaps it is best to leave it this way.

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

P.S. You might mention to [REDACTED] the Director of the St. Luke Institute, will be in Joliet to meet with Father Rudden, Father Slown, other priest friends, and members of the parish staff in a two hour re-entry workshop. I am also getting an indication from Father Slown that the first six months are expected to be a re-entry program and he will not be able to assume full time activity. That should be a matter that Father Slown and Father Rudden are very clear on before the assignment begins. They should probably discuss that with one another shortly after Father Slown arrives.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000359

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 20, 1981

Reverend John Slown
Divine Savior Church
67th & Main Streets
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear Father Slown:

As we had discussed earlier, I am appointing you as an associate pastor (Canon 476) at Divine Savior Parish, Downers Grove, effective May 15, 1981. I grant you general delegation for marriages in Divine Savior effective May 15th.

Father Rudden has agreed to accept you in this capacity with the understanding that you would remain with him until a suitable pastorate was available. In addition, as I mentioned to you, it may be necessary from time to time to ask you to fill in at various parishes should an emergency arise. Every effort will be made not to interrupt your stay at Divine Savior, but I thought you should be aware of the possibility of being asked to do this additional work. Should our program of sabbaticals take effect this Fall, it may very well be that I would have to ask you to fill in for one of the priests selected.

Father Rudden is aware that you will not be able initially to assume a full work load. It will be helpful if both of you could come to a clear understanding of job expectations. Such an agreement would eliminate the possibility of any misunderstanding concerning your role.

It was good to see you on Monday. As I said, you looked extremely well and very relaxed. I know that these last few months have been very difficult for you, but also very beneficial. What you have learned and what you have been through will help to make you an even more effective minister of the Gospel. Your experience will also help you to be of assistance to your fellow priests.

I repeat again my happiness in having you become active once more in the diocese, and I assure you of my readiness to be available to you. I hope that you will take an active part in the cluster meetings of your area, as you will have much to offer your brother priests.

With a promise of my prayers for your ministry, I am

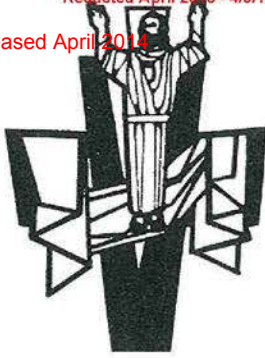
Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Reverend Victor Rudden

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



DIVINE SAVIOR PARISH

67th and Main Streets • Downers Grove, IL 60515

000360

June 8, 1981

Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.
Bishop
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Bishop,

In recently rereading Rev. John Slown's letter of appointment to Divine Savior Parish I notice an indication that John should expect to fill in for priests who will be taking a sabbatical this fall.

If this is still your intention, what does this entail? Will John be filling in while still being at Divine Savior or will he be, for a period of time, at some other parish? I am concerned because of the hardship of not having him here for a period of time. I am concerned for my people who have very joyfully received him here. And, I am concerned for John himself that he would not feel like a substitute.

Hoping for a little light on these matters, I remain

Sincerely,

Rev. Victor Rudden
Pastor

VR:mbk

000361

June 11, 1981

Reverend Victor Rudden
Divine Savior Parish
67th and Main Streets
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear Vic,

In response to your letter concerning Father Slown's letter of appointment, it was my intention to have Father Slown fill in as Pastor of a parish should some emergency or need arise. I mentioned sabbaticals because there may be a possibility that we will have a program for that for the diocese. If a pastor were chosen, particularly one from a one man parish, it is likely that I would ask Father Slown to take over that parish for the duration of the sabbatical, probably three months. Other possibilities where I might ask him to serve would be in case of illness or some other emergency.

Because Father Slown has been a pastor, I am anxious to continue him in that role, and particularly to show my confidence in him. I recognize that this would mean an interruption in his service at Divine Savior. However, when I assigned Father Slown to assist you, I did not envision him as remaining there without interruption, nor did I look upon him as the final solution to getting assistance in your parish. I am hopeful that this Fall I will be able to assign someone to you full time.

I had discussed these possibilities with Father Slown and he seemed to be in agreement with the possibilities. It may very likely be that there will be another period of time, short I am hopeful, that you would be without any assistance. It may also be that the need will never arise and Father Slown will stay with you without interruption. I merely wanted to make him aware of the possibility of calling upon him to fill in during a time of need. I recognize that this does not put you in the most secure of positions, but I wanted you to be aware of our situation. I will try not to disrupt the situation there, unless absolutely necessary. I hope that this sheds some light on the matter. Should there be any further question, please give me a call.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000362



DIVINE SAVIOR PARISH

67th and Main Streets • Downers Grove, IL 60515

July 29, 1981

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

Once again I want to thank you very much for your support, concern, kindness, understanding, and love that you gave to me during my illness with the terminal disease of alcoholism. Words fail to adequately express what this meant to me and my recovery. I only have the warmest of feelings towards you.

During the past week, I went back to St. Luke's Institute for my first workshop. I had deep positive feelings about it, and they were totally fulfilled. It was great to see the people that I had gone through the program with, as well as to see the many previous graduates that I had met at the 1980 January workshop. I found the workshop very meaningful and beneficial for me.

As I reflect over the past year, the manner of leaving the active ministry, through the various phases of treatment, and my re-entry into the active ministry, I see God's hand guiding me. As you well know, some things I didn't appreciate, but now I can see God's loving presence in them all. My re-entry has had a few difficult spots, but they have drawn me closer to God and helped me to put a deeper faith and trust in Him. One very important thing that sobriety and the A.A. program have given to me is that Sacred Scripture has become more alive and meaningful to me. More and more I realize that my alcoholism is a blessing and a happy fault.

While I was out east, I went over to the House of Affirmation and saw Fr. Joe Voss. He looks good and has a very positive outlook about the program. He realizes that the program is going to run several months. We were both happy to see each other, talk about our programs, and have dinner together. He said to say hello to you and be assured that all is going well with him.

Before I close, I was wondering if the diocese will pay for my transportation to and from the workshops, in that they are part of the treatment program. If the diocese will pay, who do I send the bill to?

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000363



DIVINE SAVIOR PARISH

67th and Main Streets • Downers Grove, IL 60515

Wishing you all the best - love and prayers - during this beautiful summer time, I remain,

Your recovering alcoholic brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Slown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000364

August 12, 1981

Reverend John C. Slown
Divine Savior Parish
67th & Main Streets
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear John,

Many thanks for your letter and your kind words. Your positive strength comes through all over the place! I am pleased that you had a chance to go back to St. Luke's and take part in a workshop. I imagine there are many memories there for you, good ones as well as painful ones. It must have been good also to see some of the people with whom you shared so much during those days.

I am glad also that you had a chance to speak with Joe Voss. I received a letter from him sometime ago, and he sounded like he was quite content with the program. I am sure he enjoyed having a chance to be with you and share some of his feelings with a friend.

With regard to payment for your transportation to the workshops, I would prefer to share that bill equally with you. This is normally what we do with those who are on out-patient basis. If you will send me what our half of the expenses are, I will see that ascheck is issued to you for that amount.

I hope that things are going well for you at Divine Savior. From your account, you have already experienced a few difficulties. Both of us expected that, and that's not all bad, because that is reality. The fact that you overcame them must give you encouragement and strength. I am delighted that you have been drawn closer to the scriptures. Isn't it amazing how we can overlook something as helpful as scripture for so many years!

You are in my prayers each day by name, and I am grateful to you for the openness and understanding that we share. I am grateful, too, for your prayers. That means much to me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000368

September 15, 1981

[REDACTED]
St. Luke Institute
120 Goulding Street
Holliston, Massachusetts 01746

Dear [REDACTED]

I am very grateful to you for the report you sent me on Father Slown. It confirms all of my own feelings about him since he has returned to the diocese. I have not seen Father Slown except for a few occasions, but each time seemed to be a very positive experience. I am very grateful to you and the other members of the Institute for helping him so much. I am hopeful that his good progress will continue.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000370

November 6, 1981

Reverend John Slown, Administrator
St. Mark's Church
303 E. Parkway Drive
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Dear Father Slown:

With the resignation of Reverend Eugene Parnisari as pastor of St. Mark's in Wheaton, I am appointing you Vicar Oeconomus (Canon 472-473) of St. Mark's parish. As we had discussed, this appointment will be in effect as of November 3rd of this year, and will remain in effect until a new pastor for St. Mark's is chosen. As I mentioned to you, this will probably not take place until after the first of the year.

I am very grateful to you for your ready willingness to accept this interim assignment. This will be a very difficult time for the parish, and I am confident that you can help them to adjust to what has happened. Please be assured of a remembrance in my prayers, and a readiness on my part to be of assistance, should you so wish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

St. Mark's Catholic Church

303 EAST PARKWAY DRIVE

WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

(312) 665-0030

000371

December 3, 1981

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

OK

Several months ago, you informed me that the diocese would pay half of my transportation costs to my after-care workshops. In July, it cost \$260.00 to fly round-trip from Chicago to Boston and back. So, the reimbursement by the diocese to me is \$130.00. I am thankful and appreciate very much the diocese doing this for me.

Things are going very well for me at St. Mark's. It is an excellent experience. One that is helping me to use much of what I learned at St. Luke's Institute and from A.A. All I can say is that God truly loves me and is daily blessing me. For each day, as I turn my will and life over to His care, He takes it at face value and throughout the day reminds me of this fact. It sure is providing me an opportunity to grow in love, trust, and faith in the Lord.

There is something that Sr. Rosemary told me after seeing you a couple of weeks ago that has me puzzled and bewildered. You were to have said that I would be the "least" likely candidate for the pastorate of St. Mark's. The reason you gave was that I would have had two months advantage on other candidates by being administrator of the parish. You were further to have stated that if I was made pastor of St. Mark's, the priests might think that you by-passed the system by making me administrator and then pastor, eventhough I applied for the position as did the others. To say the least, this thought process has produced negative feelings in me of hurt, resentment, and bewilderment. This led me to ask myself the question - is my future assignments going to depend on the expressed feelings of some of the presbyteriate towards them or by you, the Ordinary? I have been taught over the past year to go to the source of a situation. This is why I am bringing it to your attention.

With all best wishes, love, and prayers of this holiday season, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Called on phone.

John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown

P.S. Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary to the Priesthood. May God grant you many more fruitful and happy years in the priesthood.

S. Cong. Doct. Fidel
31 11 69
Revised April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000372

PROFESSION OF FAITH

"I, Reverend John Slown, with firm faith, believe and profess all and everything that is contained in the Symbol of Faith that is:"

I believe in one God. The Father almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God. Born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. By Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And He became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: And was made Man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of His kingdom there will be no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and Who spoke through the prophets. And one holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

"I firmly embrace and accept all and everything which has been either defined by the Church's solemn deliberation or affirmed and declared by its ordinary magisterium concerning the doctrine of faith and morals, according as they are proposed by it, especially those things dealing with the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, its sacraments and the sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff."

Rev. John C. Slown

DATE Jul. 23, 1982

PLACE Joliet

On Jul. 23, 1982, at 1:20 a.m., the Reverend John Slown appeared before me and made the Profession of Faith, thus by particular Law of the Church, he took canonical possession of St. Louis Parish St. Ann's, Illinois

on June 3, 1982

Joseph J. Slown
Bishop Delegate

000373

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 23, 1982

Reverend John Slown
St. Mark's Parish
303 E. Parkway Drive
Wheaton, Il 60187

Dear Father Slown:

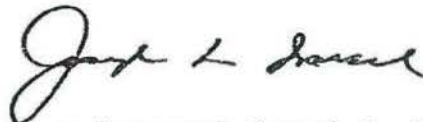
In order to provide for the pastoral care of the people of St. Irene's Parish in Warrenville, I appoint you to the position of pastor in that community. This appointment will take effect on March 3, 1982 at which time your position as administrator of St. Mark's Parish in Wheaton will be terminated. I ask that as soon as convenient you arrange to make the customary Profession of Faith before me, Bishop Vonesh, Bishop Ryan, Father Donnelly or one of the Deans acting as my delegates according to the provision of canon law.

I want to thank you sincerely for your acceptance of the role as administrator at St. Marks. I am grateful for the leadership you have exercised and pray that the Lord will make your new ministry fruitful and that you will be an authentic witness of the Good News.

I ask that you make every effort to join together with the other priests of your cluster in order that you might have the opportunity to offer them support and encouragement as well as enriching your own ministry. As much as possible I ask you to cooperate with the priests of the nearby parishes in providing programs for your people. Such cooperation provides the people with a very graphic example of what it means to be Church.

Assuring you of my willingness to be of any assistance to you and of my prayers for you in your new assignment, I am

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000377



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

Dear Bishop Imesch,

Confirming our conversation of today, I am sending you this letter fully aware of the possibility that it could be forwarded to Fr. John Slown for handling. Although this could happen, it would serve no constructive purpose; yet I am absolutely convinced that a letter is in order because of the severity of the matter we discussed.

I have several deep concerns resulting from our Parish Ministry Board (Christian Service Commission) meeting of last Tuesday. Obviously I am immensely concerned for the ten other parishioners who were in attendance and were subjected to Fr. Slown's blunt attack on the Parish of St. Irene generally and on each of the Parish Ministry Board members individually. (Luckily the other twelve members were not present.) Also a concern is the seventeen attendees at a Baptismal class which was in session adjacent to our meeting room and certainly must have heard the commotion and probably were also affected indirectly.

As I mentioned to you over the phone, for one hour during this meeting in a loud, shouting manner, totally unprovoked by any discussion with our group beforehand, Fr. Slown informed all those present that:

- All of you around here are animals.
- This entire parish has been pampered too long and I will do what I God damn well please. If you can not accept that, that's your problem. If you can not accept me as I am, as the human being that I am, that is also your problem.
- I don't care about the people here. As Pastor, I don't have to care about the people of St. Irene's Parish. I have the responsibility to look out for myself and that is all.
- You can stay like a pig in a pigsty. (to an elderly

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000378

woman)

- I (Fr. Slown) and God are walking the same path but you, you can do whatever you want.
- I know where I want to be when it is all said and done and if you want to continue to be so-called "Christians" and operate in a "Mickey Mouse" fashion, well, good luck. I hope you make it (to eternal happiness).
- My first duty is to John Slown and then my pastorship and then possibly the parishioners of St. Irene's, but then I may not be here in six months or a year but that's fine because I may just leave this diocese anyway.

Sprinkled throughout these were several other statements that are impossible to recall with vulgarities used such as: bullshit, damn, hell, bastards, son of a bitch, as well as calling several women "babes" in a very derogatory fashion. (A previous incident in the church after a liturgy also revealed this propensity for swearing.)

I have purposely tried to candidly convey the expressions used to point out what I, and the other PMB members present, believe to be a very grave situation.

Several other similar incidents occurred that day among others and previous distasteful encounters have already occurred in the parish since the arrival of Fr. Slown. The list is quite extensive yet he has only been with us for about seven weeks which includes the twelve days of vacation time away from his duties. Clearly the man is deeply disturbed and is in need of help in order to resolve the conflicts that torment him.

Certainly the welfare of Fr. Slown and of Fr. Tom Bristow, our associate pastor, is a major concern, but I am most concerned because I now know the damage that has been inflicted from such an encounter and the difficulties mature and dedicated adults have in not only understanding this behavior but somehow accepting it. The spirit of St. Irene's Parish is being threatened and endangered by Fr. Slown's attitude and the way he presents himself to the parishioners. It is just a matter of time before the pressure again builds up within Fr. Slown and some form of relief is needed.

Because of this experience I virtually tremble when I think of the awesome damage that can be dealt my children and others' children of St. Irene's Parish and School should a similar incident occur with them.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss in more detail whatever would help in totally appraising you of the situation here at St. Irene's.

Finally, I can only urge you to consider this information

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 399

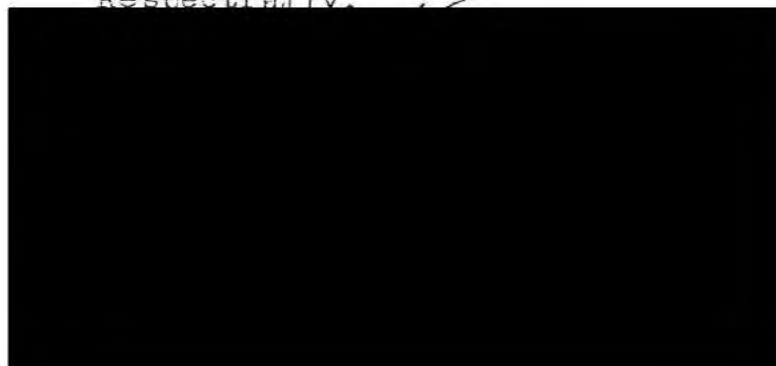
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000379

in the Christian spirit it is given. I do hope you will promptly make a decision to replace Fr. Slown with a new pastor before additional damage is rendered upon this parish. A response to this request seems appropriate and would be appreciated as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,



cc: Reverend Daniel Ryan
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

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000380

May 1, 1960

Dear Bishop,

I take this opportunity to express our deepest concern for the health of our parish family, St. Irene's, in Warrenville. We have been members here for five years and love this family that we call "our own". However, since the arrival of the new pastor, we are filled with stress and disappointment. Although my husband and I are products of a Catholic education, as we are trying very hard to raise our four children in a truly Christian home, we cannot tolerate the theatrical antics, snide remarks from the altar, and humiliating reprimands from our new pastor. He has demanded from the

3800
pulpit, our love and respect, and ^{yet} after Mass, he has stood outside the door with his arms wrapped around him, cigar hanging from his mouth, completely non-verbal - what are we to respect? We do need your help!

My children have refused to serve Mass with him because of his rough mannerisms. They are fearful of him. He's loud, and anything but gentle or loving, like Fr. Tom, and Fr. Van Duren who preceded him. In fact, Fr. Slown yelled at my children while they were serving Mass & it hurt them terribly. My older boys say not to go to Church unless Tom is saying Mass.

He cancelled our CCW Lenten retreat one day before the evening - this

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annoyed many ladies, needless
to say. 380C

We have always supported our
parish financially. Today we join
many others in a silent protest
and we shall not use our parish
envelope or donate a weekly offering
until something is done to help us.

It is very painful to hear others
talk and see families leave for
another church. We feel as though
a cancerous tumor is draining us
and we feel for a slow painful
death. Help us! I wait your reply.

Thank you



May 8, 1982

000381A

Dear Bishop Imesh:

As a member of the Church of St. Irene, Warrenville I feel compelled to share my feelings with you. Both my husband, [REDACTED] and I joined St. Irene's last July and have been active in the Parish serving on the Parish Ministry Board, starting a Wednesday night meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and serving as ministers of the Eucharist. Today I saw Father John Slown in the Rectory after a lectors' class and simply wanted to let him know that we loved him and cared. It was an impromptu visit and I was deeply saddened by the conversation. I understand that he was in your office the day before so that may explain some of the emotion.

Frankly, my husband and I are at a loss as to how we might be of some help to Fr. John. After seeing him a relatively few number of times I have been impressed with his homilies and feel that he truly makes the mass the celebration it is. He impresses me as a dynamic and charismatic person who wants very much to serve the Parish at the same time wanting and needing love in return.

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It has been upsetting to know that his feelings toward the parish are so hostile. Because I love him and care about the faith community he serves, I wanted you to know that I am worried about our Priest. Certainly I can understand frustrations on his part; but tact, discretion and patience do not seem to be operating.

The visit today was the second time I've talked with him apart from mass in the last two weeks trying to understand what he's thinking and feeling. As a member of AA I can relate to him and share with him on a different level perhaps than a parishioner who is not familiar with the AA philosophy. I can accept and understand many things as an AA member that disturb me greatly as a concerned member of St. Ineas' faith community.

As a Christian for 3 yrs and a member of the Church for 1 year, the Parish is very important to me. I want to serve it and be nourished by it just as much now and, perhaps, more because I am more active than when Fr. C. Van Duren was Pastor. As sorry^{as} I was to see him leave St. Ineas, my loyalty is to this parish and whoever is Pastor. Father T. Bristow is a fine young priest and I love him also. The incidents of the last two weeks have been upsetting to all who have been involved and I have literally wept for the situation.

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Much damage appears to have been done at St. Irene's and I'm afraid some feelings will not mend. I believe that the parish is full of caring people who want a capable shepard and one whose negative emotions can be handled other than by vituperative outbursts. This can be misunderstood and viewed as unacceptable.

My husband & I have told Fr. John that we want to be his friends and help in any way we can. Although he seemed subdued today, his attitude toward the parish has not changed. I find this all very sad and pray earnestly that some resolution may come about which would be satisfactory to all concerned. Please know that we care about Fr. John as an individual as well as the Parish.

My prayers and respect,



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Most Reverend Joseph A. Smecich
Chancery Office
425 Summit St.
Joliet, Ill. 60435

000382A

Dear Excellency,

I feel it unfortunate that the first time I put forth the effort to communicate with my Bishop it is to complain. However, this letter needs to be written and much thought and prayer preceded my writing.

In the short time Fr. John Slowa has been with St. Irene's I have witnessed a deterioration of Christian and community spirit. I hesitate to be too frank but I would like to say that personally I had a very unchristian encounter with the man where I witnessed my friend intimidated, reduced to tears and then gloated over.

A side from personal attacks morale is falling severely because of finances. It is told we are in poor straits financially — then how can we afford new custom made crapes for the rectory and wall-to-wall

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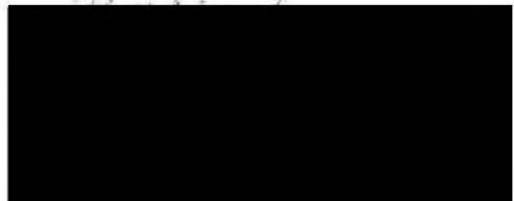
carpeting and new paint and varnishes and, of all things, Chem-Lawn to care for the grounds. I hear (and this is hear-say) that the grounds will be professionally landscaped. How can this be when so many parishioners have been laid-off work and tuition are hard pressed to be met in these times.

The children at school have been told they cannot play on the grass anymore. The children can use the church parking lot but the size is prohibitive for play activity of 200 children.

It's one thing for adults who are aware of the injustices and politics of everyday life to deal with hypocrisy from their spiritual director but for children in their formative years to be exposed to this is more than sad.

I would like to recommend a review of happenings at our parish. I feel Fr. John's mood-swings are severe and unpredictable and his priorities are not in line with his responsibilities. I wish Fr. John no ill-will but I must consider my family's and friends spiritual, physical and mental well being also.

I will continue to pray for all servants of the church.



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000383

May 14, 1982

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your recent letter commenting on Father John Slown. It was a great letter. Father Slown can indeed feel very fortunate that he has someone who has understanding and supportive as you in the parish community.

I, too, am very concerned about him. I want very much for him to succeed. He is a good priest with many fine qualities. On the other hand, I find it difficult to tolerate the kind of behavior that he has exhibited during these past few weeks. I think that he knows of my concern and support for him. I certainly did not "dress him down" when I had my conversation with him. I want to help him as a person, and yet I am concerned about the community. I do feel that in time, Father Slown will come to appreciate the parish community and viceversa. My only concern is whether or not we will have the amount of time that may be needed.

I can only encourage you to continue to support him. He may listen to you and to some others in the parish and begin to realize that he is loved and cared for and that his outbursts will do nothing except harm himself and the community.

I thank you again for your care and support for him. He will be in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Inesch
Bishop of Joliet

Released April 2014

000384

May 14, 1982

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Even though I have spoken to you, I wanted to reply to your letter. I have spoken with Father Slown and he readily admitted his inappropriate behavior. He told me that he intended to apologize to all of the members of the Parish Ministry Board who were present. I hope that he has already done this.

I do not consider Father Slown's behavior as appropriate. I have mentioned that to him and I do expect an improvement. As a leader in the parish community, I am asking you for your assistance in providing Father Slown with support and encouragement. I do not mean that you should accept any bad behavior on his part, but I think it is important for him to know that he is cared about as a person and as a pastor.

If I find that Father Slown cannot control his behavior and if I feel that the parish community is being harmed, I will take whatever steps are necessary.

As a Christian community we are called to love and forgive each other. That is difficult at times, and perhaps especially so with a priest. We expect more from them and feel let down when our expectations are not met. I have confidence in Father Slown and his ability, and I am hopeful that with the passage of time conditions will improve in the parish. If they do not, or if some other incidents should occur, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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000385

May 14, 1982

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I received your recent letter concerning Father John Slown. I can appreciate that he has done somethings that may be upsetting. I think, however, that Father Blown has the right to hear these complaints directly from you, without writing to his bishop first. If there are things that are upsetting, you should talk them over with him.

Father Slown is not Father Van Duren or Father Bristow. He is different from them, as we are all different from one another. To expect him to be like someone else is not being fair to him as a person. That he should celebrate Mass differently or act differently than others is to be expected.

Father Slown has gone through some rather difficult times and is in need of some help and support. I am not about to approve of everything he has done, but I cannot be so quick to remove him simply because he does things differently than others.

I do not think withholding your Sunday contribution is an appropriate response to this situation. Your contribution is not made to Father Slown but is for the benefit of the entire community. If something needs to be done with Father Slown, it will be done whether financial contributions are made or withheld.

Father Slown is a good priest and he has ministered very well. His behavior right now is not everything that I would wish, but then I could say that about a number of priests in the diocese. I will not let Father Slown harm the parish community, but I also have to be concerned about the person of Father Slown. I am hopeful that with time and some better understanding on all sides, things will work out well. I am in contact with Father Slown and have spoken to him about his behavior. I expect to see an improvement.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Bishop, [REDACTED] of St Irene's Parish called re Father Slown and the First Communion on Saturday. She said that it was a disaster and wanted someone to intercede and stop Father from having the May Crowning on Friday at 9 a.m. I told her that I did not think that I could reach any of the bishops but would make an effort.

I did talk to Bishop Ryan but he did not want to return her call and asked me to keep her name and number [REDACTED]

She had stated that Father was screaming and hollering going up and down the aisles which frightened the seven year olds and she did not want this type of scene for the May Crowning.

Rev. Slavin
FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 412

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000387

MEMO FOR THE FILE

May 18, 1982

I spoke to [REDACTED]. She is still quite upset about Father's behavior at the First Communion, but she is willing to give him another chance. I encouraged her to go and speak to him directly in the future.

J. Imesch

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

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July 18, 1982

000388 A

Dear Bishop Amick,

I humbly ask that you read my letter and give it your consideration.

There are six members in our family and we have been parishioners of St. Louis in Warrenville for the past eight years.

I'm forty one years old and have belonged to several parishes in various states, since we left Pennsylvania fifteen years ago.

It's hard to explain the feelings I get if I attend Father Slawn's masses, except to say, I feel my dignity has been assaulted.

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388B

Of late, we have been trying to attend Father Tom Bristow's mass, but now he isn't even allowed to give the homilies - the new decree gives them, in much the same scarcity as Father Slawn.

Father Tom is a good young priest. He's humble & gentle and most of all sincere. What is going to happen to him if this situation is allowed to continue?

Please help us all.

Respectfully



Rev. Slown

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Released April 2014

000389

August 2, 1982

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I received your recent letter commenting on the situation at St. Irene's. I recognize some of the difficulties that are being experienced. I am grateful that you have let me know how you feel. I think, however, that it is also important to let Father Slown know how you feel. I think this can be done out of a real sense of concern for the man, rather than in an antagonistic or harmful way. I think he should know what impression he leaves with people. Unfortunately, all too often our priests are allowed to avoid being accountable, simply because no one ever challenges them. I would appreciate it, and I think it would be a great help to Father Slown, if you were to speak with him directly about your feelings.

In regard to Father Bristow, I just want to reassure you that I am staying in touch with him and I am as anxious as you are that nothing happens to harm him. While it may be that the Deacon spoke for him at one of his Masses, I don't believe this will be a regular practice, but only on occasion. I am sure that Father Tom would not allow someone to speak in his place on every occasion.

I appreciate your writing to me and I am grateful for your comments.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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Beautiful hands - told later pulling it
was not time for announcements "the action
is not finished." I request that people
be used to be loved & accepted. Said he
didn't care - people would do things
my. Insists on raising hand at Peter -
left some hills right off.

Complained about some damned mess.
"I don't give a shit what you do?"
diabolical SOB's in this place - 4
letter words -

Can you name the people you talked to?
John insisted

Blondie man. John consulted reception.
Didn't even say "hello" in Latin group.
John told look out on something seriously
com. what he thought then. He asks for
appointment & acceptance, but doesn't give
it.

000390

000391

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

August 30, 1982

TO: Bishop Joseph Imesch

FROM: Father William Donnelly

RE: Father John Slown

A lady from Naperville called this morning to comment on the Saturday evening Mass at St. Irene's.

Father Slown preached about gossip and how people talking about others annoys him very much. He mentioned that he would like to "punch in the mouth anyone who gossips". He would love to have them go to an orthodontist as the result of this encounter.

He also is very insistent that everyone in church hold hands at the Our Father. When they do not, he gets extremely excited and carries on for quite sometime. He made some reference of the fact that he realizes that holding hands is not readily acceptable to "North American Caucasians".

The woman has been a regular parishioner at St. Irene's for sometime, and has witnessed other similar events. She has hesitated to call before now since she is not technically within the boundaries of St. Irene's although she does feel a part of the parish. Her husband is a convert and is now going to SS Peter & Paul, and her son, a lawyer who graduated from Notre Dame, is also going to other parishes.

WED

Reverend William Donnelly

WED/nb

F. Donnelly denies that he said anything such as this in his sermon. J.D.L.

*Father
Slown*

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

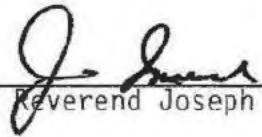
Released April 2014

000392

Memorandum for File

September 1, 1982

I talked to [REDACTED] from St. Irene's about the situation there. He is going to send me a letter that was sent out by the School Board to all of the parents of school children. He is extremely upset with Father Slown, and demands that he be removed from the parish, since he has been there for six months. I told him to "get off it" and he inquired whether that was my way of telling him to go to hell. I told him that I don't tell people to go to hell, but was simply telling him to get off that kick of being so judgmental about Father Slown. At that point he asked me if I was getting a payoff for keeping him there, so I calmly hung up.



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

9/2/82

To: Bishop Imesch

From: Fr. Niles

Subject: Concerns Re Pastor at St. Irene's

000393A

I. Principal called the CSO to ask whether or not we were aware of the "tensions" the school community has been experiencing in its relationship with the pastor

- Behavior erratic, given to shouting, swearing, etc.,

- Last spring's Second Communion Day was an embarrassment. Pastor had apparently been reprimanded by the Bishop. He, in turn, took it out on the people... (People still allude to that incident.)

II. School came perilously close to having its utilities turned off during the summer due to non-payment of bills

III. "Dunning" notices for non-payment of school supplies, materials, etc., are becoming routine. Principal is fearful lest some companies will refuse to deal with the school any longer.

- When such notices are brought to the attention of Fr's bookkeeper, the stock response is: "We have no money."

IV. Fr. has frequently indicated that the school is costing too much — even toyed with the idea of trying to cut salaries as recently as this past month! Constantly talks about closing the school. Parents of older students trying to transfer kids in the wake of such an attitude.

V. The local school board has had emergency meetings, trying to devise strategies, etc., to keep

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

the school fiscally viable, etc.

— Following their latest effort, Fr. met privately with the principal and told her: "No matter what they do, there will be no school here after this year."

VI. Principal indicates that, over and above the current economic crunch, some parishioners are experiencing, many have discontinued and/or reduced their contributions because "they don't trust Father," that he has spending priorities that antagonize rather than unite the parishioners (viz., rectory renovation, lawn care expenses, appearances at the expense of real needs, etc., etc.)

VII. All school monetary transactions are handled through the rectory. ^{periodic} No reports, communication, or whatever, ~~are provided~~ are provided the principal.

VIII. Morale on the part of the school personnel is (understandably) very low.

IX. I have cautioned the principal to simply do the best she can in administering the school, ~~to~~ to refer bill collectors, etc., to the rectory, but to keep her board — and our office — informed should the situation further deteriorate.

X. Finally, she said she would be willing to speak with you should you feel her assessment of the total situation would be significant. Her name: Mrs. Joyce Zemba

Released April 2014

September 3, 1982

The Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.
425 Summit St.
Joliet, Ill. 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch,

I am taking this opportunity to write to you out of a deep love and concern for my parish family of St. Irene's in Warrenville. I cannot express to you how it grieves me to have to write this letter.

As a parish family, we have been through a tremendous upheaval since Father John Slown's arrival. Any parish receiving a new pastor must expect some changes; however, I am not speaking of mere policy related changes as much as crisis situations.

Our Sunday collections have dropped by approximately \$1200 a week. St. Irene's has lost almost 50% of its parishioners. Our parish ministry board has all but ceased to function. Our C.C.D. program is in financial straits due to lack of appropriate subsidies, and finally, our school may be forced to close! I ask you how do you account for this? These are serious problems! What was once a working, striving, loving faith community has all but been destroyed because of one man.

Father Slown exhibits no concern for these situations, does not support our children and their school by attending extra-curricular activities after receiving numerous invitations, and exhibits personality changes to such extremes that he is totally unapproachable. I have talked to him; others have begged him.

There are many specific instances which I would like to share with you regarding Father Slown's inabilities as our pastor; however, I will take this opportunity to only share one. It is my understanding that one of the First Holy Communion masses scheduled was a total disaster for the children and their families. Father Slown exhibited extreme displays of anger and hostility during this most important liturgy. I ask you is it normal behavior for a pastor to show such distasteful regard toward a group of children who are to receive their Lord for the first time?

If you cannot understand my perspective as an adult, maybe you should see our problems through the eyes of our children. Should our school be forced to close, where are our children going to receive the Christian education they so richly deserve? What have these 185 innocent children done to deserve to be forbidden the right to know their God and learn to love him? Even Jesus himself welcomed the children and asked that they not be turned

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000395

away.

My dear Bishop, what are we as a parish family to do? I believe in my heart and with all my faith in God, everything has been tried to make the necessary adjustments. Everything has also failed! If you as the shepherd of our diocese do not act promptly, one of your flock, the church of St. Irene, will cease to exist in any meaningful and productive capacity.

I realize Father Slown has problems. Many of these neither I or any of my fellow parishoners understand. However, we must be concerned with what is best for our parish family as a whole. How can you in good conscience and with all the love for God you display, allow an entire parish to be destroyed for the sake of one man? Perhaps Father John would be better suited to a less demanding position.

I do not expect you to take this situation at my word alone; therefore, I am extending a personal invitation to you to visit St. Irene's any Sunday and listen to one of Father Slown's masses. Please sit in the back of our church dressing casually so noone knows you are there or why. I know it is alot to ask but perhaps in this special case, actions would speak louder than words.

I welcome the opportunity to confer with you personally regarding this most delicate situation. Please call me if you wish at 312-393-2447 any evening convenient to you. I would deeply appreciate a response from you in some form.

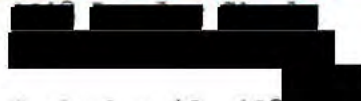
Yours in Christ



I spoke to [redacted] by phone and questioned many of the statistics in her letter. She admitted that most of what she was saying was on [redacted] hearsay [redacted]. We had a good conversation and I asked [redacted] to express her concerns to Father Slown.

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

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Released April 2014

September 12, 1982

The Most Reverend Joseph Imesch
Bishop of Joliet
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois
60431

000396

Dear Bishop Imesch,

I am a member of St. Irene Church in Warrenville, and I am angry and frustrated. I've never in my life even thought of sending a letter to a bishop, but somebody has to act and you're the man in charge.

When we moved into this parish five years ago, I considered myself an alienated ex-Catholic; even anti-Catholic. I went to this church to please my husband. In the pastor, Fr. Charles Van Duren, I found a gentle, good-hearted human being who motivated me to care about my fellow man, to send my children to a Catholic school, to become personally active in school and parish life. Believe me, given my former attitude, this was a miracle.

However, Fr. Van Duren was transferred to Plainfield, and in his place you sent Fr. John Slown. In Fr. Slown I find a man who is loud, insensitive, defensive, anti-people; everything a pastor cannot be to function effectively. He even managed to frighten my daughters' first communion class by shouting at them during the ceremony. Now, there is even talk of having to close the school for lack of revenue.

During this mess, the one thing which kept us loyally attending (and contributing to) St. Irene's was the presence as Associate Pastor of Fr. Thomas Bristow, a young, personable, people-oriented priest, with carefully thought-out homilies, who seemed to be carrying on in the tradition of Fr. Van Duren. Today at mass, Father Tom told us that he has asked to be reassigned immediately. Very properly, he did not tell us his reasons, but I would be amazed if they didn't have much to do with Fr. Slown. In considering it, I'm just surprised that he has managed to live and work with Fr. Slown for almost six months.

Could you at least consider replacing Fr. Slown with Fr. Bristow? His only fault is youth and the related lack of experience, but in my opinion, he would be a much better pastor than Fr. Slown would ever be, particularly since he would have the support of the people, which Fr. Slown does not. Perhaps there is a job in the Archives that would suit Fr. Slown admirably.

Please don't let us lose Fr. Bristow too.

Respectfully yours,




RECEIVED SEP 14 1982

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000397


September 14, 1982

Dear Bishop Imesh:


I am writing to you as an active member of St. Irene's parish for the past three and one half years. Formerly of Connecticut, we moved to Warrenville because of a business transfer. My husband was made the general sales manager of his company and I am a registered nurse. We had many adjustments to make and found St. Irene's a haven of peace and stability in our changing lives. Two of our children were attending Catholic colleges in the East and since have graduated and live in the Chicago area. Our youngest daughter now attends Marquette University in Milwaukee; last year she was commissioned as a special minister of communion in the Milwaukee diocese. The children loved St. Irene's and we have enjoyed celebrating mass together as a family. Both my husband and I became involved in our parish; I as a member of the parish council, he as a lector. A year later we were both honored to become ministers of communion. As you can see, we are a participating Catholic family.

Father Van Duren was a beloved friend—we were saddened to lose him and happy for the experience of knowing and loving him. We looked forward to our new pastor with expectation and hope. We were delighted with Father Joe Voss—the parish responded with love and affection and we were reassured that St. Irene's would continue to know warmth and love.

A change has taken place since Father Slown has been made pastor of St. Irene's—that was not to be expected. However, I have tried to be objective but find I can no longer be a bystander. The atmosphere at St. Irene's is no longer loving and peaceful—rather it has become a duty to attend mass. We feel as though we have stepped back into another era of Catholicism—one of recited Catechism, automatic prayers and threatening homilies. I have begun to find other parishes in nearby communities to attend a weekday mass where I feel love and welcome. On the Sundays we are not helping with the mass, we find ourselves visiting other parishes. Our daughter chooses to attend mass elsewhere when she is home—Our spiritual life is sadly wanting—and searching. It disturbs us to think of leaving St. Irene's, but it is a very real consideration.

My husband has visited Father Slown and given him our feelings and those of the people we know. His response was to say he will "stick it out" and that he knows that people are "against" him. It seems he is a deeply disturbed man. St. Irene's has become a deeply disturbed parish. We would like to be of help but are at a loss to know how.

Sincerely, /

RECEIVED SEP 16 1982


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Released April 2014



September 14, 1982 000398

Dear Bishop Imesch,

This is the first letter I have ever written to the Bishop of my diocese, but it should be the second one. The first letter to you should have said what a tremendous, vital influence Father Charles Van Duren is to our spiritual life. He is an exceptional person of love and deep human commitment, and sorely missed. Alas, so often the positive words do not arrive, but the others do.

I think it is important to identify myself; I am a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, and a serious student of metaphysics and philosophy. I will soon become a Covenant Member of the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters. I was on the developmental task force of this branch of the order. I am a co-learner with Father Van Duren on his pastoral doctorate studies. My spiritual life is of prime importance to me.

It is for this reason, mainly, that I am withdrawing from St. Irene's Parish. This sad decision did not come easily, as I have loved and worked very hard for St. Irene's for the past twelve years on the C.C.W., the School Fund Raisers and the Christmas Bazaar.

Father John Slown's pre-Vatican II style of religion does not fit today's demands for spiritual growth. A point of illustration: When the parishoners do not hold hands at the Our Father he remonstrates them by questioning whether they deserve to give the Sign of Peace following. It is not the practice of holding hands which I object to, it is his negatively chiding those who are not immediately comfortable with his ways. (It is a beautiful, spontaneous show of love at St. Raphael's in Naperville). Although this may sound picayune, it serves to illustrate the downbeat, negative atmosphere which pervades. His friend, Deacon Carl speaks of hell and damnation, and the three letters of Fatima. I have been de-programming myself of this type of anti-love propoganda since high school.

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000399

I recognize that Father Slown is a very sick man, and I hold him in love and pray for his peace of soul, mind and body, but for the sake of my family's and my spiritual growth, I must seek a wholesome, loving Christ-like parish for Sunday worship.

I would not have written to you, except at the urging of other upset parishioners, who feel it is a duty to speak out on decisions concerning our parish.

With love and peace,
Sincerely,



September 14, 1982

Dear Bishop Imesch,

As a member of St. Irene's Parish in Waverlyville I feel I must share with you my recent experience with our pastor, Father John Slown.

Yesterday (September 13) I received a phone call from Father Slown in regard to the First Communion preparations and ceremony for this year's second graders as my daughter is one of them. I had previously spoken to Marie Neis, Director of Religious Education, and told her that I had some objections concerning the arrangements that had been made. She advised me that she would speak with Father Slown in regards to our conversation.

In explaining to Father Slown my feelings about the preparations and ceremony for First Communion, he became quite annoyed with me. His attitude was belligerent and he tried to put me on the defensive. His voice was loud and at times very boisterous throughout the conversation.

I explained to him that I was upset because the parents of the second graders were not consulted regarding the changes in this year's First Communion. He then asked if the President consults with me concerning policy changes. I told him I felt that his response was rather petty and he said he felt I was being petty by

RECEIVED SEP 17 1982

questioning the changes being made and the reasons for the changes.

Father Slown did explain that he had brought about these changes at other parishes and they were well received. I asked if there could be any way that the parents could voice their opinions regarding these changes at St. Irene's. Father Slown was adamant in his conviction that these changes are necessary. He would not even consider the feelings or the opinions of the other second grade parents. He then said that I was closed minded and that he would pray for me so that God could help me become more open minded.

Several times during the course of our conversation he addressed me as "Sweetie Pie". I told him that I did not like being called "Honey" or "Toots" or "Sweetie Pie" and requested that he address me as

[REDACTED] I was appalled at his lack of respect.

This is not the first time I have been upset by Father Slown. At the Mass for Pentecost Father Slown compared being filled with the Holy Spirit to one's body being taken over by cancer. Last year my mother had to have a mastectomy and recently my dad learned that he has colon-rectal cancer with a one in four chance of surviving. His metaphoric attempt went through me like a knife.

Please understand that I am not "out to get" Father Slown. I realize that there are parishioners upset with many of the things Father Slown does, particularly his manner of celebrating the Mass. What upsets me is that Father Slown did not listen when I explained how I felt about the First Communion. Certainly he heard me but he did not listen. He is the pastor of St. Irene's and does not show leadership. His attitude is poor and quite belligerent. This is not what I expect from a priest, much less a pastor.

I realize that Father Slown is not only a priest and a pastor but also a human being. My heart goes out to him as I sense that he must be coping with a great many problems. However, I can also see that our parish community is suffering because of Father Slown's attitude and unwillingness to listen to the needs of his parishioners.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. I know that you are concerned with our parish family and the recent turmoil we have experienced. You, as well as Father Slown, are in my prayers. I'm certain that God will guide you in this troubled situation.

Sincerely,

Photocopy to Father John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Bishop Joseph Amesh
425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois

000401

Dear Bishop Amesh,

I have just returned from the Friday morning Children's Mass at St. Irene's in Warrenville. As a member of the guitar group that sings at this Mass each week, I have had an opportunity to observe the children for the past several years. This morning's Mass was like a breath of spring, like the sunshine after a rain, almost like Life after Death. The contrast between this Mass and those preceding it, is what prompts me to write to you, our spiritual leader.

A priest named Father Tony (no last name given) made those children glow and shine like they haven't done since Father Van Duren left us last January. Father Tom Bristow has done a super job and has been a good friend to the kids and to all of us. But of course, he was still inexperienced and not quite as spontaneous as an older priest could be. We will truly miss him and hope you can find a place where he can

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share his priesthood more fully and peacefully. 401B

Since last March when Father Slown came to us, he has presided at alternate Friday Masses for the children. Many of the children have been very frightened of him (some parents, too). Since he never comes to the school to visit the children, or play with them, or pray with them, they had no chance to get acquainted except at Friday Mass. His extremely loud voice, his extremely demonstrative gestures and his talk of "killing" and "slaughter", and "knives and guns" just didn't work in getting the kids to respond. Oh yes, they said their "Amens" and "Alleluias" louder and held hands during the Our Father, but without spirit, without love, only confusion and fear.

Then this morning we came to Mass and there was a strange priest, who introduced himself as Father Tony. We don't know where he came from and were unable to talk to him after Mass. I almost think he was a "miracle" sent by God! He, like Father Slown, has a loud voice and demonstrative gestures, but oh, the love that glowed all around him, and the sincerity! He made the children feel loved, not afraid.

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He made the children feel happy and free as children should be. He took time during Mass to explain the different parts -- when they should be very quiet and attentive, etc. The children and parents there felt alive again and part of Jesus' family. The beautiful experience of this morning's Mass made me realize what we've missed and been denied these last few months. 401

I just attended the last women's Cursillo in August and have been filled with the peace and love of Christ ever since. I just have a feeling -- I'm quite sure -- that this "miracle" Father Tony is also a Cursillista. It shows all around him. I pray for you dear Bishop, that our Lord will fill all of your priests in the Joliet Diocese with the same love and joy that he possesses.

The people of St. Irene's are in dire need of loving guidance from one of your "miracle" men. Please, will you give us the help we need? The people are not attending Mass, not giving in the collections, changing to other parishes, losing their whole Christian community all because of one man, Father John Slown.

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I know you have received many letters from parishioners, telling all the gory details of his ministry to us. If only one tenth of the stories we hear are true, then he should not have the solemn responsibility of a parish. Only three weeks after Father Slown arrived, many people were up in arms and wanted to get rid of him. At that time, as a member of the parish Council, my husband asked them to hold off, give him a chance, he was just different, etc. We thought he would change.

Father is sick and I pray for him daily. I pray that he could be less arrogant and more considerate of people and their feelings. I pray that he could be a priestly priest, who makes his people feel the love of Jesus and His forgiveness — not fear and a degrading and condescending attitude.

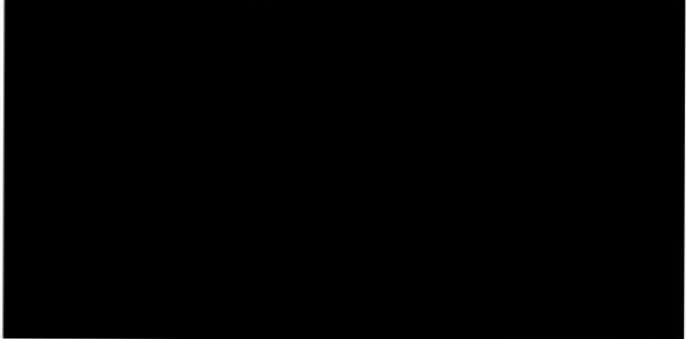
There has been no sign, in six months, of Father Slown changing or getting any better. I will continue to pray for him. But in the meantime... our community is falling apart. Please, I beg you, for the sake of 1000

...selves, and for Father's sake, allow him to
 be relieved of any pastoral duties until he is
 fully recovered from his problems. I truly feel
 we would be better off without a pastor,
 just having the Marmon priests say Mass,
 the parish financial committee run the
 practical side of things, than to continue
 any longer this way.

Perhaps God in His mercy and love will
 provide you with a "miracle" man that you
 could send to the people of St. Irene's.
 Give us back the smiling and happy faces
 of our children. Give us back our loving
 community where we can share and grow
 in the love of Jesus. Give us back our
 life and spirit.

We are praying for you and the guidance
 of the Holy Spirit.

God Bless You -



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000402A

Dear Bishop Elmerch,
It was with a sad heart that we listened to Fr. Tom Britton give his last sermon at St. Clare's church. He was the one who kept us and others coming to St. Clare's. To say good-bye to this wonderful priest was a difficult thing to do for two reasons (one) because he as a person will be missed but more important because the once beautiful family of St. Clare's will go further downhill.

In the short time period that Fr. Van Kuren and Fr. Britton worked together, St. Clare's was really alive as a parish - The church was filled for Mass - filled with young families - teen-agers - the people who will be the Catholic Church when we are gone. Happy people attended Mass - happy to be there - Mass was a joy - spiritually uplifting.

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as it should be.

4028

A short time after Fr. Slown came
we noticed Mass attendance seem
to drop off - contribution went down,
there seem to be unhappiness at church
I found out why when we had
Fr. Slown for Mass one Sunday - in
plain english it was awful - it
was like a 3 ring circus - We could
hardly wait to get out of church.
After that we did our best to avoid
his Mass - Then one Sunday we
got caught and at this Mass he introduced
a lay deacon who was as bad as Fr.
Slown - because the man has 8
children does not make him a good
Catholic in our eyes - to be a Catholic
you have to be a good Christian first.
But the straw that broke the camels
back came at Communion time
when Fr. Slown sat while all lay
people distributed Communion.
I realize the need for lay ministers

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and lay deacons - but when a priest is there not to distribute Communion is an insult to the congregation. I realize St. Steven's is a small parish but because we are small we should not be overlooked or forgotten. This parish needs priests like Fr. Van Derin and Fr. Bristow. What is going to happen to the young people who are turned off by Fr. Slown - will they leave the church completely? will they ever return? We middle aged will just go to another church until things get better at St. Steven's (if they ever do) eventually we will probably join another congregation - But I worry about the young families - the teenagers what will happen to them? This is one of your little sharp calling out to your faithful.

Sincerely



Rev. Slown

000403

September 21, 1982



Dear [REDACTED]

I received your recent letter commenting on your feelings about Father Slown and St. Irene's parish. I appreciate your writing to me and I am grateful for the honesty with which you express your viewpoints. I am grateful for your past involvement in the parish community and for your concern for the future of this community. I am also grateful that you have expressed your concern to Father Slown.

How should a Christian community respond when the pastor leaves something to be desired? I think that is the basic question here. Obviously, I am concerned about the Christian community, but I am also concerned about Father Slown. If he is, indeed, a troubled man, then I would think it is the obligation of the community, as well as mine, to see that he is assisted. How can the community do this? The pastor is accountable to the entire parish community and the community has a right to expect this and the obligation to seek it. The community must continually call Father Slown forth to be responsible for his actions, but this must be done in a loving and caring way. I am not about to justify everything that Father Slown has done, but neither can I justify the rumor and gossip that has pervaded the community. Father Slown needs to be accountable for what he has done, but it is very demoralizing for him when he is accused of things he has not done.

Leaving the parish community may very well solve your personal difficulty, but it will certainly not help the parish situation. It is important that people do not become discouraged and leave the parish because then, whatever problems Father Slown has, will continue. I need some people who will show their love and concern for Father Slown while calling him to be accountable for his actions. I do not intend to let this situation continue on forever, but I feel I must give Father Slown an opportunity to correct some of his faults, rather than simply to remove him. I realize that this creates a difficulty for the community, but it also creates one for me, as well as for Father Slown. I believe strongly in the possibility of conversion, and I feel that this happens to us because we have experienced the love of the Father, and I believe that it can happen to Father through our love for them. You must do what you feel is best, but I would hope

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 439

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000404

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-2-

September 21, 1982

████████████████████ that you would seriously consider staying and helping Father Slown, as well as the entire community.

I want to repeat my appreciation for your writing to me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Rev. Slown

Released April 2014

000405

September 22, 1982

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your recent letter concerning your experience with Father John Slown over the First Communion program in the parish. I am grateful that you wrote to me and, especially, that you sent a copy to Father Slown. Since you did not mention what the specific changes in the First Communion were, I will comment only on the remarks you made about your conversation with Father Slown.

I don't necessarily believe that a change in a particular program calls for soliciting the opinions of the parishioners involved. I would presume that there would have been discussion between Father Slown, the Director of Religious Education, and perhaps the teachers involved in that particular program. If any changes are proposed, they should be explained to the parents involved, either in a general session or by letter. While I believe that a pastor is required to listen to his people, I do not feel that it is possible for him to comply with all of their wishes. This would be especially true in a program such as the First Communion program. Nevertheless, I do not appreciate the manner in which Father Slown discussed this new program with you. If a decision is made to change a particular program, the pastor should certainly be able to explain his position without becoming "defensive" or "belligerent". Nevertheless, I can readily understand how that might happen, although I am not excusing it.

I agree further that it is demeaning for the priest to refer to someone other than by their first name or their proper title. Unfortunately, we sometimes get into patterns of speech that we are not aware of, and I am sure that your remarks to Father Slown about this will prevent him from using them in the future.

In addition, I agree fully with you that Father Slown's comparison of being filled with the Holy Spirit to a body being filled with cancer is in extremely poor taste, as well as being not very solid theology. For someone, such as yourself, who has experienced the tragedy of cancer in your family, it can hardly be a consoling thought to have such an illness compared to being filled with the Holy Spirit.

[REDACTED]
-2-

September 22, 1982

I think you make a very good point in your letter that is simply that it is not necessary for a pastor to change his mind about something, such as the First Communion program, but it is important to listen to his people. If he has followed the proper procedures in making changes, then he need not be defensive, or need not feel that the program must be changed according to each parishioner's whims. A good leader must be a good listener.

I am grateful that you wrote to me about your feelings, and I am sure that your comments will help Father Slown in dealing with other people.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

cc: Reverend John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000407A

RECEIVED SEP 2 8 1982

9-26-82

Your Reverend,

I want to share some things with you about Fr. John Sloan.

This morning when I went to mass I was feeling down. Fr. John gave a sermon about "judging" that helped me to like myself more, realizing we all have faults and must correct our own before judging others faults. I was surprised to hear a nice sermon. The reason is, he came in late and looked terrible. I was enjoying the mass until peacetime. He came over and shook my hand and said, "Joy + peace of God." That was nice, but he carried an odor of whiskey. It shocked me, I didn't expect such a smell at 8:30 in the morning. And, at the end of mass he told of how you have been calling him on the carpet, but ~~he~~^{you} called yesterday and

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

407^B

provided good news that we will get an Associate Pastor, Fr. Wheeler.

Then, after reading the bulletin, I felt like he was trying to tell us, "Please don't judge me". Please read the enclosed. It reminds me of his tongue. I've heard him swear

Maybe I have no right saying these things, for I was taught to respect a priest. I've always done so, but I also never knew of priests who drank, smoked cigars and swore. I thought they were to give those things up, that it was a holy sacrifice to be a priest, and quite an honor.

I'm sixteen years old, and have been a parishoner at St. Irenes all my life and have never seen it suffer this much. Once before we had it hard when I was 8-9 yrs. old, things changed when Fr. Van Duren came.

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407C

He's a special man. He stayed by our family when my mother was sick with cancer. Then my mom & dad died. He set up a fund for our family.

Joan & Ted McKeown are my legal guardians now. They are true Christians, and I know them well.

I know you've talked with them, and you must agree. They're always helping people. To change their entire lives for my 3 sisters and it is truly a Christian act. They are good people, you can trust them.

Ted is a wise man, and Joan tries awful hard. Ted is close to Jesus, and has a great understanding of life.

Please, think upon what Ted had said, he's honest and upright.

Fr. John really disturbs me, I like going to mass - I seek peace.

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Released April 2014

4070

I think a priest should show an example of Christian living to people. Someone you can look up to and find spiritual help when you need it. How can you go to someone who hasn't found true happiness with himself? How can he help the people of St. Ignace's? They say, "Charity Begins at home". Doesn't that also mean that you have to love yourself before you can reach out and really love others? Yes, he does love people & himself with the help from alcohol. That's not a stable foundation if you ask me.

He reminds me of old friends and other teenagers my age. They get drunk so they can loosen up enough to talk to people and have fun. They aren't secure with themselves. They feel they need booze to be

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407 E

acceptable to people. They're not in control of their bodies and actions, and do some dumb things that are funny for people to talk about. They are hurting inside and no one knows it. Teenage Alcoholism is bad. I know, I have seen it. All the kids do it, and I've been tempted many times, through peer pressure.

Please help Fr. John, he needs help desperately. He's so lost. I've been praying for him; my conscience has told me to write you. I hope I am not doing the wrong thing; I care.

With love,



Rev. Slown

000408

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 29, 1982

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I received your recent letter commenting on your feelings about St. Irene's Parish in Warrenville and Father Slown in particular. I will be the first to admit, and I am sure that Father Slown would quickly second, that Father Slown is not the perfect pastor. I would also admit that he has acted imprudently on occasions. I will not deny that Father Slown is loud, but that is his particular personality. Some people are quiet by nature and some are not. Some people like a person who is soft-spoken and some like one who is effusive.

My point in mentioning this is that Father Slown is a human being, who happens to be a priest, and he is going to be different than other human beings who happen to be priests. Should we expect all of our priests to minister in the same way? I do not say this in order to offer an excuse for some of Father Slown's actions, since I have already acknowledged his fault for them. I simply mention it to point out that no two people are going to be the same, and we should not expect them to be. I also want to make the point that priests are humans, and as such, have the faults and failings of other humans.

When a priest exhibits some human failures is the solution to remove him? What do I do with him after he is removed? Do I place him in another parish? That might be a simple solution, but would it really be a solution? I feel the more appropriate solution is to work with Father Slown to help him overcome some of his feelings and difficulties. Isn't that what a Christian community is really supposed to do, help one another? If the priest is expected to put up with the imperfections of his people, cannot the people be asked to put up with the imperfections of their priests? I don't say this to mean that Father Slown should be allowed to act in any way that he wishes, but rather that the people make Father Slown be accountable to them for his performance. I intend to make Father Slown accountable, but I cannot simply remove a priest as pastor because he has made several mistakes.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

003409

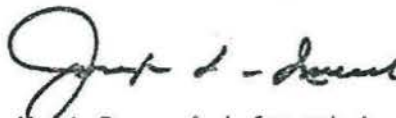
2.

I have talked to Father Slown on a number of occasions and he knows of my concern about his actions. I have every hope that with the efforts of Father Slown and the support of the people of St. Irene's, the situation will be improved.

I understand your appreciation of Father Bristow. He is a good priest and will continue to be so. I had hoped that Father Slown and Father Bristow would be able to operate together harmoniously, but it is quite evident that it is not possible. That is a situation that arises in a number of parishes for a number of reasons. At one time I think I expected all priests to be able to get along with each other, but I think age and experience have taught me the fact that we are humans and that sometimes makes it impossible. That does not lay the blame on either of the priests, it simply is a fact of personality or pastoral style differences. As you know, I have appointed Father Charles Wheeler to be an associate at St. Irene's. I think he will be able to offer support and encouragement to Father Slown while at the same time confronting him when necessary. I hope that the people of St. Irene's will see Father Slown as a person who needs their help, as much as they need his. There has been more than enough gossip and rumor in the parish about Father Slown and some of his activities. Father Slown has done enough things on his own to be confronted with, without having to answer to charges that are not true.

Perhaps if you had an opportunity to know Father Slown on a more personal basis, you might be able to understand him and appreciate him for the human being that he is. Simply because he is a human being, he is in need of support and encouragement as every human being is, but he is also in need of constructive criticism when it is called for. I am hopeful that a combination of the two by the parishioners of St. Irene's will help to bring peace to the parish. I appreciate your writing to me and I hope that my comments will be of some help to you.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Revised April 2013 - 4/9/13
Released April 25/14



Knights of Columbus

ST. IRENE COUNCIL, No. 6710
Warrenville, Illinois



A NOTE TO:

FATHER JOHN COUNT ON US WE'RE BEHIND YOU

A Note to brother Knights:

Why did you become a Knight of Columbus?

Check 1 or 2, or all if they are true:

- Someone twisted your arm?
- A close friend honored you with an invitation?
- You were pushed by your bride or relative?
- You were interested in playing cards and drinking beer?
- You felt it was a way to be a better catholic?
- You felt it was a way to serve your church?
- You felt you could make better business contacts?
- You admired the accomplishments of the K of Cs?
- You admired the character of an individual K of C?
- You wanted to carry a sword and wear a feathered hat?
- You wanted a bargain on your insurance rate?
- Other (please specify) _____



Moreover, how did you FEEL when returning home after your 3rd Degree?

- Charged Up? Ready to help others? Closer to God?
- Like a new Christian Crusader? Like a saint in the making?

The spirit was there, but did it last? Did it last thru the fender bender, the traffic tickets, the juicy gossip, the tax return?

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Some small, some things that don't last, good things grow on you thru exposure to and repeated association with others with the same ideals.

Ideals like: Helping the needy, fighting injustice, righting wrongs done others. Now look in the mirror. Are you a Knight worthy of your own praise, proud of yourself, helping others, the Church, your pastor?



HEY! its time to prove yourself, to yourself.

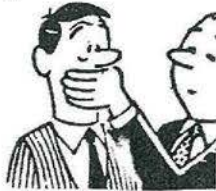


Much has been said about Fr. John, some of it hearsay, some blown out of proportion, some false.

It's our duty, our right, our charge as Knights to defend, protect and serve our Church, our pastor and anyone else that has been or is being wronged as is Fr. John.

In a community like ours, he needs help, our help.

It's up to you (us) to spread the word about this man of the cloth that is truthful, not gossip. His foes are formidable - we've seen how they've attacked the authority, destroyed the peace of mind and weakened the Catholic family of our community.



The Pastor, the Police, the Politicians and the Polish have more than the letter 'P' in common, they all are easy pickin's for jokes, slander and gossip.

It may have been a 4th Degree Knight that first typed the words "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." But any Knight knows it's our goal to be an aid to our Church - and that includes our pastor.

What do we know about him?

1. The Bishop trusted him to do God's work in our community. A lot of good can be made of that.
2. The Bishop has certainly heard the gossip and apparently still feels Fr. John is strong enough to overcome those who would gossip - sometime just to attack the cloth.
3. Fr. Mahoney was attacked, Fr. Charlie probably would have been - had he not charged in like a shooting star and dazzled us with magic tricks and fun ideas. Who would have followed his act? You? St. Peter? The Bishop picked Fr. John and he knows him a lot better than any of us do.
4. What characteristics would you have looked for? Another Fr. Charlie (he was one of a kind)? A strong man, a business man? A good man, of course.
5. Fr. John, by all accounts, has carried his cross well and it's up to us (you and I) to share the burden, by his side and riding shotgun to protect his cloth.

Remember the test of the fiber vs. the rope? We are that rope - many fibers joined together. We are Knights of columbus - Oh!, and by the way - SO IS FR. JOHN!

FEEL CHARGED UP!, BE A CRUSADER AND DO GOD'S WORK!



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

REV. JOHN SLOWN

C-00411

October 8, 1982

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I received your recent letter and am grateful for your comments concerning your parish situation. You must know that I, too, am concerned about the situation there. I regretted having to transfer Father Bristow, but I thought it would be in his own best interest. I am concerned about the community at St. Irene's, and for that reason have asked Father Wheeler to become the associate there. I am hopeful that he will be able to help the community, and also assist Father Slown. I am aware of some of the difficulties that have taken place and am working with Father Slown to assist him in handling some of these situations better. I have every confidence that with some time and patience everything will work out for the best.

I appreciate your drawing my attention to the fact that Father did not distribute the Eucharist at one of the Masses. I do not agree with that practice, and I will draw this to his attention.

In the meantime, may I ask you to keep Father Slown and your parish community in your prayers. I think it is important that he hear directly from his people about their concerns. That is the only way he will be able to change some of his mannerisms.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

000412

October 6, 1982

Dear [REDACTED]

I apologize for delaying so long in responding to your letter. I certainly understand the concern you have about your parish situation. I can assure you that I share your concern. I recognize that Father VanDuren's act is a difficult one to follow, and that he and Father Slown are quite different human beings.

You mentioned that you are soon to become a Covenant Member of the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters. In view of that fact, I would like to ask you to reconsider your decision to withdraw from the parish. It is a relatively simple matter to turn aside from a difficulty, but it is entirely different to stay and try to overcome the difficulty. I realize what I am asking of you. At the same time, however, I feel that if we really are called to be a Christian community, then that means we do not try to avoid difficult situations, but do our best to resolve them. If Father Slown has difficulties then he should be helped, not avoided. If people like yourself decide to absent yourselves, then what possibility is there for him to be helped? He needs someone who will support him, while at the same time confronting him. All of us need that kind of assistance.

This type of situation exists in a number of parishes, perhaps not in the same way, but it exists nevertheless. When a pastor meets parishioners in a situation like this, he does not have the luxury of saying that I will absent myself, but must remain and do what he can to help those people. Cannot the same thing be asked of parishioners? I would hope that you would reconsider your decision and stay within the parish community to help Father Slown and the community.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

000413

October 6, 1982

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your recent letter and appreciate very much your writing to me. As soon as I had read the first few lines of your letter, I knew very well of whom you were speaking. Father Tony is indeed a remarkable and joyful man of God. The talents he has are probably unmatched in the Diocese of Joliet. For the last several years, he has been pastor of a black community in Hopkins Park. He was in your parish only on a temporary basis until he receives another assignment.

By this time your new associate, Father Charles Wheeler, should be with you. I think you will find in him the same type of personality as you did in Father Tony. Obviously, I am concerned about the situation at St. Irene's. I feel that Father Slown has acted unwisely in some instances, but that he has also been the victim of a considerable amount of gossip and rumor. If he is to be helped at all in this situation, it will take people like yourself who will confront him with his actions, not out of a spirit of criticism, but one of love and caring. I do believe that things will improve in the parish, but I will need the help of you and your fellow parishioners.

Again, I appreciate your writing to me and expressing your feelings.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000414

October 7, 1982

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your recent letter and really appreciate your writing to me. If you hadn't told me you were only 16 YEARS old. I would never have believed it. Your letter has the wisdom of a much older person. You express yourself very well.

Alcoholism is an illness, a disease, and is not something that a person is responsible for. Just as you can't blame someone for catching a cold, or having a fever, I don't think you can blame someone for being an alcoholic. In such an instance, a person has to receive help. I am trying to help Father Slown in a number of ways. At this time, I don't think it would be a help to him to remove him from the parish. I do want to try my best to help the people of the parish as well as to help Father Slown.

I really appreciate your praying for him, and especially your writing to me. You did absolutely the right thing. Let's both continue to pray for him.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

000415

October 15, 1982

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

After receiving your phone call some weeks ago, I had the occasion to talk with several people from St. Irene's Parish. They mentioned several things which I think I should bring to your attention, some of them, comments I have already mentioned to you in our phone conversation. If you speak of any of these matters with John, I would appreciate it if you respect the confidentiality of these peoples' remarks.

The School Board President mentioned something which I had talked about, John's negative attitude. The School Board was to receive a specific budgeted parish subsidy this year. Because of financial difficulties, they agreed to take a \$12,000 cut in their parish subsidy, monies which they would raise on their own. The parish, however, is not fulfilling its commitment to this reduced subsidy, being some \$6,000 behind already in this school year. When the subject is broached to Father Slown, he simply says that there are no parish funds. The School Board is concerned because there seems to be no effort on the part of Father Slown to increase parish income, or decrease parish spending. The only ones who have made any cuts in their budget are the School Board. The parishioners see parish funds being used for various expenditures around the parish, even while they are hearing that the financial condition of the parish is poor. Father has hired a full-time janitor for the parish, as well as a full-time janitor for the school. In my mind there is no justification for hiring a full-time man for a school of approximately 150 students consisting of six classrooms, particularly when there is financial difficulties. The decision to hire this additional man, presumably, was made solely by Father Slown.

Father is continually negative about the school and its prospects of staying open, a factor which is not increasing the morale among the people of the parish. The School Board President also mentioned Father's attitude about reconciliation. While he speaks much about it, his intent seems to be that he will forgive the people of the parish for whatever they have done. There seems to be no acceptance on his part of any guilt. Somehow John has to accept some of the responsibility, if not the greater part, for the existing conditions in the parish.

2.

I have already mentioned to you the negativity on the part of Father Slown towards the Christmas Bazaar. He has predicted that this major fund-raising event will be a flop. He has already stated that these funds will be used for doing some remodeling in the church. There is no question that the church needs some attention, but when funds are short, it may not be the wisest pastoral decision to undertake remodeling. The remodeling seems to be Father Slown's personal decision without any consultation with others.

As a further example of his negative attitude, he was reported to have said that \$600 in donations that he had just received would not keep the school open for even one day, rather than expressing some appreciation for the gift.

The President of the Council of Catholic Women told me that he came to their latest meeting and he had been drinking. When I pushed her on this particular point, she could only say that it certainly appeared to her that he had been drinking. She said his manners and behavior were unacceptable. He was "helling and damning" throughout the meeting. This is a women with whom I have spoken before and she seems to be very reasonable, with no particular ax to grind. She was one of those who attempted to help Father Slown in the beginning, but has been held at arms length.

He has a practice, or at least it is more than a common occurrence, of not keeping appointments with people. For whatever reason, he is not available, whether he is away from the rectory or, at least in one instance was asleep upstairs. He continues to have the notion that the parish is out to get him and that he will bring the parish to its knees. I am beginning to wonder whether he can successfully and happily function in the parish with that kind of an attitude towards the people.

He refers to himself as "my number one problem" and then tells people that he is the bishop's number one problem. I have never said this to him, but that is the way he has introduced himself to me on a few occasions. This does not seem to me to be a very healthy or positive attitude.

Just recently the local Knights of Columbus produced a bumper sticker entitled, "Father John you can count on us". In their publication they announce that they should support Father John since he is also a fellow Knight. I don't know whether this was done with Father John's concurrence or not, but it certainly is not going to help the situation. It will only help to divide the parish into camps.

As yet, it is too early to tell what effect the new associate pastor in the parish will have on Father John's behavior. I tend to think that Father John has not been entirely honest in his

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000417

3.

efforts towards sobriety. I get some feed-back that he is not attending AA meetings or at least has had some negative feelings about them.

If you think it would be of any help, I would be happy to send you copies of some of the letters I have received from the parishioners. They might give you a better idea of what is happening. Thank you for all of your help.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Rev. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000419

November 19, 1982

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your recent letter and for your comments regarding Father Slown. I see that you are very well acquainted through your personal experience with the disease of alcoholism. You are correct in saying that Father Slown is an alcoholic. He has received institutional treatment for this and is aware of his illness. I have asked him on several occasions if he is attending AA meetings and he assures me that he is. To my knowledge he is also in frequent touch with his counselor.

I don't know what took place in your married life, but from my reading of your letter it seems that after a long and difficult struggle that the two of you have managed to live with the disease of alcoholism. It is precisely for the reason that you have managed to stay together, that I find your proposal to remove Father Slown from the parish so difficult to understand. Many people are trying to help him with his illness, and I do not think his alcoholism will be helped by being removed from the parish. Rather I am trying to work with him so that he can live a productive life of sobriety.

While I certainly cannot support everything that Father Slown has done since he has been at St. Irene's, at the same time I feel he is making progress and I am extremely hopeful for the future. What Father Slown needs right now is some support from members in the parish. Obviously he should be held accountable for his actions, but he should also receive some support and encouragement. I think it would even be helpful if you or your husband spoke to him about your concern.

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000420

2.

Naturally, I am concerned about what is happening in St. Irene's parish, but I am also concerned about Father Slown. I have every hope that he will be able to be a good pastor for the community of St. Irene's.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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Released April 2014



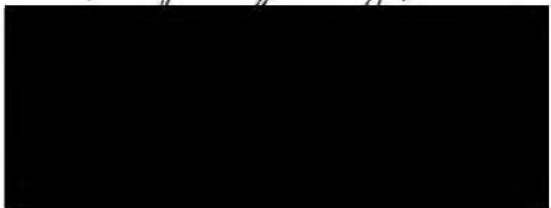
000421

Nov. 21, 1982

Dear Bishop,

We'd like to thank you for taking the time to visit and talk with us at St. Ignace this past weekend. However, we think you do not realize the severity of our problems and we not assuming the responsibility of leadership we had hoped for.

RECEIVED NOV 23 1982 Respectfully,



11/21/82

MOST REVEREND J. L. IMESCH
Bishop of Joliet
425 Summit St.
Joliet, Ill. 60453

000422A

RECEIVED NOV 23 1982

DEAR Bishop IMESCH,

I APPRECIATE THE EFFORT YOU MADE
THIS MORNING BY VISITING OUR PARISH
AND ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN YOUR POSI-
TION AND PROVIDE US DIRECTION IN
DEALING WITH THE DIFFICULTIES WE
ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING HERE
AT ST. IRENEE.

I LEFT THIS SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE
DISTRAUGHT AND SADDENED AND WITH
TWO IMPRESSIONS.

- AS A PARENT, IT IS FRIGHTENING TO
KNOW THAT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE ARE CONTINUALLY BEING EX-
POSED TO THESE PROBLEMS RATHER
THAN EXPERIENCING A JOYFUL,

✓22B

Fulfilling and inspiring liturgy to celebrate the Sabbath. Once again they have been reminded of the difficulties adults have in resolving their differences. Hopefully they will not be scarred too deeply and can recover from the affects of these experiences now and later in life.

- The other was that you too seem to be having difficulties in separating yourself from your personal involvement and the realities of what is happening within our parish. I say this fully aware of the message you are trying to convey to us as Christians, yet also fully aware of the fact that even Jesus Christ became angered and distraught when His temple was being abused.

422c

I HAVE HOPE HOWEVER THAT BY NOW YOU FEEL VERY MUCH A PART OF THIS PARISH COMMUNITY AND PROBABLY SUFFER ALONG WITH IT IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

I WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE MY FAMILY AND OTHERS TO PRAY FOR YOU SO THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL ENLIGHTEN YOU AND GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO TAKE ACTION THAT IS BEFITTING OF THE OFFICE YOU HOLD AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES YOU HAVE TAKEN UPON YOURSELF. GOD BLESS YOU IN THIS MOST DIFFICULT TASK.

RESPECTFULLY,



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000423



November 22, 1982

The Most Reverend Joseph Imesch
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Subject: St. Iren's Parish / Father John Slown

Most Reverend Imesch:

It was a pleasure coming face to face with the MAN who leads the CATHOLICS in the Aurora Dioceses, even under the unpleasant conditions that made your visit possible.

You see, I am rather new in your Dioceses . . . I moved here from Chicago where I have spent the last twenty-five years. Prior to that time, I was born and brought up in the South, Louisiana, where CATHOLICISM was a way of life for me.

I assume by now you are thinking . . . "who is this little Ms. Nobody writing me and giving me all this information about herself and what is she leading up to!" Well Father, your meeting with the Parish on Sunday, the discussions, and questions was a SHOCK to my beliefs. I was dumfounded as I listened. I could not believe what I was hearing . . . in these days when GOOD PASTORS and PRIESTS are so hard to find, and the constant reminders that we are in need of PRIESTS all over the World . . . and here a handful of people has sought the need to condemn a Pastor, because he was an alcoholic and/or for whatever reasons which was never explained during this meeting. Father, this is unbelievable.

I cannot say I know Father John Slown . . . but I can say, I have heard him say the MASS on Sundays. He has made many of my Sundays a joy with his Sermon. He has such a strong voice and sincere warmthness comes out of his voice as he service Mass. In fact, I have been quite impressed with Father John and always look forward to hearing him say the Mass on Sundays. When I leave the Church and he has said the Mass, I feel very good inside. He has such a way of reaching the inner me. I cannot understand WHY the discontent at St. Iren's Parish. I, myself, would have never recognized that Father John was an alcoholic at one time, and I am sure that the people too could have never recognized it, had they not been informed prior to his coming to St. Iren's.

I do not know what Father John has done to these people in the Parish, who must work very closely with the Church, but with my teaching of CATHOLICISM, I believe FORGIVING is a must in everybody's life. Christ forgave the people who put him on the Cross. I cannot see why the people of the community cannot forgive Father John, as well as Father John forgive the people who has refused to work with him. I think wholeheartly that they can ALL work together, reaching out to little people like myself and many more newcomers in the Community, welcoming us and

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Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

The Most Reverend Joseph Imesch

Page 2

000424

making this Parish what it is meant to be . . . a place where all CHRIST children worship and work together, with Father John as the leader. Trusting Father John's leadership capabilities will certainly help him as well as the community.

I feel that St. Iren's Parish must grow with changes, just as our Society changes from day to day, accepting the fact that no man is without fault. But if we work and pray together we can all accomplish our goal.

Again, it was a pleasure coming face to face with you, and I look forward to again seeing you at St. Iren's under a more pleasant atmosphere with Father John Slown and all the people at St. Iren's.

Sincerely,



/dl

Released April 2014

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

000425

November 23, 1982

Reverend John Slown
St. Irene's Parish
28W551 Aurora, Box 408
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear John,

It was good to have the opportunity to talk to you yesterday. As I mentioned to you, I found the weekend experience at St. Irene's to be extremely positive. While there were certainly people who did not hesitate to express the hurt they felt, there was an overall attitude of support and a willingness to cooperate with you. Even those who expressed their hurts, did not have a hostile attitude, but rather seemed to be most anxious to cooperate with you and support you.

My basic message to them was that in a Christian community we are called to look after one another. To be a family means that we accept the various members of that family without necessarily approving their behavior. I called upon the community to affirm and support you as a priest and a human, while confronting you whenever they felt your behavior was inappropriate. Only in that way would they be a real support to you.

██████████ mentioned that a program was being prepared for you. While I am not aware of the details, I would like to state some of my expectations for you. First and foremost, would be sobriety. I think that you realize the importance of this in your life, and I feel that it is an essential element from my viewpoint. You have great talents and abilities and I want you to function effectively as a priest. I know the only way you can do that is through sobriety. For that reason, I expect you to attend AA Meetings with regularity and I expect you to refrain from taking any alcoholic beverages. Should I learn that you are drinking, I feel that I would have no choice but to ask that you either go to Guest House or relinquish your pastorate.

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2.

While I recognize that difficulties or differences of opinions may arise between individual parishioners and yourself, I will expect that these difficulties are handled in an appropriate manner, and not be the cause of outbursts of temper or intemperate remarks. Whatever differences there may be, they will only be aggravated by such behavior on your part. In addition, I feel that such behavior is a cause of confusion and anxiety for your parishioners, since they do not equate such behavior with that of a minister.

I would also expect you to take an active part in the cluster meetings of your area, as well as participate in any diocesan activities which are arranged for the clergy. I recognize the many demands upon your time as a pastor, but I think it is important that you participate in these activities.

I do not list these expectations with any thought of laying additional burdens on you, but simply to let you know that I care about you and your ministry and want to see you succeed in this parish. John, I really feel that the moment is ripe for a new beginning. I found the enthusiasm and support of the people to be very sincere, and I really believe they want to work with you. I would hope that you would find the occasion to publicly apologize to your parishioners for your past behavior and to ask for their forgiveness. You will not be diminished by such an action, but rather will win the affection and esteem of your people. I would hope also that you would be able to pledge to the people your willingness to work with all of them for the benefit of the community, and that you want nothing other than to be their pastor and shepherd. In your ministry to them, you will certainly find that you are being ministered to as well.

I assure you of my continued prayers for you and my support. I will do everything I can to help you in becoming the priest I know that you are.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

[Redacted]
Nov. 24, 1982

000427

Bishop [Redacted]
Joliet Diocese
Joliet, Ill.

Dear Sir:

As a participant in the Nov. 10, 1982 5:30 service at St. Irene, it seems necessary to review and question the true meaning of your visit; and the high dudgeon displayed by you in response to firthright questioning and commentary by the parishioners.

From your "laying down the law" attitude these questions arose:

1. Do you feel any guilt in sending a pastor with severe emotional and social problems to St. Irene?

RE: Your quite hostile and sharp response to the organist when he elicited sponatneous approval for an appropriate remark;and also with the woman who applauded a positive comment.

2. Was this visit to be a pacifying attmpt or a punitive one?
3. Were you really totally truthful with yourself in expressing surprise at the pastor's difficulty dealing with parishioners?

RE: An admitted knowledge of a long standing drinking problem (which seemsto have resurfaced as late as Nov. 6, when at a non-wine for parishioner service Father used the large wine carafe and drank to its full .)

The knowledge that a 6 month period in several positions means some problem which needs addressing is going unattended. So the end result is passing on the problems to a congregation with "be Christian" as the comment. Lay parishioners are not sufficiently trained to take the "be responsible for yourself" approach comfortably and certainly not trained in dealing with social and emotional problems of such a serious degree.

4. Why the expectation that this lay congregation can help problem solving by arguing, cajoling or reading off an already unhappy man?

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- 5. Why was the question of so-called behavior pattern changes avoided?
- 6. Why was no truthful discussion about emotional and psychological counseling brought forth? Has there been any such testing on the church level?
- 7. During our lengthy lecture on Christian responsibility, why was the Bishop's part in not permitting this situation to arise never mentioned?

RE: No review panel to help minimize stress for a person not capable of being under the stress of a pastorate. No apparent psychological evaluation for this stress pattern was given. Past history explains this, since parishioners have not been forthright in expressing difficulties and needs, based on prior training. And therefore have suffered with whatever was handed them in the past.

Dear Bishop, --

We have not reacted or responded until this situation came to the fore by your visit. Although the ill mannered responses have been numerous from the first meeting with Father. Time has made it now become a necessity to write,.

But an ill person should not be expected to undergo stress continually. The breaking point is now all too close. And the variance in behavior is more and more noticable.

Are we not driving an ill person over a large precipice for no truly Christian reason?

Are you not contributing to this demise by insisting that that unhappy person be made responsible for his behavior by another frustrated and unhappy person?

Is this truly Christian?

It is unrealistic behavior by adults; this "responsibility" tactic, (which seems not to have worked for the 30 year period previous to this.)

As a 33 year educator and psychology major, your actions, reactions, and responses are a great worry and seem hostile and unrealistic, as well as difficult to understand.

Are we in a power struggle?
We sincerely hope not!

For the good of Father John and St. Irene's fine parish,

Dont punish!
HELP! All of us.



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As of Dec. 4, 1982, Bishop, our problems continue to mount.

We heard how Fr. Charles Wheeler is now hospitalized because of fibrillation of the heart ("or something" as Jr. John put it). He looked tense and worried on the occasion of your visit. A large problem on his shoulders. And a full week ago he seemed drained, after Father John berated the congregation for misdemeanors he did not know he had committed, by his word.

Have we NOW had enough?

The responsible attitude was expressed from the altar on the 12-4 date thusly:

"If he shows up at the door I guess he'll be OK, if not, he'll be there (a hand gesture toward the nearest funeral home), but either way its OK."

And after mass:

"Look at what's happening. Two assistants gone in less than a year" (much laughter). "I guess they must have a problem."

"Or maybe I'm killing them off."

So much for your high flown attitude of distant responsibility.

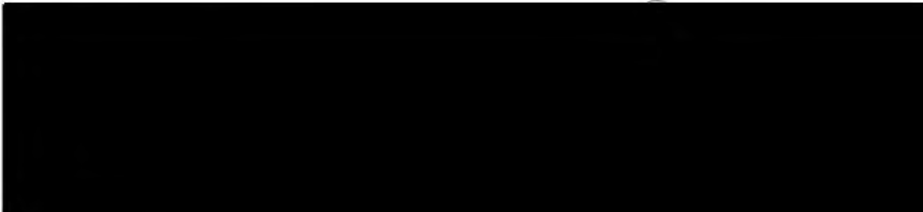
How many more sincere and sensitive people must be sacrificed for a test of wills?

Answer the prior questions for yourself, and begin to be responsible too. As you expect Father Tom, Father Charles and the members of the declining parish membership to be.

Frankly, I am repulsed and revolted by such behavior being foisted off on the parish public under the guise of "Christianity."

How long will this charade continue?

Ask yourself-- and be honest about it.



Rev. Slown

000430

December 2, 1982

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]:

I received your recent letter and am very grateful for your comments. I realize that my visit to St. Irene's would be a cause of confusion for a number of parishioners, who would not have been acquainted with all that has gone on there. I appreciate very much your support of Father Slown and of the priesthood. At the same time, I must point out that support of a priest should not mean overlooking his faults or defects. There comes a time when a priest cannot rely simply on his priesthood in order to receive the approval of his parishioners.

Father Slown did a number of things which, as I mentioned, were inappropriate. I think he must be held responsible for his actions, even while the people who hold him responsible must be willing to forgive.

I, too, believe that the Christian community can work together to help its hurting members. I appreciate very much your expression of concern and your willingness to help Father Slown.

Having just moved here from Chicago, you are probably not yet too familiar with our diocese. In your letter, you mentioned that I was in charge of the Aurora Diocese, when in fact, I am responsible for the Joliet Diocese. A number of people are not aware of the extent of the Joliet Diocese, so I am not surprised that you placed Warrenville in Aurora. Actually, Aurora is part of the Rockford Diocese. Confusing, isn't it?

Again, my sincere thanks and appreciation for your letter.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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Released April 2014

000431

December 2, 1982

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your recent letter and am grateful for your comments. I understand how you feel, even though I do not agree with your conclusions. Obviously, I am not content with the situation at St. Irene's, but feel that the solution lies not in removing Father Slown, but in having the community work together to help him.

In your letter, you mentioned that "our young people are continually being exposed to these problems," and I have some difficulty with the universality of that statement. Further on, you state that I seem to be having difficulties in separating myself from my personal involvement and what is actually happening in the parish. I am not quite sure what you are referring to, but I had to smile when I read that, since the usual complaint about bishops is that they are too impersonal in their relationships. I think I can truthfully say that I have no particular personal relationship with Father Slown, other than what I would have with any priest of the diocese who is experiencing difficulties. I have agonized with Father Slown, as I have agonized with a number of priests with various problems. Sometimes, I wish that I could be a little more impersonal with them, since it would save me a great deal of emotional anguish.

At any rate, I sincerely hope that you and your wife will make another effort to assist Father Slown. I have spoken with him, and I have every hope that he is sincere in improving his behavior, and with the help of the community, he will be able to do so.

I appreciate your prayers for me and your support. I recognize the responsibilities that I have and I pray daily that I may carry them out properly.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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000432

December 2, 1982

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I received your recent note in which you expressed your appreciation for my visit, while expressing at the same time your disappointment in my response to the situation at St. Irene's. I do realize my responsibilities, but I do not feel the removal of Father Slown would be an appropriate exercise of those responsibilities. Certainly you must be aware of the great amount of support, which was voiced publicly for Father Slown at many of the Masses. I will continue to work with Father Slown and the members of the community, as long as that is possible. I would hope that you would do whatever you can to improve the situation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Inesch
Bishop of Joliet

Rev. Slown

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

000438

January 14, 1983

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been unduly delayed in responding to the two letters you sent me in early December. I hope that my response will help to clarify some of the issues that you raised.

I thought that I had made my position clear when I came to the parish, but I can see where there might be some confusion. I did not come to the parish to berate the parishioners or to make them feel guilty. I really do feel that a congregation has a responsibility to the priest, as much as the priest has a responsibility to them. The idea of weakness or human failure in a priest may be difficult to accept, and yet I think it is healthy to confront that problem. I believe that I asked the people to confront Father Slown on any occasion when they felt that he was not responding properly to them, but also to assure him of their support and love.

Alcoholism is a disease. I believe that and feel that it should be treated as such, rather than as a moral fault. In order for me to help Father Slown, it is necessary for me to rely on the people in the parish for assistance.

In regard to Father Slown's previous assignments, there seems to be some misunderstanding. The fact of his staying six months in an assignment should not be viewed as a negative factor, but rather that it was an effort to prepare him to assume full responsibility for a parish at some future date. After he had completed several months of treatment, I assigned him as an associate in a parish. When that went well and there was a need for a temporary administrator in a parish, I assigned him there. Father Slown did well in both assignments and I did not receive any complaints about any of his activities. His counselor felt that he was ready to assume a pastoral responsibility and the evidence seemed to indicate that he was also. Consequently, I assigned him as pastor at St. Irene's.

000439

2.

My own philosophy in dealing with priests who have problems is that we have to try to help them overcome their difficulties. At times this may have to be done by removing them from the parish, but that is not always the better way. A priest has to realize that he is not expected to be perfect, and that he will not be removed at the first sign of a difficulty. At the same time, I do not think that problems should be left unattended. It is for this reason that Father Slown has received counselling and is continuing to receive counselling.

The illness of Father Wheeler probably has little connection with Father Slown. People may interpret it that way, but that would only be conjecture on their part.

I know that the situation at St. Irene's is difficult. As I stated when I was there, I am certainly not content with Father Slown's behavior. I will continue to confront him, as I have several times in the past, whenever I feel his behavior is inappropriate. I will do all that I can to help him become the priest that he is capable of being. To do that, I feel that I must call upon the cooperation of the people of the parish community. That is painful and difficult and I know that some will not agree with me, but I do believe it is the right approach. Perhaps the time will come when I will have to ask Father Slown to receive in-patient treatment. When I feel that time has come, I assure you I will not hesitate to ask him to accept that treatment. In the meantime, I ask for your understanding and your prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

000440

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 19, 1983

Reverend John Slown
St. Irene Parish
28W551 Aurora - Box 408
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear John,

Yesterday I talked to Doctor Sy concerning my remarks to you. He asked if I would be willing to delay my decision until you had seen him. I said that I would, but I felt this was a delaying tactic on your part. In deference to his wishes, I will not make a decision until after Doctor Sy has seen you at the workshop in February. I would expect you to attend this workshop.

The basic reason for my decision was your delay in implementing the suggestions I made to you sometime ago. If you were really serious about your alcoholism, I would have expected you to take care of those matters immediately. As it is, I feel they were probably followed only because I was coming to St. Irene's for a Cluster meeting.

As I mentioned to you, I felt that I have been open and honest with you, but I do not feel that you have reciprocated. As I have told you on many occasions, I want so much for you to succeed in this assignment, that I am not willing to allow you any opportunity to fail. There have been no major incidents, at least to my knowledge, since your return in November, but there have been a sufficient number of other situations which have caused me some concern. Under normal circumstances, they would not cause me to take this action, but I do not wish to ignore some of these signs. My only concern is your health and your welfare. If those are cared for, I know the people will be cared for. I know what I am asking you to do is not easy, and I certainly understand your reluctance. I am agreeable to Doctor Sy's suggestion and I will withhold my decision until after you have met with him.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Mr. Michael J. Sy, Ph.D.

On Mon - Jan 17 the associate told me as bottles were being reviewed after Fr. Slown had turned that responsibility over to him. Since I will be out of the country until Feb 15 I would appreciate it if you would contact Ed. Ryan.

MEMORANDUM FOR FATHER JOHN SLOWN'S FILE

March 17, 1983

[REDACTED], principal of St. Irene's school in Warrenville called me on March 17th. She reported that Father Slown acted very erratic at the School Board Meeting this past Tuesday. She said that he had been drinking, and she smelled it on him. He was very abusive in his language, with much loud shouting. One of the board members, a counselor at DuPage Community College, called her the next day and asked if Father were drinking. He said that he was exhibiting all the manic-depressive characteristics.

The maintenance man reported to her that Father had been very abusive towards an attendant at the gas station this past week.

On Monday, March 7th, Father Slown did not come down for a regular 3:30 staff meeting. Father Wheeler tried two or three times to awaken him, which he finally did 40 minutes later. At the meeting Father was loud and indifferent.

The principal sat next to Father Slown at two meetings within the past week and smelled alcohol on him both times. She also reported that he has lashed out at her in several meetings recently, although she is able to calm him down and speaks up to him.

A woman reported to the principal that she thought Father Slown was drunk when he attended a bingo session on Wednesday, March 9th.

I have spoken with Doctor Sy and he is prepared to receive him back at Marsalin Institute immediately after Easter.*

J L I
Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

✓ cc-Most Reverend Daniel Ryan
[REDACTED]

* b.w. @ Easter Monday -

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000442

March 23, 1983

[REDACTED]

I just wanted you to know that I have made an appointment to see Father John Slown on Tuesday, March 29th, at 1 p.m. I had intended to call him on Monday, March 21st, but because of a bad snow storm I did not think he would be able to come to Joliet. I called him on Wednesday, March 23rd, and asked to see him on that day. He said that it was impossible. I then said that I would like to see him on Thursday or Friday, and he again said he was not able to come in. I told him that I thought it was rather unusual that he would not be able to come to see his bishop, given a choice of three days. He pleaded the busyness of Holy Week, and said that he could not come until next Tuesday. I agreed then to see him at that time.

I bring this to your attention, simply because I feel John is avoiding me. I wish sometimes that I had the same kind of freedom to put off seeing my priests when they call to see me!

This morning, by coincidence, the associate called me and told me that things were not going well. He said that John had straightened up before his meeting with all of you in February and had done extremely well until these last few weeks. For some reason, and he could not identify any particular concern, John then began drinking again. I presume that he will use these next several days to get himself back in line before he sees me. The associate did not know where John was obtaining the alcohol, nor when he was doing his drinking.

The associate did raise a question with me as to whether John is able to be pastor of this particular parish, or any other parish. I responded that I thought this was a rather premature judgment, and that I wanted to give him an opportunity to prove himself. I did say that should he return from his next visit with you and not be able to function in a parish, then I would most probably ask him to step down. The

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associate says that John has said, evidently on a number of occasions, "it is hell to be here." This makes the associate wonder whether John really can handle the problems of the parish, and whether his attitude is limited to this particular parish or includes all parishes. Perhaps you might use some of this information to determine how comfortable John is in a parish setting, or in this particular parish. He does seem to be going uphill much of the time.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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000444

O'M REVEREND MESSCH,

MANY TIMES IN OUR BUSY LIVES WE FAIL TO ACKNOWLEDGE
OUR APPRECIATION FOR SOMEONE. I WISH TO DO SO NOW.

I HAVE BEEN A PARISHIONER OF ST. IRENE'S FOR SEVERAL
YEARS. MY SON ATTENDS THE SCHOOL. I HAVE A STRONG EDUCATION
IN CATHOLICISM. GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL. I AM NOT ACTIVE
IN THE SCHOOL OR PARISH. ACTUALLY I HAVE BEEN FLOATING
THROUGH LIFE FOR SOME TIME.

THEN FR. JOHN ARRIVED. HE MADE CHANGES. HE WAS CONTROVERSIAL
HE MADE US STOP AND THINK. HE TOOK A LOT OF STATIC. BUT
THROUGH HIS PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND HIS ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS
TWO THINGS STOOD SOLID. HIS BELIEF IN JESUS CHRIST AND HIS
BELIEF IN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.
WITHOUT KNOWING IT HE HAS BROUGHT ME BACK TO GOD. HIS FAITH
HAS BEEN MY STRENGTH. I HAVE ACCEPTED JESUS INTO MY LIFE.

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT HIS
STAY HERE HAS BEEN A SUCCESS. I AM CONFIDENT IN HIS ABILITY
AS A LEADER AND I AM CONFIDENT IN HIS PERSONAL ABILITY. MAY
GOD BLESS HIM AND MAY GOD HELP YOU TO HELP HIM.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

000449

April 8, 1983



Dear Doctor:

I am writing to give you some more information about Father John Slown.

This past Tuesday night the associate at the parish called and gave me the following information. First of all, he said that Father Slown did not tell him until Easter Sunday afternoon that he was going to be away. You will recall that I met with Father Slown on Tuesday afternoon. From that time on he seems to have been engaged in some rather heavy drinking. He did not show up for the 7 p.m. Mass Tuesday evening, nor for 7:30 confessions. The associate woke him up at 9:10 because Father Slown's 9 o'clock appointment was waiting.

On Wednesday Father Slown also slept through the 7 p.m. Mass. On Holy Thursday, the associate said Father was "half in the bag," for Mass. On Good Friday it was really obvious that he was drinking. The Liturgical service included the congregation pounding nails into a cross. Father Slown pounded the last two in with a great deal of vehemence.

The associate figures that at least three jugs of wine were consumed that week by Father Slown. It got to the point where the associate locked the wine in his car. Father Slown opened a case that was underneath an unopened case.

Father Slown told a couple that they would not see him for five or six months. He has also made a number of remarks that he would not be in the parish after June. The associate feels that he has exhausted almost every effort to get along with Father Slown. There is no open animosity, but there is little that passes between them. The associate is tired of having Father Slown not take any initiative in the parish and says that if this does not improve upon Father's return, especially the working together, he will ask for a transfer. I told him that if that were the situation, that I would

March 27, 1983

000456

Most Rev. Joseph L. Imus
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60403

RECEIVED JUN - 3 1983

Dear Bishop Imus,

This is the first time in my life I have ever written to a Bishop but being a member of St. Irene's Parish in Warrenville I felt I have to express my feelings.

When Father John Slown first came to our parish prachers liked him although he was a bit loud and outgoing. My first encounter with him occurred one Sunday after mass as the church was emptying. The crowd was quite thick and a man behind me stumbled and fell. A younger woman in her 30's attempted to help the man much to my surprise Father Slown standing a few feet away may no attempt to help nor even asked the man how he was ~~once~~ he was standing. He just bellowed "Go ahead and sue that's what I am here for to pay the bills." I left in bewilderment.

I approached the man a few weeks later to ask if someone could administer communion to my invalid father. He said he would do it personally - getting to know his parishioners. A month went by I talked to him again - He

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but don't worry I won't rest. Three more months
passed - I got the same response - It is now
May - September is when this all began and no
one has entered his home. He is very sad and
hurt as well.

There was his drunkardness at last year's First Communion,
at School Board meetings ^{and} and who knows where else.
He has to be watched and at times barred from our
school. He's been caught drinking in church as well.

I have two sons the youngest is the fourth grade
this year. I refused to let him be an altar boy
I am hurt and angered this man is here "running"
our parish. I sent my children to a Catholic school,
as I went as a child, and yet no priest teaches
religion and yet I wouldn't want that man 10 feet
near my child.

My faith has been under a terrible strain this
past year and my church attendance as well as
my children has fallen off. I am sending
my 14 year old to St. Francis High School
as a Freshman this year. He has commented
negatively as to Father Slowon's behavior without
any reference from me at anytime.

I was embarrassed by that priest one Sunday
a few months ago in front of an entire
congregation as he met me and bellowed
loudly - "a pretty girl like you can come to
my church anytime";

I cannot look up to that man as my
holy guidance. He has met me at times
and can still not remember my name.
I feel he needs more help than anyone

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I feel the older folks in the parish don't know much, as their only contact with him is Sunday mass.

456D

I have been under pressure all year - you said you'd give him a year and he has failed but yet you sent him back. I was here first but yet I feel I'm being forced out!! I have checked into St Johns in Winfield and will leave unless you send Father Slown elsewhere.

I feel you are not only hurting us - you are hurting him - He possibly cannot handle all the pressures of being a pastor. He certainly is not dependable or reliable nor someone who can counsel others.

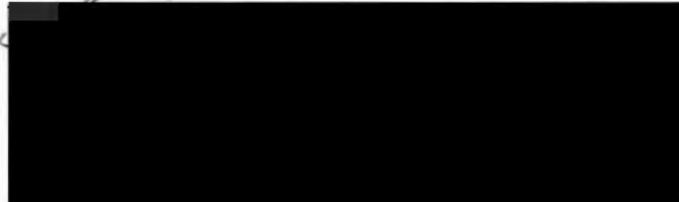
Why is it other school principals and officials won't set foot on our school ground? - Mrs. Zomba must meet them elsewhere. They know Father Slown!!

I have been as Christian and understanding as I possibly can - my eyes now only hold disgust for him.

He has entered our school drunk and Mrs. Zomba had to remove him. Who knows how often he has a drink or two and that's possibly when his "gay" tendencies appear. Keep him away from our boys - - - -

Put in in the Chancery or somewhere away from our young and naive children, Please Please

Wait for your reply and some action.



000457

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 10, 1983

Reverend John Slown
St. Irene's Parish
28W551 Aurora - Box 408
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear John,

It was good to have the opportunity to talk with you yesterday. You certainly seemed well and looked well. Your understanding of your difficulties and your resolve to do something about them impressed me.

In our discussion there were several things that I mentioned to you and I wanted to put them in writing so that we would both have a clear understanding of what my expectations are. At the suggestion of [REDACTED]. I would like you to see [REDACTED] on a regular basis. Because I am concerned about your welfare, I want you to continue to see him until such time as he says there is no more need for visits. [REDACTED].

We also agreed that you would meet regularly with the associate, principal, secretaries, and director of religious education as you agreed upon with the people at St. Luke's Institute. I would have hoped that you would have begun these sessions already, but I realize that there were many things occupying you upon your return. I would like you to have your first session with this group during the week of June 12th. I think it is really important for yourself, and for these people, that you begin these sessions soon.

I readily agree to be available to you to discuss any parish difficulties that may come up. It might be good to have the opportunity to discuss some different approaches to some of the projects.

I mentioned to you that I felt that I have stretched myself as far as possible in allowing you to remain as pastor at St. Irene's. I believe the people have responded extremely well to some difficult circumstances, but I am unwilling to have them endure any more difficulties because of your alcoholism. I will support you in your position as pastor

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2.

at St. Irene's as long as I am convinced that you are really making an effort to retain your sobriety. If I find that there are further incidents of drinking, it will be necessary for me to have you step aside as pastor of St. Irene's. You know that is something which I do not wish to do, but if necessary, I will do it with great reluctance. I have tried to deal honestly and fairly with you and I do not feel that has always been the manner in which you have dealt with me. I mentioned this to you, and said that I expected you to be up front with me in the future. If I find this is not the case, I will have to do as I have indicated.

You are a person with many gifts and talents, as you have proven so often. I do not want to see those talents destroyed by alcoholism, and I will do everything I can to help you avoid that. You know that you are in my prayers each day and I ask that you remember me also.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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00045g

June 13, 1983

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

I am just writing to inform you that I have asked Reverend John C. Slown, pastor of St. Irene's Parish in Warrenville, to contact you for an appointment. Father Slown told me that he had seen you some years ago.

Father Slown is an alcoholic who completed a lengthy stay at St. Luke's Institute in Holliston, Massachusetts last year. He was at Holliston once more for six weeks after Easter of this year.

In speaking with his psychiatrist at St. Luke's, the recommendation was made that Father Slown continue sessions with a psychiatrist here because of his frequent periods of depression. I have spoken with Father Slown about this and he has agreed to do this. I have also written this to him and told him that I would be writing you. I also mentioned that the decision to terminate the appointments should be made by you and not by Father Slown. I would appreciate it if you would contact me in the event that Father Slown should not make an appointment or should stop coming to see you. I presume that such a request does not violate any principles of ethics.

Thanks for all your help.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000460

July 18, 1983

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Last month I received a letter from you which was dated in March. I don't know whether it was held up in the mail or lost, but I just wanted you to know that it was more than two months late in arriving. You wrote me about your concern for Father Slown, and I assure you that I share that concern. There are several things that you mentioned that I was not aware of, but I have not heard of any of those things first hand.

I would like to share your letter with Father Slown but before I can do that I need your permission. I think it is important that he hears what his parishioners have to say about him.

In regard to bringing Communion to your invalid father, I feel that you should talk to him directly about that and tell him how disappointed you are. There is no excuse for a priest not bringing Communion to the sick, no matter how busy the priest is. It is important that Father Slown not be allowed to excuse himself from those duties which are most priestly.

You must know that Father Slown has received extensive counselling to help him with some of his difficulties. My procedure in dealing with a priest who has problems is to provide him with the help and counselling that he needs. Transferring a priest does not solve the problem and is really not a help to him. Since we are a Christian community, that preaches forgiveness, it is important that we be willing to forgive one another even our leaders. That does not mean overlooking their faults, but rather bringing them to their attention in Christian charity. I hope that you will either do this personally with Father Slown, or allow me to share your letter with him.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

000460

MEMORANDUM

August 26, 1983

TO: Reverend William Donnelly
✓ Bishop Daniel Ryan

FROM: Bishop Joseph Imesch

I met with Father John Slown on August 25th and asked for his resignation as pastor of ~~St. Irene's~~ in Warrenville. He readily gave it and said that he was relieved. He admitted that he had been drinking during these past two weeks, but very limited amounts. He indicated that this was due to the stress and tension he felt in administering the parish, and the difficulties of this particular parish.

I suggested to him that perhaps he is not cut out to be a pastor and he said that he had been thinking for some time about this and was reaching the same conclusion. He felt that he could minister quite effectively as an associate and, while I am not ruling^o the possibility of his becoming a pastor at some later date, for the present he seems content to function in the role of an associate.

John really was very good and it was a rather pleasant meeting. Obviously he is disappointed, as am I, but he accepts it very well and realizes that the important thing is serving the Lord, not being a pastor.

I suggested that he contact [REDACTED], who wanted to talk him into going into a halfway house in Washington and obtaining a secular job. John was very unwilling to do this, and so I suggested that he come up with several parishes that might need a priest. He asked me which ones were in need, and I mentioned several. His first choice was Christ the King with John Ryan, and second choice was Ascension with Jim Duffy. I would appreciate it if Bishop Ryan would contact Father Ryan to see if he would be willing to accept John. I really do believe that the sobriety will not be a problem. What John basically needs is someone to confide in, who will also confront him when he feels that the drinking is going on. Charlie Wheeler was not able to do this for whatever reason

000462


MEMORANDUM CONTINUED...

2.

John Slown felt that Charlie was not open to a close relationship, even though John pressed this on several occasions.

John will probably announce to his people his resignation this weekend. I told him that he should be ready to move by Tuesday or Wednesday of the first week in September. I also told him that he would not have to move until we had found a place for him. It would be good to list the Warrenville parish in the September J.O.B for a pastoral situation. I think it is important that when the priests are interviewed they be told that there probably will not be an associate.

I told Father Slown to address his letter of resignation to me and to send it to the attention of Father Donnelly. At that time, if this is canonical, you might write him and accept it in my name.



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Church of St. Irene
28 W 531 AURORA ROAD
WARRENVILLE, ILLINOIS 60555

000463

August 29, 1983

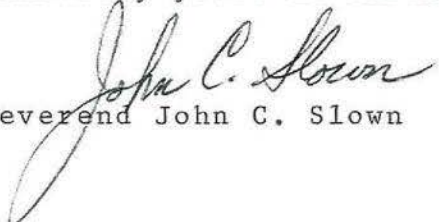
Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

According to our conversation on Thursday, August 25, 1983,
I am rendering my resignation as Pastor of St. Irene's
Parish, Warrenville, Illinois. I wish to thank you very
much for your understanding and kindness in all that you
did for me while I was at St. Irene's.

With all best wishes and God's blessings, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Church of St. Irene
28 W 531 AURORA ROAD
WARRENVILLE, ILLINOIS 60555

000464

August 29, 1983

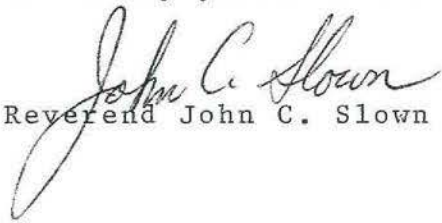
Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

The two parishes that I would like to be considered to be assigned to as an associate is Ascension Church, Oakbrook Terrace or Christ the King Parish, Lombard, Illinois. These are the only two parishes that I know need an associate at this time. Also, I request to be assigned to either of these parishes because they are in an area where I attend my A.A. meetings.

Hopefully my requests will be granted, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000466

OPEN LISTING

With the resignation of its pastor, the Reverend John Slown, the parish of St. Irene's, Warrenville, is now open.

St. Irene's parish consists of some 1,000 Catholic families. Father Charles Wheeler has been serving as associate pastor at the parish. The parochial school enrolls 167 children, and there are an additional 300 children attending C.C.D. classes. Mrs. Joyce Zemba is the school principal.

St. Irene's does have a parish school board, but as yet, no parish council has been established. During 1982, there were 127 baptisms at St. Irene's and 25 marriages.

St. Irene's is an established parish in a stable community. While a full-time associate pastor is assigned to the parish at the present time, it is quite possible that the new pastor will not have the advantage of a full-time associate in the future. Any priest wishing to apply for this parish should realistically contemplate the prospect of being the only full-time priest in St. Irene's.

Any priest of the Joliet Diocese who would wish to apply for this opening should do so in writing to either Father William Donnelly or Father John Kloepfer before September 20, 1983. (Bishop Daniel Ryan will be in Rome during the middle part of September, so we ask no letters be sent to him.) The Personnel Board then will arrange interviews with those who apply.

000467

Released April 2014

BISHOP'S OFFICE

1 September 1983

Dear Father John,

Effective upon your receipt of this letter, at the direction of Bishop Imesch, I hereby accept your resignation as pastor of Saint Irene's Parish, Warrenville, Illinois.

I want you to know of the gratitude of Bishop Imesch for your priestly life and service during the time of your assignment to Warrenville. I shall continue to be in contact with you as I work to arrange your next assignment. Please know that it is Bishop Imesch's wish that you remain comfortable at Saint Irene's Rectory until your transfer is effected. Upon receipt of your acknowledgement of this letter, I shall appoint Father Charles Wheeler temporary administrator of Saint Irene's Parish.

I assure you of my prayers and best wishes for your good health and God's choicest blessings. I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ *ALWZ*

The Most Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Vicar General
By Special Mandate

The Reverend John A. Slown
28 W 531 Aurora Road
Warrenville, Illinois 60555

425 SUMMIT STREET, JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

Cc: Fr. Slown File

Note: Fr. Slown received my letter 2 Sept. 1983. + ALWZ

Slown

000468

Released April 2014

BISHOP'S OFFICE

9 September 1983

Dear Father John,

With a canonically effective date of 1 October 1983, I hereby appoint you associate pastor of Christ the King Parish, Lombard.

I grant you herewith general delegation for marriages in Christ the King Parish.

Having spoken to you and to Father John Ryan, I know that you will work out an actual date for your moving into the rectory which will suit your mutual convenience.

Please know of my prayers for your good health. I know that Bishop Imesch will want you to keep in touch with him, to let him know how things are going for you. If I can help you in any way, just call me. I live but a stone's throw away from your new rectory. Do take to heart the good advice of Bishop Imesch to become really involved in your new cluster.

You have my prayers and those of Bishop Imesch as you dedicate yourself to God's People in this new section of his vineyard.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ DLW

The Most Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Vicar General
By Special Mandate

The Reverend John C. Slown
P. O. Box 408
Warrenville, Illinois 60555

cc: Father John Ryan
Father Charles Wheeler

cc: Bp. Imesch ✓

September 29, 1983

[Redacted]

St. Luke's Institute
2420 Brooks Drive
Suitland, Maryland 20745

Dear Father [Redacted]:

Many thanks for your letter of concern for Father John Slown. I met with Father Slown just before I left for Rome and asked him to resign his pastorate. We discussed his drinking and he readily admitted that he had indeed begun drinking once more. He related the problem to the tensions of administration and suggested that perhaps he should become an associate once more. I readily agreed with his assessment.

When I broached the possibility of returning to the Institute he was quite adamant. I think John feels that he has given a great deal of time to therapy, and now what is needed is some positive response on his part. I am hopeful and somewhat optimistic that the pressures of ministry will be reduced for him as an associate. If, indeed, he continues to drink in his new capacity, then I am sure I will speak with him once more about following your suggestion. John's primary objection, as I recall now, was that he wanted to remain a priest and did not want to take up secular work. We shall see how he progresses.

Again, many thanks for your interest and concern on behalf of John. My time in Rome was well spent, although I was indeed anxious to return home. Rome has its blessings, but they are few compared to working here in Joliet. Prayers for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

AREA CODE 815
Selected April 2013 4/9/13
TELEPHONE 722-5806

Released April 2014

000470

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Chancery Office
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

re: Rev. John Slown

On 11 November 1983 I interviewed [REDACTED] a student of Christ the King School, Lombard.

The night of the Halloween Party Fr. Slown was playing 'mercy' or hand-wrestling [REDACTED] 2 [REDACTED] Father Slown touched him on the legs and rear end - and put his hand into his trousers.

They talked [REDACTED] Saturday morning about the incident. He said that he didn't know if Fr. Slown was sober or not.

On Monday morning after the party Mr. Egan, Fr. John Ryan, [REDACTED] a teacher at Christ the King) had a discussion with the students about drinking and its effects on behavior.

[REDACTED] that Fr. Slown came down to the party about 7:15 p.m. and re-appeared about 9:15 p.m. The teachers were especially interested to come between the boys and Fr. Slown.

I assured [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] the Diocese of Joliet would sustain the expense of any counselling required for [REDACTED] as a result of this unfortunate incident.

11 November 1983

David W. Ryan
Vicar General

AREA CODE 815
TELEPHONE 815-722-4913
Redacted April 28/13, 4/9/13

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Chancery Office
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000471

re: Rev. John Slown

I was unable to interview [redacted], adoptive parents of [redacted] who was allegedly manhandled by Fr. John Slown the night of the Halloween Party.

I talked to [redacted] who was not too expressive. I offered to come to see them or to have them visit me at the Brothers' Residence, Lombard. On my second call, [redacted] indicated that several of the family had the flu, and it would not be convenient to meet with me.

I have learned from other parishoners of the Parish of Christ the King that the [redacted] has had some problems with several of [redacted] - [redacted] in particular - and and not 'anxious to stir up trouble'.

+ [Signature]
Vicar General

12 November 1983

Phone: [redacted]

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Chancery Office
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

030472

re: Rev. John Slown

On 12 November 1983, I [redacted] regarding their son [redacted] involvement with Fr. Slown the night of the Halloween Party at Christ the King Rectory for the seventh and eighth grade student.

On the night of the party, [redacted] brought [redacted] his parents' car. [redacted] tells this story: At about 9 p. [redacted] realized that [redacted] his friend, was not downstairs. He went up to the kitchen to see what was happening. Fr. Slown put his hand on [redacted] waist. "Let's go downstairs," [redacted] said. He heard Mr. Egan, a teacher, come up the stairs. Fr. Slown then tried to persuade them to stay in the kitchen. [redacted] outside to talk of the situation.

Women chaperones noticed Fr. Slown cornering boys during the evening. They saw him put his hand down the front of the [redacted] pants.

[redacted] is an open boy. His parents say they will look to his best interests. This response was made to my offer that the Diocese would sustain any expense of counselling as a result of the incident.

[redacted] registered what were for him two matters of alarm:

1. Fr. John Ryan did not call the parents on Saturday.
2. Through phone calls [redacted] has learned that Fr. Slown has been transferred from several parishes in the past few years. Some of the alleged charges: "Finger in the collection money." "Children had been rubbed." [redacted] feels that a stand should have been taken by the Diocese years ago.

[redacted] was ready to call Channel Seven.

12 November 1983

David W. Ryan
Vicar General

Phone: [redacted]

AREA CODE 815
TELEPHONE 722-6606
Redacted April 2013 4/13

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Chancery Office
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000473

re: Rev. John Slown

On 12 November 1983 I [REDACTED]
a student of the eighth grade at Christ the King School, Lombard.

They say that there has been lots of handling of boys in the sacristy by Father Slown. Fr. Slown touched [REDACTED] his private parts in the sacristy one week day before or after Mass.

[REDACTED] (7th grade) and [REDACTED] were handled by Slown in the presence of their father in the rectory.

Children are saying 'ouch' to Fr. Slown's twisting of their ears, etc.

At the party Fr. Slown would not keep his hands [REDACTED] and the other boys.

[REDACTED] indicate that they will surely take no action in this case. Mr. [REDACTED] is emphatic on the matter. [REDACTED] has some doubts, since she sees some blessing in preventing such occurrences with children in the future.

I expressed to them the willingness of the Diocese of Joliet to sustain any expense of counselling needed for their children.

12 November 1983

Edward W. Moran
Vicar General

[REDACTED]

Released April 2014

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000474

re: Rev. John Slown

On 12 November [REDACTED] 5, parents of [REDACTED] student at Christ the King School, Lombard, were interviewed by me about their information re: the Halloween Party at the rectory, of recent occurrence.

[REDACTED] 5 were not at the party. A neighbor told them that Fr. Slown was said to have done something [REDACTED] that they should ask the boy about it. When asked, [REDACTED] told his parents that Fr. Slown had been 'tickling' him.

At 1 a.m. that night of the party, another mother called: "What are you going to do?" N [REDACTED] came over to discuss the matter, and Mr. Kassel, the principal, joined them.

The next morning the parents questioned [REDACTED] SLWN V15 [REDACTED] ore. He admitted that Fr. Slown had been hand-wrestling the boys, playing a game of "mercy" with three boys - that he [REDACTED] the ribs and tickled him. "I'm not ticklish," the boy said. Fr. Slown then put his hands [REDACTED], but not under his underwear. One mother present [REDACTED] "white as a ghost."

[REDACTED] feel that Fr. Slown is too rough, and that he is a very disturbed man.

They felt that Fr. John Ryan's subsequent conference with the 7th and 8th grade children was most helpful.

I apologized to [REDACTED] for the unfortunate incident involving their son, and assured them that the Diocese of Joliet will sustain any expense of counselling which they feel may be required for their son therefrom.

12 November 1983

+ [Signature]
Vicar General



Released April 2014

000475

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Chancery Office
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

Re: Rev. John Slown

On 12 November 1983 at the residence of the Christian Brothers, Lombard, Illinois, I interviewed [REDACTED] SLWN [REDACTED] a student in Christ the King School, Lombard.

[REDACTED] are the people who had called the police in the case at hand.

There had been a Halloween Party in the rectory basement (Christ the King, Lombard) the Friday evening before Halloween, 1983. It lasted from approximately 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

During the course of the evening, Fr. Slown was arm-wrestling some of the boys. Some of the boys said to Mr. Egan, a teacher, "Boy, does he hurt!" At times there was a boy on Fr. Slown's lap.

One boy, [REDACTED] said: [REDACTED] is gone with Fr. Slown. Father is a queer. Actually, the two boys had gone for a while upstairs in the rectory with Fr. Slown. The [REDACTED] when he returned to the basement had great fear in his eyes. [REDACTED] if they were touched by Fr. Slown, but got no satisfactory answer. There was then much discussion among the parents-chaperones. Some mothers present saw Fr. Slown poke boys that evening in the genital area.

[REDACTED] thought Fr. Slown was too physical throughout the evening - handling and really hurting the boys.

Fr. Slown rubbed [REDACTED] legs and his stomach. (The boy had his shirt on, and was rubbed over it.) [REDACTED] was very upset when he came home that night - and was very concerned over what might have happened to his friends, especially [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] express great concern over Fr. Slown's re-assignment. They wonder if "drunk" is an adequate expression to describe his behavior. Why, they ask, did not Mrs. Kassel, the principal, call the parents of the boys involved immediately. They ask, "Had Fr. Slown this problem elsewhere?" [REDACTED] indicated that he would be very angry if he found that he had.

I expressed to [REDACTED] Parents of Slown Victim 17 our profound sorrow, and assured them that the Diocese of Joliet would bear the expense of any counselling which they might think their son would need as a result of the unfortunate incident with Fr. Slown.

12 November 1983

+ [Signature]
Vicar General

[REDACTED]

November 27, 1993

Dear Dan,

Congratulations on your new assignment as the ordinary of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. You will be remembered in my prayers and may God guide and bless you in your new position.

Also, I wish to thank you very much for all that you did for me in getting me back into treatment. All is going well, and I appreciate the opportunity for being able to take part in this program. By the way, Patty O'Sullivan is here and seems to be doing fine.

Lastly, I was wondering if the diocese was going to give me some financial assistance each month, as I do have a few monthly bills.

With all best wishes and God's love and blessings, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000477

December 7, 1983

Reverend John Slown
10020 Kennerly Road
St. Louis, MO 63128

Dear Jack:

Thank you for your kind note of November 27th and your good wishes and prayers. I appreciate them so much. I am doubly happy to be able to have good news for you, and to learn that the program in St. Louis is going along so well. You know that you are daily in my prayers and thoughts, and that I wish only the very best for you.

I shall immediately check to see why your monthly check has not arrived. If there is any question about it, may I suggest that you contact either Bill Donnelly or Jim Frederick at the Chancery, since my days and time there will be limited indeed.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you God's choicest blessings, not only at the Holy Christmas Season soon upon us, but throughout the New Year and your entire life.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Bishop-Designate of Springfield-in-Illinois -

DLR:bjd

Released April 2014

December 7, 1983

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Father Frederick

FROM: Bishop Ryan

Father Slown should have received a check for the month of November in the amount of \$400.00. Can you check with Father John Ryan to see when he was last paid at Lombard? I think it is Bishop Imesch's intention that he should be paid from the "Sick Priests' Fund" from the time that he left Lombard, according to their pay scale.

Thank you very much.

Bishop Ryan

DLR:bjd

Rev. Slown

Released April 2014

000479

December 12, 1983

Reverend John Slown
10020 Kennerly Road
St. Louis, MO 63128

Dear John:

You have probably been wondering why I have not written until now, just as I have been wondering why you have not written. Both of us probably have all kinds of reasons why the other one should have written first. Whatever the case, I will break the ice.

How are you? I can imagine that these last several weeks have not been particularly easy for you, as they have not been for any of us. I can imagine the sense of frustration and discouragement that you feel, and yet I am hopeful that this occasion may be the one which brings you to a realization and acceptance of what you must do.

This Season of Advent, as we await the coming of the Lord is a time of hope for all of us. We all look forward to His coming in our lives, even while we recognize that there are many doors in our lives that are kept closed to Him.

I pray for you by name each day in my morning and evening prayers. This Christmas will be a most difficult one for you, but it can also be one of joy and peace. I pray that it will be.

Sincerely in Christ,

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000484

Reverend John F. HARROLD

2.

I hope to be able to pay a visit on the morning of Friday, February 10th. I would appreciate it if you could provide me with directions from the airport or from the hotel in which accommodations are being made for the bishops.

I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

January 12, 1984

000487A

Dear Bishop Imsesch,

I was very pleased to receive your letter. Yes, it did break the ice for me. After our last telephone conversation, I felt uneasy, sad, remorseful, and threatened. In my mind, I thought it most prudent not to communicate with you, so that I wouldn't open up a sore spot in your life. Therefore, I refrained from writing to you.

As I began treatment, I turned my will and life over to the care of God. I do this daily and sometimes several times a day. By doing this at the beginning of this treatment, the extreme anxiety about my present situation was dissipated. It once again proved to me that if God was sought, He could and would do for me what I could not do for myself. This does not mean that I am not concerned about what has happened. It means that I cannot afford the luxury of pondering and worrying about it. If I would do this, my treatment would definitely suffer.

St. Michael's program is a very fine one. It is helping me to better understand and deal with my feelings, sexuality, manic-depression, alcoholism, and my human

4870

schedule that equalizes my time doing work and using my leisure time profitably.

It was brought to my attention by Father Paul Lyons, my counselor, that my future in the diocese, as an active minister, is doubtful. I felt sad, hurt, resentful, and disappointed at this news. However, I turned it over to the Lord. He knows what is best for me. I have tried controlling my life long enough, and it has cost me a very dear price. It is interesting to note that about two weeks before the incident happened at Christ the King Parish, I had asked God to do something about my drinking. The results of my request are quite evident. The bottom line is that if you ask God for something one needs, one must be prepared to accept whatever He gives to you. Therefore, I trust that He will help me to once again actively minister someplace, somewhere.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you very much for all that you have done for me over the past few years. You certainly have been a beautiful father-figure for me. Words fail to express my positive

487c

from you for all the difficulties that I have brought into your life through my words and actions. Making amends is necessary for my sobriety.

I might add that Patrick O'Sullivan is at St. Michael's. He seems to be doing all right.

Remembering you, the people whom I have hurt through my words and actions, the priests, religious, and laity of the diocese in my daily Masses and prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John Slow

P.S. It is imperative that I say to you that I love you for the beautiful person that you are!

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000488

January 20, 1984

Reverend John Slown
St. Michael's
13270 Maple Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63127

Dear John,

Many thanks for your letter. You don't know how pleased I was to receive it. I had just about given up hope of hearing from you, since it had been so long since I had written to you. I guess I was looking for some sign of sorrow or repentance from you and interpreted your silence as a sign that you did not feel there was any need for these feelings. Yes, I was indeed upset with you when I talked to you on the phone, but you could have avoided all of that very easily if you had simply indicated some remorse. On the contrary, you tried to deny it and then make light of it, as if it were nothing really important. At the time, I didn't think you had any idea of how many people were involved and how much damage could have been done to them, nor on how much time had spent by Bishop Ryan and others on your behalf.

I am pleased to hear that you are finding value in the program and I hope that it will be beneficial to you. It must be clear to you that the pattern of life that has developed for you over these past several years cannot continue if indeed you are going to be a minister, or even more a fulfilled person.

As regards your future in the diocese I don't want to make any final judgement on that at this time, except to say that there are major difficulties which would need to be overcome for you to continue here. What all of this means for the future, I am not quite certain as yet, but much will depend on the recommendation of your therapist, I would think.

I am planning to come to St. Michael's on February 10th and I hope to have an opportunity to see you sometime that morning. I will look forward to that. In the meantime, please be assured of a daily remembrance in my prayers, which I also ask from you.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

033489
February 2, 1984

Dear Bishop Jonesch,

Thank you very much for your letter. I appreciated very much hearing from you. What you said has provided me with food for thought in various areas of my life.

In all sincerity, I am most thankful and humbly beholdng to you, Bishop Ryan, and all who have been a help to me during this recent crisis in my life. Words fail to adequately and fully express my thoughts and feelings of sorrow and remorse for what happened. Only God and I know what sufferings have gone on inside me since this situation took place.

I am very happy and am looking forward to you coming to see me on Feb. 10th. Your visit may help me to see where my future lies.

With all best wishes and remembering you and to whom I have hurt in my daily Masses and prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ.

February 17, 1984

Reverend Michael Foley
St. Michael's Center
13270 Maple Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63127

Dear Mike,

Enclosed is \$5.00. If your memory is good you will recall that I bet \$10.00 that the ceremony in St. Louis would not go beyond 2½ hours. You were more pessimistic. The reason you are getting \$5.00 is because the ceremony after 2 hours and 22 minutes, but so many people processed out, by the time I got out it was 2 hours and 45 minutes. Since we did not definitely establish what was meant by the end of the ceremony, I felt I was justified in sending you only \$5.00. If you feel guilty about taking this, you should, but rather than have you make me feel guilty, why don't you use it for something or other.

It was good to have the opportunity to meet you and to talk about John Slown and I. I certainly am grateful for your concern for these men and for all that you do.

By coincidence I talked to John's lawyer a few days ago. Previously he felt that the matter would be treated as a misdemeanor, but now there seems to be an effort to upgrade the charge. He was to meet yesterday with someone to discuss the matter. Should there be any change, I will be in touch with you.

Thank you again for all that you do. Be assured of my prayers and support.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev John
Slown

000491

February 20, 1984

Reverend John Slown
St. Michael's Center
13270 Maple Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63127

Dear John,

The letter you had written me on February 2nd was awaiting me upon my return to Joliet. When I met with you I did not realize that you had written me.

It was certainly good to see you and have the chance to talk with you. You looked well and seemed well. I share your high regard for St. Michael's and for the program there.

Father Foley is very optimistic, as am I. I thought you expressed it well when you said you put your life in the Lord's hands and that you would trust Him. I couldn't offer any better advice.

Please know that you are in my prayers each day by name, twice in fact, and that I care for you. Having the opportunity to talk together was certainly helpful for me, and I hope it was for you.

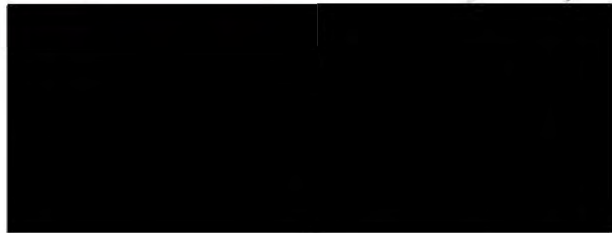
Take care of yourself and hang in there.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



000492 A

Most Rev. J. French -

Dear Bishop -

I have a favor to ask of you. Would it be possible for me to have the address and/or phone number of Rev. John Slown? I met John when I was at St. Luke's Institute, Maranatha in Halliiston, Mass. Yes, I was an alcoholic and I am learning to pull myself that. Come home here to Joliet on March 17, 1981.

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and, so far, have been clear."

At last night's meeting at St. Mary's Nativity, Fr. Al. told me that John was no longer at Christ the King in Lombard. He simply said John was in St. Louis and I presumed he was with the Carelite Fathers. I would like to invite John.

Also, Brother Matt Callanov, a Marxist Brother, is coming home from Japan as a delegate to his Community's election. That was with

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John and I in Hackett and
asked me to see to it that we
get to see John. If possible
we will drive down to see
him - as Matt will! He's
coming sometime late March -
early April.

Bishop, I do know John
back after he came back. I
also know he has a very deep
anger at something or someone.
I've gotten smart enough to
know, that, unless that
anger gets out of you, you
do drink again. John has
another problem besides

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

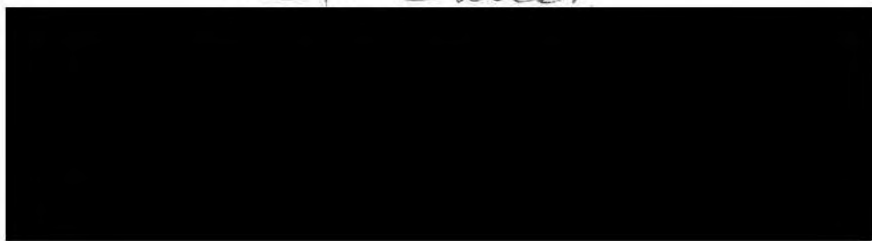
Released April 2014

drinking — in fact, that
could be his reason.

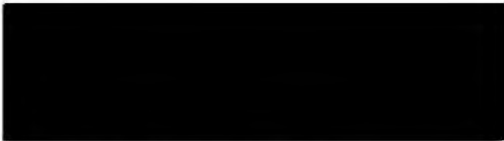
Thank you very much
regardless of your answer.

By the way, I am one
of the Joliet Franciscans, live
at the College of St. Francis,
but work down at Joliet
Cathedral. They all know
what I am down there.

Take care of yourself —
In Christ



March 5, 1984



Dear Sister Maurice,

Many thanks for your recent letter. John's address is St. Michael's Center, 13270 Maple Drive, St. Louis, MO 63127.

I saw John about two weeks ago and he seemed to be doing very well. I am sure that he will appreciate hearing from you.

I think he is being challenged by the staff and is responding quite well. I am very helpful for him.

Perhaps I will have the opportunity of seeing you sometime. Congratulations on the effort you are making. It must be difficult, but it so worthwhile. May the Lord bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

April 2, 1984

[REDACTED]
Servants of the Paraclete
13270 Maple Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63127

Dear Father Foley:

Many thanks for your recent letter with reference to Father John Slown. I am obviously pleased that he has done so well that he can now be recommended for outpatient therapy.

I have studied the proposal that you offered in regard to Father Slown's assignment and would like to make some observations. While I am not aware of the financial situation of the parish in which Father Slown will be, I can understand how it might not be large enough to warrant the presence of another priest. Nevertheless, considering the fact that the parish will benefit from Father Slown's ministry, I find their recompense for such service uncomfortable and minimal. I can well understand how they could not pick up an entire salary, but what they are offering him does not seem proportionate to the services he will render. If Father Slown is only to be in residence at the parish, then I could understand this arrangement, but I am presuming that he will be actively engaged in the service of the parishioners. I would have hoped that the parish would have agreed to cover at least one-half of his salary, with the diocese picking up his insurance and retirement premiums.

Having said all of this, I realize that I am not in a bargaining position. Although the arrangements are not entirely satisfactory to me, and I would hope that some adjustment could be made, nevertheless, I will be willing to continue to cover John's insurance and retirement as well as continue his \$400.00 per month sick leave salary. That is the maximum that is allowed someone on sick leave, and any adjustment on that would have to be considered by the priests' retirement and sick leave board. Since John will be continuing therapy on an outpatient basis, I would think he would continue to qualify for sick leave reimbursement. I would want to review this policy at the end of year, or prior to that time if John no longer would need outpatient therapy.

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Released April 2014

000497

Rev. Michael E. Foley

2.

I am very grateful to you for your effort in making these arrangements. I realize how difficult this must be and I appreciate everything you have done, not only to arrange this, but in caring for John and Pat O'Sullivan as well. I would appreciate it if you would send both of them my prayers and best regards. You might tell John that I had dinner with some friends of his on Sunday evening after a Confirmation; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hayes. They wanted to be remembered to him in a special way and to let him know that they are praying for him.

If there is a need to carry on further negotiations about these arrangements, I will be happy to do so.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Rev. Slown

000502

May 24, 1984

Very Reverend Michael E. Foley, s.P.
Servants of the Parclate
13270 Maple Drive
St. Louis, MO 63127

Dear Mike,

Many thanks for your letter concerning Father John Slown. Like yourself, I am really pleased with the great progress he has made. From my conversation with him, he certainly seems well and anxious to begin his new ministry. I am very grateful to you and Father Perri for arranging for him to be at Jemez Springs. I think John is really looking forward to this as a new possibility and I am sure that he will do well.

I am not sure that my letter will reach you before you leave for Rome, but in any event, I did want to thank you personally for all of your help and assistance. Not only has John benefited greatly from your care and concern, but I have also appreciated the opportunity of meeting with you and speaking with you. I pray for the success of your work and repeat my gratitude for all that you have done for John and [REDACTED]

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

September 4, 1984

Reverend John Slown
Servants of the Parclate
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear John,

I had intended to write you long before this but the sweet lure of summer enchanted me and I succumbed. When I thought about writing you, I realized that I had never actually given you any appointment in your present assignment, so I am doing that now, just for the record. With the approval and encouragement of the Servants of the Parclate in St. Louis, I am granting you my permission to accept their offer to serve in the spiritual direction program with the Servants of the Parclate at their residence, Villa Louis Martin in Jemez Springs, New Mexico. Having had the opportunity to speak with you I know how excited you were about beginning this new position. The other day I had the occasion to speak to Michael Foley and he told him how well you were doing and how much the men appreciated your assistance. That really has to be encouraging for you and affirming of your talent and ability.

For some reason I always think of New Mexico as being stifling hot in the summer. If I'm wrong, please don't correct me, especially since we have just suffered through an incredibly hot and humid several days here. If you tell me that it's 75 degrees during the day and 50 at night, I will have you return to the diocese immediately!

I hope you are doing as well as your reports indicate you are. You might want to keep P. S. in your prayers since, unfortunately, is not doing so well. I don't know what's going to happen with him. Shortly after he came back from St. Louis he left again and just recently was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital. Now he is unwilling to return to St. Louis and by now has probably released himself from the hospital. I really don't know what's going to happen with P. S., but I know he would appreciate your prayers.

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Released April 2014

000508

Reverend John Slown

2.

Take care of yourself and keep up the good work.
Know that you are in my prayers each day and hopefully I
am in yours as well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet



A Holistic Development Center for Priests and Brothers

Villa Louis Martin • Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 • (505) 829-3586

October 1, 1984

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

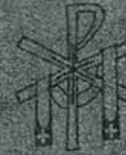
Dear Bishop Imesch,

It was so good to hear from you. I wish to thank you for officially appointing me to the spiritual direction program at Villa Louis Martin, Jemez Springs, New Mexico. It has been a challenge for me but a rewarding one. A spiritual director in a therapeutic treatment center is somewhat different than a spiritual director in a seminary. After meeting with each man, I write up a report and put it onto a tape for the man's personal file. So, I must listen closely to what the man says and take out the pertinent facts, which reflect where he is at in treatment. As I stated, it has been challenging for me, but it is helping me to grow.

When I see what problems many of these men have, I can only thank God for HIS help in my situation. The bottom line is that God has certainly blessed me and loves me.

One of the great benefits about working in this type of a setting is that it is helping me to reinforce the principles of A.A. into my life and also my self-worth. On a couple of occasions, a situation developed where in the past I would have drank, but this time I was able to see what was going on inside of me and deal with it, without drinking. For this, I am most grateful.

Jemez Springs is a beautiful spot. It is located at the bottom of a canyon. I can look out of my office window and see one side of the canyon and see the other side from my bedroom window. When the sun shines upon the canyon walls, they are most beautiful. We are situated around 6,000 feet above sea level and the weather has been perfect. It has been getting around 90 degrees during the day and in the 60's at night. In that we have very little humidity, it is ideal both day and night. As fall sets in, I am told that the weather gets cooler, but that the winter is mild compared to the mid-west. I hope that what I hear



Released April 2014

is correct!

000515

There is one drawback living in Jemez Spring (it is about the size of St. Anne's, Ill. and has only one A.A. meeting a week) and that is it is 60 miles from Albuquerque, with about 40 miles of semi-mountainous driving. I go into the city at least three times a week - twice for A.A. meetings and the other for pleasure. If it was closer, I would be going to more A.A. meetings, as I enjoy them and find them beneficial for me.

Talking about A.A. meetings, there are an abundance of them in Albuquerque - noon and night. One night I went to a meeting and met a priest that I had gone through the program with at St. Luke's in Holliston, Ma. It was great meeting him. This gives me a person with whom I can spend time with, have a meal with, and go to meetings with. Also, he can direct me to different A.A. meetings in the city that he has found beneficial for himself.

Basically, I am happy and am enjoying my work and area of living. It certainly has been an adjustment after twenty-five years of parish ministry, but that is part and parcel of living and maturing in life. To say the least, I have been homesick at times, which is part of the reality of settling into a new way of life.

I was sorry to hear of the death of Lenny Lenc. He will be remembered in my Masses and prayers. I believe that he hadn't been too happy in recent years. I hope that he has found the peace and happiness that he had sought.

Also, I am very sorry to hear about Ed Davern having cancer. If it is God's will, maybe Ed will be cured. I will certainly pray for him.

As for [REDACTED] he too will be remembered in my prayers. I don't believe [REDACTED] understands nor acknowledges that alcohol is a cunning, baffling and powerful disease. I remember having challenged him in group one day, as to his readiness to leave treatment, because I didn't feel that he had dealt with his anger. He claimed that he had. When he departed, I still felt that he wasn't ready to leave.

One thing that I have learned through working for the Paracletes is a greater respect and appreciation for bishops and religious superiors. The problems that their subjects cause them - including me - are really something. I take my hat off to you in all due respect.

Thanking you for your prayers, which I most gratefully appreciate, please know that you are daily remembered in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

P.S. Could you please see that the JOB is monthly sent to me. Thank you.

Rev. Slown

Released April 2014

000516

October 16, 1984

Reverend John Slown
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear John,

Many thanks for your letter. It was good to hear from you, especially to know that things are going so well. I can certainly understand how satisfying you find the work as well as helpful it is to you personally. The difficulties and trials that others have certainly make us aware of the Lord's goodness to us.

Did you really have to tell me how delightful the weather is there? I'll be thinking a lot about you as we enter our winter season! It certainly sounds like a delightful spot, although something the size of St. Anne's probably doesn't give you much to do. I can understand why you would drive all those miles into Albuquerque whenever you can.

You may have heard that Pat O'Sullivan is back at St. Michael's. It was a struggle getting him there and he left once, but now he is back again. He seems to be doing better. I certainly hope that he will respond better this time. Lennie Lenc's death was indeed a surprise and a shock. I don't believe he had any history of heart trouble. I know that he had not been happy these last few years, and didn't do a very good job of hiding it either. He would probably feel better if he knew that 12 people have applied to become pastor of his parish! I think that is the most we have had for any parish.

Take care of yourself and keep up the good work. I am delighted that things are going so well. When you hear about the cold weather back here, please don't bother writing me telling me how comfortable you are! Thanks for your prayers and know that you are in mine.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

P.S. I am sorry you are not getting the JOB. I don't know how that happened, I will see to it that you are put on the mailing list.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

0-1517

November 6, 1984

Bishop Joseph Imesch
Catholic Chancery Office
425 Summit
Joliet, IL 60435

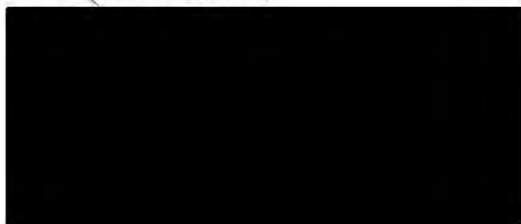
RE: John Sloan

Dear Bishop Imesch:

Enclosed herewith please find a letter to Reverend Michael E. Foley, the contents of which are self-explanatory. If there is any additional information you need concerning this file, please advise.

Please keep my family and myself in your prayers.

Personal regards,



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

November 6, 1984

Rev. Michael E. Foley
Servants of the Paraclete
13270 Maple Drive
St. Louis, MO 63127

RE: John Sloan

Dear Reverend Foley:

I am writing to you at this time relative to the terms of the conditional discharge of the above-captioned John Sloan. As part of his terms, John Sloan was to remain under your program and therefore under your supervision with two requirements: 1) that an interim report on John Sloan be submitted through this office under the date of November, 1984. This report should be sent to me and I will present it to the Court on November 21, 1984 and then again there will be a final report date on May 23rd, 1985.

I would suggest that your report generally states that he is actively employed in whatever capacity under the supervision of yourself through the program and that the results, if true, so far have been favorable. Should you have any questions on the context required, please do not hesitate to call me.

For your information, the case number involved in the Circuit Court for the 18th Judicial Circuit, County of DuPage, State of Illinois is 84 CM 2330. He was placed under terms of a conditional discharge, which means that at the end of the year he will be discharged upon the payment of a fine of \$500.00 and costs.

The entire matter was heard in chambers. For your information, the file was not even available to the Court at the time and I am sure that this should not be a prominent file in the court system because there is no indication in the order that John Sloan is connected with any religious organization.

I appreciate your help and cooperation in this matter and look forward to meeting you sometime when you happen to be passing through our Chicago area. Please extend my personal regards to John.

Personal regards,



000519

November 20, 1984

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for the copy of the letter that you sent to Father Foley. I appreciate receiving that. I believe that this provides me with sufficient information from the first hearing. If you think there is something from that initial judgment that I should have on hand, I would appreciate receiving a copy from you.

I continue to hear only good things about John from several sources, including John himself. He seems to have adjusted very well and likes what he is doing, and more than that, he is good at it.

I am grateful once more to you for your care and concern. It certainly is a relief for me to have someone, such as you, available. Prayers and best wishes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



000520

Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 (505) 829-3586

March 16, 1985

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

Yes, I do receive the Job and the Explorer. Through these two news media, I keep in touch with what is happening in the diocese, as well as your trip to Ethiopia. I wish to thank you very much for seeing that I receive them.

It was very heart warming to learn that you have a new Auxiliary-Bishop - Bishop-Elect Roger Kaffer. I have known him throughout my priesthood and have always admired him for his godliness and spiritual depth. As he has helped the diocese in many ways in the past, I am sure that he will be a great asset to you and the diocese in the present and future.

It was one year ago that I left St. Michael's in St. Louis. It will be one year on May 23rd that my sentence was given to me. Hopefully, all will go well to have this sentence come to a healthy conclusion this May 23rd. Rev. Michael Foley has informed me that the parents of this boy have in some way bothered you. When this was told to me, all I could think of was Christ on the Cross saying - "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". I seem to become more aware that Catholics aren't always Christians. The times that I have been hurt, I realize that it is better to forgive than to condemn. I have found in my life more satisfaction in forgiving than in condemning. I pray daily for this family that the healing power of the Lord may enter into their lives.

In looking for a new assignment, I was wondering if you could help me find another diocese in which to work. My reason for asking for your help is that I don't know what



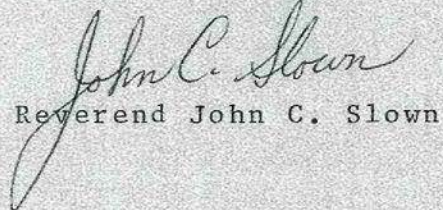
000521

to mention, as to what I want to work in another diocese. If you could do this for me, I would be most appreciative to you. There are two dioceses that I would like to work in - The Arch-diocese of Santa Fe and the Diocese of San Bernadino. If I could get into Santa Fe, I would like to work in Albuquerque, since I know the area and have met many wonderful people through A.A. My reason for wanting to go to San Bernadino is that I have been told that Bishop Stralling is understanding and helpful to priests who have had problems. You probably know of other Bishops that might take me. If you prefer that I take care of this matter myself, I will certainly understand. Please realize that as I was anxious about the outcome of my case a year ago, so am I anxious about where I will be working in the active ministry again.

This past year has been a learning experience for me. In particular, I have learned more about my decease of Manic-depressive. In reflection over my life, I realize how large a part it has played in my adult life. I see how stress in my life feeds into it and causes me problems. The more that I learn about it, the more I see how to deal with it. Also, during this year, I have especially learned to trust in God, to mix with people, to have a positive outlook on life and myself - especially self-esteem and self-confidence, and I see my successes outweigh my failures, my character assets far exceed my character defects.

With all best wishes and remembering you daily in my Masses and prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ,


Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

March 28, 1985

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Bishop Joseph Imesch
Catholic Chancery Office
425 Summit
Joliet, IL 60435

RE: REV. JOHN SLOAN

Dear Bishop Imesch:

This will serve as a reminder that John Sloan's situation should terminate on May 23, 1985.

In that vein, I have telephonically contacted the Reverend Michael E. Foley on this date, who advised me that John had been doing very well but that he had just received word that John and two others had been involved in an accident. He had been advised that John had a possible relapse back into depression. He did not know the true nature and extent of his condition when I spoke with him.

Should anything further develop that would have an adverse effect on what this office is handling, we will contact you either by letter or, if time is short, by telephone.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Personal regards,

Paul A. McLennon
(2nd)

Paul A. McLennon, Sr.
PAM/mo

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

523

April 11, 1985



Dear [redacted],

Many thanks for your recent letter and reminder about John Sloan. I appreciate your bringing that to my attention. I had not heard about John's accident, but I will certainly drop him a note.

Thanks once more for your kindness. Be assured that you are in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Released April 2014

000524

April 11, 1985

Reverend John Slown
Servants of the Paraclete
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear John,

I just heard through Paul McLennon that you had been in an accident. I was really sorry to hear that and I hope that it was nothing serious. Paul didn't give me any details, so I don't know the extent of your injuries. Being in any kind of an automobile accident, however, has to be painful. I hope that by now you have recovered from any injury.

I presume that you are getting the J.O.B., so you probably know that I was in Ethiopia last month. If you don't get the J.O.B. and I will see that you do. The trip there and a number of other commitments, including a short stay in the hospital for removal of stone in my bile duct, have managed to put me several weeks behind in correspondence and consequently I haven't been able to stay in much contact with you. It's probably just as well that I don't hear from you during the winter months, since I would be very envious, especially if you would bring up the beautiful weather you are having. Would you believe that on the Monday after Easter we woke up to snow on the ground here! It didn't last during the day, but there was another snow squall that evening. I think winter just wanted to let us know that it could give us a blast if it wanted to.

Please take care of yourself. Let me know how you are doing. Know that you are in my prayers each day and I ask for a remembrance in yours.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



000525

Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 (505) 829-3586

April 11, 1985

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

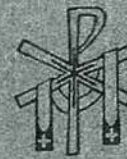
Dear Bishop Imesch:

It has been some time since I last communicated with you. I have been quite busy during the day and have been going to five A.A. meetings a week at night. This leaves me with little or no time to get into trouble - thank God!

I hope that your Holy Week and Easter were meaningful and fruitful for you. We had beautiful liturgical services in Jemez Springs that were inspirational for me.

Our weather has been most delightful over the past several weeks. The trees are blooming, as well as the flowers, and the birds are chirping. During the last two weeks, the temperature has averaged between the 60's and middle 70's. To say the least, I am enjoying this type of weather - sun shining, blue skies, and warmth.

It was two weeks ago that three of us almost met our Creator. However, He didn't want us at this time. We were going over a bridge in a construction zone - going 23 miles per hour. A truck traveling around 70 miles per hour rear-ended us. The back end of my car was destroyed - yet none of us were seriously injured. Wouldn't you know it - the driver of the truck was "DRUNK" - quite appropriate and coincidental wouldn't you say! I have retained a lawyer for this situation. Hopefully, this case will not end up in court and will be settled equitably in the very near future.

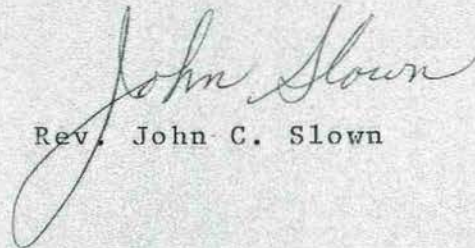


As I reflect over the time that I have been in Jemez Springs, I am able to see God's loving and guiding hand working in my life. This has been painful at times, but it has produced growth in my life. I have learned to rely upon God - by turning my will and life over to His care at least daily - and this has helped me to develop a personal relationship with Him. Also, I see myself as a beautiful person - this is accomplished by developing a positive attitude toward myself and life. No, I haven't forgotten about my failures and shortcomings - I just don't dwell upon them and let them be a destructive element in my life. The bottom line of this experience is that it has been a positive, growth and health producing one.

On May 23rd, the final hearing of my case will be had. After it is finished and closed, I will be looking for a diocese in which to minister, since I don't believe that I can actively minister in the Diocese of Joliet until the statue of limitations is reached. I will keep you informed concerning this matter.

With all best wishes and praying for you be name in my daily Mass, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Slown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Rev. John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000527

McLENNON LAW OFFICES

109 N. CROSS STREET - P. O. BOX 648

WHEATON, IL 60189

(312) 653-1200

PAUL A. McLENNON
PAUL A. McLENNON, JR.
THOMAS P. McLENNON

COOK COUNTY OFFICE:
McLENNON, NELSON & NUDO, P. C.
200 S. PROSPECT AVENUE
PARK RIDGE, IL 60068

April 17, 1985

Rev. John Sloan
Foundation House
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear John:

On May 23rd, 1985, our matter here in DuPage should be concluded.

As you know, there is an outstanding fine plus court costs which must be paid prior to May 23rd, so that you will not be required to appear in court. Also, as you know, I have to furnish a report from Very Rev. Michael E. Foley.

Please forward your check payable to me to cover the fine and costs in the amount of \$700.00 at your earliest convenience.

Hope this finds you in good health. Keep up the good work.

Personal regards,

Paul A. McLennon, Sr.
PMcL/mm

May 23, 1985

Reverend John Slown
Servants of the Paraclete
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear John,

Many thanks for your letter. It was good to hear from you. I hope that you have recovered fully from your accident. It is a coincidence that I am dictating this letter on the same date that your case should be concluded. I am presuming that will go well. At least, I have no indications that it will not.

As far as the parents go, my dealings with them were through Dan Ryan. It was Dan who informed me that they were angry enough to want to pursue the matter and threatened to do so should you ever return to the diocese. Aside from that, I have not heard anything from them, and I am hoping that I will not.

I am sure you can understand their feelings. To me they are a natural enough reaction that I cannot fault them for it, even though I might wish that they would be able to be more forgiving.

I am certainly willing to help you look for another assignment. In doing so, I want to tell you that I would only do so with the understanding that I can be completely honest with the bishop of the diocese. It is what I would expect from him, and I do not feel I can do less for him.

What I would prefer, is that you indicate your preference and then I would contact the bishop for you. I do not want to contact two bishops at the same time. In order for me to write the bishop, however, I would need to know what particular type of work you would want to undertake. I would imagine that most bishops would want you to work in a parish situation. Would you be willing to work as an associate for another priest? Frankly, I think that would be the best for you, since it would lessen any tension or strain, but at the same time I can realize that being responsible to someone

000536

Reverend John Slown

2.

else is not always the easiest thing for a priest.

In regard to Santa Fe in particular, let me mention that I would not feel comfortable writing to Archbishop Sanchez asking for a position for you, with the stipulation that it be in Albuquerque. I would think that if you are going to apply to a diocese, you must be willing to work wherever the bishop feels there is a need for you, and not simply where you feel you would like to work.

Since I will be going to Collegeville with the other bishops on the 12th of June, I would appreciate hearing from you before then as to your preference. In that way, I could speak to the bishop personally about your situation.

I was pleased to read that this has been a good year for you. I have no doubt that you have had much time for reflection and have gained significant insight into your life patterns. All of that knowledge will certainly be of considerable help to you.

I just thought that perhaps you might also want to talk to Mike Foley about where you might go. I would appreciate hearing some suggestion from him as to what kind of work you should be involved in and where you should apply. Perhaps you could also inform me of this in your next letter.

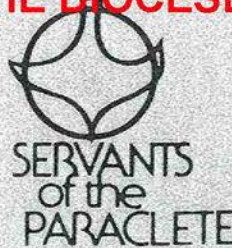
Keep up the good work. Your anxiety about your work situation is understandable, but I know you have learned to trust in the Lord and his wisdom. You are in my prayers each day, and I appreciate yours.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



000537

Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 (505) 829-3586

June 5, 1985

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

Thank you very much for your letter. I certainly appreciated it, Yes, I am fully recovered from my accident - thank God! However, I am still waiting for my car - it has been two months in the repair shop. Then, I have to get the legal aspect of the accident taken care of. If it isn't one thing, it is another.

In discussing me with another bishop, I would want you to be open and honest with him about me - my strengths and weaknesses. I certainly would not want him to receive a letter about me from someone in the diocese of Joliet and he have no knowledge of what was being said concerning me. I would feel more comfortable in talking with a new bishop and working in his diocese, if he new the truth about John Slown.

In my opinion, I believe the best place for me would be in parish work. My entire priesthood has been in this type of work and I have been most successful in it. Hopefully, I have finally learned through the happenings of the past several years the benefit of not being a workaholic, which causes tension and strain in my life. As far as being responsible to another individual, I see no difficulty. Quite truthfully, I didn't have any more freedom as a pastor that I did as an associate - this could have been my own fault, but that is the way it was.

In talking with Mike Foley, he has mentioned that I should get back into parish ministry. He also said that he would write a letter to you concerning this matter, in that I showed him your last letter to me wherein you requested some input from him.



Released April 2014

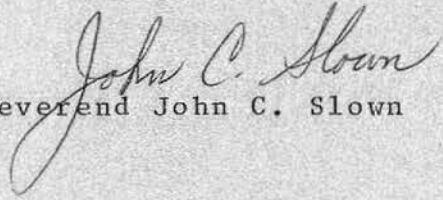
As to the preference of where I would like to go, I can only take the opinion of a resident at Foundation House, who is knowledgeable of some dioceses, especially in California. He suggested that my preference should possibly be in this order:

- 1) San Jose, Cal. - Bishop Pierre Dumaine
- 2) Monterey, Cal. - Bishop Shubsda
- 3) Sacramento, Cal. - Bishop Francis A. Quinn
- 4) Miami, Florida - Arch-bishop Edward McCarthy
- 5) San Bernadino, Cal. - Bishop F. Straling
- 6) Santa Fe, N.M. - Arch-bishop Robert Sanchez

However, you might know of a diocese that would be better suited for me. I would like to stay in the warm climate and need to be stationed in an area where there are many A.A. meetings.

Thanking you for your kindness and considerateness towards me and keeping you in my prayers and Masses each day, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Reverend John C. Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

000539

202 MORNINGSIDE DR., S.E.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108

Most Rev. Robert F. Sanchez, D.D.
Archbishop of Santa Fe

AREA CODE 505 288-4572

November 22, 1985

Rev. John Slown
Nativity of the B.V.M. Parish
9502 Fourth St., NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

Dear Father Slown,

May God's Peace and Love be with you!

With the advice and consent of our Archdiocesan Personnel Director, Father Clay Dennis, and of the Personnel Board, I am pleased herein to grant you the faculties of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and assign you in residence (as associate pastor) to Nativity Parish in Alameda, New Mexico. This assignment will be effective November 15th, 1985 and will continue until May 15, 1986.

It is my understanding that at the end of five months, Father Dennis and your pastor, Father Ramon Aragon, will meet with you to discuss a possible renewal of your assignment, either to Nativity or another parish, or termination of your stay in the Archdiocese.

Father Dennis has informed me that he has met with you and Father Aragon and have worked out an agreement that will facilitate your ministry with the new assignment.

Your salary will be the base salary for the Archdiocese of \$250.00 monthly, plus a monthly allowance of \$100.00 for car depreciation and operating expenses. I would ask you to write your diocesan chancellor and see what financial arrangements your diocese might have for auto liability and health insurance. Mass stipends and stole fees will be also granted to you according to diocesan policy.

I also want to inform you, Father, that I expect you to fulfill your contract obligations with the Servants of the Paracletes in their after-care followup programs, and to be in contact with them as needed. This is essential to your continued ministry in our Archdiocese and is diocesan policy.

In closing, I am pleased to say welcome to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and I hope that in the near future you will drop by my office for a short visit. Again, it will be a pleasure to have you ministering among us and

RECEIVED NOV 25 1985

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

I sincerely pray God's blessings upon you in your personal life and future ministry.

Fraternally,



Robert F. Sanchez
ARCHBISHOP OF SANTA FE

cc: Rev. Ramon Aragon
Rev. Donald Starkey
Rev. Bill Perri
Rev. Sabine Griego
Rev. Clay Dennis
Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.
file

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

9502 FOURTH STREET, N.W.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87114

898-5253

000541

December 3, 1985

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

By the time that you receive this letter, you will have received a copy of the letter sent to me by Archbishop Sanchez. For over four months, I prayed that if it was God's Will, I would be able to get back into parish ministry and particularly into the ministry in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Well, my prayers have been answered. I was assigned to Nativity Parish in the north end of Albuquerque - about 8 miles from the center of the city. The parish has around 1500 families, mainly Spanish. However, they do speak English. At this point of time, I am very happy and pleased to be ministering in this parish.

Last June, you stated to me that you were financially responsible for me. For the last four and a half months, I have been living off of my savings. I was wondering if you could possibly give me some financial compensation for this period of time. Also, as stated in the letter of Archbishop Sanchez, I wanted to know if you would be able to take care of my diocesan health insurance - the insurance that I presently have with Joliet - and possibly my auto liability insurance. I realize that I am not working for the Diocese of Joliet, but I am working for the Church. Maybe some arrangement could be made until I am incarnated into the Archdiocese of Santa Fe or another diocese.

Pension

Once again, I thank you very much for all the kind considerations that you have afforded me. If I had to do it over again, I pray that my life would be different. But, I truly believe that God wanted it the way that it has unfolded. I remember that when I first went to my pastor and told him of my desire to be a priest, he told me that I should go to the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona. His reason for this was that the Archdiocese of Chicago wouldn't accept me because my father was not a Catholic and also that I was an illegitimate child - such Christian views that the Church held in the past. Isn't it interesting that God has led me to the area that my pastor first suggested I go. I am happy about this and hope that I will be able to be a credit to the Church as years go on.

With all best wishes and prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ,
John C. Slown
Reverend John C. Slown

Slown

Released April 2014

000542

December 12, 1985

Reverend John Slown
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
9502 Fourth Street, N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114

Dear John,

I received your recent letter as well as the one from Archbishop Sanchez appointing you to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Albuquerque. I know how pleased you must be with this assignment and I share your joy. Frankly, I was wondering what had happened to you, since I had not heard from you since our visit in June. I was under the impression that you were going to contact me, and I suppose you were given to understand that I would be in touch with you.

I did not know that you were not receiving any income during these past months, since I was under the impression that you were still working for the Servants of the Paraclete. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$1,600 to assist you with your expenses during these past months.

You will continue to be carried on our diocesan health insurance plan and your auto liability insurance will be covered by the diocese to the allowable limit. I would suggest that you write to Father Frederick for a reimbursement for the automobile liability. The diocese will also make the \$1,000 annual pension premium for you so that you will continue to be associated with our pension program. These benefits will remain in effect until the time of your evaluation in Santa Fe next June. At that time I think these benefits should be reevaluated.

You mentioned the possibility of being incardinated into the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Archbishop Sanchez's letter did not mention that possibility, and I was wondering if you had broached

Released April 2014

000543

that matter with the archdiocesan officials. If you do intend to seek incardination there, I would think it would be a good idea to speak to the chancery personnel about it.

Since I probably won't get the chance to write to you before Christmas, let me offer you my best wishes and promise of prayers for this holy season. I know that being in a parish to celebrate the liturgy on Christmas will be a special joy for you. May the Lord bless you in your new ministry and allow you to serve His people with the great zeal that you have always exhibited.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

BC - Rev. Frederick

Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13
Released April 2014

January 28, 1986

Most Reverend Robert F. Sanchez, D.D.
Archbishop of Santa Fe
202 Morningside Drive, S.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

Dear Bob,

No sooner had I mailed you my last letter, then I remembered our conversation in regard to Father John Slown. I went back and looked at the correspondence from him, and also your letter of November 22nd to him. Your letter stated that after May 15th a decision would be made in regard to renewing his assignment at Nativity, or assigning him to another parish, or even terminating his stay in the Archdiocese.

John wrote me in the early part of December. He was asking about the Diocese of Joliet picking up his health insurance and also his automobile insurance. I agreed to do this for him. He then went on to say that he hoped Joliet would do this for him "...until I am incardinated into the Archdiocese of Santa Fe or another diocese."

I think it was this remark that led me to believe that John feels he has a good chance of being incardinated into Santa Fe. If there is no intention on your part to incardinate him, then I would hope that you would find some way to inform him of that before May. I believe that he will want to begin looking for some other diocese before that time.

With a wind chill factor here of -40 degrees, I am thinking fond thoughts of Tucson! It was an excellent meeting!

Prayers and best wishes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000544

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

202 MORNINGSIDE DR., S.E.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108

Most Rev. Robert F. Sanchez, D.D.
Archbishop of Santa Fe

AREA CODE 505 268-4572

February 6, 1986

Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet
425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Joe,

May God's Peace and Love be with you!

Many thanks for your two letters. It was good to hear from you twice!

*Fr. John
Colton*

In regard to your first letter I have presented that to our Archdiocesan Personnel Board for their reflection, discussion, and recommendation. As soon as I hear from them I will be in touch with you.

In regard to your second letter I do want to thank you for the copy of the article that appeared in America Magazine. I also shared this with our Personnel Board and will make copies just for them for our own reflection and discussion. Our Vocation Committee is working toward a possible profile and whenever that is completed (if ever!) I will be delighted to send you a copy.

In regard to the third item mentioned in your letter that regarded Bishop John D'Arcy as a possible replacement of yourself on the Ad Hoc Committee for Hispanic Affairs, please know that I will begin discussion on this immediately. In a sense I hesitate to do so since you have been such a fine companion at our meetings, and a very important representative from the midwest. You and Paul have made a good team. In any event, I do understand your own many commitments, both to your diocese as well as to the Conference of Bishops and I will be happy to extend an invitation to Bishop D'Arcy, inviting him to consider membership on our committee. As soon as this is completed you will be informed. Until then, know that we deeply appreciate all the time and commitment that you have made on behalf of the Hispanic Catholics in our country. May the good Lord continue to bless you and deliver you from long sermons.

Keep up your good work and God, bless you!

Fraternally,

+Bob

Robert F. Sanchez
ARCHBISHOP OF SANTA FE

RECEIVED FEB 11 1986

(dictated by the Archbishop; signed by his secretary in his absence)

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

John Slawson

Money to kindly + Ruffalo 300.⁰⁰

" for moving expenses

" for gentlemen in jail - 1700.⁰⁰

Unexplained entries in ledger.

000545

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

000546

9502 FOURTH STREET, N.W.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87114

898-5253

March 25, 1986

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

I apologize for not having answered your letter a lot sooner. There were a few things that I had to do before writing to you.

I want to Thank You very much for giving me the check for \$1,600.00. It certainly was most useful in catching up with some of my bills. Also, Thank You very much for continuing to take care of certain of my other financial responsibilities.

A couple of weeks ago, I met with Archbishop Sanchez. At this time, he informed me that it would take four years for me to be incarnated into the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. When looking into my case and believing that you have told him all about me, I can surely realize why it would take so long for my incarnation. However, in that God has been so good to me, I have no complaints on the length of time it will take for my incarnation into the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, if this is His Will.

The past five months have been very growth producing one's for me. For during this time, I have put into practice much of what I have learned in my two treatment programs. It makes life a lot easier to live according to these principles that I have learned. A couple of these are that there is no utopia on earth, in rectories or in parishes and that I am powerless over others. I have learned to do the best that I can and that is all that God or others can ask of me. Therefore, life affords me with peace, serenity, and happiness through living my life according to these principles that I have learned.

As we enter into this great Holy Week, I hope that you will find it to be a time of spiritual enrichment for yourself and God's People in the Diocese of Joliet. To say the least, I am looking forward to it myself. You can be assured that you and your intentions will be remembered in my Masses and prayers during this sacred time.

Wishing you a most Blessed and Joyous Easter, I remain,

Yours in Christ,


Reverend John C. Slown

Slown

000547

April 8, 1986

Reverend John C. Slown
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
9502 Fourth Street, N.W.,
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114

Dear John,

Many thanks for your recent letter. I was pleased to hear that everything is going well for you.

You mentioned that incardination into the Archdiocese of Santa Fe will take four years. That is the same policy we have here in the diocese for men who wish to be incardinated. I think it is only right that the Bishop and the diocese have a sufficient opportunity to come to know the priest who is requesting incardination.

While I did have the opportunity to talk to Archbishop Sanchez about your request for incardination while I was with him in Tucson for a few days earlier this year, I did not go into any specifics with him about your case. I only mentioned to him that you were under the impression that you might be incardinated into Santa Fe in June of this year. As I recall, he told me that he would look into the matter, but that he doubted that you would be incardinated at that time. Evidently my conversation with him prompted him to look into your request and finally determine that you would be accepted as a candidate for incardination.

While four years might seem like a long time, I would look at it from a positive view, namely that they have now accepted you as a candidate for incardination. The rest will be in your hands and I have no doubt that you will do well. This offers you a new opportunity to prove your value as a minister. I'm sure with the grace of God and your own efforts you will be successful. My prayers will be with you.

Finally, a belated Easter greeting to you. May you enjoy the blessings of this holy season,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

202 MORNINGSIDE DR., S.E.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108

000548

Most Rev. Robert F. Sanchez, D.D.
Archbishop of Santa Fe

AREA CODE 505 208-4572

April 24, 1986

Rev. John Slown
Nativity of the B.V.M. Parish
9502 Fourth St., NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

Dear Father Slown,

May God's Peace and Love be with you!

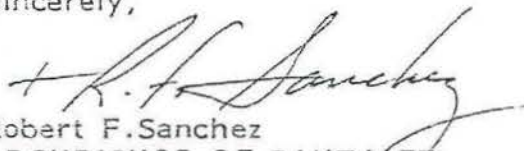
The Archdiocesan Personnel Board has recommended to me, as well as Father Clay Dennis, Director of Personnel, and I concur, that for personal reasons of which you are aware, your assignment at Nativity Parish is terminated as of this date.

I understand that the Paraclete Fathers at Jemez have made you an offer for a place to reside and I would urge you to accept. I would ask you to vacate your quarters at Nativity Parish Rectory upon receipt of this letter.

Thank you, Father Slown, for your pastoral ministry at Nativity Parish for the past six months. We are grateful to you.

Wishing you the Lord's blessings, I am,

Sincerely,



Robert F. Sanchez
ARCHBISHOP OF SANTA FE

cc: Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.
Rev. Clay Dennis
Rev. Sabine Griego
Rev. Donald Starkey
Rev. Ramon Aragon
Rev. William Perri, S.P.
file

RECEIVED MAY 1 1986

549

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

May 1, 1986

RE: Reverend John Slown

After receiving the attached letter from Archbishop Sanchez I called Jemez Springs. I spoke with Father Michael Foley and Father William Perri about John. Father Perri told me that about two weeks ago John returned from an AfterCare Program in St. Louis and showed up at the rectory with a six-pack. He proceeded to get drunk. The next morning at Mass, he swore at a family in the front row, using a word that is quite popular.

Archbishop Sanchez removed John from the parish at this point. John called Father Perri, who told John that he would not welcome him back at Jemez Springs. He asked him how he could possibly have returned from an AfterCare Program for alcoholics and immediately begin to drink. John had no reasonable response. Father Perri feels that John is arrogant and was simply saying to everyone who has tried to help him, that he doesn't really care about their help. It was Father Perri's suggestion to John that he go find a job.

I asked Father Perri what my response should be to John when he writes, which I imagine he will. He suggested that I not give him any financial assistance. Father Perri feels that John is independently wealthy, and he probably is. Father Perri says that I should suspend him from performing any priestly duties.

Father Perri thinks that it is necessary for John to hit bottom and ask for help, before he will be able to do anything for himself. And so it goes!



Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer
Reverend William Donnelly

July 17, 1986

550

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

Thank you very much for your card on the occasion of my 27th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Also, thank you very much for your prayers, as I can always use them. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are most appreciated by me.

At the end of April, I met with the pastor of Nativity of B.V.M. - Father Aragon, with the head of the archdiocese's personnel board - Father Clay Dennis, and with Father Paul Lyons, s.P., whom I have known for a few years. As for Father Lyons, I feel that he had no business at the meeting. During the meeting Father Dennis asked me why I hadn't told him that I had the disease of "Manic-depression". He asked me in such a way as to indicate that I had hid this fact from him and his tone of voice and attitude was like I had the disease of "AIDS" and had deliberately not told him about it. Father Aragon and Father Dennis wanted me to stay at Nativity of B.V.M.. It was Father Lyons, who influenced the decision that I should no longer stay at the parish. He felt that I was not taking care of my "manic-depression" by taking my medicine or having lithium blood level tests taken at proper intervals. This is untrue. Since coming to Denver, I have spent \$140.00 to see a doctor - psychiatrist and to have my blood level checked. It seems to me that the main reason for my contract not being renewed at Nativity of B.V.M. was my "manic-depression". As I perceive it; this is one of the basic problems. I might mention that this meeting lasted no more than twenty minutes.

I still remember when I was assigned to Nativity Parish that Father Dennis stressed to Father Aragon and myself that the biggest problem between a pastor and his associate was "communication". For the first six weeks that I was in the parish, Father Aragon never spoke to me. I would bid him the time of day or speak to him, and I never received a response. After that period of time, he would answer me if I spoke to him. He rarely ever ate with me. Also, there was a permanent deacon living in the rectory - Deacon Julian Sanchez. He had problems. Some mornings, he would speak to me and other mornings, he would not speak until several hours later. He also never ate with me. As you can see, this was not the healthiest situation in which to live. Yet, despite it all, Father Dennis told me that I had done a "par excellent" job in ministering to the people of Nativity Parish. Father Aragon had told him to tell me this positive remark. Even at the end, Father Aragon was unable to "communicate" this compliment to me. As I see it, if communication had existed in the rectory, I would still be at Nativity Parish,

000551

There is one more point that I would like to make. Upon hearing that I would be assigned to Nativity Parish, I mentioned it to a priest from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. He had been an associate at Nativity Parish a few years earlier. After six months, he moved out of the rectory because of the living conditions. (Since Father Aragon was pastor no associate lasted more than two years at the parish.) He told me not to go to Nativity Parish because the pastor - Father Aragon was gay and an alcoholic, as well as Deacon Julian Sanchez. I conveyed this message to Father Dennis and asked to go to Belen, N.M., which was a place that I could go. Father Dennis told me that it was best that I try living and working at Nativity Parish. So, I said yes. The rectory living was a disaster, but the people were beautiful. In the short period of time that I was at Nativity Parish, the majority of the people loved me, and I loved them.

When I found myself out on the street - a situation that I never thought would happen to a priest - I called my sister in Denver, Colorado and asked her if I could stay with her for a period of time. She said yes. So, I packed up and went to Denver. I have been here since the beginning of May. I am working a few hours each week in the office of the condominiums where we live. It is not the work that I desire nor that I was trained for. However, it occupies some of my time and makes the days go by fairly fast. It also gives me money for gas and cigars. I am also attending several AA meetings each week, which helps me to keep sober and to have a positive and wholesome attitude towards life with all that I have just gone through.

It is my hope and prayers that I can get back into the active ministry once again. I was wondering if you could help me get into the Archdiocese of Denver, as my sister and my niece and her family live here. In A.A. meetings, the saying goes that God shuts one door on you, but always opens another. I do hope and pray that He will open the door for a new way of life for me, as a priest in the Archdiocese of Denver.

Thanking you very much for your understandingness and concern for me, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

John C. Slown
Rev. John C. Slown



000552

July 22, 1986

Reverend Paul Lyons, s.P.
Servants of the Parcalete
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, N.M. 87025

Dear Father Lyons,

The other day I received this letter from Father John Slown. This does not exactly correspond to what Father Michael Foley told me on the phone some months ago. I would appreciate it if I could have your comments on John's letter.

May I also ask you if you think it would be wise for me to seek comments from Father Clay Dennis and Father Aragon. I would appreciate your advice.

Prayers and best wishes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Enc.

000553

MEMORANDUM

August 8, 1986

TO: Reverend William Donnelly

FROM: Bishop Joseph Imesch

Please write a letter to Father Clay Dennis, Director of Personnel in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and inquire about the circumstances of the termination of Father John Slown from his assignment at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Parish in Albuquerque.

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000554

August 8, 1986

Reverend John Slown

Dear John,

My apologies for my delay in responding to your letter of July 17th. I have been away for awhile and there is quite a backlog of correspondence.

John, I need a clearer picture of what lead to your leaving Santa Fe. In April, I received a copy of a letter which Archbishop Sanchez sent you terminating your assignment at Nativity Parish. While the letter does not give any reason for your termination, the fact that it took effect upon receipt causes me to wonder what were the circumstances which caused such an abrupt termination.

Your letter indicates that the difficulty centered around the rectory situation. I can certainly believe that you were in a tense situation, but the Archbishop's action seems to indicate that the fault lay with you and not with the pastor. It would seem to me that if the difficulty were solely with the rectory situation, then the Archbishop would have found another assignment for you.

I would appreciate it if you would send me an account of what transpired at the parish. I will contact Father Clay Dennis and Father Paul Lyons to obtain their comments about your termination.

I am sure that doing part-time work in the office of the condominiums is not very appealing. I hope that a clarification of your termination will lead to the possibility of ministry in the Archdiocese of Denver. I was pleased to hear that you are attending AA meetings regularly. You know how important that is for

000555

2.

you and how helpful. Be assured of a daily remembrance
in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

John Slown

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000556

August 11, 1986

Reverend Clay Dennis
Director of Clergy Personnel
Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Chancery
202 Morningside Drive, S.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Dear Father Dennis:

In the name of Bishop Joseph Imesch, I am seeking information on the exact circumstances surrounding the termination of Father John Slown's assignment at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Parish in Albuquerque, New Mexico, earlier this year.

On April 24, 1986, Archbishop Sanchez wrote to Father Slown informing him that his assignment had been terminated, but did not give any detailed information for this action. Bishop Imesch has written to John himself to obtain this information, but so far is still in the dark about this action. Could you possibly give Bishop Imesch a more detailed explanation of the reasons why Father Slown's assignment was terminated? John is seeking an assignment in another Diocese out West, but Bishop Imesch will in no way give his approval to this proposal until he knows the full details of what happened in Albuquerque.

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend William E. Donnelly
Chancellor

WED:dms

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
FROM: Reverend William E. Donnelly
RE: Reverend John C. Slown

I spoke to Father Clay Dennis who serves as the priests personnel Director in Santa Fe Diocese. I wish to clarify again the situation with Father John Slown when he was assigned to Nativity BVM Parish in Albuquerque.

In talking to me, Father Clay seemed to totally reverse most of the statements made in Father Slown's letter to Bishop Imesch.

1. Father Ramon Aragon is one of the most respected priests in the Sante Fe Archdiocese. He has been a member of their Personnel Board and is a recovering alcoholic himself. Father Aragon stated that John Slown could sometimes be a bear in the rectory and be extremely rude and uncommunicative, especially if any amount of alcohol was mixed with the drug lithium which he was suppose to take.

While Father Aragon was moved to a new parish, this was done not as a punishment but rather to open new possibilities in ministry. A pastor in a parish died, and the Bishop and the Personnel Board wanted to install a team ministry of an older and a younger man to begin to revitalize the parish and open up new possibilities. They advertised in their usual menner but no one seemed to come forward, but finally Father Aragon wrote a very lovely letter offering to take on this new responsibility if it would be of help to the Archbishop. He was, therefore, transferred along with a younger man and has been doing excellent work in this new parish.

2. When John was appointed to Nativity, it was made extremely clear to him that under no condition was he ever to take any alcohol whatsoever. He was also expected to join AA and be faithful in attending meetings. By John's own admissinn he had at least a few beers now and then if not more. Father Aragon said that on several occasions John would bring a six-pack home; Father Aragon did not want to come down too harshly on him at first hoping that he would take seriously the efforts being put forward to help him. Unfortunately, this never occurred. John seemingly did join an AA group but only in the last month of his assignment at Nativity. Father Dennis said that there was an AA group in the parish itself, but that John didn't go to these meetings until the very end.

MEMORANDUM - Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
Page Two

3. Father Dennis mentioned again the uncalled for remarks that Father John used from the altar one day. It is interesting that these remarks are not mentioned in John's letter to Bishop Imesch.

4. John mentioned that when he was transferred several parishianers wrote to the Personnel Board asking that he be allowed to stay. Father Clay does remember that one of the parishioners, the head of the AA group at the parish, did contact him and request that John be allowed to stay since they felt that maybe now at last he was beginning to admit his problem and they hoped to be able to help him. However, it was perceived that this was too little, too late and that John had totally ignored all other indications, and had yet to really admit he was suffering from alcoholism.

5. Father Clay also said that John Slown told him that the Bishop of Joliet had completely written him off and that he could never return to the Joliet Diocese. When Father Clay asked if the Diocese of Joliet could at least pick up Father Slown's health insurance, since the parish would be paying him a salary and car allowance, John again mentioned that he didn't think he would even bother to write since the Diocese had washed its hands of him.

6. Father Clay mentioned that, perhaps, Father Bill Perry of Jemez Springs could provide even more background. Basically however, the materials that Father Slown mentions in his letter to Bishop Imesch seem to be totally reversed and John is projecting on to Father Aragon his own difficulties and problems.

Reverend William E. Donnelly

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

M E M O R A N D U M

Released April 2014

August 28, 1986

FROM: Reverend William E. Donnelly

RE: Reverend John Slown

On August 27th, Father Clay Dennis, the Chancellor of the Sante Fe Archdiocese, called in response to my letter inquiring about the reasons for Father Slown's dismissal from Nativity Parish, Albuquerque.

Father Clay said that the Archdiocese had entered into a verbal agreement with the Paraclete Fathers to provide three assignments as half-way houses for men in their program. The understanding was that the people appointed would still be involved in the House of Affirmation programs and after-care workshops. John was assigned to Nativity, a parish which is 85% Hispanic, in Albuquerque, in December, 1985. He lasted about five months until May when a joint decision was reached between the Archdiocese and Father Paul Lyons, of the Affirmation House, to terminate this assignment.

The pastor, Father Ramon is himself an alcoholic and has AA groups in the parish which meet regularly. Father Ramon said that Father Slown never seemed to stop drinking from the moment he arrived. At first, Father Ramon tried to overlook this, hoping that he would eventually take hold in these new surroundings and become more responsible and cooperative with AA treatment. However, this never seemed to occur. Even though John was also suppose to be taking some drug (lithium?) to control other behavioral problems, the alcohol totally negated the effect of this drug. There were behavioral changes, noticeable to the staff in the parish. In fact, on returning from St. Louis, after attending an after-care workshop, Father Slown openly brought into the rectory a six-pack of beer.

At this point, Father Ramon felt it was useless to try and talk to John on his own; he asked Father Dennis to meet with all of them to discuss what could be done. Even at this point Father Ramon didn't want John to leave, but merely to get the help he needed.

There was at least one startling episode involving two weddings that were scheduled back-to-back in the parish. It seems that Father Slown got very vocal in his anger at one of the families for either arriving too early or staying too late. The deacon at the parish heard this exchange and was greatly appalled at it.

Finally, in May when Father Paul Lyons arrived for a on-site visitation, it was agreed by the Archdiocese and the House of Affirmation that John had breached his contract continually and would have to go to Cherry Valley, California. John refused and went to Denver instead and Father Dennis has no further information.

He did add that about a week after the contract was terminated, Father Slown wrote to him asking if he could be reinstated at Nativity. By that time the Personnel Board and the Archbishop had decided that under no conditions could this be done.

Released April 2014

September 30, 1986

000561

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

Thank you very much for your letter and prayers. They meant a lot to me.

First of all, I never was given a definite reason for my termination at Nativity of B.V.M. Father Aragon, Father Dennis, and Father Lyons met together before seeing me. When I was asked to come into the room, the dye had been cast - my services at Nativity of B.V.M. were terminated. There was no discussion on any issues. Father Dennis asked me if I had drunk while I was in the parish. I stated that on a few occasions I had drank a couple of beers. (I've had nothing since leaving there.) He said that this would not have stopped me from staying at Nativity of B.V.M. Then he asked me why I had not told him that I had the disease of manic-depression. I thought that I had told him about it when he first interviewed me.

Before I could say anything, Father Lyons said that I hadn't taken care of this disease. He stated that when I was at a June 1985 Aftercare Program at St. Michael's in St. Louis, he had me see the psychiatrist that I had when I was there in treatment. He said that the psychiatrist stated that my lithium level was low. This doctor never took a blood lithium test - the only valid way of finding out whether one's blood lithium level was low - normal - or high. Just a month previous to this Aftercare Program, a psychiatrist - after taking a blood lithium level - said that my lithium level was normal. My lithium blood level has never changed this radically in a month's time. Therefore, in that I wasn't given any reason for my termination, I am unable to give you a reason for it. This should tell you why I felt so hurt, disturbed, and dismayed at the whole situation.

Secondly, you asked me for an account of what transpired at the parish. I will start with the rectory. It basically was a cold, negative, lonely and uncommunicative place to live. I feared each day to speak to the pastor or the deacon. I never knew what kind of a response I would receive. Usually when talking or asking Father Aragon anything, I was answered with a loud rough and gruff voice. I felt it was most demeaning to me as a person. I also feared to go to bed each night, as on several occasions someone would knock on my door at the late hours of the night. I would not answer, but it was frightening. Something that I never experienced before in my life. Also, on several occasions, Deacon Julian would have one or more teenagers sleep overnight in the rectory. When this would occur, I would go to my room and stay there until the next day. A great way to live in a rectory, Bishop - wouldn't you agree!

Next, I heard all the confessions each week. The pastor heard one hour at Christmas and at Easter. In that there was no Catholic school in the parish, the confessions of the First Communicants in

Released April 2014

C.C.D. was left up to me, as well as the confessions of grades 4th - 562
ch in C.C.D. I took funerals and did other parish work as the pastor
indicated.

There were two situations that occurred that were upsetting to me. The first situation happened a couple of weeks after I arrived. No one had told me the procedure of taking up the collection. At some of the Masses I had, the collection was taken up after the Prayer of the Faithful. On this particular Sunday, the ushers took it up at the beginning of the Prayer of the Faithful. I told them to please do it quietly as possible. After the Mass the pastor was in the sacristy and yelled at me that I was making his ushers quit. I apologized to the ushers and that was that.

As for the second situation, it was at a wedding. Deacon Julian had two couples who wanted to have their wedding on the same day and at the same time. The couple that wanted me to witness their marriage had confirmed the date and time. It wasn't until a month before the wedding that the other couple realized that they hadn't confirmed the date and time of their wedding. Therefore, the second couple's wedding had to be worked in the schedule. I was under pressure to see that my wedding Mass and pictures were finished in one hour and a half. I did my best to do this. When I finished the Mass and the couple were leaving the altar, I left to go into the sacristy. I was met by Deacon Julian and the musicians for the next wedding. They were blocking my way into the sacristy. I asked them politely to step aside. Deacon Julian responded with keep quiet. At this point, I became angry and told them to get out of my way. If this had been you, Bishop, you probably would have felt like I did and maybe given them a good boot somewhere. Maybe it was these two situations that were used for my termination. I don't know.

From what I could perceive, I was well liked by the people. They were friendly to me and responded to my kindness and love towards them. After the Saturday night and Sunday Masses, they waited to talk and visit with me. When I had the early morning weekday Masses, we enjoyed each others company with coffee and goodies after them. Also, the people thought enough of me to ask me to be their chaplain for a Family Enrichment Weekend at the parish. This I did. It was a most enlightening experience for me. They shared their life with me and I shared my life with them. Furthermore, when the people heard that I was leaving, they took up petitions that I stay and sent them to Archbishop Sanchez and Father Clay Dennis. It seems to me that the people had nothing against me and wanted me to stay and continue to minister to them.

From what has transpired, Archbishop Sanchez evidently was not given a reason for my termination. Thus, no reason could be given to me for it.

Hoping that the material in this letter will be of some help to you and thanking you for your kindness in dealing with this situation and a remembrance of you in my prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Rev. John C. Slown

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000563

P.S. It seems to me that the bottom line of this whole situation is that in June 1986, Father Aragon was transferred from the pastorate at Nativity of B.V.M. to another pastorate in Albuquerque and Deacon Julian was transferred from Nativity of B.V.M. to a parish in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Because of this, there is a question that comes to my mind - did the letters that the people wrote in my favor and against Father Aragon and Deacon Julian cause their tranfers?

This experience has only drawn me closer to God. Through it, I have appreciated my priesthood all the more. It has helped me to assess my strengths and weaknesses, as well as my successes and failures, as a priest and human being.

John C. Slown



November 7, 1986

Reverend John C. Slown

Dear John,

It has taken me longer than I had hoped to respond to your letter. The delay was caused primarily by not being able to get in touch with Father Clay Dennis. His account of your ministry at Nativity BVM Parish in Albuquerque differs substantially from your own version.

There seemed to be more than a few occasions when you were drinking while at the parish. One of those occasions was immediately after you returned from an Aftercare Program in St. Louis. When you were appointed to Nativity it was made very clear to you that under no condition were you ever to take any alcohol whatsoever. You were also expected to join AA and to be faithful in attending the meetings. It is my understanding that you did not join an AA group until the last month of your assignment at Nativity. I am also informed that you made some uncalled for remarks from the altar one day.

Father Clay Dennis told me that you said that I had "...completely written you off." When the subject of health insurance came up he said that you would not even bother to write the diocese for this coverage since "...the diocese had washed its hands of him." John, I don't know if you actually made these remarks, but I wanted you to know that I have not written you off. The continued financial support of the diocese during the time you were not in a parish should be sufficient indication that we had not given up on you. You continue to be carried on our diocesan health insurance, as you have been ever since you left Joliet.

Your description of Father Aragon differs drastically from that of Father Dennis. I am told Father Aragon is one of the most respected priests in the Santa Fe Archdiocese and has been a member of their Personnel Board. His transfer to a new parish was not caused by your leaving, but rather because of a need in another community to which Father Aragon responded.

2.

When you met with Father Dennis and Father Paul Lyons at the end of April for a progress evaluation, it was decided that because you had broken your contract with the Archdiocese, by your own admission, that you would have to leave the parish. You were offered the option of going to Jemez Canyon or Cherry Valley, but you chose to go to Denver.

John, in view of the differences in the account of your dismissal from Nativity, I feel I cannot recommend you to the Archbishop of Denver. If you wish to approach him on your own, you are certainly free to do so. You should know that a letter of recommendation will probably be requested of me, and that I will have no choice but to inform the Archbishop of your difficulties over the past few years. It would then be his decision to accept you or not.

Personally, I feel you should contact the Servants of the Paraclete to ask if they would be willing to accept you at one of their institutions.

Since you are not presently assigned as a priest, I am suspending your priestly faculties until such time as a definite decision is made about your future. I know this is probably a difficult letter for you to read as it is for me to write. In view of what has transpired I don't see how I could write a positive recommendation that you be accepted for an assignment in a parish.

I am disturbed by the reports of your drinking at your former parish. You openly brought beer into the rectory on more than one occasion. It seems clear to me that you are either unwilling or unable to maintain sobriety, and frankly, I don't know what is the best course to follow in order to help you. I believe I have tried to offer you assistance over these past several years, but to no avail. I don't believe that I am helping you by continuing to offer recommendations. I think you must make some decisions yourself about maintaining sobriety. I cannot help you to do that, it is something you must do for yourself.

3.

I am certainly pleased to hear that you have begun attending AA meetings in Denver and I would hope that this would continue. You have much talent and ability and I hate to see it wasted because of alcoholism. You are much on my mind and daily in my prayers by name. I am hopeful that we will be able to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution in this matter.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

567

November 26, 1986

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

Dear Bishop Imesch:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 7, 1986.

It is imperative that I clarify some of the statements that you made in this letter.

- 1) I didn't immediately start drinking after returning from the Aftercare Program in St. Louis, nor did I walk off the plane with a six pack of beer in my hands as reported.
- 2) I was attending three to four A.A. meetings each week while I was at Jemez Springs. I also attended this number of meetings during the entire time that I was at Nativity Parish.
- 3) The "uncalled for remarks from the altar" were to the ushers, who were taking up the collection during the Creed. I had no knowledge of this procedure, so I asked them to take it up quietly.
- 4) In my interview with Father Clay Dennis, I told him that to a certain degree I was on my own. At the time of the interview, I had been paying my monthly bill to the diocese for my health insurance for at least a year. Furthermore, I never did say or indicate that the diocese had washed its hands of me.
- 5) I never stated that Father Aragon was or wasn't respected in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Bishop, how many times was a priest respected by priests and laity but ask the priests that lived with him and you got a different picture of the individual. Or how many times was a man well respected in his community and by his peers, but ask his wife and children, who live with him, and you got a different picture of him.
- 6) When I met with Father Clay Dennis, Father Aragon, and Father Paul Lyons, nothing was said about me breaking my contract with the Archdiocese, In fact, no discussion was made concerning a contract when I went to Nativity of when I left.
- 7) Yes, Fahter Paul Lyons told me to contact Father William Perri at Jemez Springs. When I called him, he told me that I was not welcome at any of their facilities. Thus, I went to my sister in Denver.

We have found since Jan 2, 1986.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000568

It seems to me that it would have been nice if Father Aragon, Father Clay Dennis, and Father Paul Lyons would have discussed, dialogued, and communicated with me concerning the facts of my situation at Nativity that were given to you. I feel very sad about how this whole situation has been handled. But as A.A. has taught me - Let Go, Let God. Yes, I am powerless over persons, places, and things.

What disturbs me very much is the fact that it has been insinuated that I was drinking morning, noon, and night - seven days a week and was under the influence of alcohol daily. If this is true, how could Father Clay Dennis tell me that my ministry at Nativity had been par excellence. Knowing what I do about alcoholism, no one could have done the work that I did if I was daily under the influence of alcohol. It is my opinion that there is a conflict in the facts and the truth. Again, I am powerless over persons, places, and things.

Upon arriving in Denver, I began reflecting over what happened at Nativity and other situation. It came to me that when there was extreme tension, stress, or people-pleasing in my life, I would use alcohol to anesthetize these feelings. After all, tension, stress, and people-pleasing had been a part of my life since I was 10 years old. Having realized this fact, I brought it to my A.A. meetings - I participate in at least five meetins each week. This helped me to accept these feelings and deal with them without the use of alcohol for over six months. My sobriety is improving at each A.A. meeting that I participate in. This makes me happy and pleased with myself.

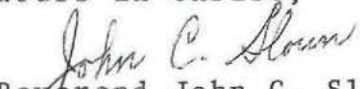
As far as being stripped of my "faculties", it hurt me deeply. I hadn't used them since I was in Denver and I didn't intend to use them until I received an assignment. However, the thought came to me - "don't kick a man when he is down". I felt that I was down and now I was kicked. Again, I had to say - Let Go - Let God. After all, the Lord's ways are strange and He knows best.

The job that I had was only a temporary one. It was terminated on Oct. 31st. I was wondering if you could put me on sick leave, so that I could receive some financial assisstant in order to pay my bills and live. It costs me money to drive to my A.A. meetings, medicine for my disease of namic-depression, and the frequent visits to the psychiatrist. If you could help me, I would be most grateful.

It is my daily hope and prayers that in the very near future I will once again be able to get back into the active ministry. I believe that God called me to the priesthood and gave me many talents and a great ability to touch the people of God, which I have done over the years. It seems to me that it would be a waste of what God gave to me, if it were not to be used.

Hoping that you had a blessed and meaningful Thanksgiving and with constant prayers for you, I remain,

Yours in Christ,


Reverend John C. Slown

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Released April 2014

Slown

000569

December 18, 1986

Reverend John Slown


Dear John,

I received your letter of November 26th. I don't think there is much to be gained by going into a point-by-point commentary on the issues you raised. Some of the remarks you made are not contained in my letter and were not said by me.

I think the point to be made about your ministry at Nativity is not how often you drank, but the fact that you did, and on more than one occasion. For someone who has been through the programs that you have, there is absolutely no reason for believing that you can drink, even on one occasion.

I want to clarify one item concerning your health insurance. Since January of this year the diocese has been paying your health insurance. Prior to that time, since you were employed at Jemez Springs, you were responsible for your own health insurance. I just want to point out that you have been covered by the diocese during all of the time of your treatment, except for that time when you were employed and earning a salary.

As far as removing your faculties, John, I felt that I had no choice in that matter. You had been receiving treatment for at least two years, and when you finally were given an assignment, you were not able to maintain sobriety. I don't think it is possible for me to allow you to continue to function while seemingly little effort is made on your part to maintain sobriety. I am not implying that your drinking leads to drunkenness, but I am saying that you have been drinking, and that in itself is unacceptable for you, as well as for me.

2.

Your request for financial assistance will be directed to the priests' retirement board for a decision. That board will not meet again until February. In view of that fact I would strongly suggest that you find some type of occupation to provide for yourself. I do not believe that my providing you with money at this time would be beneficial. I think you have to accept the responsibility of your actions, and in this case it means that your behavior has deprived you of earning an income as a priest.

This is not a very happy letter to write in this particular season. I write it with great reluctance, but with some degree of comfort, in that the diocese has tried to assist you for many years at considerable expense and has supported you throughout all of that time. Now, I think it is time for you to accept the responsibility of supporting yourself and not depend upon the diocese. The final decision in that matter will be made by the priests' retirement board. In the meantime, I will see that you continue to be carried on our health insurance plan.

Be assured of my prayers for you daily. Despite the severity of this letter I have a great deal of feeling for you in my heart. Best wishes for a blessed Christmas.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

000571

February 13, 1987

Reverend John Slown



Dear John,

The Priests' Retirement Board met on Tuesday, February 10th. One of the items we discussed was your request for disability pay. We had a lengthy discussion with many pros and cons. The priests were very sympathetic to your situation but they did feel that you have to accept some responsibility for your actions. Accordingly, they agreed to send you a check in the amount of \$2,000 to offer you some help in getting adjusted to your present situation. They did not authorize me to provide you with any additional funds in the future. You will, however, be kept on our health insurance program until such time as you obtain employment that offers you health benefits.

John, I feel you have been given numerous opportunities to reclaim your ministry and you have not done so. I know that alcoholism is a difficult disease, but I also know that there are a good number of priests in our own diocese who are afflicted with the same illness and have become effective ministers. You have had more opportunities than most to receive help with your illness.

I am continuing the suspension of your faculties. Should you find a bishop who is willing to provide you with an opportunity to minister, I will be more than happy to withdraw my suspension. I would imagine that any bishop who would be interested in your services would be contacting me, and I would be obligated to tell him of your past history. At the same time, I would certainly not be negative to his offering you an opportunity to minister, in fact, I would hope that this would be the case.

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2.

John, I would hope that you would stay in touch with me and let me know how things are going and what is happening with you. You have a great amount of talent, as you know. It would be a shame not to use those talents in ministry. I certainly hope that this would be a possibility. You are in my prayers daily.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Enc.

FROM THE DESK OF ...REV. JOHN SLOWN 00573A
ADMINISTRATOR

February 19, 1987

Dear Bishop Innesch,

Thank you very much for your last two letters. It was the last letter that gave me some hope of being able to return to the active ministry. If, when, and where this will take place, I'll leave it in God's hands. After all, He knows what is best for me, not I!

Also, thank you very much for the monetary gift. It certainly will be most helpful in taking care of my financial obligations. To say the least, I am most grateful to you for keeping me on the diocesan health insurance policy.

I am cutting this letter short, as I plan to be in the Joliet area from Friday, February 27th - Thursday, March 5th. I will call you when I get in on Friday, February 27th, so that I can

arrange to see you sometime when I am in the area.

Thanking you for all that you have done for me and keeping you in my prayers, I remain,

573B

Yours in Christ,
John Slown

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

March 6, 1987

RE: John Slown

I met with John Slown on Wednesday, March 4th. I asked him how he was doing and he said that he was surviving. He is not working at his previous job, which I think was doing some work in the office of the owner of the condominiums where John is staying with his sister. He is living with her in the condominium. She is a widow. This arrangement seems to be working out quite well for him.

I told him that I did not feel that his prospects for returning to ministry in the future were very bright. I suggested that he be in touch with the personnel director in Denver, or at least with a priest in the area, who would be able to speak on his behalf, should he ask for an assignment in the future. I told him that with his track record, about which I surely would be asked by a receiving bishop, there was little possibility that a bishop would be willing to take a risk and take John on. I asked him what he thought about the possibility of having a future without ministry. He said he hoped that would not be the case, but that he was willing to accept that, if this is what the Lord wanted.

I asked him why he had gotten into difficulty at his last assignment in Santa Fe. He readily admitted that he had been drinking, but that he had stopped within a week after he came to Denver, on his own. He was quite proud of the fact that he did not have to go to a treatment center in order to stop. He said getting away from the parish helped him to realize what he was doing to himself and he was able to stop drinking. He said that the house situation was absolutely terrible, although he got along well with the people.

He suggested that perhaps he would stay out of ministry for awhile, and then apply to help out on weekend, while keeping his regular job. I told John that I thought there was little possibility of this being acceptable to a bishop. I told him that it certainly would not be acceptable to me and I doubted that anyone would accept him on those terms. He does

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have the possibility of a job with the husband of his niece, who is starting a business to fix car starters. Evidently John would go to various gas stations in Denver and solicit business.

John said he would keep in touch and I told him I would do the same and would continue to keep him in my prayers.

He did say that he has placed the two homes in Bradley in the hands of a real estate agent and hopes to sell them. At the present time one home is occupied and the other is not.



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch

cc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

Released April 2014

**TRIBUNAL
DIOCESE OF JOLIET**

310 BRIDGE STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000576

12-06-91

Natalie:

Fr. John Slown has a new address:

Rev. John R. Slown

[Redacted Address Block]

phone #

[Redacted Phone Number]

Fr. Ruffalo

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000577

May 27, 1993

Mr. John Slown



Dear John,

Sunday is 34 years of ordination for you and I want to offer you my prayerful best wishes. I know that you must have many memories of your ministry and I hope that they are mostly good. I want to thank you for the care and service you provided for so many people during the years here. I hope that things are going relatively well for you and that you are in good health.

Be assured of a daily remembrance in my prayers. Please remember me also.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Inesch
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

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Bishop Kasper,

000582

[Redacted]

was referred to

by Fr. Butten who had

spoken to Bishop Senechal about the young man. Bishop S. told Fr. B. to have the bill sent to you.

[Redacted]


was abused by Fr. Slown.

Fr. B. said there were others, but they have not proceeded with counseling. Justified

000586

May 11, 1994

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

John Slown


Dear John:

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.

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,

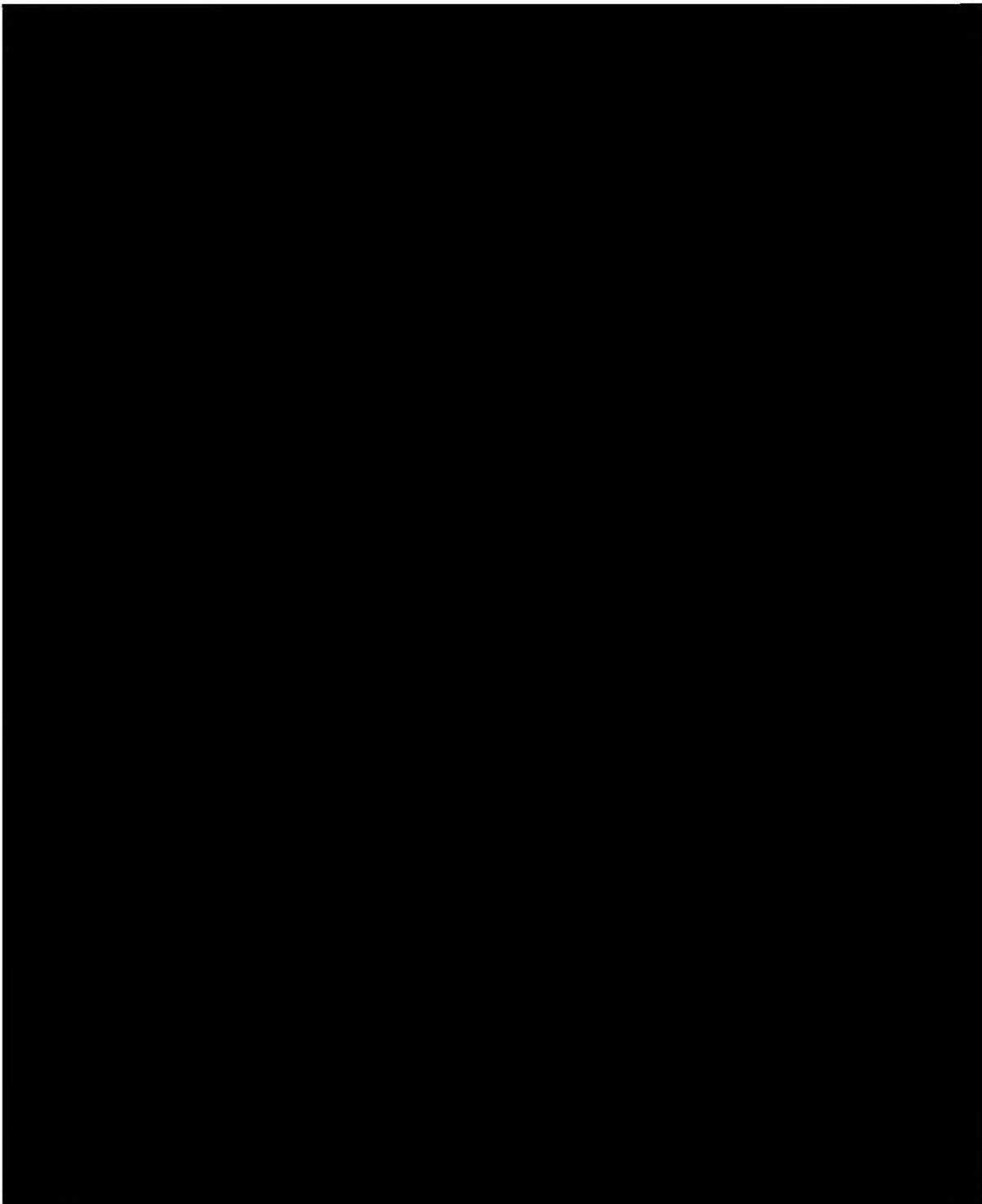
Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet
Vicar General

RLK:bjd

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

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Released April 2014

000614-
A

May 6, 2002

Most Rev. Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop Of Joliet
425 Summit
Joliet, Il. 60435-7139

Your Excellency,:

Thank you for meeting with [REDACTED] April twenty second. It was good to be able to talk to you in person about the issues of me being sexually abused by Fr. John C. Sloan. I know that I threw a lot of information at you that day, and I would like to clarify a few things.

You mentioned that you were surprised that more of Sloan's victims have not come forward. Am I to assume that you know of more besides the ones I told you about? I asked you why Fr. Sloan was removed from St. Joseph's in Bradley, and you stated that you would have to look in his file for sure, but you recall sending him away for treatment and then reassigning him to another parish as an administrator.

I stated that I have had , and continue to have problems with depression. You asked me how did I know for sure that this was related to my ordeal with Fr. Sloan. Did you really mean that your excellency? When you asked me what you could do for me, I stated that I was owed some reparation for what was done to me by Fr. Sloan and the Diocese. You asked me what would money do for me? I ask you, your excellency, what did it do for the many victims that the Diocese settled out of court with.? It is already a known fact that several victims were compensated for out of court.

When I told you about the many times I have been mentally and verbally abused by your priests, you asked me where was my part in all of that? My answer to that is, that I am a human being with worth, who has worked hard for the church. When someone in a collar lords their authority over me and treats me sub-humanly, I have every right to defend myself and my human dignity. Our Lord asks us to turn the other cheek, and so I have, many times. Mental and verbal abuse leave scars as well. As a human being with dignity, I will not be silent and let people walk on me, especially a priest.

When I left your office that day, you stated that you were not happy with the task that I left you. Did you really mean that your excellency? What did you mean? I felt as if what we had just spent two hours talking about was dumped right back in my lap. I hope you didn't mean it that way. You stated that you would have to talk to your lawyers. I am waiting for their or your response.

I pray for you everyday your excellency. May the spirit of truth and honesty make our church whole again.

[REDACTED]

Released April 2014

April 17, 2002

Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch
425 Summit
Joliet, IL. 60435-7193

SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR BY CATHOLIC CLERGY

Your Excellency,

I read with great interest your letter in last week's bulletin about sexual abuse of children by the clergy. I am a victim of sexual abuse by the Rev. John C. Slown, who was our Pastor at St. Joseph's in Bradley during my junior high years. The abuse occurred while he was there in 1978 until he left. I was not the only victim.

When the Rev. Myles P. White was convicted, I finally had the courage to come forward to Fr. Joseph Butters about the facts. He called Bishop Kaffer, who, through Fr. Butters apologized and set up counseling with a [REDACTED]. The counseling went on for a while, however, the mental and verbal abuse I received and continue to receive from your priests interfered, and continues to interfere with any resolution I have tried to come to.

We talk about peace and social justice in the church. My questions are; Where is the peace and social justice for me? Why did people who were aware of the situation in our parish and school do nothing?

I would be honored to have the privilege of talking to you in person about the issues mentioned above. Would you please contact me to set up a meeting at your convenience?

[REDACTED]

Slown

Released April 2014

000615

May 16, 2002



Dear [redacted]

I received your letter of May 6th and want to respond to some of your questions. I do not know the names of any young people who were involved with Father Slown. Everything I had heard was strictly rumor. You are certainly the first person I have talked with who told me you were abused by Father Slown.

When we talked about how you were feeling I simply repeated the question that the Diocesan Review Board asks when suggesting counseling for victims of sexual abuse. The Board feels that there may be reasons, other than sexual abuse, that might call for counseling. I really do not know enough about the whole matter to be too specific, but I do remember a member saying that sometimes there are familial problems, in addition to the problems that arise from sexual abuse. I wish you would have asked me that when we were together, so that I could have explained myself. I regret that this has obviously caused you some concern.

With regard to [redacted] I certainly think the diocese owes you something. Again, I wish we could have discussed that when you were present. What I was trying to say was that offering money as reparation is not a guarantee that you will no longer have problems arising from the abuse. I do not think money can solve those kinds of problems. I do not know that any of Father Slown's victims received any kind of compensation. That has certainly been given to some victims of other priests, but I think, in those cases, a lawsuit was filed.

I am not in a position to make a judgment about your being "mentally and verbally" abused by priests. Basically, I know you have had difficulties with some priests, but I do not know the origin of those difficulties. I do know that people frequently have differences with their staff people.

Released April 2014

020616

May 16, 2002

Perhaps sharp words were said, or something with which a person does not agree. Is that always abuse? I suppose one can interpret it as such, but there can certainly be differences of opinion especially between an employer and an employee, which would not be considered as abuse. As I said, I am not aware of all of the circumstances with the various priests you mentioned. I do know that there are always two sides to a story and I would presume that the priest would have a different version than yours.

When I referred to the fact that I was "not happy with the task" that was left to me, I was simply referring to the fact that I have no idea what kind of compensation is just or equitable. How does one judge something like that? You gave me no indication what you would consider as compensation. When a claim has been settled in the past, I have not been involved in any of the negotiations. I think all of the previous negotiations were handled by lawyers.

██████████ presented your situation to the Diocesan Review Board and they recommended that one of their members meet with you. In the near future, Mr. Tom O'Donnell, will be contacting you to set up an appointment.

I regret, again, that our conversation caused you some discomfort or a lack of clarity. I wish we would have had the opportunity to speak about those issues when you were here. Trying to do that by letter is rather difficult.

██████████ keep you in prayer each day and I am grateful for your prayers, as well. I want you to be well and to enjoy the work you are doing and the people you are doing it with. Hopefully, that will happen in the future.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer
Bishop James Fitzgerald

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

633617



May 28, 2002

[REDACTED] had called around May 17, I was unable to speak with him at the time. I called him this afternoon.

He stated that he was abused by Fr. John Slown during the years 1974 and 1975 while in grades 6 & 7 at St. Mary Magdalene School in Joliet. His parents pulled him out of the school and he then attended Washington School also in Joliet.

I told him that I was sorry he had to suffer the abuse. He said that his wife told him to call to see what might be done. I informed [REDACTED] would bring the matter to the attention of the Review Committee, that someone from the Committee would be contacting him.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet
Chancery

000618

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

May 28, 2002

[Redacted]

This afternoon I spoke with [Redacted] stated he had been abused by Fr. John Slown in the mid 1970's.

Enclosed are the notes I took from our phone conversation. I am sending them to you prior to our meeting of June 4 so that you could consider who might be the appropriate person from the Committee to contact [Redacted]

May God bless you!

Sincerely,

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet
Chancery

000620

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

May 29, 2002



This is to confirm our telephone conversation of yesterday in which you stated that during the years 1974 and 1975 you were abused by Fr. John Slown while a student at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Joliet.

Our Review Committee will be meeting next week. Sometime after that, one of the members will be in contact with you.

May God bless you!

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

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

~~639626~~

JAMES C. BYRNE

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

FAX (815) 744-7175

July 8, 2002

Jeffery J. Tomczak
Will County State's Attorney
121 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Attention: Tom Dwyer

Re: Fr. John Sloan

Entire Priest File

Dear Mr. Dwyer:

Enclosed are photocopies of the entire priest file for John Sloan, consisting of ⁶¹⁵~~590~~ pages, with the last page dated May 16, 2002.

I have also enclosed a Privilege Log identifying the documents withheld on the basis of statutory confidentiality, as indicated.

Father Sloan's last known address, as of December, 2001, is as follows:

John Sloan

Phone # [REDACTED]

It is not certain, but possible, that he has been living in Colorado since the end of 1993.

My best regards,



James C. Byrne

JCB:pb
Enclosures (2)

FR. SLOW SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 617

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



STATE'S ATTORNEY 000627
COUNTY OF KANKAKEE

450 EAST COURT STREET • KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS 60901-3992
(815) 937-2930 • FAX (815) 937-3932

CONFIDENTIAL

May 17, 2002

CONFIDENTIAL

Illinois State Police
P.O. Box 147
Ashkum, IL 60911

Ref: Rev. John C. Sloan

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your handwritten cover-letter and materials¹ which you dropped off in my office yesterday. I think we need the following further information from the Joliet Diocese, and I will be requesting further information from other sources by separate letters:

Complete history and particulars on biography, initial assignment and subsequent assignments of Father John C. Sloan (E.g., When and where did he attend seminary(-ies)? When and where was he ordained? When was he first assigned? When was he assigned to St. Joseph Grade School in Bradley, Illinois? By whom was each assignment and reassignment made? Complete record of all complaints, whether "founded" as credible or not. When and where was he subsequently transferred? Why? All details and particulars of assignment(s) out of State? [E.g., Colorado?]. Record of any and all internal sanctions? Where is Father Sloan currently located? Copies of all complaints of any nature under the possession or control of the Joliet Diocese concerning Father Sloan.

These requested materials must be on the identifiable signature of a diocesan official who can competently testify to the information requested (e.g., diocesan business records custodian, under 725 ILCS 5/115-5). Ideally, I would suggest you solicit a signed cover-letter from the diocese setting forth the particulars, and asserting that (1) a thorough search of diocesan records has been conducted; (2) all requested information is attached. A lawyer's letter simply will not suffice, since I need the identify of a

¹ 3-pp typewritten Investigative Report dated 05/16/02 (ISP I.D. #2972/3666); 1-p letter of 04/17/02; 1-p letter of 05-06-02.

FR. SLOWN SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 618

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000628

witness who could competently testify regarding these records, particularly assignments out-of-State.

At this point I have every reason to believe your direct contact with the diocese will be met with cooperation and full disclosure of the requested information, without the necessity of a Grand Jury subpoenae. Please feel free to provide the proper diocesan official or its attorney with a copy of this letter, which may facilitate your inquiries. Thank you for your efforts and cooperation. If I am not mistaken, a Joliet lawyer named James Byrne has long represented the Joliet Diocese.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

CONFIDENTIAL

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000636

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

May 28, 2002

The Honorable Michael Orenic
615 Buell Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Judge Orenic,

This afternoon I spoke with [REDACTED] who stated he had been abused by Fr. John Slown in the mid 1970's.

Enclosed are the notes I took from our phone conversation. I am sending them to you prior to our meeting of June 4 so that you could consider who might be the appropriate person from the Committee to [REDACTED]

May God bless you!


Sincerely,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000639



August 6, 2002

**Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop Of Joliet
425 Summit
Joliet, IL 60435-7139**

Your Excellency,

In your letter to me of May 16, 2002, you stated that you presented my situation to the Diocesan Review Board, and they recommended that one of their members meet with me. You stated that a Mr. Tom O'Donnell would be contacting me in the near future to set up an appointment. I have yet to be contacted.

You also stated that "with regard to reparation, [REDACTED] certainly think the diocese owes you something." Your Excellency, you also stated that you "have no idea what kind of compensation is just or equitable."

I stand by my affirmation that the Diocese, as well as others in power, knew that Fr. Sloan was a sick man, with a history of abusing others, and innocent victims like myself could have been spared this horror.

I am hereby asking in reparation for the sexual, physical, and mental damages done unto me by the Rev. John C. Slown, the sum of one-hundred thousand dollars.

Sincerely,



AUG 19 2002

AUG 19 2002

000640

August 23, 2002



Dear 

I received your letter and I apologize that no one from the Independent Review Committee has met with you. Shortly after I met with you I presented your situation in writing to the Review Committee. I was informed that one of their members would be contacting you.

Just after I received your letter I asked whether anyone had met with you. For whatever reason, that person was not able to do that, but, I was told, that will be done in the next several days.

I regret that this meeting with you did not happen as quickly as either of us thought or expected it would.

I appreciate your patience and I understand your frustration. You are in my prayers and I ask you to remember me as well.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

[REDACTED]

August 27, 2002

This morning, Bishop Kaffer met with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] had attended grade school at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.
He just told his mother that he had been abused by Fr. John Slown.

Bishop Kaffer asked [REDACTED] to have her son get in touch with me so that I, in turn, could have someone from the Review Committee meet with him so that he could relate what happened to him.

[REDACTED]

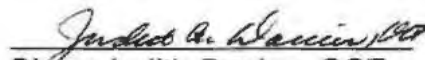
May 21, 2003

This morning I spoke once again with [REDACTED] n who alleges abuse by Father John Slown at St. Mary Magdalene Parish. (Record of previous conversation is in Father Slown's file.)

[REDACTED] stated that he has nightmares and, I believe he said, sexual dysfunction as a result of the abuse. He said that he intended to go to St. Mary Magdalene Parish this weekend and tell everyone that he had been abused there.

I asked [REDACTED] he would be willing to speak with Sr. Mary Frances Seeley, our Victim Assistance Coordinator. He replied yes.

I then called Sr. Mary Frances, left a message with her, informing her of my conversation with [REDACTED] asked her to please call him back today and offer him counseling if he would wish.


Sister Judith Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Slown

Released April 2014



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000645



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NEWS

Diocese hit with new abuse lawsuit

Brothers say they were molested in the 1960s

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

By Allison Hantschel
Staff writer

Standing on the steps of the Joliet diocese chancery, two brothers announced lawsuits against three Roman Catholic priests Tuesday, accusing the trio of abuse.

The brothers, [REDACTED], said the Rev. John Slown molested them while they were students at St. John the Baptist grade school in Winfield in the 1960s.

The [REDACTED] filed a lawsuit against the priests Tuesday morning.

At times, [REDACTED] said, Slown brought two other priests with him to visit in the [REDACTED] family's home: the Rev. Arno Dennerlein, who was removed from ministry last February after a prior abuse accusation, and the Rev. Richard Ruffalo, who died in 1997.

Slown, convicted of sexually abusing a boy in DuPage County in 1983, described the other priests as his friends, [REDACTED] said.

Slown has left the priesthood and is believed to be living in Colorado.

"My folks were gracious enough to invite them into the home, take care of them and feed them," [REDACTED] said. "The priest always wanted to say good night to us. That was their routine. He'd come into the bedroom and as he was blessing us, speaking gently, talking as if he was concerned, at the same time he's grabbing us. He's fondling us."

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Released April 2014

The [REDACTED] attorney, Jeffrey Anderson, a high-profile lawyer who has filed more than 400 sexual abuse lawsuits in dioceses across the country, made a point of targeting Bishop Joseph Imesch in his announcement of the suit, though Imesch was not ordained bishop of the Joliet diocese until 1979. 000646

"This particular bishop has been operating in denial," Anderson said. "This bishop has been operating in deceit. This bishop has been lying to his parishioners, to the police, to the public and to the survivors (of sexual abuse)."

Anderson made his first legal foray into Joliet two weeks ago.

That lawsuit accused a priest — who served time in prison in the 1980s for molesting a young girl — of molesting another child more than 15 years earlier.

Eleven priests were removed from ministry in the Diocese of Joliet after accusations of sexual abuse in the past 18 months, but it is Imesch who has been at the forefront of the sexual abuse scandal in the diocese.

He transferred several priests accused of child sexual abuse to new ministries where they again had access to children, and two of the priests were accused of abusing again. Imesch's attorneys accused people who claimed abuse of being homosexuals, alcoholics and liars.

Last year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops mandated that all dioceses institute a system of training and checks to prevent sexual abuse. The conference also mandated that abuse accusations be reviewed by a committee and reported to law enforcement agencies, and Imesch said publicly that he supported those measures.

However, when [REDACTED] case came before Joliet's review committee and the panel determined accusations against him were credible, Imesch said he had "personal reservations" about the situation and would "reluctantly" follow the committee's guidance.

He sent Dennerlein's case to the Vatican for further review.

Anderson's co-counsel, Marc Pearlman, derided Imesch for those words, saying they caused his clients unnecessary pain.

"That should be a major concern for every parishioner with children in the diocese," Pearlman said.

Diocese spokesman John Cullen said Imesch had the right to disagree with the review board, and that the attorneys had presumed Dennerlein was guilty.

"These men are 48 and 49 years old making accusations about things that happened a while ago," Cullen said.

Anderson said the diocese and Imesch should be held accountable for their actions in

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

this and other cases.

000647

"We are starting this legal action to uncover the documents and uncover the deception in this diocese," he said. "And if they want to fight, then we're ready to fight them."

Southtown religion writer Allison Hantschel may be reached at ahantschel@dailysouthtown.com or (708) 633-5998.



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Released April 2014

000680

MEMORANDUM

November 18, 2003

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: [REDACTED] (from Review Committee Confidential Minutes)

May 14, 2002

[REDACTED] agreed to interview [REDACTED] who is asking for a settlement because of abuse he suffered in the past. [REDACTED] had received counseling through the Diocese. [REDACTED] counseling is received as a benefit, hence he seeks a settlement.

June 4, 2002

[REDACTED] was unable to meet with [REDACTED]

June 25, 2002

The State's Attorney is reviewing Fr. Slown's file. Mr. O'Donnell will interview [REDACTED]

July 23, 2002

Matter is still on hold.

August 13, 2002

Mr. Bryne will speak to Bishop Imesch about [REDACTED] case.

September 3, 2002

Mr. O'Donnell will be meeting with [REDACTED] at the Chancery this morning.

October 1, 2002

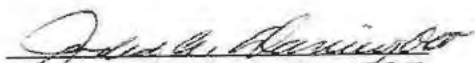
[REDACTED] in September 3, 2002. [REDACTED] has requested [REDACTED] reparation for the abuse he suffered.

October 29, 2002

[REDACTED] has requested a sum of money because of the abuse he suffered. The Committee determined that for the present, no compensation ought to be given.

February 19, 2003

The Committee determined in October [REDACTED] should not be given any compensation for the alleged abuse. The decision stands.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

slow

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13



Diocese of Joliet

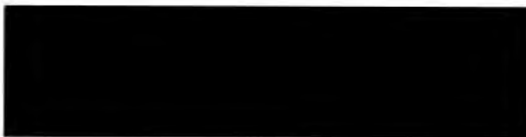
Chancery

00681

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

May 17, 2004



Dear



I apologize for the long delay between the time you submitted a request concerning compensation and this response. I regret that no one provided you with any type of response until now.

After your meeting with Bishop Imesch, you were interviewed by Mr. Tom O'Donnell of the Diocesan Review Committee in the fall of 2002. Unfortunately, the matter was not pursued as it should have been.

At the present time, the Diocese is in the process of making a comprehensive evaluation of all pending claims, including yours. If an amount should be granted, it will most likely not approximate the amount you had requested.

It is expected that the process will take anywhere from four to six months. I hope to be in touch with you sometime in September to provide you with a status report.

Again, please accept my apologies for our lack of communication.

May God bless you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Judith A. Davies, OSF

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

cc: Jim Byrne
Bishop Imesch

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000685



Friday, August 6, 2004

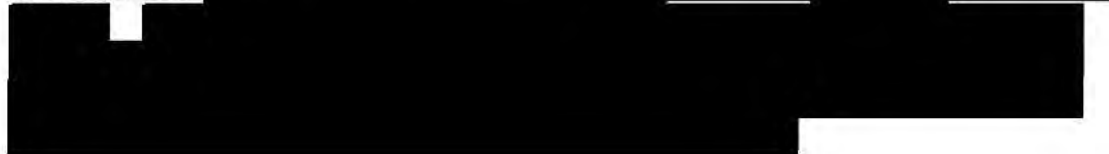
When I responded to a message left [Redacted] Slow Victim 20 he said that he did tell his mother and Sister Pauline, the principal at St. Mary Magdalene School, that he had been abused but they did not believe him. He wants to believe that Sister Pauline got him out of the situation. He told his father and he was beaten. He wants compensation for the abuse he suffered: [Redacted]

[Redacted] asked that I come to his home so that I can see how he lives. I agreed to visit him on August 17, 2004.

Judith A. Davies
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Tuesday, August 17, 2004

At the request of [Redacted] I met him this evening at 7:00 p.m. at his rented [Redacted]



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Released April 2014

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He stated that the abuse occurred while he attended St. Mary Magdalene School. He is certain that the principal, Sister Pauline, knew about the abuse. To save him from further abuse, she got him out of the school so he could attend Washington School for 8th grade.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Because of his abuse [REDACTED] stated that he should be compensated and should be given the amount previously mentioned [REDACTED]. He went on to say that he himself wants an education and needs classes in accounting so he can balance his books and run his own business. He then said he was not concerned about himself, but he wants his son, [REDACTED] to go to college [REDACTED] to a [REDACTED].

At least twice during the conversation I talked about counseling for [REDACTED]. He said that he received my letter and had contacted [REDACTED] who had given him some names. I urged him to begin counseling in order to obtain help for himself. I told him that he should feel free to call me at any time, that I also had his phone number, and that it was important that we continue to communicate.

The conversation concluded at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Judith A. Davies OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13



Diocese of Joliet

000687

Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

August 10, 2004

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Please accept my apologies once again for the betrayal of trust you experienced when you were a child. I am sorry that your life has been and continues to be so painful because of what happened to you so many years ago.

As I stated on the phone, counseling is available for you. Although I gave you [Redacted] number as a resource, I will do so again. [Redacted] Because of [Redacted] experience with and knowledge of qualified counselors, she would be able to provide you with some names of persons who could be of help to you. In the event you might wish to check with someone else for a list of names, you may contact [Redacted]. Another resource would be Provena St. Joseph Medical Center at [Redacted].

Once you have selected a counselor, please schedule an appointment, and then let me know the name and phone number of the counselor you have selected. Although you can tell the counselor that the bills should be sent to me, he/she will probably need to verify that indeed will be the case.

Be assured of my prayers for a healing that will bring you a renewed peace of heart.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

[REDACTED]

September 7, 2004

This morning I spoke with [REDACTED] to set up a time he could come to the Chancery to sign settlement papers. He stated that 10:00 a.m. today would be convenient since he was working in Joliet.

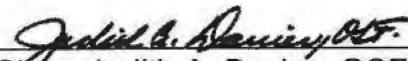
[REDACTED] arrived at 9:30 a.m. We took the elevator to the second floor conference room. On the way, he thanked me for getting things accomplished for him. He stated that he had talked to others previously but nothing ever happened. He also thanked me for listening to him.

[REDACTED] sat down at the table. I told him that I had asked a secretary to notarize the papers. He began reviewing the pages. When he reached the second page, he asked for a pen, and after having read each section, initialed the appropriate space.

Upon reaching the last page and the area where both of us were to sign, I asked [REDACTED] to please wait until the signatures could be notarized. Once we had signed and the papers were notarized, I made a copy for him, and then proceeded to place the papers in an envelope. While so

[REDACTED]

Our conversation ended because the telephone rang with an important long-distance telephone call.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

000689

MEMORANDUM

September 11, 2004

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
Mr. James Byrne

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The abuse occurred when he was in 7th/8th grade. The school boys were curious about the rectory, so they would go over. There Fr. Slown would fondle them. They didn't think anything about it. Being there gave them an opportunity to see the building.

[REDACTED] did not want any counseling, but just wanted to report what had happened to him.

After Sr. Mary Frances gave me his phone numbers, I looked up his address on the internet white pages.

[REDACTED]

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Slown
Proctor

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000691

September 20, 2004

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I just learned from Sister Mary Frances Seeley, OSF, that you contacted her recently. I sincerely regret the abuse that you suffered from Father John Slown. I would be happy to meet with you, if you would want to do that. I do want to personally express my apologies and ask your forgiveness.

If you wish to meet with me, please contact my secretary, [REDACTED]. I am sure she will be able to arrange a mutually convenient date.

Please know that you are in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Sister Judith Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13



Redacted April 2014
Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000692

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

September 27, 2004

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

In my letter of May 17, 2004, I indicated that I hoped to be able to provide you with information this month regarding your request for compensation. I do have some information, but it is not what I had hoped to have for you at this time.

I am sorry, but matters have not moved at the rate of speed that had been anticipated. That has resulted in the Diocese being unable to begin settling pending claims, including that of yours.

I will plan to be in touch with you in December in order to update you as to the progress being made.

May God bless you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Sister Judith A. Davies in cursive.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014
Sr. Judith Davies

From: [Redacted]
nt: Friday, September 23, 2005 1:51 PM
To: jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Phone message follow up

000698

Dear Sr. Davies,
Perhaps you may have heard my voicemail message to you already. Once again, I apologize for the informality of a voice mail message or even this e-mail, but I feel it may expediate my message. Simply put, I have not heard anything for quite a long time. When I first met with Bishop Imesch he said he would have to meet with some people. We communicated through several correspondences.

He asked if I would meet with a member of the review board, and I did. After hearing nothing for some time after, I contacted the crisis sister. After several talks with her, I recieved two letters from you. In one you stated that if I recieved anything at all it probobly would'nt be what I was asking for.

Sister, I just want to say that more than anything, not hearing anything is what makes me uncomfortable. I am in my third year as a candidate for the permanent diaconate, and I do not in anyway want to compromise my chance at ordination. I do not intend, nor have ever intended to bring my experiences with Fr. Slown or my dealings with the Diocese into the public arena.

I guess I have just reached a point in my life now spiritually, where I need to move on and find some closure. I will never forget the pain of the abuse and the loss of trust, but I think that it has made me a stronger person who is able to help others. It would help if I knew what the dioceses' final standing was. Let's close this chapter somehow together.

In Christ,





Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Redacted April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

000699

Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

September 29, 2005



Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your voicemail message and for the message you sent via e-mail. I am sorry that I failed to contact with you before now. You certainly should not have had to send something my way in order for me to communicate with you. Please accept my apologies.

Thank you for your patience during these many months. I can certainly understand your need for closure. I regret that our attempts to resolve the matter are taking much longer than anyone had ever anticipated. I hope that I will be able to bring you some news about your case anywhere from 60 to 90 days from now. In any event, I will be in contact with you by mid-December to provide you with some type of a status report.

Your case will have no bearing on your studying for the Diaconate. Please understand that no one in the Diaconate Office is aware of your particular situation.

May God bless you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000700

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

December 22, 2005



Dear [redacted]

In my last letter, I said that I would contact you in mid-December and provide you with information as to the status of your request for compensation.

I regret to inform you that at this time the Diocese is still unable to resolve the matter with you. While it is expected that a determination will be reached sometime within the next six months, I cannot be definite about the date.

Thank you in advance for your patience. I will be in communication with you as soon as I have any news or by the end of March 2006.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

bcc: Jim Byrne
Sr. Judith

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014
St. Judith Davies

m: [REDACTED]
it: [REDACTED]
To: Thursday, March 23, 2006 9:12 AM
jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Fr. Slown

000701

Dear Sister,

I apologize for the informality of this e-mail, however, according to your last letter, I would hear from you in March. I feel certain things must be addressed. Did you know that this merry-go round of communication has been taking place since 2002? I find it interesting that Fr. Slown was convicted in Dupage County Court in 1983, three years after he left St. Joseph in Bradley...

I have done everything that has been asked of me by the bishop, and answered every question by the review board member. Everytime a new allegation comes out, I feel victimized all over again.

Everytime I get the same old form letter in the mail, I feel victimized again. As far as no one knowing about my case in the diaconate office, well, Deacon Joe sure knows, because he asked me in my last interview, how things were going with the diocese... and then offered me one of his sermons on forgiveness. I feel very threatend by him. If anything, I feel my trials will make me a better deacon, should the church ordain me, which I constantly fear will not happen because of this issue. Even when I went for my psychological testing for the aspirancy, I did'nt leave anything out..they knew who I was and what baggae I was bring with me.

You see, the church has taken away from me everything but my faith, without sacraments to strengthen me and to know that God has a plan for me I ld be lost. I am deeply saddened that my own father's priest was removed at the Cathedral. Fr. Burnett is a wonderful man. My father did write a letter of support to the bishop, which I know the bishop greatly appreciated. You know, the hardest thing was to come out to my Dad about what happened to me? He is suffering also, caught between a rock and a hard place.

Fr. Ruffalo and Fr. Slown were good friends, that is no secret, what went on on their trips to Vegas is no secret. You were principal during Fr. Ruffalo's tenure at the school, did you not see anything? Did no parents approach you?

Let me make this perfectly clear..I have no intention of ever making this public and bringing embarrassment and shame to the Church or my family. It would not help anyone. In meeting with my spiritual director, theyt feel that I have made great strides spiritually and trying to heal. I work at Bishop McNamara as the Choral Director, I don't make a lot of money I have been here 14 years

I dedicated 15 years of my life as music director for St. Joseph. My wife has taught at St. Joseph's for 17 years. My daughter is in seventh grade there. My son is a Freshmen here at Mac.

We are very happy at BVM, and the community is very supportive of my eventual ordination. We don't make a lot of money, and our insurance costs for family coverage is rising. The amount of money I have spent alone on cognitive therapy and drugs for my bi-polar disorder, hospitalizations, etc. have been exhausting. A monetary gesture from the Diocese would be helpful.

I only get 25% off of tuition here at Mac, and it is killing me. Maybe ering to help in that way would be an idea. I am asking for help. Could please put a silent end to this ordeal? I just hate waiting, and then getting the same response over and over again. I would not be asking if I did not feel in my heart that this painful, detrimental experience could have been avoided if Fr. Slown was not put in my way.

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Sincerely,

Released April 2014



000702

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Sr. Judith Davies

From: [Redacted]
nt: Thursday, March 23, 2006 9:12 AM
jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Fr. Slown

000703

Dear Sister,

I apologize for the informality of this e-mail, however, according to your last letter, I would hear from you in March. I feel certain things must be addressed. Did you know that this merry-go round of communication has been taking place since 2002? I find it interesting that Fr. Slown was convicted in Dupage County Court in 1983, three years after he left St. Joseph in Bradley....

I have done everything that has been asked of me by the bishop, and answered every question by the review board member. Everytime a new allegation comes out, I feel victimized all over again.

Everytime I get the same old form letter in the mail, I feel victimized again. As far as no one knowing about my case in the diaconate office, well, Deacon Joe sure knows, because he asked me in my last interview, how things were going with the diocese... and then offered me one of his sermons on forgiveness. I feel very threatend by him. If anything, I feel my trials will make me a better deacon, should the church ordain me, which I constantlty fear will not happen because of this issue. Even when I went for my psychological testing for the aspirancy, I did'nt leave anything out..they knew who I was and what baggae I was bring with me.

You see, the church has taken away from me everything but my faith, without the sacraments to strengthen me and to know that God has a plan for me I would be lost. I am deeply saddened that my own father's priest was removed the Cathedral. Fr. Burnett is a wonderful man. My father did write a letter of support to the bishop, which I know the bishop greatly appreciated. You know, the hardest thing was to come out to my Dad about what happened to me? He is suffering also, caught between a rock and a hard place.

Fr. Ruffalo and Fr. Slown were good friends, that is no secret, what went on on their trips to Vegas is no secret. You were principal during Fr. Ruffalo's tenure at the school, did you not see anything? Did no parents approach you?

Let me make this perfectly clear..I have no intention of ever making this public and bringing embarrassment and shame to the Church or my family. It would not help anyone. In meeting with my spiritual director, theyt feel that I have made great strides spiritually and trying to heal. I work at Bishop McNamara as the Choral Director, I don't make a lot of money I have been here 14 years


I dedicated 15 years of my life as music director for St. Joseph. My wife has taught at St. Joseph's for 17 years. My daughter is in seventh grade there. My son is a Freshmen here at Mac.

We are very happy at BVM, and the community is very supportive of my eventual ordination. We don't make a lot of money, and our insurance costs for family coverage is rising. The amount of money I have spent alone on cognitive therapy and drugs for my bi-polar disorder, hospitalizations, etc. have been exhausting. A monetary gesture from the Diocese would be helpful.

I only get 25% off of tuition here at Mac, and it is killing me. Maybe offering to help in that way would be an idea. I am asking for help. Could please put a silent end to this ordeal? I just hate waiting, and then getting the same response over and over again. I would not be asking if I did not feel in my heart that this painful, detrimental experience could have been avoided if Fr. Slown was not put in my way.

Sincerely, Revised April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



000704

Slown

000705

MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2006

TO: Sister Judith Davies, OSF

FROM: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch

RE: [REDACTED]

I can certainly [REDACTED] For him, it would be a simple thing to have this matter taken care of. However, given the circumstances of this situation, it just takes more time than it should.

[REDACTED] and inform him that we will certainly help him with his son's tuition at Bishop McNamara. Please ask him to send us what he owes. I have several funds from which I could draw money for his tuition.

I will speak to Joe Dalpiaz about his comments.

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Redacted April 2013 4/1/13

Diocese of Joliet

Revised April 2014

Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

000706

March 30, 2006



I shared your e-mail of March 23, 2006 with Bishop Imesch. The Bishop said that the Diocese would certainly help you with your son's tuition at Bishop McNamara High School.

At your earliest convenience, would you please send a note to Bishop Imesch informing him of the amount yet owed on your son's tuition?

May God bless you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor



Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

MEMORANDUM

000707

April 3, 2006

TO: John Slown
[Redacted]

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Diocesan Website

The Diocese will be listing on its website (www.dioceseofjoliet.org) the names, ordination dates and status of all diocesan priests who have had a credible/substantiated allegation made against them while they were serving in the Joliet Diocese. I realize this action may be disturbing to you but it is being taken primarily to facilitate healing and bring closure to those who have been abused.

Your listing will be as follows:

John Slown 5/30/59 Removed from ministry 1983

My prayers are for you and for all of those who have suffered because of sexual abuse and who still need healing.

May God bless you.

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Sr. Judith Davies

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2006 1:50 PM
To: jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: RE: Meeting

Dear Sister,
I called Mr. Byrne today and talked with him regarding the situation. I told him that I would be at the center for a workshop on Monday the eighth, and would be willing to come early to wrap this up. He stated he was going to talk to "his person" today. Hopefully, we can do this, as I explained to him once again the urgency of my situation. He was very kind, and assured me that he was not ignoring me. Thank you for your reply. Please keep me and my family in your prayers, as we are all suffering from the anxiety of this process.
In Christ,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: "Sr. Judith Davies" <jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org>
Reply-To: <jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org>

>To: [Redacted]
>Subject: RE: Meeting
>Date: Tue, 2 May 2006 16:54:48 -0500

>Dear [Redacted]
>Thank you for your message. I know that Mr. Byrne will be returning from an out of town conference sometime early this evening. I will let him know of your frustration with the length of time things are taking.
>May God bless you.
>Sister Judith

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

>From: [Redacted]
>Sent: [Redacted]
>To: jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org
>Subject: Meeting

>Dear Sister,
>I appreciate that I was contacted by the insurance office promptly after my last e-mail. I met with Jim on April 3. I heard back from him the Monday after Easter. In another phone call from me he stated that it was in the works and I told him that a lot was riding on this settlement, and he realized I had financial obligations. I called him this morning, I believe that he is working to the best of his ability, but I am wondering what the hold up is, and why I must wait even longer. I don't know why once this matter was given over to him is taking so long. I am trying to be patient, but a lot is at risk here for me. I hope you understand the urgency and my frustration. He said he would get back to me today. Unlike the gentleman who chose not to go before the review board, I did.
>Thank you for believing me. It's been a long four years.
>In Christ,

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014

000723

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2006

TO: Bishop J. Peter Sartain
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
RE: Reverend John Slown

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that Father John Slown, a former pastor of the parish, had honored his brother [REDACTED] 1979/1980. [REDACTED] his mother, she called Father Joseph Butters who offered to provide counseling [REDACTED] (I explained to [REDACTED] that should his brother wish to take advantage of counseling now, to contact the Diocese.

While at the parish for the reunion, [REDACTED] ^{er of SLOWN Victim 23} noticed Father Slown's picture along with other pastors who had served the parish. When [REDACTED] asked a Father John (Antczak) whether or not Father Slown was still in the priesthood because he was a child molester, Fr. Antczak said that he did not know. I assured [REDACTED] ^{Brother of SLOWN Victim 23} that Father Slown had been out of ministry for about 20 years.

[REDACTED] asked that the picture of Father Slown be removed from the wall which honors all of the former pastors. I [REDACTED] that more than likely, Father Slown's picture was hanging there not to honor him, but because he was part of the parish history.

(A similar situation existed at St. Mary Parish in Plainfield regarding the picture of Father Larry Gibbs who had served there as parochial vicar. Father David Medow removed the picture, moved the other pictures down, and no one noticed that a picture was missing.)

[REDACTED] like a follow-up call as to the action taken [REDACTED]

I told Jim Byrne of the conversation with [REDACTED] and will inform Sr. Mary Frances Seeley as well.

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

August 28, 2007

Dear Bishop Sartain,

000724

My name is John Slown. I was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Joliet in 1959 and was removed from active ministry in 1983. In that I served in the diocese for 24 years, I was wondering if I was entitled to a pension. At the age of 74 and with some medical problems, it would be helpful and nice to receive a pension. However, whatever your decision is in this matter, I will accept it as God's Will for me.

As for the problems that I was removed from the ministry, they are resolved. In fact I have over 30 years of continuous sobriety. This is truly a miracle for me. The problems could never have been resolved without me seeking God's help and working the A.A. Program on a daily basis.

Above all, congratulations on being the new Ordinary of the Diocese of Joliet. It is a wonderful diocese with many great people. You can be assured of my prayers for you and the task you have before you.

Wishing you all the best, I remain,

John C. Slown



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

006725

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6632

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pam Geary
CC: Father Joseph Tapella
FROM: Bishop J. Peter Sartain
DATE: October 31, 2007
RE: John C. Slown

Pam,

I believe you and Father Tapella have spoken about John C. Slown, a former priest of our Diocese who served for 24 years and left ministry in 1983. Father Tapella indicated to me that you and he determined that John would be eligible for 24/30 of the priest's pension.

I would appreciate it if you would put in motion whatever process would lead to his receiving this portion of the priest's pension. He may be reached at

[REDACTED]

If you have any questions regarding this request, please be in touch with Father Tapella. I'm very grateful for your help!


Bishop J. Peter Sartain

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

000726

Retirement Allowance Committee

Chancery

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

November 20, 2007

John Slown



Dear John:

I have been informed that you have requested your pension benefits. Your benefit amounts to **\$1,244.78** per month. (\$644.78 is taxable to you and \$600.00 is designated as a rental allowance for housing and is therefore not taxable). You will receive your first payment on **December 1, 2007**. Subsequent payments will be made on the first day of each month.

As a retired priest of the Joliet Diocese you will be entitled to the following benefits annually, upon submission of receipts for expenses incurred:

Automobile Insurance	\$1,051.00
Physical Examination	\$ 700.00 (Loyola Medical Center)
Retreat Allowance	\$ 275.00
Continuing Education	\$ 800.00

If you wish to have your check directly deposited into your bank account or if you wish to have Federal Income Tax withheld from your check, please complete the enclosed forms and return to me.

Upon your retirement, you should have contacted Medicare and applied for Medicare Part B. If you do not have Medicare Parts A & B, there will be a deduction of **\$316.50** per month for your medical insurance. If you have both parts, the cost of the insurance is paid by the retirement fund. Please send a copy of your Medicare card to either Mary Jo Monroe or myself.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your pension, please call me at (815) 722-6606 x 234 or you can email me at pgeary@dioceseofjoliet.org

Sincerely,

Pam Geary
Pension Administrator

enclosures

Redacted April 2013 - 4/9/13

Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

000727

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6632



December 11, 2007

John C. Slown



Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of August 28, 2007, and please accept my apology for this very late response. It has taken me some time to investigate the issue you raised, but now I believe that I have it resolved.


 She may need to contact you regarding pension benefits, and I believe she has done so. John, I hope that this pension benefit is of help to you, as I can understand why at your age and given your health these funds could be necessary.

I also want to thank you for your kind words of congratulations as I begin my time as Bishop of Joliet. Although I have been here more than a year, I am still "new" in many ways, and your greetings are welcome and appreciated! Perhaps we will have the opportunity to meet some day.

Finally, let me congratulate you on your years of sobriety! You may be familiar with Matt Talbot, an Irish Dubliner and recovering alcoholic, whose cause is being considered for sainthood. Perhaps you can ask Matt Talbot to continue to be of assistance to you! He is a favorite of many.

John, may God bless you with peace, good health, and joy!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain
Bishop of Joliet