

MEMORANDUM

TO: Archbishop Kelly
Walt Jones

FROM: Brian Reynolds *BR*

DATE: August 10, 1999

RE: Clergy Abuse Call

Late today Fr. Bills Burks called to report receiving a call from Tom MS-12 asking if he could have access to St. Polycarp Rectory to look around. Mr. MS-12 told Bill he had been a victim of sexual abuse as a child 30 years ago by Fr. Arthur Wood. He was trying to resolve his feelings about the past and clarify his memory. He was not angry and did not want his family to know but, in order to come to terms and be at peace with his past, he wanted to "visit the space" Bill was very uncomfortable.

I told Bill that he should not allow such a visit, that is was his private personal space and no one has access to his private quarters. Bill was relieved but unsure how to deal with the man.

I spoke with John Ford who was even stronger about not allowing such a visit. "It would do no one any good." We agreed Bill should tell him that it is private space and that the rectory has changed a great deal in 30 years (different paint, furnishing etc.). John and I both guessed Mr. MS-12 may be getting encouragement connected to the so-called "repressed memory" therapy. Suggesting such a visit would be a common recommendation.

Bill and I spoke a second time and I told him that when he called Mr. MS-12 back he should encourage him to be in touch with Walt, Archbishop Kelly or me. I asked him to tell him we are concerned for him and want to be of support.

This story is consistent with the same years, priest and location as reported by MS-11 (Walt, this is a settled case from 1995). MS-11 told us he was sure there were several other victims. A few months back MS-11 called here asking to meet with the Archbishop. MS-11 later said he did not need to meet but would write a letter instead. I don't think any such letter has arrived. I wonder if the appearance of MS-12 is related.