

Saint Peter Claver Catholic Church

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30 June 2009

Memo To: Archbishop Nienstedt  
From: Father Kevin McDonough  
Re: A Complaint against Father William Stolzman

Personnel  
file

Archbishop, over a year ago we received a complaint against Father William Stolzman. At the direction of Archbishop Flynn, we have been in the "preliminary investigation" phase of our dealing with that complaint all this time. Please find attached a timeline of the steps in that preliminary investigation.

The purpose of this memo to you is to bring the preliminary investigation to a conclusion. I recommend to you that there is insufficient evidence to consider the complaint against Father Stolzman to be credible, and that the preliminary investigation should be considered closed. No limitations should be put on Father Stolzman's ministry (other than those that arise from his being retired). Of course, we could and would reopen the investigation if new evidence were to find its way to us, but I recommend further that we no longer employ active investigative tools to seek further evidence.

In favor of this recommendation, I offer the following:

1. The complainant was in prison at the time he made the complaint, which raises some concern about his reliability. Further, he has not followed up with the Archdiocese either while in prison or thereafter, in spite of various direct and indirect appeals from us that he do so.
2. The complainant has been represented by two different attorneys, so it is reasonably likely that he has good sources of advice, were he interested in following up on this matter.
3. Most importantly, [REDACTED] criminal officials nor the FBI chose to investigate further or to open a criminal file on the matter.

Please note that the prison chaplain who dealt with the complainant thought he was making a good faith complaint. That chaplain, [REDACTED] is a priest whom I have known for over thirty years and whom I respect. Despite his belief in the complainant's good faith, competent civil investigators decided not to open the case.

Archbishop, I make this recommendation to you with great confidence. Even so, I also recommend that you not accept it on the basis of my word and the attached information alone. May I suggest that you forward all of this to the Clergy Review Board for its "second-guessing"? I think that is important both to promote due process in this case and also to reinforce the restoration of Father Stolzman's good name.

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