

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

226 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-2197

The Chancery

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

May 5, 1988

Dr. Gary Schoener
Walk-In Counseling Center
2421 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Dear Dr. Schoener,

I am referring Father Robert Thurner to you. Father Thurner is currently pastor of St. Therese Parish in St. Paul.

In November, 1982, the Archdiocese became aware of an investigation that was being done by the Minnetonka Police Department, which was alleging that Father Thurner had been improperly involved in a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old boy. Father Thurner was called in by Archbishop Roach and asked whether or not this was true, and he indicated to Archbishop Roach that it was true. He also pointed out the fact that the boy's parents suspected that there may have been some inappropriate sexual contact, but that they did not in fact know that, and as far as we know, still do not know that. Father Thurner has not seen this young man for over 15 months and he stated to me, Bishop Carlson and Father Kevin McDonough that he does not intend to see this young man again, unless the young man would initiate the relationship. He also states that there has been nothing improper in the relationship since that initial experience in 1982.

Archbishop Roach demanded that Father Thurner stop the relationship when he spoke to him in 1982 and that he begin to see Dr. Joseph Gendron for treatment. He also left his assignment at St. John's Parish, Hopkins, and moved to his assignment in St. Paul. Father Thurner indicates that he saw Dr. Gendron on a monthly basis for a year following that, and that he felt it was a helpful relationship. Father Thurner is more than willing to release Dr. Gendron to speak with you regarding the therapeutic relationship that he had with Father Thurner.

It was evident from our meeting with Father Thurner that he is very open to an evaluation and a recommendation for further treatment and supervision. Therefore, I would ask you to provide as thorough an evaluation of Father Thurner's current psychological health as possible, as well as an assessment on your part for Father Thurner's future need for treatment as well as after-care and supervision and some kind of recommendations regarding appropriate ministry for him.

I would be pleased to talk to you about any of this if it would be helpful.

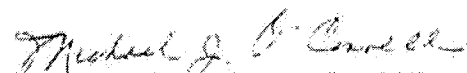
Dr. Gary Schoener
FATHER ROBERT THURNER

- 2 -

May 5, 1988
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Thank you very much for your consideration of this referral.

Sincerely,


Reverend Michael J. O'Connell
Vicar General
Moderator of the Curia

cc: Fr. Robert Thurner