

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: July 9, 1984  
MEMO TO: Archbishop Roach  
FROM: Bishop Carlson  
SUBJECT: FATHER THOMAS ADAMSON

On Friday, July 6th, 1984, Father Kevin McDonough and I met with the Reverend Thomas Adamson concerning certain charges which have been made by Gregory Riedle which currently is an inmate at the St. Cloud Reformatory. Mr. Riedle is at St. Cloud, having been charged with two incidents of exposure and indecent liberties with a minor.

In the counseling process at St. Cloud, it has become evident that Gregory was also sexually abused from 1978 to 1982. I asked Father Adamson about this and he admitted and, in fact, he had abused the boy during that period of time. I did not go into the sexual activity, but Father Adamson agreed that it probably would be first degree criminal sexual contact.

I informed Father Adamson that it is highly probable that this will be reported to the Washington County Attorney. According to information I have, this has not happened yet, but the psychologist at St. Cloud is not sure what he will do. In talking with one of the counselors at St. Cloud, he told me that a great deal will depend on what the Archdiocese does with Father Adamson.

I asked Father Adamson to see Dr. Gendron and recommended to him that he obtain a criminal attorney. I specifically recommended Mr. Ted Collins or Mr. Andrew Eisenzimmer. I told Father Adamson that the retaining of these attorneys was at his discretion and the financial burden at this point would be borne by him.

Further, I told Father Adamson that I will be in contact with him after I visited with the Archbishop and Bishop Watters. On Friday afternoon, I called Bishop Watters to inform him of the possible legal exposure and also to tell him that I had asked Father Adamson to see Dr. Gendron, obtain a criminal attorney and discuss this case with the Archbishop.

Father McDonough called Father Pat Griffin at Risen Savior, to apprise him of the possible charges, and Father Griffin noted that he would not be upset to have Father Adamson transferred. In fact, Father Griffin told Father McDonough that he was thinking of asking for Father Adamson's transfer in June of 1985.

In reviewing the file, it is clear that Father Adamson broke the original agreement by his involvement with the [REDACTED]. However, whether or not he broke the March 16th, 1983 agreement is up in the air. He did visit with Gregory Riedle at St. Cloud Reformatory about two weeks ago. The first point of the revised special agreement indicated he would have no youth contact.



FATHER THOMAS ADAMSON

RECOMMENDATION.

It is my recommendation, given the seriousness of our exposure, that the Archdiocese posture itself in such a way that any publicity will be minimized. I would recommend that in cooperation with Bishop Watters, that Father Adamson be sent to the Paracletes in Albuquerque, or to the House of Affirmation. It is obvious to me in dealing with Father Adamson at this time that he has little remorse other than the fact that we found something else out and completely minimizes the entire situation.

At one point in his treatment Dr. Gendron told me that Father Adamson will have to choose between his sexual problem and the priesthood. I would be hopeful that his time at the Paracletes or at the House of Affirmation, would push him towards the priesthood and perhaps some awareness of the sacred trust he carries. I have never been convinced that Father Adamson has come to grips with his priestly responsibility.

