ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility

P.O. Box 1979
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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-270

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator

Re: O'Brien, Rev. William [Resigned]

Date: April 28, 2006

Due to notification from Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests that Rev. William O'Brien resigned from the priesthood on April 21, 2006, the Individual Specific [monitoring] Protocols for the accused have ceased. The appropriate offices of the Archdiocese of Chicago are no longer able to monitor the former Fr. O'Brien now that he is a resigned priest of this diocese.

Cc Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Carol Fowler, Director of Personnel Services
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests
Deacon Richard Hudzik, Director of Cardinal Stritch Retreat House
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
John O'Malley, Director of Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

RECEIVED
MAY - 4 2006
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

REV. WILLIAM J. O'BRIEN
POST OFFICE BOX 455
MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS 60060

August 31, 2005

Francis Cardinal George
Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Dear Cardinal George,

Queen of Angels Parish is in need of a permanent Pastor. In light of my being placed on administrative leave not permitting me to engage in priestly ministry nor to return to Queen of Angels Parish, therefore, unable to exercise the duties of Pastor and realizing the length of time the process for determining my future may take, in the best interests of Queen of Angels Parish, I offer my resignation from the pastorate of this Parish.

I do this mindful of Canon 528, 1 which reads:

A pastor ceases from office by removal or transfer carried out by the diocesan bishop according to the norm of law, by resignation made by the pastor himself for a just cause and accepted by the same bishop for validity, and by lapse of time if he had been appointed for a definite period according to the prescripts of particular law mentioned in Canon 522.

In accord with the norm of Canon 189, I, the undersigned Rev. William J. O'Brien hereby resign from the office of pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago, effective September 1, 2005.

I ask your care for this grace filled Parish and people.

Rev. William J. O'Brien

Date: September 1, 2005

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION

In accord with the norm of Canon 538, 1, I accept the resignation of the Rev. William J. O'Brien as the Pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in the Archdiocese. I recognize that he has done this because he is impeded from effectively exercising the office of Pastor.

Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archbishop of Chicago

+ Basil Meeking
Witness

Date: September 1st 2005

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Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, October 15, 2005 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:
[redacted]

Review Board Members Present via Phone:
[redacted]

Non-members present:
Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

---

I. Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2005

- No objections or proposed changes to the agenda

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. **In the Matter of** [redacted]

B. In the Matter of [redacted]

C. In the Matter of [redacted]

D. In the Matter of Rev. William John O'Brien [Withdrawn 2005] – PFR 270

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the allegation made by [redacted]. The allegation is as follows: began with Fr. O'Brien kissing [redacted] on the lips to greet her and to say good-bye. [redacted] spoke of an incident when Fr. O'Brien asked her what kind of underwear she was wearing. When [redacted] was 17, Fr. O'Brien had her on his bed in his room in the rectory, pulled up her [redacted], lay on top of her and masturbated until he ejaculated on top of her. [redacted]

In a 7-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board also directed PRA to do the following:

- Speak with Revs. John McNamara and Martin O'Donovan regarding their past assignments with Fr. O'Brien.
- Request a signed response to [redacted] allegation from Fr. O'Brien.

E. In the Matter of [redacted]

F. In the Matter of [redacted]

<u>Review for Cause</u>

G. In the Matter of [redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

H. In the Matter of [redacted]

I. In the Matter of [redacted]

J. In the Matter of [redacted]

K. In the Matter of [redacted]

III. Other Matters

- Due to time constraints, a review of the "Other Matters" unable to be completed. The "Other Matters" will be placed on the agenda for the scheduled November 19, 2005 Review Board meeting.

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, November 19, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

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Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, July 16, 2005 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[redacted]

Members absent:

[redacted]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

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I. Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2005

- All six matters involving the former [redacted] [see pages 2-4], were presented to the Review Board for a Review for Cause; it was mistakenly recorded that the cases were presented for Initial Reviews
- The Board then unanimously approved the minutes 7-0

II. Case Reviews

Review for Cause

A. In the Matter of [redacted]

[redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

B. In the Matter of [redacted]

C. In the Matter of [redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

D. In the Matter of Rev. William J. O'Brien [Temporarily Withdrawn 2005]–PFR - 270
The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [redacted] The allegation is as follows: mutual oral sex, kissing, in bed naked with each other, sexual intercourse.

In a 7-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. Further, the Board recommends that Fr. O'Brien's withdrawal from ministry continues as well as the current restrictions and monitoring imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

E. In the Matter of [redacted]

III. Supplementary Review

F. In the Matter of [redacted]

IV. Review for Advice

G. In the Matter of [redacted]

V. Other Matters

- [redacted] informed the Board members of the planned in-service scheduled for the August 20, 2005 Review Board meeting
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

- [redacted]
- Fr. Smilanic informed Board of his responsibility to gather a nominating committee in order to identify three deacon candidates to present to Cardinal George; the Cardinal will then appoint a deacon to fulfill the third cleric position on the Board
- [redacted] requested that the Board members begin to think about completing a "self-evaluation" and what is going well with the Board and what is not
- [redacted] suggested the possibility of an off-site retreat for the Board; all discussed support of a retreat to possibly take place in early 2006
- [redacted] requested that all bring calendars to the August 20th Board meeting in attempts to schedule a day for a retreat
- PRA discussed need to have packets of information [sent to Board members to review for scheduled meetings] signed for upon delivery; agreed that Board members would have the choice of where [home, office, other] and when [Saturday or Monday before scheduled meetings] to have packets sent; such information will be communicated to PRA's Administrative Assistant, Laura Neri-Palomino
- As of August 20th scheduled Board meeting, receipt of packets sent to Board members will require a signature
- [redacted] will not be present at the September 17, 2005 scheduled Board meeting

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, August 20, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator
312-751-5205
lmccluskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP
Assistant Administrator
312-867-8793
pzacharias@archchicago.org

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
1-800-994-6200
312-751-5279 (fax)

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, October 21, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:
[redacted]

Review Board Members Absent:
[redacted]

Non-members present:
Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

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- [redacted] introduced as new member of the Review Board, fulfilling the deacon position on the Board; due to accepting Cardinal George's appointment to the Review Board on Friday, October 20, 2006, [redacted] did not vote on any matters presented during the October 21, 2006 meeting

I. **Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2006**
- Minutes approved 6-0 [[redacted] was not yet present]
- [redacted]

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. In the Matter of [redacted]

B. In the Matter of [redacted]

III. Review for Cause

C. In the Matter of [redacted]

D. In the Matter of [redacted]

[redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

E. In the Matter of Rev. William O'Brien [Resigned/Laicized] – PFR 270

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause of [redacted] allegation of sexual misconduct against the former Rev. William O'Brien. A summary of the allegation is as follows: while on a trip to [redacted], [redacted] had to share a room with Fr. O'Brien in all hotels that they stayed in; three incidents that [redacted] can recall which included fondling over and under clothing, oral sex, Fr. O'Brien requesting that [redacted] perform oral sex on him [redacted] refused], and Fr. O'Brien masturbating and ejaculating in front of [redacted]
PRA provided all present Board members with copies of Patty Zacharias' August 18, 2006 memorandum regarding this matter.

In a 7-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

F. In the Matter of [redacted]

G. In the Matter of [redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

V. **Other Matters**
- 2007 Review Board schedule

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, November 18, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General

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Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, January 21, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present: [redacted]

Review Board Members Absent:
None

Non-members present:
Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

---

I. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2005

- Changes made and to be indicated on Revised December 3, 2005 Agenda for distribution
- Expressed concern by Review Board members regarding Cardinal George's corrections made to the December 3, 2005 minutes; PRA noted to Board members that the corrections made by the Cardinal were corrections to his own comments made during his presence/contribution to the December 3, 2005 meeting
- After corrections recorded by PRA, the minutes from the December 3, 2005 meeting were approved

II. Other Matters

[redacted]

[redacted]

III. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. In the Matter of [redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

In the Matter of

Review for Cause

In the Matter of Rev. William J. O'Brien [Withdrawn 2005] – PFR-270

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause of the allegation made by The allegation is as follows: Fr. O'Brien spent much time with beginning when she worked at St. Symphorosa rectory. Began with Fr. O'Brien kissing on the lips to greet her and to say good-bye. spoke of an incident when Fr. O'Brien asked her what kind of underwear she was wearing. was 17 when Fr. O'Brien reassigned to St. Cajetan's. When she was 17, Fr. O'Brien had on his bed in his room in the rectory, pulled up her , lay on top of her and masturbated until he ejaculated on top of her.

In a 8-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. Further, the Board determined that Fr. O'Brien's withdrawal from ministry continue as well as the current restrictions and monitoring that have been imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

Other Matters [continued]

In the Matter of

-

- [redacted]

IV. Discussion

- [redacted]
- Some discussion by Board members about the upcoming February 11, 2006 In-Service

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor

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Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office

P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-534-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Review Board Meeting
Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:
[redacted]

Review Board Members Not Present:
[redacted]

Non-members Present:
Leah McCluskey, Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Rev. Jeffrey Grob, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. **Approval of Minutes** – November 21, 2009
- Minutes approved

II. **Case Reviews**
Initial Review
A. **In the Matter of** [redacted]

AOC 004234

B. In the Matter of

C. In the Matter of William J. O'Brien (Laicized 2006) - PFR- 270

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against the former Rev. William J. O'Brien. A summary of the allegation is as follows: Fr. O'Brien fondled over and under his clothing. Fr. O'Brien had sleep in the same bed together while both wearing only their underwear. Fr. O'Brien performed oral sex on

Ms. McCluskey provided the Review Board with a verbal overview and update of the investigation of this matter.

In light of the information presented, the Board determined that this matter warrants additional investigation.

D. In the Matter of

Review for Cause

E. In the Matter of

F. In the Matter of

G. In the Matter of

[redacted]

III. Request for Supplementary Review

H. In the Matter of [redacted]

I. In the Matter of [redacted]

IV. Other Matters

[redacted]

In the Matter of [redacted]

- [redacted]

Next tentatively scheduled meeting is Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim Y's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey via phone on October 17, 2005, formalizing his allegation of sexual abuse against Fr. William O'Brien. Victim Y reported that he was sexually abused by Fr. William O'Brien in Europe sometime prior to 1983, but did not provide the date, number of incidents, or his age at the time of the abuse.

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MEMORANDUM

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TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Rev. Vince Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Patricia Zacharias, Office of Professional Responsibility

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, LNP Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: October 10, 2005

RE: **[PFR-270] O'Brien, William J. (Withdrawn)/**[redacted]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 10/10/05. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [redacted] Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding O'Brien, William/[redacted]

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Rev. George Rassas, Vicar General

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-270

From: Laura A. Neri-Palomino LNP

Re: O'Brien, Rev. William (Withdrawn) [redacted]

Date: October 10, 2005

I received a phone call from [redacted] this morning stating that he was allegedly abused by Fr. Bill O'Brien in 1975 while [redacted] was a seminarian. [redacted] said that a bulletin notice is what prompted him to call the Professional Responsibility Administrator but that her voice mail message said that she would be out of town this week and in her absence to contact her assistant.

[redacted] stated that the alleged abuse occurred on a trip [redacted] with Fr. O'Brien [redacted] continued by saying that he was 17 years old [redacted] at the time of the alleged abuse. [redacted] said that Fr. O'Brien drank quite heavily and treated him like a "Boy Toy."

[redacted]

I told [redacted] that I would pass on this information to the PRA and that she would be in contact with him as soon as possible.

[redacted] can be reached at home after 5:30 pm at [redacted] He lives in [redacted]

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim Z's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on July 6, 2005, formalizing her allegation of abuse against Rev. William O'Brien. The alleged abuse consisted of suggestive comments made towards Victim Z and a single incident in which Fr. O'Brien ejaculated on Victim Z when she was a minor. The alleged abuse occurred in the summer of 1981 at the St. Cajetan's parish rectory.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Review Board Members

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator

Re: O'Brien, Rev. William [Active]

Date: May 26, 2005

PRA reviewed Rev. William O'Brien's file in the Vicar for Priests office today, and the following is a summary of material information in the file. [redacted] formalized his allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against Fr. O'Brien on May 23, 2005.

- **Mid-1980s**: the Vicar for Priests Office was notified of an alleged affair between Fr. O'Brien and a married adult female
- **Mid-1980s**: the Vicar for Priests Office was notified of an alleged sexual relationship between Fr. O'Brien and another adult female
- **September 3, 1990**: memo to file that a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago reported to Bishop Raymond Goedert that Fr. O'Brien sexually assaulted a nun; the nun was not identified for reason of confidentiality; the alleged sexual assault took place 11 years prior to September 1993; the Archdiocesan priest who had reported the alleged abuse also reported that a man who was then incarcerated for murdering his wife alleged that she had been "fooling around" with Fr. O'Brien
- **1993**: Archdiocese of Chicago made a financial settlement regarding the first case mentioned above; Fr. O'Brien cooperated with all that was asked of him as a result of this alleged affair
- **May 1993**: memo to file that Fr. O'Brien had requested a retreat in September 1993; to take a sabbatical in Rome from September 1994 through December 1994; Fr. O'Brien also requested to become a pastor upon his return from his proposed 1994 sabbatical unless he was "...too much of a liability...," in which case he proposed that he would prepare for another type of ministry such as becoming a military chaplain or teacher
- **November 1993**: memo to file that Fr. O'Brien expressed his feeling that he did not believe that he would act out again as he had in the past; as per Fr. O'Brien, he stated that he had taken precautions in his personal life to ensure "...that those situations would be handled properly next time around. If they do occur, he says he is ready to handle them in an appropriate manner. He wishes to remain a priest

- and knows that there will be a price to be paid personally for that. He is willing to pay that price."
- **November 1993**: memo to file that Fr. O'Brien have a monitor with him while on sabbatical in Rome beginning in September 1994 and ending in December 1994;
- **June 2000**: anonymous letter written to the family [parents] of an alleged female victim of Fr. O'Brien; letter extremely vulgar and alleged that Fr. O'Brien raped this girl when she was under the age of 18
- **June 2000**: anonymous letter written to the alleged female victim of Fr. O'Brien; letter extremely vulgar
- **July 7, 2000**: Kathleen Leggdas, former Professional Responsibility Administrator met with alleged victim, [redacted] denied any abuse under the age of 18 and also denied any abuse/relationship with Fr. O'Brien as an adult
- **October 2000**: anonymous letter [in same handwriting as letters from June 2000] addressed to Fr. O'Brien; letter extremely vulgar, threatening and alleged that Fr. O'Brien had a sexual relationship with [redacted]
- **October 2000**: anonymous letters [also in same handwriting as previous letters from June 2000 and October 2000] addressed to Fr. O'Brien and [redacted] parents, respectively; letters extremely vulgar, threatening, and spoke of alleged sexual relationship between Fr. O'Brien and [redacted]
- John O'Malley, Director of Legal Services brought aforementioned letters to Chicago Police Department; handwriting analysis inconclusive; author of letters never identified

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

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Office of Assistance Ministry

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Fax: (312) 751-8307

MEMORANDUM

TO: Frances Cardinal George, O.M.I.

Cc: Bishop Francis Kane
Rev. Robert Heidenrich
Rev. George Rassas
Jimmy Lago
PCAC Members
Colleen Dolan
Jim Dwyer

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FROM: Ralph Bonaccorsi RB
Mayra Flores MF

RE: **Parish Pastoral Intervention – Queen of Angels Parish [re: Rev. William O'Brien]**

DATE: August 26, 2005

As we reflect on the numerous meetings with parish staff members, Parish Council members and parishioners at Queen of Angels to update them throughout the process concerning the status of their pastor, Fr. Bill O'Brien, we wanted to share some comments and our own insights:

TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF REV. WILLIAM O'BRIEN

When Fr. O'Brien was temporarily withdrawn in June, a group of archdiocesan leadership, that included Bishop Francis Kane, Frs. James Kaczorowski and Grace, and the two of us, met in the parish hall, first with parish staff members then immediately after with some members of the Parish Council. As you might expect, emotions were high. Most expressed shock and disbelief. Bishop Kane explained that he would read the prepared statement at each of the weekend masses and then be present to the people to listen, to answer questions and to comfort those seeking consolation.

Members of the Pastoral Council and parish staff were cooperative and expressed a willingness to be helpful during the stressful time. Some agreed to be present during the weekend masses to join with the Bishop in responding to the needs of their friends and fellow parishioners.

AOC 004245

Assistance Ministry inquired about the needs Hispanic Community of the parish. We were told that the announcement would not impact the Hispanic Community. It was said that the Hispanic Community did not identify Fr. O'Brien as "their pastor."

Fr. Tom Lamping offered to inform the Hispanic Leadership of the turn of events and the plan for the weekend at their regularly scheduled meeting prior to the 12:30 mass on Sunday.

Per the principal's request, the school faculty was invited to, and gathered before, the Saturday mass to inform them of the situation prior to the public announcement (Ralph was present for this meeting). The purpose of the meeting of teachers was to prepare them to be *present* to their students in helpful ways on Monday morning...the last day of the school year before summer vacation. Assistance Ministry arranged for a psychologist/counselor to be present at the school on that Monday for faculty, students, and/or parents, as needed.

Reading of the Announcement: Saturday & Sunday, June 4-5, 2005:

Assistance Ministry and Bishop Kane were present after the Saturday evening mass and all of the Sunday masses the weekend of June 4-5, 2005. As Bishop Kane read the announcement, it was clear that parishioners were in disbelief. After the masses most parishioners spoke with either Bishop Kane or parish staff/council members who were present. Handouts and office brochures (in English and Spanish) were available for the taking at the back of the church.

On Sunday, Fr. Lamping met with the Hispanic leadership prior to the Spanish mass. Mayra was also present. Contrary to what we had been told, Hispanic leadership was very much affected by the announcement. They spoke warmly of their relationship with their pastor, Fr. O'Brien, and the hurt they were experiencing with the situation. They asked if there was anything they could do (i.e., *testify* on behalf of Fr. O'Brien) that might reverse the withdrawal. They then offered prayers of support for Fr. O'Brien. On hearing the letter being read during the 12:30 mass, many parishioners became emotional.

Between masses, the bishop asked to gather in the rectory to debrief. Some feedback was offered (i.e., that the letter/announcement was not pastoral enough).

During the days that followed, Assistance Ministry was in contact with the designated parish contact person, Mrs. Deb Madden. We reminded Mrs. Madden of the resources available to the parish community.

CARDINAL'S ACCEPTANCE OF REVIEW BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WITHDRAWAL

A second parish leadership meeting took place on the evening of Thursday, August 11, for parish staff members and Parish Council members. Archdiocesan leadership present included Bishop Francis Kane, Frs. Patrick Lagges, Ed Grace, Vince Costello and Ralph. Most parish staff members and some council members were present. Fr. Heidenrich, Administrator, was also present for the meeting. Bishop Kane announced that you had accepted the Review Board's recommendation that Fr. O'Brien's withdrawal from ministry continue, and that the case was referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith.

AOC 004246

Parish leadership had specific questions regarding the Canonical process. Fr. Lagges was able to address those questions with more clarity and competence. There was discussion about informing the parish family during the weekend (August 13-14, 2005) masses, and providing appropriate outreach. Parish staff /council members did not feel the need to be present after the masses, but suggested that the bishop and Assistance Ministry be available in an area more conducive for private conversations.

Following those suggestions, Bishop Kane, Assistance Ministry met with parishioners after each weekend mass to answer questions, hear parishioners' concerns and offer clarification of the archdiocesan and canonical processes. (Few parishioners took advantage of the opportunity.)

Dr. Susan George, psychologist, assisted parishioners in dealing with, and understanding, the emotions they were experiencing. Copies of Bishop Kane's letter (in English and Spanish) were available for parishioners as well. Those who did were supportive of Fr. O'Brien, and/or critical of the Archdiocese for its practice of *"leaving priests out to dry"*. All were saddened by the new developments.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- Some parishioners expressed a wish that a new pastor be named as soon as possible to allow for further healing before the holidays.

- There was strong negativity against the Victim. Some parishioners accused him of "*being in it for the money*" or believing that he was part of SNAP and therefore couldn't be trusted. Some parishioners couldn't understand how you (and the Review Board) could withdraw Fr. O'Brien solely based on the fact that the Victim was able to identify the layout of Fr. O'Brien's private room (at St. Cajetans). When it was pointed out that the decision to withdraw was based on much more than *"a memory"* (or a *knee-jerk* reaction), people were reassured, and perceptions of some were modified.

- There is a vibrant Hispanic Community that appears to be treated as an auxiliary community. It appears they've not been integrated into the Queen of Angels Parish Family. Assistance Ministry draws that conclusion from the following:

    - The lack of consideration for the Hispanic leadership as shown by their absence from the meetings of parish leadership and staff, leaves us to question the willingness of the parish community/leadership to welcome and include Hispanics in the dynamics of parish life. It seemed as though the Hispanic Community are treated as tenants, *renting* space for worship, though it appeared that the most populated mass (if not the most vibrant) was the Hispanic Mass.

    - Neither the Hispanic deacon nor other members of the Hispanic Community was invited to the parish leadership meetings.

- Fr. O'Brien has many supporters in the parish. His wishes were conveyed/evident in the conversations that took place during the parish leadership meetings.

- Some parishioners expressed a distrust of the archdiocesan process calling it "duplicitous".
- Bishop Kane was very generous to the people of the parish who approached him. We believe his pastoral and patient presence helped people to understand the seriousness of the matter, and at the same time to feel listened to and *cared for*.
- Fr. Lamping is directly responsible to minister to the large Hispanic Community; likely a larger task than any one person should be expected to shoulder.

Cardinal George, this is a diverse community with a lot of young families (English and Spanish). During our time at the parish, it has become rather clear that parishioners are anxious that their next pastor be able to carry on the momentum that Fr. O'Brien generated. The devotion of the staff (and some parishioners) has for Fr. O'Brien may prove to be a barrier to a new pastor in his efforts to achieve acceptance. Parish Council members as well as parishioners expect to be consulted in the process to name the new pastor.

Please let us know if you would like to discuss this further. Peace.

AOC 004248

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To: File
From: Ed Grace
Date: August 30, 2005
RE: Father Bill O'Brien

Today Bill came to our office for the reading of an allegation made against him by [redacted] The allegation was read by Leah McCluskey. Msgr. Mark Bartchuk, Bill's Canonical Advocate listened to the reading via speaker phone.

Following the reading of the allegation Bill spoke privately with Msgr. Bartchuk.

After the conversation I spoke for a few minutes with Bill.

- Bill expressed concern lest there be another reading of a letter concerning this allegation at his former parishes. I said I did not believe this was our policy.
- I spoke to Bill of our desire that he resign as Pastor of Queen of Angels. I gave him a sample form for Resignation from Pastorate.
- Bill indicated he had intended to bring up the subject himself.
- He seemed ready to proceed.
- He indicated that he would fax a copy of our resignation form to Msgr. Bartchuk and then get back to me.

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Office of Assistance Ministry

Post Office Box 1979
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi

FROM: Mayra Flores

RE: **Queen of Angels – Conversation with Bishop Frank Kane**

DATE: July 19, 2005

Bishop Kane returned our phone call today. I informed him that you had wished to tell him that the Review Board had made a recommendation to Cardinal George regarding the Fr. William O'Brien matter. The Cardinal accepted the Review Board's recommendation that there is "reasonable cause to suspect [that the priest engaged in the sexual misconduct of a minor]." Because of the acceptance by the Cardinal, Fr. O'Brien's status has been changed from temporarily withdrawn to withdrawn. Bishop Kane said that he would share the information with Queen of Angels' administrator, Fr. Robert Heidenrich, this afternoon with the caveat that Fr. Heidenrich keeps the information confidential until a plan can be developed to inform parish staff members and the parish-at-large.

On a related matter, much like Fr. Heidenrich had expressed in an earlier conversation, Bishop Kane is also concerned with Fr. [redacted] open opposition to the Dallas Charter and his rousing parishioner support for Fr. O'Brien's return. Bishop Kane plans to enlist Fr. Edward Grace's intervention with Fr. [redacted], but would appreciate whatever assistance we can provide as well.

Bishop Kane was appreciative of the information. We concluded the conversation agreeing to consult at the necessary time to coordinate efforts to inform the parish of the new development.

Bishop Francis Kane
773/388-8670

O'BRIEN, Rev. William John

Date of birth	Ordained
[redacted]	5/9/73

Nationality Irish

William J. O'Brien

Extraordinary Appointment

Date Appointed	Assignment	Charge	Date Left
5/9/73	Saint Jude the Apostle (South Holland)	Assistant	TCC:6-9-78
May 1975	Elected Senator		
TNW 3-19-76	To be Associate Chaplain of the South Suburban Serra Club, while retaining his present duties and residence at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, South Holland.	Associate Chaplain	
TNW 12-10-76	Metropolitan Tribunal, while retaining full time position as Associate, St. Jude Apostle, South Holland	Procurator/ Advocate	
TCC:6-9-78	St. Symphorosa Church, Chicago	Associate	ltr eff:6-8-81
TCC:3-13-81	Office director of the Office for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith while retaining duties at St. Symphorosa	Assoc. Director	
Ltr eff:6-8-81	St. Cajetan Church, Chicago, w/ primary duties as Associate Director of Propagation of the Faith.	Assoc. Pastor will reside and assist Pastorally	2/1/86
TCC 1-29-82	Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Holy Childhood Assn. of the Archdiocese, with continuing residence at St. Cajetan Parish 1134 S. Artesian.	DIRECTOR	
TCC: 9-24-82	MASTER OF CEREMONIES		
2/1/86	Queen of Angels, Chicago while retaining duties as Director of Propogation of the Faith	RESIDENT	
07/01/95	Queen of Angels	Administrator	05/29/96
05/29/96	Queen of Angels	Pastor	
05/29/02	Queen of Angels (2nd Term)	Pastor	

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676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 751-5205

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INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS
For

Rev. William O'Brien

The Individual Specific Protocols (ISP) implement the primary goal of promoting the safety of minors. Additionally, the ISP protects the integrity of the Church and serves as a safeguard for individual priest or deacon. As long as the cleric is a client of the Office of Professional Responsibility, he will be subject to appropriate protocols, restrictions and monitoring under the authority of the Vicar for Priests and supervised by the Professional Responsibility Administrator (PRA). The agreement of a priest or deacon to abide by these protocols is not understood to prove the truth of any allegation and is not intended to be an admission of guilt for any delict or crime, whether in Canon Law, or State and Federal Law. This agreement represents the cooperation of the cleric with his bishop as he exercises his pastoral office (e.g., Canons 369 and 392).

This ISP for Rev. William O'Brien is as follows (PRA to initial all that apply):

1. The client is restricted from being alone with a minor or minors, that is anyone under the age of 18, without the presence of another responsible adult.

2. [redacted]

3. ___ Continued regular Spiritual Direction with the suggested frequency of ____ times per week/month (please circle one) as recommended by _____ (name of spiritual director). Attendance to Spiritual Direction is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.

4. ___ The "Clergy Daily Log" to be completed on a daily basis and co-signed by the monitor. The log is a tool that is used for the protection of minors, the cleric, the monitor and the Archdiocese. Although it identifies time periods, it is intended to provide a general record of the day rather than a detailed clock. If you are describing an off-site activity, please include your destination and the general purpose of the visit or activity. For example, it is enough to indicate that you did personal shopping at a given Shopping Center rather than the details of each individual store. However, if your self-description is challenged or a complaint is lodged with the Archdiocese, some documentation and verification may be necessary to sufficiently address the situation.

5. ___ Abide by the assignment of residence to Cardinal Stritch Retreat House

6. Must complete and submit the "Travel/Vacation Agreement", and obtain concurrence with the Agreement, prior to a scheduled departure. In the event of a prolonged stay in a particular location, the Archdiocese is required to notify the Ordinary of that place of your presence there.

7. ____ Attendance at a recommended support group _____ (please indicate specific support group). Recommended frequency of ____ times per week/month (please circle one). Attendance at a recommended support group is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.

8. No inappropriate use of computers, software, Internet capabilities, communications tools or video technology. The standards articulated in the *Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago* and the *Handbook For Archdiocesan Employees* apply as they do to all Archdiocesan personnel.

9. No ministerial participation in the public celebration of the Eucharist or any other Sacrament or Sacramental without the prior, written permission of the Vicar for Priests.

10. Refrain from wearing any garb that would give the appearance of, or seem to infer, a priest/deacon who has canonical faculties and is currently assigned to some ministry (e.g., the 'clerical shirt').

11. On-site visits by the PRA and the VP annually to include a meeting with the cleric.

This Individual Specific Protocol is to be reviewed annually with PRA, VP, and the cleric. Also, there can be additional, written notations tailored to the needs of a specific situation which are signed by all parties and appended to this document. Any change or alteration to this agreement will involve consultation with the cleric, his monitor, the PRA, and the VP. The cleric, his monitor, the PRA, or the VP can initiate the discussion for change or alteration, or request that this Individual Specific Protocol be reviewed by the Professional Responsibility Review Board. At the discretion of any of the parties, the legal and/or canonical counsel of the cleric may be involved in the discussions.

I have reviewed, understand, and agree to all of these individual specific Protocols.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature of PRA: _____ Date: 6/21/05

Signature of VP: _____ Date: 6/21/05

Additional, written notations appended to this document? yes ☐ no ☐

(Revised 1/XII/04)

To be read by Most. Rev. Francis J. Kane, Auxiliary Bishop and Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate II, at Masses on June 4 - 5, 2005.

Dear members of the Queen of Angels Parish family,

I stand before you today with great sadness, because I have painful news to share.

Your pastor, Fr. Bill O'Brien, has been temporarily withdrawn as pastor of Queen of Angels Parish pending further inquiry and following an allegation received by officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago that he engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. The sexual misconduct is alleged to have occurred approximately 25 years ago while Fr. O'Brien served as an associate pastor at St. Cajetan Parish in Chicago. This allegation has been reported to the Cook County State's Attorney.

The independent Review Board of the Archdiocese in its initial review determined that the matter warranted further inquiry and recommended that Fr. O'Brien be withdrawn from parish ministry pending this inquiry. Cardinal George accepted the Board's recommendation. Pending further review, Fr. O'Brien is cooperating with archdiocesan officials and now is residing in a monitored and restricted setting.

If anyone has additional information or a concern to raise regarding Fr. O'Brien, please contact our Archdiocesan Professional Responsibility Administrator directly at 1-800-994-6200. You may also contact the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney at 312-603-5440 or the Office of the Lake County State's Attorney at 847-377-3000.

This is very difficult news to share and even more difficult, I know, to hear. If there is more information about the situation to share, it will be shared.

For the time being, Fr. Bob Heidenreich, the area dean and pastor of nearby St. Benedict Parish, has agreed to serve as administrator for your parish. I have assured him and the rest of your pastoral staff that they shall have any additional assistance they need going forward.

May I ask that you join me now to pray for all people in need of the Lord's peace and healing: for the adult who brought this concern to the Archdiocese, for Fr. O'Brien, and for all those affected by the horror of sexual abuse.

Please know that Cardinal George is praying for the people of Queen of Angels Parish at this difficult time. Be assured that I shall also keep you in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Francis J. Kane
Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate II

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Questions regarding Fr. William J. O'Brien
DRAFT 4

Q: What is the nature of the situation?

A: **Fr. O'Brien is accused of having committed sexual abuse of a minor male approximately 25 years ago when he was associate pastor at St. Cajetan Parish, located on Chicago's far southwest side.** (If pressed to be more specific) **To protect the privacy of the accuser, we cannot discuss the details of this matter.**

In accordance with archdiocesan policies, the matter was considered by the independent Review Board of the Archdiocese, which, in its initial review, determined that the matter warranted further inquiry and recommended that Fr. O'Brien be withdrawn from parish ministry pending this inquiry. Cardinal George accepted the Board's recommendation.

Also in accord with archdiocesan policies, the allegation has been reported to the Cook County State's Attorney.

Pending further review, Fr. O'Brien is cooperating with archdiocesan officials and now is residing in a monitored and restricted setting.

Q: What is the status of Fr. O'Brien?

A: **Fr. O'Brien has been temporarily withdrawn from ministry, pending further review of the situation, and is living in a monitored and restricted setting.**

Q. Why is this withdrawal "temporary"?

A. **It is temporary by virtue of the fact that the process is still ongoing...[if pressed]: The Review Board has advised that the matter warrants additional inquiry, and the final determination is yet to be made.**

Q: When and how was the Archdiocese contacted about this matter?

A: **An adult man first informed the Archdiocese in April, 2005, about the alleged abuse with Fr. O' Brien approximately 25 years ago when the accuser was a teen-aged minor.**

Q: Where did the relationship take place?

A: **To protect the privacy of the accuser, we will not provide such specific information. The relationship occurred during the period of time Fr. O'Brien served as an associate at St. Cajetan.**

Q: Did the Archdiocese offer help of any kind to the accuser?

A: **In accordance with the policy of the Archdiocese, the accuser has been offered assistance, which includes therapy and spiritual counseling.**

Questions regarding Fr. O'Brien—2

Q: Have other reports of sexual misconduct with minors been made against O'Brien?

A: **Yes. An anonymous third party made an allegation against Fr. O'Brien of sexual misconduct with a minor some years ago. This prompted an interview of the alleged victim, who, by that time, was an adult. The alleged victim denied that the allegation was true. However, in accordance with archdiocesan policies and procedures, the matter was reported to civil authorities.**

Q: Has he ever been accused of misconduct with adults? What do you do when an allegation of adult misconduct is made against a priest?

A. **Yes [there have been concerns re: adult misconduct]. [If pressed:] Out of respect for the privacy of those involved, we will not offer more information.**

[As needed:]
Because we take charges of adult misconduct seriously, the Archdiocese has guidelines and procedures that include assessment of a priest's ability to continue ministry. Based on the findings, a priest can be placed on administrative leave, even be removed entirely from ministry, should circumstances warrant.

In accordance with the policy of the Archdiocese, the adults involved are offered assistance, which includes therapy and spiritual counseling.

Q: Why doesn't the Church reexamine the issue of celibacy and allow priests to marry?

A: **Celibacy is a commitment freely chosen by those who are ordained priests of the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church. Sexual misconduct is not limited to celibates.**

Q: How long has Fr. O'Brien been a priest?

A: **He was ordained in May of 1973 and is 57 years old.**

Q: Where has Fr. O'Brien served?

A: **Prior to Queen of Angels, he served as first associate director and then director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. At that same time, he was an associate pastor at St. Cajetan. Previously, he served as an associate pastor at St. Symphorosa, Chicago. After ordination, he was first assigned to St. Jude the Apostle Parish, South Holland.**

Q: Was the parish leadership contacted about the allegations?

A: **Yes – earlier this week the parish staff and the parish council were informed of all this information before it was shared with the parish as a whole.**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Vicariate II

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

773/388-8670
Fax: 773/388-8676

Read by Most. Rev. Francis J. Kane, Auxiliary Bishop and Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate II, at Masses on June 4 - 5, 2005.

Dear members of the Queen of Angels Parish family,

I stand before you today with great sadness, because I have painful news to share.

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For the time being, Fr. Bob Heidenreich, the area dean and pastor of nearby St. Benedict Parish, has agreed to serve as administrator for your parish. I have assured him and the rest of your pastoral staff that they shall have any additional assistance they need going forward.

May I ask that you join me now to pray for all people in need of the Lord's peace and healing: for the adult who brought this concern to the Archdiocese, for Fr. O'Brien, and for all those affected by the horror of sexual abuse.

Please know that Cardinal George is praying for the people of Queen of Angels Parish at this difficult time. Be assured that I shall also keep you in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Francis Kane

Most Rev. Francis J. Kane
Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate II

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Fr. William J. O'Brien

Born: [redacted]
Ordained: May, 1973

• Assistant Pastor	St. Jude, South Holland	May, 1973 – June, 1978
• Associate Pastor	St. Symphorosa	June, 1978 – June, 1981
• Associate Director, Director	Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Holy Childhood Assn.	Feb., 1981 – July, 1995
• Associate Pastor	St. Cajetan	June 1981 – Feb., 1986
• Associate Pastor	Queen of Angels	Feb., 1986- July, 1995
• Administrator	Queen of Angels	Jul, 1995- May, 1996
• Pastor	Queen of Angels	May, 1996 - Present

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
✓ Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, LNP Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: May 3, 2005

RE: **[PFR-270]O'Brien, Rev. William John (Active)**[redacted]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 4/29/05. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [redacted] Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding O'Brien, Rev. William John[redacted]

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Rev. George Rassas, Vicar General

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim AA's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on May 2, 2005, formalizing his allegation of abuse against Rev. William O'Brien. Victim AA reported that the alleged sexual abuse occurred at St. Cajetan's parish in 1983, when Victim AA was 16 years old.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Cardinal George

FROM: Fr. McBrady

RE: Your Visit to Queen of Angels Parish

DATE: October 20, 2000

Several months ago Fr. Bill O'Brien and Bishop Conway each received a number of anonymous letters alleging that Bill had engaged in sexual activity with a female minor. [redacted] After a time, the letters ceased.

Now the letters have resumed. As in the past, they allege Bill has been involved with an underage female.

I wish to assure you this matter is being carefully examined. [redacted]

The author of the anonymous letters threatens to bring this to your attention when you visit Queen of Angels. While I do not believe this will happen, I want you to know the threat has been made.

I will keep you informed as the situation unfolds. Please call me if you would like any additional information.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Kathleen Leggdas, Office of Professional Fitness Review Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Fitness Review, of a meeting with Victim AB, which took place on July 7, 2000. Victim AB reported that she had not been abused in any way by Rev. William O'Brien, nor had she voluntarily engaged in any sexual conduct with Fr. O'Brien, as alleged in anonymous letters received by archdiocesan officials.

Wm. O'Brien

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

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May 29, 1996

Dear Father O'Brien:

It is my pleasure to appoint you as Pastor of Queen of Angels Parish, Chicago. This appointment is made in consultation with the Diocesan Priests' Placement Board as well as the Vicar and Dean. This appointment is effective immediately. Your term of office will be for six years but will officially remain in effect until you are reappointed or transferred or your successor is named.

Bishop Conway will act as my delegate in receiving your Profession of Faith. I ask that you contact him regarding your formal installation.

Bill, I take this occasion to thank you for your service at Queen of Angels these past years. I know that your ministry there has touched the lives of the people of God. I am grateful for your work as Administrator over these past several months. The experience you have had in the past will be most helpful as you take up this new responsibility. Know that as you begin this pastoral charge you have my encouragement and prayerful support.

With your staff and the good people of Queen of Angels parish, please continue the important process of pastoral, ministerial, educational, financial and parish facilities planning and development which you have alread begun with energy and success. Be assured of my continued personal support in these endeavors.

In keeping with the recommendation of the Presbyteral Council, I ask that you participate in the Pastor in the 90's Program offered by the Center for Development in Ministry. Please call the Center to register for this program, which is held in the Spring and Autumn of each year. The fee will be paid by the Pastoral Center as a sign of our support for you in your ministry.

With gratitude for your cooperation and with cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph Card. Bernardin
Archbishop of Chicago

Rev Clement Boland
Ecclesiastical Notary

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Memo
To: Cardinal Bernardin
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 3/11/95
Re: William O'Brien

Fr. Canary and I met with Fr. O'Brien on Friday, 3/10/95. We discussed the points we had made with you earlier. We counseled Fr. O'Brien to speak personally with [redacted] to inform him of the past relationship to [redacted] Fr. O'Brien said he has been thinking about that for a long time and has actually rehearsed it in his mind a number of times.

We all agreed that he should not do that immediately because [redacted] is going through a change of assignment right now and is under some stress. Our recommendation was that he do it some time after July 1. He agreed to do so.

Fr. O'Brien feels that he has in some ways made a statement to [redacted] about his relationship to [redacted] It was not a straight out declaration, but he feels that there was an understanding.

We still feel that there is risk to the archdiocese here, but it is minimalized somewhat if [redacted] knows the situation. As you know, this was our biggest consideration in terms of assigning Bill. You have talked about making him the administrator when Phil Dressler leaves Queen of Angels. That seems to be an acceptable step right now. Perhaps naming him the pastor after a decent interval once we see if there is any feedback on the appointment might be a way to go. There is no doubt in our minds that Bill could do a good job there.

Bill himself also indicated a concern about Phil Dressler. He seems to feel that Phil needs some encouragement from you at this time. But I know that he has communicated that to you already.

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Memo to File
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 2/28/95
Re: Rev. William O'Brien

I spoke to Bill O'Brien today. He had called as a follow up to the letter he had received from the Cardinal. The Cardinal told him he would like to assign him as administrator initially of Queen of Angels,and then perhaps as pastor once Phil Dressler is reassigned. He did say that O'Brien should see the Vicars to clear up one more point.

We need to talk to O'Brien about his need to tell the [redacted] family or specifically [redacted] about his relationship with [redacted]. We feel that this is essential for the protection of both the Cardinal, the [redacted] family, and ultimately Bill O'Brien.

O'Brien was on a high because he feels that he is going to be named the administrator this time, and of course that is a good possibility. He asked whether he should tell Phil Dressler and I told him to wait until after we had talked and until he had a chance to talk to the Cardinal. I will call him on Monday to see when John Canary and I can see Bill together.

When I called back to set the meeting time at 3 PM on 3/10, Bill asked specifically what the purpose of the meeting would be. I told him what the topic would be.

O'Brien, Wm.

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Memo

To: Fr. Pat O'Malley

From: Cardinal Bernardin

Date: November 28, 1994

Re: Fr. Bill O'Brien/[redacted]

When I spoke with Fr. Bill O'Brien several weeks ago about St. Dismas, he said two things about [redacted] was involved in the difficulty: (1) that he should be told about [redacted] and (2) that we must "preserve" [redacted] in the sense -- I think -- that we must let nothing happen to him.

I am not sure that I know exactly what he thought we should do. Did he speak with you about this? Do we need to do something?

Best wishes.

Office of the Archbishop • Post Office Box 1979 • Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE
EUROPE

Faxed to Fr. O'Malley
11/28/94

TEL. (06) 68.69.441
FAX (06) 68.67.561

November 22, 1994

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His Eminence,
Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
1555 North State Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Joseph,

Please accept this letter, mailed in the United States through the courtesy of one of our Institute priests returning home early.

Yes, things did not work out as we had hoped. Though a new place for ministry may not have been found, I want to thank you and all who advise you for the vote of confidence and care your efforts represented. That is the very positive memory which remains. Do not second guess what you attempted.

How do I feel? Tired. I write to you on a Tuesday morning. Last Thursday through Saturday were exhausting. First, the invitation to Waukegan out of the blue. Then moving more deeply into that prospect, followed by a most encouraging conversation with Bishop Goedert, and beginning the emotional process of leaving a place which has been very good to me. Quickly, all is in reverse.

Bad memories and regrets about past mistakes, and fears about all that could evolve come forward again. Through the years, I have attempted to prepare myself for whatever might come. Ready and non-surprised as I am when things do occur, they do hit hard, nonetheless.

Following your first call, it took a good deal of fast shifting to move myself towards Waugekan. I've never been too partial to Lake County: too much of a "city boy" with family and friends all there. So, the let down of not going there was not as great as it could have been had I completed the emotional move. But, I had made the move of this being the beginning of my gradual entry into fuller ministry. That will have to recede for a time.

I admire your words, "I have a feeling that this will end." You heard my response. Perhaps stemming from having first created the situation and then living with its aftermath for these years, my optimism is more questioning. That points out a basic difference between you and me. An Italian walks into a crowd and looks first for his friends. One who is Irish walks into a crowd and first looks to see if any enemies are present!

I would like to share with you three simple but important events which form the context in which this letter is written. First, on Saturday, we had a wonderful Day of Reflection led by a Benedictine monk. His themes: hope, God's forgiveness, conversion, reconciliation and always beginning new. Mike Wulsch and I both remarked, "He came to speak to me."

Second, just before Saturday dinner, the mail was passed around. I received two large brown envelopes filled with letters from my 7th and 8th graders. News of family, school, Confirmation classes and life in general. Some things were very personal. I wondered how they knew just what to write?

Third, last Sunday: Eucharist and lunch with the priests from Chicago at the Casa. What a wonderful and refreshing afternoon with "my own." The tide of unrest was beginning to turn.

The conclusion of my letter is this. I am at peace. Although I would have preferred to return home more relaxed, buoyant and serene as I had been up to a few days ago, the cloud has come again. But really, I know, all things have worked as they should: for my good, the good of the Church, the good of Queen of Angels and even for Phil Dressler's good.

Perhaps Bill O'Brien reached another set of reconciliations, hopes and conversions in all this. Queen of Angels is my home and is where I should stay. Maybe Bill O'Brien will not be the Pastor of a so-called "plum" parish, as he and others have imagined. Queen of Angels has been more than good to me: it IS me - middle-income, city, active, all sorts of peoples, in transition, having its problems, deepening in faith and with a touch of class! Maybe Bill has been told that he has to put more effort into his Hispanic outreach. Maybe Bill has been told by his 7th and 8th graders to come home. Maybe they, even more than Bill's Archbishop, know where home is. And maybe Bill was told by a Benedictine monk to go home and begin new right there.

And maybe.....are you ready to read four words I hardly ever say....Maybe, I was wrong! Queen of Angels might be where I should stay. And if Phil leaves as he wishes, maybe I could remain even as its pastor, if all is calm. Up to the time of your Waukegan call, I was already imagining what I could do with all I had experienced on sabbatical when I returned home. I love Queen of Angels. It is home. And, I am happy to be going there.

Though you will receive this after Thanksgiving Day, I hope you had a great one. Mike and I will be at the Casa and I have much for which I am grateful. I will phone you when I return. This letter will help that conversation to be brief. I am going to Wisconsin for a few days, beginning December 2nd, prior to returning to the Parish. Just wanted to let you know how things are here. It was also good for me to put things into print for my own eyes to see.

With all personal best wishes and prayers, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,

Bill O'Brien

P.S. Another positive result. I lost the weight you THOUGHT I had gained.

O'Brien, Wm.

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Memo

To: Father Patrick O'Malley

From: Cardinal Bernardin

Re: Reverend William O'Brien

Date: November 2, 1994

The day before I left for Rome, I spoke with you over the phone about a letter I had received from Bill O'Brien regarding his future. A copy is enclosed.

I told Bill what you suggested, namely, that he could be a pastor but that we were not prepared at this moment to tell him where or when. He seemed to understand that. I told him that after he returned from sabbatical, you, he and I would meet to review the matter.

Apart from his involvement, he is concerned about Phil Dressler and Queen of Angels. I do not know what has transpired since I left but this is something else we need to look into.

Many thanks.

Enclosure

Memo
TO: Fr. Patrick O'Malley
From: JLM
Re: Rev. Wm O'Brien

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Pat.

The day before I left for Rome, I spoke with you over the phone about a letter I had received from Bill O'Brien regarding his future. A copy is enclosed.

I told Bill what you suggested, namely, that he could be a pastor but that we were not prepared at this moment to tell him where or when. He seemed to understand that. I told him that after he returned from Saskatoon, you, he and I would meet to review the matter.

Apart from his retirement, he is concerned about Phil Dressler and Queen of Angels. I do not know what has transpired since I left but this is something else we need to look into.

Many thanks

Encl.

NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE
00120 VATICAN CITY STATE
EUROPE

TEL. (06) 68.69.441
FAX (06) 68.67.561

September 25, 1994

Dear Cardinal Bernardin,

Best wishes and prayers that you are well. Please excuse this handwritten letter. My three week old computer has a hard-disk problem. I must entrust it to an Italian repair company! A small act of faith, I think. This accomplishes one good: when I write rather than format, I am briefer. So, sit down and read this only if you are relaxed. Options.

If the Directorship for Ethnic Ministries has not been filled, I apply. Advantages: I am not made a pastor and remain at Queen of Angels in residence, part-time as Associate Pastor. My first directorship of the Office was never announced in the New World. The same could happen here. Finally, do you have someone better? A three-year term with the last year grooming a successor, the salary is split between Office and Parish: a help to Queen of Angels. Very low key, not as high profile as many jobs before. Down side: it is "downtown".

Next, may I apply for Our Lady of Ransom now that Tom Doe is moving to St. Ida? Advantage: a parish that is not one of our most well known parishes. It has a growing Phillipino population whom I know and worked with in Ethnic Ministries. In fact, I am participating in the Asian Ministry Conference in Manila, January 16 to 21, 1996. It is a good parish, not wealthy, a larger school which many tend to avoid. Disadvantage: I would be made a pastor and it is out in the New World.

The next is shared in true confidence. Phil Dressler is going to apply for another pastorate (leave Queen of Angels 1½ years early) in January, 1995. He has had enough. I have deep feelings about where he is in ministry and the value of a change which, he perceives, would bring renewal. Phil would like me to be model pastor at Q of Angels. Advantage: no more involved. Not so obvious. Disadvantages are two pronged. The first is that I don't, as a rule, like someone who is associate to become pastor. In my case, the world would be expected of me. The second downside is personal. Unless this is the only acceptable way (expiditious) for me to become pastor, I much prefer leaving Q of Angels and truly starting a new chapter in life. I think you understand that. Once again, naming me anything has its risks.

Finally, (now just continue in "limbo" as you called it) my patience is still strong, but so is my desire to give what I know I can to the Church. The Vicars for Clergy wrote that on their Review Board is "open to a pastorate" but only to another review of the situation at their December meeting. Are you willing to think about these thoughts and perhaps delay appointments I've mentioned until then? In any case, if there are better candidates, move ahead without question.

Keep in Rome!

Prayers & Friendship

Bill Bonn

P.S. – Marked in MS. by John and after his departure from Rome to D.C.

O'Brien, W.

QUEEN OF ANGELS PARISH
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(312)561-5118

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July 25, 1994

Dear Pat and John,

I hope this letter finds you both well. Just a brief reminder or question. As you know, I will begin Sabbatical on August 25, 1994. Are we to meet before my Sabbatical begins? As I understand, my position was to be reviewed at the Advisory Board's June and/or July meeting. It was my hope that I might have some focus for my future prior to my departure for Sabbatical. Please give a call or drop a line. Aside from this, I assure you that everything is going fine and I look forward to a time for study and further personal and spiritual development.

With all good wishes in the Lord,

Bill O'Brien

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Memo to File
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 6/17/94
Re: William O'Brien

I spoke to Veronica Godowski of Catholic Charities on 6/14/94 concerning the [redacted] situation. I was inquiring of her if the case worker in the [redacted] situation has any indication about [redacted] feelings towards William O'Brien. At a recent Advisory Board meeting, O'Brien aksed if there was a possibility of return or a possible pastorate in the [redacted] future. A lot depends on the out-cry that might arise from [redacted] were Bill to be seen to get a parish.

According to Godowski, they have had little or no contact with [redacted] on anything except [redacted].

[redacted]

O'Brien, U

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April 28, 1994

Dear [redacted]

I received your letter of April 2, 1994. [redacted]

As you indicated, Father O'Brien was involved with [redacted]'s family. That too is a painful issue. I hope it is all behind us at this time. Nevertheless, I need to assure you that Father O'Brien is not being considered for the office of bishop. I do not know where that rumor arose, but it is not true. It may be that someone hazarded an opinion that he would make a good bishop, but please accept my word that his name is not being submitted for that office.

Thank you very much for your congratulations concerning the allegations that were brought against me recently. It was a trying time for everyone involved but it seems to have worked out for the best.

I wish you and your family all God's blessings and grace. Please continue to pray for me and for all priests.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

bc: Father Pat O'Malley

[redacted]

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Memo to File
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 11/16/93
Re: Rev. William O'Brien

Fr. William O'Brien came to see John Canary and me today. When we had last met in May, we said we would get together sometime after September. O'Brien was to make a retreat and report back to us how things were going after that retreat.

He made the retreat late in September with Fr. Rich McCaslin up at the Jesuit Retreat House outside of Kenosha. According to O'Brien the retreat went very well and has been helpful to him in any number of ways.

[redacted]

I directly asked Fr. O'Brien whether he thought at this time he would ever act out again as he has in the past. He assured us that he would not, and that he had taken precautions in his personal life to see that those situations would be handled properly next time aorund. If they do occur, he says he is ready to respond to them in an appropriate manner. He wishes to remain a priest and knows that there will be a price to be paid personally for that. He is willing to pay that price.

[redacted] We told him that we cannot at this time give him direct and specific information on what he will be eligible for in terms of assignments in the future, specifically, for the pastorate. He seems aware of this and finds it OK. He would however like to know what will happen at some point along the line. We did tell him that that was a question we would bring before the Advisory Board at the appropriate time.

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We asked O'Brien directly whether there is anyone who could monitor him while in Rome. We felt this would be a concern of the Advisory Board. He then assured us that Fr. Mike Wulsch, a classmate and good friend who knows his entire situation, will be accompanying him. We told O'Brien that, once we have talked to Wulsch, he will be most acceptable to us as a monitor during O'Brien's stay in Rome. The Sabbatical will take place from Sept. '94 until Dec. '94 in Rome.

O'Brien seemed to be in a good place at this time.

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Memo to File
From: Rev. John Canary
Date: May 18, 1993
Re: Fr. William O'Brien

1. Pat and I met with Fr. Bill O'Brien today to review his situation since our last meeting on Dec. 2, 1992. [redacted]

2. [redacted]

[redacted]

3. Bill has yet to make a directed retreat. He wanted to concentrate on [redacted] for a while, and he felt he was not ready for the silent retreat. Bill hopes to make a retreat in September.

4. Bill raised the question about his future. He would like to know if he will ever be a pastor. If his liability to the diocese is so great so as to prevent him from becoming a pastor, Bill would like to prepare for another type of ministry. Perhaps he would become a military chaplain. Perhaps he would become a teacher. Bill asked us to clarify the possibilities for his future.

5. Bill would like to have permission for a sabbatical. He would like to go to Rome. He has heard that this program is a strong one, and he would enjoy meeting people in Rome who he helped out while he was director of the Office for the Propagation of the Faith.

6. Together we tried to clarify the plan for the next year and a half. There were a number of components to this plan.

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First, [redacted] Secondly, Bill will make a directed retreat sometime in September of this year. Thirdly, Bill will make an application for his sabbatical in Rome for the fall of 1994. Fourthly, Pat and I will continue to meet with Bill. We will do an update at the end of September. Lastly, Pat and I will try to clarify the question about Bill becoming a pastor.

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May 14, 1993

[redacted]

Dear [redacted],

As we draw to a close in the [redacted] situation, I just wanted to drop you a note to thank you for your help throughout this complicated situation. [redacted] has received his part of the agreement and [redacted] are presently scheduled to have a meeting with Cardinal Bernardinon June 15.

The situation with the Catholic Charities workers is set up and we will be keeping in contact with them at least for a while to see how things are going.

All in all, it was a long, painful process and I'm not sure we could have pulled it off without your help. Thanks again for your expertise and your patience in this matter. If you're in the area, don't hesitate to pop on by for lunch some day. We could share some of our frustrations and our stories. Again, thank you, and I hope your work continues to go well.

Respectfully yours,

Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Vicar for Priest

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Memo
To: Cardinal Bernardin
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 5/5/93
Re: [redacted] Rev. William O'Brien

[redacted], who came to see you last year, has signed the agreement. Everything is in place for the carrying out of the agreement. [redacted]

In addition, [redacted] has asked for a special favor from you if it is at all possible in the future in your crowded schedule. [redacted]. While [redacted] motives in this request may be mixed, your cooperation may be a big step in making absolutely sure that we can put the matter completely to rest.

If you are agreeable to the possibility of seeing him, I could put Ken Velo in touch with [redacted] to set up a

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possible time. It would be a friendly visit.

[redacted] In settling this matter we used the services of an arbitrator, Mr. [redacted], who was recommended by Ralph Bonaccorsi. His expenses were fairly considerable, about $15,000, over the past year. But [redacted] is the one who sat down many times between [redacted] and [redacted] and their [redacted]. He was instrumental in keeping the whole thing moving in an amenable fashion. I think his fees were worth it. If you have any questions about this matter, please let me know as soon as possible.

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Memo
To: Cardinal Bernardin
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 4/26/93
Re: William O'Brien

John Canary and I reviewed the letter from William O'Brien of April, 1993. You asked for some comments on this letter.

On December 2, 1992, we sent you a memo concerning a meeting that we had with O'Brien. At that time we talked to him about spending two years at least in the parish. He was to look into the possibilities of a fairly lengthy directed retreat as with an after-care program and a spiritual director as part of that ongoing program. There was no talk at that time about a sabbatical that would encompass theological study. The sabbatical that he outlines in his request to you is content-oriented and not a spiritual or psychologically oriented program. We would have opposed it since we felt he still needs to confront the root causes for his past behavior.

Bill was very open to that program at the time, more open than he would have been [redacted]

We have met only once with Bill since then. We should meet with Bill to go over our original plan and remove any misunderstandings.

We appreciate you sending this letter on to us from Bill. Bill knows he should be working with us and any request such as this should have gone through our office. It puzzles us as to why he keeps going to you first and does not follow the understood protocol that we had set up. At any rate, with your permission we will call Bill and sit down with him and go over this matter again.

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Memo to File
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 3/8/93
Re: Rev. William O'Brien

Bill O'Brien called to say that he had received an invitation to the St. Patrick's Day Mass at St. Cajetan's, which is part of the Southside parade. I told Bill that I did not think it was a good idea for him to go to St. Cajetan's for that concelebration on St. Patrick's Day. I told him that we are in the process of making a settlement with [redacted] and it could be thrown into a cocked hat if something untoward were to make its appearance. Bill understood completely.

[redacted]

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TO: File (R. Goedert)

DATE: Sept. 15, 1990

RE: William O'Brien

1. Jay Finno called. ([redacted]) Jay said that Bill's name came up yesterday at the Personnel Board meeting for the pastorate of St. Francis Xavier in LaGrange. Evidently whoever had talked to Bill said that he was honored to be named, but wanted to check things out with the Cardinal. The Board seems to have a positive feeling towards Bill. Jay said he just kept his mouth shut.

2. I asked Jay to let me know again exactly what he was able to tell me without violating any confidence. Jay related three events:

A. About 11 years ago, while stationed at St. Jude's, this particular [redacted], who was a friend of Bill's [redacted] Bill forcibly assaulted this woman. He stripped her against her will and attempted to rape her. He spilled seed on her body. She hit him and escaped from him. [redacted] Jay said she also mentioned to the associate, Paul Seaman, something about the incident without identifying the person involved. [redacted] She eventually mentioned to Paul that the reason for her attitude was the fact that she had been attacked by a priest in the past, etc. She did not tell Paul the name of the priest.

B. Jay said that he also learned about Bill's relationship to [redacted] through this same person and also through [redacted] This same woman mentioned that there is a suspicion in the [redacted] family that one of [redacted] children is actually Bill's. [redacted] I asked Jay directly whether or not she ever said that there was a sexual relationship between [redacted] and Bill. Altough she never said that, that is certainly the suspicion, particularly since they really believe one of the children is Bill's.

3. [redacted] I asked Jay if this woman was absolutely certain that it was [redacted] and not some other woman. Jay said he would check it out. Jay called me back a few minutes later and said that he had spoken to the woman and she is absolutely certain that it was [redacted]. She knows [redacted] well and there is no doubt in her mind that it was [redacted]. And Jay said he has absolutely no doubt about the credibility of this woman. Jay said that he is quite willing to be called in to confront Bill, should that be necessary. He would like to avoid it, however, lest the woman have to be involved in any way. But on the other hand, if it's necessary, Jay will do it, as long as he can get her permission.

[redacted]

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Memo to File
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 12/4/92
Re: Rev. William O'Brien

I spoke to [redacted], principal of Infant Jesus of Prague School, whose phone number is [redacted]. He has spoken to both [redacted] and [redacted] It turns out that [redacted] taught them when they were in grammar school. He is also a good friend of Bill O'Brien.

When [redacted] told him that the [redacted] he had some misgivings. He called to check and I assured him that that would be so and that he could go ahead with that full assurance. We had a good conversation.

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October 14, 1992

Dear Bill,

I received your letter of October 9th. My immediate reaction is that discussing future assignments is premature at this time. Father O'Malley has just received the report [redacted] and I have not yet had time to go over it as carefully as I feel I must.

As soon as I have read the report, I will call and set up an appointment for you, Father O'Malley and myself to discuss all the ramifactions.

I know you are eager to get moving in this matter, but the climate remains as tenuous as ever at this point. No settlements have been reached yet, as negotiations proceed painfully ahead.

Please understand my reluctance to make any definitive decisions right now. I am confident that, when we do have time to weigh all the factors involved, we will be able to come to some kind of reasonable resolution.

With cordial best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph

Archbishop of Chicago

Reverend William J. O'Brien
Queen of Angels Parish
2330 W. Sunnyside Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

bc: Reverend Patrick J. O'Malley

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Memo to File (POM)
Re: Bill O'Brien
5/19/92

I spoke to Bill O'Brien on the phone yesterday and Bill made some suggestions about how the situation could be dealt with when [redacted] sits down with [redacted]. He reminded me that Jim Roach was able to exercise some influence on [redacted] at the time when this stuff first came up. Jim would apparently tell [redacted] that, if he brought the matter out into the public, he himself would be subject to scrutiny by the press. How is his personal life going? This seemed to have some effect on [redacted] actions, at least according to Bill O'Brien.

Bill also indicated that there may be other difficulties out at St. Jude's parish. [redacted] That might be a problem as well.

O'Brien reminded me that the Cardinal had told him about his interview with [redacted] So there are some extraneous factors, whether true or false, which, if this whole thing comes out in the open, could become quite serious.

[redacted]

So the whole case is quite complicated. Bill O'Brien thinks that we ought to try to work out some kind of agreement with [redacted] lest he blow it, himself and others, wide open.

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Memo to File (POM)
Re: William O'Brien
5/5/92

[redacted]

I had spoken to Ralph Bonaccorsi about getting hold of someone who might act as an intervenor. A third person, objective, who could sit down with us and [redacted] and figure out if there is any way that he can get the help that he needs without the Archdiocese looking like it's taking sides. Ralph gave me the name of a [redacted], Office # [redacted], Home # [redacted]. I will contact [redacted] and arrange a meeting between [redacted], [redacted], Bonaccorsi and myself to talk about the parameters and the way in which he might be of help in the situation. We need to make sure that he is not prejudiced in our favor or in any other way.

I told [redacted] that I would be getting back to him early next week after I get a chance to talk to [redacted] and make further arrangements.

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TO: File (P. O'Malley)

DATE: April 22, 1992

RE: William O'Brien

[redacted]

They are part of the client-lawyer relationship. I will also cull O'Brien's record for the specific notes that might help the Cardinal get a better grip on this whole case.

One of my recommendations, after talking to Ray Goedert, is that Bill O'Brien should get his own lawyer. The Cardinal asked whether Bill ought to be removed from his high profile position and I said we needed to discuss that at the next Advisory Board meeting.

[redacted]

Bill did admit to both Tom and to Ray that he was "involved". He also felt he was injured by the relationship as was [redacted]

At the time, Bill was offered separate legal counsel but declined, feeling he would get that if needed. It was suggested that he resign at the time, but he refused to, saying that he would run his course at the Propagation of the Faith and leave some time in 1990 and then be re-assigned. Obviously that date went by. Perhaps his assignment was for a longer period of time. At least he appeared to be open to the possibility of leaving the Propagation of the Faith.

He was ordered not to have any contact with the [redacted] after this time and also to stay away from the south side.

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TO: File (P. O'Malley)

DATE: April 7, 1992

RE: William O'Brien

I received a call today from Jack Powers, the pastor of St. Jude in South Holland. Jack spoke to me about a man named [redacted] phone [redacted] [redacted] is the husband of the woman whom Bill O'Brien had a relationship with. [redacted]

Jack listened to him and listened to his story. [redacted] told about how this had been brought to Ray Goedert's attention. At the time the Cardinal had agreed to see [redacted] if [redacted] desired to see him but he did not take the Cardinal up on this offer. Jack thinks that at this time it might be right for [redacted] to see the Cardinal. He seems to be talking about going ahead and exposing this whole situation to the newspapers. [redacted]

[redacted] I spoke to the Cardinal about the situation. He agreed to the following:

1. I will call [redacted] and offer the possibility of his coming to see the Cardinal along with me present.

2. I will then call Ken Velo to set up an appointment for [redacted]

3. Then I will be in on the meeting when we get together.

4. I will meet with the Cardinal before that to brief him on the details of this case as they have unfolded in the past.

I spoke to [redacted] and he is open to the meeting. I told him to expect a call from Fr. Velo. I then called Ken and he is setting up the meeting at this time.

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VICAR FOR PRIESTS OFFICE
FILE
OCTOBER 10, 1991

Re: William O'Brien as discussed at the Advisory Board Meeting of 10/7/91
From: Pat O'Malley

William O'Brien
The Cardinal wanted a complete summary of where this situation is. He is very concerned because of the importance of Bill's position in his administration. Ray Goedert said he had sent a summary to the Cardinal the past week. For various reasons it had gotten delayed in the system.

The Cardinal checked and found it on his secretary's desk. He will read this file thoroughly and see what needs to be done. Bill has been honest with the Cardinal apparently although it was reported he has been seen at Sox games with a woman. He had been instructed by Jim Roache not to hang around south of Madison St. when this all first began to occur. Bill is not out of the woods yet in terms of liability.

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I spoke with Fr. O'Brien on Oct. 11. He categorically denied that he had been to a Sox game with [redacted]

[redacted]

TO: Cardinal Bernardin

FROM: Bishop Raymond Goedert

DATE: 9/28/91

RE: Rev. William O'Brien

1. You will recall at our meeting a month or so ago, when we were reviewing all of the more serious cases, I brought up the situation concerning Bill O'Brien. You said that you would be willing to handle this case directly.

+RB 10/14/91

[redacted]

[redacted]

4. You had also agreed to confront Bill on other information that came to my attention within the last year or so. I think the simplest thing would be to enclose copies of my file memos of Sept. 13, 1990 and Sept. 15, 1990. I have never confronted Bill on these matters, but Jim Roach had made it quite clear to Bill that he should not be seeing [redacted]

5. [redacted]

But, if it is true that Bill was with [redacted] at the ball game last summer, then he is certainly playing with fire. If [redacted] decides to go public, Bill's reputation and priesthood could be utterly destroyed.

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TO: File (R. Goedert)

DATE: Sept. 13, 1990

RE: William O'Brien

1. Jay Finno called. He has [redacted] been informed that she had been sexually assaulted by a priest. [redacted] but Jay knows her well enough to say that he has absolutely no doubt about the truth of what she is stating.

2. Jay talked to Ed Fialkowski, without naming the priest. But he wanted to explain the predicament and Ed suggested that he then talk to me. Jay said that this woman was [redacted] at the time of the assault about 11 years ago. It was a one-time incident and she has had no contact with him since.

3. This woman is a very close friend of another family [redacted] Through [redacted] they learned about [redacted] who was formerly married to another woman [redacted] and the marriage broke up over this same priest. Jay got to know [redacted] and he claims that the Cardinal is aware of all of this and had even invited him down to talk about it [redacted].

4. Jay also said he had learned that there is supposed to be some guy [redacted] wife [redacted] she was fooling with was this same priest.

5. After listening to Jay relate these tales, it was clear to me whom he was speaking about and I told him that I think I know who he is talking about. He immediately said Bill O'Brien. I told Jay that the [redacted] incident and the [redacted] incident were known to me, but this first situation, which Jay called "rape", was new to me.

6. I told Jay that we were trying to handle the situation as best we could. I suggested that if his name does come up at the Personnel Board meeting, that Jay simply let me know and I will have to contact the Cardinal directly to make sure that he does not make the appointment. Just how much the Cardinal knows, I am not sure, as most of my contact was with Jim Roache.

[redacted]

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SOUTH SUBURBAN, IL 60459
PM
16 NOV
1988

Bread Wagon 1880s
25 USA

REV. RAYMOND GOEDERT
Vicar For Priest
800 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60610

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
VICAR FOR PRIESTS
800 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 311
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

Off: (312) 642-1837

November 21, 1988

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

I wish to acknowledge your letter of November 15. It was very thoughtful of you to write such a kind expression of gratitude. [redacted] Please God, one day you will be able to get on with your own life and put this unhappy situation behind you.

You are in my prayers, [redacted] as are [redacted] and your children. May your Thanksgiving be a happy and blessed one!

Sincerely yours,

Father Goedert

Rev. Raymond E. Goedert

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TO: File (R. Goedert)

DATE: Oct. 28, 1988

RE: William O'Brien

1. I spoke to Jim Roache today. Jim agreed that there would be no point to our trying to work out a financial settlement with [redacted] [redacted] blows hot and cold. And there is no way to predict what he might do in the future, even though a settlement has been reached.

2. We also discussed whether or not Bill ought to be placed in a lower profile position. [redacted] However, Jim Roache felt that this has been going on for over a year and who knows if [redacted] will ever take such action. On the other hand, to reduce Bill to the role of associate pastor would look as though we are giving in to [redacted] Moreover, what would it do to Bill himself? Bill is doing a good job in the position he has and it might be too demoralizing for him.

[redacted]

4. Jim Roache also suggested that I not initiate a call back to [redacted] I had indicated that [redacted] was expecting some sort of response from me as far as financial arrangments are concerned. But Jim felt it would be better to just let it ride and let him take the next step.

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TO: File (R. Goedert)

DATE: Oct. 17, 1988

RE: William O'Brien

1. [redacted]

2. I told Bill that I would have to get in touch with Jim Roache. He encouraged me to do it right away, as he didn't want me to be unduly concerned about his situation with his sister, etc. This has been on Bill's mind and he even said that he sensed that something was wrong.

3. [redacted]

4. Bill and I talked back and forth about all eventualities. We concluded that no matter what we might do by way of financial settlement, it'll never appease [redacted] [redacted] seems obsessed with the notion that Bill or [redacted] or both have to clearly admit their guilt.

5. Bill even said maybe the best thing would be to just simply tell [redacted] that we're not going to play the game any longer, that we have no intention of making any financial settlements, that the [redacted] is none of our business, and that he can do whatever his conscience allows him to do. Bill thinks that perhaps his innate goodness and love for the Church might deter him from going public with all the dirty linen.

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TO: File

DATE: Sept. 26, 1988

RE: William O'Brien

1. On the occasion of the Cardinal's Overnight, Bill O'Brien met with me to discuss most recent developments. He said that he heard from [redacted] recently that [redacted].

2. Bill also wanted me to know that the Sisters at the convent at St. Jude apparently have heard some conversation around the parish about the break-up of the [redacted] marriage and Bill's involvement. [redacted] said that the school principal made an off-hand comment to her about this. [redacted] lives at the convent, though she has no connection with the school or parish any longer. [redacted], as a friend of Bill's, mentioned it to Bill. Bill felt obliged to let Jim Roache and me know this latest development.

3. I asked Bill if he thought it was just old news being casually talked about or had something happened to bring this about? He was not sure and we agreed that he would ask [redacted] to probe a little further to see just what the source of the information was and how serious. I told Bill that if [redacted] uncovers something of consequence, I would appreciate it if she would call me. Otherwise, we can just let the matter drop.

4. I suggested that once [redacted], perhaps the pressure will be off [redacted] and Bill. But Bill said that's not how [redacted] operates. He suspects that [redacted] will contact Jim Roache and begin to demand money for the education of the children.

5. We also talked again about the question of Bill's staying in his present assignment. In view of the fact that to move him now would give the appearance of guilt, it was decided to just let things stand as is and we will await [redacted] next step.

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Vicar for Priests
800 North Clark Street, Suite 311
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Off: (312) 642-1837

TO: File

DATE: May 10, 1988

RE: William O'Brien

My brother and I had dinner with [redacted] and [redacted] last night. While making small talk before supper, [redacted] happened to ask how the job was going. She said it must be very difficult. She then said, I suppose you have cases like that of Fr. O'Brien from St. Cajetan's. This really took me by surprise, as I hadn't the faintest idea that she would have had even an inkling of a problem. However, she mentioned that her son, [redacted], had said something to her about it. At least he must have said enough that made her wonder why Fr. O'Brien doesn't leave the priesthood, since this apparently wasn't the first problem of this kind. I really didn't respond and someone else invited to dinner came in right at that moment so the conversation ceased.

[redacted] is the vice-president of the firm at which [redacted] is employed. [redacted] undoubtedly has unloaded his story on [redacted]. He must have also told him about the wedding of their mutual boss, [redacted]'s daughter. According to [redacted], Fr. O'Brien was going to say that Mass but was ordered not to do so. This is not quite the way Bill told Jim Roache, but it could be that [redacted] garbled up the situation, too. I don't intend to do anything about this information. It just makes me realize that more and more people are going to be aware of Bill's problem.

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Res: (312) 528-0540

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October 3, 1986

TO: Cardinal Bernardin

FROM: Tom Ventura TV

RE: Fr. William O'Brien

1. Thanks for your response to my progress report on Bill and the copy of his letter requesting an appointment to see you about his desire to be reappointed to his current position.

2. These are my reactions:

A) I think Bill is doing well. [redacted]

B) If I were you, I think I would schedule an appointment with him in the near future, listen to his presentation and establish a target date by which you would make a decision to reappoint him or not. (Perhaps Dec. 1 would be reasonable). By that time I will have had another meeting and could alert you if there was any cause for concern.

C) I would tend to make the decision on the basis of Bill's job performance, which from what I gather is quite good. All in all I feel very positive about Bill.

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December 27, 1985

Dear Bill:

I have just received a progress report and some recommendations concerning reassignment from Tom Ventura. Let me first express my appreciation to you for your straightforward and cooperative attitude in dealing with a difficult, painful and embarrassing situation. I think that the attitude of [redacted] has also been significant in the resolution of this matter.

[redacted]

Concerning reassignment, I have made these decisions:

1) I will ask the Personnel Board to assist me in reassigning you as a resident preferably in a parish in the northern section of the Archdiocese.

2) I think it would be wise for you to remain in your present position as Archdiocesan Director of the Propagation of the Faith until June 1, 1986. At that time, I will ask Tom Ventura to evaluate the situation with you and recommend either: a) that you continue until the completion of your term, or b) that you be reassigned to full-time parish ministry.

If there is need for any additional information or clarifications, please feel free to ask. As always, I would be happy to discuss these matters with you.

Again, Bill, I want to express my appreciation for your cooperation in this difficult matter. I will continue to remember

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you at Mass, asking the Lord to bless you in your efforts to renew your personal, professional and spiritual life.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

Reverend William J. O'Brien
St. Cajetan Church
11234 South Artesian
Chicago, Illinois 60655

F.O.M.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim AA's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on May 23, 2005, formalizing his allegation of sexual abuse against Fr. William O'Brien. According to Victim AA's statement, he sought counseling with Fr. O'Brien when he was 16 years old. Victim AA reported that Fr. O'Brien invited him to his room at St. Cajetan's rectory and after a couple meetings, engaged in mutual masturbation and oral sex with him. Victim AA also stayed overnight in the rectory at St. Cajetan on more than one occasion. Further, Victim AA identifid the names of two other priests who were assigned to St. Cajetan at the time he was being abused. Accoring to Victim AA, one of those priests observed Victim AA on one occasion exiting Fr. O'Brien's bedroom where the door had been closed. Victim AA reports that Sexual abuse occurred on multiple occasions between Victim AA's sophomore and junior year.

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Office of Professional Responsibility

P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-270

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: O'Brien, William J. (Active) [redacted]

Date: May 31, 2005

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Conference Call on May 31, 2005:

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review regarding the allegation made by [redacted] The allegation is as follows: mutual oral sex, kissing, in bed naked with each other, intercourse.

In a 7-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that the information warrants additional investigation. Further, the Board recommended that Fr. O'Brien be immediately withdrawn from ministry and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim AA's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey during a phone call on May 3, 2005. Victim AA reported that he had been sexually abused by Rev. William O'Brien at St. Cajetan's parish when he was 16 years old.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces five anonymous letters received by Rev. William O'Brien, Victim AB and the parents of Victim AB in 2000. The letters allege, in explicit and graphic detail, that Fr. O'Brien was engaged in a sexual relationship with Victim AB, a minor. The anonymous letters also implied that the author had also been engaged in a sexual relationship with Fr. O'Brien, and the author repeatedly threatened to expose Fr. O'Brien alleged misconduct to Cardinal George and the Queen of Angels community.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office

P O Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-534-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

January 22, 2010

[redacted]
C/o: Jeffrey R. Anderson
Jeff Anderson & Associates P.A.
366 Jackson St., Suite 100
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear [redacted]

Please find enclosed a copy of the final report of your allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against the former Rev. William O'Brien.

Please contact Leah McCluskey at (312) 534-5205 or lmccluskey@archchicago.org with any questions you may have regarding this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Santa Garcia, Secretary
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Attachment

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the transcript of Victim EI's statement, given to Leah McCluskey, Director of the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, on November 5, 2009, formalizing his allegation of abuse against Rev. William O'Brien. The alleged abuse consisted of Fr. O'Brien fondling Victim EI, Fr. O'Brien having Victim EI fondle him, and Fr. O'Brien performing oral sex on Victim EI when Victim EI was between eighth and ninth grade. The alleged abuse occurred at the St. Symphorosa parish rectory in Fr. O'Brien's room.

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR- 270

From: Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Re: **RESPONSE OF REV. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (LAICIZED) TO THE ALLEGATION OF THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR MADE BY** [redacted]

Date: January 26, 2010

Date of Meeting: **January 21, 2010** **Time of Meeting**: **1:30 pm**

Participants in Meeting
William O'Brien
Rev. John Collins, Vicar for Priests
Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Meeting
Rev. John Collins made arrangements with the former Rev. William O'Brien to meet at the Vicar for Priests office at 1:30 pm on January 21, 2010. Mr. O'Brien arrived just prior to the 1:30pm start time.

I presented Mr. O'Brien with a copy of the transcript of my November 17, 2009 meeting with [redacted], where [redacted] formalized his allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against him. I also gave Mr. O'Brien a packet that contained copies of information pertaining to the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, the professional investigation firm used by the Archdiocese of Chicago, and a copy of archdiocesan policies (*§1100 Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance to Victims and Procedures for Determination of Fitness for Ministry*).

At Mr. O'Brien's request, I read to him excerpts from the aforementioned transcription where [redacted] spoke of how he first met the former Fr. O'Brien and described the alleged incidents of sexual abuse that took place.

After I read from the transcript, Mr. O'Brien stated that he would make a response in writing within 14 days of our January 21st meeting. Mr. O'Brien informed Fr. Collins and me that he

would like to keep the mailings to him from my office to a minimum, citing his family as the reason. It was agreed that any letters/documentation from my office would be addressed and sent to Mr. O'Brien in care of Fr. Collins. Fr. Collins will then call Mr. O'Brien to let him know when there is mail for him from my office to be picked up from the Vicar for Priests Office.

Fr. Collins and I again thanked Mr. O'Brien for his time. It was agreed that Mr. O'Brien would call Fr. Collins with any questions or concerns.

After Mr. O'Brien left the meeting, I asked Fr. Collins if he knew what Mr. O'Brien meant when he associated his family with receiving mail from my office. Fr. Collins expressed his belief that Mr. O'Brien lives in a building with some of his family members.

Rev. John H Collins — 1/29/10

Rev. John Collins — Date

Leah McCluskey — 1/26/10

Leah McCluskey — Date

PFR 270

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Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
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VIA MESSENGER

January 8, 2010

Mr. Harvey Radney
Senior Vice President, Hillard Heintze
30 S. Wacker Drive
Suite 1730
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Mr. Radney,

Please find enclosed with this letter documentation concerning File – PFR – 270, the matter of [redacted] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against the former Rev. William J. O'Brien.

Please note the following pertinent information:

- Date allegation received: 8/18/08
- Date of interview with [redacted] 11/5/09
- Date allegation presented to Mr. O'Brien: this allegation has not yet been presented to Mr. O'Brien for a response
- Date Initial Review scheduled: 3/20/10
- Mr. O'Brien is a laicized priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and has three substantiated allegations of the sexual abuse of a minor against him

Due to the fact that this matter has yet to be presented to the Review Board, I ask that you please attempt to obtain the following information:

- Background check on [redacted], DOB [redacted]

Once you have had the opportunity to review the enclosed information, I ask that you please write a one-page evaluation of how you propose proceeding with the investigation of this matter. Please contact me once you have completed your evaluation of this case, so that we may discuss going forward. As you know, you may reach me at (312) 534-5205 or lmccluskey@archchicago.org.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Enclosures

Cc John O'Malley, Legal Services

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Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office

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MEMORANDUM

To: Rev. John Collins, Vicar for Priests

From: Santa Garcia, Secretary SG
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Re: **[FILE - 270] O'BRIAN, WILLIAM J. (LAICIZED)** [redacted]

Date: January 27, 2010

Leah McCluskey asked me to mail you the enclosed letter from William J. O'Brien she received on January 27, 2010 for your files.

Please contact Leah McCluskey at (312) 534-5205 or lmccluskey@archchicago.org with any questions you may have regarding this matter. Thank you.

Attachment

Bc: John C. O'Malley
Office of Legal Services

RECEIVED
JAN 27 2010
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

William J. O'Brien
[redacted]

January 26, 2009

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Olympia Center
737 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

This letter is in response to the allegation made against me by [redacted]. This allegation was disclosed to me at a meeting on January 21, 2010 in the office of the Vicar for Priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

I decline to offer any response to the allegations made by [redacted].

Thank you for informing me that the Review Board of the Archdiocese will meet on February 20, 2010 for an Initial Review on this matter.

Sincerely,

William J. O'Brien

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April 19, 2010

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
835 N. Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the independent Review Board met on April 17, 2010 and conducted a Review for Cause of [redacted] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against the former Rev. William O'Brien pursuant to Article §1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Mr. O'Brien is a laicized priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Review Board made the determination that in light of the information presented, there is reason to suspect that the accused did sexually abuse [redacted] when he was a minor.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (312) 534-5205.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

From: Leah McCluskey
To: Costello, Vincent
Date: 8/19/2008 11:13:08 AM
Subject: Re: [redacted]

Dear Fr. Costello,

Thank you very much for the e-mail and the information that you recall about [redacted]

Leah

>>> Vincent Costello 8/19/2008 10:49 AM >>>
Dear Leah,

As told you yesterday, I believe that I have some knowledge of [redacted] who is bringing an allegation against Bill O'Brien. During the [redacted] school year I was [redacted] for a student named [redacted] at [redacted]. I recall [redacted] making frequent references to [redacted] Father Bob Stepek, who seems to have been a very important person in [redacted] life. I believe that Bill O'Brien and Bob Stepek both served at St. Symphrosa Parish around the same time. I don't recall how many years [redacted] was a student [redacted]. [redacted]

During his freshman year [redacted], I do not recall him ever making reference to being sexually abused by the former Father Bill O'Brien or by anyone else.
That's pretty much all I remember.

Father Vince Costello

From: Leah McCluskey
To: Cummings, Miriam Patrick, Sr.
Date: 8/19/2008 11:11:45 AM
Subject: Re: Request for Information

Sr. Pat,

Thank you for the information. I spoke with Fr. Costello yesterday and he does have some information on [redacted] that he agreed to write up and e-mail to me.

Thanks again.

Leah

>>> Miriam Patrick, Sr. Cummings 8/19/2008 10:03 AM >>>
Leah,
We have extensive files on William O'Brien with several allegations. There is no mention of [redacted]
You may review these files at your convenience if you would like.

Sister Pat Cummings
Associate Director
Vicar for Priests

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office

P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

MEMORANDUM

To: Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests

From: Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Re: O'Brien, Rev. William [Resigned]

Date: November 19, 2008

On November 17, 2008, I called and spoke with Rev. Vincent Costello about the attached anonymous letter concerning the former Rev. William O'Brien in your absence. After reading the attached letter to Fr. Costello, it was agreed that I send the original letter to you.

Due to the fact that the anonymous letter does not reflect any new allegations of the sexual abuse of minors against Mr. O'Brien, I am sending this to you for your information and handling. I am wondering if the Office of Catholic Schools should be involved at some point in time if the statements in the letter are true, but I will leave that decision to you.

If I could be of any help with this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

RECEIVED
NOV 10 2008
OFFICE FOR CHILD JUSTICE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

Reason for delay:
We had to be sure we did see correctly.

Reason for being anonomous:
fear of retaliation against our children

When will the archiocese get it?
August
first week of school: Fr. Bill O'brien was allowed to enter Queen of Angels school deliver food inside in fact - was greeted at the door upon entering and was ushered in, even though he was removed due to allegations of abusing not one but two children.

Apparently he is working for Chicago Joe's (Restaurant - IRVING WESTON)
Apparently his friendship with the school principal is more important than the safety and well being of our children.

Several of us are shocked!
Several of us are worried!
We do not know him
We do not know what happened
We do know it is something we hope never happens again - him entering the School
The principal should be reprimanded for allowing this to happen.

QIA
4520 N. Western
Chicago IL.
60625

CHICAGO IL 606
08 NOV 2008 PM 1 L

Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of: The protection of
children and Youth
155 E. Superior Street
Chgo. IL. 60611

60611+2931

AOC 004323

RECEIVED

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Vicar for Priests

645 N. Michigan Ave.
Suite 543
Chicago, Illinois 60611

(312) 642-1837
Fax: (312) 642-4933

MEMORANDUM

To: Leah McCluskey
CC: Fr. Jim Kaczorowski
From: Ed Grace
Re: William O'Brien (Resigned)
Date: November 25, 2008

Leah,

On November 19th you sent over an unsigned hand printed letter concerning the presence of Bill O'Brien in Queen of Angels School, apparently in the role of delivery person for a local restaurant. On Saturday, November 22nd, I brought this to the attention of Fr. Jim Kaczorowski, the pastor of Queen of Angels. (Jim is, of course, fully aware of the circumstances of O'Brien's removal from ministry.)

Jim informed me that he was already aware of the incident and had addressed it directly with Bill O'Brien. Jim had been informed of Bill's presence at the School by irate parishioners who had seen Bill. That same day, Jim contacted Bill and informed him that he could not be on parish premises of Queen of Angels, even as a delivery person. Jim informed me that Bill understands and accepts this restriction.

In addition, Fr. Kaczorowski informed the school principal that O'Brien was not allowed on the school premises, even as a delivery person. Jim also informed the parish school board of O'Brien's presence in the school and the steps Jim had taken to prevent a recurrence.

Finally, Jim also informed the Regional Vicar, Bishop Kane, of the incident and his steps.

It seems to me that this was an appropriate response. If you have any further thoughts, let me know.

Ed Grace

AOC 004324

SUMMARY TIME LINE OF ALLEGATION

	ACCUSED	ACCUSER
Name:	Rev. William O'Brien	[redacted]
Address:	Chicago, IL	Plainfield, IL
Date of Birth:	9/25/47	[redacted]
Current age:	62	43
Name of civil attorney:	N/A	Jeff Anderson

Date of Ordination (of accused): 5/9/73

Location: Mundelein

Age at ordination: 25

Assignment location of accused: N/A

Status of accused: Laicized

Name of canonical advocate: N/A

Date allegation received: 8/18/08

Date allegation formalized: 11/5/09

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1984

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1985

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: numerous

Brief summary of alleged abuse: fondling over and under clothing; sleeping together in Fr. O'Brien's bed both in underwear only; Fr. O'Brien performed oral sex on [redacted]

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 1/21/10; Mr. O'Brien responded in writing that he did not wish to make a response

Stage of disposition by Review Board: Initial Review

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [redacted]

Date of Birth: [redacted]

Current age: 43

Name of civil attorney: [redacted]

Date allegation received: 4/28/05

Date allegation formalized: 5/23/05

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1983

Date of last incident of alleged abuse:

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: several

Brief summary of alleged abuse: Mutual oral sex, kissing, in bed naked with each other, intercourse

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 5/24/05; Fr. O'Brien did not respond to the allegation

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 7/05; reasonable cause to suspect

---

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [redacted]

Date of Birth: [redacted]

Current age: 46

Name of civil attorney: Jeff Anderson

Date allegation received: 6/6/05

Date allegation formalized: 7/6/05

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1976

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1980

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: numerous (includes years of grooming)

Brief summary of alleged abuse: Fr. O'Brien spent much time with [redacted] beginning when she worked at St. Symphorosa rectory. Began with Fr. O'Brien kissing [redacted] on the lips to greet her and to say good-bye. [redacted] spoke of an incident when Fr. O'Brien asked her what kind of underwear she was wearing. [redacted] was 17 when Fr. O'Brien reassigned to St. Cajetan's. When she was 17, Fr. O'Brien had [redacted] on his bed in his room in the rectory, pulled up her [redacted], lay on top of her and masturbated until he ejaculated on top of her. [redacted]

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 8/30/05; Fr. O'Brien did not respond to the allegation

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 2/06; reasonable cause to suspect

---

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [redacted]

Date of Birth: [redacted]

Current age: 52

Name of civil attorney: Jeff Anderson

Date allegation received: 10/10/05

Date allegation formalized: 2/24/06

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1975

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1975

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: three (all on the same trip to the Holy Land)

Brief summary of alleged abuse: while on a trip to [redacted], [redacted] had to share a room with Fr. O'Brien in all hotels that they stayed in; three incidents that [redacted] can recall which included fondling over and under clothing, oral sex, Fr. O'Brien requesting that [redacted] perform oral sex on him [redacted] refused), and Fr. O'Brien masturbating and ejaculating in front of [redacted]

Brief summary and date of response from accused: Mr. O'Brien chose to not have the allegation presented to him; Mr. O'Brien did not provide any response

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 10/06; reasonable cause to suspect

---

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

Signature of Director: Pat McCloskey **Date:** 2/3/10

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATION/RESPONSE/INVESTIGATION

Name of Alleged Victim
[redacted]

Name of Accused
Rev. William O'Brien (Laicized)

Summary of Allegation
The Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review (CAIR) was first made known of [redacted] allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against the former Rev. William O'Brien on August 18, 2008 through [redacted]'s attorney Jeff Anderson.

[redacted] is 43years old, resides in Plainfield, and is employed as a [redacted]. His family belonged to St. Symphorosa parish when he was a youth. [redacted] attended kindergarten through eighth grade at St. Symphorosa, which is where and how he met the former Fr. O'Brien.

[redacted] alleges that Fr. O'Brien sexually abused him on approximately six different occasions in Fr. O'Brien's quarters in the St. Symphorosa rectory. As per [redacted] Fr. O'Brien fondled him over and under his clothing and performed oral sex on him. Fr. O'Brien also had [redacted] fondle him.

Summary of Response
Mr. O'Brien agreed to meet in person with Rev. John Collins, Vicar for Priests, and me so that I could present [redacted] allegation to him. After being presented with [redacted] allegation, Mr. O'Brien informed us that he would respond in writing. Mr. O'Brien did mail a response to my attention and wrote, "I decline to offer any response to the allegations made by [redacted]"

Summary of Investigation
Hillard Heintze has completed an Investigative Summary, which included a background check on [redacted] and the investigation is ongoing.

Signature

2/10/10
Date

From: Julie Satzik
To: McCluskey, Leah
Date: 2/10/2010 9:30 AM
Subject: Re: Request for Assignments

Hi,

The priests were:

Francis N. Maniola 1978-1981
Donald S. Bartoszek 1978
John J. Rudnik 1978-1979
Leonard A. Bogdon 1978-1981
William J. O'Brien 1979-1981
John P. McNamara 1980-1981

Julie

Julie A. Satzik
Assistant Research Archivist
Archdiocese of Chicago's
Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
Archives and Records Center
711 W. Monroe
Chicago IL 60661

>>> Leah McCluskey 2/1/2010 3:19 PM >>>
Hi Julie,

When you have a chance, could you please e-mail me the list of priests assigned to St. Symphorosa with Rev. William O'Brien from 6/9/1978 to 6/8/1981?

Thank you!

Leah

Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Archdiocese of Chicago
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Office: (312) 534-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
lmccluskey@archchicago.org

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O'BRIEN, Rev. William John

Date of birth	Ordained
[redacted]	5/9/73

William J. O'Brien

Nationality Irish

Date Appointed	Assignment	Charge	Date Left	Extraordinary Appointments
5/9/73	Saint Jude the Apostle (South Holland)	Assistant	TCC:6-9-78	
May 1975	Elected Senator			
TNW 3-19-76	To be Associate Chaplain of the South Suburban Serra Club, while retaining his present duties and residence at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, South Holland.	Associate Chaplain		
TNW 12-10-76	Metropolitan Tribunal, while retaining full time position as Associate, St. Jude Apostle, South Holland	Procurator/ Advocate		
TCC:6-9-78	St. Symphorosa Church, Chicago	Associate	ltr eff:6-8-81	
TCC:3-13-81	Office director of the Office for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith while retaining duties at St. Symphorosa	Assoc. Director		
Ltr eff:6-8-81	St. Cajetan Church, Chicago, w/ primary duties as Associate Director of Propagation of the Faith.	Assoc. Pastor will reside and assist Pastorally	2/1/86	
TCC 1-29-82	Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Holy Childhood Assn. of the Archdiocese, with continuing residence at St. Cajetan Parish 11134 S. Artesian.	DIRECTOR		
TCC: 9-24-82	MASTER OF CEREMONIES			
2/1/86	Queen of Angels, Chicago while retaining duties as Director of Propogation of the Faith	RESIDENT		
07/01/95	Queen of Angels	Administrator	05/29/96	
05/29/96	Queen of Angels	Pastor		
05/29/02	Queen of Angels (2nd Term)	Pastor		
06/06/05	Removed from Parish			
4-24-06	Left Priesthood			

THE DIOCESAN CLERGY PERSONNEL BOARD
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

A G E N D A

Meeting No. 29 - The Sixth Board
Place: Clergy Personnel Board Office
Time: 10:30 A. M.
Date: Friday, May 5, 1978

1. Opening Prayer: Reverend Thomas A. Tivy

2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting No. 28

3. Reports:

a. [redacted]

b.

c.

d. Last Monday the Personnel Board is reported acting on anonymous letters in the case of Bill O'Brien. Just remember that the Board tore up the card it received and had completed two sessions of recommendations by the time the cards began appearing.

e. [redacted]

Other Reports

[redacted]

4. Approval of the Agenda.

5. [redacted]

6. [redacted]

7. Other Business

8. Adjournments.

IV-55

MINUTES

Meeting **#25th - Twenty-First Board**
Date: **June 17, 2005**
Place: **Priests' Placement Board**

Present: Rev.: Kevin Birmingham, John W. Clemens, William T. Corcoran (arriv 10:15), Matthew E. Foley, Thomas Hickey, David A. Jones, Daniel J. McCormack, Richard Milek

Absent: Rev. James Donovan

I Opening Prayer: Rev. Matthew E. Foley 10:06 A M

II Acceptance of Minutes: 7 - 0 - 0

III Reports:

[redacted]

IV Acceptance of Agenda: 8 - 0 - 0

V Business:

A. [redacted]

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[redacted]

B. [redacted]

C. [redacted]

[redacted]

D. Parishes:

1. [redacted]
2.
3.
4.
5.

Page 320

6. [redacted]

7.

8.

9.

10. **Queen of Angels:** There are real problems. People want William O'Brien ' [pastor] back. It will not happen.

E. [redacted]

F. [redacted]

G.

[redacted]

H. [redacted]

I. [redacted]

J. [redacted]

K. [redacted]

L. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

M. [redacted]

N. [redacted]

VI **Old Business:**

VII **New Business:**

VIII **Adjournment:** **12:00 pm**
MOTION: 8 - 0 - 0

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

MINUTES

Meeting #28th – Twenty-First Board
Date July 15, 2005
Priests' Placement Board/Pastoral Center

Present: Rev.: Kevin M. Birmingham, John W. Clemens, William T. Corcoran (arv. 10:45), James Donovan, Matthew E. Foley, Thomas Hickey, David A. Jones, Daniel J. McCormack,

Absent: Rev. Richard Milek

I Opening Prayer: Rev. Daniel McCormack **10:10 A M**

II Acceptance of Minutes: 5 – 0 – 0

III Reports:

[redacted]

IV Acceptance of Agenda: 7-0-0

V Business:

A. [redacted]

B. [redacted]

C. [redacted]

D. Priests:

1. [redacted]

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8. [redacted]

9. [redacted]

10. [redacted]

11. **William O'Brien '73:** Bill will be resigning the parish. This is another opening.

12. [redacted]

13. [redacted]

14. [redacted]

15. [redacted]

16. [redacted]

17. [redacted]

18. [redacted]

19. [redacted]

E. [redacted]

F. [redacted]

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G. [redacted].

H. [redacted]

I. [redacted]

J. [redacted]

K. [redacted]

L. [redacted]

M. [redacted]

N. [redacted]

O. [redacted]

P. [redacted]

VI **Old Business:**

VII **New Business:**

[redacted]

VIII **Adjournment:** Noon
MOTION: 8 – 0 – 0

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

MINUTES

Meeting: #6th- Nineteenth Board

Date: **September 27, 2002**

Place: **Priests' Placement Board**

Present: Rev.: John W. Clemens, William T. Corcoran, Leonardo Gomez (arriv 10:25 am), David A. Jones, Robert G. Mair, Daniel P. McCarthy

Absent: Rev. Kurt D. Boras, Joseph P. Grembla, Daniel J. McCormack

I **Opening Prayer:** Rev John W. Clemens 10:15 am

II **Acceptance of Minutes: 6 - 0 - 0**

III **Reports:**

1. [redacted]

2. [redacted]

3. [redacted]

4. [redacted]

5. **William O'Brien '73:** The Cardinal has appointed Bill to a second 6-year term as pastor of Queen of Angels parish commencing 05/29/02 the date his previous term ended His

AOC 004349

term of office will be for an additional six years, but will officially remain in effect until he is reappointed or transferred or his successor is named.

6. [redacted]

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

IV Acceptance of Agenda: 6 – 0 – 0

V Business:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Page 65

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

VI **Old Business:** [redacted]

VII **New Business:**

VIII **Adjournment:** **2:19 PM**
MOTION: 5 – 0 – 0

[redacted]

[redacted]

AOC 004358