



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
EDWARD R. KIRBY  
1919-1991



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VICE PRESIDENT

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November 9, 2009

OF COUNSEL  
GLENN P. EIDEN  
U.S. CUSTOMS RET.

Mr. James Byrne  
Attorney at Law  
Spesia, Ayers, & Ardaugh  
1415 Black Road  
Joliet IL 60435

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
File: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Per your request, I undertook an assignment to interview [REDACTED] concerning whether or not he had any knowledge if anyone in authority was notified, by himself or anyone else, of his being sexually abused while he attended St. [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] IL during the 1970's by Father James Burnett. You provided a home address of [REDACTED] and a telephone number of [REDACTED], for Mr. [REDACTED].

On Thursday, August 20, 2009 I left a message for [REDACTED] on his voice mail. No return call was received.

On Wednesday, August 26, 2009 I left a message for [REDACTED] on his voice mail. No return call was received.

On August 26, 2009 I traveled to [REDACTED]

Upon arrival, at approximately 7:10 PM, I met with and briefly interviewed a male who identified himself as [REDACTED]. It is noted that the interview took place with [REDACTED] standing in the doorway and myself standing on the front porch. Throughout the interview, [REDACTED] repeatedly stated that he wanted to put all of this behind him and didn't want to discuss the matter now or in the future. He stated that while he appreciated "Peter's" (Bishop Sartain) willingness to meet with him he did not wish to rehash any of this situation. He stated that he wanted nothing to do with the Catholic Church.

During the course of an approximate 10 minute interview he related the following:

- He attended St. [REDACTED] School through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- He was sexually abused by Father Burnett on several occasions in his office when he was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- He never reported the abuse to anyone in authority with [REDACTED] or the Catholic Church.

To: James Byrne, Esq.

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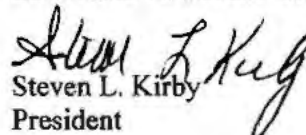
November 9, 2009

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- The only person he ever confided to at that time was his mother who didn't believe him [REDACTED]
- He does not know whether or not his mother ever informed anyone of his complaints.
- As a result of his complaints to his mother, his parents removed him from St. [REDACTED]
- He has had no contact with Father Burnett since that time.
- To his knowledge, when he was being abused by Father Burnett no one ever walked in on it or otherwise became aware of the abuse.
- The only person who he knew was aware of his even being alone with Father Burnett was a woman (identity unknown) who let him into Burnett's office on one occasion.
- He is unaware of any other person (student) who may have been abused by Father Burnett but thinks that a former classmate, [REDACTED], may have been abused; based upon a gut feeling. He said that neither [REDACTED] nor anyone else at Charles Borromeo ever told him that they had been abused by Father Burnett or anyone else and he did not know of anyone else ever abused.
- [REDACTED] said that he was contacted by phone in the past by a female who said she was investigating this matter and he told her about [REDACTED]. She stated she was going to try and locate [REDACTED] in Joliet. [REDACTED] said that he did not recall her name or know who she actually represented. He assumed that she was working for the Diocese.
- In conclusion, he stated that he had no further information that he wished to discuss and reiterated that he wanted to put all of this matter behind him and did not want to be contacted by anyone representing the Diocese in the future.

I then thanked Mr. [REDACTED] for his time and patience and departed the area.

Respectfully submitted,  
EDWARD R. KIRBY & ASSOCIATES

  
Steven L. Kirby  
President

SLK:klb



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Released April 2014

RT. REV. MSGR. JOSEPH A. WAGNER  
117 WEST MAPLE AVENUE  
ROSELLE, ILLINOIS

000000-I

Blumberg No. 0114  
DEFENDANT'S  
EXHIBIT  
-A-

April 12, 1960

Rev. Roger Kaffer  
310 Bridge St.  
Joliet, Ill.

Dear Father Kaffer

This will introduce James Raymond Burnett, a member of St. Walter's parish, Roselle. He spent two years at this grade school, and 4 years at St. Edward High School, Elgin. He has just informed me that he would like to study for the diocesan priesthood.

I can recommend him unhesitatingly as an excellent candidate. He has never given us any trouble. He is quiet, studious, and his behaviour is excellent. His parents are both good Catholics, and provide a good home for their two boys. I sincerely believe that with good seminary training he will develop into a good priest.

Sincerely yours,  
Joseph A. Wagner

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 20

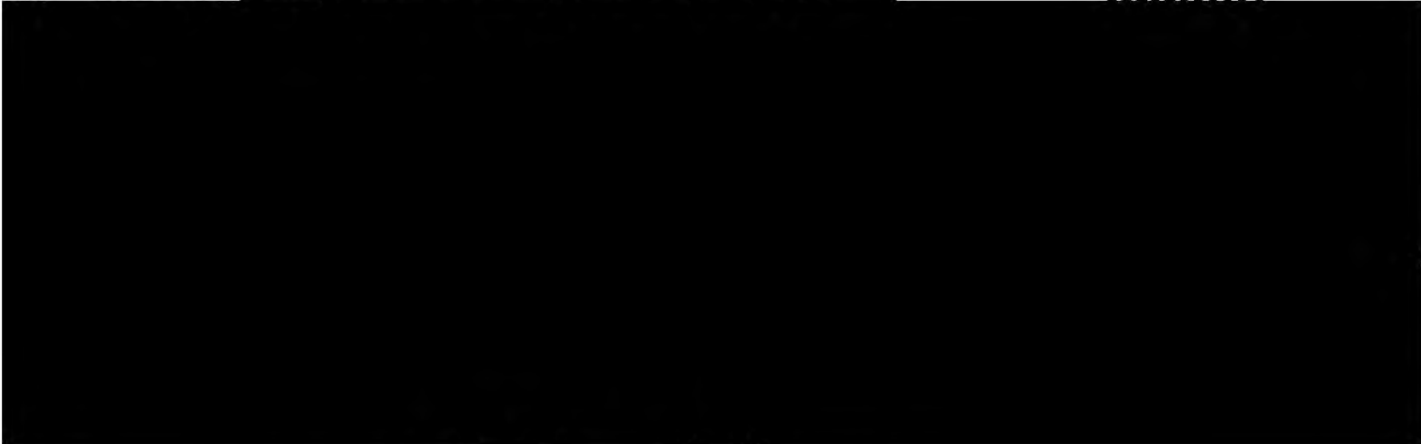
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SEMINARIAN INTERVIEW - DIOCESE OF JOLIET.

Date April 18, 1960.

1. Name: JAMES RAYMOND BURNETT

000002



- 12.a) Name of parish: *St. Walter's - Roselle*
- b) Address:
- c) Name of pastor: *Msgr. Wagner*
- 13.a) Education (Indicate schools and years of graduations)  
*1-6 - St. Mel, Chicago; 7-8 St. Walter, Roselle; 1-4 St. Edward's High, Elgin, Ill.*
- b) Did you participate in any athletic activities at school? *No.*
- 14. Indicate amount of Latin studied: *3 yrs - about C avg average.*
- 15. Indicate college and seminary courses already covered: *—*
- 16. Were you ever dismissed from any school? *No* If so, explain on reverse side.
- 17. Have you earned any degrees? *No* If so, explain:
- 18. Have you ever been a candidate for priesthood or brotherhood in any diocese or religious order? *No*, If so, name seminary and your immediate superiors.
- 19. Have you ever been refused admittance to such institutions? *No*, Explain on reverse.
- 20. Have you worked since you left school? *Just summer.* Explain: *In summer, has worked at church + in Greenlawn.*
- 21. How long have you wanted to be a priest? *3 yrs.*
- 22. Why do you want to be a priest? *Wonderful life; to be close to God + do His work + help people.*
- 23. Why do you want to study for the Joliet diocese? *Prefer work of diocesan priest; some dioc.*
- 24. Name and address of priest friend who knows you well:
- 25. Any priests or sisters among close relatives? *No*, Explain: *—*
- 26. What is your draft status? *None yet.*
- 27. Are you a convert? *No*, Explain: *—*
- 28. Can you pay your school expenses? *Parents can.*

REMARKS: *His* [Redacted]

Letter of recommendation from Pastor:  From School:  Medical Report:

Baptismal record:

Confirmation record:

Marriage record of parents:

Seminary assigned: *Accepted. R.L.K.*



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000003


April 18, 1960

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Wagner  
St. Walter Church  
Roselle, Illinois

Dear Monsignor Wagner:

Jim Burnett was here with his mother and brother today.  
I told him we will accept him for the diocese, and will arrange  
for a college when his transcript of credits arrives.



With sincere thanks and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Assistant Chancellor

RLK: jr



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January 27, 1990

000094

Bishop Imesch  
St. Francis of the Woods  
Mokena, Il. 60448

Dear Bishop Imesch:

It has recently come to the attention of the St. Mary's of Mokena Parish, via the grape vine, that Father Burnett's days here at St. Mary's are numbered. This news has saddened a great many of us, for a good many reasons.

We have also heard that Father Jim's fate will be decided some time in April, which is the reason for this letter. Please Bishop, see that this is shown to those who hold Father Jim's fate in their hands.

We may not always see eye to eye with Father Jim, but the man is a wonderful priest, and he is there for his people. He has done so much for this parish, especially with the young. The teens of the parish think the world of him, and so too do the very young.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Father Jim has always been there for me, and my family, as he has been with a great many other families. He has a wonderful repore with the young, and the youngsters of today need someone to look up to. He was instrumental in getting us our new and beautiful church, and it just doesn't seem fair for him to be taken away.

Please, if there is just a slim chance that Father Jim could just stay a little longer. I am sure that there is much more in store for Father Jim to accomplish here in Mokena - can't you please give him that chance?

Sincerely,  
Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]



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000095

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 13, 1990



Dear Friends,

I received the letter of commendation on behalf of Father James Burnett that you sent me recently. I could not agree more with your estimation of Father Burnett and his ministry.

The policy of transferring pastors every 12 years was adopted by the Presbyteral Council several years ago. Since that time almost 40 pastors have been transferred. To my knowledge, no pastor has ever received an extension beyond 12 years. However, I will see that the Personnel Board hears of your request, although I am not optimistic that an extension will be granted.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J L Imesch".

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

bc-Bishop Roger Kaffer

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000096

January 29, 1990

Reverend James Burnett  
St. Mary Parish  
19517 115th Avenue, #2  
Mokena, IL 60448-3203

Dear Jim:

I did try to see you after the meeting with your parish council, and was delighted to find out you were gone. I hope it was for some relaxation or an evening out! I wasn't delighted to miss you, but I was delighted to think and hope that you might be taking an evening off. I wanted to tell you all the wonderful things your parish council had to say about you, and they were reiterated by every staff member I happened to run into. I also would like your own views on the profile of your successor, and would like to talk with you about the kind of parish you would next hope to go to.

I did warn the parish council that your transfer will be traumatic for both them and you, a death and dying experience. It will be difficult for you to leave and for them to have you leave, as it will be difficult for your successor to leave his parish and come into a new situation. Both pastor and people must be aware of that so they can minister to each other's hurts, instead of augment them by resenting the change for both.

They asked when it should be publicly announced, because most of the parish is as yet unaware. I told them they should talk to you because it really must be your decision. I admitted in my own case that my impending transfer from Providence was announced twelve months in advance. That made the bridging very easy, and I put up a bold front, laughing on the outside, but I was crying on the inside, and felt like I was attending my own wake - and I wasn't sure I wanted to be at my own wake! Nevertheless, the J.O.B. that will come out this week will contain the anticipated vacancies. Moreover, if it is announced fairly soon, both you and the parish council can help your people start the grieving process and get through some of that to begin to get ready psychologically to welcome your successor.



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Reverend James Burnett -2-

January 29, 1990

Be assured of my prayers and support. If I can help you in any way, let me know.

With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet  
Vicar General

RLK:bjd

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March 12, 1990

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo re: Father Jim Burnett

What a delightful priest! We talked about the death and dying for both the individual and the parish that Jim can expect. He already is experiencing it. I told him it is right now as though he were attending his own wake, and he might not be sure he wants to be at his wake. He said he laughs on the outside, but feels some of the tug on the inside. However, he is ready and willing to move - no problem.

I told him we would expect to assign him in DuPage County. He really has no preference. He likes school, so that would be no challenge. I pointed out that all the parishes in DuPage would have a school probably. Jim's first and only real comment was that he likes to be directly involved and would like smaller rather than larger. I told him that we were thinking larger rather than smaller, and I just wanted him to know that. I told him we feel that he could probably go to any of the parishes that are open, that we have great confidence in him, and that we feel that he has a great deal of ability and, therefore, will probably recommend a larger place. I did indicate that his direct involvement would be perhaps a little more with staff as well as with people. He just said he hears horror stories about people not getting along on staff, but then that would just be something he would have to work with. He expressed no preference, said he knows nothing about any of the parishes, and jokingly said if it didn't work, he would come in for a change. I said that would be the thing to do, and he quickly said he would not want to do that. It would be his job to make things work. I believe it was when I said do you have any preference more rather than less in living in the house, and that is when he said that he prefers smaller rather than larger, and it was at that point that I said we were thinking of larger rather than smaller for him, and I wanted to be upfront about that. I then ran down the list of all the parishes that are open in DuPage County, and he gave no indication of anything by way of preference. He said he knows our job is difficult and he will not make it more difficult. I am sure he will go wherever we ask him to go, and I would be awfully suprised if he doesn't say yes to whatever is our first offer to him. He is a great priest.

---

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch



January 31, 1991

## CONFIDENTIAL

Memo re: Father James Burnett

Jim looks tired, older and maybe a bit heavier, but I didn't tell him any of those things. His attitude is beautiful, as it always is. He is a little concerned about some of the "kooks" who are drawn to Ss. Peter & Paul. He feels that some come there simply to get away from other parishes that they don't like. He is also a bit distressed when his parishioners keep saying they do not want to be like St. Raphael, and he himself feels they need a little bit of updating.

Jim is evidently working on collaboration with the staff, and feels that is immensely important. Though it wasn't said, I got the underlying impression that [REDACTED] was a little more vertical and Jim Burnett is a little more horizontal, and it will take some time and effort to bring the staff and parishioners from a more vertical to a more horizontal mode. Jim likes the staff and is working with them.

I asked him specifically about [REDACTED]. He said [REDACTED] is doing well, but is very headstrong, and absolutely garners his free time. When he has free time, he is always gone. Apparently he is also headstrong about his own ideas. Jim indicated that he does not fight him. He also indicated that Frank Vitus is a wonderful gentleman, a wonderful priest, a dedicated worker and that he absolutely relies on him. [REDACTED] He is a joy to live with and work with. Frank gets angry or upset at times because I gather [REDACTED] doesn't always carry his share of the load. I urged Jim to confront [REDACTED] pointing out that many times young priests are late adolescents and need guidance and help.

Jim said they need a little more space for the grand piano, and he wanted to remove part of the communion rail, but parishioners almost had a stroke. He still thinks they might remove just two or three feet of it, and that's okay with Jim. Though he would just as soon see the whole communion rail gone, he will not remove it.

[REDACTED]

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000103

Memo re: Father James Burnett

-2-

January 31, 1991



I commended him for his fidelity in visiting his parents, but also told him that is not the same as a day off or recreation for himself. He said he would work on that. He has seen "Phantom of the Opera."

Jim is a real gentleman and a wonderful priest. I commended him and thanked him not only for what he does, but for who he is. I told him we knew we were giving him a big job, but had recommended him for Ss. Peter & Paul because we were confident he could handle it.

---

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch

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000104

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 16, 1991

Reverend James Burnett  
SS Peter & Paul Parish  
26 N. Ellsworth Avenue  
Naperville, IL 60540-4697

Dear Jim,

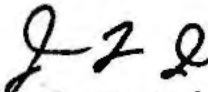
I had the opportunity to speak with Larry Gibbs about his place of residence while he serves as chaplain at Elmhurst College and North Central College. I had some question about whether there would be room for Larry at SS Peter & Paul, given the understanding that [REDACTED] might be living there.

Would you be agreeable to having Larry in residence at the parish, assisting you with daily and Sunday Masses, as well as providing you with other assistance as mutually agreed upon. Larry and I proposed that the compensation for his ministry in the parish would be the payment of his benefits, namely retirement, health insurance and automobile insurance. His salary would be paid from the Campus Ministry budget of the diocese. If this arrangement is agreeable to you, or if you would wish to propose some other arrangement, I would appreciate it if you would contact me by phone or by mail.

Larry would plan on coming to the parish on August 19th if everything is favorable.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Reverend Lawrence Gibbs

*the Bishop Roger Kopper*



November 10, 1992

**CONFIDENTIAL**

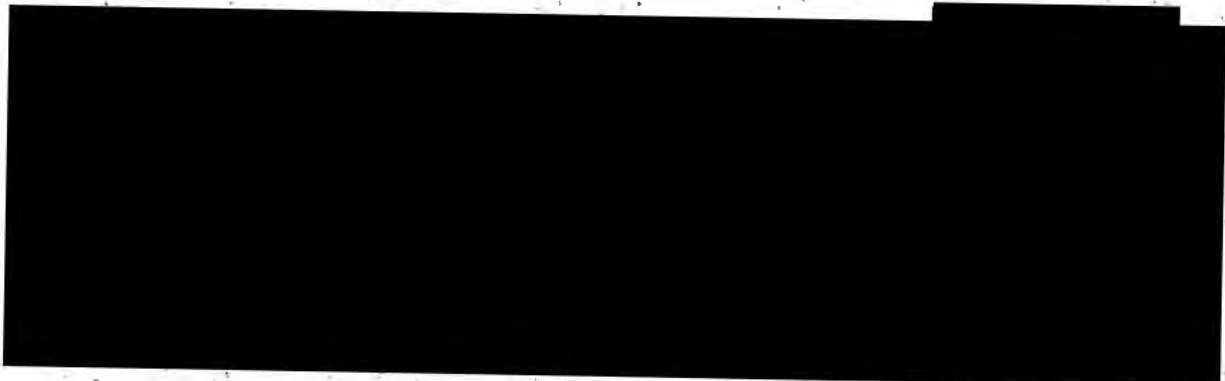
Memo re: Father Jim Burnett

Jim and I began by discussing Larry Gibbs, but I rather quickly changed the focus to Jim Burnett himself.

Jim really seems to be doing a fine job as pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul. He said it is a bit difficult following [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] tended to be much more directive and Jim Burnett tends to be much more collaborative. Moreover, Jim Burnett points out to the staff that they have been there for a long time and know more than he does, and so everyone must work together. I gather that some of the people look for him to make more decisions than he cares to do.

Confirmation is a donneybrook. Last year, due to the protests of some parents, Jim did allow about 20 to be confirmed in eighth grade at the Cathedral. This year about 67 eighth graders want to be confirmed in eighth grade. Jim himself really believes in high school confirmation, and asked me if the bishops couldn't make up their minds for high school, but he fears that if we do agree on anything, it would be at eighth grade anyway.

Two added difficulties are the desire of people to have their people in Catholic school, and the physical inability of Ss. Peter & Paul to accommodate more. People want Jim to build more classrooms and he refuses. He tells them to talk to their own pastors. The pastors traditionally have blamed the Bishop, even though they know it's not true. Jim said [REDACTED] would not start a school simply because he is about to leave, and [REDACTED] won't because he doesn't believe in Catholic schools evidently. Jim Burnett said that [REDACTED] is a very unusual man, and he made it clear that he was saying that in a positive and not in a negative sense. He seems to admire him.



Memo re: Father Jim Burnett -2- November 10, 1992

He did mention that [REDACTED] is very sensitive and melancholic, and feels he is always a bridesmaid and never a bride as far as becoming a pastor.

Jim likes [REDACTED] but finds him to be of a different generation. He has twice confronted [REDACTED] on "chopping people's heads off" when the people come to Jim Burnett. He does think that [REDACTED] is improving and also admits a difference in understanding of ministry and styles of ministry. But Jim said his own parishioner, [REDACTED], and he have totally different styles of ministry. I guess I am pleasantly surprised that Jim Burnett is as confrontative with [REDACTED] as he apparently is. Having seen him at several diocesan functions recently, having worked with him on the Gibbs' situation and just getting more of his philosophy and watching him a bit in action, it struck me today, I think for the first time, that he may well have the qualities of a wonderful bishop, pastoral and collaborative, gentle but firm.

At the very beginning, we talked about Larry Gibbs. Jim said [REDACTED] had a problem at first, living in the house with Larry, and not knowing much about him. Then a good friend of Sister Theresa Fry, told her that he had called Larry [REDACTED]

---

Bishop Roger Raffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph Imesch



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000115

June 23, 1993

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Bishop Inesch has asked me to acknowledge your recent letter. I am glad you sent Father Burnett a carbon copy. It seems to me that your complaint is about the telephone manners of the parish secretary. We do have annual days for the parish secretaries, but any of us can get swamped on a given day, I am sure.

I cringed when you mentioned your expectation of a reply phone call from Father Burnett within 24 hours. It is sometimes days before I physically would be able to return phone calls, unless I were to do it between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., at which time I am sure the people would not appreciate being called.

I just returned from a meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and there are some bishops whose dioceses do not have a lot more Catholic members than does Ss. Peter & Paul Parish. Hence, Father Burnett does have tremendous responsibilities. To the best of my recollection, yours is the first complaint I have ever heard about Father Burnett, though I have heard countless compliments of him, his pastoral concern and ministry over the last several decades. It is unfortunate that you had an unhappy experience. I am sorry you did.

Enclosed is a prayer I composed on Calvary after saying Mass there on my favorite feast, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, in 1984. It helps me through a lot of tough situations and, hopefully, will be helpful to you too.

With cordial best wishes, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet  
Vicar General

RLK:bjd  
Enclosure



Redacted April 2014  
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Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

00 163

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

February 21, 2000

Reverend James Burnett  
Ss. Peter & Paul Parish  
36 N. Ellsworth  
Naperville, IL 60540-4697

Dear Father Burnett:

As an associate pastor, Father [REDACTED] was assigned to Ss. Peter & Paul in Naperville from June 18, 1984 to June 21, 1989. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior of [REDACTED], including inappropriate computer contacts, please contact the parish and/or the Chancery, so that it may be investigated and that pastoral assistance may be provided.

Please place this announcement in your next Sunday bulletin. Thank you.

With cordial personal regards and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RLK:bjd

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Memo re: Father James Burnett

-2-

August 25, 2001

He said that [REDACTED] But Jim said when he was in the seminary, there were some eccentric monks who even talked to trees. But he said the day will probably come when he himself will be talking to trees, and he hopes that somebody will be understanding of and patient with him! But [REDACTED] is helpful, and I guess periodically Jim will call [REDACTED] on something, but apparently it is working out pretty well. He doesn't know how his successor will handle it.

He does go to cluster meetings, prays the Breviary, makes a retreat, and does think that there are a number of good prospects for the priesthood in Ss. Peter & Paul Parish. He would guess there are about five right now, but he said so many of them want to go on to college before they consider priesthood.

I then brought up with him his own transfer at the end of this year, and asked if he has any preferences. We went over the list of parishes that will be open, and though he did not mention any one in particular, I simply came away with the impression that he would probably be pretty open to St. Petronille's in Glen Ellyn. I simply told him to think about it and we would be talking, and he said he has been thinking about it.

I don't think we even traded blessings because he was in a hurry to get to the wake before the funeral. (He lamented that every funeral is different. This person died sometime ago, and it will be a wake with the ashes and then a Mass, I guess also with the ashes.)

Jim tried to find [REDACTED] who didn't seem to be around, so he took me to [REDACTED] room upstairs, and was going to look for [REDACTED] on his way to the wake and funeral.

It was really a pleasant visit.

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer

RLK:bjd

cc: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch



Released April 2014  
Diocese of Joliet

00 206

Released April 2014  
Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

June 11, 2004

Very Reverend James Burnett  
Cathedral of St. Raymond  
604 N. Raynor Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Father Burnett,

As part of our safe environment efforts toward protecting children, priests were asked to complete a form acknowledging they had received and had reviewed the *Pastoral Policy Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors*, as well as the *Standards of Behavior for Those Working with Minors*. All priests were also asked to send the results of their background check to the Chancery.

In reviewing our records, I noted that we do not have the following information on file for you:

- Acknowledgement form (If this is checked, a copy of the form is enclosed. Please complete the form and fax it to the Chancery by next week.) Fax (815-722-6602)
- Background check information (If this is checked, please fax your background check results to the Chancery by next week.) Fax (815-722-6602)

Thank you for your efforts in helping to keep the children of our Diocese safe.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor





Redacted April 2014  
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Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

00 208

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

September 3, 2004

Very Reverend James Burnett  
Cathedral of St. Raymond  
604 N. Raynor Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Father Burnett,

As part of the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, each diocese will be audited once again as to its compliance with the *Charter* and the *Norms*.

Our Diocese will be audited the week of September 19, 2004. Members of the audit team assigned to us have indicated that they might like to interview you, as a pastor, either in person at the Chancery or by telephone.

For that reason, I am requesting that you inform me in writing as to any and all of the times you might be available for an for an interview either on September 20 (afternoon), September 21 (morning and/or afternoon), September 22 (morning and/or afternoon) or September 23 (morning). Although I do not know how long the interview will be, it will probably not exceed one hour. Please send me this information by fax (815-722-6602) or by mail no later than September 9, 2004.

May God bless you and your work for the Church!

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
FOIA  
Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

00 209



Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

February 17, 2005

Very Reverend James Burnett  
Cathedral of St. Raymond  
604 North Raynor Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60435-6099

Dear Father Burnett,

Bishop Imesch would like to invite you to be an honored concelebrant at the Chrism Mass on Monday, March 21, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral. As the Rector of the Cathedral, you will be seated in the sanctuary along with the other concelebrants who are being honored.

Please respond to this invitation no later than Tuesday, March 8 by calling 815-722-6606. Your response is important so that preparations may be made for the dinner preceding the Chrism Mass as well as for seating arrangements in the sanctuary. Please note, this year's dinner will be held at St. Mary Nativity Parish, not at the Cathedral.

A chasuble and a stole will be provided by the Cathedral. Please bring your own alb.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, O.S.F.  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 210

March 22, 2005

Reverend James Burnett & Staff  
Cathedral of St. Raymond  
604 N. Raynor Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Jim,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter Lily. I still have your poinsettia in my chapel! It is much better this year than it was last year - last year it was gone before Christmas. This year, I keep watering it and it is still there.

Also, I don't think the Chrism Mass was ever more beautiful than it was this year. Congratulations to you and your staff for the wonderful, wonderful job in every way.

With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet (Retired)

RLK:bjd



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 211

## CONFIDENTIAL FILE MEMORANDUM

December 20, 2005

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Allegation


This afternoon, I spoke with Sister [REDACTED], OSF, Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph Parish in Lockport. Sister [REDACTED] contacted me because she received an allegation against one of our priests last night and knew she had to make a report.

The gentleman who spoke with Sister [REDACTED] said he was giving her the information "in confidence." Sister stated that he had called her three times yesterday. The second time he called, Sister was just sitting down to dinner so she told the gentleman to call back later. During the next call, the man alleged that while he was in second grade at St. Mary School in Mokena, Father James Burnett had abused him in the confessional. The man said that when he entered the confessional, Father told him to pull his pants down, then touched his penis.

The man told Sister [REDACTED] that afterwards, Father Burnett was his "champion." Father protected him from playground bullies and defended him whenever he got in trouble with any of the teachers.

Because he had asked that the matter remain confidential, Sister [REDACTED] said she could not reveal the man's name but unknowingly gave me his first name when she said that on the second call she had asked [REDACTED] to call back later. When questioned, Sister gave the priest's name. She said that the man (who lives out of state) said that Sister was the first person he had ever told about the abuse. The man told her that he was not after money, did not want Father removed from ministry, did not want the matter to be made public, but was only concerned that no one else be hurt because if Father abused him it was likely others had been abused also. When I asked about counseling, Sister said something similar to 'he had his life together.'

Sister [REDACTED] said that she was going to provide the man with a copy of our policy. I told her to tell him that he was certainly welcome to speak with Bishop Imesch or me at the Chancery, or with Sister [REDACTED] the Victim Assistance Coordinator. I then provided Sister's phone number to Sister [REDACTED]

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 212

CONFIDENTIAL FILE MEMORANDUM

December 21, 2005

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Allegation

When it was learned that the man's name was [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] from the Herald News had spoken with him, I called Sister [REDACTED] to obtain [REDACTED] address and phone number: [REDACTED]

I called [REDACTED] told him that I understood he had contacted the *Herald News* with an allegation of sexual abuse by one of our priests. I said that the Diocese takes allegations very seriously and that a Mr. Steve Kirby, who is a representative of the Diocesan Review Committee, would like to speak with him regarding the allegation. [REDACTED] was very nonchalant when he responded that he would speak with Mr. Kirby.

[REDACTED] said he had not called the *Herald News* but that instead, [REDACTED] called the newspaper. I asked the connection with [REDACTED] and how it was that [REDACTED] spoke with him. The response was that [REDACTED] number was given by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had found [REDACTED] name and phone number on the internet, then contacted him.

The conversation ended with [REDACTED] saying that he should have called someone years ago because others were probably abused.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 213

Sister Judith

Please call [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. He left two messages on my voice mail last night one at 6 and the other at 6:04. He is [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and says that he was sexually abused by Fr. Burnett from first grade thru 4th grade. He graduated from St. Mary Mokena in [REDACTED]. He has talked to [REDACTED] and was interviewed by him for over a half hour about 3 weeks ago. He has heard nothing further. He talked to [REDACTED] yesterday who said they were working on it. He has not gone public with this even though he has been called by the Joliet Herald. He has talked to a couple of attorneys who want his case but has not signed with anyone yet.

He said he attempted to call Fr. Burnett 7 times over the years but he has never returned his calls. He called him in Naperville and at the Cathedral.

He said that when all this happened Fr. Burnett told him not to tell anyone that it was secret between him and God.

He said that he learned that his brother [REDACTED] was molested by Fr. Bill Virtue. He said that Fr. Virtue picked them up at home and took them to the woods. He told [REDACTED] to stay and that he walked ahead with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was afraid so he hid behind a tree. He can remember seeing his brother with his pants down to his ankles and he was naked. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
1-6-05



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Sister Judith

00 214-

Please call [redacted] of [redacted]. He left two messages on my voice mail last night one at 6 and the other at 6:04. He is a [redacted] and says that he was sexually abused by Fr. Burnett from first grade thru 4th grade. He graduated from St. Mary Mokena in [redacted]. He has talked to [redacted] and was interviewed by him for over a half hour about 3 weeks ago. He has heard nothing further. He talked to [redacted] <sup>STEVE</sup> yesterday who said they were working on it. He has not gone public with this even though he has been called by the Joliet Herald. He has talked to a couple of attorneys who want his case but has not signed with anyone yet.

STEVE KIRBY

He said he attempted to call Fr. Burnett 7 times over the years but he has never returned his calls. He called him in Naperville and at the Cathedral.

He said that when all this happened Fr. Burnett told him not to tell anyone that it was secret between him and God.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

1-6-05

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 215

FILE MEMORANDUM

January 6, 2006

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This morning I spoke with [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] regarding the process used with his allegation of abuse.

I told him that:

- His phone messages were received at the Bishop's office and I was responding for the Bishop since he is out-of-town at a meeting.
- His allegation was received just prior to the diocesan offices being closed for the holidays. Offices re-opened this Tuesday and that is why there was somewhat of a delay.
- The Diocese takes all allegation seriously, appreciates that he had come forward.
- The fact that an interview was conducted so quickly with him shows that the Diocese does take allegations very seriously.
- We realize this can be a very difficult time for him because the process that the Diocese uses does take time, can be difficult for the one who has made the allegation and that we do appreciate his patience.

I then asked [REDACTED] if he would be interested in knowing the process that the Diocese uses whenever an allegation is received. On hearing a positive response, I told him that a person conducts interviews on behalf of the Review Committee, i.e. gathers information from the one making the allegation. With that, [REDACTED] interrupted, saying that he had already been interviewed. I acknowledged his comment, continued with stating that information is also gathered from family members and that the time in which this can be achieved depends on the cooperation of those being interviewed, then asked if we could interview any members of his family, and asked whether he wanted to give me a list of his family members and phone numbers now or if he wanted to fax it later on. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I said we'd need a list so he took down our fax number: [REDACTED] I said that I'm not sure where things are right now, don't have any information as to who might have been interviewed but I do know the process is going forward and asked once more for his patience.

Next I told [REDACTED] that the Review Committee composed of volunteers, (i.e. therapists, women attorneys, etc.) reviews the allegation



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January 6, 2006

RE: [REDACTED]

and all information received, then determines if more information is necessary, decides if there is need for the temporary removal of the accused and makes a recommendation to the Bishop as to what ought to happen. I proceeded saying that the next meeting of the Review Committee is scheduled for mid-February. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

agreed that I could give the [REDACTED] Diocese his telephone number so there could be communication with him.

When I asked [REDACTED] how he was affected by what happened, he responded "fighting." When asked when he realized there was a connection between what happened to him and his problems, he said it was "right away." After the abuse first happened he began fighting and that the abuse continued to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He became a bully, would "throw everyone off" because he didn't want anyone to touch him. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I mentioned that in the message left at the Chancery, [REDACTED] said that he spoke with two lawyers. He said they were a [REDACTED]

I told [REDACTED] that things really cannot proceed until we receive more information. He said that Mr. Kirby can call him at anytime.

[REDACTED] said that he would never forget the priest's hands. They were white, "like ghost hands, really clean fingers, like professional", 'and business and soft.' [REDACTED] said he attempted to contact the priest for 10 years while he was in Mokena, Naperville and Joliet. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The messages he left with secretaries and answering machines did not say anything about sexual abuse. He wanted to "know why you did what you did." He said that the priest did not have the courage to return his all eve though he left six or seven messages.

Other information about [REDACTED] He is age [REDACTED] The abuse happened 20 years ago. [REDACTED]



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00 217

January 6, 2006

RE: [REDACTED]

The conversation ended with my telling [REDACTED] that I would contact the Diocese of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I told [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that if he ever wanted to talk, please call me at [REDACTED]. If I was not available, leave a message and I would call him back as soon as possible. He was also welcome to speak with Sister [REDACTED] said that he had already talked with her and she suggested he might wish to take advantage of counseling provided for by the Diocese.

I spoke with [REDACTED] Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of [REDACTED]. I asked that she call Mr. [REDACTED] today if she would be delayed [REDACTED] so that he would know there was follow-up.

[REDACTED]

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
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Released April 2014

00 218

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2006 11:11 PM

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** sexual abuse

Sister Judith I am very disappointed and ashamed that I am or was a part of the Joliet Diocese. A school and parish that I attended for 8 years, [Redacted] along with many of my friends and attended many funerals [Redacted] St. Mary's, the same school that I now know my brothers were sexually assaulted at. You already know all of this because I spoke to you about my brother [Redacted] with father Bill Virtue. What you don't know is the horrific and morally disgusting things that he did in order to protect our other brother [Redacted]. All of that was in vain because it was happening to [Redacted] also with another priest father Burnette, whom I would have considered a friend of the family. Now I consider him a pedifiler and unworthy person to be addressed as a priest and anyone associated with Jesus. [Redacted]

[Redacted] I forgot that you and Sister [Redacted] are both well aware of these abuse but I still understand that Father Burnette is still at St Ray and Father Bill is still in Peoria. I think you both have forgotten your position to help the victims. I have failed to see how either of you have helped my family. You both have ignored that sexual abuse allegations which in your heart you believe is true, I feel saddened for both and all of this so call review board. I am forwarding you my recollections of how you have treated my brother [Redacted] in case you needed some reminders. [Redacted]

Redacted April 2014

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Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

00 219

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2006 12:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: sexual abuse

Dear [REDACTED]

This is a response to your message of January 9.

The Diocese of Joliet takes all allegations of sexual abuse very seriously. When the allegation of abuse by Father Virtue was made, I contacted the Diocese of Peoria since Father is a priest of that diocese. It is appropriate that the Peoria Diocese handle [REDACTED] allegation and deal with Father Virtue since the Diocese of Joliet has no jurisdiction whatsoever over Father.

When the Joliet Diocese became aware of your brother [REDACTED] allegation, we took immediate action. [REDACTED] was interviewed on behalf of the Diocesan Review Committee as soon as possible prior to the Christmas holidays. The process of information gathering is continuing so that when the Review Committee convenes in mid-February, it will be able to review the allegation and all information received to date, then determine if more information is necessary. If the Committee decided more information is needed before proceeding, more will be gathered. Otherwise, the Committee will make a recommendation to Bishop Imesch regarding the accused priest.

[REDACTED]

You said in your message that you were forwarding your recollections of how [REDACTED] has been treated. Would you please resend? The forwarded message never arrived.

I am available to speak with you by phone [REDACTED] or in person should you wish.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith Davies, OSF





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TMJA  
Released April 2014

**JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW  
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60438

00 220

JAMES C. BYRNE

J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

FAX (815) 744-7170

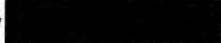
January 23, 2006

Mr. James Glasgow  
Will County States Attorney  
121 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Re: Allegations of 

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

This letter is pursuant to the Diocese policy to inform State's Attorneys of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

At the end of December the Diocese first received an allegation by  that he was sexually abused in approximately 1985 while a student at one of the Diocese parishes.



The priest that he has accused is presently in ministry assigned to one of the Diocese parishes.

The Diocese Review Committee is in the process of obtaining as much information as possible in order to make a determination whether or not the allegations is credible or not credible.

During the pendency of an allegation dating back this number of years, the Diocese ordinarily does not remove a priest from ministry, until the Review Committee has made a determination.

During this period of time the priest is obviously instructed to have no contact with children and in this particular instance there is another priest in the Rectory who is aware that allegations have been made and is monitoring the priest in question.

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Released April 2014

. 00 221

Mr. James Glasgow  
January 23, 2006  
Page 2

The Diocese is committed to furnish whatever information you may request which will obviously include the full identifying information of all parties. However, before doing so I would respectfully request that you would have a Grand Jury Subpoena issued.

I understand that it is your opinion that the Freedom of Information Act would not entitle the media to this type of data furnished by the Diocese. However, your predecessor in office had a contrary opinion and there is a concern that a newspaper may be willing to litigate this issue and/or a subsequent State's Attorney at a future date may release the information if it is not provided subject to a subpoena.

My Best Regards,  
*James C. Byrne*  
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

C  
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Y

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 222

SECOND DRAFT (January 25, 2006)  
Recommendations of Bishop Imesch incorporated.

When the Diocese first learned of the allegation against Father \_\_\_\_\_ about conduct that was alleged to have occurred 20 years ago, prompt action was taken. The accuser, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, was interviewed by an outside private investigator. The same investigator interviewed other family members in an attempt to gather more information about the accusation. The priest was also interviewed and denied any inappropriate conduct with Mr. \_\_\_\_\_.



In accord with diocesan policy, the Will County States Attorney's Office was notified that an allegation had been made. The Diocese offered to assist the States Attorney's Office, if further information was needed.

At the time, there was not sufficient information at the time to remove the priest from ministry. Another priest in the rectory knew that an allegation had been made and was asked to monitor Father \_\_\_\_\_'s activity. Father \_\_\_\_\_ was asked at the outset to avoid any contact with young children. Both parish and school staffs had participated in training sessions of Protecting God's Children and would have been aware of any warning signs.

The allegation was brought to the Diocesan Review Committee. Once the Committee reviewed all of the information at hand,

- A. it determined that further verification was needed before making a recommendation to Bishop Imesch.
- B. it made a recommendation to Bishop Imesch that

\_\_\_\_\_

*Fr. Topella { Are aware of warning signs and have learned to communicate any concerns they might have had. }*



FILE MEMORANDUM

January 26, 2006

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: [REDACTED] Case

Bishop Imesch spoke with Sister [REDACTED] OSF, Director of Religious Education for the Cathedral of St. Raymond this morning. She agreed to monitor Father James Burnett.

Sister [REDACTED] stated when [REDACTED] was a student at St. Mary School in Mokena, [REDACTED] (Sister [REDACTED] the principal, was out of the country at the time.)

When asked about confessions, Sister [REDACTED] said that confessions for students might have been held during Lent and Advent. The confessional was used on Saturdays. The office door had clear glass.

In a later conversation with me, Sister [REDACTED] said since she was looking back 20 years, she was not sure if confessions were heard during Advent and Lent for classes of students.

Sister [REDACTED] recalled that if many confessions were heard, i.e. at the time of First Confession, they took place in an office, in the sacristy and in the confessional. The ordinary place for confession including confession on Saturdays was the confessional located at the rear of the church, not the office nor the sacristy.

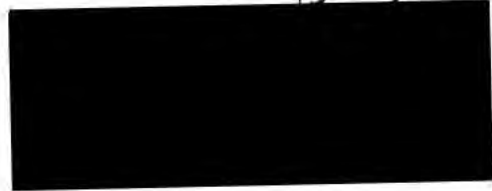
Sister [REDACTED] described the office as having a glass brick wall with a door having a clear glass panel. Anyone walking by could have looked into the room. For the times that confessions were heard in the sacristy, a kneeler would have been set up in the sacristy itself and students would have lined up in the sanctuary.

When I asked Sister [REDACTED] if she knew the age difference between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] she said she had a yearbook at her convent that would have the information. Sister will contact me sometime tomorrow.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 228 *Burnett*



MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2006

TO: Priests of the Diocese of Joliet  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Reverend James Burnett

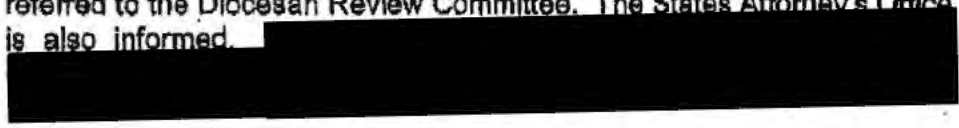
Following is the text of a press release regarding an allegation made against Father James Burnett. Please keep Father Burnett in your prayers.

*Sister Judith A. Davies*  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As soon as the Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett regarding inappropriate conduct that was to have occurred over 25 years ago, the following steps were taken: The man who made the allegation was interviewed within 24 hours [redacted] Father Burnett was interviewed and denied any wrongdoing. Two persons were designated to monitor Father Burnett. He was told not to have contact with children. The County States Attorney's Office was informed that an allegation had been made. Information relating to the on-going investigation will be discussed by the Diocesan Review Committee.

Although Father Burnett continues to deny the allegations, Bishop Imesch has placed Father Burnett on administrative leave until the matter is resolved.

Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the Diocese that the priest remain in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible. However, the priest is monitored while the investigation is being conducted, is told not to have any contact with children, and the matter is referred to the Diocesan Review Committee. The States Attorney's Office is also informed. [redacted]



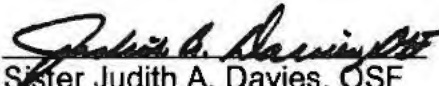


MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2006

TO: Priests of the Diocese of Joliet  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Reverend James Burnett

Following is the text of a press release regarding an allegation made against Father James Burnett. Please keep Father Burnett in your prayers.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As soon as the Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett regarding inappropriate conduct that was to have occurred over 25 years ago, the following steps were taken: The man who made the allegation was interviewed within 24 hours [REDACTED] Father Burnett was interviewed and denied any wrongdoing. Two persons were designated to monitor Father Burnett. He was told not to have contact with children. The County States Attorney's Office was informed that an allegation had been made. Information relating to the on-going investigation will be discussed by the Diocesan Review Committee.

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Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the Diocese that the priest remain in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible. However, the priest is monitored while the investigation is being conducted, is told not to have any contact with children, and the matter is referred to the Diocesan Review Committee. The States Attorney's Office is also informed. [REDACTED]



Redacted April 2014  
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Released April 2014

00 231

**Cathedral of St. Raymond School**

*713 Douglas Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435*



**The KINGDOM of GOD is among US**

**February 7, 2006**

**Dear Parents and Students,**

**This morning I received word that Father Burnett has been placed on administrative leave by Bishop Imesch. The reason for this action regards alleged inappropriate conduct that transpired over twenty-five years ago.**

**Father Burnett denies any wrongdoing. The allegations are being processed by the Diocesan Review Committee.**

**I will make every attempt to keep you informed on this important issue. I ask for the prayers of everyone for our parish and school during this most difficult of times.**

**Thank you.**

**Sincerely,**



**Principal**

Hi there - [redacted] asked me to forward this to you.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 233

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2006 7:46 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Clergy abuse victim wants his abuser removed

**Clergy Sex Abuse Victim Wants His Abuser Removed**

**Allegation Was Reported Months Ago But Priest Is Still in Ministry**

**He's Now Rector At Joliet's Catholic Cathedral**

**Bishop Imesch Urged To "Act Now To Protect Kids"**

**What:**

At a news conference, a clergy sex abuse victim and his attorneys will urge Joliet Catholic officials to suspend a priest who was reported as a child molester two months ago but remains in active parish ministry today

**When:**

TODAY, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m.

**Where:**

At the law firm of Kerns, Pitrof, Frost & Pearlman, Three First National Plaza, 70 W. Madison (Suite 5350) in downtown Chicago IL

**Who:**

One of the priest's victims, [redacted] and his attorneys

**Visuals:**

Photos of the offending priest and the victim as a child will be available.

**Why:**

Two months ago, [redacted] reported to Joliet Catholic officials that he was repeatedly sexually abused as a child by Fr. James Burnett from roughly 1978-82. The crimes took place when [redacted] was a roughly 8-12 years old and a member of St. Mary's parish in Mokena.

Fr James  
Burnett

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Burnett is now the rector of the Cathedral of Raymond Church in Joliet.

00 234

Church officials have written Shanahan that they won't be able to "process" his report "until at least mid-February."

Concerned about the safety of other children today, [REDACTED] and his attorneys will publicly call on Joliet Bishop Joseph Imesch to remove the cleric now, and every other cleric who's been accused of child molestation, pending further investigation.

[REDACTED] has spoken by phone with Imesch about the matter. The bishop says he personally knows Burnett and doubts [REDACTED] allegations, though he has never met personally with him or his family.

Ordained in 1968, Burnett worked at parishes in Bensenville (St. Charles Borromeo 1969-1975), Mokena (St. Mary's Church 1976-1990), and Naperville (Sts. Peter and Paul Church 1991-2002). He has been assigned to the cathedral since 2003.

No civil lawsuit is being filed today but one may be filed in the near future.

Contact:

Attorney Jeff Anderson of St. Paul 612 817 8665 cell

Attorney Marc Pearlman of Chicago 312 261 4550, 773 368 0142 cell





Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 235

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** Thomas E. Kerber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2006 4:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** DIOCESE OF JOLIET: STATEMENT CLARIFICATION

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Contact: Mr. Thomas Kerber  
[REDACTED]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As clarification to our earlier statement: The Joliet Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett just before Christmas. He was monitored by a priest in the rectory and by a staff member at the parish. Father Burnett was placed on administrative leave effective today meaning he left the rectory and may not function as a priest. This is commonly understood as not wearing the Roman collar nor functioning in a visible manner at Mass (Holy Eucharist) and other sacraments. Father Burnett earlier served at St. Charles Borromeo (Bensenville) June 1968 -Feb 1974), St. Mary (Mokena) Feb 1974 - June 1990, and Sts. Peter and Paul (Naperville) June 1990 - June 2002, before being assigned to the Cathedral of St Raymond.

**Draft**

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Contact: Mr. Thomas Kerber  
[REDACTED]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As soon as the Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett regarding inappropriate conduct that was to have occurred over 25 years ago, the following steps were taken: The man who made the allegation was interviewed within 24 hours by a private investigator. Father Burnett was interviewed and denied any wrongdoing. Two persons were asked to monitor Father Burnett and his interaction with children. The County States Attorney's Office was informed that an allegation had been made. Results of the on-going investigation will be made known to the Diocesan Review Committee when it meets this week to determine the credibility of the allegation.

Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the Diocese that the priest remain in ministry, is monitored while the investigation is being conducted to determine the credibility of the allegation, and that the matter is referred to the Diocesan Review Committee. The States Attorney's Office is also informed. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 237

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Contact: Mr. Thomas Kerber  
[REDACTED]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOLIET February 7, 2006 As soon as the Diocese learned of the allegation against Father James Burnett regarding inappropriate conduct that was to have occurred over 25 years ago, the following steps were taken: The man who made the allegation was interviewed within 24 hours and was offered counseling. Father Burnett was interviewed and denied any wrongdoing. Two persons were designated to monitor Father Burnett. He was told not to have contact with children. The County States Attorney's Office was informed that an allegation had been made. Information relating to the on-going investigation will be discussed by the Diocesan Review Committee.

Although Father Burnett continues to deny the allegations, Bishop Imesch has placed Father Burnett on administrative leave until the matter is resolved.

Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the Diocese that the priest remain in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible. However, the priest is monitored while the investigation is being conducted, is told not to have any contact with children, and the matter is referred to the Diocesan Review Committee. The States Attorney's Office is also informed.  
[REDACTED]



00 238

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** Thomas E. Kerber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2006 10:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Age of Fr. Burnett



Good Morning Sr. Judith,

2 reporters have asked for Fr. Burnett's age.

Several have asked for the date the States Attorney was notified of the allegation against Fr. Burnett.

Sister, you asked me to remind you about paragraph #3 of the first statement which includes the line "that the priest remains in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible."

On a Personal Note, if we could have gotten together to socialize before going home, this is what I might have said: I liked that line, "credible." What I didn't like about the statement was paragraph 2, removing Fr. Burnett from ministry. Remember, I don't know him from most of the other priests in the Diocese, so there is nothing personal between us. Those closest to me know that I act more to reason than to emotion, and yes, I realize the sexual abuse of a minor is an emotional issue. Still, I am wondering why Fr. Burnett was removed now? There is a part of me which wanted the Review Committee to meet quickly, and find him innocent of the allegation. Then, I wanted to tell the reporters that our policy was tried and not found wanting. To me, we caved under the scrutiny of SNAP, rather than because he was found guilty. Of course, "if removal from ministry as soon as an allegation is levied" has become the new policy, that makes sense and I can support it.

Hoping tomorrow is a better day, good night for now.

TOM

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 240

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF


RE: Reverend James Burnett

The following, with appropriate dates inserted, was sent to all of the parishes where Father Burnett was assigned including the Cathedral:

**Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?**

***An allegation of sexual abuse has been made against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from \_\_\_\_ of 19\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ of 19\_\_. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]***

Thank you.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 241

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

TO: Reverend Martin Gabel  
FAX: [REDACTED]  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Reverend James Burnett

FAXED

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

*An allegation of sexual abuse has been made against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from June of 1968 to February of 1974. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]*

Thank you very much.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 242

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

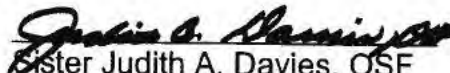
TO: Reverend Joseph Tapella  
FAX: [REDACTED]  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Reverend James Burnett

FAXED

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

*An allegation of sexual abuse was brought against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett has been stationed at our parish since June of 2002. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]*

Thank you very much.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 243

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

TO: Reverend James Dvorscak  
FAX: [REDACTED]  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Reverend James Burnett

FAXED

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

*An allegation of sexual abuse has been made against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from February 1974 to June of 1990. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]*

Thank you very much.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 244

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

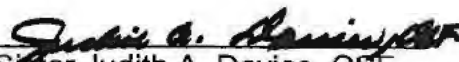
TO: Reverend James Nowak  
FAX: [REDACTED]  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Reverend James Burnett

FAXED

Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?

*An allegation of sexual abuse was brought against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from June of 1990 to June of 2002. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at [REDACTED]*

Thank you very much.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor




Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Family  
Club members boost  
brains with board games

00 245

Page D1



**S**

**WEDNESDAY**

February 8, 2006

50 cents

# Rector is placed on leave

■ **Cathedral of St. Raymond:**  
Rev. James Burnett faces allegation of sex abuse

By **Ted Slowik**  
STAFF WRITER

JOLIET — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet placed the rector of the Cathedral of St. Raymond on administrative leave Tuesday after [redacted] went public with a sexual abuse allegation.

The Rev. James Burnett denies [redacted] claim that the priest molested him about 40 times beginning when he was 8 years old in [redacted] at St. Mary Church in Mokena. Some of the abuse happened in a confessional at the church, [redacted]



Burnett

“He told me that this was a secret between me, you and God,” [redacted] said during a press conference at an attorney’s Chicago office.

[redacted] said he broke his silence by telling his sister

◆ Turn to **PRIEST, A7**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

# News

The Herald News Wednesday, February 8, 2006 A7

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## PRIEST

From page A1

in December and first contacted the diocese shortly before Christmas. His sister, [redacted]

[redacted] said she was frustrated by how Joliet Bishop Joseph Imesch handled the claim when they spoke by phone about eight weeks ago.

"His first response was: 'I've known Father Burnett for many years. He's my friend. I doubt it happened,'" [redacted] said. "He should have been able to be a little bit more supportive of my brother."

[redacted] also contacted The Herald News in December about the claim, which the newspaper chose not to report at that time because the diocese had not restricted Burnett's public ministry. When told of Shanahan's allegation five days before Christmas, Burnett said, "That never happened."

The priest said he recalled the [redacted] family from Mokena, and that [redacted] him in 1990.

The priest replied with a letter, but said he hadn't heard from [redacted] for the past 15 years.

[redacted] was asked Tuesday if he had ever confronted Burnett about the allegations.

"No," he said. "I didn't ask anything. I wanted to know if I could contact him. He wrote back, (but) I didn't write back."

He decided to go public, he said, out of "guilt" that other children might be at risk and in hopes that others might come forward with information about Burnett.

The diocese said in a statement that it began an investigation upon learning of the claim. Another priest at St. Ray's was told to monitor Burnett during the investigation, and Burnett was told to not have contact with children. [redacted]

and the

Will County state's attorney's office was contacted.

"We did receive a referral, and it's under investigation," State's Attorney James Glasgow said Tuesday.

[redacted] said she reported the claim to the state's attorney's office because she believed the diocese would not.

The diocesan review board will consider the allegations when it meets in mid-February.

Burnett has served at four parishes since he was ordained in 1968: St. Charles Borromeo, Bensenville (1968-74); St. Mary, Mokena (1974-90); Ss. Peter and Paul, Naperville (1990-2002); and St. Raymond, 2002-present.

Parents of children at St. Raymond School learned of the allegations from a letter sent home on Tuesday. The parish was said to be planning a prayer service for Burnett to be held tonight at St. Ray's.

"I ask for the prayers of everyone for our parish and school during this most difficult of times," Principal [redacted] said in the letter.

Parishioners and parents on Tuesday reacted with shock and disbelief, and some pledged support for their suspended pastor.

"I know the character of the man, and I know he's not capable of the action," parent [redacted] said.

Other Joliet Diocese priests have been reinstated to active ministry after investigations determined that allegations were not credible. Minneapolis attorney Jeff Anderson, who sat beside [redacted] at Tuesday's news conference, questioned Imesch about false accusations during a deposition for a lawsuit last year. A judge's ruling made the bishop's testimony available to the public last week.

Anderson: "How do you determine when an allegation of sexual misconduct by a priest is made what is credible and what is not?"

Imesch: "The review committee now makes the decision.

There have been nine cases of false allegations against priests in the diocese."

When asked for names of priests who were falsely accused, Imesch cited the Rev. Thomas White and the Rev. James Murphy, both of whom were reinstated to active ministries in recent years. He also cited the late Rev. Michael Foley, a onetime principal of St. Francis High School in Wheaton, who was found not guilty after a criminal trial, and the late Rev. David Stalzer, a popular Joliet priest whose accuser dropped his claim.

Imesch told Anderson he prepared a list of falsely accused priests "for his own information."

"There's a list of those who were accused and a list of those who were falsely accused," Imesch said.

The Archdiocese of Chicago, facing criticism for leaving the Rev. Dan McCormack in ministry for several months despite a report that he had sexually abused a boy, said this week that it would revise its policy to immediately remove a cleric from ministry pending the outcome of an investigation.

"Whenever an adult comes forward with an allegation of abuse that was to have occurred over 20-30 years ago, it is the policy of the diocese that the priest remain in ministry until the allegation has been determined credible," the Joliet Diocese said in a statement issued Tuesday.

[redacted] attorneys said they were considering filing a civil lawsuit about the allegations concerning Burnett.

At the news conference, [redacted] said Burnett was his "best friend" when he was younger.

"I think about it on a daily basis," he said. "I feel a lot of pain every day of my life. I want to make sure no other children get abused."



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 277

CANTS 5  
Rev. 10/00

State of Illinois  
Department of Children and Family Services

WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REPORT:  
MANDATED REPORTERS

DATE: February 9, 2006

ABOUT:

Child's Name

Child's Birth Date



Address (if different than the child's address)

abuse

This is to confirm my oral report of Feb. 9, 2006 of alleged sexual abuse made in accordance with the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5 et seq). Please answer the following questions. (If you need more space, use the back of this page.)

1. What injuries or signs of abuse/neglect are there?  
Unknown
2. How and approximately when did the abuse/neglect occur and how did you become aware of the abuse/neglect?  
In approximately the early 1980's at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois. I became aware of the allegation from a Sister [redacted].
3. Had there been evidence of abuse/neglect before now?  Yes  No
4. If the answer to question 3 is "yes," please explain the nature of the abuse/neglect.  
Not Applicable.
5. Names and addresses of other persons who may be willing to provide information about this case.  
[redacted]
6. Your relationship to child(ren) None
7. Reporter Action Recommended or Taken:

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE:

- I saw the child(ren)
- I heard about the child(ren) From whom? \_\_\_\_\_
- I have  have not told the child's family of my concern and of my report to the Department.
- I am  willing  NOT willing to tell the child's family of my concern and of my report to the Department.
- I believe  do NOT believe the child is in immediate physical danger.

Sister Judith Davies  
(Name Printed)

*Judith E. Davies, MSW*  
(Signature)

Chancellor  
(Title)

of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet  
(Organization/Agency)

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

1-800-252-2873

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF, Chancellor

Not a mandated reporter

Learned of alleged abuse by a [REDACTED] alleges sexual fondling by Father James Burnett in the early 1980's that was to have taken place at the parish of St. Mary in Mokena.

~~Shortly before Christmas (Dec 21, 2005), I learned that a person may have been abused back in the early 1980's .~~

[REDACTED]

Father James Burnett  
Last known address & phone number:

[REDACTED]

FILE MEMORANUM

February 10, 2006

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

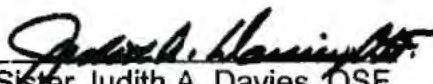
Received a follow-up call today from DCFS regarding yesterday's report.

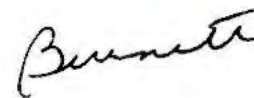
When asked about Father's involvement in the school, I said there were two other priests stationed at the Cathedral. With the size of the parish, I doubted that he had much to do with the school.

The next question was about him administering the school. My response was that there is principal who operates the school. With the size of the parish, he would have been busy with it. Any connection with the school would have been when teachers would have been present.

While at Sts. Peter & Paul and at St. Mary, the principal operated the school. In the brief absence of the principal at St. Mary, his only involvement would have been for serious disciplinary reasons such as if there was need for a suspension or expulsion.

Regarding opportunities for being alone with children. I responded that the Cathedral usually has two servers if not three or four, for Masses; that there would also be an adult present because that person would do the Scripture reading for Mass.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



00 288

February 10, 2006

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

All of us were shocked to hear of the allegation of sexual abuse against Father James Burnett this past week.

When an allegation of sexual abuse against a priest is made public, the priest is placed on administrative leave and removed from active ministry. Removal from ministry is not a judgment, it is a precautionary necessity.

The States Attorney's Office has been notified of the allegation against Father Burnett and the Diocesan Review Committee is still in the process of gathering information.

In times like this our faith is tested. Now, more than ever, we need to trust in the Lord and His wisdom and pray that justice will be served.

I know that you will keep Father Burnett in your prayers. I ask you also to pray for the young man. Pray also for all victims of abuse. Your prayers are needed especially, for the Church in this difficult time. Each day I pray for all of the people of the Church of Joliet. During these days, my prayer, like yours, takes on more meaning. We realize more deeply how all of us are affected by the lives of others. May the Lord bless all of us in this difficult time.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop of Joliet



**Sr. Judith Davies**Recorded April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Int:** Saturday, March 04, 2006 6:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Hello Sister this is [REDACTED] I was told a month ago that the review committee would be meeting in middle of february and someone would let me know whats going on about me coming forward about beign abused when I was a child. I have not heard from anyone and I keep noticing more and more people coming forward. I do not know how serious the diocese feels about sexual abuse but if it has not happened to you it is very hard for you to believe it could have happened to someone else.

I know The Lord says to forgive and that is fine by me but I can never forget what happened to me and how it has affected my life.

One problem I see right now is that some of the parishoners who feel sexual abuse does not happen some of these people it probably happened to their parents and their parents are to scared embaressed to come forward. I have gotten emails from other parishoners who really said how courageous I was to come forward but that they do not have the courage to do it themselves for fear of embarassment scared about who will believe them and other reasons. This is such a terrible thing to happen to anyone and me beign a victim I know exactly what most of them are going through and what the ones that have not come forward are going through.

I know you have a big job ahead of you and I pray that it can stay together but with very strict screening snd investigations before employment and also during investigators should show up in classrooms and ask the kids has anyone ever touched you in any of your private areas and if so who when and why didnt you tell your mom or dad or teacher or friend you will see the power of a priest when most all of the kids will deny it because of secrecy. I will bless all of us. Please respond to my email.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 4:03 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Sister, as far as anymore allegations against father Burnett they would not tell me what priest but 2 of them said they were abused at the cathedral of St. Raymonds in Joliet. Let me ask you this if God was standing before you and he asked you in order for you to make it to heaven that you had to tell him about every incident that you know of about any sexual abuse by any priest would you tell him? I am guessing you would have said yes. My next thing I want to say is why are so many PRIESTS able to go into the ministry and worship the Lord in front of every man woman and child and behind closed doors do the pedophilia things the sexual abuse. The church and the public recognizes that PRIESTS AND NUNS are the backbone of the church. people that didnt believe father Burnett could have done that are feeling sorry now that so many other priests have done something to someone and they are finally believing there is a huge problem within the priesthood with sexual abuse. Richard Sipe an x priest and now author says that 10-20 percent of males that join the priesthood are either gay or have their first gay experience in the seminary, that is outrageous and also that they the priests can hide behind all of the faithful parishoners forever until now when it is going to keep coming out with more and more victims like myself that we NEED to come forward for the sake of the children.

Sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 2:31 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Since the Chancery is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, I am responding to your message today. The Diocesan Review Committee has deferred making any decision about Father Burnett pending the outcome of investigations into your allegation by State agencies. You said in your message that "other parishioners" not only commented on your courage in coming forward but have also told you that "they do not have the courage to do it themselves for fear of embarrassment..." Have any of these "other parishioners" alleged that they were sexually abused by Father Burnett? The answer to that question is very important to any investigation by law enforcement agencies and for any decision by the Review Committee. Please reply as soon as possible. May God bless you. Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2006 6:42 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

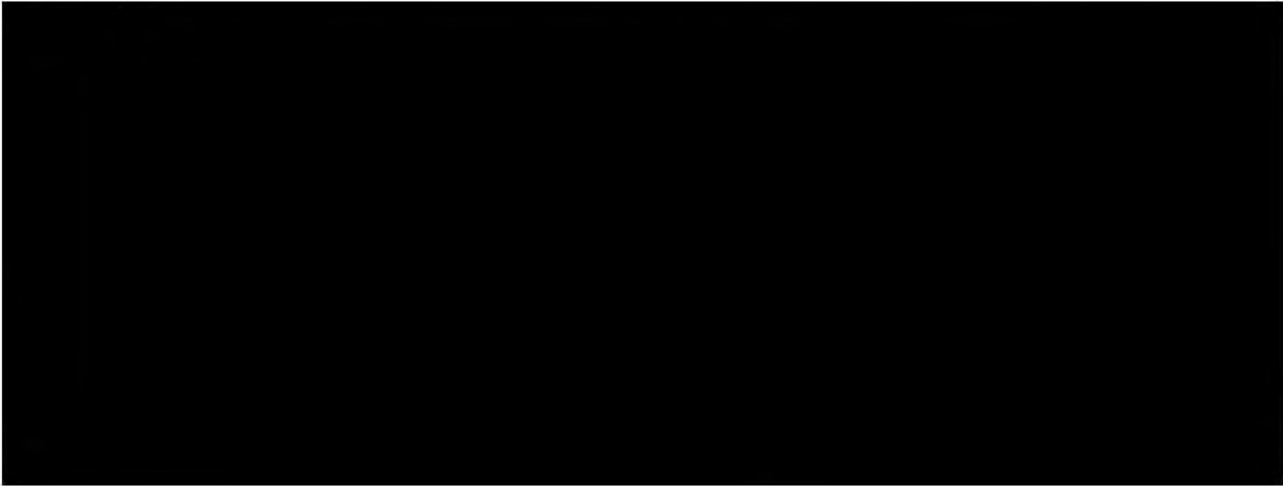
Hello Sister this is [REDACTED] I was told a month ago that the review committee would be meeting in middle of february and someone would let me



know whats going on about me coming forward about beign abused when I was a child. I have not heard from anyone and I keep noticing more and more people coming forward. I do not know how serious the diocese feels about sexual abuse but if it has not happened to you it is very hard for you to believe it could have happened to someone else.

I know The Lord says to forgive and that is fine by me but I can never forget what happened to me and how it has affected my life. One problem I see right now is that some of the parishoners who feel sexual abuse does not happen some of these people it probably happened to their parents and their parents are to scared embaressed to come forward. I have gotten emails from other parishoners who really said how courageous I was to come forward but that they do not have the courage to do it themselves for fear of embarassment scared about who will believe them and other reasons. This is such a terrible thing to happen to anyone and me beign a victim I know exactly what most of them are going through and what the ones that have not come forward are going through.

I know you have a big job ahead of you and I pray that it can stay together but with very strict screening and investigations before employment and also during investigators should show up in classrooms and ask the kids has anyone ever touched you in any of your private areas and if so who when and why didnt you tell your mom or dad or teacher or friend you will see the power of a priest when most all of the kids will deny it because of secrecy. god will bless all of us. Please respond to my email.  
Thank you





Sr. Judith Davies

Received April 2014  
TMJA  
Revised April 2014

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
Date: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 10:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]  
I received your response saying that you do not know of any other individuals who have alleged sexual abuse by Father Burnett.  
Regarding the individuals who have informed you that they were sexually abused by other priests, please strongly encourage them to disclose their abuse to whatever official source they are most comfortable with in doing so.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 4:03 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister, as far as anymore allegations against father Burnett they would not tell me what priest but 2 of them said they were abused at the cathedral of St. Raymonds in Joliet. Let me ask you this if God was standing before you and he asked you in order for you to make it to heaven that you had to tell him about every incident that you know of about any sexual abuse by any priest would you tell him? I am guessing you would have said yes. My next thing I want to say is why are so many PRIESTS able to go into the ministry and worship the Lord in front of every man woman and child and behind closed doors do the pedophilia things the sexual abuse. The church and the public recognizes that PRIESTS AND NUNS are the backbone of the church. people that didnt believe father Burnett could have done that are feeling sorry now that so many other priests have done something to someone and they are finally believing there is a huge problem within the priesthood with sexual abuse. Richard Sipe an x priest and now author says that 10-20 percent of males that join the priesthood are either gay or have their first gay experience in the seminary, that is outrageous and also that they the priests can hide behind all of the faithful parishioners forever until now when it is going to keep coming out with more and more victims like myself that we NEED to come forward for the sake of the children.  
Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

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From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
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To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

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You said in your message that "other parishioners" not only commented on your courage in coming forward but have also told you that "they do not have the courage to do it themselves for fear of embarrassment..."  
Have any of these "other parishioners" alleged that they were sexually abused by Father Burnett?  
The answer to that question is very important to any investigation by law

enforcement agencies and for any decision by the Review Committee.

Please reply as soon as possible.

May God bless you.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Released April 2014

-----Original Message-----

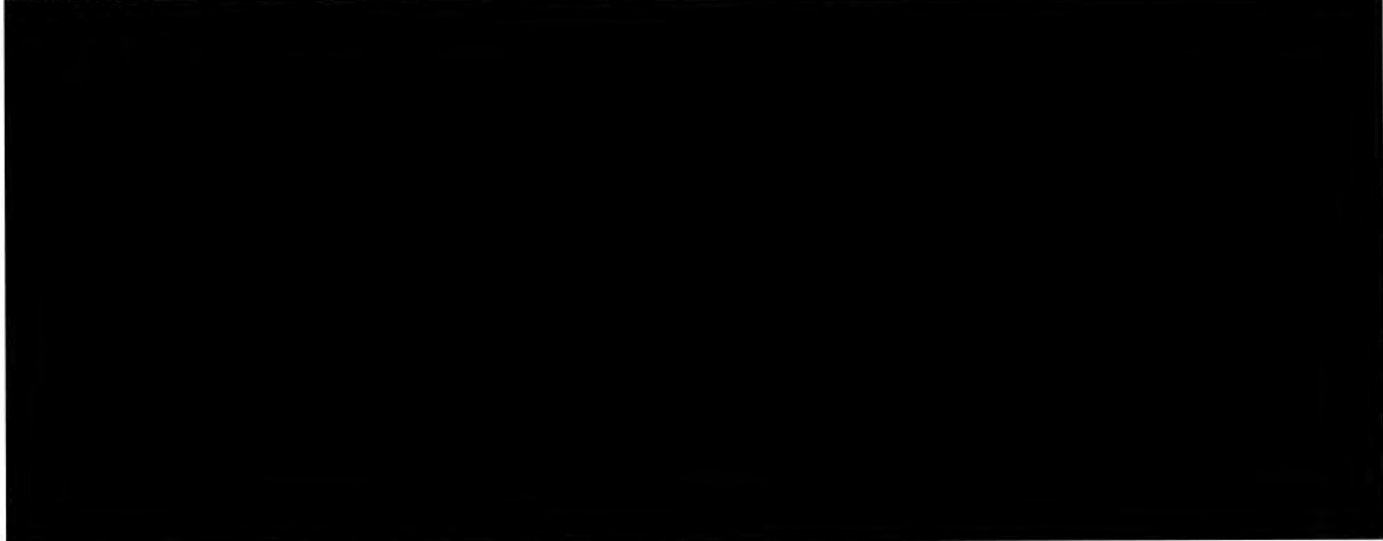
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2006 6:42 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subj: [REDACTED]

Hello Sister this is [REDACTED] I was told a month ago that the review committee would be meeting in middle of february and someone would let me know whats going on about me coming forward about beign abused when I was a child. I have not heard from anyone and I keep noticing more and more people coming forward. I do not know how serious the diocese feels about sexual abuse but if it has not happened to you it is very hard for you to believe it could have happened to someone else.

I know The Lord says to forgive and that is fine by me but I can never forget what happened to me and how it has affected my life. One problem I see right now is that some of the parishoners who feel sexual abuse does not happen some of these people it probably happened to their parents and their parents are to scared embaressed to come forward. I have gotten emails from other parishoners who really said how courageous I was to come forward but that they do not have the courage to do it themselves for fear of embarassment scared about who will believe them and other reasons. This is such a terrible thing to happen to anyone and me beign a victim I know exactly what most of them are going through and what the ones that have not come forward are going through.

I know you have a big job ahead of you and I pray that it can stay together with very strict screening and investigations before employment and also having investigators should show up in classrooms and ask the kids has anyone ever touched you in any of your private areas and if so who when and why didnt you tell your mom or dad or teacher or friend you will see the power of a priest when most all of the kids will deny it because of secrecy. god will bless all of us. Please respond to my email.

Thank you





Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 11:31 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister I have been trying to convince them that this is a very major problem and if they do not come forward than other children like we were are going to keep getting abused. It is the hardest thing for someone to do. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As much research as I have done I truly believe there are hundreds of more victims but I do not know how many with father Burnett but I will say that there is a small chance that I may be the only one he abused and then he said to himself well I got through it this far with one person but is it worth it to try it with someone else. I think the chances are much greater that he didnt stop with me nor do I think I am the only one he abused. The sad thing about all of this is Father Burnett denies this happened along with countless other priests that say they never did it. God knows Father Burnett knows and i know what happened to me with sexual abuse from Father burnett. this has had such a huge impact on my life and I know it has with all of the other victims too. The other victims I talk to I want to come forward for them as well but I cannot do that they want to do it but like I said they are scared embarrassed its a shame. I will close for now.

[REDACTED]

---Original Message---  
From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 9:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subj [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]  
I received your response saying that you do not know of any other individuals who have alleged sexual abuse by Father Burnett. Regarding the individuals who have informed you that they were sexually abused by other priests, please strongly encourage them to disclose their abuse to whatever official source they are most comfortable with in doing so.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 4:03 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subj [REDACTED]

Sister, as far as anymore allegations against father Burnett they would not tell me what priest but 2 of them said they were abused at the cathedral of St. Raymonds in Joliet. Let me ask you this if God was standing before you and he asked you in order for you to make it to heaven that you had to tell about every incident that you know of about any sexual abuse by any priest would you tell him? I am guessing you would have said yes. My next thing I want to say is why are so many PRIESTS able to go into the ministry and worship the Lord in front of every man woman and child and behind closed doors do the pedophilia things the sexual abuse. The church and the public



recognizes that PRIESTS AND NUNS are the backbone of the church. people that didnt believe father Burnett could have done that are feeling sorry now that  
Re: chm April 2014  
TMA  
Released April 2014  
Believing there is a huge problem within the priesthood with sexual abuse.  
chard Sipe an x priest and now author says that 10-20 percent of males  
at join the priesthood are either gay or have their first gay experience  
in the seminary, that is outrageous and also that they the priests can hide  
behind all of the faithful parishoners forever until now when it is going to  
keep coming out with more and more victims like myself that we NEED to come  
forward for the sake of the children.  
Sincerely

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [Redacted]  
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 2:31 PM  
To: [Redacted]  
Subj: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]  
Since the Chancery is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, I am responding to  
your message today.  
The Diocesan Review Committee has deferred making any decision about Father  
Burnett pending the outcome of investigations into your allegation by State  
agencies.  
You said in your mesage that "other parishioners" not only commented on your  
courage in coming forward but have also told you that "they do not have the  
courage to do it themselves for fear of embarrassment..."  
Have any of these "other parishioners" alleged that they were sexually  
abused by Father Burnett?  
The answer to that question is very important to any investigation by law  
enforcement agencies and for any decision by the Review Committee.  
I hope you can  
Please reply as soon as possible.  
God bless you.  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

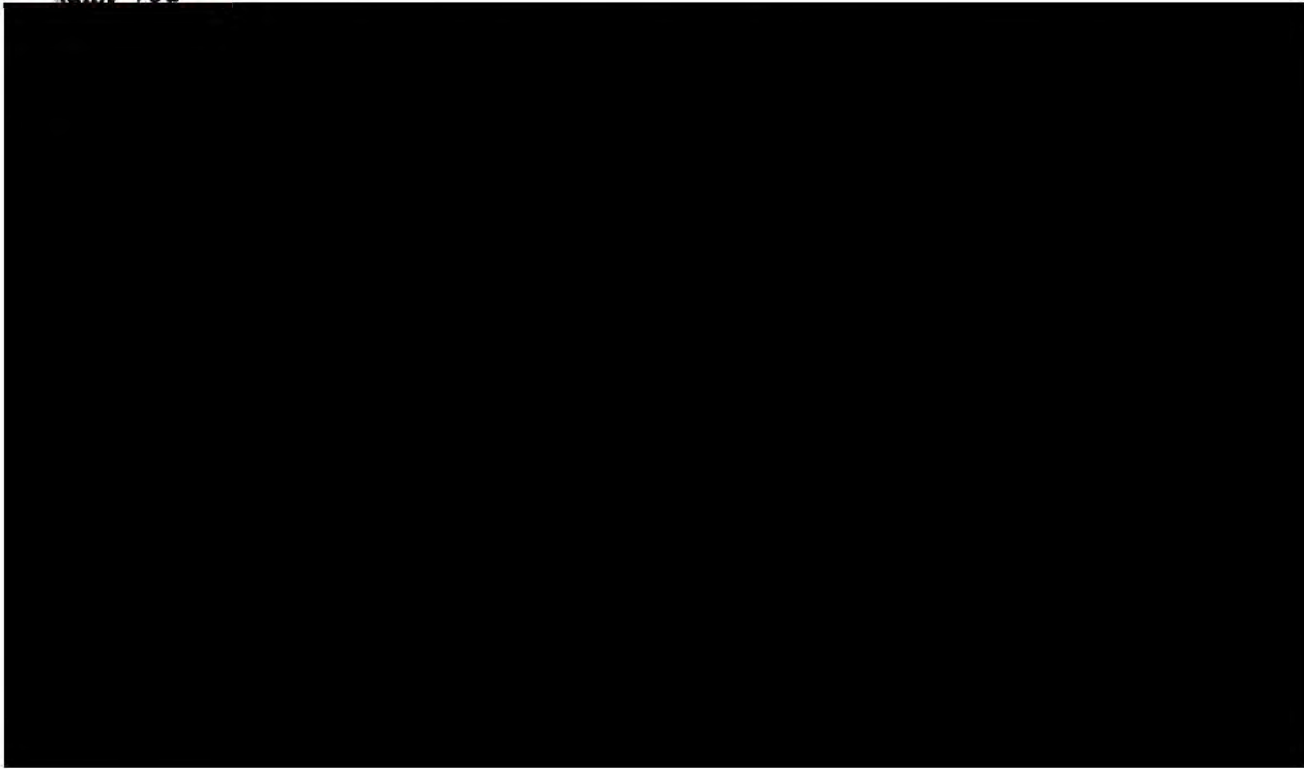
From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2006 6:42 PM  
To: [Redacted]  
Subj: [Redacted]

Hello Sister this is [Redacted] I was told a month ago that the review  
committee would be meeting in middle of february and someone would let me  
know whats going on about me coming forward about beign abused when I was a  
child. I have not heard from anyone and I keep noticing more and more people  
coming forward. I do not know how serious the diocese feels about sexual  
abuse but if it has not happened to you it is very hard for you to believe  
it could have happened to someone else.  
I know The Lord says to forgive and that is fine by me but I can never  
forget what happened to me and how it has affected my life.  
One problem I see right now is that some of the parishoners who feel sexual  
abuse does not happen some of these people it probably happened to their  
parents and their parents are to scared embaressed to come forward. I have  
gotten emails from other parishoners who really said how courageous I was to  
come forward but that they do not have the courage to do it themselves for  
fear of embarassment scared about who will believe them and other reasons.  
This is such a terrible thing to happen to anyone and me beign a victim I  
know exactly what most of them are going through and what the ones that have  
come forward are going through.  
I know you have a big job ahead of you and I pray that it can stay together  
but with very strict screening and investigations before employment and also  
during investigators should show up in classrooms and ask the kids has

anyone ever touched you in any of your private areas and if so who when and why didnt you tell your mom or dad or teacher or friend you will see the power of a priest when most all of the kids will deny it because of secrecy. God will bless all of us. Please respond to my email.

00 387

Released April 2014  
TMA  
Released April 2014  
Thank you





00 389

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

**From:** Fr. Joseph Tapella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 12, 2006 8:38 AM  
**To:** Judith  
**Subject:** FW: disappointment

What do you think?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Father James Dvorscak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 11, 2006 8:55 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** jtapella@dioceseofjoliet.org  
**Subject:** Re: disappointment

Dear [REDACTED]

I am very sorry to hear of your pain and disappointment. Because your message is so important, I am forwarding it to the Bishop's Office for instructions. You are in my prayers. Please keep the parish in your prayers as well.

Fr. James Dvorscak

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [fatherjames@stmarymokena.org](mailto:fatherjames@stmarymokena.org)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 10, 2006 10:08 PM  
**Subject:** disappointment

I am writing this letter because of my disappointment that I have in a parish that I once considered to be my home and one of the best. You are in a position to rectify all of this blindness that has come out. People have so much faith in this institution that they can't fathom the concept of sexual predators living in its walls. I have been in such turmoil after learning that my brothers were fondled, sexually molested, raped and sodomized that it has taken me away from the church. This has no way swayed me away from my belief in God. I think it has made me even a stronger person who is more focused on what is important. God and my family are it. What I do have pity on is your parish. How your parish and school has handled this is despicable. Are you aware that I called St. Mary's Church to speak to you about Bill Virtue. Your Ast. Pastor acted like he knew nothing about his removal of his collar. I told him he was removed because of sexual abuse that happened in this parish. In Gods most sacred home. His arrogant response was to question who I was and I told him I was [REDACTED]. I told him that one of my brother has remained a John Doe and his response was "well of course he is a John Doe he is lying" There have been other boys that came forward from other parishes before my brother did. I am so disgusted in all of you that I am having a difficult time putting my thoughts to words. My pain is continuing to be hurt by St. Mary's lack of effort to help one of their fellow alumnus. I am not sure if you think God's plan is just to let it be, I can assure you that it is not. I truly believe that my brothers will be able to help other people now. This was an awful thing to have happened to them. They are getting the help that they need and this is the first step to healing. God works in mysterious ways. If you do speak to father Burnett let him know that repenting to his fellow priest who was aware of the abuse is not going to get him into Heaven. I don't think he wants to go or he never would have done those atrocious acts on children. Bill Virtue he is going straight to hell. Did you know that both Brunette and Virtue were at St. Mary's at the same time, both of them sexually abusing boys from the same family. How ironic is that. How a man in a position that is trying to imitate Jesus and his way of life abuses his role in our religious life is evil. God is very wise and I trust that He will give just punishment on judgment day. I am not sure why you as Pastor would not have a prayer vigil for the victims of abuse. I hope that you can pray and ask God for direction in how you can help victims that came forward and who are continuing to come forward so that their families don't feel the hurtful reaction that we have felt by a parish and community that we had so much history in. Again God works in mysterious ways because we have received so much support from people who we didn't expect it from. Letters, and phone call and prayer vigils from other churches and that it is a blessing. Maybe you can put some faith back into your congregation

3/12/2006



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
[Redacted]

and let them know that Jesus is very sad.

00 390

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

March 24, 2006

00 410

My very dear friends,

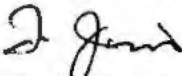
It has been too long since I have communicated with you. It was, naively, my hope that I would be back at St. Raymond's by now. But it seems that that is not to be, as of yet! I am innocent of all the accusations that have been made against me and I know that that innocence will prevail!

I do want to thank you for your many notes, cards and letters that have been so supportive of me. The many days since my departure have been dark, some darker than others. When I find myself unable to find the tunnel with the light, I re-read your messages and I am hopeful. I cannot express to you in any words the consolation, strength, and courage they have given me. Please know that, although responding to each of you as I would like is not possible, I hold all of you in my heart and in my prayers as you too must go through this devastating journey. I do believe deeply in the power of prayer and I do believe that your prayers will bring this situation to a happy conclusion.

I also want to thank Fr. Brad for his leadership, Fr. Joe Tapella, our Deacons and the dedicated Parish Staff for working so hard to "keep the ship afloat". St. Raymond Parish has a wonderful and loving spirit, as I soon discovered when I first arrived. I pray that nothing will ever diminish or damage that. It is your spirit that keeps me "afloat" right now!

Please continue to pray for my family and myself. This has been trying times for them also. It is my deepest hope that one day we will be together in person as we are now in prayer. My love and thanks to all of you!

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Jim Burnett

Redacted  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
**Gloria McConnell**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2006 9:51 PM  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Good Evening, My name is [REDACTED] and I am a victim of sexual abuse from father Burnett as you all have heard. Father Burnett continues to betray the Lord when he says he is innocent. Another thing comes to mind is that I do not have anything against all the parishoners who support father Burnett because he was my hero too. I gave ALL my TRUST TO HIM. He abused me and he knows it and God knows it. One of the hardest things for me to accept now is that the church is always asking for prayers for the priests and I really never hear about please let us pray for the victims too. It is sad but true. I wanted to let the parishoners know that more and more victims will be coming forward, and maybe then they will see how very true sexual abuse by priests are. Some of these supporters of the priests may not be aware but some of their parents were abused and they have not come forward. I personally know of some that told me about their childhood and one of them just told his wife but does not want his children to find out. It is such a powerful secret to keep. I do feel that 80-90 percent of priests are Righteous and 10-20 percent are like hyenas preying on the weak and the starving for attention type of people. The ones whos families they know are having problems and going through divorces and fighting. I do really pray for all of the victims the priests who have done abuse and for those who have not. What I would like to do is come before your parish with Father Burnett present and have a question and answer about what he did to me at st. Marys in Mokena Illinois as a vulnerable child. The problem is if he asks for forgiveness from god then he is supposed to be fine. I think that since I have come forward I have helped other children from either getting abused again or stopped some of the ones who were getting preyed on. Well I am going to close for now and I hope you can publish this in the bulletin so people can read this.  
thank you



# HomeFront

Contact City Editor Matt Cappelloni at (815) 729-6011

Production: April 2014  
TRAJA  
Release: April 2014  
Ideas, comments, suggestions  
FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 431

## Pastor claims he didn't molest boy

**Rev. James Burnett:**  
Accused of sexual  
abuse 25 years  
after incident

By Ted Slowik  
STAFF WRITER

JOLIET — A popular Joliet pastor is publicly declaring he is innocent of a claim that he sexually abused a boy at a Mokena parish more than 25 years ago.

The Rev. James Burnett wrote to parishioners at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in a letter distributed in parish bulletins during the weekend.

"I am innocent of all the ac-



Burnett

*"The many days since my departure have been dark, some darker than others."*

**Rev. James Burnett**  
rector of St. Raymond

cusations that have been made against me and I know that that innocence will prevail," Burnett wrote.

Joliet Bishop Joseph Imesch placed Burnett on administrative leave on Feb. 7, the day

went public with his claim that Burnett repeatedly molested him beginning when [redacted] was [redacted] years old in 1978. [redacted] claims the abuse included incidents in a confessional at St. Mary Church in Mokena.

The review board of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet continues to investigate the

claim. Through a diocesan spokesman, Burnett has denied the accusations all along, but the weekend's letter was his first direct declaration of his innocence.

"It was, naively, my hope that I would be back at St. Raymond's by now," Burnett wrote. "The many days since my departure have been dark, some darker than others."

Burnett wrote that he is encouraged by the many letters he has received from supporters, and that he re-reads the letters when he feels discouraged.

"I do believe deeply in the power of prayer and I do believe

that your prayers will bring this situation to a happy conclusion," Burnett wrote. "It is my deepest hope that one day we will be together in person as we are now in prayer."

Burnett, 63, has been rector of St. Raymond since 2002. He was ordained in 1968 and has also served at St. Charles Borromeo in Bensenville (1968-74); St. Mary, Mokena, (1974-90) and SS Peter and Paul, Naperville (1990-2002).

[redacted] first told the diocese of the alleged abuse on Dec. 20, but went public six weeks later while Burnett was still serving in active ministry. An attorney for [redacted] said Monday that a lawsuit concerning the alleged abuse would likely be filed in April.

Contact Ted Slowik at [redacted]

00 412

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

00 422

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2006 2:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

You are invited to meet with the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at the Chancery. This meeting will provide you with the opportunity to speak directly with Review Committee members about your allegation against Father James Burnett. It will also give the Review Committee a chance to ask any questions it may need for clarification.

Please contact me at [REDACTED] regarding your attendance at the meeting. I ask that you respond no later than Friday, April 28, 2006.

Thank you very much.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

00 423

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2006 11:02 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Hello Sister Davies,

This is [REDACTED] in response to your email. I personally would really like to attend this meeting and as long as my counsel (attorneys) will be there with me I will be there.

The diocese investigator who interviewed me on a couple of occasions I wanted him to get back to me and to this day he has not called me back, but he continues to try and ask other classmates questions about my life. Mr. Kirby is his name. I do not want to talk to him again because he is very SNEAKY and you can tell him I told you this. I do not want to communicate with a SNEAKY investigator. I would love to be able to attend this by myself but my attorneys want to be present and that is their job to fight for me.

After reading Bishop Imesch's deposition I cannot believe that this man can honestly think it is ok to swim naked with little boys. He answered a question about if sexual abuse had happened to any of his kids and Bishop Imesch answered that he did not have no kids. To me this is not someone I trust at all. I am so sorry but this man is as guilty as all of the others who abused us victims.

Please let me know as soon as you read this. The diocese is going to have all these people there and I want my family and attorneys there.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2006 12:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

You are invited to meet with the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at the Chancery. This meeting will provide you with the opportunity to speak directly with Review Committee members about your allegation against Father James Burnett. It will also give the Review Committee a chance to ask any questions it may need for clarification.

Please contact me at [REDACTED] regarding your attendance at the meeting. I ask that you respond no later than Friday, April 28, 2006.

Thank you very much.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2006 9:40 PM

00 424

**To:** j [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Sister Judith davies,  
I am very excited about meeting the committee with my attorneys I would like your response by april 28th 2006 thank you. [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2006 12:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting

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Please contact me at [REDACTED] regarding your attendance at the meeting. I ask that you respond no later than Friday, April 28, 2006.

Thank you very much.  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

00 426

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006 5:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt response to my message sent on behalf of the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee.

I can understand your concern and possible apprehension about meeting alone with the Committee. However, the Committee does not permit attorneys or family member to attend its meetings.

The purpose for inviting you to attend a meeting was to provide you with an opportunity to address the Committee about your allegation. (By the way, Committee members are not in the employ of the Diocese. Their names and qualifications are listed on the diocesan website, [www.dioceseofjoliet.org](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org). Go to Protecting Children. Click on Important Links, then Review Committee.) The Committee may ask questions for clarification. If there are any questions, only one member will ask them on behalf of all of the members.

The meeting is not audio taped and proceedings are not transcribed. Meetings are confidential with the understanding that statements made by the person would never be adversely used against him or her at any time.

You are welcome to attend but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Thank you very much. I will be awaiting your reply.  
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2006 9:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

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**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2006 12:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting

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Thank you very much.  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

but all the abusers since they are priests must be perfect and they could not have done anything wrong. It is very frustrating for me but I am making it and also pray for all of you people who really keep shutting your eyes and doors to all of us victims. It is a shame.  
Sincerely  
[Redacted]

00 429

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006 3:58 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your prompt response to my message sent on behalf of the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee.

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Thank you very much. I will be awaiting your reply.  
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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Sr. Judith Davies

00 430

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2006 2:39 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Sister Judith,

Hello again. I really want to come on my own. Unfortunately my attorneys feel that if they will not let attorneys in then they told me that Mr. Kirby interviewed me two times and everything stayed the same there is no need for them to ask you further questions without representation. In my heart I should be there but it is very selfish for the diocese to refuse my attorneys and family from going.

There has been so many lies and cover ups I do not trust the diocese anymore. Not everyone but some who have worked there for years and years. If the diocese had nothing to hide than why don't they let family and attorneys go to the review committee to support us victims of sexual abuse. The church is supposed to be open to EVERYONE so why would you not let family and attorneys in. THIS IS WRONG. REALLY WRONG. YOUR LETTING ALL THE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN BUT NOT PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT ME. I still have not gotten any support from any of you at the diocese yet you continue to support the sexual abuser (father Burnett) now doesn't that sound like a thing the devil would be proud of. Because Christ wouldn't like it. You let father Burnett write a column in the church bulletin why can't I write a piece on what he did to me for 4 years. The answer is because you want everyone that has been abused to look like they are not telling the truth but all the abusers since they are priests must be perfect and they could not have done anything wrong. It is very frustrating for me but I am making it and also pray for all of you people who really keep shutting your eyes and doors to all of us victims. it is a shame.

Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006 3:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

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You are welcome to attend but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Thank you very much. I will be awaiting your reply.  
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]

4/27/2006

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2006 5:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I strongly disagree with some of your statements. The Diocese does care about victims. That the Diocese cares about you is evident in that an invitation was extended to you to meet with the Review Committee.

As I said, you are welcome to attend the Review Committee meeting but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and will rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Thank you very much.  
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2006 2:39 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

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Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

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**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

address the Committee about your allegation. (By the way, Committee members are not in the employ of the Diocese. Their names and qualifications are listed on the diocesan website, [www.dioceseofjoliet.org](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org). Go to Protecting Children. Click on Important Links, then Review Committee.) The Committee may ask questions for clarification. If there are any questions, only one member will ask them on behalf of all of the members.

The meeting is not audio taped and proceedings are not transcribed. Meetings are confidential with the understanding that statements made by the person would never be adversely used against him or her at any time.

You are welcome to attend but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Thank you very much. I will be awaiting your reply.  
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2006 9:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Sister Judith davies,  
I am very excited about meeting the committee with my attorneys I would like your response by april 28th 2006 thank you. [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2006 12:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]  
You are invited to meet with the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at the Chancery. This meeting will provide you with the opportunity to speak directly with Review Committee members about your allegation against Father James Burnett. It will also give the Review Committee a chance to ask any questions it may need for clarification.

Please contact me at [REDACTED] regarding your attendance at the meeting. I ask that you respond no later than Friday, April 28, 2006.

Thank you very much.  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF



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Thank you very much.  
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

00 433

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2006 2:39 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Sister Judith,  
Hello again. I really want to come on my own. Unfortunately my attorneys feel that if they will not let attorneys in then they told me that Mr. kirby interviewed me two times and everything stayed the same there is no need for them to ask you further questions without representation. In my heart i should be there but it is very selfish for the diocese to refuse my attomeys and family from going.  
Their has been so many lies and cover ups I do not trust the diocese anymore. Not everyone but some who have worked there for years and years. If the diocese had nothing to hide than why dont they let family and attorneys go to the review committee to support us victims of sexual abuse. The church is supposed to be open to EVERYONE so why would you not let family and attorneys in. THIS IS WRONG. REALLY WRONG. YOUR LETTING ALL THE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN BUT NOT PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT ME. I still have not gotten any support from any of you at the diocese yet you continue to support the sexual abuser (father Burnett) now doesnt that sound like a thing the devil would be proud of. Because Christ wouldnt like it. You let father Burnett write a column in the church bulletin why cant I write a piece on what he did to me for 4 years. The answer is because you want everyone that has been abused to look like they are not telling the truth but all the abusers since they are priests must be perfect and they could not have done anything wrong. It is very frustrating for me but I am making it and also pray for all of you people who really keep shutting your eyes and doors to all of us victims. it is a shame.  
Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006 3:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt response to my message sent on behalf of the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee.  
I can understand your concern and possible apprehension about meeting alone with the Committee. However, the Committee does not permit attorneys or family member to attend its meetings.  
The purpose for inviting you to attend a meeting was to provide you with an opportunity to address the Committee about your allegation. (By the way, Committee members are not in the employ of the Diocese. Their names and qualifications are listed on the diocesan website, [www.dioceseofjoliet.org](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org). Go to Protecting Children. Click on Important Links, then Review Committee.) The Committee may ask questions for clarification. If there are any questions, only one member will ask them on behalf of all of the members.  
The meeting is not audio taped and proceedings are not transcribed. Meetings are confidential with the understanding that statements made by the person would never be adversely used against him or her at any time.  
You are welcome to attend but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and rely on the interview conducted by Mr.. Kirby.  
Thank you very much. I will be awaiting your reply.  
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

COMMUNICATION WITH [REDACTED]  
REGARDING HIS PRESENCE AT THE MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

SJ – April 24, 2006: [REDACTED] invited to meet with Committee May 24, 2006.

[REDACTED] – April 25, 2006 (11:02 a.m.) Will be present as long as his attorneys can be present. Described investigator as being sneaky. Wants family and attorneys present.

[REDACTED] – April 25, 2006 (9:40 p.m.): States he is excited about meeting the Committee with his attorneys.

SJ – April 26, 2006: Purpose of meeting to address Committee. Committee members are not in the employ of Diocese. Meetings are not taped and are confidential. Statements made by a person would not be adversely used against him/her anytime. Welcome to attend but without attorneys or family members.

[REDACTED] – April 27, 2006: His attorneys feel that there is no need for Committee to ask questions without representation by attorneys. Diocese does not care about victims.

SJ – April 27, 2006: Diocese cares. Welcome to attend without attorneys and family members.

[REDACTED] – April 29, 2006: Wants to come but thinks it is unfair that attorneys cannot be present. Wants Review Committee to go to Mokena to see the facility.

April 28, 2006: Phone conversation. [REDACTED] said that he wants to come to the meeting even though his attorneys think he ought not to attend without them. I told him that the Diocese would pay reasonable airfare; ground transportation his responsibility.

SJ – May 1, 2006: Confirmed phone conversation of April 28 with e-mail. Diocese will pay airfare, information about booking a flight. Attend without attorneys or family members.

May 2, 2006: Letter to Mr. Byrne from Mr. Anderson.



Redacted April 2014 **New Clergy Child Sex Abuse Cases Filed**

TMJA **Two Predator Priests Worked in Three Illinois Dioceses**

Released April 2014 **Brothers Were Repeatedly Molested By Different Clerics**

**Joliet, Rockford and Peoria Dioceses Are Involved**

**What:**

At a news conference, two new child sex abuse lawsuits against two priests will be disclosed and discussed. Both clerics were suspended just this year.

**When:**

TODAY, Wednesday, May 24, 1:00 p.m.

**Where:**

At the law firm of Kerns, Pitrof, Frost & Peariman, Three First National Plaza, 70 W. Madison (Suite 5350) in downtown Chicago IL

**Who:**

One of the victim's sister, [REDACTED] the attorneys, and the founder of a support group called SNAP, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

**Visuals:**

Photos of both victims as children will be available.

**Why:**

In February, [REDACTED] publicly disclosed and reported to Joliet Catholic officials that he was repeatedly sexually abused as a child by Fr. James Burnett from roughly 1978-82. The crimes took place when [REDACTED] was roughly 8-12 years old and a member of St. Mary's parish in Mokena.

At that time, Burnett was the rector of the Cathedral of St. Raymond Church in Joliet. Then-Bishop Joseph Imesch suspended the cleric.

For the first time, today [REDACTED] is reporting his victimization by another priest, Fr. William D. Virtue. The crimes took place in 1981-82, in the rectory, confessional, and other places, when [REDACTED] was a 7th grader. [REDACTED]

Both [REDACTED] are filing civil child molestation lawsuits today.

Virtue was ordained in 1975 worked in three dioceses. He was initially in four Joliet diocese parishes: St. Mary Magdalene (Joliet, 1976) St. Dominic (Bolingbrook, 1978-79), St. Mary Nativity (Joliet, 1980-81) and St. Mary (Mokena, 1981). He then worked in the Peoria Diocese at Sacred Heart (Campus, 1982-87), Sacre Coeur (Creve Coeur, 1990), St. Joseph's Nursing Home (Lacon, 1991), Sacred Heart (Granville, 1992), Sacred Heart (Campus, 1993-95), St. Mary (Loretto, 1993-95), St. Theresa (Earlville, 1996-98), & Sacred Heart (Farmer City, 2001). In 2003, he handled three Rockford diocese parishes (St. Flannen in Harmon, St. Patrick in Marytown and St. Mary's in Walton) His last two assignments were in the Peoria Diocese: St. James (Lee, 2004) and St. Teresa (Earlville, 2006), where sex abuse allegations forced his suspension in February 2006.

Burnett, who was ordained in 1968, worked only in the Joliet Diocese: Bensenville (St. Charles Borromeo 1969-75), Mokena (St. Mary's Church 1976-90), and Naperville (Sts. Peter and Paul Church 1991-2002).

**Contact:**

Attorney Jeff Anderson of St. Paul 612 817 8665 cell  
Attorney Marc Pearlman of Chicago 312 261 4550, 773 368 0142 cell  
Barbara Blaine of Chicago, SNAP founder 312 399 4747



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 01, 2006 11:17 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of Friday, April 28, 2006. The Diocese will pay your reasonable (\$300 or less) airfare to and from Chicago for a meeting with the Review Committee on Wednesday, May 24, 2006. If you plan to attend the meeting, please book a direct flight, 21 days in advance, on either Southwest or United for travel on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 with a return flight on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 or Thursday, May 25, 2006. Ground transportation, etc. will be your responsibility. You are welcome to attend the Review Committee meeting but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Please advise me at your earliest convenience if you will be present. Thank you.  
Sr. Judith Davies, OSF

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 29, 2006 6:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Sister davies, I have been thinking more about this and I cannot have family members or my attorneys present so I do not feel that this is a just way of doing this. As much as I want to come by myself I still feel this is not at all fair because you can dictate who you can have there and I cant have nobody there it sounds like a communist thing to me. if you allow my family and my attorneys to attend we will proceed with this. [REDACTED] this isnt right. Then you say you will pay for my flight but not my rental car gas hotel food. This investigation should be between me father burnett and where and when it took place. So why cant we go to the school and show the review committee what happened where? I noticed that back in 2002 father Barrett got reinstated because no other allegations came forward so that means he didnt do it. So if father Burnett doesnt have anymore allegations against him it means ok he got away with it this time but if it happens again then we will have to remove him.  
Thank you  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2006 3:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

I strongly disagree with some of your statements. The Diocese does care about victims. That the Diocese cares about you is evident in that an invitation was extended to you to meet with the Review Committee.  
As I said, you are welcome to attend the Review Committee meeting but without the presence of your attorneys or family members. Should you choose not to attend, the Committee will proceed with its work and will rely on the interview conducted by Mr. Kirby.

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014 June 14, 2006

Diocesan Review Board  
Diocese of Joliet

Dear Review Board Members,

At the May Review Board Meeting I was asked if I knew a [REDACTED] I said I did and I do know him as a student at St. Mary Mokena School. He was there several years ago. I really have no recollection of him during that time, but I do know he was a student there. But there is an odd event that happened with [REDACTED] about eight months ago.

[REDACTED] called me and asked for an appointment. Quite frankly I thought he was someone else who has a similar name. But he came for the appointment. The conversation with him was a bit disjointed. He seemed nervous. [REDACTED]

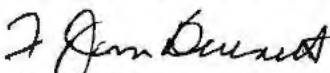
[REDACTED] I figured he has come for financial help. He seemed to be in need of money. Instead he abruptly ended the conversation and asked for prayers.

As he left, Sister [REDACTED] was standing in the hall outside the office. She met him and I showed him to the door, reassuring him of the prayers he asked for and told him to keep in touch and that was it. When I returned to Sister Dominic I mentioned how odd the meeting was and how I thought he was looking for money.

I have since learned that [REDACTED] is a friend of [REDACTED] and may be working for [REDACTED]

I don't if this has anything to do with anything, but given recent developments, it might so I pass this information on to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Fr. Jim Burnett



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 446

[Redacted]  
From: [Redacted]  
To: [Redacted]  
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2006 12:01 AM  
Subject: [Redacted]

Good morning my name is [Redacted] I am one of the people abused by father james Burnett when I attended St. Marys in Mokena. The reason I am writing this is because I have found out that you published an article from father burnett to post in your bulletin. I hope you would be fair and post my article in the bulletin.what most of the parishoners have a hard time believing is that a priest couldnt do such a thing especially Father Burnett. I asked the review committee if we could go to St. Marys and I would show them exactly where the sexual abuses happened but they said we do not need to do that our review committee will make that decision.Now if this was a neighbor who did this to your child and the police told you we do not need to go to the seen of the crimes we are just going to interview people who lived nearby or were classmates friends relatives, wouldnt you think that it was totally unjust and a cover up.I know of another person who is 2 years younger than me at st. Marys when i was there was abused by father Burnett too. Apparently his lawyer told my lawyer that he will be coming forward soon. What I want to say is that priests are human beings too and yes some sexually abuse boys like myself and yes do kill like the priest who killed the nun 25 years ago and nobody ever suspected it.Parishoners can support whoever they feel like supporting but if they were not there during the times it happened how can they say it never happened.I feel people should not take sides until all the facts are present and then they should voice their beliefs.thanks for your time and please let me know if you will publish this. thank you  
God bless

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



SPESIA, AYERS

&

ARDAUGH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

00 458

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

1415 BLACK ROAD  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435  
PH 815.726.4311  
FX 815.726.6828  
WEB WWW.SPESIA-AYERS.COM

August 7, 2006

Mr. James Glasgow  
Will County State's Attorney  
121 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60432

DOUGLAS F. SPESIA  
E. KENT AYERS  
JOHN R. ARDAUGH  
JAMES C. BYRNE  
JOHN M. SPESIA  
CHRISTIAN G. SPESIA  
JEFFREY S. TAYLOR  
MARTIN J. SHANAHAN, JR.  
MARK A. LICHTENWALTER  
GABRIEL G. ORENIC

Re: *Allegations of*

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

This letter is pursuant to the Diocesan policy to inform the State's Attorney of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

The Diocese has recently received an allegation against Father James Burnett, by a [REDACTED] who is now age [REDACTED]

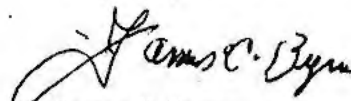
[REDACTED] alleges that he recalls being sexually abused by Father Burnett on one occasion many years ago when he made his first confession at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois.

[REDACTED] is represented by an attorney in Chicago who is:

Terrance M. Johnson  
North Pier Chicago  
455 East Illinois Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 922-4022

Father Burnett was previously the pastor of St. Raymond Cathedral, and in the early part of the year was put on administrative leave because of similar allegations by a [REDACTED] who is now [REDACTED] years old.

Very Truly Yours,



James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

C  
O  
P  
Y

**Sr. Judith Davies**

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**nt:** Monday, December 04, 2006 8:00 PM  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

I would like to know what is going on with the review board. I do know about the other party that also went to the review board. I know that there must be some kind of answer by now. I know I got abused way worse than [REDACTED] did. I feel that my suffering will never end because of the abuse and the fact of his denial it happened. now there are 2 people and if I can get him to come forward there will be more people who have the courage to do so it will help everyone. It will help the non believers and the victims and if the priests admit it and say sorry to us victims it would bring alot of closure to us. please respond with your answer.  
God Bless

[REDACTED]

Sr. Judith Davies

Received April 2014

TMJA  
Re: From: April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 4:01 PM  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister Judith  
Thank you for your timely response. I will look forward to the decision.  
God bless you too and happy holidays

-----Original Message-----

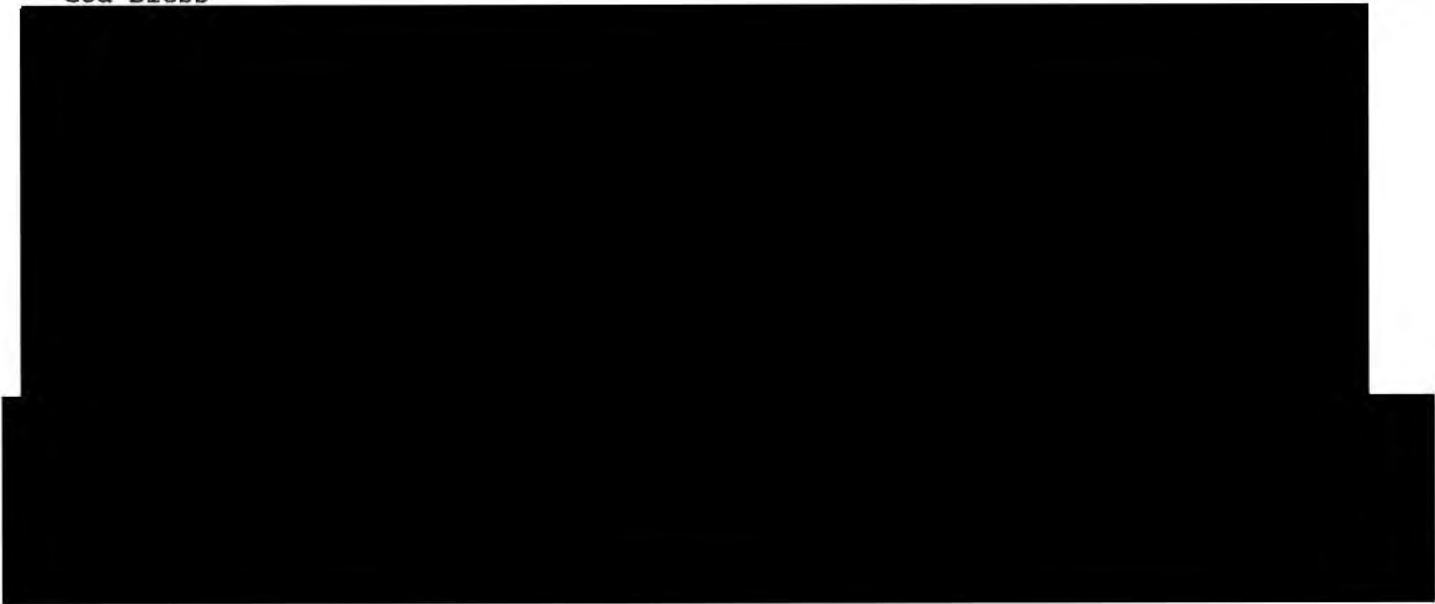
From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 10:55 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]  
In answer to your message, I can say that it is anticipated that the Review Committee could have the matter resolved by the end of January.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 8:00 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subj: [REDACTED]

I would like to know what is going on with the review board. I do know about the other party that also went to the review board. I know that there must be some kind of answer by now. I know I got abused way worse than [REDACTED] did. I feel that my suffering will never end because of the abuse and the fact of his denial it happened. now there are 2 people and if I can get him to come forward there will be more people who have the courage to do so it will help everyone. It will help the non believers and the victims and if the priests admit it and say sorry to us victims it would bring alot of closure to us. please respond with your answer.  
God Bless





Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014  
TMA  
Released April 2014

[Redacted]  
Friday, December 08, 2006 9:05 AM  
[Redacted]  
Subject: [Redacted]

Sister Judith  
I feel that not enough is beign done for the amount of time this investigation has been going on. If there is no answer by the end of january I will make copies of the dvd I have in my possession of the accusations by [Redacted] and send them to the press and maybe that will put a little fire under the people in charge. I do not want to do this but if I have to I will. I feel that for this amount of time it has been that nothing is beign accomplished. I never thought I would get a trial in a week or two but over 6 months thats wrong. I have suffered nearly my entire life with this abuse from Father Burnett and now another boy comes to the review board but wont go public. Im outraged. I know it is very hard to do but as a parish dont you want to protect the children and root out these types of priests? I also know [Redacted] stance of how embarassing it is to come forward but if he really cares then he should come forward. If he truly cares about the victims like he says on his interview with his lawyer. Please share this with your colleagues and respond.  
Thank you  
God Bless  
[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----  
From: Sr. Judith Davies [Redacted]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 10:55 AM  
Subj: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]  
In answer to your message, I can say that it is anticipated that the Review Committee could have the matter resolved by the end of January.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----  
From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 8:00 PM  
To: [Redacted]  
Subj: [Redacted]

I would like to know what is going on with the review board. I do know about the other party that also went to the review board. I know that there must be some kind of answer by now. I know I got abused way worse than [Redacted] did. I feel that my suffering will never end because of the abuse and the fact of his denial it happened. now there are 2 people and if I can get him to come forward there will be more people who have the courage to do so it will help everyone. It will help the non believers and the victims and if the priests admit it and say sorry to us victims it would bring alot of closure to us. please respond with your answer.  
God Bless  
[Redacted]

Sr. Judith Davies

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
 Date: Friday, December 15, 2006 6:45 PM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: [REDACTED]

sister davies, This is really bothering me because father burnett was able to put a statement in the st Raymonds parish bulletin about him claiming his innocence. i wrote them a email asking if I could share what happened to me and claim his abuse he did to me. nobody responded to me. They ignored my emails. No response. I am so frustrated that since the diocese and the review board got this other guys dvd of what happened to him by father Burnett why hasnt the diocese gone public about this. At least saying we have another person who came forward to the diocese about abuse from father Burnett. Now in my situation what they put in the paper a while back from 2-3 students was father burnett never did anything to me so I dont believe it could have happened to [REDACTED] Well look at my point of view because so far as alot of the public is concerned they believe only 1 person myself has came forward. Now dont you think people would say wow mom dad I cant believe another person has come forward about beign abused by father Burnett. Dont you think that would be fair? It took all the guts in the world to do what I did and was fully ready for the consequences about alot of parishoners not believing me. [REDACTED] who was in my class told me his parents wouldnt let him be an alter boy at all or anymore because they felt that something was right with Father Burnett. [REDACTED] was in my St Marys class and I have not talked to him before this for 20 years. [REDACTED] he thought something might have happened to me during st marys. I want to know why is this taking so long? And why hasnt the diocese came forward about this other guy? i feel you seem like you are in the middle but are concerned but Im so irritated, frustrated and I need their review boards answer about my deposition. Like I said before if there is no answer by the end of January I will be making copies to give out to the press so that I can show other non believers that yes there is another victim and quite surely going to be more victims. I feel that all of the professionals on the review board especially attorneys ex judge and whoever else have already made up their minds about my case.

sincerely  
 [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sr. Judith Davies [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Saturday, December 09, 2006 6:17 AM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]  
 Your communication will be shared with the appropriate persons.  
 God bless you.  
 Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Friday, December 08, 2006 9:05 AM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister Judith

Pl that not enough is beign done for the amount of time this investigation has been going on. If there is no answer by the end of january I will make copies of the dvd I have in my possession of the accusations by [REDACTED] and send them to the press and maybe that will put a little



fire under the people in charge. I do not want to do this but if I have to I will. I feel that for this amount of time it has been that nothing is beign accomplished. I never thought I would get a trial in a week or two but over months thats wrong. I have suffered nearly my entire life with this abuse on Father Burnett and now another boy comes to the review board but wont public. Im outraged. I know it is very hard to do but as a parish dont you want to protect the children and root out these types of priests? I also know [redacted] stance of how embarassing it is to come forward but if he really cares then he should come forward. If he truly cares about the victims like he says on his interview with his lawyer. Please share this with your colleagues and respond.

00 480

Thank you  
God Bless  
[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

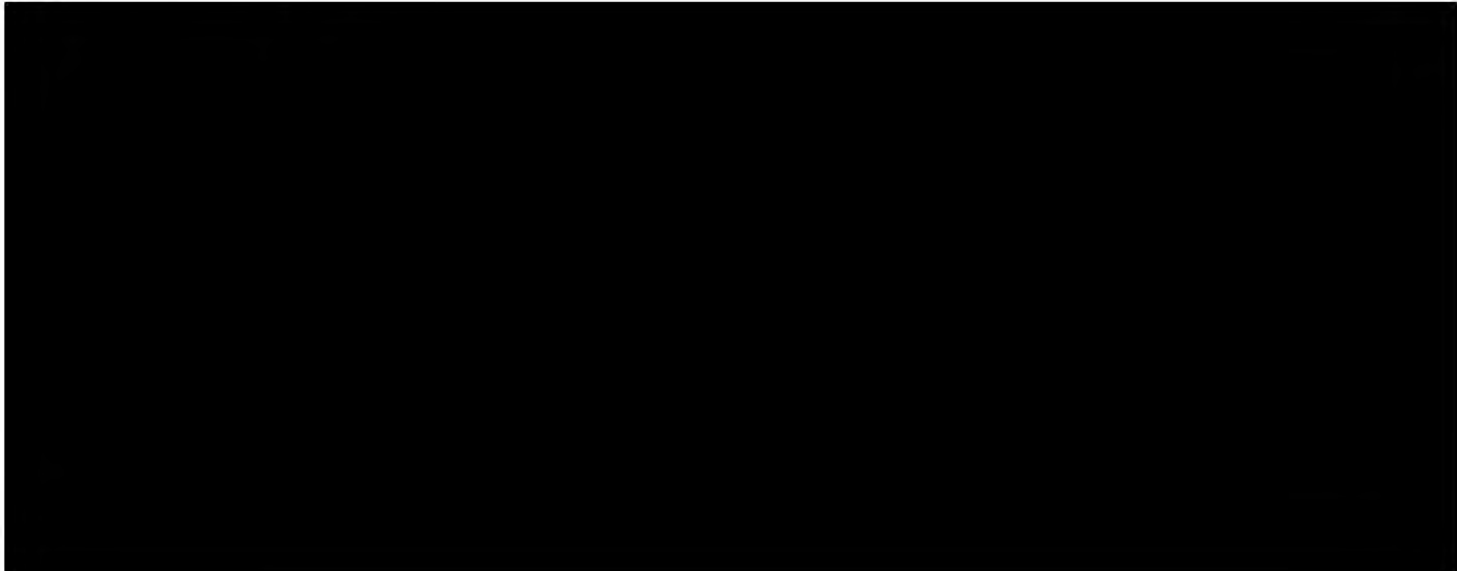
From: Sr. Judith Davies [redacted]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 10:55 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Subj: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]  
In answer to your message, I can say that it is anticipated that the Review Committee could have the matter resolved by the end of January.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 8:00 PM  
[redacted]

I would like to know what is going on with the review board. I do know about the other party that also went to the review board. I know that there must be some kind of answer by now. I know I got abused way worse than [redacted] did. I feel that my suffering will never end because of the abuse and the fact of his denial it happened. now there are 2 people and if I can get him to come forward there will be more people who have the courage to do so it will help everyone. It will help the non believers and the victims and if the priests admit it and say sorry to us victims it would bring alot of closure to us. please respond with your answer.  
God Bless  
[redacted]





Redacted April 2014

TMJA

Released April 20 December 18, 2006

00 482

Dear [REDACTED]

The message you sent on Friday, December 15, arrived after I had left the Chancery. That is why you have not heard from me until now.

I am sorry for the irritation and frustration you are experiencing because of the length of time that has elapsed since you first brought forward your allegation, and I thank you for letting me know how you feel.

I wish I could answer all of your questions, but, as I mentioned in my message of December 6, I anticipate that the Review Committee could have the matter resolved by the end of January.

May the Lord bless you.

Sister Judith

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Sister you never did answer my question about [REDACTED] and letting the public know about another victim. Is it because they are investigating still? I have a feeling that the review committee has made up their minds already but are waiting until the end of january for a 3rd person to come forward and if that happens then they will probably say lets wait until a 4th person comes forward before we let the public know. Thats my opinion on whats going on. I know that from what I have heard who the review committee is made up of seems very professional but I do not know anything else about anyone of them. I just hope that they come to a just conclusion.  
Thank you  
God bless you again  
[REDACTED]

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 493

00 485

Redacted April 2014  
DNL  
Released April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2006 6:57 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

[REDACTED]

>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2006 4:37 AM  
> To: [REDACTED]  
> Cc: [REDACTED]  
> Subject: [REDACTED]

> Sister it is 4:15 am here in [REDACTED] I was up most of the night thinking  
> about this. This was the last time that I can remember of beign abused by  
> father Burnett. I was in 5th grade and sister Doris was my teacher we had  
> the last room on the southeast side of the main hallway going towards  
> church. Right across from the library. I just got out of confession with  
> Father Burnett and he was playing with my penis and my butthole with his  
> finger. I got an erection and I remember going across from the  
> confessional  
> and trying to go to the bathroom but I couldnt go because I didnt want to  
> pp  
> all over my clothes because I had an erection and we had black toilet  
> seats  
> in the bathroom back then and I kept trying to push my penis in the toilet  
> but it wouldnt go down so I couldnt pee because it would have been all  
> over  
> everything around me, plus I dont think I could pee with an erection  
> anyhow.  
> I was sitting down trying to poo because my but hurt from father Burnett  
> touching me there. I ran to my classroom after a while and sister Doris  
> wouldnt let me go back to the bathroom because my bus was coming. [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED] was my bus driver. [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED] to name a father [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

> comes  
> to me on occasions after having bad dreams. This seems like the last time  
> I  
> was abused by father burnett. I had to tell you this to get it off my  
> chest.  
> God Bless [REDACTED]



**Sr. Judith Davies**

Revised April 2014

TMJA  
Revised April 2014

[REDACTED]

Monday, January 15, 2007 2:16 PM

From:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]

Sister, I want to tell you this. I really cannot believe how nice sister [REDACTED] was to me she was my 8th grade teacher after I told her. She was very supportive and many prayers from her. Sister Kathleen was so cold to me and just so very rude after I told her. I could understand maybe shocked but she was just so rude to me and I thought all of the nuns and priests and bishops are always supposed to be so loving through christ. I was totally disappointed. I know you are stuck in the middle. But to have someone act like I was the devil or something after I told them about what happened to me and then to be treated so cold and distant. I still have my faith in Christ because he did not cause anything bad ever in my life. I will never lose faith in Christ the almighty but I have lost some faith in the catholic church. Please respond with the review committees answer because I am quite sure that they have come to a decision.  
God Bless  
[REDACTED]

**Sr. Judith Davies**

---

Redacted April 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Released April 2014

to: [REDACTED]  
Tuesday, January 16, 2007 10:17 AM

cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Sister I have not heard back from you please respond thank you.  
God Bless

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** Fr. Joseph Tapella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 06, 2007 1:34 PM  
**To:** Judith  
**Subject:** FW: Burnett

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Fr. Joseph Tapella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 03, 2007 11:08 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Burnett

Bishop, I've been doing some thinking and, honestly, some parental consulting in a general way, and I have the following comments about Jim Burnett's situation.

1. A child, especially a nervous child, which [REDACTED] mother said he was on that day, do not sit still on an adult's leg. [REDACTED] said he sat on Jim's right leg, not both legs, and that Jim's right hand was underneath his buttocks. I don't imagine having a child on my right leg and not having my right hand on his right arm or back to keep him from toppling off, especially if the child is sitting only on one leg.

2. There is no mention that [REDACTED] then feared Jim or that he never again wanted to go to confession. He didn't drop out of CCD from my understanding.

3. A mom has told me that children can have a vivid imagination. The mother said that her boys gave each other "wedgies". It is possible that [REDACTED] said Jim told him to take his pants off (down) and was just kidding or just imagining it. She scolded him and the matter never came up again until 2005 for her and he didn't mention it further since he had been scolded. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His lawyer asks him on p. 41, "was there ever a time during your sophomore year that you said something to the effect, gee, that MIGHT (my emphasis) have happened to me, referring to sexual abuse by a clergy?"

Answer: "Yes." Such matters were in the news [REDACTED] Perhaps [REDACTED] did sit on Jim's lap, perhaps he did go home and say that his pants were down (in his imagination or in a kidding way), but the circumstances of being able to have a child on one's right leg only and to be able to maneuver one's right hand around and about under his "bottom" is not reasonable.

Thus, in relation to what is possible in the manner which [REDACTED] "vividly" recalls, I'm very sure it could not have been done. I know that Jim might seem like he's not fighting in his defense, not responding to your calls, etc. However, the style I have seen him portray goes along with that type of behavior. He is wonderful when he is ministering to someone, but he is avoidant also and that includes avoidant of children. Having spoken to a classmate of Jim's who talked about Jim's early days in the priesthood, he hasn't changed. Depression, which I imagine must have hit him hard by now, would possibly make him "give up" and be avoidant all the more in the sense of "what's the use."

As for the Board, it seems like we need a solid "normal" person, who is not a lawyer and not a therapist, but someone who is simply experienced as a parent, who can look at things objectively and understand how it is in relation to what kids might say, imagine, and even how they sit on an adult's lap.

I think that exhausts my observations for today. I do think that the manner in which [REDACTED] describes what happened is not possible, physically, or in light of the 1st confession procedures. I don't see how Jim could be kept from ministry if the same procedures as are being used for [REDACTED] are in place for Jim, in light of what is, to me, more evident that nothing really happened in the way of abuse.

Joe



February 6, 2007

To whom it may concern:

The following is a summary of the procedure for First Confession in the early 1980's at St. Mary Parish in Mokena, Illinois, when Father James Burnett was the pastor.

The children were required to have their parents present for the ceremony; otherwise they were not permitted to celebrate their First Confession. After some prayers, scripture readings, homily, and an examination of conscience, the children lined up with their parents outside the room where the priest would hear their confession. The children wore a "sorry" sash, purple in color, as they entered the room. Confession consisted of the sign of the cross, the child stating that it was his/her first time coming to Confession, the verbal listing of their sins, a brief comment by the priest to encourage them to be good, and then a prayer of absolution. The child then left the room and the parents, who remained immediately outside the room, greeted the child as soon as he/she left the room and turned the "sorry" sash over, from purple to the white color on the other side. The parents then accompanied the child back to their pew.

It is noted that the room at St. Mary's in which First Confession was celebrated had glass block around the door. While it was not clear glass, forms could be seen and it was possible to see two forms separated and/or coming together.

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General



Diocese of Joliet

The Tribunal Office

310 Bridge Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

00 503

815-722-2256  
Fax 815-722-6692

February 13, 2007

MEMORANDUM

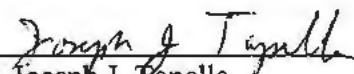
TO: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

FROM: Father Joseph J. Tapella

RE: [REDACTED]

After consulting with Father James Dvorscak, the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Mokena, it is evident that [REDACTED] received the Sacrament of Confirmation on [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]

It appears that there was no sense of fear or dread on the part of [REDACTED] in continuing to attend religious education classes after the alleged incident of abuse in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. This would have included the continued celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Advent and Lent during his grade school years. His mother noted no mention of any fear on [REDACTED] part toward Father Burnett or the Sacrament of Reconciliation during these years.

  
Rev. Joseph J. Tapella  
Vicar General

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

00 505

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2007 12:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Sister this is [REDACTED] I am back in Chicago. This is my new email address and if there isnt no decision by now Then I am going to get the press and snap to start launching protests in front of st. Marys church in Mokena. I am fed up with the diocese not letting the public know about [REDACTED] and Father Burnett and rumor has it there might be another victim. I am going to stay here in Chicago until the diocese owns up to this abuse or else lets the public know there is another person who came forward months ago but the dioces didnt ever say anything they once again kept it a secret to the public. I will be letting the press know about [REDACTED] if they do not tell me their decision. I am fed up with beign in the dark I was in the dark with my sexual abuse from father Burnett for 27years and the diocese isnt going to do it to me again.

Sincerely  
[REDACTED]



00 506

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies [jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2007 5:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I want to acknowledge that I received your message of Wednesday, February 21, 2007. I can understand your impatience and am sorry to have been a part of it. I realize that the past few times you have asked for information, I have given you a date by which I thought your request would have been honored, and then was not able to do so. For that reason, I am reluctant to estimate again and once more disappoint you. I can only ask for your understanding and further patience as the process continues. May God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2007 8:56 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sub** [REDACTED]

Sister Im not ever going to run out of love for Christ but I am not fighting this like I should be because of my lawyer. There is so much I want to do to get the word out about the other victim and all sexual abuse victims. it is so sad and wrong. I know you said father Burnett is still out of the parish but really he should be locked in a cell thinking about all the abuse he did to me and anyone else. he knows what he did and It has done an enormous amount of damage to my life. I know you are stuck in the middle but my patience is running out. I am at a boiling point with all of this. It is so sad that there are thousands of victims like myself and they say for everyone that comes forward there are 100 that dont. I do not believe that but I do believe the priests need to pay for their punishments for years behind bars yet Christ will still forgive them but they need to know the priesthood isnt a place for abusing kids and molesting them and eachother. I need some answers very quickly from the review board before i turn this into a personal battle. I am living in Chicago now because this seems like it might be a personal battle. I have so many supporters but I dont need any of them to begin my own exposure and I will put ads in the newspapers about the abuse that happened to me and let the press know about the other victim that came forward and the diocese never said a word to anyone. I am very angry and have been about the denial from father burnett the parish of st raymonds letting father Burnett put something in the bulletin about his innocence I tried to put an ad in the st raymonds parish and they ignored my emails both times. I know the press will not ignore me nor will all the news stations. My patience is clearly running out.  
Thank you  
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2007 9:37 AM  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]  
I received the message you sent on Saturday.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2007 11:13 AM

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

515-13

Rosemary -  
I'm inclined  
not to respond since  
they are from children -  
identical letters. + JM

00 525

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr. Judith Davies**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2007 4:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Sister Judith  
This is [REDACTED] again. you told me when I asked you that middle of february would have an answer from the review committee. Do you really think this is fair all the years of pain and stress I have gone through with this abuse and now the review board wont tell me about the decision.Dont you think i have suffered enough from the abuse alone? This is not what Christ would be doing. I have suffered along with all the other victims like my brother and it is not fair to keep putting this decision off .Now since the review board has made their decision what more do they need to do?  
[REDACTED]



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA **Sr. Judith Davies**  
Released April 2014

00 526

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2007 9:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Sister Im waiting for a reply from you. Also I was wondering if you let the Bishop Accountability know about the other victim? If not Im going to let them know and Im going to tell the press about this. I will not reveal his name but I am going to let them know. i feel the diocese is doing nothing except waiting for the time to pass and maybe this will blow on by. Not with me its only going to get more exposure.Im tired of the diocese just ignoring what they said was going to happen. They didnt let the pulic know about the other victim and Im just tired of beign ignored.

[REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



## Diocese of Joliet

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax: 815-722-6632

The Review Committee of the Diocese of Joliet has processed two (2) allegations of child sexual abuse against Father James Burnett.

The first allegation made by [REDACTED] alleges that while he was a parishioner and student at St. Mary Parish in Mokena he was sexually abused from approximately 1978 to 1982.

The Review Committee, pursuant to its policies and procedures, has found that [REDACTED] allegations have not been sufficiently substantiated and has made a finding that the allegations are "not credible."

[REDACTED] has filed a civil lawsuit in DuPage County, which is pending.

The second allegation was made by a [John Doe] who was also a parishioner at St. Mary Parish in Mokena. He has alleged a single act of sexual abuse dating back to 1983.

The Diocese of Joliet first learned of Mr. Doe's accusations through his attorney in July of 2006. From the beginning Mr. Doe has made clear his intention to make his accusation public. The Diocese of Joliet has respected his decision as to when to do so.

Mr. Doe and his attorney have both deferred to the Diocesan Review Committee process and have been fully cooperative with the Committee. The Review Committee, deliberating in accordance with its policies and procedures, has not been able to resolve the credibility of that accusation. It is our understanding that Mr. Doe will shortly file a civil lawsuit and thereby have the court system determine credibility.

The Diocese informed the State's Attorney's Office of both allegations and will continue full cooperation throughout the process.

During the interim and pending the outcome of the lawsuits, Father James Burnett continues to remain out of ministry.

Doug Delaney  
Executive Assistant to Bishop Sartain  
Office Phone Number: 815-722-6606, Ext. 228





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

March 29, 2007

[REDACTED]  
% Attorney Marc Pearlman  
70 West Madison Street, Suite 5350  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to inform you that the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee has completed its review of your allegations against Father James Burnett. After much deliberation, the Committee has concluded that the allegations you presented are not credible. This does not mean that the Committee has decided that your allegations are false but that there is insufficient information available to substantiate your allegations.

This finding of *not credible* for your allegations is the result of an internal process of the Diocesan Review Committee that cannot negatively impact a civil lawsuit.

Thank you very much for your patience throughout these past months while the case was pending before the Diocesan Review Committee. Be assured of a remembrance in my prayers.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax: 815-722-6632

00 555

March 29, 2007

Dear Friends of the St. Raymond Cathedral Parish Family,

As you know, last year Fr. Jim Burnett was withdrawn as rector of the Cathedral of St. Raymond after the diocese received an allegation that, approximately 29 years ago, he engaged in sexual misconduct with a person under 18 years of age, [REDACTED]. In accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Joliet and the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocesan Review Committee conducted a thorough review. The committee recently determined that the allegations have not been sufficiently substantiated and made a finding that the allegations are "not credible." [REDACTED] has filed a civil lawsuit in DuPage County that is pending.

A second allegation has been made by (Mr. John Doe), and the Diocesan Review Committee has not been able to resolve the credibility of that accusation. The Diocese of Joliet first learned of Mr. Doe's accusation through his attorney in July of 2006, although at first that allegation was not specific. From the beginning, Mr. Doe has made clear his intention to make his accusation public, and the Diocese has respected his decision as to when to do so. It is our understanding that Mr. Doe will also file a civil lawsuit shortly. If any parishioner has additional information or concerns, please contact Sister [REDACTED] [REDACTED] diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, at [REDACTED]

When addressing any allegation of sexual abuse by clergy, as Bishop I have many significant concerns and obligations. First and foremost I must consider the safety of children. I am also keenly aware of my obligation to consider the impact upon a priest who for almost 40 years has carried out his ministry and has affected many lives in a positive way. I know that you have been praying for Fr. Burnett and all those involved in his case for more than a year, and I want you to know how much that means to him and to me. This has been a difficult year for you as a parish family, and you have carried on the life of the Cathedral in an exemplary way. I am particularly grateful to Fr. Brad Baker and the staff of the Cathedral for their leadership in trying circumstances, and I want to assure you of my prayers and deep concern.

I am sure that this second allegation comes as sad and unsettling news to you. Please know that everyone involved in Fr. Burnett's situation has worked diligently and seriously in following diocesan policies in order to respect the rights and dignity of all. As more information is available, I will share it with you.

I believe it is in the best interest of all that Father Burnett continues to remain out of ministry for the time being. Fr. Brad Baker will continue to serve as administrator of the Cathedral parish, and I have assured him that your parish will have the assistance you need going forward.

Thank you for your patience, compassion, and understanding and most especially your prayers for those who have brought forth these allegations and for Fr. Burnett. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as well, that God will heal all hurts.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax: 815-722-6632

March 29, 2007

Dear Brother Priests,

As you know, last year Fr. Jim Burnett was withdrawn as rector of the Cathedral of St. Raymond after the diocese received an allegation that, approximately 29 years ago, he engaged in sexual misconduct with a person under 18 years of age, [REDACTED] in accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Joliet and the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocesan Review Committee conducted a thorough review. The committee recently determined that the allegations have not been sufficiently substantiated and made a finding that the allegations are "not credible." [REDACTED] has filed a civil lawsuit in DuPage County that is pending.

A second allegation has been made by (Mr. John Doe), and the Diocesan Review Committee has not been able to resolve the credibility of that accusation. We first learned of Mr. Doe's accusation through his attorney in July of 2006, although at first that allegation was not specific. From the beginning, Mr. Doe has made clear his intention to make his accusation public, and we have respected his decision as to when to do so. It is our understanding that Mr. Doe will also file a civil lawsuit shortly.

When addressing any allegation of sexual abuse by clergy, as Bishop I have many significant concerns and obligations. First and foremost I must consider the safety of children. I am also keenly aware of my obligation to consider the impact upon a priest who for almost 40 years has carried out his ministry and has affected many lives in a positive way. I know that you have been praying for Jim and all those involved in his case for more than a year, and I want you to know how much that means to him and to me. I am particularly grateful to Fr. Brad Baker and the staff of the Cathedral for their leadership in trying circumstances.

At the same time, with you I feel the anxiety that comes whenever one of our brothers is accused of sexual misconduct, and I think of all the difficult questions such an accusation raises within us as priests. I am sure that this second allegation comes as sad and unsettling news to you, as it did to me. Please know that everyone involved in Jim's situation has worked diligently and seriously in following diocesan policies in order to respect the rights and dignity of all. As more information is available, I will share it with you.

I believe it is in the best interest of all that Jim continues to remain out of ministry for the time being. Fr. Brad Baker will continue to serve as administrator of the Cathedral parish, and I have assured him that the parish will have the assistance it needs going forward.

Thank you for your patience, compassion, and understanding and most especially your prayers for those who have brought forth these allegations and for Jim. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as well, that God will heal all hurts.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ 

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax: 815-722-6632

## STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS

The Review Committee of the Diocese of Joliet has processed two (2) allegations of child sexual abuse against Father James Burnett.

The first allegation made by [REDACTED] alleges that while he was a parishioner and student at St. Mary Parish in Mokena he was sexually abused from approximately 1978 to 1982.

The Review Committee, pursuant to its policies and procedures, has found that [REDACTED] allegations have not been sufficiently substantiated and has made a finding that the allegations are "not credible."

[REDACTED] has filed a civil lawsuit in DuPage County, which is pending.

The second allegation was made by a [John Doe] who was also a parishioner at St. Mary Parish in Mokena. He has alleged a single act of sexual abuse dating back to 1983.

The Diocese of Joliet first learned of Mr. Doe's accusations through his attorney in July of 2006. From the beginning Mr. Doe has made clear his intention to make his accusation public. The Diocese of Joliet has respected his decision as to when to do so.



PAGE 2

Mr. Doe and his attorney have both deferred to the Diocesan Review Committee process and have been fully cooperative with the Committee. The Review Committee, deliberating in accordance with its policies and procedures, has not been able to resolve the credibility of that accusation. It is our understanding that Mr. Doe will shortly file a civil lawsuit and thereby have the court system determine credibility.

The Diocese informed the State's Attorney's Office of both allegations and will continue full cooperation throughout the process.

During the interim and pending the outcome of the lawsuits, Father James Burnett continues to remain out of ministry.

Doug Delaney  
Executive Assistant to Bishop Sartain  
Office Phone Number: 815-722-6606, Ext. 228



**Sr. Judith Davies**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 07, 2007 11:39 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Sister Judith,

This will not end by any means. I cannot believe that they came up with this decision. it is unjust and just like O.J. Simpson a murderer and a sexual abuser have gotten off with the criminality of this. I will be doing everything in my power and my attorneys power to get justice ourselves. I cannot believe and will never believe this. This fight has now just begun and I still cannot believe the number of times he played with me and they didnt find enough evidence. I was willing to go to the school and show everything where it happened. I have not been to St.Marys since 1991 [REDACTED] im sick to my stomach and father Burnett will goto HELL FOR THIS AND We are fighting this all the way forever as long as Im alive.

[REDACTED]

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Sr. Judith Davies" [REDACTED]  
**Dear** [REDACTED]

I can understand your concern about receiving information. In addition to a letter being mailed to you this morning, a copy of that letter was faxed to your attorney. If you have not already done so, please contact him.

God bless you.  
Sister Judith

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2007 1:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sub** [REDACTED]

sister judith,  
I have not heard anything from you and was wondering what information you were going to pass on to me.  
Thank you  
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Sr. Judith Davies  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 24, 2007 3:40 PM  
**Subject:** F [REDACTED]

D [REDACTED]  
I have been out-of-town for the past two weeks and have just picked up your message. Please know that I have not been ignoring you. You should have some information by a week from today.  
May God bless you.  
Sister Judith

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

00 539

May 3, 2007

Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

As you know, it has come to my attention that recently you made reference to the fact that Fr. James Burnett acted inappropriately with you when you were a child. Mr. [REDACTED] I take such matters very seriously, and that is the reason I am writing you today.

First, if you were harmed by Fr. Burnett when you were a child, I want to extend the help of the Church to you. When children are abused, the effects can be serious and long-lasting, and if you are in need of help in order to heal, I would like to offer our assistance in a caring and compassionate way. It might be very difficult for you to speak about this matter if something did occur years ago, and I want you to know that we would listen to you with great respect and concern. Also I would want to extend my profound apologies to you.

Second, you may be aware that Fr. Burnett is currently out of ministry because of allegations of misconduct from many years ago, which have not yet been fully resolved. It is very important to know if you were involved in any type of misconduct by Fr. Burnett so that I can make the right decision regarding Father's future ministry, and I want to make sure that children are protected.



Page 2

I hope you will understand why it is necessary to have you amplify about any misconduct of Father, and I want to assure you that we will make every effort to keep your name from being made public if that is your desire.

I am willing to speak with you or meet with you to address any of your concerns. If you would prefer I can arrange to have someone else meet with you at any place that you might find convenient and comfortable. I will leave to your discretion any decision regarding the place and person to speak with.

I need to stress the importance of hearing from you as soon as possible. If you would like to call me you may do so at [REDACTED]

If I am not available at the moment that you call, I will make sure the message is given to me as soon as possible and contact you immediately. If you prefer to write me a letter you may do so at:

Bishop Peter Sartain  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Mr. [REDACTED] would like to thank you in advance for your help, which I truly need. And once again, I assure you that you will be treated with respect and dignity. I promise you a place in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

00 594

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Sr Judith Davies**

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2007 7:53 AM

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Re: May 5 article re: Fr. Burnett

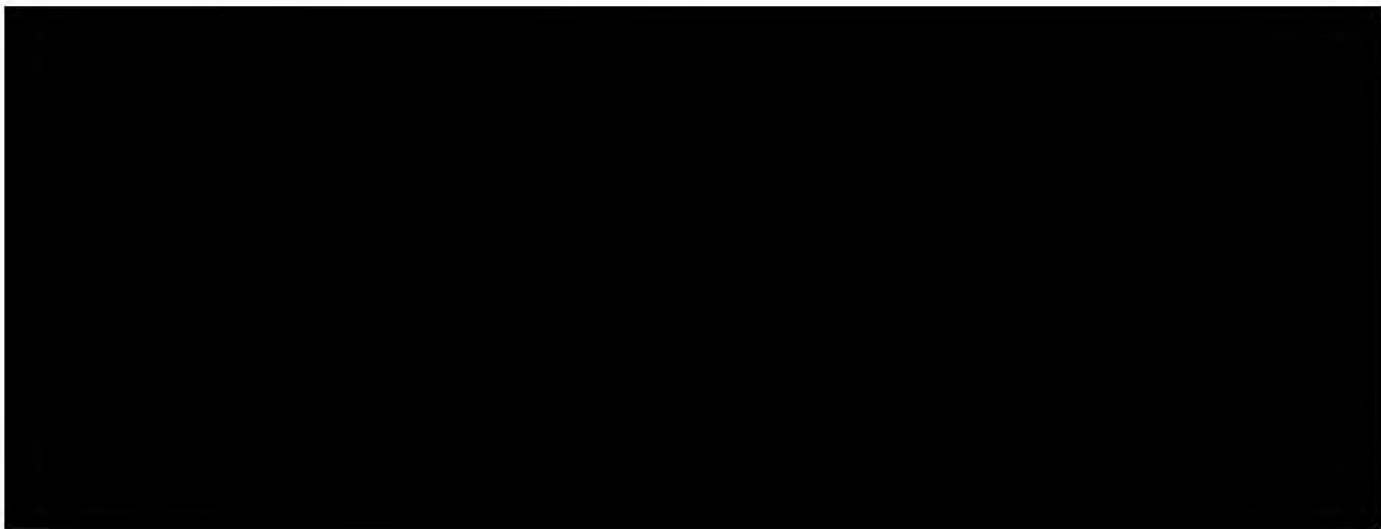
I knew [Redacted]

He was from [Redacted] and from what I can remember, its been 20 years, he seemed pretty normal. Certainly not a [Redacted] type. Turned out kind of a [Redacted] though in his later years if I remember correctly. [Redacted] He had an older brother [Redacted] who was a pretty cool guy. Things could have changed for him though since like I said, it was probably Jr High since the last time I saw him.

Regardless, I still believe that Father Jim is innocent. [Redacted] alligations should be thrown out the window as a nonfactor. I will say this guy is different.

The only reason I don't believe [Redacted] is that I was arround Father at a very young age, alone, and nothing ever happend to me. Period. Not even close.

Anyone know if Father Jim can be visited?



Anyone know this person from St. Mary's grade school? Was he a student there - maybe in [Redacted] class?

If his memory is "repressed" it is possible that Fr. Burnett is being mistaken for another priest, another time, another place. The details seem foggy to me.



5/9/2007

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Memo to file

00 601

July 31, 2007

██████████ called today in response to my letter. He mentioned, and I agreed, that he had called on July 11 when I was not available but that he was unable to work it out to call back soon thereafter. [Rosemary had told him that I would be available the next morning between 9:30 and 10:00 should he wish to call then, but he did not call].

██████████ told me he is ████████ years old, date of birth ██████████

He mentioned that he had made an offhanded remark, overheard by Jim Kinsella, regarding Fr. James Burnett. He expressed some regret for having done so, adding something to the effect that he didn't know why he did that.

He mentioned that the address which Mr. Kirby visited and to which my letter was delivered was his sister's house, and the fact that we used that address caused some difficulty for him. I apologized for having caused him any difficulty in that regard.

He made mention of the fact that he was referring to something which occurred when he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade at St. ██████████ in ██████████. He said that his life was affected by it, and from then on he hated school. He always acted out and was the class clown. He told his mother at the time, but he was beaten for having said something about a priest. His mother recently died.

Although he hated school from then on, he is successful now.

He had pretty much blocked this out through the years.

He said several times that he wanted me to know that I had made the right decision to take Fr. Burnett out of ministry.

I asked if whatever he was referring to with regard to Fr. Burnett was just one occurrence or more than one, and he indicated it was more than one occurrence. I asked if he would be willing to give me a little detail about what happened, and he said that he was not ready "to go there."

I reiterated the offer of counseling I had made in my letter and added that I have a list of counselors who are skilled in helping people deal with this kind of situation.

He seemed grateful but is not ready to take us up on that offer, but might at some point.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

I asked if he would mind giving me a phone number to contact him, and he declined, noting that he would make contact with me later.

Redacted April 2014  
TMCA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

October 9, 2007

[REDACTED]  
% Mr. Terrence Johnson  
455 East Illinois Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this letter finds you well and in good health. I have been kept informed of your allegations regarding Reverend James Burnett from the very beginning, and I want you to know that I appreciate and thank you for your cooperation in furnishing the Review Committee of the Diocese of Joliet the very detailed information on your allegation and your background. As you know, unfortunately, your allegation could not be fully resolved at this time.

[REDACTED] I want you to know that you have been continually in my prayers since I first learned of your allegation, and I also want you to know that when this matter is finally concluded, I will be most willing to meet with you. In the meantime, I want you to know that the Diocese would pay the reasonable expense of any counseling you might think would benefit you at this time. Most especially, I want you to know of my continued prayers for you and your family.

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *J. Peter Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Released April 2014  
T.M.S.  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

October 12, 2007

James Burnett

[REDACTED]  
Roselle, IL 60172

Dear Jim,

Enclosed is a letter from Ms. [REDACTED] in North Aurora which arrived in our office yesterday. I was not sure at first whether it was directed toward me or you, so I opened it, but as soon as I realized the letter was for you, I sealed the envelope once again and have not read the letter. I simply wanted to forward it to you with this brief explanation. Sorry about my mistake!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Bishop Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

November 16, 2007

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Once again, I want to thank you for your phone call during the summer. I have kept you in my prayers since then and hope you are doing well. I am sorry to be contacting you again, but a brief conversation with you would be invaluable to me. I realize that this may be difficult for you, but it is important, and I have only a few questions. My office phone number is 815-722-6606, Ext. 220. Simply tell my secretary, [REDACTED] your first name and she will put you in touch with me. If you prefer to call my home, that number is 815-730-8716.

God bless and keep you, [REDACTED]

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Peter Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2011  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 604

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

*I sent the original*

December 29, 2008

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this letter finds you well and that the Christmas Season brings you peace and joy in the Lord. I thank you for receiving and reading yet another letter from me.

It has been more than a year since I last wrote, but I am writing once again to renew my request that you and I have an opportunity to speak either in person or over the phone.

When we spoke by phone last year you indicated that you were not ready to "go there," and among other things you were still dealing with the loss of your mother. I understood that to mean that you were not ready to disclose any details about Father's misconduct.

In order to make decisions that will be fair to all involved I need all information about any type of misconduct by Father. Therefore it is critical to have reasonable details about the type and the extent of Father's misconduct with you.

I truly understand that this can be very difficult, and I have wanted to consider your feelings and give you adequate time. However, I ask that you understand that I have no other choice than to pursue this matter.

I would be very grateful if you would call my secretary, [REDACTED] at 815-722-6606. All you need do is mention your first name and she will transfer your call to me or find me quickly if I happen not to be in the office. I will be out of state during the holidays until January 8.

I look forward to speaking with you as soon as possible. In the meantime, may the Lord bless you richly during this holy time.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Peter Sartain*

J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

OVERVIEW

000628

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

This is a case of clergy sexual abuse against a young boy which took place within the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Illinois between 1971-1973. This child was abused by Father James Burnett. The abuse began with [REDACTED] in 1971 when [REDACTED] was 9 to 10 years old. [REDACTED] mother was a devout woman of the Catholic faith. The family, therefore, entrusted their child to Father Burnett while Mr. [REDACTED] was a student at St. [REDACTED] Parish School in [REDACTED] Illinois.

As a result of the abuse by Fr. Burnett, Mr. [REDACTED] has had continued difficulties that he is attempting to overcome. This abuse, suffered as a young boy, included extensive inappropriate touching, rubbing, groping and fondling of the genital area to masturbate the victim, and fellatio. As a result, [REDACTED] suffered physical pain as well as severe and emotional damage to his psychological and psychiatric health, severe pain and mental anguish, past and future lost time and wages. He is unable to carry on an intimate relationship and feels guilt, shame and embarrassment. He is afraid employers/co-workers will find out about the abuse, therefore increasing his feelings of guilt, shame and embarrassment. Another aspect of the injuries sustained by [REDACTED] is his loss of faith and lack of any religious/spiritual relationship in his life. He has lost his trust in the Church. He also will incur the obligation to spend large sums of money for medical, psychological and psychiatric expenses necessary to ease the pain and attempt to heal his injuries.



**FACTS**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000629

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Family: [REDACTED]

Present Occupation: [REDACTED]

Identity of Abuser: Fr. James Burnett

Approximate Age at Time: 9-10 years old

Nature of Abuse: Inappropriate touching, rubbing, groping and fondling of the genital area to masturbate the victim, and fellatio

Location of Abuse: St. [REDACTED] Parish, [REDACTED], Illinois

**Details of Abuse:**

The sexual abuse of my client took place in Fr. Burnett's office at the rectory of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bensenville, Illinois. [REDACTED] was approximately 9 or 12 years old when the abuse by Fr. Burnett began. While on school recess and lunch and/or subsequent to school prayer, Fr. Burnett would ask Mr. [REDACTED] to go into his office at the rectory. Once behind closed doors, Fr. Burnett would proceed to molest Mr. [REDACTED] by touching him inappropriately, rubbing, groping and fondling Mr. [REDACTED] genital area in order to masturbate him, Father Burnett forced him to perform fellatio.

Fr. Burnett manipulated Mr. [REDACTED] emotions to gain control and obedience over him, thus ensuring his silence and creating an environment of confusion, guilt, shame and other disorders, so that he could exploit the power imbalance between the priest and minor parishioner for his own personal gain.

DAMAGES

000630

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Another aspect of the injuries sustained by [REDACTED] is his loss of faith and lack of any religious/spiritual relationship in his life. He has lost his trust in the Church. He has lost trust in his dealings with others.

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

000642

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

John P. Spesia  
E. Kent Ayers  
John R. Ardaugh  
James C. Byrne  
John M. Spesia  
Christian G. Spesia  
Jeffrey S. Taylor  
Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.  
Mark A. Lichtenwalter  
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Tricia M. Pellegrini

Attorneys at Law

1415 Black Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311  
Fx 815.726.6828

www.spesia-ayers.com

June 30, 2009

Of Counsel:  
Thomas M. Ewert  
Kent Slater

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Will County State's Attorneys Office  
121 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Re: *Allegations of* [REDACTED]  
*vs Father Burnett*

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

This letter is pursuant to the policy of the Diocese of Joliet to inform the State's Attorney of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

On January 23, 2006 you were notified of the first allegation against Father Burnett by a [REDACTED]

Thereafter on August 7, 2006 you were notified again that there was a second individual by the name of [REDACTED] who also accused Father Burnett of sexually abusing him when he was a minor.

The purpose of this letter is to report that a third individual by the name of [REDACTED] has also accused Father Burnett of sexually abusing him in the early 1970's when he was a minor.

The latest address on Mr. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED], Chicago, IL 60646.

Mr. [REDACTED] has requested that his name not be released to the public.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to call.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA, AYERS & ARDAUGH

By: *James C. Byrne*  
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain

COPY

Established 1899



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

000656

Attorneys at Law

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Joliet, Illinois 60435

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Jeffrey S. Taylor  
Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.  
Mark A. Lichtenwalter  
Gabriel G. Orenic  
Michael R. Stiff  
Tricia M. Pellegrini  
Michael S. Hopkins

November 9, 2009

Of Counsel:  
Thomas M. Ewert  
Kent Slater

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Assistant State's Attorney – Criminal Division  
DuPage County States Attorney  
503 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Re: *Allegations of*  
[REDACTED]  
*vs Father Burnett*

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to advise you that a [REDACTED] who is currently [REDACTED] years of age was sexually abused by Father James Burnett in the early 1970's when he was attending St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensenville, IL.

Mr. [REDACTED] contact information is:

[REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] is represented by legal counsel out of Springfield, Illinois.

The first information that the Diocese had regarding any sexual misconduct with a minor by Father Burnett was in the years 2006 when [REDACTED] who is approximately age [REDACTED] filed a lawsuit in DuPage County alleging that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett from 1978 to 1982 at the St. Mary's Parish in Mokena which is Will County. That lawsuit has been dismissed.

COPY

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH  
Attorneys at Law

000657

Mr. Alex McGimpsey  
November 9, 2009  
Page 2

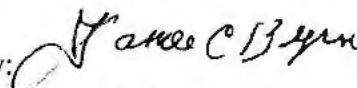
The next notice of any allegations regarding sexual misconduct of a minor was by [REDACTED] (who is approximately [REDACTED] years of age) who alleges that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett in 1983 which was also at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena.

Mr. [REDACTED] s filed a civil lawsuit in Will County, which is still pending.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to call.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA, AYERS & ARDAUGH

By:   
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm  
cc: Sister Judith Davies, OSF

COPY

Established 1899

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2009  
Bishop's Office  
Diocese Of Joliet

000659

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 13,916

September 23, 2009

*This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer*

Your Excellency:

I write to transmit a copy of a September 18, 2009 memorandum that was faxed to me by Mr. [REDACTED] who writes: "I will be filing a Lawsuit against the Vatican" because of clergy abuse and "the way the Diocese covered up sexual abuse for so long."

Mr. [REDACTED] indicates that he reported to the Diocese of Joliet that he had been abused at St. Mary Parish by a Father Burnett. He writes: "Father Burnett had his case with me [dismissed?] by the review board saying there was not enough evidence." He indicates, however, that he has more "recently found out that [REDACTED] came forward and Father Burnett had abused he as well." Thus he concludes: "I was slapped in the face by the review board" because of "the abuse I received and then to have the diocese board say There was not enough evidence."

No response will be made to Mr. [REDACTED] by the Apostolic Nunciature. I felt, however, that I should inform you of his communication.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Pietro Sambi  
Apostolic Nuncio

---

His Excellency  
Most Reverend James P. Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

— With one enclosure —



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

000662

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

September 29, 2009

No. 13,916

Archbishop Pietro Sambi  
Apostolic Nuncio  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3610

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2009, with regard to the correspondence you recently received from Mr. [REDACTED]. I am grateful that you informed me of his communication.

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Peter Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**Fr. Burnett  
Personnel File**

**-81-**  
**DUPLICATE COPIES**  
**OF**  
**DOCUMENTS IN BURNETT'S FILE**  
(The originals have  
Bate stamp – these  
copies have no Bate stamp)

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

July 24, 2006

TO: Reverend Bradley Baker  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF *JAD*  
RE: Information for Bulletin

Dear Parishioners,

As you know, it has been almost six months since Father Burnett was placed on administrative leave because of an allegation made against him. Throughout this time, the Diocese has persisted in its efforts toward seeking a resolution of the matter. As soon as there is any news regarding Father's case, I will make sure you are informed.

Please continue to remember Father Burnett in your prayers.

Wishing you every blessing, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



d 12-50

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW  
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60405

JAMES C. BYRNE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FAX (815) 744-7179

June 15, 2006

Ms. [REDACTED]  
Attorney at Law  
Illinois Department of Children &  
Family Services  
100 W. Randolph Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: *Allegations of* [REDACTED] *vs*  
*Father James Burnett*

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

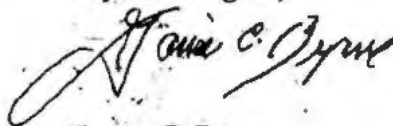
As you recall it was in late May that I called asking you for the status of the DCFS investigation regarding the above allegations by [REDACTED] against Father James Burnett. At that time, you indicated that you would check on this and get back to me.

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Joliet, Sister Judith, called the DCFS hotline and reported the above allegations on February 9, 2006.

As of this date, Father Burnett has not been informed that the allegations resulting in a finding of "indicated", or "unfounded".

Kindly advise as soon as possible.

My Best Regard,



James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch  
Most Rev. James P. Sartain  
Sister Judith Davies (via facsimile)

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Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

MEMORANDUM

July 5, 2006

TO: Ms. [REDACTED]  
Department of Children and Family Services

FAX: 815-967-3737


FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Telephone Number

As stated previously, I was attempting to locate a telephone number for the Reverend James Burnett. You had said a telephone number would allow the Department of Children and Family Services to proceed in determining that Father Burnett was not in a position to have contact with children. This was being done because the Department was not going to investigate the case since the person bringing the allegation was not a minor.

I have been successful in obtaining a phone number for Father Burnett. It is: [REDACTED]

Thank you.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FILE MEMORANDUM

January 6, 2006

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Mr. [REDACTED]

This morning I spoke with Mr. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] regarding the process used with his allegation of abuse.

I told him that:

- His phone messages were received at the Bishop's office and I was responding for the Bishop since he is out-of-town at a meeting.
- His allegation was received just prior to the diocesan offices being closed for the holidays. Offices re-opened this Tuesday and that is why there was somewhat of a delay.
- The Diocese takes all allegation seriously, appreciates that he had come forward.
- The fact that an interview was conducted so quickly with him shows that the Diocese does take allegations very seriously.
- We realize this can be a very difficult time for him because the process that the Diocese uses does take time, can be difficult for the one who has made the allegation and that we do appreciate his patience.

I then asked Mr. [REDACTED] if he would be interested in knowing the process that the Diocese uses whenever an allegation is received. On hearing a positive response, I told him that a person conducts interviews on behalf of the Review Committee, i.e. gathers information from the one making the allegation. With that, Mr. [REDACTED] interrupted, saying that he had already been interviewed. I acknowledged his comment, continued with stating that information is also gathered from family members and that the time in which this can be achieved depends on the cooperation of those being interviewed, then asked if we could interview any members of his family, and asked whether he wanted to give me a list of his family members and phone numbers now or if he wanted to fax it later on. He asked whether [REDACTED] could be interviewed. I said we'd need a list so he took down our fax number: 815-722-6602. I said that I'm not sure where things are right now, don't have any information as to who might have been interviewed but I do know the process is going forward and asked once more for his patience.

Next I told Mr. [REDACTED] that the Review Committee composed of volunteers, (i.e. therapists, women attorneys, etc.) reviews the allegation



Redacted April 2014  
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Released April 2014

January 6, 2006

RE: Mr. [REDACTED]

and all information received, then determines if more information is necessary, decides if there is need for the temporary removal of the accused and makes a recommendation to the Bishop as to what ought to happen. I proceeded saying that the next meeting of the Review Committee is scheduled for mid-February.

whether [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED]

agreed that I could give the [REDACTED] Diocese his telephone number so there could be communication with him.

[REDACTED]

I mentioned that in the message left at the Chancery, Mr. [REDACTED] said that he spoke with two lawyers. [REDACTED]

I told Mr. [REDACTED] that things really cannot proceed until we receive more information. He said that Mr. Kirby can call him at anytime.

[REDACTED]

Other information about Mr. [REDACTED]. He is age [REDACTED]. The abuse happened 20 years ago. [REDACTED]


Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

January 6, 2006

RE: Mr. [REDACTED]

The conversation ended with my telling Mr. [REDACTED] that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] If I was not available, leave a message and I would call him back as soon as possible. He was also welcome to speak with Sister Mary Frances Seeley. Mr. [REDACTED] said that he had already talked with her [REDACTED]

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2006

TO: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch  
Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Reverend James Burnett

The following, with appropriate dates inserted, was sent to all of the parishes where Father Burnett was assigned including the Cathedral:

**Would you please make the following announcement at all Masses in your parish this weekend?**

***An allegation of sexual abuse has been made against Father James Burnett. Father Burnett was stationed at our parish from \_\_\_\_\_ of 19\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ of 19\_\_. If anyone is aware of any inappropriate behavior on the part of Father Burnett, please contact the Diocese at 815-722-6606.***

Thank you.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor



JS-20



Redacted by [redacted]  
TM  
Released April 2014

**Rod R. Blagojevich**  
**Governor**

**Bryan Samuels**  
**Director**

**Illinois Department of Children & Family Services**

July 5, 2006

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Sister Judith:

I am in receipt of your faxed memorandum of July 5, 2006, which included a telephone number for the Reverend James Burnett. Thank you for the number.

Information that would be the most helpful at this point is the location of his current whereabouts. I would appreciate your assistance in obtaining a current address for him.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Department of Children & Family Services  
FAX: 815-967-3737

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW  
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

2-21

JAMES C. BYRNE  
J. DANIEL McGRATH, JR.

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171  
FAX (815) 744-7179

January 23, 2006

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Will County States Attorney  
121 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This letter is pursuant to the Diocese policy to inform State's Attorneys of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

At the end of December the Diocese first received an allegation by [REDACTED] that he was sexually abused in approximately 1985 while a student at one of the Diocese parishes.

Mr. [REDACTED] is currently approximately age [REDACTED] and resides in [REDACTED]

The priest that he has accused is presently in ministry assigned to one of the Diocese parishes.

The Diocese Review Committee is in the process of obtaining as much information as possible in order to make a determination whether or not the allegations is credible or not credible.

During the pendency of an allegation dating back this number of years, the Diocese ordinarily does not remove a priest from ministry, until the Review Committee has made a determination.

During this period of time the priest is obviously instructed to have no contact with children and in this particular instance there is another priest in the Rectory who is aware that allegations have been made and is monitoring the priest in question.

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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
Page 2

The Diocese is committed to furnish whatever information you may request which will obviously include the full identifying information of all parties. However, before doing so I would respectfully request that you would have a Grand Jury Subpoena issued.

I understand that it is your opinion that the Freedom of Information Act would not entitle the media to this type of data furnished by the Diocese. However, your predecessor in office had a contrary opinion and there is a concern that a newspaper may be willing to litigate this issue and/or a subsequent State's Attorney at a future date may release the information if it is not provided subject to a subpoena.

My Best Regards,

*James C. Byrne*  
James C. Byrne

ICB/skm

C  
D  
D  
/





SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

\$13-23

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1415 BLACK ROAD  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435  
PH 815.726.4311  
Fx 815.726.6828  
WEB WWW.SPESIA-AYERS.COM

August 18, 2006

DOUGLAS F. SPESIA  
E. KENT AYERS  
JOHN R. ARDAUGH  
JAMES C. BYRNE  
JOHN M. SPESIA  
CHRISTIAN G. SPESIA  
JEFFREY S. TAYLOR  
MARTIN J. SHANAHAN, JR.  
MARK A. LICHTENWALTER  
GABRIEL G. ORENIC

[REDACTED]  
Attorney at Law  
Illinois Department of Children &  
Family Services  
100 W. Randolph Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: *Allegation against  
Rev. James Burnett*

OF COUNSEL:  
DINAH LENNON  
ARCHAMBEAULT  
THOMAS M. EWERT

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

This is in reply of your letter of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, which primary addresses the allegations of [REDACTED] against James Burnett. Please note that I have since become a partner in the Spesia law firm and continue to represent the Diocese of Joliet.

At this point, clarification is needed regarding the DCFS investigation of the allegations by [REDACTED]

The first part of your letter indicates that when Sister Judith made a call to the hotline to report the allegation by [REDACTED] that DCFS advised her that "it would review the matter as an information case". Your letter of June 22<sup>nd</sup> also referenced how you would proceed with this report when you stated "in other words we would conduct an investigation of an incident in a way that is different from other cases and it would not be handled as a normal intake".

Could you please refer me to that part of the Illinois Statute or the regulations that define "an information case"?

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P  
Y

SPESIA, AYERS

JL-24

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

&  
ARDAUGH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

[Redacted]

August 18 2006  
Page 2

Also your letter of June 22<sup>nd</sup> refers to "we have completed the preliminary investigation".

I am familiar with the Statute that defines "an initial investigation" but not "a preliminary investigation". Could you please reference me to the Statute or regulation that defines "preliminary investigation"?

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Since the administrative code and the statutes regarding "investigation by DCFS" mandates specific time periods it is important to know what provision of the law or regulations that DCFS is proceeding under in relation to the [Redacted] allegations. Please indicate the specific part of the statute or regulations that DCFS is utilizing.

Could you also advise what your "preliminary investigation" has consisted of, since it is our information that DCFS has not yet interviewed either the alleged victim [Redacted] or the alleged perpetrator as required by the statutes and the regulations?

Your response to the above requests will be most helpful in order to understand the statutory role and function of DCFS regarding the allegations of [Redacted]

I also wish to point out that your letter of June 22, 2006 is the first time that I [and Sister Judith] have had any request regarding any aspects of the allegations against Father Burnett or any requests for information regarding Father Burnett's history of assignments. In that regard I am enclosing Father Burnett's history of assignments in the Diocese.

As you know, [Redacted] has filed a lawsuit and is represented by an attorney. I would suggest that law firm as an excellent source for any information relating to the specific allegations by [Redacted]

72-25

SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Ms. Elizabeth Yore  
August 18 2006  
Page 3

I also wish to inform you that near the end of July the Diocese was furnished the name of another individual who claims that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett in approximately 1980. This individual is [REDACTED] approximately age [REDACTED] and he is represented by Attorney [REDACTED]. The Diocese contacts on this have only been with Attorney [REDACTED].

Kindly advise regarding the above questions.

My Best Regard,

*James C. Byrne*  
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain  
Sister Judith Davies

C  
O  
P  
Y





Diocese of Joliet

J 13-32

Released April 2014  
T.M.S.  
Released April 2014

Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

MEMORANDUM

June 28, 2006

TO: [REDACTED]  
DCFS

FAX: [REDACTED]

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

FAX: [REDACTED]

RE: Reverend James Burnett

This memorandum is merely to confirm the content of our conversation of early last week. I had intended to send it the day of our conversation but other items of business prevented me from so doing. Please accept my apologies.


When you asked the relationship between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I replied that they were sister and brother. I then gave you the e-mail address I had for [REDACTED] namely, [REDACTED]. When asked how to contact Sister [REDACTED] I provided you with her work number: [REDACTED]

I believe I heard you say that my call to DCFS which was followed with written documentation from me on February 9, 2006 was not strictly speaking a report. It was my understanding that the investigation by DCFS had to be concluded in 60 days and no longer than 90 days. I think you said that DCFS does not re-investigage or investigate things that happened back in the 80's; that DCFS is concerned about making sure that the priest in question is not in the community and that children are protected; that statues only allow DCFS to be concerned with the reporting of abuse of a child, i.e., someone under the age of 18, not someone who is now over the age of 18, and hence would not investigate allegations made by someone who is in their 20's or 30's. You stated that you would ask [REDACTED] to verify the above in writing.

Our conversation concluded with your asking for a phone number at which Father Burnett could be reached. Since I did not have that information, I stated that I would check into locating it for you. You gave me your cell phone number [REDACTED] as well as an office number

Later that afternoon I called you and asked for your fax number [REDACTED]. You gave me the name and phone number of your secretary [REDACTED] and instructed me to call her prior to sending this memo by fax. During that call I stated that I was still attempting to locate a telephone number for Father Burnett.

May God bless you.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

J B-41

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



ROMEO R. BLANCHETTE



MISERATIONE DIVINA ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
EPISCOPUS JOLIETTENSIS IN ILLINOIS

Omnibus praesentes litteras inspecturis salutem et in Domino benedictionem.

Notum facimus et testamur Nos Missam in pontificalibus celebrantes in oratorio

**Seminarii Sancti Procopii, Lisle, Illinois**

dilectum Nobis in Christo

**JACOBUM BURNETT**

omnibus de iure requisitis fideliter expletis, ad ordinem **subdiaconatus**



rite, Deo iuvante, promovisse.

In quorum fidem has praesentes litteras a Cancellario Curiae Joliettensis  
subscriptas, sigilloque munitas, dari iussimus.

Datum Joliettiae



Episcopus Joliettensis in Illinois

~~Cancellarius~~ DeLegatus  
De mandato Episcopi



FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 709

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

1475 2/8/06 10:00  
10 02 00 112 120

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 2. Close up of entrance to St. Mary's School

1475 1/0/06 10:00  
10 02 00 112 120

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 1. Entrance to St. Mary's School

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 711

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

142x 4 11 06 10  
10 02:06 110 170

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 4. Hallway leading from the church entrance  
into the school, bathrooms on left, confessional room  
on right

---

142x 4 11 06 10  
10 02:06 110 170

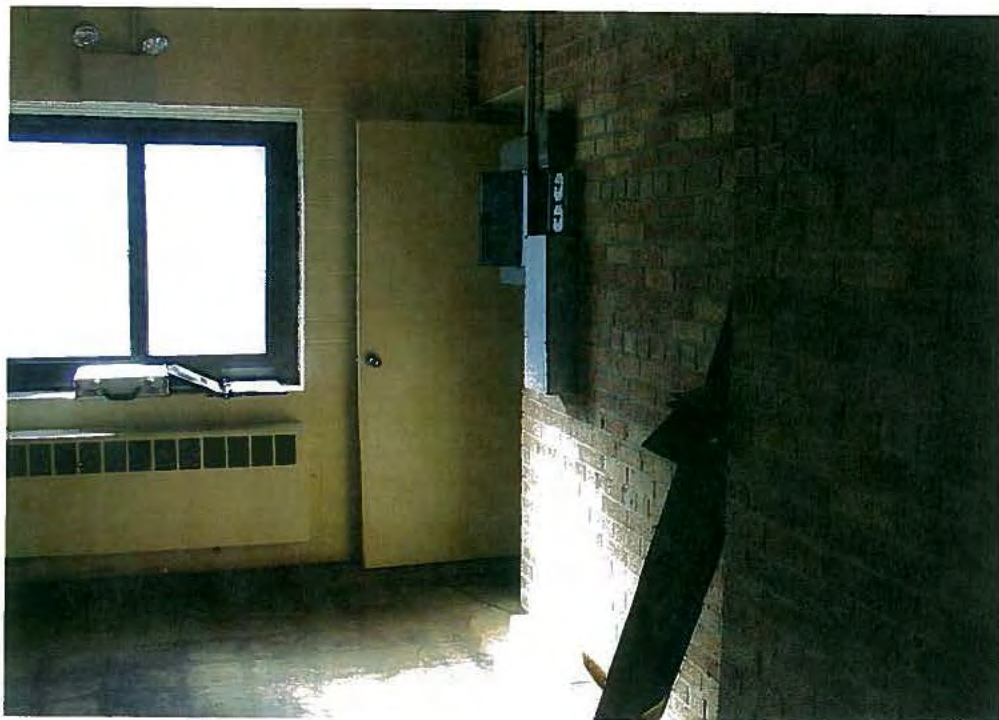
Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 3. Entrance to former sacristy



FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 713

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

14. 72806 1  
18 9 4 06 112 1269

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 6. Entrance from sacristy to former bathroom

---

14. 72806 1  
18 9 4 06 112 1269

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 7. Entrance from sacristy to hallway behind altar

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 715

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

147 18 P 11  
10 02/08 11 11 11

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 18. Hallway from the school facing the entrance  
to the old church, doorway to the confession room on  
the left

---

147 11 P 11  
10 02/08 11 11 11

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 11. Entrance from former rectory bedroom  
leading to the bathroom and sacristy

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014







FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 719

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

142 141802 +80  
1010236 112 1213

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 8. Hallway behind the altar

142 141802 +80  
1010236 112 1213

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 14. Entrance from former rectory bedroom to  
kitchen area

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 721

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

147: 9-017-40  
10-02-06 117-1211

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 9. Entrance from sacristy into bathroom an  
second room, formerly rectory bedroom

---

147: 9-017-40  
10-02-06 117-1211

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 15. Doorway from former rectory kitchen area  
office (confessional room where abuse allegedly  
occurred)

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 723

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

142 10 019 +60  
10 02/06 112 1289

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 10. Entrance to closet where altar server vestments were stored in the sacristy

---

142 10 019 +60  
10 02/06 112 1289

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 16. Exit from the kitchen area of the former rectory to the outside



FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 725

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

112 5 039 10  
112 039 112 1206

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 5. Entrance from hallway to former church

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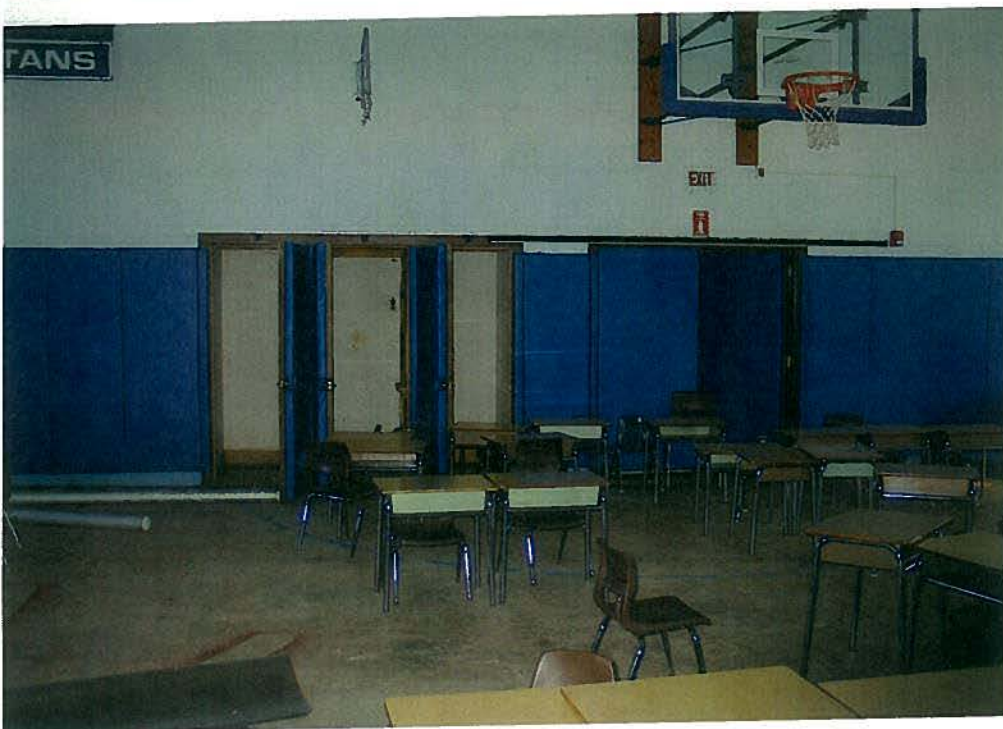
112 5 039 10  
112 039 112 1206

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 24. Entrance from the former church to the  
hallway leading into the school

# FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 727

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

142 21 000 10  
10 02/06 11 17:00

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 21. Old church facing the rear of the room  
(Note the traditional confessionals along the wall)

---

142 21 000 10  
10 02/06 11 17:00

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 22. Confessionals in the old church

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 729

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

1424 28-010 40  
10/02/06 112 1219

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 20. Old church facing where the altar formerly  
was

---

1424 28-006 +8005  
10/02/06 112 1221

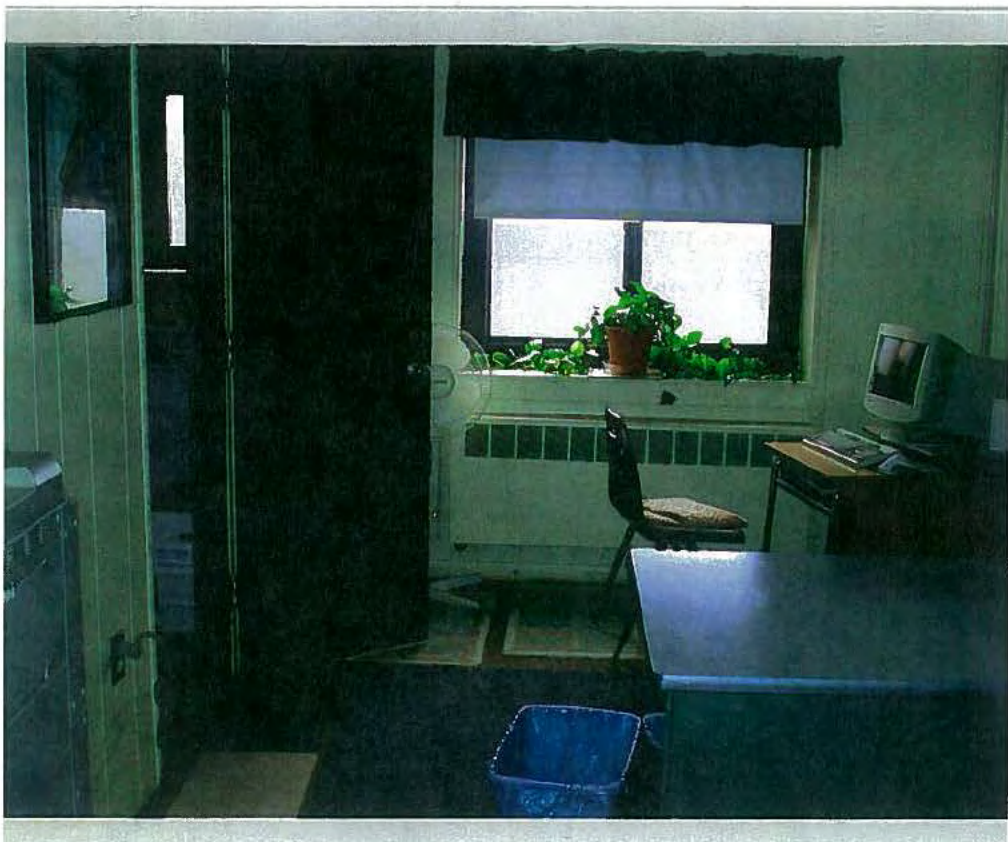
Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 23. Close up of confessionals



# FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 731

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

142 18 9 45  
18 02-06 112 1010

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 19. Hallway from the school facing the entrance  
to the old church, door to confession room on the left

---

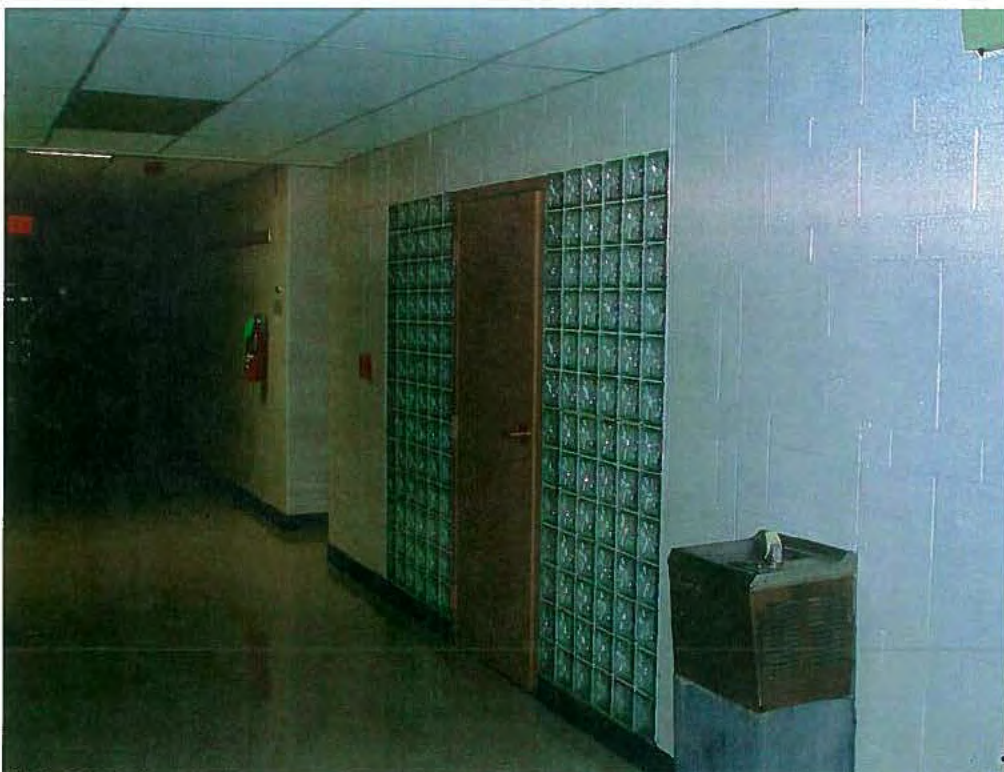
Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Photographs taken on Saturday, March 18, 2005

St. Mary School - Mokena, Illinois

Photograph 5 - Confession room - taken from the  
doorway



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Photographs taken on Saturday, March 18, 2005

St. Mary School - Mokena, Illinois

Photograph 2 - Doorway to confession room facing the  
school

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Photographs taken on Saturday, March 18, 2005

St. Mary School - Mokena, Illinois

Photograph 9 - Confession room

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 735

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Photographs taken on Saturday, March 18, 2005

St. Mary School - Mokena, Illinois

Photograph 3 - Close up of confession room entrance -  
door closed

---

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Photographs taken on Saturday, March 18, 2005

St. Mary School - Mokena, Illinois

Photograph 6 - Confession room entrance facing the  
hallway



FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 737

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Photographs taken on Saturday, March 18, 2005

St. Mary School - Mokena, Illinois

Photograph 7 - Closet in confession room

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Photographs taken on Saturday, March 18, 2005

St. Mary School - Mokena, Illinois

Photograph 8 - Confession room



# FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 739

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

14: 19 01 16  
10 02 10 12 17 15

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Date of Photographs: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

Photo 19. Hallway from the school facing the entrance  
to the old church, door to confession room on the left

---

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Photographs taken on Saturday, March 18, 2005

St. Mary School - Mokena, Illinois

Photograph 1 - Doorway to confession room facing the  
old church

# FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 741

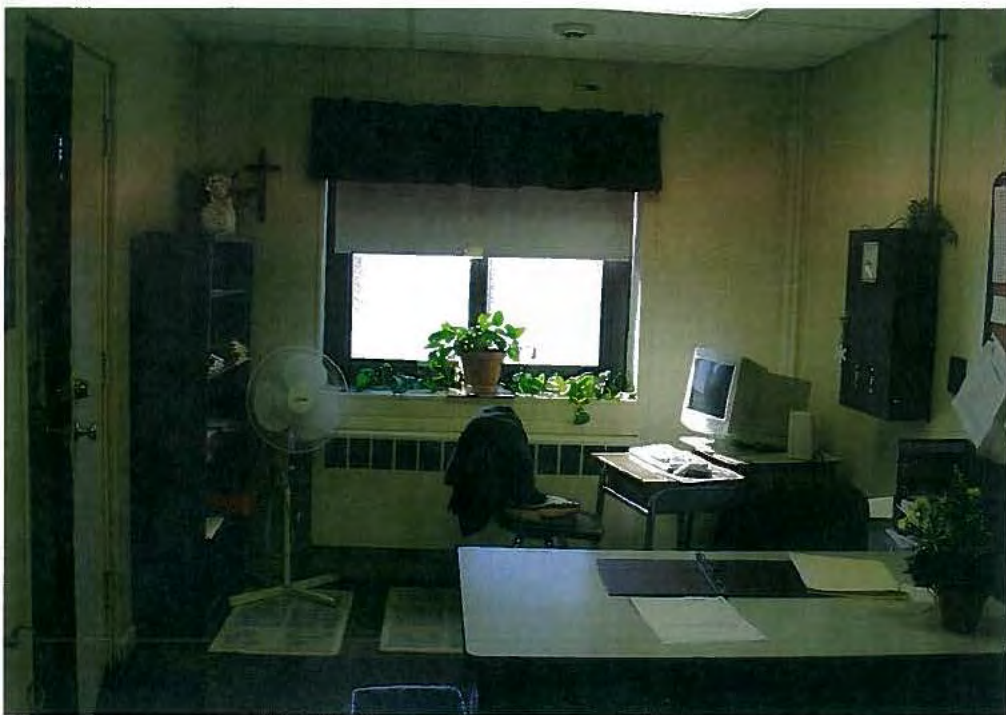
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TMJA  
Released April 2014





FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 742

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014





Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

# SPESIA & AYERS

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Jeffrey S. Taylor  
Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.  
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Fx 815.726.6828  
www.spesia-ayers.com

March 21, 2011

Douglas F. Spesia  
(1940-2010)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.  
North Pier Chicago  
455 East Illinois Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Re: [REDACTED] *vs Burnett and  
The Diocese of Joliet*

***Document Production***

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Enclosed herewith is the document production that is due on March 21, 2011.

Subsequent to your Motion to Compel, the Court entered Orders on November 23, 2010 and December 14, 2010 setting forth which documents were discoverable and that was then modified by the Court Order of March 11, 2011.

The Diocese had filed a Motion on January 27, 2011 seeking a Contempt Order to Perfect an Appeal pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 304(b)(5).

That Motion set forth the documents that the Diocese would produce pursuant to the above Court Orders, as well as the documents that the Diocese would not produce until ordered by a Reviewing Court.

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Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.  
March 21, 2011  
Page 2

The Diocese herein is now delivering documents as set forth in its above said Motion which consists of six categories, which are as follows:

- Category I – Diocesan Priests as specified.
- Category II – Religious Order Priests as specified
- Category III – Review Committee Investigative Records regarding Fr. Burnett
- Category IV – Investigative Records in addition to Review Committee Records
- Category V – Personnel Records of Parishes
- Category VI – In-Camera Records of Fr. Burnett (pursuant to the February 22, 2011  
(Court Order)
- Category VII – List of Civil Lawsuits

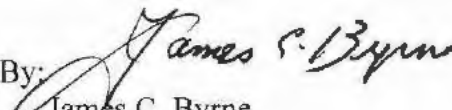
In addition to the above is a copy of [REDACTED]'s Priest File up to November of 1982.

Regarding Diocesan written policies on child sexual abuse allegations prior to November 20, 1982. I have previously stated in Court there are no such policies. Also prior to 1982 there was no Diocesan Review Committee or any other group that functioned in a similar matter.

The attached documents are consistent with the Diocese's statement of those documents that it would produce as set forth in its Motion for an Order of Contempt to Perfect an Appeal.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By:   
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm  
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Joseph M. Laraia, Esq.  
Mr. Stuart L. Bressler, Esq.

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

(Category III)

**REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**OF**  
**DIOCESE OF JOLIET**  
**REGARDING**  
**ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FR. BURNETT**

**February 9, 2006 Meeting** (See attached records)

- Allegations of [REDACTED]
- Minutes of meeting – See Privilege Log

**May 24, 2006 Meeting** (See attached records)

- Allegations of [REDACTED]
- Minutes of meeting – See Privilege Log

**January 17, 2007 Meeting** (See attached records)

- Allegations of [REDACTED]
- Allegations of [REDACTED] (additional interviews)
- Minutes of meeting – No Privilege Log

**April 28, 2010 Meeting** (See attached records)

- Allegations of John Doe
- Allegations of [REDACTED]
- Allegations of [REDACTED]
- Minutes of meeting – See Privilege Log  
Attorney-Client & Work Product



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BMJA  
Released April 2014

**PERSONAL  
CONFIDENTIAL**

**Review Committee**

**Allegations  
of**

[REDACTED]

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Released April 2014

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOLIET DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

February 9, 2006

PLACE Conference Room, Chancery Building

TIME 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT

[REDACTED]

Others: Mr. James Byrne, Sr. Judith Davies, Fr. Joseph Tapella

EXCUSED

[REDACTED]

OPENING

The meeting opened at 7:30 a.m. with prayer.

POLICY

Sections of the *Pastoral Policy Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors* have been reviewed: Introduction and I, II, III, IV, VI, VIII and XI. Needing review: V ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]

VOTING

Mr. [REDACTED] suggested that any voting be conducted by means of a paper ballot. Balloting would take place only after a full discussion.

SHANAHAN

Information regarding the allegation of [REDACTED] against Father James Burnett was sent to Committee members in advance of the meeting. Members determined that more information was needed before they could proceed. Members may interview Father Burnett once sufficient information has been gathered.

Mr. Byrne reported that DCFS is asking the Diocese to take certain action when an allegation is made. The allegation against Father Burnett was reported to DCFS.

Motion: Having completed a preliminary review, the Committee requires further investigation of the charges, and finds with the removal of Fr. Burnett by the Bishop, it is unnecessary to consider the need for the temporary removal from ministry of the accused since it has already been done. Motion carried.

The Committee asked that information be obtained from classmates of Mr. [REDACTED] Fr. William Virtue; men who would have served as altar servers; Mr. [REDACTED] family members including [REDACTED] Fr. Vytas Memenas; Sr. [REDACTED] Sr. [REDACTED] Sr. [REDACTED] and DOC records. The goal is to discover if anyone else was abused or if there had been any questionable behavior on the part of Father Burnett.

[REDACTED]

DELETED

CASES

DELETED

UPDATES

DELETED

MEETING

Next meeting March 15, 2006.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

08

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

December 21st 2005

AND

December 22nd 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2005

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.



Re: [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: [REDACTED]

Allegations of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Wednesday, December 28, 2005

09

PREDICATION

The client requested that this office interview [REDACTED], age [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED]. The client advised that within the past few days, Mr. [REDACTED] has made allegations that Father James Burnett, formerly of St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois, sexually molested him as a child in the 1970's. It was the client's understanding that the reported molestation allegedly took place in a confessional area.

Subsequent to interviewing Mr. [REDACTED] the client requested additional investigation, including interviewing [REDACTED] sister, [REDACTED] interviewing Father James Burnett; and conducting background investigation on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

INVESTIGATION

[REDACTED]  
On Wednesday, December 21, 2005, Investigator Steven L. Kirby telephoned Mr. [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] identified himself and agreed to speak to the investigator. The investigator explained to Mr. [REDACTED] that he represented the Review Committee and his job was to gather facts to present to the Review Committee for their consideration in this case. During the course of the interview, Mr. [REDACTED] made the following relevant statements:

- He stated he attended St. Mary's Grade School, grades one through eight, graduating in [REDACTED]
- He stated that at the time, he lived in [REDACTED] Illinois.
- He stated that his entire family were members of St. Mary's Parish, [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- He stated that the molestations occurred on numerous occasions between the ages of eight and ten.
  - He described those molestations as Father Burnett fondling his genital area both through his clothes and while he was naked from the waist down.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

10

- He stated that all of these incidents occurred in the confessional area, which he described as an open room, on the left side, down a hallway past Sister Mary James' room. He stated it was to the left, across from the bathroom. He stated the room contained two chairs and a table and was designed for face-to-face confessions.
- He stated that Father Burnett told him not to tell anyone and stated, "He threatened to kick out me out of school" if I told anyone. He also stated that Father Burnett told him this was "a secret between you, me and God."
- He stated that he always remembered that Father Burnett molested him but never felt compelled to bring it to light until just recently. He did not specify why he felt the need to bring it to light but said when a church official in [REDACTED] was recently charged in a sex scandal, he started thinking about it.
- He stated that the first person that he told was his sister, [REDACTED] who resides in [REDACTED]. He said he told [REDACTED] on either December 20 or 21, 2005.
- He also stated that he found [REDACTED] telephone number and contact information on the Internet. He stated he contacted [REDACTED] who, in turn, apparently contacted the reporter for the Herald News whose name, [REDACTED] recalled, was [REDACTED]. He stated that [REDACTED] contacted him and he told [REDACTED] of the alleged molestation. He stated all of this occurred on December 20, 2005.
- He stated that he did call Father Burnett on five or six occasions over the past several years and left him several messages wanting him to call him back. He stated he also left questions on the voicemail asking Father Burnett why he molested him. He stated that Father Burnett never called him back [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- When asked about the supposed "protection on the playground" that Father Burnett provided, [REDACTED] stated that what he meant was that Father Burnett kept him out of trouble from the nuns at St. Mary's, as opposed from other students bullying him.
- He stated that the molestation stopped by the fifth grade. He did not recall a specific incident, which caused it to stop, other than that, it just did.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

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- He stated that he believed his brother, [REDACTED] was molested by "Father Bill". He stated that he recalled when he was seven or eight years old, being with [REDACTED] in a forest preserve with a priest (Father Bill) and seeing [REDACTED] with his pants down and the priest nearby. [REDACTED]
- He denied being molested or abused by any other members of the Joliet Diocese or Catholic Church or anyone else in his life.
- When asked what he would like to see happen in this matter, he stated he wanted to make sure that Father Burnett was not in a position to molest any other children and stated he would like to see a "big ad" put out in the paper asking other people who Father Burnett may have molested to come forth.
- He stated he was willing to discuss this matter in the future with the investigator should there be need to. He stated that he can normally be reached on his cell phone anytime.

[REDACTED]

\* \* \* \*

On Thursday, December 22, 2005, the investigator received a telephone call at approximately 9:30 AM from [REDACTED] stated he had received a telephone call from a Sister [REDACTED] or similar name with an (815) area code and 263 exchange but he did not know the remaining four numbers. He asked the investigator if he knew whom this was and why he was being contacted. The investigator replied that he did not know for sure but would check and advise Mr. [REDACTED] of his findings.

Mr. [REDACTED] also mentioned at this time that, after speaking with the investigator, he recalled being fondled by Father Burnett on occasion while he was putting on his altar server robes. He stated that Father Burnett would attempt to fondle him while assisting him in putting on the robes.

The investigator, at the client's instructions, inquired as to whether or not the alleged molestations in the confessional occurred when he was actually going to the sacrament of confession or if that was just the room that Father Burnett took him to. Mr. [REDACTED] replied that the incidents occurred when he went to the sacrament of confession.

[REDACTED]



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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

As promised, after checking with the client, the investigator recontacted Mr. [REDACTED] and informed him that the person from the diocese who was attempting to call him was from the Victim's Assistance Program and that she was not an investigator.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On December 27, 2005, Investigator Steven L. Kirby telephoned [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. The investigator identified himself and requested an opportunity to speak with Ms. [REDACTED]. The investigator explained he had gotten her name and number from her brother, [REDACTED]. She confirmed that she had spoken with [REDACTED] and knew he had spoken with the investigator. [REDACTED] agreed to meet with the investigator on Thursday, December 29, 2005 at 8:30 PM at her residence, [REDACTED].

At one point in the brief telephone conversation, she mentioned that she felt that the Diocese had totally ignored the alleged molestation of her brother, [REDACTED] by a member of the Joliet Diocese (she did not name this individual). She claimed that she and her brother, [REDACTED] had made "25 calls" to either Sister Judith or Sister [REDACTED] and had not received a satisfactory response. The investigator explained to her that he was aware of the particulars of that case but that if she were to discuss it with the investigator, he would be willing to listen.

Approximately one hour after the investigator made the appointment with [REDACTED], she called the investigator and advised that she would not be able to meet with him on the advice of her brother's attorney. When the investigator asked for the name of the attorney, she refused to provide it, but stated that the diocese could expect to receive something in the mail from him in the next few days.

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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

**Father James Burnett**

On December 27, 2005, the investigator attempted to contact Father Burnett in order to interview him. The investigator was advised by the receptionist that Father Burnett was taking the week off and was not expected back until after the first of the year.

**This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.**

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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 06, 2006 11:18 AM  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I told you about the sexual abuse in November of 2005. I have hidden this for my whole life because of

- 1) Total embarrassment
- 2) Didn't want to face the consequences from Father Burnett who told me I would get kicked out of school.
- 3) Scared of what people would say if I was in the room with them.
- 4) Father Burnett fondled me at least over a hundred times. I told Mr Kirby I didn't know but my memory comes back the harder I have to think about it. It makes me sick everytime I have to think about what Father Burnett did to me. He was my favorite priest and always so sweet to me, yet he built up the trust between me and him and GOD never tell anyone our secret.

[REDACTED] everyone trusted Father Burnett and I also believe from the bottom of my heart that if I ever said one word that I would be called a liar and I didn't need that to be on my shoulders as well. This is the worst thing someone from the priesthood could do to a boy. It is worth than death because if I was dead than I wouldn't have to suffer like I did for so long and continue to do so.

[REDACTED] I felt so lucky to have Father Burnett there for me all the time. He treated me better than all the kids always. He was my hero. I have to stop for now I will continue later. Sorry [REDACTED]



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Interview  
Jan. 6 & 7, 2006

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL--INTERVIEW

OF

[REDACTED]

ON

JAN 5th 2006 and Jan 7th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2006

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.

Re: Allegations of [redacted]  
Q4 File No. [redacted]  
Date: Friday, January 13, 2006  
Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

In the continuing investigation, and supplementing this office's initial report dated December 28, 2005, the investigator spoke with [redacted] on two additional occasions and also interviewed Father James Burnett. The investigator tried to arrange to interview [redacted] but she did not respond to a message left to her. (It is noted that she had previously told the investigator she was not willing to meet with him.) The following is a summary of those interviews and/or attempts to interview.

Interviews with [redacted]

In the continuing investigation, on Thursday, January 5, 2006, at approximately 5:00 PM, Investigator Steven L. Kirby received an unsolicited telephone call from [redacted] wanting to know the status of the investigation. The investigator explained to Mr. [redacted] that the investigation was continuing but that he really could not discuss the results with him at this time. The investigator then mentioned to Mr. [redacted] that it was the investigator's understanding from Mr. [redacted] sister, [redacted] that he had an attorney representing him in this matter. Mr. [redacted] replied that although he had spoken with a number of attorneys, he had not retained anyone to handle his case. He then asked the investigator if he should represent himself and, if so, whom would he contact at the diocese to negotiate. The investigator replied to Mr. [redacted] that he was in no position to give Mr. [redacted] any type of advice in this case but did tell him that the attorney representing the diocese was Mr. James Byrne of Joliet.

In the continuing investigation, on Saturday, January 7, 2006, the investigator spoke with [redacted] by telephone. The investigator told Mr. [redacted] that since he was not represented by counsel and that his sister, [redacted] was apparently mistaken, that he would like to speak with her and asked Mr. [redacted] if that would be okay with him. Mr. [redacted] stated that he had no problem with the investigator speaking with his sister and that he would contact her over the weekend to advise her that it was okay with him if she spoke with the investigator. The investigator stated he would call her the early part of next week.

The investigator and Mr. [redacted] then began discussing whom he had discussed this matter with. [redacted]

The investigator also asked for clarification as to whether or not, during the times he attempted to contact Father Burnett, if he ever specifically told Father Burnett what he wanted to discuss, i.e. his alleged molestation by Father Burnett. Mr. [redacted] replied that he never specifically told him that was what he wanted to talk about. He stated that when he would leave either a voice mail message or a message with the secretary; he would say that it was [redacted] and he wanted to talk with Father Burnett. He



Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Friday, January 13, 2006

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stated he never received a return call. He also stated that when he sent his letter he was not specific as to why he wanted to talk with Father Burnett.



[REDACTED] He stated that to this day, "A day doesn't go by that I don't think about it." He stated that whenever he reads or hears about a similar incident on television he turns the television off so that he does not have to relive his circumstances.

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 769

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Jan. 18, 2006

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT II

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

O N

JAN 18th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2006

Redacted April 29, 14  
TMJA  
Released April 20, 14

In the continuing investigation and supplementing this office's reports of December 28, 2005 and January 13, 2006, on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed [REDACTED] who is the sister of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] agreed to meet with the investigator after initially declining, after discussing the matter further with her brother, [REDACTED]. She also provided the investigator with copies of several emails relating to this case, of which accompanying this report. It is noted that she is the first person confided in by [REDACTED] regarding alleged molestation by priests serving at St. Mary's Church in Mokena, Illinois. During the course of an approximate one hour and fifteen minute interview, the following information was learned and is summarized as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

• She stated that she first learned of [REDACTED] abuse in October of 2005 [REDACTED]

It was at this time that he related to her, in general terms, that he was abused by "Father Bill" (subsequently, identified as Father Bill Virtue) while at St. Mary's in Mokena, Illinois. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

• She stated that sometime in early December or late November, she began to confide with other family members about [REDACTED] alleged abuse by Father Virtue.

• She stated when she told [REDACTED] he told her that he had also been molested by Father Burnett. According to [REDACTED] stated that this occurred on numerous occasions. [REDACTED] descriptions of his abuse (as told to her by [REDACTED] were consistent with what he told Investigator Kirby.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Redacted April 2014 File No. [REDACTED]  
TMJA Date: Thursday, January 19, 2006  
Released April 2014

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—

- She stated she was not sure of the exact sequence and time that she received a letter from [REDACTED] and when she notified [REDACTED] that her brother was molested and that he, in turn, confirmed that he was also molested. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
She stated that all of the revelations and letters were occurring in late November and early December through the present.

- It is noted that the allegations that [REDACTED] made relating to Father Burnett are similar to the initial allegations against Father Virtue made by [REDACTED] in that a) both initial molestations occurred in the confessional room; b) that both [REDACTED] allege that the priest told them that what "goes on in here is sacred and between us and God"; and c) that the first molestation was fondling over clothes. It is further noted that [REDACTED] allegations of molestations only included fondling while [REDACTED] allegations included anal penetration on, at least, three occasions.

- [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] also told her that he recalled the instance when Father Bill Virtue, [REDACTED] and he were in the forest preserves and that Father Virtue allegedly anally raped [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told her that he was not a witness to the assault but that he recalled Father Virtue picking up [REDACTED] and him and that the two of them went ahead of [REDACTED] in the forest preserve and that he and his brother ended up running home rather than riding home with Father Virtue.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] also confirmed that confessions were, in fact, heard in the office as described by both [REDACTED]. She stated that this would have included school confessions. She specifically recalled that the school children would slide down the pews as each one entered the confessional room. She described that there were two options to go to confession in the office. There was a screen that a person could kneel in front of or they could go behind the screen and have a face to face confession.

[REDACTED]

- She confirmed that [REDACTED] were, in fact, altar boys when they were at St. Mary's Parish.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2006

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

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- She stated that she feels that this matter has not been handled appropriately by the Joliet Diocese and that her family's needs and complaints are essentially being dismissed.

[REDACTED]

- She agreed to discuss any follow-up questions the investigator might have concerning this matter.

END OF REPORT



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2006 11:11 PM  
**Subject:** sexual abuse

Sister Judith I am very disappointed and ashamed that I am or was a part of the Joliet Diocese. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the same school that I now know my brothers were sexually assaulted at. You already know all of this because I spoke to you about my brother [REDACTED] with father Bill Virtue. What you don't know is the horrific and morally disgusting things that he did in order to protect our [REDACTED]. All of that was in vain because it was happening to [REDACTED] also with another priest father Burnette, whom I would have considered a friend of the family. Now I consider him a pedifiler and unworthy person to be addressed as a priest and anyone associated with Jesus. I have a baptism to attend soon at Saint Mary but I can't go because it is too difficult to think of how my brothers' lives took a turn for the worse that would forever change them. I forgot that you and Sister [REDACTED] are both well aware of these abuse but I still understand that Father Burnette is still at St Ray and Father Bill is still in Peoria. I think you both have forgotten your position to help the victims. I have failed to see how either of you have helped my family. You both have ignored that sexual abuse allegations which in your heart you believe is true, I feel saddened for both and all of this so call review board. I am forwarding you my recollections of how you have treated my brother [REDACTED] in case you needed some reminders. My brothers lives have been broken down by these 2 men who told them that this abuse was between them and God and it was sacred. If you did your job at all you should have a file and will have my contact numbers.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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**From:** "Sr. Judith Davies" [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2006 12:03 PM  
**Subject:** RE: sexual abuse

Dear [REDACTED]

This is a response to your message of January 9.

The Diocese of Joliet takes all allegations of sexual abuse very seriously. When the allegation of abuse by Father Virtue was made, I contacted the Diocese of Peoria since Father is a priest of that diocese. It is appropriate that the Peoria Diocese handle [REDACTED] allegation and deal with Father Virtue since the Diocese of Joliet has no jurisdiction whatsoever over Father.

When the Joliet Diocese became aware of your brother [REDACTED] allegation, we took immediate action. [REDACTED] was interviewed on behalf of the Diocesan Review Committee as soon as possible prior to the Christmas holidays.

The process of information gathering is continuing so that when the Review Committee convenes in mid-February, it will be able to review the allegation and all information received to date, then determine if more information is necessary. If the Committee decided more information is needed before proceeding, more will be gathered. Otherwise, the Committee will make a recommendation to Bishop Imesch regarding the accused priest.

[REDACTED]

You said in your message that you were forwarding your recollections of how [REDACTED] has been treated. Would you please resend? The forwarded message never arrived.

I am available to speak with you by phone [REDACTED] or in person should you wish.  
May God bless you.

Sister Judith Davies, OSF

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 776

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Fr. Burnett  
(Jan. 10, 2006)



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

FR. JAMES BURNETT

ON  
JAN 10th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2006

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.

Interview of Father James Burnett

On Tuesday, January 10, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed Father James Burnett at St. Raymond's Rectory in Joliet, Illinois. The purpose of the interview was to discuss with Father Burnett the allegations of [REDACTED] and for Father Burnett to respond to those allegations. During the course of an approximate forty-minute interview, Father Burnett stated the following in summary:

- He denied ever sexually touching [REDACTED] or any other minor during the course of his ministry. This would specifically include the time he was at St. Mary's in Mokena or any of his other assignments.
- Father Burnett denied ever inappropriately touching or sexually engaging in any type of sexual activity with any minors during the course of his ministry, while at St. Mary's Church or any other time.
- He denied ever being accused of any sexual misconduct during the course of his priesthood.
- Father Burnett stated he was ordained in 1968 and has had the following four assignments: St. Charles Boromeo, Bensenville, Illinois, 1968-1974; St. Mary's Parish, Mokena, Illinois, 1974-1990; St. Peter and Paul Parish, Naperville, Illinois, 1990-2002; St. Raymond's Parish, Joliet, Illinois, 2002-present.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Friday, January 13, 2006

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- He stated that he first became aware of the abuse allegations by [REDACTED] when he was contacted by a reporter, who happens to be a parishioner of St. Raymond's, sometime in mid December. He stated that he immediately told Bishop Imish about the reporter's statements. He stated that he subsequently learned on Christmas Eve that the situation had escalated and would be looked at by the Review Committee.
- Father Burnett stated it is his understanding that the allegation was essentially that he had [REDACTED] remove his pants while in a confessional area.
- The investigator explained to Father Burnett that [REDACTED] allegations were that on several occasions, when [REDACTED] was between the ages of eight and ten, he was fondled both on his bare genital area and through his clothing by Father Burnett in a "confessional type room across from a bathroom, down a hallway, past Sister [REDACTED] room."
- He specifically denied ever molesting or sexually touching [REDACTED]. Father Burnett stated he was familiar with that room but denied that he heard confessions in that room, particularly during school confessions. Father Burnett explained that all of the school confessions were heard in the traditional confessional in the back of the church. Father Burnett stated he may have, on a rare occasion, heard a face-to-face confession in that room but stated that it was not used for confession on even a semi-regular basis.
- Father Burnett was also advised that [REDACTED] alleged that while he was putting on altar server robes, he was fondled by Father Burnett.
- He stated that concerning the altar robes, he did not even think that [REDACTED] was an altar boy but specifically denied ever molesting him or touching him while [REDACTED] may have been putting on his altar server robes.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Friday, January 13, 2006

- Father Burnett stated he had no idea why [REDACTED] would make these allegations and he denied ever engaging in any type of conduct with [REDACTED] that could even remotely be construed sexual or inappropriate.
- He denied knowing that [REDACTED] was allegedly molested by a member of St. Mary's.
- He further denied knowing of any other priests at St. Mary's or anywhere else who were engaging in sexual misconduct during the times that it was allegedly happening.
- When asked if he had received any letters from [REDACTED] he stated that he recalled receiving one letter from [REDACTED]. He stated that in the letter, [REDACTED] requested that Father Burnett keep him in his prayers. Father Burnett stated it was obvious that the letter was heartfelt [REDACTED]. Father Burnett denied that there was anything in the letter that even remotely suggested that [REDACTED] was complaining of sexual misconduct.
- Father Burnett denied ever receiving any voicemails or messages to call [REDACTED] or any messages that [REDACTED] was trying to contact him. He stated that the only contact he had with [REDACTED] was the letter he received when [REDACTED] was overseas.

[REDACTED]

- He agreed to submit to a polygraph examination to investigate the truthfulness of his denials.

\* \* \*

On Thursday, January 12, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby arranged for Father Burnett to submit to a polygraph examination to be conducted at the office of F.L. Hunter & Associates, 930 North York, Hinsdale, Illinois. After discussing the matter with Attorney Jim Byrne and Polygraph Examiner Hunter, the following four relevant questions were agreed upon:

1. Did you ever touch [REDACTED] bear penis?
2. Did you ever fondle [REDACTED] bare genitals?
3. Did you ever touch [REDACTED] genitals through his clothing?

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 781

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Friday, January 13, 2006

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

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4. In the 1990's, were you made aware of any attempts by [REDACTED] to contact you by phone?

The examination is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 1:00 PM.

Attempted Interview with [REDACTED]

On Tuesday, January 10, 2006, Investigator Kirby attempted to contact [REDACTED]. The investigator left a message for [REDACTED] to contact him but to date a return call has not yet received.

This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 782

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Polygraph  
(Jan. 19 & Feb 2)



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

# F.L. Hunter and Associates, Inc.

1000 YORK ROAD HINSDALE, ILLINOIS 60521 (630) 920-0571 Fax (630) 920-0587

FRED L. HUNTER  
DIRECTOR

Mr. James C. Byrne  
Attorney at Law  
815 N. Larkin  
Joliet, IL.  
60434

February 02, 2006

On January 19, 2006, Rev. James R. Burnett voluntarily submitted himself to a polygraph examination in this laboratory. The purpose of this examination was to investigate his involvement in the alleged sexual touching of [REDACTED] genitals in the 1970's while at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois.

Prior to his exam, he signed an agreement to take the polygraph examination and to allow the results and any relevant statements to be reported to Attorney James Byrne, the Joliet Archdiocese, and Investigator Steve Kirby. He also released all parties involved from any liability as it may relate to the provisions of this agreement. All executed agreement and health forms are incorporated as part of our file in this case.

## PRETEST INTERVIEW

He indicated that he knew of a number of [REDACTED] families belonging to the St. Mary's Parish in Mokena when he was there. However, he was never really friendly with [REDACTED] family. He denied that he had ever been at their home for any type of social event.



He stated that he did not recall that [REDACTED] was ever an altar boy. However if he did this would have been when he was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade (12 or 13 years old).

He indicated that his parish in Naperville upgraded their phones in the late 1990's (98) so that it had voicemail ability. He said that when [REDACTED] wrote him, he did receive the letter in Naperville and he would have replied on church stationary.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Page 2  
Mr. James C. Byrne  
Attorney at Law  
Rev. James R. Burnett

**Test Results**

The following listed questions were asked of this subject during the polygraph exam.

1. Did you ever touch [REDACTED] genitals through his clothing? Answer (NO)
2. Did you ever touch [REDACTED] bare penis? Answer (NO)
3. Did you ever sexually fondle [REDACTED] bare genitals? Answer (NO)
4. In the 1990's, were you ever made aware of any attempts by [REDACTED] to contact you by telephone? Answer (NO)

**There was a void of any significant physiological responses throughout his polygraph records on the above listed relevant questions.**

**His polygraph records were also void of any significant physiological responses to the comparison and truthful questions utilized during his exam.**

**There was a consistent series of deeper breathes or sigh anomalies throughout his polygraph records on all test segments that did distort his respiration pattern.**

**DISCUSSION**

**Due to the lack of valid physiological responses, it was suggested by this laboratory that Rev. James R. Burnett should be re-examined on a later date. On February 02, 2006, he returned to this laboratory for this suggested re-exam. He was encouraged to try and refrain from the deeper breathes or sighs during this exam.**

**It should be noted that this date his responses were identical to his previous evaluation from January 19, 2006. His records also continued to show the deeper breathes or sighing type responses on a consistent basis.**

**Based on the entire Polygraph evaluation of both dates, no valid opinion as to either truth or deception could be rendered to any of the relevant questions under investigation.**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

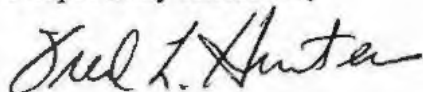
Page 3

Mr. James C. Byrne  
Attorney at Law  
Rev. James R. Burnett

**The regularly placed deeper breathes or sighs during the exams seem to be anomalies more consistent with nervousness than any intentional countermeasure by which to cause distortions of his physiological data. However, all said and done, these anomalies are still suspect.**

**Absent of a valid polygraph evaluation, it is suggested that further conventional type investigation be done to try and substantiate the credibility of allegations made by parties in this investigation. Specifically, whether or not Rev. James R. Burnett did or did not visit socially the [REDACTED] family home as indicated by witnesses to this allegation, as well as any other opposite points of contention.**

Respectfully submitted,



Fred L. Hunter



# FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 786

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Fr. Burnett  
Background

32  
|

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Released April 2014

**Fr. James Burnett**  
**(Ordained 6-25-68)**

6-15-68	to	2-15-74	Associate	-	St. Charles Borromeo, Bensenville
2-15-74	to	7-14-74	Associate	-	St. Mary Parish, Mokena
7-14-78	to	6-20-90	Pastor	-	St. Mary Parish, Mokena
6-20-90	to	6-19-02	Pastor	-	St. Peter & Paul, Naperville
6-19-02	to	Present	Pastor	-	St. Raymond Cathedral, Joliet

**Fr. Burnett's Priest File**

Fr. Burnett's priest file was reviewed and there are no allegations of any type of misconduct.

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Released April 2014

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2006

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I don't know the exact age that it started. I was attending school at St. Mary's in Mokena IL. The first encounter happened when I got caught eating the host that they use for communion. The communion comes in bags, well I was eating them when Fr. Bill caught me and told me that the the hosts where blessed and that it was a mortal sin, for me to be eating them. Fr. Bill took me into a back little hallway where they stored stuff. He told me to bend over, and he hit me on my butt. Fr. Bill did not hit me hard. He would hit me once then tell me not to look at him, it would be a little while till he hit me again. After that episode he told me that what I did may cause me not to go to heaven, and that I needed to go to confession, and that he would hear my confession. There was a room down from the class rooms, across from the boys and girls bathrooms. this is where they herd confessions, it was here that he first touched me in a inappropriate way. Fr. Bill did not make me get undressed. He just rubbed his hands on me or fondled me. I don't know what my reaction was I think I was in shock. I didn't know what to think. This was after I told him that I ate the hosts. He told me that what goes on in here is sacred or something like that, it was between us and God and that I was in enough trouble. The first sexual assault happened next. I'm having a hard time writing this down, because I didn't stop him. Why didn't I stop him? It was in the same room that he heard confessions. He told me to pull my pants down, he was touching me on my butt and penis. I don't remember what he was saying to me while he was doing this. The next thing he did was stick his finger in my rectum. I remember him pushing it in and out. He did not stick his penis in me at that time. He did take his pants down and masterbated. After he was done he told me to get dressed.

The next episode happened in a forest preserve in [REDACTED] IL. Fr. Bill came to my house in [REDACTED] and picked me up. He took me to [REDACTED] it is a part of the neighborhood. The forest preserve is located at the end of



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[REDACTED] He took me deep into the woods. He pulled my pants down. He then sodomized me with his penis. I remember it hurt so bad. I can remember screaming and him putting his hand over my mouth saying something like he was almost done. He finished I remember pulling my pants up. Him taking me home. He told me not to say nothing to no one or I was going to go to hell or something was going to happen to me or my brother. (I don't know if that was word for word but it is close enough) He took me home my rectum hurt so bad, I went to the bathroom pulled my pants down and my underwear my underwear was full of blood. I started crying I wanted to run and tell my mom what happened, but I couldn't I didn't want the same thing happening to my brother. I cleaned myself up and through my underwear away. [REDACTED]

The last episode happened in the same forest preserve. Fr. Bill came to my house and picked me up. But before we left he asked my brother if he wanted to go with. I tried to get him not to go but Fr. bill influenced my brother to go. Well when we got to the woods we all got out started walking down the trail. When we got to the creek. I said I was going to the other side of the creek I told my brother that I would look for a place that he could cross. Fr. Bill followed me accross the creek I walked far enough so my brother could not see me. Fr. Bill again took my pants down telling me to be quiet he told me to turn around and bend over I told him that it hurt bad he stuck his penis in my butt, again he told me if I screamed he was going to hurt my brother when he finished I was getting dressed after I got done I turned around I seen my brother so I ran I told my brother to come with me. I ran he asked me why, I don't remember exactly what I told him I just said run. Fr. Bill caught up to us he asked why are we

09

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

Running I told him we where going home he said to get in the car I said no I said we were walking home. He tried to grab me I told him that I would scream. There were people outside in the open so he let me go, me and my brother ran home. That was the last time he touched me. He left the parish soon after that.

The physical torture was done now it was the mental aspect of it. I became a lost kid I didn't know what to do I knew I hated St. Marys I hated anything that had to do with God most of all I hated God. How could he let that man do that to me.







Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

Received April 2014

TMJL

Released April 2014

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

10

January 24, 2006

Rev. Msgr. Steven P. Rohlf  
Diocese of Peoria  
607 N.E. Madison Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61603

Dear Monsignor Rohlf,

Enclosed are two pieces of information that might be helpful to your Diocese.

The first may be part of a letter from [redacted] to his sister, [redacted] detailing the abuse he suffered at the hands of "Father Bill."

The second is a copy of an e-mail from [redacted] which is self explanatory.

As I said above, these may be of use to the Peoria Diocese as it proceeds with [redacted] allegation. Please call me if I can be of any assistance.

May God bless you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

Enclosures

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Released April 2014

000001

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207 East Ohio Street, Suite 275  
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Telephone: (877) 782-7670  
Facsimile: (877) 782-7679  
Illinois License: 115-000879

**Date:** February 28, 2006  
**Re:** [REDACTED]  
**File:** [REDACTED]  
**Client:** Kirby & Associates / Steven L. Kirby

[Info@SubrosaPI.com](mailto:Info@SubrosaPI.com)  
[www.SubrosaPI.com](http://www.SubrosaPI.com)

**PREDICATION**

The Client requested that this office conduct an investigation into the background of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**INVESTIGATION**

During the course of this investigation, the following information was developed about the Subject.

Personal Data

[REDACTED]




**REUTERS** 

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TMJA  
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000029

 Print this article

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## New turmoil in Catholic Church abuse scandal

Tue Feb 7, 2006 5:19 PM ET

By Michael Conlon

CHICAGO - [REDACTED] came forward on Tuesday to say that as a boy he had been molested by a Roman Catholic priest -- still in a prominent Church position -- who told him what happened was a secret between them and God.

The statement by [REDACTED] was the latest in a recent series of disclosures that have focused fresh attention on the four year-old scandal and given critics new ammunition to charge that reform in the Catholic priesthood is still a promise, not a reality.

There is "a continuing pattern of concealment by the bishops ... across this country," said Jeff Anderson, a Minnesota attorney who has filed dozens of lawsuits against the Church and arranged the news conference at which [REDACTED] told his story.

"While they have given a lot of lip service to change there is no real change under way ... this is a grave and serious problem and it was two thousand years in the making. As far as we can tell there is no fundamental change," Anderson told Reuters.

[REDACTED] said he was sexually abused from age eight for about four years by a parish priest in suburban Chicago whom he considered "my best friend."

When he went public, he said, because the priest, the Rev. James Burnett, was serving as rector of the cathedral church in the Diocese of Joliet, southeast of Chicago. He said he felt the need to talk about it because "I felt guilty" that by keeping quiet other children may have become victims.

Burnett told him at the time of the abuse to keep quiet because what they were doing "was a secret between you, me and God," he said.

The Diocese of Joliet issued a statement saying that Burnett denies the allegations but "has been placed on administrative leave until the matter is resolved."

But Anderson said the diocese, headed by Bishop Joseph Imesch, had protected the priest and "at least 29 other offenders that we know of" over the years by denying they had done anything wrong.

### 'ZERO-TOLERANCE'

The [REDACTED] case and others have called into question the effectiveness of a "zero tolerance" policy the bishops enacted in 2002 after the abuse scandal first broke.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, who played a prominent role in the U.S. bishops' response, has been hit with a home-grown scandal involving a parish priest charged with abusing three boys, one as recently as late last year. The priest remained a pastor despite allegations against him dating back several years.

George last week took the blame for that case and ordered a policy change under which any priest accused of abuse would be removed immediately from the ministry until the allegation is investigated. Previously in such cases monitors were assigned to watch over those accused, but the priests were allowed to keep working under certain conditions.

James Dwyer, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Chicago, said that overall "we are happy with our policies and procedures" though in the recent case they were not implemented properly. He said the concept of a "nonjudgmental leave" for those accused will provide "justice to the priest and the parish."



**FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 847**

Last week the Diocese of Spokane, Washington, which filed for bankruptcy because of suits against it by people who said they had been abused, announced it was offering victims \$45.75 million to settle their claims.

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Released April 2014

1 Kentucky, the Diocese of Covington last week settled abuse claims for \$85 million.

000030

David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, said there has been a "tremendous amount of progress over the years" in confronting the scandal but "all of that progress came outside and often in spite of the hierarchy."

"Bishops and cardinals have a fixation with policies and procedures and paperwork," he told Reuters. "It's not about that. It is about having common sense and courage ... you suspend the priest and then investigate."

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Illinois License: 115-000879

[Info@SubrosaPI.com](mailto:Info@SubrosaPI.com)  
[www.SubrosaPI.com](http://www.SubrosaPI.com)

March 14, 2006

Mr. Steven L. Kirby  
Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc.  
783 N. York Road  
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126-1313

RE:



Dear Mr. Kirby:

Among the enclosed, you will find our supplemental investigative report concerning the background research of [REDACTED] and the neighborhood interviews conducted at the Subjects' former address.



[REDACTED] I have reviewed our file and have not found any reference to [REDACTED] to date. Should you have any questions or if we can assist you further, please feel free to call anytime.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Perez  
President

**Subrosa Investigations, LLC.**

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Released April 2014

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

000089

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT 13)

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

INTERVIEW  
OF  
[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.

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Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Monday, January 29, 2007

000090

On Saturday, January 27, 2007, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed [REDACTED] at his father's address, [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he currently resides at [REDACTED]. During the course of an approximate forty-five minute interview, [REDACTED] made the following relevant statements regarding his knowledge of the allegations of [REDACTED]

- He has known [REDACTED] since the [REDACTED] grade. They maintained a close friendship throughout grade school. They went to different high schools but remained friends. For several years after high school, they did not see each other often but in 1999, [REDACTED] moved to [REDACTED] where he roomed with [REDACTED] for a few months. Between 2001 and 2003, while they both lived in [REDACTED] they did not have much contact. [REDACTED] returned to Chicago in September of 2004 and maintains a close friendship with [REDACTED] speaking with him often on the phone [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- He stated he was unaware that [REDACTED] had ever been molested by Father Burnett or anyone else for that matter until he heard the reports on the news media in late 2005. He stated he was surprised that over the years [REDACTED] had never said anything to him about the alleged molestation.
- He stated that his first instinct was to believe that the molestation had occurred but now "I don't know who to believe." He stated that he has no factual knowledge one way or the other as to whether the incidents ever occurred as [REDACTED] described.
- [REDACTED] acknowledged that in December of 2005 or January of 2006, when [REDACTED] returned to Chicago, he did go to dinner with him but stated that it was a social event because he was his friend and they did not talk about the issue at dinner at night. He stated that he subsequently questioned him about it later over the telephone.

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 912

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Monday, January 29, 2007

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000091

- He stated that he has spoken with [REDACTED] a couple of times about the matter. He stated that initially, [REDACTED] told him that the events occurred in the school and in the confessional area, similar to the reports that [REDACTED] provided the media. He stated that [REDACTED] told him that it occurred "lots of times." [REDACTED] said that he questioned [REDACTED] as to how it could have occurred that many times at school. He stated [REDACTED] started to relate that sometimes he was picked up in a car in his own neighborhood. When questioned closely on that, [REDACTED] stated that upon further recall [REDACTED] may have been talking about an instance when he and [REDACTED] were taken to the forest preserves by a different priest.
- [REDACTED] stated that he was never bothered by Father Burnett or any other member of the clergy at any time in his life. He stated that he always liked Father Burnett and never suspected that Father Burnett would engage in that type of activity as alleged by [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] denied that he ever visited Father Burnett or attempted to visit Father Burnett in November or December of 2005.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] advised that he remained a close friend of [REDACTED] but acknowledged, "One of them is lying."

At the conclusion of the interview, [REDACTED] confirmed that his cellular telephone would be the best way to reach him. He told the investigator that he would be willing to talk with the investigator again in the future should there be any further questions.

END OF REPORT



EDWARD R. KIRBY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS

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JILL M. LONGMIRE  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

KAY M. HALL  
SR. INVESTIGATOR

000115

OF COUNSEL  
GLENN P. EIDEN  
U.S. CUSTOMS RET.

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Released April 2014

EDWARD R. KIRBY  
1919-1991



STEVEN L. KIRBY  
PRESIDENT

JAMES R. KIRBY  
VICE PRESIDENT

December 30, 2009

James C. Byrne, Esq.  
Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh  
1415 Black Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Re: [REDACTED] / James Burnett  
Our File No. [REDACTED]

Dear Jim:

Per your request, our office undertook an investigation to locate and interview [REDACTED] [REDACTED] formerly of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensenville, Illinois regarding whether or not he was aware of or experienced any physical or sexual abuse while attending St. Charles Borromeo.

[REDACTED]

On Tuesday, December 29, 2010, I telephoned [REDACTED] and left a message for him requesting that he contact me.

On Wednesday, December 30, 2009, I received a telephone call from a male who identified himself as [REDACTED] returning my call from the previous day. I explained to him that I was investigating allegations of abuse on behalf of the Diocese and was contacting him as to whether or not he was aware of any abuse while he attended St. Charles Borromeo. He immediately and unequivocally responded that he was not aware of any abuse, that he never saw it and never experienced it. He stated he had, "nothing but good experiences" at St. Charles Borromeo. He stated that his family was actively involved in the parish, that he was an altar boy at [REDACTED]. The subject stated that he graduated from St. Charles Borromeo Grade School in [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

I asked him if he recalled the names of the priests who



James C. Byrne, Esq.  
Redacted April 2014  
TMJA Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh  
Released April 2014

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

000116

Page 2 of 2

were there when he attended St. Charles Borromeo and he stated he recalled [REDACTED] and Father Burnett as the primary priests. He stated others "came and went".

This completes the requested assignment and therefore we are closing our file in this case. Upon review, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. This letter will serve as our report regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD R. KIRBY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Steven L. Kirby  
President

SLK/amd

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

000124

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND CHECK

ON  
[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2006

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Monday, December 18, 2006

000125

PREDICATION

The client requested that this office conduct a limited background investigation regarding [REDACTED]. According to information supplied by the client, the subject has a date of birth of either [REDACTED]. Specifically, the client requested that this office determine if the subject has any civil, criminal or traffic history in all relevant jurisdictions.

INVESTIGATION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



EDWARD R. KIRBY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS

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000127

KEVIN M. READ  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

JILL M. LONGMIRE  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

KAY M. HALL  
SR. INVESTIGATOR

Redacted April 2014

EDWARD R. KIRBY  
Released April 2014



STEVEN L. KIRBY  
PRESIDENT

JAMES R. KIRBY  
VICE PRESIDENT

March 28, 2007

OF COUNSEL  
GLENN P. EIDEN  
U.S. CUSTOMS RET.

Mr. James Byrne  
Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh  
1415 Black Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]

Dear Jim:

Per your request, our office undertook an assignment to locate and interview [REDACTED] regarding the above captioned matter.

Our research indicated several addresses for [REDACTED] some of them previously in St. Charles Borromeo's Parish. Eventually, the most likely current address appeared to be [REDACTED]

On Thursday, March 15, 2007, I proceeded to that address. Upon arrival, at approximately 7:30 PM, I rang the doorbell. A female voice from inside informed me that no one by the name of [REDACTED] resided at that residence.

After conducting additional research indicating that the [REDACTED] car and driver's license both registered to that address, on Saturday, March 17, 2007, I returned. At this time, I spoke with a female in her late forties, early fifties, who initially denied knowing [REDACTED]. When I informed her that all of the research we had done indicated that he was living there, she then became emotional stating that she could "not talk about it." I then asked her if she would take a business card and have [REDACTED] contact me.

Approximately two hours later, I received a call on my cell phone from an individual that identified himself as [REDACTED]. I explained to him that I represented the Review Committee and wanted to talk to him regarding any information he might have regarding Father Burnett. [REDACTED] stated at this time he was going through many personal problems and that his mother had recently died. He stated that he did not wish to discuss anything related to Father Burnett at this time. It was obvious, however, that without me saying specifically what I wanted to talk with him about, that

Mr. James Byrne

Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh

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Released April 2014

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Tuesday, March 27, 2007

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he understood the purpose of the call. He mentioned that he told his friend (presumably your source) that he "wasn't ready" to talk about any issues with Father Burnett. He concluded the conversation by stating that if he changed his mind he had my phone number and would be in touch. He also remarked that he had checked my company on the Internet and realized I was in Elmhurst. [REDACTED]

Per your instructions, we conducted a limited background check on [REDACTED]

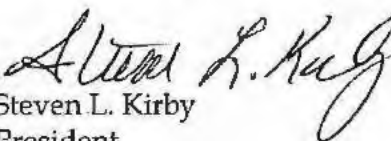
[REDACTED]

At this time, we are holding any further investigation in suspense since we have not heard from [REDACTED]. The only way we know how to contact him is through the address at [REDACTED].

Upon receipt, if you have any questions or we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD R. KIRBY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

  
Steven L. Kirby  
President

SLK/amd



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000129

The client requested that this investigator contact and interview [REDACTED] regarding whether or not he had any information regarding notification of his abuse that reportedly occurred at St. Charles Borromeo parish in Bensenville IL in the 1970's. The client provided a home address of [REDACTED]

On Thursday, August 20, I left a message for [REDACTED] on his voice mail. No return call was received.

On Wednesday, August 26, I left a message for [REDACTED] on his voice mail. No return call was received.

On Wednesday, August 26 I traveled to [REDACTED] which is a single family two story brick residence in an upper middle class neighborhood on Chicago [REDACTED]. Upon arrival, at approximately 7:10 PM I met with and briefly interviewed a male who identified himself as [REDACTED]. During the course of an approximate 10 minute interview he related the following:

- He attended St. Charles Borromeo School through [REDACTED] grade.
- He was sexually abused by Father Burnett on several occasions in his office when he was in [REDACTED] grade.
- The only person he ever confided to at that time was his mother who didn't believe him.
- He does not know whether or not his mother ever informed anyone of his complaints.
- As a result of his complaints to his mother, his parents removed him from St. Charles Borromeo
- He has had no contact with Burnett since that time.
- When he was being abused by Burnett no one ever walked in on it or otherwise became aware of the abuse to his knowledge.
- The only person who he knew was aware of his even being alone with Burnett was the woman (identity unknown) who let him into Burnett's office on one occasion. He is unaware of any other person (student) who may have been abused by Burnett but thinks that a former classmate, [REDACTED] may have been abused based upon a gut feeling. [REDACTED] also said that he was contacted by phone in the past by a female who said she was investigating this matter and he told her about [REDACTED]. She stated she was going to try and locate [REDACTED] in Joliet. [REDACTED] said that he didn't know who she actually represented and assumed that she was working for the Diocese.



FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 955

000130

Redacted April 2014

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Released April 2014

• He said that neither [REDACTED] nor anyone else at Charles Borromeo ever told him that they had been abused by Burnett or anyone else and he did not know of anyone else ever abused.

Throughout the interview, [REDACTED] repeatedly stated that he wanted to put all of this behind him and didn't want to discuss the matter now or in the future. He stated that while he appreciated "Peter's" (Bishop Sertain) willingness to meet with him he did not wish to rehash any of this situation. The investigator told him that undoubtedly the offer would stand should he change his mind.

He also questioned the investigator as to whether or not he was the person who went to his sister's house in [REDACTED]. The investigator told him that he was that person but explained that he never told his sister the purpose for the interview. [REDACTED] said that he knew that was the case because his sister would have told him had the reason for the investigator's visit disclosed.

He stated that he wanted nothing to do with the Catholic Church.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

000131

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS IN FEB 2007

Fr James Dvorscak

Sr. [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2007

000132

PREDICATION

In the continuing investigation, under the directions of James C. Byrne, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed Father James Dvorscak and Sister [REDACTED] regarding whether or not individuals could see into the office through the glass blocks, which separated the office at St. Mary School and the hallway. The following is a summary of those interviews:

**Father James Dvorscak**  
**Interviewed Saturday, February 10, 2007**

Father Dvorscak stated that he was assigned to St. Mary's from 1987 to 1994 and then again from 2002 until the present. He stated that during his tenure at St. Mary's he has walked by the office in question on countless occasions. He stated that in the past six months they have remodeled the school and that the glass blocks separating the office from the hallway have been dismantled.

It was Father Dvorscak's contention that a person glancing through the glass blocks could determine whether the people were sitting across the table from each other or next to each other. He recalled that someone walking by the room could look through the glass blocks, determine whether there were one or two people in the room, and determine their proximity to each other. He stated that while they could not identify the person through the glass blocks they could certainly determine if the people were sitting apart or sitting together. He described the figures that he could determine through the windows as "blobs."

Father Dvorscak also stated that a person's general posture could be discerned as to whether they were sitting or standing would be obvious. Father Dvorscak also pointed out that the room was not sound proofed well and that at times he would have to tell people that he was either talking within the office or particularly hearing confessions with to lower their voice so they would not be heard in the hallway.

Father Dvorscak said that usually when face-to-face confessions were heard in that room the priest sits around the corner of the table from the penitent. He stated that the reason is that while they do not want a desk between the person making the confession and the priest and that it is also believed to be a violation of body space for the priest to sit face to face with the penitent.

**Sister [REDACTED]**  
**Interviewed Monday, February 12, 2007**

On this date, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed Sister [REDACTED] at her office at St. Raymond Cathedral in Joliet, Illinois. She stated that she was at the school from [REDACTED] as a teacher and again from [REDACTED] as Director of Religious Education.

Sister [REDACTED] stated that she clearly recalled that a person could see through the glass blocks and determine whether someone was in the room. She stated that while someone could not identify the person in the room, they could see movement and



Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2007

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000133

determine whether it was a priest or a nun in the room. She further stated that a person would be able to determine whether there were one or two people in the room and determine their proximity to each other. She stated that the priest would typically sit on one side of the table and the child making his confession on the other side. Sister [REDACTED] stated that anyone looking through the glass blocks would have been able to determine whether a child was sitting on someone's lap during the course of the confession as opposed to sitting across a table. She stated that the table in that office was to the left in the front of the room as someone entered the office.

Sister [REDACTED] stated that to her recollection the only time they used that room for confessions was for the first confession, which would be for students in third grade. She stated that it was an event where the parents had to be present. She stated that was always the case during both of her tenures at St. Mary's. She stated that the parents would stand in line while they were waiting for their children to make their first confession and then wait outside the door while their child went inside. She stated that typically, third graders were only in there a matter of minutes and then they would come out to greet their parents. She stated afterwards, they would then have a small reception in the all-purpose room.

She stated that while the school did have all school confessions for Advent and Lent, it was her recollection that those were held in the traditional confessional booths in the back of the church. She stated that occasionally, a priest would use the old sacristy as a second confessional during the all school confessions.

Sister [REDACTED] showed the investigator a glass block in the St. Raymond's classroom that she said was the same consistency and visibility as the glass blocks in the office of St. Mary's. She stated that despite the opaqueness of the glass blocks she was certain that you could determine the activity in that room.

**END OF REPORT**

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(Category V)

**PERSONNEL RECORDS OF PARISH**

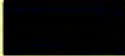
**St. Charles Borromeo Parish**

School Personnel  
Parish Personnel  
Religious Education Personnel  
Priest Personnel – see Diocese answer to Plaintiff's Interrogatory #12

**St. Mary Parish – Mokena**

School Personnel  
Parish Personnel  
Religious Education Personnel  
Priest Personnel – see Diocese answer to Plaintiff's Interrogatory #12

**Religious Education First Communion Class**

Parish School Year Book – St. Mary's School   
Students and Faculty

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**ST. MARY'S MOKENA SCHOOL**

**School Year Book – Academic Year September 1982 to June 1983**

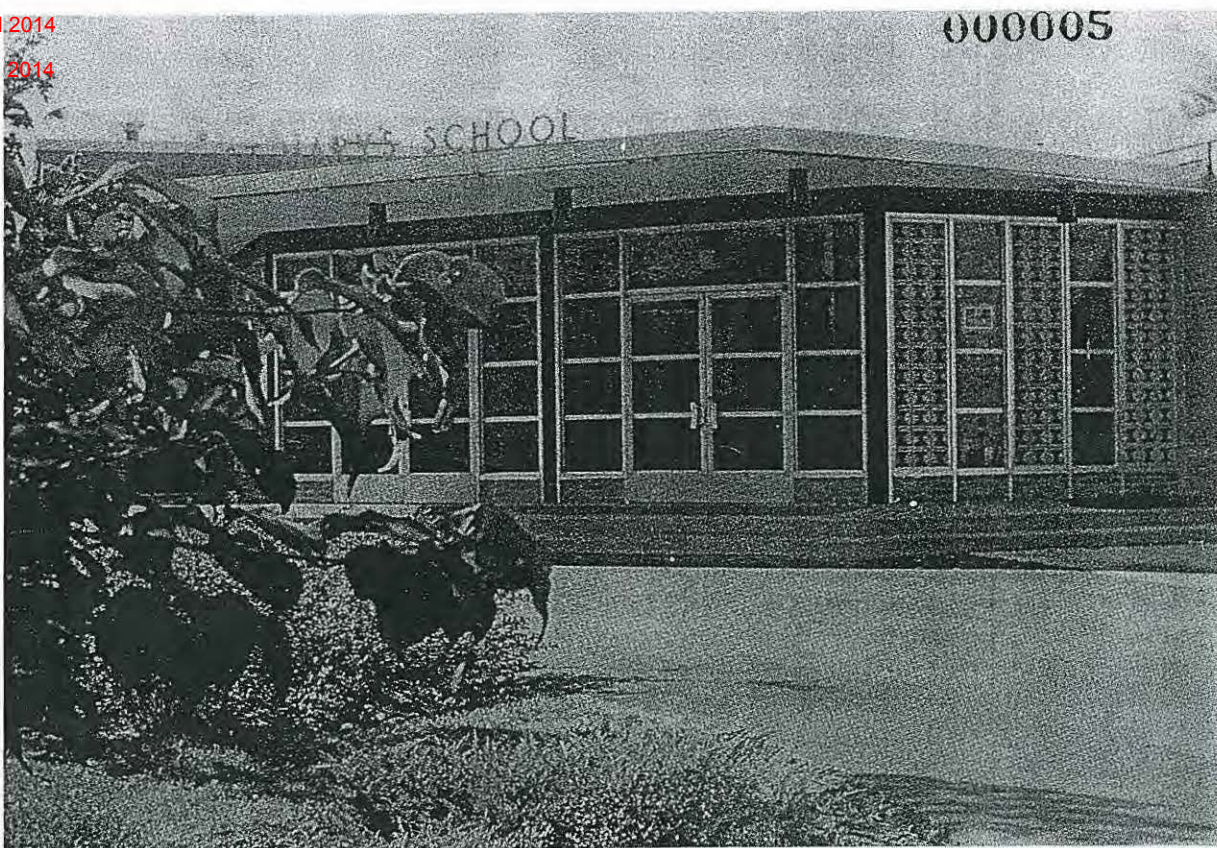
See Attached

Pages 5 to 25.

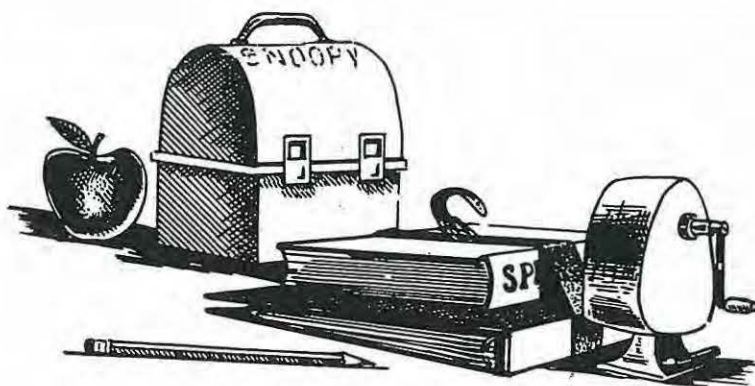


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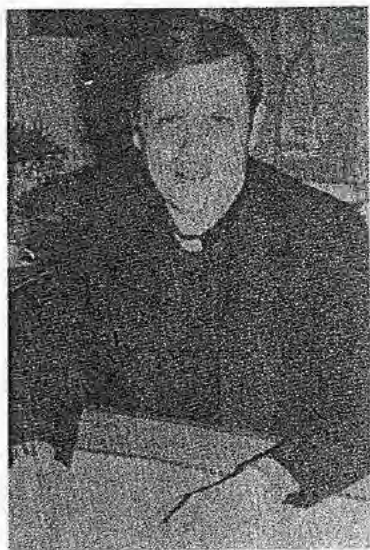
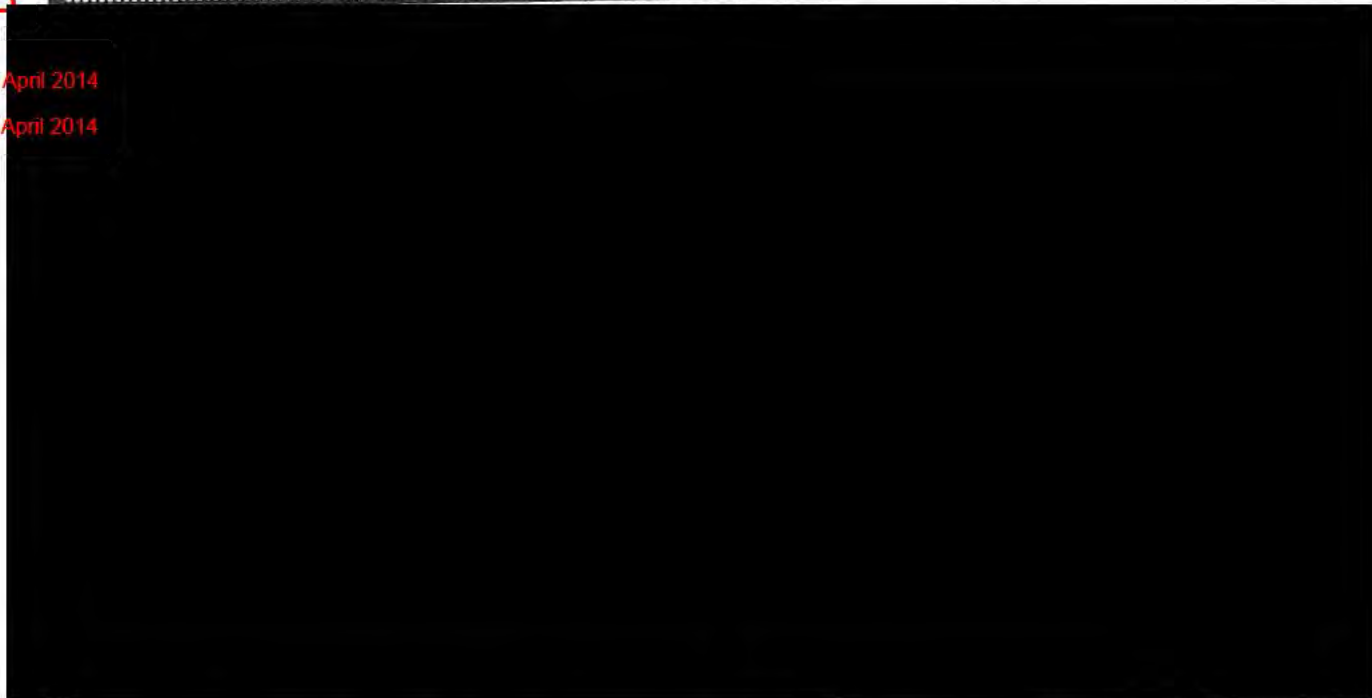
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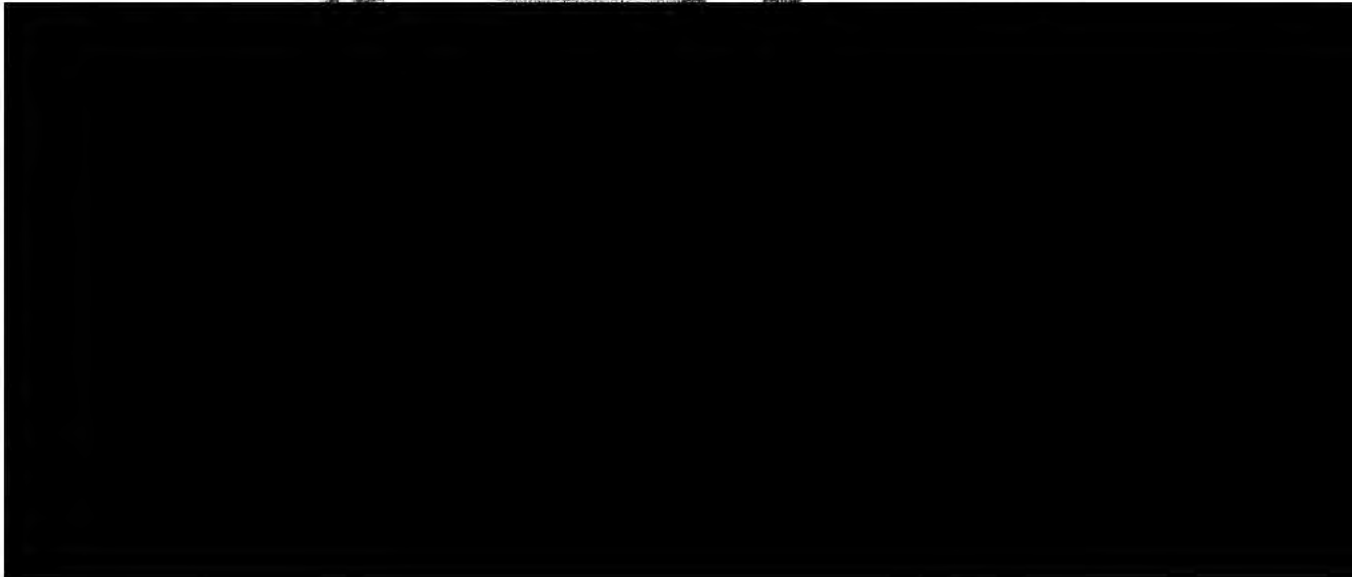
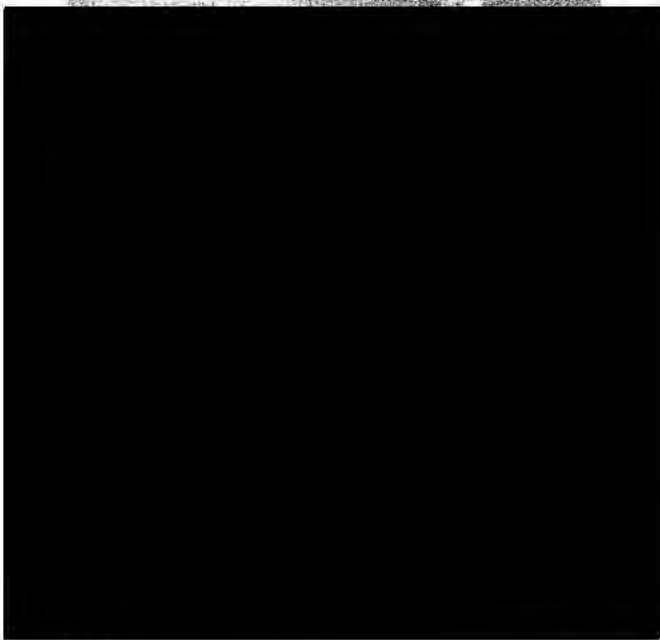
**ST. MARY SCHOOL**  
**Mokena, Illinois**  
**1982-1983**



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Released April 2014



**Father Burnett, Pastor**





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Released April 2014

00 589

May 3, 2007

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As you know, it has come to my attention that recently you made reference to the fact that Fr. James Burnett acted inappropriately with you when you were a child. Mr. [REDACTED] I take such matters very seriously, and that is the reason I am writing you today.

First, if you were harmed by Fr. Burnett when you were a child, I want to extend the help of the Church to you. When children are abused, the effects can be serious and long-lasting, and if you are in need of help in order to heal, I would like to offer our assistance in a caring and compassionate way. It might be very difficult for you to speak about this matter if something did occur years ago, and I want you to know that we would listen to you with great respect and concern. Also I would want to extend my profound apologies to you.

Second, you may be aware that Fr. Burnett is currently out of ministry because of allegations of misconduct from many years ago, which have not yet been fully resolved. It is very important to know if you were involved in any type of misconduct by Fr. Burnett so that I can make the right decision regarding Father's future ministry, and I want to make sure that children are protected.



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00 590

Page 2

I hope you will understand why it is necessary to have you amplify about any misconduct of Father, and I want to assure you that we will make every effort to keep your name from being made public if that is your desire.

I am willing to speak with you or meet with you to address any of your concerns. If you would prefer I can arrange to have someone else meet with you at any place that you might find convenient and comfortable. I will leave to your discretion any decision regarding the place and person to speak with.

I need to stress the importance of hearing from you as soon as possible. If you would like to call me you may do so at [REDACTED] Ask for my secretary [REDACTED] and you only need to indicate that your name is [REDACTED]

If I am not available at the moment that you call, I will make sure the message is given to me as soon as possible and contact you immediately. If you prefer to write me a letter you may do so at:

Bishop Peter Sartain  
Diocese of Joliet  
425 Summit Street  
Joliet, IL 60435

Mr. [REDACTED] would like to thank you in advance for your help, which I truly need. And once again, I assure you that you will be treated with respect and dignity. I promise you a place in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

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Memo to file

00 601

July 31, 2007

[REDACTED] called today in response to my letter. He mentioned, and I agreed, that he had called on July 11 when I was not available but that he was unable to work it out to call back soon thereafter. [REDACTED] had told him that I would be available the next morning between 9:30 and 10:00 should he wish to call then, but he did not call].

[REDACTED]  
He mentioned that he had made an offhanded remark, overheard by [REDACTED] regarding Fr. James Burnett. He expressed some regret for having done so, adding something to the effect that he didn't know why he did that.

He mentioned that the address which Mr. Kirby visited and to which my letter was delivered was his sister's house, and the fact that we used that address caused some difficulty for him. I apologized for having caused him any difficulty in that regard.

He made mention of the fact that he was referring to something which occurred when he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Charles Borromeo in Bensenville. He said that his life was affected by it, and from then on he hated school. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
He had pretty much blocked this out through the years.

He said several times that he wanted me to know that I had made the right decision to take Fr. Burnett out of ministry.

I asked if whatever he was referring to with regard to Fr. Burnett was just one occurrence or more than one, and he indicated it was more than one occurrence. I asked if he would be willing to give me a little detail about what happened, and he said that he was not ready "to go there."

[REDACTED]

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00 602



I asked if he would mind giving me a phone number to contact him, and he declined, noting that he would make contact with me later.



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Released 1/20/14



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

000609-B-

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

November 16, 2007

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Once again, I want to thank you for your phone call during the summer. I have kept you in my prayers since then and hope you are doing well. I am sorry to be contacting you again, but a brief conversation with you would be invaluable to me. I realize that this may be difficult for you, but it is important, and I have only a few questions. My office phone number is [REDACTED]. Simply tell my secretary, [REDACTED] your first name and she will put you in touch with me. If you prefer to call my home, that number is [REDACTED].

God bless and keep you, [REDACTED]

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Peter Sartain*

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

copy

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Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

000620

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 604

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6632

*I sent the original*

December 29, 2008

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this letter finds you well and that the Christmas Season brings you peace and joy in the Lord. I thank you for receiving and reading yet another letter from me.

It has been more than a year since I last wrote, but I am writing once again to renew my request that you and I have an opportunity to speak either in person or over the phone.

When we spoke by phone last year you indicated that you were not ready to "go there," [REDACTED] I understood that to mean that you were not ready to disclose any details about Father's misconduct.

In order to make decisions that will be fair to all involved I need all information about any type of misconduct by Father. Therefore it is critical to have reasonable details about the type and the extent of Father's misconduct with you.

I truly understand that this can be very difficult, and I have wanted to consider your feelings and give you adequate time. However, I ask that you understand that I have no other choice than to pursue this matter.

I would be very grateful if you would call my secretary, [REDACTED] All you need do is mention your first name and she will transfer your call to me or find me quickly if I happen not to be in the office. I will be out of state during the holidays until January 8.

I look forward to speaking with you as soon as possible. In the meantime, may the Lord bless you richly during this holy time.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Peter Sartain*

J. Peter Sartain  
Bishop of Joliet

SPESIA, AYERS

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Released April 2014

&  
ARDAUGH

000642

E. F. Spesia  
E. Kent Ayers  
John R. Ardaugh  
James C. Byrne  
John M. Spesia  
Christian G. Spesia  
Jeffrey S. Taylor  
Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.  
Mark A. Lichtenwalter  
Gabriel G. Orenic  
Michael R. Stiff  
Tricia M. Pellegrini

Attorneys at Law

1415 Black Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311  
Fx 815.726.6826

www.spesia-ayers.com

June 30, 2009

Of Counsel:  
Thomas M. Ewert  
Kent Slater

Mr. James Glasgow  
Will County State's Attorneys Office  
121 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Re: *Allegations of* [REDACTED]  
*vs Father Burnett*

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

This letter is pursuant to the policy of the Diocese of Joliet to inform the State's Attorney of allegations of sexual abuse by one of its clergy or other personnel.

On January 23, 2006 you were notified of the first allegation against Father Burnett by a [REDACTED]

Thereafter on August 7, 2006 you were notified again that there was a second individual by the name of [REDACTED] who also accused Father Burnett of sexually abusing him when he was a minor.

The purpose of this letter is to report that a third individual by the name of [REDACTED] has also accused Father Burnett of sexually abusing him in the early 1970's when he was a minor.

The latest address on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has requested that his name not be released to the public.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to call.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA, AYERS & ARDAUGH

By: *James C. Byrne*  
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain

COPY

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SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

000656

Attorneys at Law

1415 Black Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

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Jeffrey S. Taylor  
Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.  
Mark A. Lichtenwalter  
Gabriel G. Orenic  
Michael R. Stiff  
Tricia M. Pellegrini  
Michael S. Hopkins

November 9, 2009

Of Counsel:  
Thomas M. Ewert  
Kent Slater

Mr. Alex F. McGimpsey III  
Assistant State's Attorney – Criminal Division  
DuPage County States Attorney  
503 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Re: *Allegations of*  
[REDACTED]  
*vs Father Burnett*

Dear Mr. McGimpsey:

This is to advise you that a [REDACTED] who is currently [REDACTED] years of age was sexually abused by Father James Burnett in the early 1970's when he was attending St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensenville, IL.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is represented by legal counsel out of Springfield, Illinois.

The first information that the Diocese had regarding any sexual misconduct with a minor by Father Burnett was in the years 2006 when [REDACTED] who is approximately age [REDACTED] filed a lawsuit in DuPage County alleging that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett from 1978 to 1982 at the St. Mary's Parish in Mokena which is Will County. That lawsuit has been dismissed.

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SPESIA, AYERS  
&  
ARDAUGH

000657

Mr. Alex McGimpsey  
November 9, 2009  
Page 2

Attorneys at Law

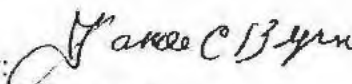
The next notice of any allegations regarding sexual misconduct of a minor was by [REDACTED] (who is approximately [REDACTED] years of age) who alleges that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett in 1983 which was also at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena.

[REDACTED] filed a civil lawsuit in Will County, which is still pending.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to call.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA, AYERS & ARDAUGH

By:   
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: Sister Judith Davies, OSF

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1040

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CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOLIET DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

May 24, 2006

PLACE Catholic Schools Office Conference Room, St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center

TIME 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT



Others: Mr. James Byrne, Sr. Judith Davies, Fr. Joseph Tapella

EXCUSED



OPENING The meeting opened at 7:30 a.m. with prayer.

PROCEDURES Procedural items relative to persons appearing before the Review Committee were reviewed as well as the criteria used for determining credibility of an allegation. Mr. [redacted] will ask questions of the person.

BURNETT The Review Committee viewed a DVD of [redacted] allegations of abuse, Fr. James Burnett spoke with the Committee, the Committee discussed his statement, questioned Father Burnett, and then discussed all available facts to date. By consensus, the Committee has deferred from making a decision regarding credibility until the next meeting.

~~\*\*\*~~

OMITTED Unrelated matter on the Agenda  
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF PRIVACY  
OF THIRD PARTIES

2/15

MEETING The next meeting of the Review Committee is scheduled for June 29, 2006, 7:30 a.m., at the Chancery.



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TMSA

Released April 2014

**PROOF REQUIRED  
FOR  
A FINDING OF A CREDIBLE ALLEGATION**

In order to have a finding of a credible allegation there must be a "Preponderance of Evidence".

A "Preponderance of Evidence" has been defined by civil law and by the Review Committee as follows:

**"The criteria for determining the credibility of an allegation is:**

***Considering all the evidence presented whether it  
(the allegation) is more probably true than not true".***



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## Diocese of Joliet

### Chancery

425 Summit St.  
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606  
Fax 815-722-6602

### MEMORANDUM

May 12, 2006

TO: Members of the Joliet Diocesan Review Committee  
FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
RE: Enclosures for the Meeting of May 24, 2006

Enclosed, please find the following:

- Map and directions to St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center
- Agenda
- Documentation relating to the Burnett case  
(Please remove previously received documentation from the binder and insert this material. Bring both sets with you.)
- Article by Amy Strickland: *Canonical Standard of Proof in Child Abuse Cases*

Thank you.

  
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF  
Chancellor

**Canonical Standard of Proof in Child Abuse Cases**

By Amy Strickland, JCL

Delegate for Investigations, Archdiocese of Boston

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When my canonical studies reached the topic of ecclesiastical penalties, my professor told the class, "You will never use this." Since nearly all my work for the past several years has been in the field of penal law, I have repeated this story to other canon lawyers, nearly all of whom had similar experiences. Needless to say, this means most canonists were unprepared when this neglected portion of canon law was thrust into the spotlight in 2002.

One way in which this has manifested itself relates to confusion surrounding the standard of proof required at different stages of the canonical process used in child sexual abuse cases. For example, the expression, *credible allegation*, does not appear in the *Charter*, the *Essential Norms* or the *Code of Canon Law*. Yet, one finds it used as the standard to be met for actions as varied as the start of a canonical investigation, the public release of an accused cleric's name, the transmission of an accusation to the Holy See for further canonical adjudication at the end of a preliminary investigation, the placement of an accused cleric on temporary "administrative leave," and the permanent restriction of an accused priest from any public exercise of ministry.

I would argue that the term *credible allegation* be avoided entirely, in all these circumstances, in justice to both the accused and the accuser. For example, when an allegation is initially received, a canonical investigation is to be commenced if the claim describes a possible canonical crime and has the *semblance of truth*. While substituting *semblance of truth* for *credible allegation* might seem merely a matter of semantics, both parties have to be considered equally credible until/unless there is actual evidence to tip the scales. But, if the Church states at the outset that the allegation is credible, there is a risk of implying that there has already been a decision made that the denials of the accused are not.

To inflict a penalty on a cleric for child sexual abuse, much more is needed than a *credible allegation*. One must have reached *moral certitude* that the crime has been committed, either by the cleric's own admission or by a formal canonical process. This must be made clear to all parties from the start, especially since the burden of proof canonically is on the accuser. Moreover, the necessary proof to establish moral certitude will be limited in many cases, both due to the nature of the alleged act itself and the length of time that often transpires before it is reported. If the Church does not make this clear, we may unintentionally be communicating to the accuser that the Church has determined he or she is not credible if the case is not sent to the Holy See. A better expression for the threshold of proof needed at this step may be *probable cause*.

In summary, I recommend using three different standards during three different stages of the penal process. To initiate a canonical process, *semblance of truth* is sufficient. To send the case on to the Vatican, it should rise to *probable cause*. To arrive at the conclusion that the allegations are substantiated, the standard should be *moral certitude*. Ultimately, the important point to remember is that the issue is not credibility; it is proof. The proof necessary escalates at each stage of the canonical process.

For more information contact Amy Strickland at [astrickland@rcab.org](mailto:astrickland@rcab.org).

Vicar For Clergy Newsletter is published quarterly by the USCCB's Secretariat for Priestly Life and Ministry, and Saint Luke Institute. Send correspondence to [steve@slf.org](mailto:steve@slf.org) or [ckiley@usccb.org](mailto:ckiley@usccb.org).



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COMMUNICATION WITH MR. [REDACTED]  
REGARDING HIS PRESENCE AT THE MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

SJ – April 24, 2006: [REDACTED] invited to meet with Committee May 24, 2006.

[REDACTED] – April 25, 2006 (11:02 a.m.) Will be present as long as his attorneys can be present. Described investigator as being sneaky. Wants family and attorneys present.

[REDACTED] – April 25, 2006 (9:40 p.m.): States he is excited about meeting the Committee with his attorneys.

SJ – April 26, 2006: Purpose of meeting to address Committee. Committee members are not in the employ of Diocese. Meetings are not taped and are confidential. Statements made by a person would not be adversely used against him/her anytime. Welcome to attend but without attorneys or family members.

[REDACTED] – April 27, 2006: His attorneys feel that there is no need for Committee to ask questions without representation by attorneys. Diocese does not care about victims.

SJ – April 27, 2006: Diocese cares. Welcome to attend without attorneys and family members.

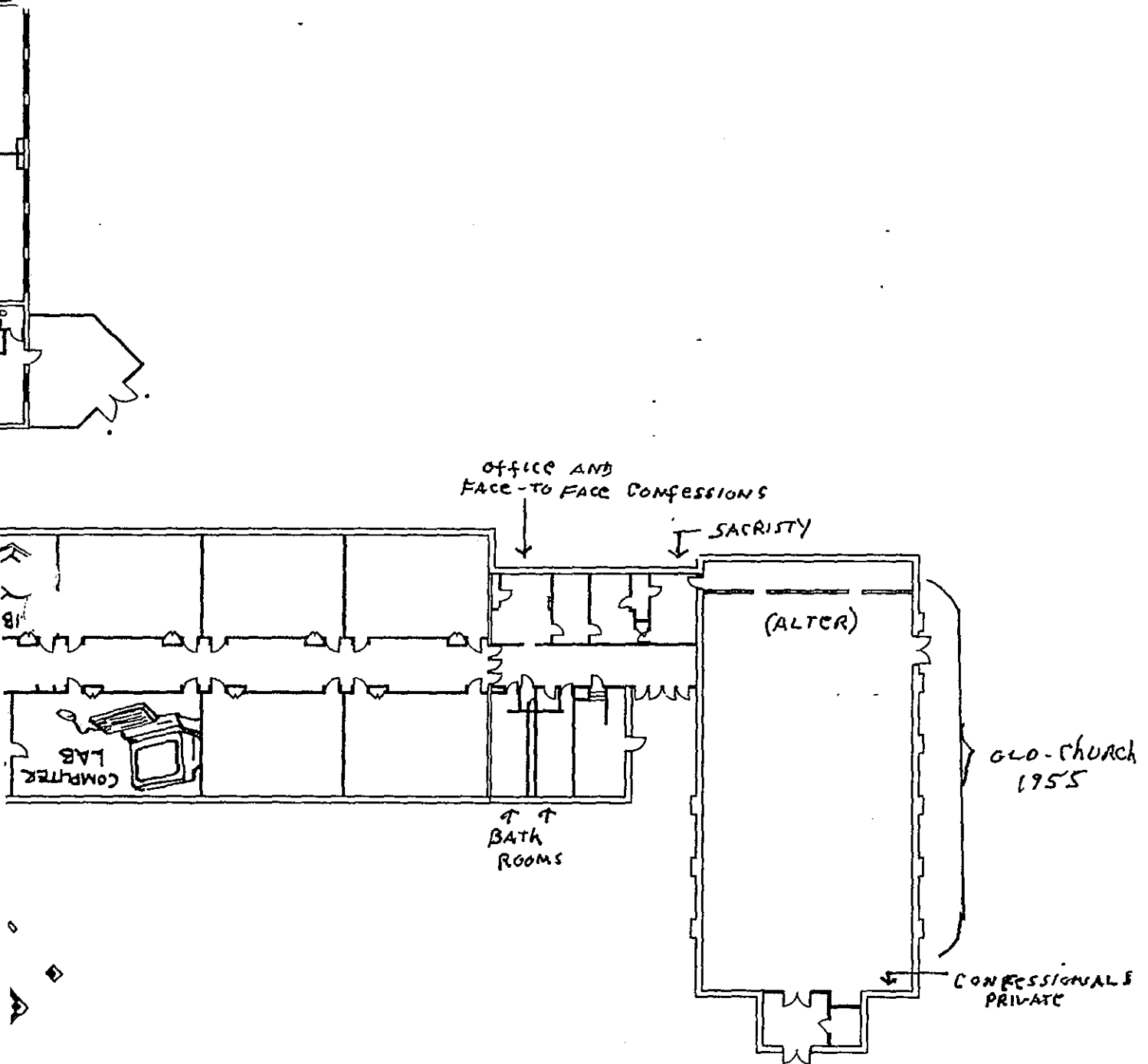
[REDACTED] – April 29, 2006: Wants to come but thinks it is unfair that attorneys cannot be present. Wants Review Committee to go to Mokena to see the facility.

April 28, 2006: Phone conversation. [REDACTED] said that he wants to come to the meeting even though his attorneys think he ought not to attend without them. I told him that the Diocese would pay reasonable airfare; ground transportation his responsibility.

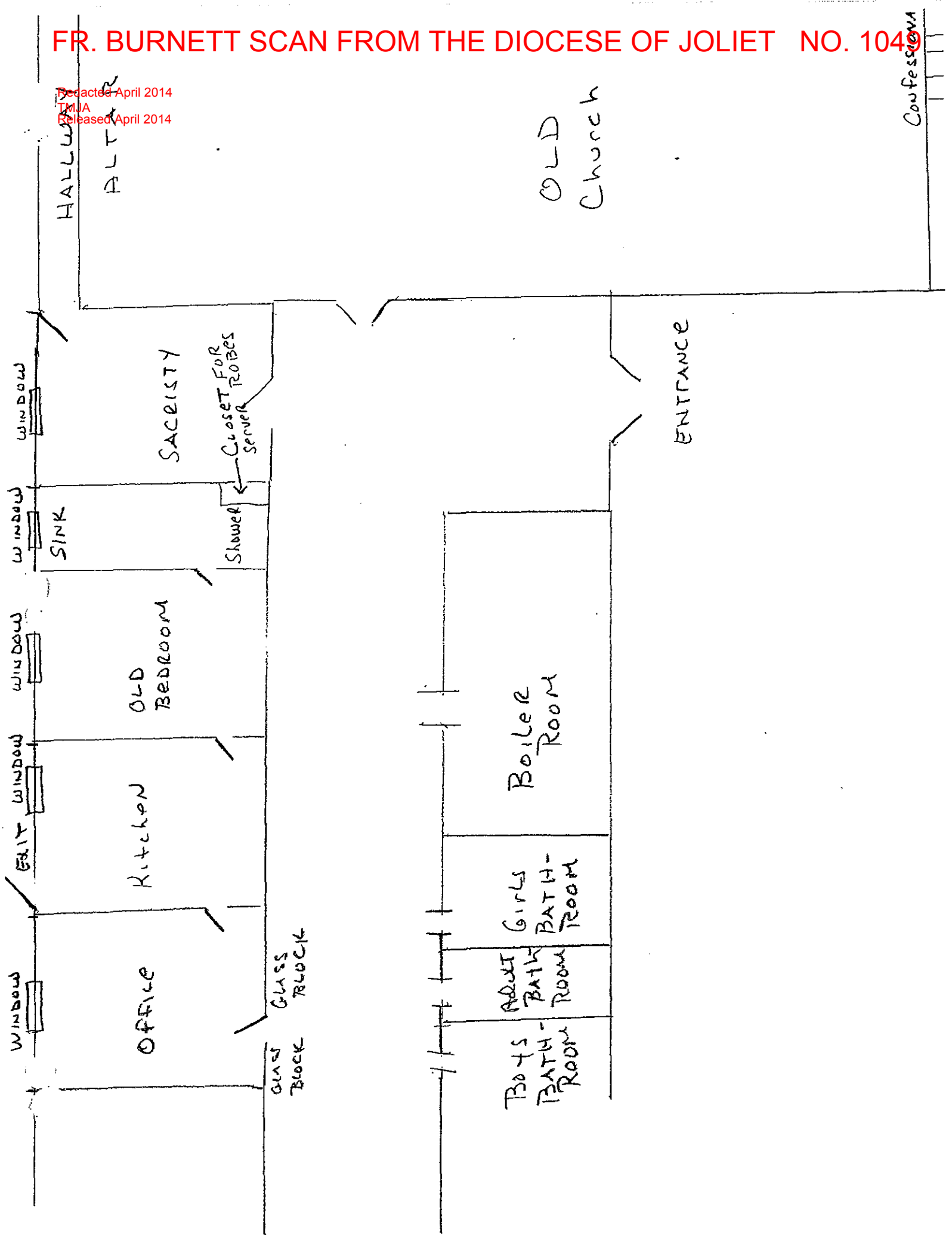
SJ – May 1, 2006: Confirmed phone conversation of April 28 with e-mail. Diocese will pay airfare, information about booking a flight. Attend without attorneys or family members.

May 2, 2006: Letter to Mr. Byrne from Mr. Anderson.

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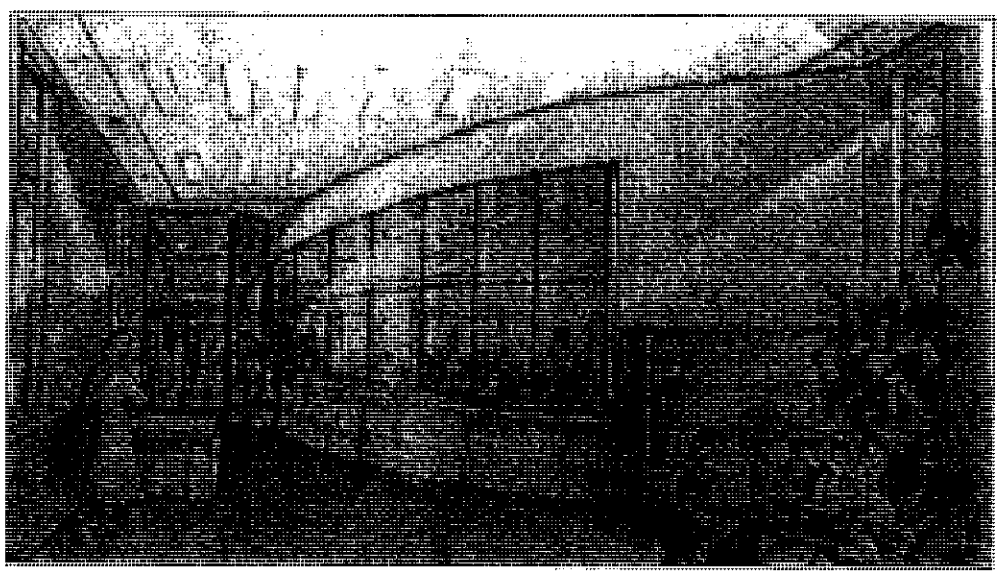
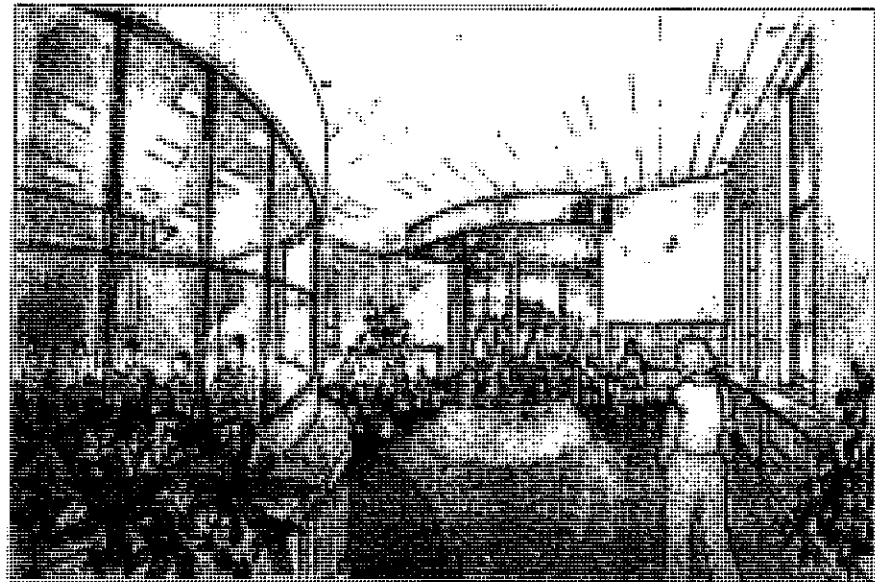
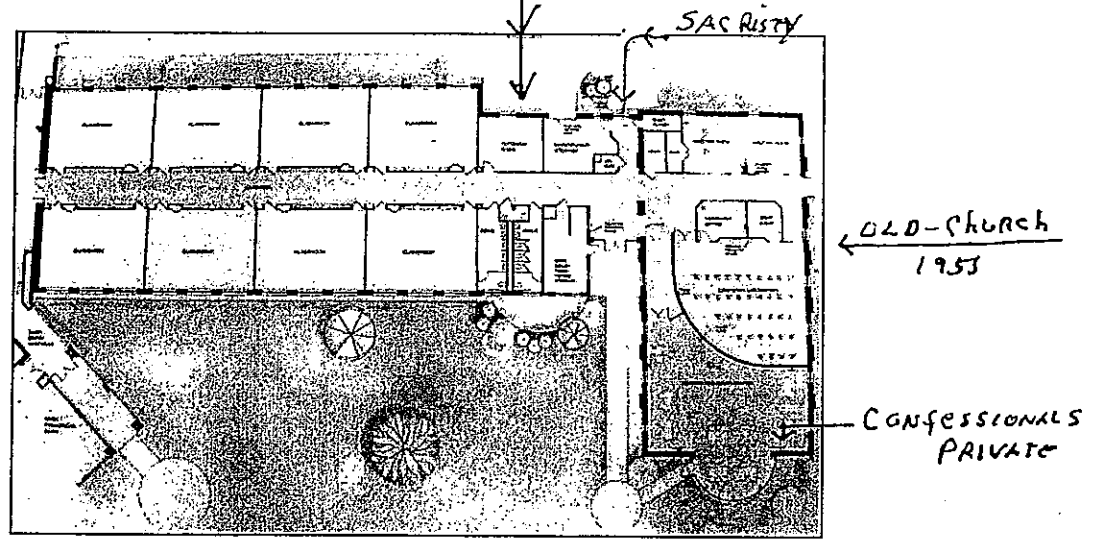
Reacted April 2014  
TMA  
Released April 2014





FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE <sup>OFFICE AND</sup> ~~FILE~~ <sup>CONFESSORIAL</sup> OF JOLIET NO. 1050

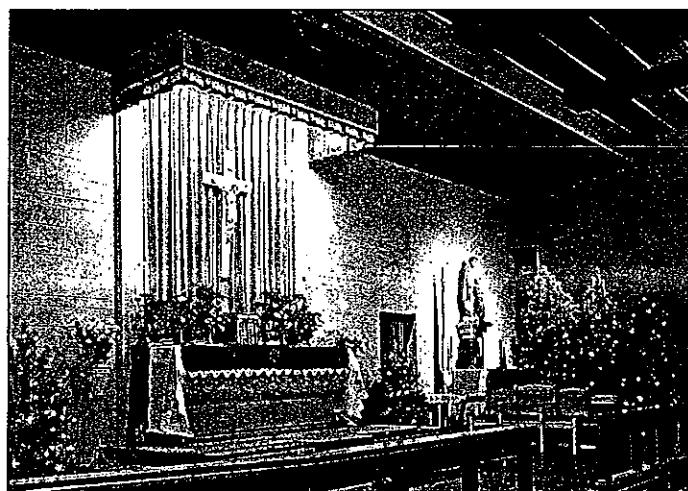
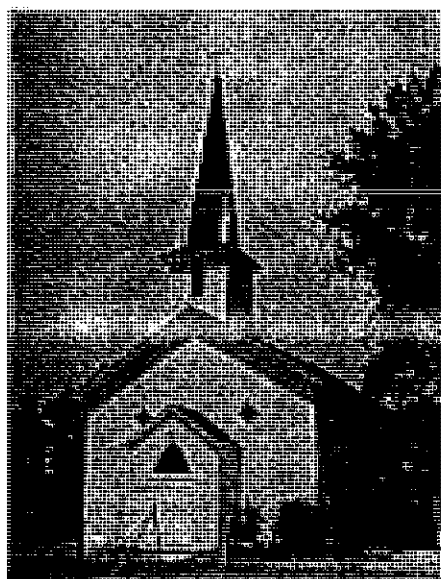
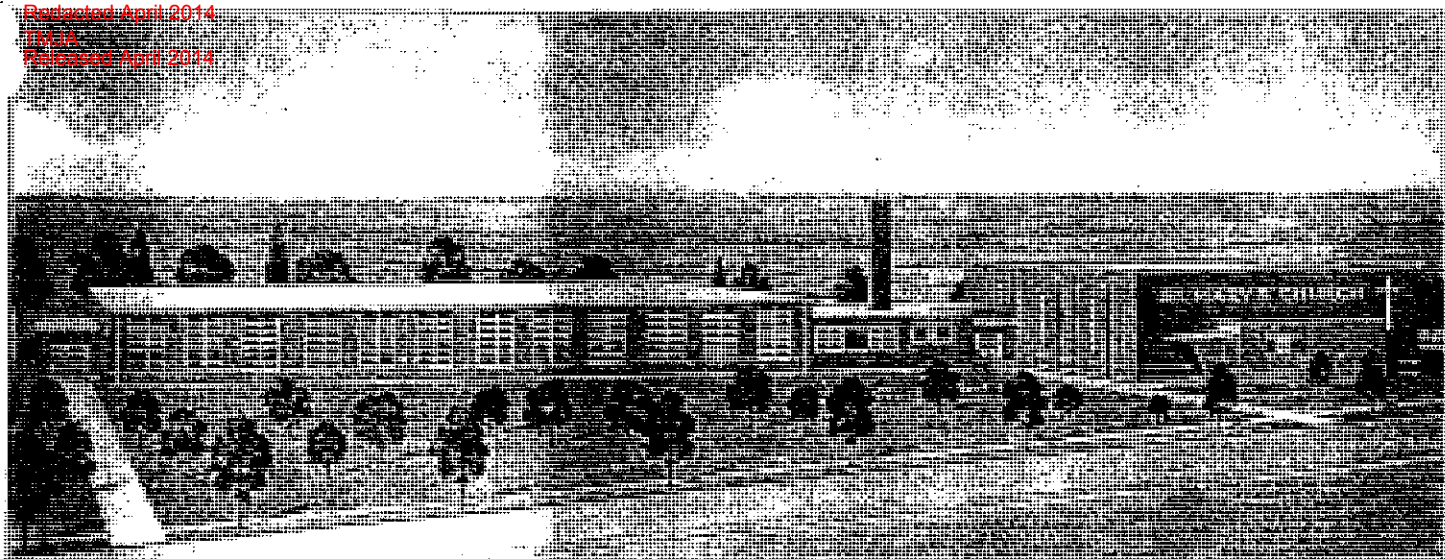
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FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1051

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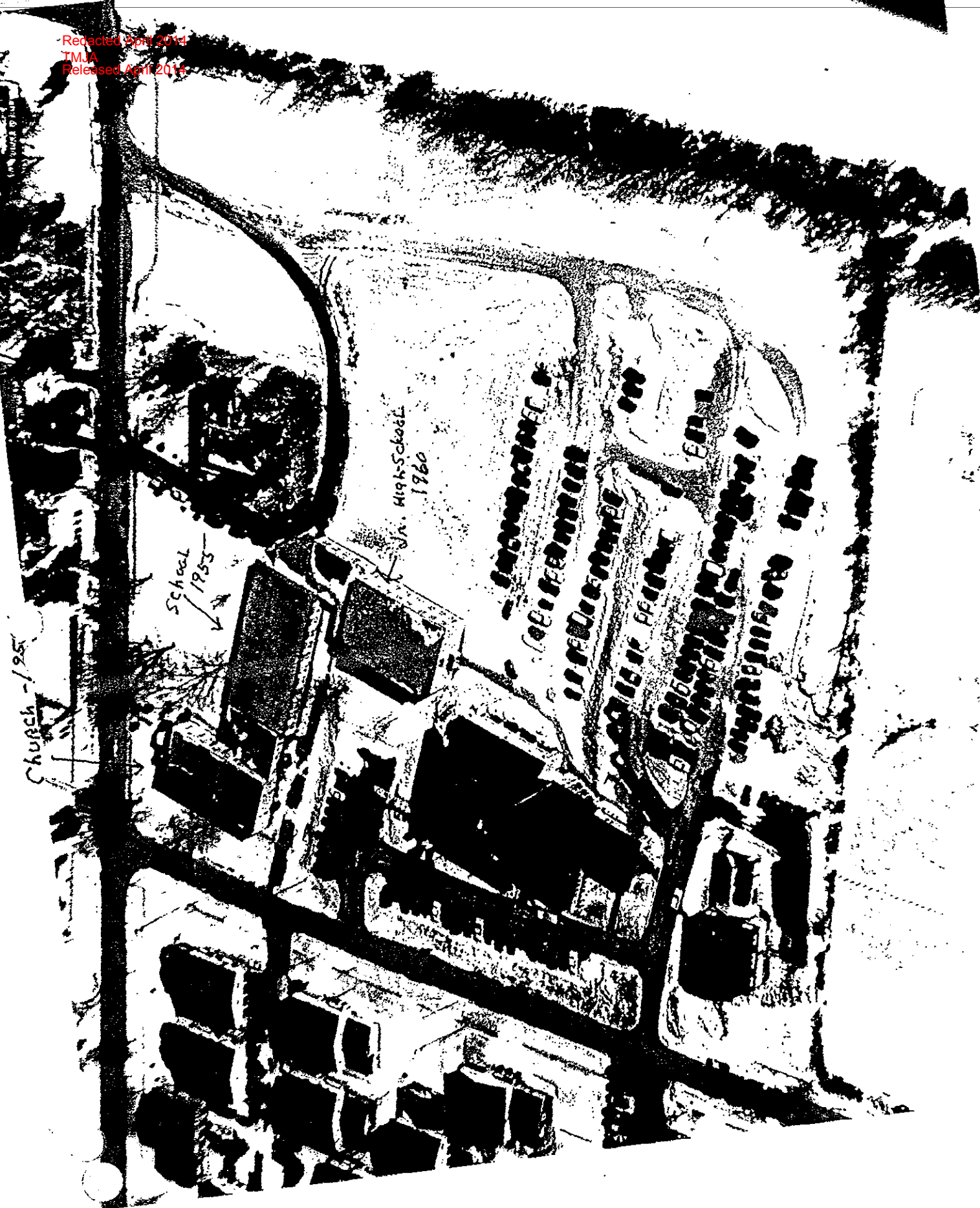


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Revised April 2014

7/11/14

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## A HISTORY OF THE PARISH

Mathias Ender and Margaret Summers Ender, an early pioneer family who immigrated from Germany, owned most of the property on which Mokena is now built. On February 20, 1860, the Enders deeded land to the diocese. It was on this land that the original St. Mary Church was erected. Mathias Enders served as the first church sexton and died in 1871. He is buried in the cemetery adjacent to the original church.

The first church was built at the cost of \$1,400. There were approximately nine families in the original church community. It was a mission parish at that time with mass said by Rev. Peter Fassbender. The original church, now referred to as Old St. Mary Church, was renovated in 1976 and is still in service to the parish.

From 1914 until 1972 St. Mary Parish was served by the Franciscan Fathers. In 1947 Rev. Benedict Pfeifer, O.F.M. opened St. Mary School. Sister M. Charlotte, O.S.F., a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart, was the first principal. The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mokena have served the people of St. Mary ever since.

Under the direction of Fr. Cecil Koop, O.F.M. plans were made for the building of a new church/school building. Mass was celebrated in the new church for the first time on Christmas Eve in 1955. By that time the number of parish families was 500. This church building will soon serve as a gymnasium.

In 1983 with the growth of the parish up to 1400 families, St. Mary Parish responded to the need to expand their facilities by beginning plans for the building of a new church and parish hall to replace the present church and "Cow Palace", which served as the parish hall.

On December 16, 1985, Bishop Joseph Imesch authorized the parish to proceed with plans to conduct a fund drive, complete the architectural drawings, and seek approval for a diocesan loan to the parish. Groundbreaking for the new facility took place on June 29, 1986.

Meeting the needs of today and planning for the future, our new church will seat approximately 1,000 people, with a daily chapel seating 100. The lower level parish hall will seat 500 and has space for a fully equipped kitchen facility.

Today's celebration of dedication is a further milestone in the history of our parish, a history that spans over 125 years. From the days of our early pioneer parishioners until this day, St. Mary Parish has been blessed with dedicated and enthusiastic people, committed to their faith in God and enlivened by their hope for the future.

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1st Contacts



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D I O C E S A N   C O N T A C T S

F I R S T   R E P O R T

(Dec 20,2005)

M E M O R A N D U M

O F

A D D I T I O N A L   C O N T A C T S



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

December 21st 2005

AND

December 22nd 2005

CONFIDENTIAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2005

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.



Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

PREDICATION

The client requested that this office interview [REDACTED]. The client advised that within the past few days, Mr. [REDACTED] has made allegations that Father James Burnett, formerly of St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois, sexually molested him as a child in the 1970's. It was the client's understanding that the reported molestation allegedly took place in a confessional area.

Subsequent to interviewing Mr. [REDACTED] the client requested additional investigation, including interviewing [REDACTED] sister, [REDACTED], interviewing Father James Burnett; and conducting background investigation on [REDACTED].

INVESTIGATION

[REDACTED]  
On Wednesday, December 21, 2005, Investigator Steven L. Kirby telephoned Mr. [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] identified himself and agreed to speak to the investigator. The investigator explained to Mr. [REDACTED] that he represented the Review Committee and his job was to gather facts to present to the Review Committee for their consideration in this case. During the course of the interview, Mr. [REDACTED] made the following relevant statements:

- He stated he attended St. Mary's Grade School, grades one through eight, graduating in [REDACTED].
- He stated that at the time, he lived in [REDACTED] Illinois.
- He stated that his entire family were members of St. Mary's Parish, [REDACTED].

- [REDACTED]
- He stated that the molestations occurred on numerous occasions between the ages of eight and ten.
  - He described those molestations as Father Burnett fondling his genital area both through his clothes and while he was naked from the waist down.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
Our File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

- He stated that all of these incidents occurred in the confessional area, which he described as an open room, on the left side, down a hallway past Sister [REDACTED] room. He stated it was to the left, across from the bathroom. He stated the room contained two chairs and a table and was designed for face-to-face confessions.
- He stated that Father Burnett told him not to tell anyone and stated, "He threatened to kick out me out of school" if I told anyone. He also stated that Father Burnett told him this was "a secret between you, me and God."
- He stated that he always remembered that Father Burnett molested him but never felt compelled to bring it to light until just recently. He did not specify why he felt the need to bring it to light but said when a church official in [REDACTED] was recently charged in a sex scandal, he started thinking about it.
- He stated that the first person that he told was his sister, [REDACTED] who resides in [REDACTED]. He said he told [REDACTED] on either December 20 or 21, 2005.

[REDACTED]

- He stated that he did call Father Burnett on five or six occasions over the past several years and left him several messages wanting him to call him back. He stated he also left questions on the voicemail asking Father Burnett why he molested him. He stated that Father Burnett never called him back [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- When asked about the supposed "protection on the playground" that Father Burnett provided, [REDACTED] stated that what he meant was that Father Burnett kept him out of trouble from the nuns at St. Mary's, as opposed from other students bullying him.
- He stated that the molestation stopped by the fifth grade. He did not recall a specific incident, which caused it to stop, other than that, it just did.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
Our File No. [REDACTED]

TMJA  
Released April 2014  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

- He stated that he believed his brother, [REDACTED] was molested by "Father Bill". He stated that he recalled when he was seven or eight years old, being with [REDACTED] in a forest preserve with a priest (Father Bill) and seeing [REDACTED] with his pants down and the priest nearby. [REDACTED]
- He denied being molested or abused by any other members of the Joliet Diocese or Catholic Church or anyone else in his life.
- When asked what he would like to see happen in this matter, he stated he wanted to make sure that Father Burnett was not in a position to molest any other children and stated he would like to see a "big ad" put out in the paper asking other people who Father Burnett may have molested to come forth.
- He stated he was willing to discuss this matter in the future with the investigator should there be need to. He stated that he can normally be reached on his cell phone anytime.

[REDACTED]

\* \* \* \*

On Thursday, December 22, 2005, the investigator received a telephone call at approximately 9:30 AM from [REDACTED] stated he had received a telephone call from a Sister [REDACTED] or similar name with an (815) area code and 263 exchange but he did not know the remaining four numbers. He asked the investigator if he knew whom this was and why he was being contacted. The investigator replied that he did not know for sure but would check and advise Mr. [REDACTED] of his findings.

Mr. [REDACTED] also mentioned at this time that, after speaking with the investigator, he recalled being fondled by Father Burnett on occasion while he was putting on his altar server robes. He stated that Father Burnett would attempt to fondle him while assisting him in putting on the robes.

The investigator, at the client's instructions, inquired as to whether or not the alleged molestations in the confessional occurred when he was actually going to the sacrament of confession or if that was just the room that Father Burnett took him to. Mr. [REDACTED] replied that the incidents occurred when he went to the sacrament of confession.

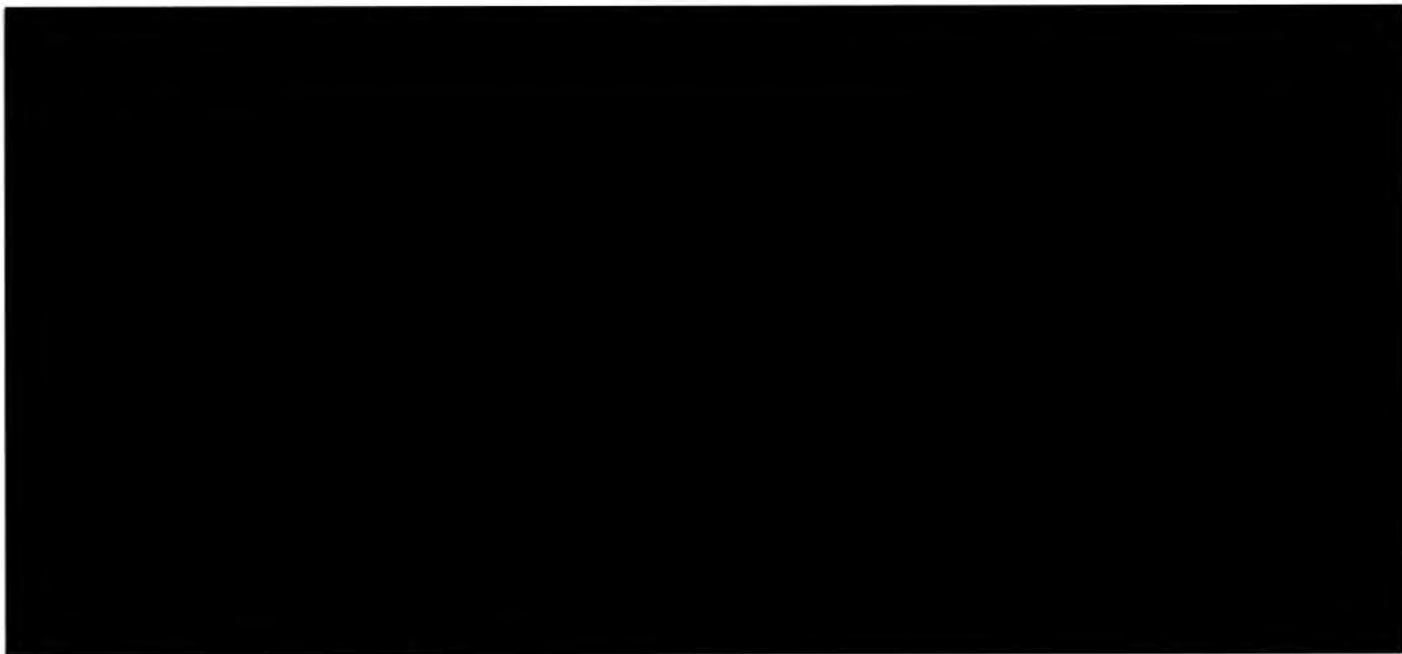
[REDACTED]



Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

Redacted April 2011  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

As promised, after checking with the client, the investigator recontacted [REDACTED] and informed him that the person from the diocese who was attempting to call him was from the Victim's Assistance Program and that she was not an investigator.



On December 27, 2005, Investigator Steven L. Kirby telephoned [REDACTED]. The investigator identified himself and requested an opportunity to speak with Ms. [REDACTED]. The investigator explained he had gotten her name and number from her brother, [REDACTED]. She confirmed that she had spoken with [REDACTED] and knew he had spoken with the investigator. [REDACTED] agreed to meet with the investigator on Thursday, December 29, 2005 at 8:30 PM at her residence, [REDACTED].

At one point in the brief telephone conversation, she mentioned that she felt that the Diocese had totally ignored the alleged molestation of her brother, [REDACTED] by a member of the Joliet Diocese (she did not name this individual). She claimed that she and her brother, [REDACTED] had made "25 calls" to either Sister Judith or Sister [REDACTED] and had not received a satisfactory response. The investigator explained to her that he was aware of the particulars of that case but that if she were to discuss it with the investigator, he would be willing to listen.

Approximately one hour after the investigator made the appointment with [REDACTED] she called the investigator and advised that she would not be able to meet with him on the advice of her brother's attorney. When the investigator asked for the name of the attorney, she refused to provide it, but stated that the diocese could expect to receive something in the mail from him in the next few days.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005

Redacted April 28, 14  
TMJA  
Released Date 2014

Father James Burnett

On December 27, 2005, the investigator attempted to contact Father Burnett in order to interview him. The investigator was advised by the receptionist that Father Burnett was taking the week off and was not expected back until after the first of the year.

**This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

000033

**Fr. James Burnett**  
**(Ordained 6-25-68)**

6-15-68	to	2-15-74	Associate	-	St. Charles Borromeo, Bensenville
2-15-74	to	7-14-74 <sup>(78)</sup>	Associate	-	St. Mary Parish, Mokena
7-14-78	to	6-20-90	Pastor	-	St. Mary Parish, Mokena
6-20-90	to	6-19-02	Pastor	-	St. Peter & Paul, Naperville
6-19-02	to	Present	Pastor	-	St. Raymond Cathedral, Joliet

**Fr. Burnett's Priest File**

Fr. Burnett's priest file was reviewed and there are no allegations of any type of misconduct.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Sr.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT FOUR)

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

FEB. 13th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014 TMJA Released April 2014  
File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

On Monday, February 13, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed Sister [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sister [REDACTED] is on the leadership team for the [REDACTED]. She advised that she was at St. Mary's for [REDACTED] years. She stated she was there from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] and then from [REDACTED] through [REDACTED]. She stated she was the principal from [REDACTED].

During the course of the interview, Sister [REDACTED] made the following observations:

- She recalled that sometime in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] St. Mary's adopted the practice of face-to-face confessions in the office down the hall from the old church, across from the bathrooms.
- She further described the office as having glass block windows on the wall with a solid door. She stated that the windows to the outside were also glass block with a lever to open up slats for ventilation. She stated that inside the room, to her recollection, was a small table with two chairs. She did not recall whether there was a kneeler.
- She stated that there were two all school confessions, one during Lent and one during Advent. She stated that the students generally lined up along the wall going in and out of the room. She stated that the students spent only a few minutes in the confessional.
- She stated that after the allegations were in the newspapers, she had the current principal at St. Mary's check and learned that [REDACTED] made his first confession on [REDACTED]. At this time, he would have been in the second grade.
- She stated that she did not know for sure whether the [REDACTED] were altar boys but suspected that they probably were. She stated that servers were only for the Sunday masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM, the Saturday mass at 5:00 PM and weddings and funerals. She stated although there were two masses on weekdays they did not have servers at those masses.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
Our File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

- She stated that she spent a lot of time with Father Burnett over the years and never saw him engage in any type of suspicious or questionable activity involving children. She stated that no one has ever expressed to her any suspicions or concerns about Father Burnett's behavior with juveniles.
- She stated that since this matter has been in the newspaper, she has received numerous calls and emails from former students at St. Mary's expressing disbelief in the allegations. She stated that she has heard from members of the extended [REDACTED] family, [REDACTED]
- She stated that the people who contacted her denied that Father Burnett ever went to the [REDACTED] house for dinner or was, in any way, close to them.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- She stated that she did not believe that there was opportunity for Father Burnett to have abused [REDACTED] because the only school confessions where she ever observed the [REDACTED] were at the all school confessions. They were not observed around the school on Saturday during the other times of confession.
- She stated that the servers/altar boys generally were trained during fifth grade became servers in sixth grade and stopped being altar boys in eighth grade.

This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1113

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Sr.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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000048

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT FIVE)

OUR FILE NO. GI-036-05

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

FEB. 13th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

On Monday, February 13, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed Sister [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She taught at St. Mary's in Mokena from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] and again from [REDACTED] Between that time, she was on several assignments in [REDACTED] She stated that she taught [REDACTED] when he was in [REDACTED] grade and also taught [REDACTED]

During the course of her interview, she made the following relevant statements:

- She stated that approximately six months ago, she began receiving telephone calls from [REDACTED] She stated she had a couple of conversations with him and a couple of times he left messages for her to call. At no time in their contacts was there any suggestion of abuse.
- She stated that the Monday before Christmas, in 2005, she received a call from [REDACTED] at which time he told her that he was molested by Father Burnett. She stated that he told her that when he was in confession he (Burnett) made him take his pants off and played with his penis. She stated that he said the first time it happened was when he was in first grade but she could not be sure because she did not take notes. She said that she was under the impression that she was the first person he told.
- She stated that during this conversation [REDACTED] remarked that he called Father Burnett on several occasions but never spoke with him and never received a return call. She stated that this seemed to upset [REDACTED]
- She stated that she immediately informed Sister Judith (Davies) of the allegations.
- She confirmed that there were only two in-school confessions a year and that they were in the office with the glass block walls.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

- She stated that the [REDACTED] were not active in the church and were not involved in extra-curricular activities and she did not see them there on the weekends.
- She stated she never knew Father Burnett to be especially close to the [REDACTED] family and did not know him to have even been protective of [REDACTED]
- She stated that she admired Father Burnett and never knew him to engage in any unusual or suspicious activity with juveniles.

[REDACTED]

This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.

FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1117

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

000051

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT THREE)

OUR FILE NO. GI-036-05

I N T E R V I E W

O F

SR. [REDACTED]

O N

FEB. 13th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Our File No. [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

On Monday, February 13, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed Sister [REDACTED]

Sister [REDACTED] identified herself as the current [REDACTED]. She advised that she is a member of the [REDACTED]. She taught at St. Mary's from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] and then after serving at other parishes in [REDACTED]

During the course of an approximate one hour interview, she made the following relevant statements:

- She confirmed that commencing in approximately 1977, priests did hear face-to-face confessions in the office down the hall from the old church on the left side of the hallway (as one faces the entrance to the old church) directly across the hall from the bathrooms. It is noted that this is not the sacristy, which is directly adjacent to the old church.
- She stated that there were only two times a year that the entire school went to confession, once during Advent and once during Lent.
- She described that office as having glass blocks as a wall but a solid door. She believed that the windows to the outside, at that time, were clear glass.
- She stated she recalled the [REDACTED] family as students at St. Mary's. She advised that she taught [REDACTED] but did not teach the others. She stated that she did not really recall [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
Case File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

- She stated she did not recall any of the [REDACTED] being altar servers although she acknowledged that they could have been. She stated that students at St. Mary's became altar boys in fifth grade. She stated that the servers only served Sunday masses and funerals but not weekday masses.
- She stated that in her opinion, the allegations were not credible for the following reasons:
  - The school only went to confession as a group twice a year and she doubted that in the two or so years that [REDACTED] alleged the molestation that it could have occurred forty times in the manner he stated.
  - She never knew of Father Burnett bringing [REDACTED] or any other students out of class.
  - She stated that she and other nuns were often around that area of the school and she feels confident that they would have seen Father Burnett bringing someone in and out of that room if he had engaged in numerous incidents of molestation in that room.
  - She stated that she never saw or heard of Father Burnett engaging in any type of suspicious or unusual activities with minors.
  - She stated that she never heard of any complaints from any parishioners about Father Burnett.
  - Father Burnett was very open with the nuns about his comings and goings and would generally tell them where he had been or whom he had recently seen if he were going to someone's home.
  - She stated that she did not recall Father Burnett ever telling her that he was going to the [REDACTED] house for dinner and she did not know of him ever having any type of close relationship with the [REDACTED] family.
- She stated that she did not recall Father Burnett ever taking exceptional interest in [REDACTED] protecting him from either playground bullies or other teachers as was suggested.



**FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1121**

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
Our File No. [REDACTED]

000054

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT SIX)

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

FEB. 15th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

File No. [REDACTED]  
Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

On Wednesday, February 15, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby interviewed [REDACTED] over the telephone. Previously, [REDACTED] contacted Sister Judith Davies and advised that he knew both [REDACTED] and Father Burnett and wished to speak with someone regarding this case.

[REDACTED] told the investigator that he went to St. Mary's Grade School, graduating in [REDACTED] which would make him [REDACTED] years younger than [REDACTED]. He stated that he also went to [REDACTED] where [REDACTED] attended and knew [REDACTED] from his reputation.

[REDACTED] also stated that he knew Father Burnett and described him as a "stand up guy." He stated that he has known Father Burnett for twenty years and never knew him to engage in any type of inappropriate or suspicious manner. He stated that Father Burnett had come to his house for family functions [REDACTED]. He stated that he recalls, on one occasion, getting an in-school suspension where he had to spend time in the office and that Father Burnett had him spend the day with him and at no time was there any type of inappropriate activity. Furthermore, he stated that on occasion, he had gone to confession with Father Burnett in the glass block room down the hallway from the church/gym and at no time was there ever any inappropriate activity. In regard to those in-school confessions, he stated as other witnesses have, that the students would line up in the hallway and were in and out of the confessional in short time.

[REDACTED] stated that he has also discussed this with a friend of his named [REDACTED] who went to school at St. Mary's and was good friends with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] also reportedly knows Father Burnett and has expressed to [REDACTED] that he does not believe the allegations for similar reasons as expressed by [REDACTED].

In concluding, [REDACTED] confirmed that he had no first hand knowledge one way or the other as to whether or not these allegations were with merit but based upon his knowledge of Father Burnett and his belief in his character, he does not believe that Father Burnett ever molested [REDACTED].

This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.



FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1125

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



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TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS

OF



(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT NO. 9)

OUR FILE NO.



I N T E R V I E W

O F



O N

FEB. 24th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2006

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

000058

Redacted April 2014 File No. [REDACTED]

TMJA Date: Monday, February 27, 2006

On Friday, February 24, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby interviewed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] attended St. Mary's Grade School graduating in [REDACTED] and was in [REDACTED] class. Furthermore, she is a distant relative of the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]

She stated that she is familiar with the [REDACTED] family through family gatherings but acknowledged that she does not know [REDACTED] all that well. She stated that she is more familiar with [REDACTED] because they are closer in age. She stated she last saw [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that she does not have any firsthand information, one way or the other, as to the truthfulness of the allegations but stated, "I can't believe it in a second." When asked why she stated that she had spent a considerable amount of time with Father Burnett and that Father Burnett had come to their family home often. She stated that she never, at any time, ever heard of him or suspected of him acting in an abusive way towards any children. Further, she stated that he has talked to numerous former students from St. Mary's and/or Lincoln Way High School who know the [REDACTED] family and none of the people she spoke with believe the allegations, based upon what she referred to as a credibility problem with the [REDACTED] family.

[REDACTED]

Regarding the setup at St. Mary's School, she confirmed that confessions were heard in the room down the hall, across from the church across, from the bathrooms. She confirmed that the children would line up in the hallway and would be in and out of the room in a matter of minutes. She stated further that there were always teachers there monitoring the students' behavior. She stated she could not be sure whether [REDACTED] was around the school on Saturdays or other times during the weekends but knew that he took the bus into [REDACTED] that left as soon as school was over.

This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Report To Follow.



# FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1128

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

000059

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT SEVEN)

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

FEB. 17th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is a confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Our File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

On Friday, February 17, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he attended St. Mary's Grade School for eight years graduating in [REDACTED] (same year as [REDACTED]). He also stated that he and [REDACTED] are distant relatives in that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that since this matter has been published in the newspapers he has discussed this with five or six former classmates and all but one have expressed strong opinions that alleged molestation never occurred. He stated only one of his former classmates, [REDACTED] stated that he is "on the sidelines" because he is just not sure.

[REDACTED] stated that it is his opinion, as well as those of the people he spoke with, that there simply was not the opportunity for Father Burnett to have molested [REDACTED] between forty and one hundred occasions as alleged. He stated that there was little extra curricular activities at the school and that most children left the school when school was over to get on the school bus and leave. He stated that he never knew [REDACTED] to hang around the school. Furthermore, he does not recall [REDACTED] ever being called out of class by Father Burnett to serve mass or for any other reason. He did acknowledge, however, that [REDACTED] was an altar boy. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that at least one of his friends, [REDACTED] who was a classmate and graduated from St. Mary's in [REDACTED] also remembered that [REDACTED] was seldom picked as a funeral mass server. [REDACTED] contention was that if Father Burnett had targeted [REDACTED] one would think he would have taken him out of class, which did not occur.

[REDACTED] stated he was unaware of any socialization by Father Burnett with [REDACTED] family or if Father Burnett ever attended family gatherings at the [REDACTED] household.

Regarding confessions, [REDACTED] recalled that confessions for the entire school were only held two or three times a year and that for the most part those confessions were an "assembly line" in that the children would line up outside the office with the glass block walls and go in and out within a minute or two. He described the room as having a chair with a screen where someone could confess, at least, semi-anonymously and chairs that were face to face. He stressed that there were teachers present outside the room in order to keep the students orderly and that the confessions were very short duration.



Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Our File No. [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

[REDACTED]

He stated that he knew Father Burnett as a decent individual and did not believe that he would engage in any inappropriate activity. [REDACTED] provided a letter (copy attached) he sent to several newspapers in which he states, "Father Burnett was a caring, influential priest who help grow St. Mary's Church into the great parish it is now." He also stated in a letter, "During my eight years at St. Mary's, I never saw any indication of, nor did I ever feel that there was any inappropriate behavior going on between Father Burnett and any of the other students." He also stated that Father Burnett was actually much closer to his brother, [REDACTED] who graduated a few years ahead of [REDACTED]. He stated that he discussed the allegations with his brother, [REDACTED] and his brother assured him that at no time did Father Burnett ever make any inappropriate advances towards [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that if he could be of further assistance, the investigator should contact him and stated that he would cooperate fully in the future.

**This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EIGHT)

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

FEB. 20th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Our File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

On February 20, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby interviewed [REDACTED] over the telephone concerning the above captioned matter. [REDACTED] sent a letter to Bishop Imesch with a copy going to Sister Judith Davies on February 14, 2006 in which he expressed his opinion that the allegations relating to Father Burnett were not true. He stated that he would be willing to discuss the letter with a representative of the diocese.

[REDACTED] stated that while he did not attend St. Mary's Grade School, he did spend an inordinate amount of time around the church and Father Burnett during the late seventies to mid eighties. He stated that he graduated from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He stated at the time he spent numerous Saturdays and Sundays around the church serving masses working around the sacristy, etc. He explained in his letter of February 14 that at the time he was considering becoming a priest. He stated that during the four or five years he spent at the church he spent, hundreds if not thousands of hours, alone with Father Burnett and at no time did Father Burnett ever make any improper advances towards him. He also stated that Father Burnett often gave him rides home alone without incident.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that during the weekends that he spent time around St. Mary's, he never recalled seeing [REDACTED] there. He stated that he was sure that other people that spent time around the church on weekends would also attest to the fact that [REDACTED] was not there around on Saturdays or other days. He identified those individuals as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also stated that during the ages that [REDACTED] claimed in the paper to have been molested, he did not think [REDACTED] would have been an altar boy. Mr. [REDACTED] recalled that he became an altar boy in fourth grade but then the following year they switched to fifth grade as the minimum age for altar boys, so [REDACTED] would not have been an altar server until age ten.

[REDACTED] stated that he was aware that the students at St. Mary's went to confession a couple of times per year, face-to-face in the office, which was also the money counting room. He stated that he knew that they would line up and go in one after another. When asked how he knew that since he did not attend St. Mary's, he stated that is how the CCD students went to confession and that is what he recalled knowing how the St.



Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
On File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

Mary's students went to confession. He stated that the glass block walls and the constant activity around that room would simply not allow a serial molestation to occur. In concluding, [REDACTED] stated that based on the lack of opportunity, the fact that that [REDACTED] was never around the school on Saturdays and that Father Burnett never made an improper advances towards him, even though he spent hundreds of hours alone in his company, convinced [REDACTED] that the allegations were not true.

**This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.**

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT TEN)

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

OF

FR. [REDACTED]

ON

MARCH 8th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 08, 2006

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014  
File No. [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 08, 2006

On Tuesday, March 7, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby interviewed Father [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Father Burnett was an associate at St. Mary's from 1974 to 1978 (before being designated Pastor) and lived and worked with Father [REDACTED] during those four years.

Father [REDACTED] stated that he did not have any firsthand information one way or the other that would directly address the allegations of [REDACTED] but emphatically stated that he did not believe the allegations. When asked why, he stated that he always knew Father Burnett to be respectful in how he treated people and never knew him to engage in any type of inappropriate behavior or even suspicious behavior with juveniles during the four years that he worked with him. He stated that from what he knew of Father Burnett's character he did not believe him to be the kind of priest that would abuse anyone. He described Father Burnett as somewhat of a "loner" who did not socialize or go to parishioner's homes often.

Father [REDACTED] pointed out that when he was requested by Bishop Kucera to go to St. Patrick, he told the Bishop that one of the conditions for him accepting the transfer would be for Father Burnett to be made Pastor of St. Mary's. He stated that he would not have made this recommendation had he not had the utmost confidence in Father Burnett. He also pointed out that at the time Father Burnett was only ten years ordained.

[REDACTED]

Father [REDACTED] stated that he also knew both [REDACTED] families of St. Mary's Parish. Father [REDACTED] stated that he also recalls [REDACTED], who would have been six to eight years old when Father [REDACTED] left St. Mary's and was reassigned to St. Patrick Parish in Joliet. He did not have any relevant information regarding [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.



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Released April 2014

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT 11)

OUR FILE NO. [REDACTED]

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

APRIL 18, 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006

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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]

File No. [REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2006

On Saturday, April 15, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby spoke with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The investigator had made previous attempts to contact [REDACTED] and had left two or three messages on her voice mail requesting a call back. She explained that she had been out of town and had just picked up the investigator's messages the previous day.

[REDACTED]

During the course of her interview, she made the following relevant statements:

[REDACTED]

- She stated unequivocally that he never talked about being sexually abused by any member of the Catholic Church or anyone in his life. She stated that [REDACTED] considered himself a Catholic (occasionally going to Mass) and occasionally talked about growing up as a Catholic in Illinois. She stated that during those times, he never mentioned any type of abuse situation and never really talked much about his time in grade school. She never heard him mention Father Burnett's name in any context.
- She stated that he did not talk about his family and did not seem particularly close to them. She stated that she did meet his sister on one occasion and met some of his brothers, but she did not remember their names. She said that she never recalled him talking about his brother [REDACTED] or any of [REDACTED] problems.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Redacted April 2014  
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Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

ALLEGATIONS

[REDACTED]  
VS  
FATHER BURNETT

To: The Review Committee

From: James C. Byrne

---

This is to notify the Review Committee that on April 12<sup>th</sup>, [REDACTED] called Sister [REDACTED] and during the conversation stated that he was willing to take a lie detector test and also stated that Father Burnett should also take a lie detector test.

Sister [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] that this information would be forwarded to the Review Committee.

JCB/skm



Redacted April 2014  
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Released April 2014

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOLIET DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

January 17, 2007

PLACE Conference Room, Chancery Building

TIME 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT

[REDACTED]

Others: Mr. James Byrne, Sr. Judith Davies, Fr. Joseph Tapella

EXCUSED

[REDACTED]

OPENING

The meeting opened at 7:30 a.m. with prayer.

ALLEGATIONS

Committee members viewed the complete dvd of Mr. [REDACTED] testimony regarding Fr. James Burnett and a portion of the testimony given by [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] mother.

Father Burnett entered the Conference Room at approximately 9:15 a.m. He answered questions from the Review Committee, gave a brief statement, then left the room.

The Committee discussed the information previously provided and also viewed the video statement by [REDACTED] as well as the written and verbal responses given by Fr. Burnett. At the conclusion of the deliberations, the Committee voted by secret ballot regarding the credibility of the Rudofski allegation and the credibility of the Shanahan allegation. Committee voting results were as follows:

[REDACTED] 5 votes credible, 4 votes not credible  
[REDACTED] 2 votes credible, 7 votes not credible

MEETING

The next meeting of the Review Committee is scheduled for February 8, 2007.

Redacted April 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

**PROOF REQUIRED  
FOR  
A FINDING OF A CREDIBLE ALLEGATION**

In order to have a finding of a credible allegation there must be a "Preponderance of Evidence".

A "Preponderance of Evidence" has been defined by civil law and by the Review Committee as follows:

**"The criteria for determining the credibility of an allegation is:**

***Considering all the evidence presented whether it  
(the allegation) is more probably true than not true".***

**INSTANTER**

Redacted April 2014  
TMA  
Released April 2014

Video Instanter Incorporated

180 North LaSalle Street  
Suite 2424  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
Phone 312-641-3605  
Fax 312-641-1147

In re: )  
Archdiocese of Joliet )  
  
Investigation Regarding Sexual Abuse of )  
[REDACTED] then a minor and )  
Fr. James Burnett, then Pastor at )  
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Mokena, Illinois )  
  
and )  
  
[REDACTED] v. Fr. James Burnett etc. et al. )  
In the Circuit Court of Will County )

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 10 2006  
TERRENCE M. JOHNSON, ESQ

**Transcript of  
Videotaped Affidavit  
of**

[REDACTED]

**Date Recorded: Wednesday, October 4, 2006**

**Submitted by  
Terrence M. Johnson, Esq.  
North Pier Chicago  
455 E. Illinois, Suite 361  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
(312) 922-4022,  
Attorney for [REDACTED]**

Taken before [REDACTED] a Notary Public within and for the County of Cook  
and State of Illinois, on the 4th day of October, A.D. 2006, at the hour of 4:58 p.m.,  
at 455 East Illinois Street, Suite 361, Chicago, Illinois.



Redacted April 2014  
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Released April 2014

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THE REPORTER: For the record, my name  
is [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] I'm the  
video recording device operator and officer for  
this affidavit. My business address is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Today's date is October 4, 2006. The time is 4:57  
p.m.

Please raise your right hand, [REDACTED]  
(WHEREUPON, the affiant  
was duly sworn.)

A-F-F-I-D-A-V-I-T

BY MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Okay. For the record, this is the  
videotaped affidavit of [REDACTED] and for  
the record, could you please state your full name?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Alright. And how old are you today?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Alright. And this affidavit is taken,  
as was [REDACTED] affidavit of [REDACTED] mother  
earlier this afternoon. It is being taken with  
the knowledge of Jim Byrne, who is the attorney  
for the Archdiocese of Joliet, and also it taken  
in re the Catholic Review Committee of the

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Archdiocese of Joliet as it is investigating the claim of [REDACTED] with respect to the sexual misconduct of him when he was a minor by Father James Burnett and it also, at the request of Mr. [REDACTED] attorney, may be used in conjunction with that case, if the attorneys and the court sees fit.

I'm going to ask you a number of questions today and just try to keep your voice up. I forgot to tell your mom that but she did a great job in answering questions as best she could, but I first want to talk to you about the oath that you took.

A. Okay.

Q. You swore to tell the truth --

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. -- and nothing but the truth, so help you God. Right?

A. Yes.

Q. You understand the seriousness of a charge of sexual misconduct against a priest, any priest, but in particular Father Burnett. Is that fair?

A. Yes.

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1 Q. Alright. It's a serious charge. It's a  
2 serious crime, and it's a serious transgression of  
3 the Catholic Church, if true. Fair enough?

4 A. Fair enough. Yes.

5 Q. Alright. And you take your oath  
6 seriously?

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. And you're not going to try to fudge or  
9 fabricate today?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You're going to try to testify to the  
12 best of your ability as to what you remember and  
13 what you don't remember. Fair enough?

14 A. Fair enough. Yes.

15 Q. And when you remembered certain things.  
16 Right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. If I ask you a question that has a false  
19 start or a false supposition, you're going to stop  
20 me and say hey, wait now, that's not true, but if  
21 I do ask you one of those -- a question and you  
22 can answer it with a yes or no, you'll -- you'll  
23 be happy to do that. Fair?

24 A. Yes.



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Q. Alright. The purpose of this -- One of the purposes of this affidavit is to give the Catholic Review Board and others a fair view of what you recall and also to take a look at you and see whether or not your testimony is credible, believable. Fair enough?

A. Fair enough. Yes.

Q. Alright. We have passed a detail letter to Mr. Byrne, on behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago, with respect to your allegations of sexual misconduct of Father Burnett during your first confession. Fair enough?

A. Yes.

Q. And I believe we attached a photograph that we have here today that was taken at or about the time of your first confession and first communion. Fair enough?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. I may want to ask you some questions about that. Before we do, let's ask you some easy questions.

A. Okay.

Q. I'm going to ask you some questions, as I did your mom, about your personal background,

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your interests, and hobbies.

A. Sure.

Q. Give me your birth date, when you were born and where?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Okay.

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

A. Yeah.

Q. Alright. And do you have a specific recollection of about what grade you moved out to [REDACTED]?

A. It had to be -- I don't think I was in school yet.

Q. Okay.

A. I think it was right before Kindergarten.

Q. The first recollections that you have of going to school are in the [REDACTED] area?

A. Yes.

Q. Right? And your mom told us today that you were in St. Mary's parish, though you went to the public schools. Fair?

A. Yeah.

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Q. Could you just describe for us a little bit of your educational background, not CCD yet, but just where'd you go to regular school and include grade school, high school, and college.

A. Sure. Elementary school was [REDACTED], and that was grades kindergarten through five. Then it was [REDACTED] which was in [REDACTED]. That was six through eight, and then high school was [REDACTED]. It's the [REDACTED]. That was for freshman and sophomore year, and then junior and senior year I was at [REDACTED] which is located in [REDACTED].



[REDACTED] Okay. And then you went to college for a while after high school?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. Where'd you go to college?



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A. Yes.



Q. Alright. Could you tell me the context in which -- By the way, this conversation -- Not conversation, this -- this recollection that you had that something might've happened to me, was that a recurring theme that you had discussions with your roommate about or other people, or was it an isolated incident?

A. It was an isolated incident.

Q. Did -- We've chatted about this before. I'm going to ask you if this is a fair statement and you tell me yes or no.

A. Okay.

Q. Is it a fair statement that you did not know that you had been sexually abused as of your sophomore year in college and you did not know that you were injured by any sexual abuse at that point in time, but you wondered whether this "might've happened to me." Is that a fair statement?

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A. That would be a fair statement.

Q. Would it also be a fair statement that the first time that you believed that you were, in fact, sexually abused by Father Burnett and that you came to realize that you were also injured from that abuse would be in the spring or early summer of 2005, in the weeks or so before you first told your wife? Would that be a fair statement?

A. That would be a fair statement. Yeah.

Q. Do you believe that this thought that you had as a sophomore in college that this might've taken place confirms your memory in 2005 and 2006 that, in fact, this sexual abuse took place?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. I read a quotation from the Cardinal's Commission on the Clerical Sexual Misconduct With Minors Report to Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of the Archdiocese of Chicago as of June of 1992, and I'd like to see if I could ask you a couple of questions about some things that they say as it relates to you and your outlook.

A. Sure.

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

1 Q. It states on page 10, I believe, impact  
2 on the victims, quote, sexual misconduct by a  
3 priest with a minor in addition to being a  
4 violation of celibacy and chastity almost always  
5 has serious harmful effects on the victims,  
6 whether the matter becomes publicly known or not.  
7 They suffer loss of self-esteem. It continues  
8 they may feel guilty. It continues they may keep  
9 the matter hidden or repress it, displacing their  
10 anger at the church, the priesthood, even God. It  
11 continues "victims capacity to develop a trusting  
12 relationship with other clergy is impeded. They  
13 may begin to lose faith in the sacraments of the  
14 Eucharist, capital E, and Penance, capital P,  
15 because they are administered by priests. If  
16 diocesan leaders do not respond effectively to  
17 victims' reports of sexual abuse by clergy, the  
18 victims often become further alienated from the  
19 church. They also ask themselves why God is  
20 allowing all this to happen to them. Often they  
21 cease being an active member of the Church, a  
22 tragic loss for the community of faith."

23 My question is, since your recollection  
24 of this abuse in the spring and summer and fall of



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2005, have you suffered some of the things that have been talked about in the passage that I've just read?

A. Yeah.

Q. Have you become, in your mind, alienated from the Catholic Church, and have you ceased to become an active member of the church as a result of this abuse?

A. Yeah.



Q. Alright. You were aware, generally, that Father Burnett has denied allegations of any misconduct in the [REDACTED] case. Is that fair?

A. That's fair. Yeah.

Q. And you're aware generally, from

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1 discussions with your mom and things that you've  
2 heard, that Bishop Imesch, at least in certain  
3 statements, has downplayed the issue of clerical  
4 abuse by priests, of minors, in the Archdiocese of  
5 Joliet. Would that be fair?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Alright. What are your thoughts about  
8 whether people who have perpetrated sexual abuse  
9 should take responsibility for it and higher-ups  
10 in the Catholic Church should take responsibility  
11 for it?

12 A. Well, first and foremost they -- the  
13 party responsible for the abuse, yeah, they --  
14 they need to come clean and -- I don't even know.  
15 Admit it and not hide it and try to resolve the  
16 situation as best as it can be, and their  
17 higher-ups need to take action and not push the  
18 whole matter to the side.

19 Q. If you were to try to, say, have some  
20 parting words to the Review Committee of the  
21 Archdiocese of Joliet about your recollections of  
22 Father Jim Burnett and what you think they should  
23 do, what would you try to tell them?

24 A. I would tell them that they definitely

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1 have to remove him from the parish and I would say  
2 that he would have to be on the sex offender list  
3 just like you see on the Will County web site, so  
4 everybody else, you know, knows about the person  
5 and can keep children away from them.

6 Q. From what you've read, you haven't seen  
7 testimony of [REDACTED] but do some of the  
8 reports that you have read in the popular press in  
9 2006 seem to be that [REDACTED] made against  
10 Father Burnett seem to be somewhat consistent with  
11 issues in abuse that you have suffered at the hand  
12 of Father Burnett?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. I think certainly the claim, as I read  
15 it, in the [REDACTED] case was that there were far  
16 more incidences of sexual abuse.

17 A. Yeah. His -- He recalled a lot more  
18 like as it went on as he was older, from what I  
19 read, but I mean I recall the one incident, but it  
20 seems there's similarities because his -- said  
21 that his happened when he was in confession or  
22 confessional and that's exactly when -- when mine  
23 happened as well.

24 Q. And this is at the -- similar times.



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A. Mm-hmm.

Q. Let's go back to the recollection of the abuse at the hands of Father Burnett. You recall being abused one time in that confessional, is that right, at your first confession?

A. Yeah.

Q. Can you testify on oath that for sure no other abuse took place by Father Burnett, or is it just that you don't remember anything other than this one incident?

A. I don't remember anything other than the incident, but I could never say 100% for sure that this was an isolated incident or this is the only time it happened. This is all that I can remember.

Q. Okay. Fair enough. I would like to take a short, brief time to review my notes and see if I have any questions. I may not, but --

A. Okay.

Q. Alright. Thanks.

THE REPORTER: Going off the record.  
The time is 5:51 p.m.

(WHEREUPON, a short recess was taken.)

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THE REPORTER: Back on the record at  
5:56 p.m.

BY MR. JOHNSON:

Q. It is unusual when I say I think I have  
no more questions that I really mean that, but I  
don't have any other questions, save for the one  
specific one we ask at the end of all affidavits.  
You have testified on oath today, to the best of  
your ability about the facts as you remember them.  
Is that true?

A. That is true. Yeah.

Q. If called, you could competently testify  
to the facts you testified to today at a  
deposition or trial. Is that fair?

A. Yeah.

Q. Alright, that's all we have. Thank you.

THE REPORTER: This concludes the  
affidavit. The time is 5:56 p.m. The running  
time of this videotape is 56 minutes and 22  
seconds.

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**Letter  
From  
Attorney Johnson  
To  
Attorney Byrne**

Attached is the above letter dated July 14, 2006 that was referred to in the [REDACTED] statement on Page 5 which stated:

*"We have passed a detailed letter to Mr. Byrne, on behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago, with respect to the allegation of sexual misconduct of Father Burnett during your First Confession."*



TERRANCE M. JOHNSON, ESQ.

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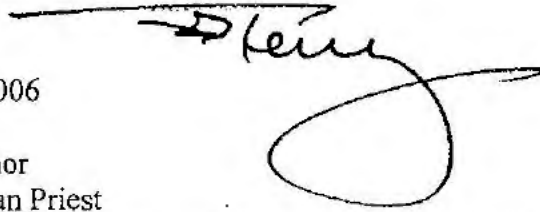
NORTH PIER CHICAGO  
455 EAST ILLINOIS STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611  
TELEPHONE 312: 922-4022  
FAX 312: 922-3399

MEMORANDUM

*Via E-Mail (jbyrne@spesia-ayers.com) & U.S. Mail.*

TO: JAMES C. BYRNE, ESQ.  
SPESIA, AYERS & ARGAUGH  
1415 BLACK ROAD  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

FROM: TERRY JOHNSON



DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2006

RE: Sexual Abuse of a Minor  
by a Joliet Archdiocesan Priest  
during his First Confession at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Mokena  
(In Re: [REDACTED] a minor, v. Father James Burnett, et al.)

Dear Jim,

Thank you for taking the time the other day to call me. As promised, this is just a follow-up letter with respect to some of our discussions.

We have conducted a due diligence investigation in the above matter and concluded that the above is a meritorious claim.

It was not before August 2005 that a former CCD student at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mokena, Illinois realized he was injured (sexually abused) and that it was caused by the wrongful acts of another.

This office represents the individual (photograph below at or about the time of his First Confession and First Communion).

The sexual abuse occurred at the young boy's First Confession conducted at the hands of Father James Burnett while at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mokena, Illinois.

Photograph 1 is a picture of [REDACTED] in grade school. Photograph 2 is a picture of [REDACTED] receiving First Communion. It appears that Father Burnett is pictured in photograph 2 giving First Communion to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] may still have repressed memory, and may not presently know the full extent of his sexual abuse, as regular confessions were extended to CCD students at St. Mary's at or about this time, and others have reported repeated sexual abuse in the confessional setting at the hands of

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Father Burnett at or about this same time (e.g. the claim of [REDACTED] who was a few years older than [REDACTED]).

**Corroboration of Certain Facts by Mother of [REDACTED]:** Certain facts recalled by the mother of [REDACTED] substantiate this report of sexual abuse. The mother recalled that after [REDACTED] First Confession she asked him, in essence, how did it go? [REDACTED] replied, in essence, that the priest asked him to take his pants down. As the grandparents of [REDACTED] were at the family home when this conversation took place, [REDACTED] was reprimanded by his mother for the seemingly inappropriate comment.

It was not before August, 2005 that [REDACTED] mother realized the significance of these words that her son spoke on the day of his First Confession.

[REDACTED]

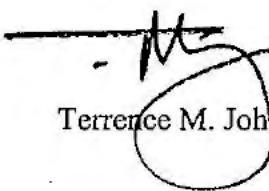
We shall certainly keep you posted as to significant developments in this regard as they occur.

As I indicated, it is expected that I will be sending to you at an appropriate time a detailed affidavit of [REDACTED] and the mother of [REDACTED] (it may be taken in videotape format).

I would like to discuss with you the possibility of receiving a tolling agreement for all interested parties to this claim, or I believe we will be forced to file a claim in a timely manner in July or August of 2006.

It is my hope that the present bishop may take a different stance than his predecessor with respect to the investigation and resolution of some of these most serious claims.

Best Regards,

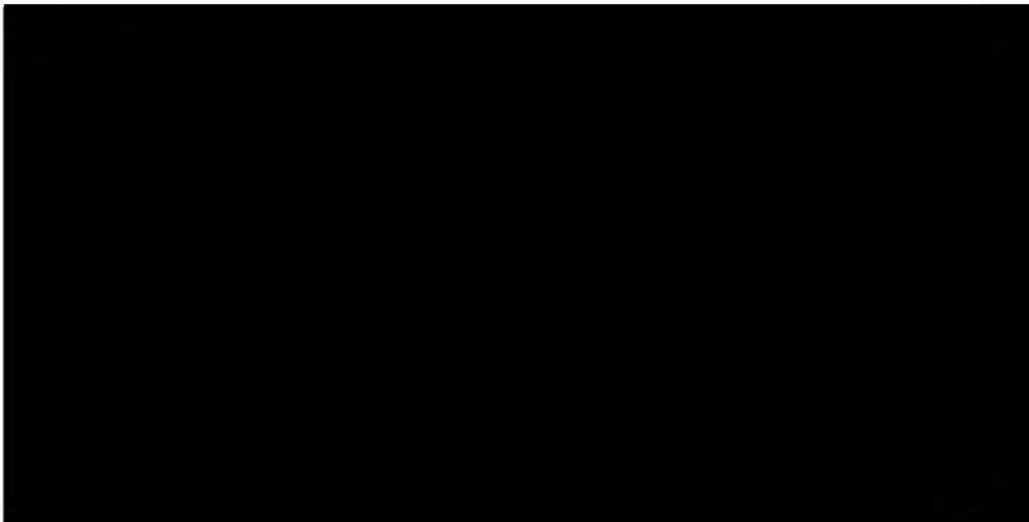
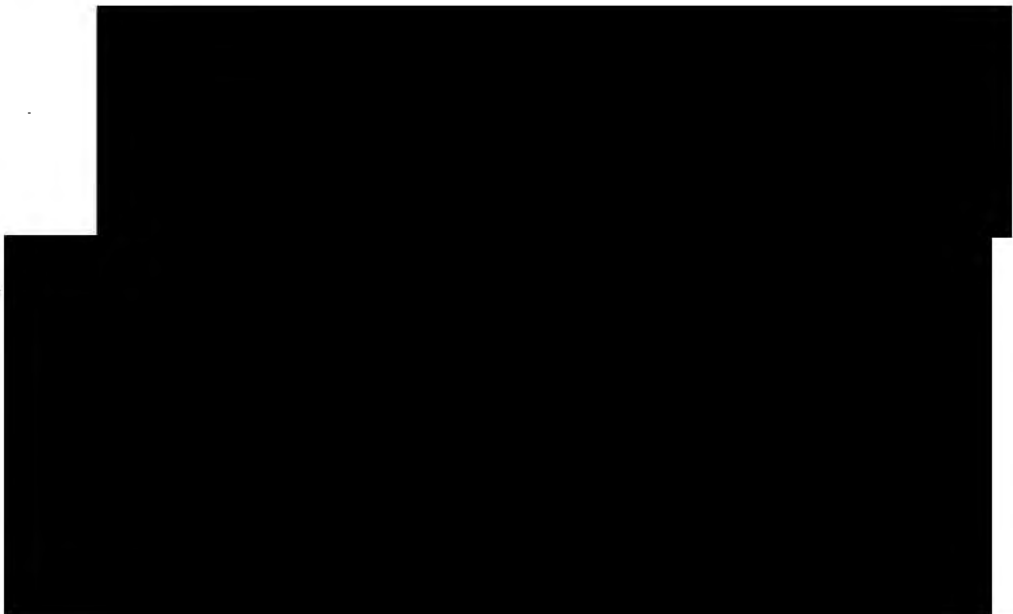


Terrence M. Johnson

TMJ:jdr  
Attachment: Photographs of [REDACTED]

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Q. Alright. I'd like to have you tell us  
-- Well, first of all, could you just hold up this  
picture, and see if you could zoom in on that,  
The full one. Yeah, just the full picture.  
Is that a picture of you at or about the time of  
your first confession and first communion, give or  
take some time?

A. Yes.

Q. I mean you looked like that --



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A. Yeah, that's --

Q. -- pretty close to that --

A. Yeah.

Q. -- regardless if that was taken at the same time. Alright. This one I'd like you to hold up, and I think your mom talked to us about that, but I think that's actually a picture of the day of your first communion. Is that fair?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. So, on the top, we have a picture of you with the -- with your cake and -- I did it in reverse. I fooled you, [REDACTED] That's a picture of your cake we're on it now, but that's your first communion --

A. Yeah.

Q. -- not your confession. And let's go back down. The bottom picture is what? Let me turn around. Is that --

A. That's -- That's first communion and that's receiving -- It wasn't a scapular. It was another pendant.

Q. Something he's putting around your neck.

A. Something -- Yeah, it was a little red pendant. I believe it had a dove on it, and

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that's what we received.

Q. Could we just hold it back up? And is this a picture of Father Burnett putting this around your neck?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. So Father Burnett gave you first communion. Correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And is Father Burnett the same person that you met with during your first confession that we'll talk about later on?

A. Yes, he is.

Q. You knew him by name as well as by face.

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. You have no doubt that Father Burnett, James Burnett, administered you first communion and also met with you during a time called your first confession. Fair enough?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. Now, the third grade math that I was a little bit mixed up about and you and I cleared up each other before today.

A. Yeah.

Q. Oh, and I show you why we cleared it up.

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Could you tell us what this document is? Maybe you could hold that one up.

A. This was -- I'm not sure what you'd call it but this is the program of the first communion.

Q. Communion. Okay. So this is a purple book and it says Do This In Remembrance Of Me. Right, and, [REDACTED] maybe we could come over here a little bit and zoom in on this. It says first communicants and it lists a whole lot of names

[REDACTED]

A. Yes. Yeah.

[REDACTED]

You would've received your first communion on one of those days. Correct?

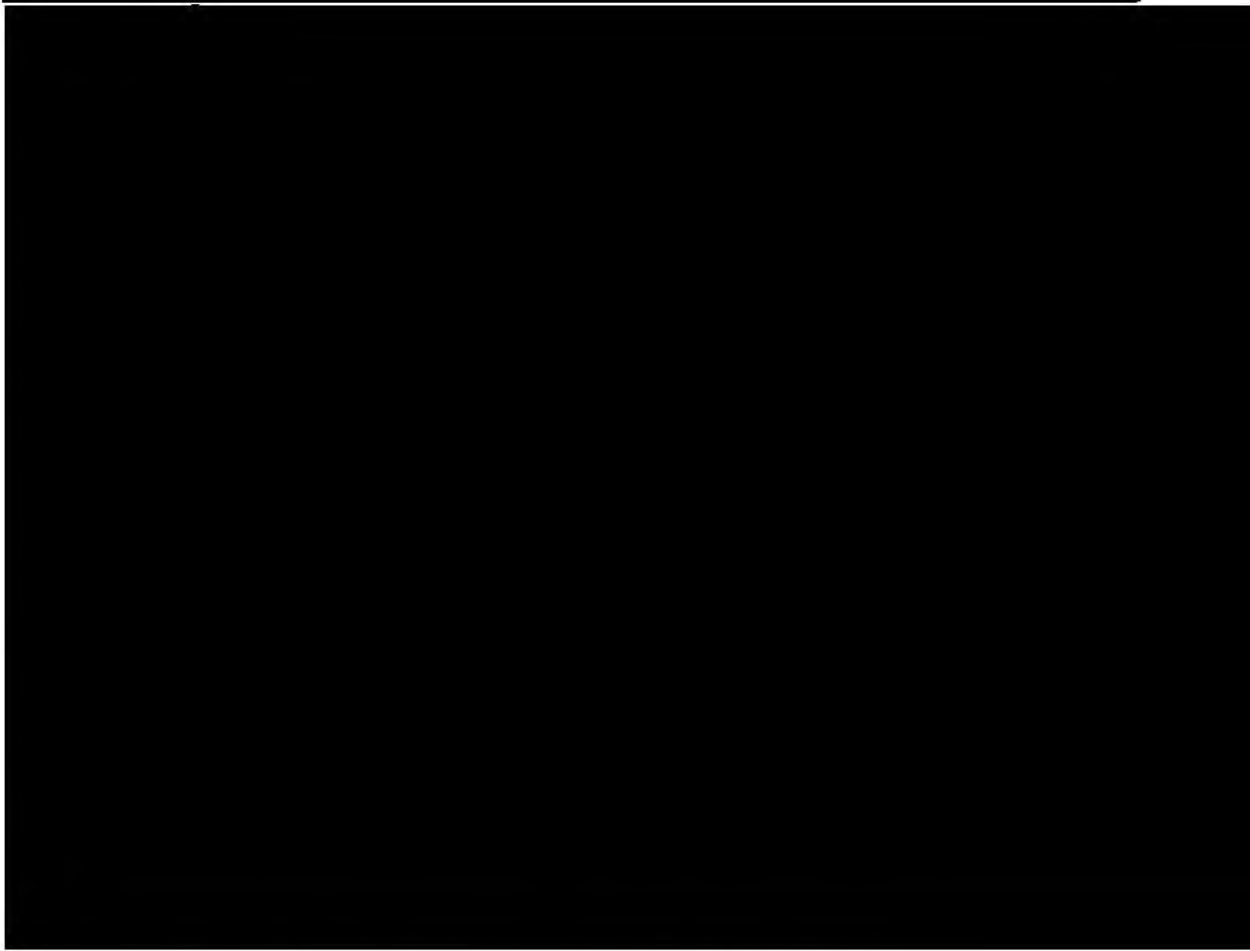
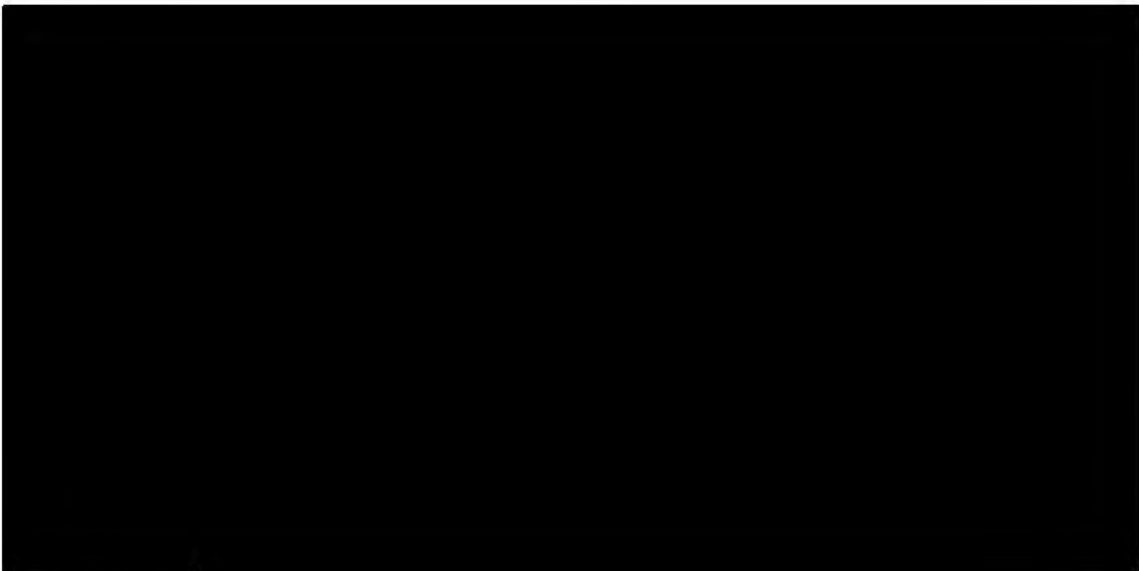
A. Yes.

[REDACTED]



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Q. So, when you received your first communion you were 8 years old.

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. Is that fair?

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A. Yes. Yeah.

Q. And, as best you recall, did you have your first confession scheduled with Father Burnett that same grade, third grade, when you were 8 years old?

A. Yeah, to the best that I can --

Q. It would've been before first communion, obviously.

A. It would've been definitely before first communion.

Q. And it might've been the other previous semester or sometime before April of [REDACTED] Fair?

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. Alright. You don't have a specific recollection of the -- of the date, meaning Monday, October so and so versus November.

A. No.

Q. It was sometime during the third grade school year as best you recall.

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. We were going back to your -- I'm going to flip back in chronological order a little bit to your educational background. You went to college first year at [REDACTED]

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8 Q. Okay. What is your primary motivation  
9 in giving this affidavit about your recollections  
10 about the sexual misconduct that you suffered at  
11 the hands of Father Burnett? Is it money or  
12 something else?

13 A. No, it's not money. It's to make sure  
14 that this doesn't happen to anybody else and  
15 closure for myself.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And maybe even if somebody is out there,  
18 just sitting there kind of the same way I was, it  
19 might give them the courage to come out, too, and  
20 it would -- it would help them as well.

21 Q. Has it been difficult for you to  
22 consider telling your story like we are today over  
23 the last number of months?

24 A. Extremely.



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1 Q. Alright. Have you -- Have you decided  
2 to tell all that you know about this topic, not  
3 leaving back anything, as far as you know?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Alright. You have had some  
6 conversations with your mother in recent months --

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. -- about what you remember and when you  
9 remembered it. Fair?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Alright. You understand that your mom  
12 has certain recollections that you don't have.  
13 Fair?

14 A. Yes. Yeah.

15 Q. And you understand that you have certain  
16 recollections that your mom was not present for,  
17 so she does not have. Fair?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Alright. I'd like to ask you a specific  
20 question.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. Because we're submitting both of these  
23 affidavits to the Catholic Review Board.

24 A. Okay.

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Q. You were not here or present when your mom's affidavit was taken. Fair enough?

A. Correct.

Q. Alright. I want you to assume that your mom has testified under oath that shortly after your first confession she specifically remembers seeing you back at your house and asking you hey, Dave, how did your first confession go, and that you started to recall what happened and then your mom stated "then Father asked me to take my pants down" or to that effect. You are aware, generally, that that is what your mother specifically recalls you saying. Fair enough?

A. Yes. Yeah.

Q. Alright. You have previously told me that you do not remember making that statement. Is that a true statement?

A. That is a true statement. I don't remember.

Q. You don't remember saying that.

A. Yeah, I don't.

Q. It doesn't mean you didn't state that. It just means that you don't remember that. Is that fair?

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A. That's fair. Yeah.

Q. And I will come back to this in chronological order, but your mom also remembers being in the room where the first confession was to take place. I think on days before the first confession, being around school at St. Mary's, and she remembers, from her view, that there weren't any visible windows on the doors or in the room. Do you have such a recollection, or is that just your mom's?

A. I don't remember any from the hallway being able to see in the door, or no sidelights on the side. No.

Q. Okay. You don't remember one way or the other.

A. No.

Q. Let's go back a little bit to the time of your CCD teaching. You went to the public schools.

A. Yes.

Q. So you would be taken to church regularly by your mom or your dad.

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. Alright. You attended church at St.



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Mary's, in Mokena. Correct?

A. Yeah.

Q. Alright. Father Burnett was the pastor when you were going to church there?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. Tell me a little bit about CCD -- your recollections generally in the early years. You went to CCD from first to eighth grade?

A. Yeah.

Q. Alright. And I assume that's --

A. It was --

Q. -- is most it is is for the public school kids?

A. Yeah.

Q. Yeah. Tell me a little bit about the classes, how often do you remember going, or when you would go.

A. It was once a week. It was typically -- I recall Wednesdays going there, and it was a class of, I don't know, a handful of kids, 15, maybe.

Q. Yeah. And it was just -- It was -- It was just like a high school class, you know.

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You'd have your teacher there and we'd go through all the curriculum and --

A. Right. And your mom said from time-to-time, as many moms do -- as my wife does with our kids, she helped you with your homework at school but she also helped you in your CCD educational class. Is that fair?

A. Yeah.

Q. I'd like to turn specifically to the day of your first confession. Okay?

A. Okay.

Q. So that's when you're in third grade and you're 8 years old. Right?

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. Would you tell me specifically what you remember today of, you know, that day? What did you do that day? Do you have any recollections before you go to St. Mary's for your first confession? Tell me a little bit about that.

A. I don't recall getting there or, you know, being driven there. I recall being in a line. You know, just all the kids were lined up outside the door and --

Q. Tell me where that was.

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1 A. That was in -- in St. Mary's and it  
2 wasn't in the church part. It was in more of the  
3 -- the school part.

4 Q. Okay. Was it in close proximity to  
5 where the church was?

6 A. Yeah. Yeah. Real close.

7 Q. So you're in a line waiting to go into  
8 the confessional room one-by-one?

9 A. Yeah, it was an office room. It wasn't  
10 the typical confessional that, you know, the  
11 father's on one side and then there's the divider  
12 and then there's -- It's not the typical one that  
13 would be in a church. This was in a -- in an  
14 office.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. You know, with a desk. You know, a big  
17 office.

18 Q. Okay. And you were to -- Had you  
19 practiced to where you were going to go? Do you  
20 remember at all about what room. Had you  
21 practiced?

22 A. No. I don't recall practicing.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I just remember, okay, being in line



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1 and, you know, you'd go in and do your -- do your  
2 confession and come out.

3 Q. Alright. Tell me specifically about  
4 what you remember that day, when you're 8 years  
5 old with Father Burnett, in the room for first  
6 confession. Tell me as you progress through the  
7 line what do you remember and take me through that  
8 in your own words, and I want you to be very  
9 careful about what you say and be careful about  
10 this is your memories, not anybody else's. Fair  
11 enough?

12 A. Sure. Fair enough.

13 Q. Alright.

14 A. I remember standing in the line -- or  
15 being in the line, in the front part of it. I'm  
16 not sure how many kids were in front of me. When  
17 it was my turn to go in, I remember walking in,  
18 and as you walk in to the left side, there was a  
19 chair -- there was two chairs. There was a chair  
20 here and then Father was in another chair, and I  
21 --

22 Q. By father, you mean Father Burnett?

23 A. Father Burnett. Yes.

24 Q. Father Jim Burnett.

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A. Jim Burnett.

Q. Right. Okay.

A. And I remember walking into the room and then I don't know how I got to the next point. I don't remember walking or if I was helped up, but I remember sitting on Father Jim's lap.

Q. Okay. Back then did you call him Father Jim or Father Burnett?

A. I believe it was Father Jim.

Q. Okay. And you said you remember sitting on his lap. Right?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you specifically remember your orientation? Meaning which way were you facing and which way was he facing, and if you can remember that, could you show us on the videotape?

A. Yeah. Yeah. If -- I don't know how to do this, but okay. This would be the -- I'm sitting in the chair that --

Q. You're Father Burnett?

A. -- that Father Jim was sitting in.

Q. Okay.

A. As myself, I would be sitting on his right knee.

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Q. Could you pull back a little bit, Mr. Video Operator? I want to see his -- It's okay; you stay there.

A. Okay.

Q. I just want to see what he's referring to. That's all. That's good. A little bit -- A little bit farther back. That's fine. Just, you know, we've got a glass table here what you're saying, but I can see your --

A. Okay.

Q. I want to see his lap, [REDACTED] You can't zoom out?

THE REPORTER: That's because of the closeness.

MR. JOHNSON: Oh.

THE REPORTER: You can't zoom. The zoom lens is already out as far as it goes.

MR. JOHNSON: Fair enough. There you go. That's good. I just want to see his knee. There you go. Fair enough.

BY MR. JOHNSON.

Q. Now we got you in full frame. Okay.

A. Okay.

Q. Alright. Just take your time.



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1 A. Alright. So I'm sitting in the chair  
2 that Father Jim was in. Myself, as if I was  
3 Father Jim right now. Myself, I would've been  
4 sitting facing -- My body -- My legs would've been  
5 draped over --

6 Q. You're saying you would be sitting on  
7 his right knee?

8 A. On his right -- On his right knee, his  
9 right thigh.

10 Q. Right.

11 A. And my -- my feet would be like dangling  
12 right here, so --

13 Q. And you would be facing to your left as  
14 you're --

15 A. -- I would be facing -- I would've been  
16 facing here as Father Jim is facing towards you.  
17 So now I would be sitting on his -- his lap or  
18 that one knee and looking at him as he's right  
19 here.

20 Q. Okay. He's -- Father Burnett's face is  
21 to your left?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So -

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Q. And obviously you're quite a bit smaller than he is. You're the 8-year-old as we see in the picture. Fair enough?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright.

A. So, yeah, I'm looking up --

Q. Up at him. Right. Tell me what you specifically remember next.

A. Okay. What I remember -- I don't recall any dialogue or what he said or what I said. All I can remember is his right hand was -- was sitting here on top of his knee and my -- I was sitting on his hand, and --

Q. Okay. You're motioning to his right hand.

A. His right hand. Yeah. So, he's sitting here. His hand is down on his leg and I am sitting on top of that, so --

Q. Let me stop you there. You have no doubt that this is a true and accurate recollection of what happened on the day of your first confession?

A. Oh, yeah.

Q. You have no doubt. Is that a fair

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1 statement?

2 A. No doubt. Yeah, it's a very fair  
3 statement.

4 Q. Tell me what, if anything, happened with  
5 Father Burnett's hand as you are sitting there, as  
6 you're sitting on his hand.

7 A. As I was sitting on his hand, he was  
8 caressing, rubbing his hand on my buttocks, on my  
9 butt.

10 Q. On the underneath of your butt.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Buttocks. Right.

13 A. And it would've -- As I was sitting  
14 there, it was more specifically my right side.

15 Q. Okay. And is the area that he was  
16 caressing or feeling, is that around your butt as  
17 well as your genitals?

18 A. Yeah, it was just basically the -- your  
19 whole -- my whole underside.

20 Q. Okay. That would include your butt,  
21 your anus, and your scrotum area, your penis, and  
22 your gonads, to the extent that you had them at  
23 that age?

24 A. Yes.



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Q. Alright. Alright. Do you have any recollection about what, if anything, you were saying and what, if anything, Father Burnett was saying at that time?

A. No, I don't have -- I can recall -- I mean, I remember looking at him, but I don't -- I cannot recall anything that he had said to me or anything that I had said back to him.

Q. You're -- You have a recollection of a visual image of being in close proximity to Father Burnett's face and looking up at him?

A. Oh, yeah. I mean, as I'm sitting here, just basically looking back at him, but I can't remember any dialogue that was there.

Q. Do you remember any prayers or any specifics of any first confession you might've said that day?

A. No. After, you know -- And I can't recall how long the duration of this whole thing was. I don't know if I was in there for 2 minutes, 1 minute, 10 minutes. I don't -- I don't recall because I don't recall any of the dialogue as well. I can remember leaving the door and then, you know, looking back down the hallway and

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1 that's -- that's about it. I don't remember going  
2 back to a classroom or going back -- or going to  
3 the church to say any prayers or --

4 Q. Alright. Let me take you back inside  
5 that room for a little bit. I think your mom told  
6 us, in her deposition at another time, that she  
7 believed there were two chairs that were supposed  
8 to be in the room, one for the priest and one for  
9 the child, boy or a girl, who was going to say  
10 confession. Alright? Do you recall if there were  
11 two chairs that were in there that were supposed  
12 to be used for that purpose?

13 A. I recall two chairs, and I would assume  
14 that that's --

15 Q. Right.

16 A. -- what the purpose was. Yes.

17 Q. Do you ever recall sitting on the other  
18 chair, or do you only recall sitting on Father  
19 Burnett's lap?

20 A. I only recall sitting on the lap.

21 Q. Your mother testified that you came home  
22 -- And I asked you this before, but I want to  
23 specifically ask you a follow-up question.

24 A. Sure.

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1 Q. That Father Burnett, at some point in  
2 time, during the course of the first confession  
3 said -- You said then Father asked me to take my  
4 pants down or off -- same difference. You don't  
5 remember saying that. Correct?

6 A. Correct, I don't remember that.

7 Q. You don't remember father Burnett saying  
8 that in the first confession time period. Fair?

9 A. No. Yeah, I don't.

10 Q. Tell me what, if any, recollections you  
11 have of sitting on Father Burnett's lap as to  
12 whether or not your pants were on or off.

13 A. I recall them being on.

14 Q. Okay. Alright. And how do you recall  
15 that?

16 A. Because this memory, as it has come  
17 back, some parts of it have become very vivid and  
18 some parts of it haven't. Like I can't recall the  
19 conversations or what was said back and forth but  
20 specifically, I mean, I can remember the -- the  
21 feeling of, you know, his hand and my, you know,  
22 my pants.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. And I can remember that.



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1 Q. Okay. Again, as you described under  
2 your buttocks and genital area.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And, in your mind, that's consistent  
5 with having -- Your recollection is consistent  
6 with having your trousers or pants on as well as  
7 your pants off. Right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Step back a little bit -- a little  
10 easier question. I saw in the first communion  
11 picture that you had a white shirt on and it  
12 looks, on the top, when you're looking at your  
13 cake, you've got a -- you've got a pair of dark  
14 pants on, and I'd like to ask you to take a look  
15 at the top of that picture and if you could tell  
16 me what you believe -- the best you remember what  
17 -- how you were dressed compared to how you looked  
18 in your first communion picture.

19 A. I would probably say identical.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I mean, black dress pants, white --

22 Q. Perhaps a white shirt and dark -- dark  
23 dress pants.

24 A. Yeah.

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Q. Long dress pants. Right, not shorts?

2

A. Probably had a tie on at the time and --

3

Q. Took it off.

4

A. Took it off.

5

Q. Okay. Alright. Fair enough. Alright.

6

Are there any other recollections that you have at

7

the time of your meeting called this first

8

confession with Father Jim Burnett, other than

9

what you've told us already?

10

A. No.

11

Q. Alright. I'm not trying to put words in

12

your mouth, I'm just trying to get that you don't

13

remember actually how you get off his lap and get

14

out of the room --

15

A. No.

16

Q. -- but you have a recollection of seeing

17

the line approaching or --

18

A. Yes.

19

Q. And do you have any other -- You don't

20

recall saying any prayers after -- after your

21

first confession?

22

A. No, I don't recall any prayers. No.

23

Q. Do you recall any other -- any other

24

things about the day of your first confession

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while you were still at St. Mary's?

A. No, it's brief. It's -- You know, the line. I don't remember walking to the line. You had to get there somehow but I don't remember walking to the line, but I remember being in the line. I remember going into the room. I remember the orientation of the room. I'm not sure how I got onto his lap, whether he said hop up here or whether he placed me up there. I don't know, and I don't know how I got off of his lap. I just -- I don't know and I don't remember where I went after confession.

Q. Okay. From what you know now and from what you remember now, do you believe you were the victim of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse at the literal hands of Father Jim Burnett when you were in third grade as an 8-year-old?

A. No. I mean --

Q. Let me back track. Do you believe this conduct was inappropriate --

A. As an 8-year-old?

Q. Oh, no. As you sit here today.

A. As I sit here today?

Q. Right. I'm trying to -



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A. Oh, okay.

Q. You know, lawyers always make bad questions. That was a bad question. In your view today --

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] do you believe that Father Jim Burnett sexually abused you when you were 8 years old?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Alright. And those are -- That belief and opinion is from the facts as you remember them that you've told us so far today.

A. Yes. That's correct.

Q. Do you have any doubt that what you have told us today that happened in that room with Father Burnett is a fabrication, a false recollection, or do you believe it's actually true?

A. I believe it's true.

Q. Okay. Now, I'd like to ask you a couple of questions about when in 2005 you first thought or recalled about this sexual abuse, this incident that you've just described, and I'm going to ask

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you a couple of leading questions to get you to a point of reference. Then I want to ask you in your own words.

A. Okay.

Q. I believe you told us that you had had some conversation with your wife during the spring or summer of 2005 about this issue.

A. Yes.

Q. And then at some point later on in the summer or fall of 2005 this conversation came up between first your wife [REDACTED] and your mom. Is that fair?

A. Yes.

Q. Meaning your wife and your mom had a conversation about the sexual abuse before you and your mom did. Is that fair, and in 2005?

A. Oh, that her and my mother talked before myself and my mother did?

Q. Yeah.

A. No. It was -- It was all three of us --

A. Okay.

A. -- sitting down at the same time. I was present when the whole thing came off.

Q. Okay. Fair enough. Could you tell us

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when you first had a recollection of being abused  
by Father Burnett, in the year 2005. In the year  
2005. We're in 2006 now, but --

2

3

4

A. Sure.

5

6

Q. -- approximately what time and how did  
that come about in the year 2005?

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

A. I couldn't tell you how it came about.  
It's just something that kept coming back into my  
memory. I don't even know why I was thinking  
about it or what I was thinking about and then all  
of a sudden I've got a -- this memory of back to  
being 8 years old in my first confession, and then  
it just kept coming in my head.

14

15

Q. Did you tell your wife right away or did  
it fester for awhile?

16

17

A. Oh, no, I didn't tell her right away. I  
kept it to myself for a while.

18

19

20

21

22

Q. Okay. At some point in time, did you  
have a conversation with your wife in the spring  
or summer of 2005 about your remembering of being  
sexually abused by Father Burnett at your first  
confession?

23

A. Yeah.

24

Q. Alright. And sometime thereafter your



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mom, and you and your wife [REDACTED] were present,  
where all three of your discussed it. Is that  
fair?

A. Yes.

Q. And that would've been perhaps somewhere  
in the --

A. Late -- Late summer, fall.

Q. -- summer or fall, or fall of 2005?

A. Yeah. Yeah.

Q. When -- At this time in the spring,  
summer, fall of 2005, had you heard of any  
allegations of any sexual abuse at the hands of  
Father Burnett from any other source?

A. No.

Q. Had you heard of any allegations by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A. No.

Q. You know of some of the [REDACTED] that  
grew up around the area that you did. Fair?

A. Yeah. Yeah.

Q. Alright. And have you spoken with any  
of the [REDACTED] in the last year, two years, five  
years, ten years?

A. No.

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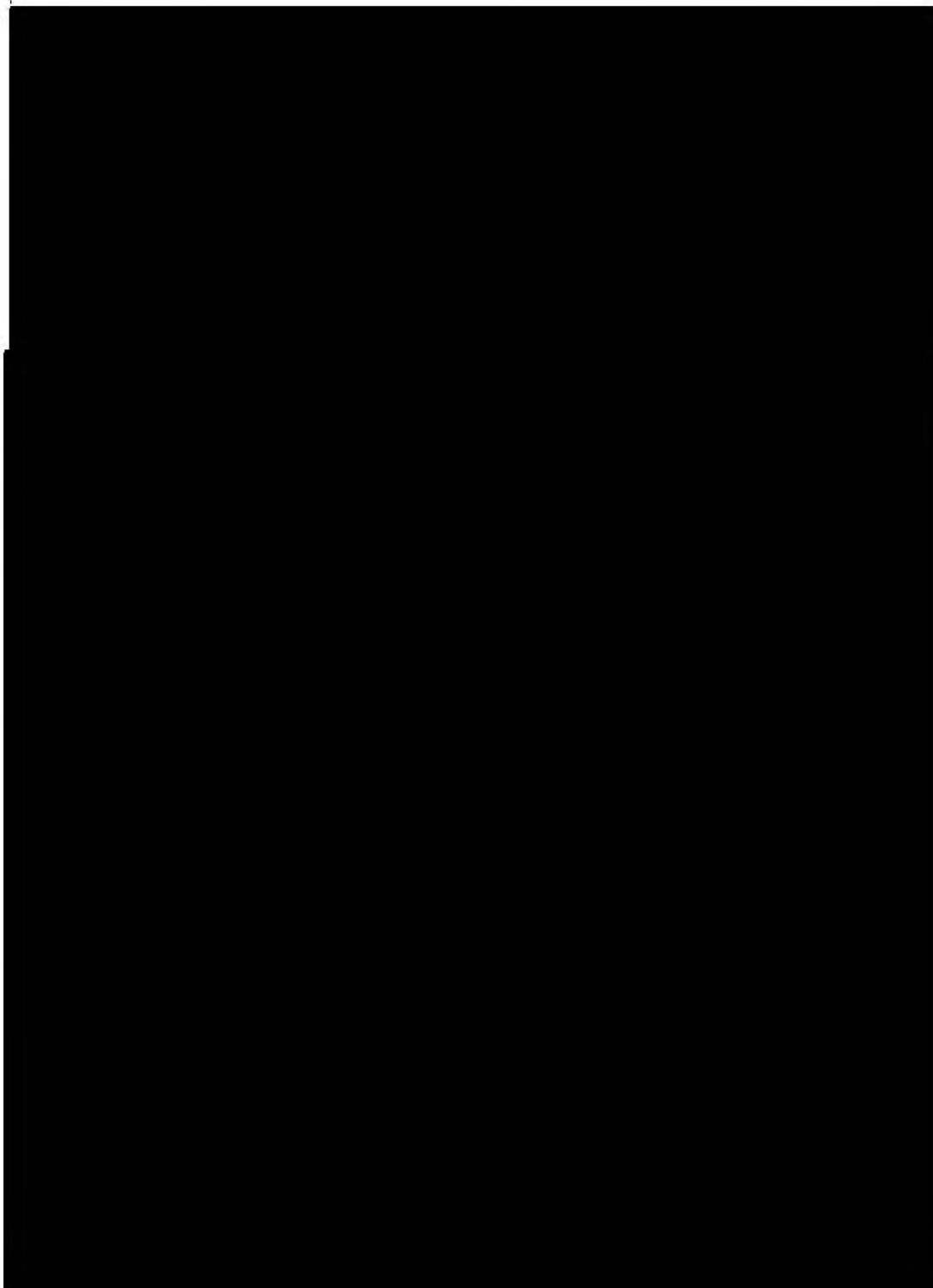
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Q.    Alright.  Was there ever a time during  
your sophomore year that you said something to the  
effect that, gee, this might've happened to me,  
referring to sexual abuse by a clergy?

**VIDEO**

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**INSTANTER**

video Instanter Incorporated

180 North LaSalle Street  
Suite 2424  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
Phone 312-641-3605  
Fax 312-641-1147

In re: )  
 Archdiocese of Joliet )  
 )  
 Investigation Regarding Sexual Abuse of )  
 [REDACTED] then a minor and )  
 Fr. James Burnett, then Pastor at )  
 St. Mary's Catholic Church, Mokena, Illinois )  
 )  
 and )  
 )  
 [REDACTED] v. Fr. James Burnett etc. et al. )  
 In the Circuit Court of Will County )

**RECEIVED**

OCT 3 2006

TERRENCE M. JOHNSON, ESQ

**Transcript of  
Videotaped Affidavit  
of**

[REDACTED]  
(Mother of [REDACTED])

**Date Recorded: Wednesday, October 4, 2006**

**Submitted by  
Terrence M. Johnson, Esq.  
North Pier Chicago  
455 E. Illinois, Suite 361  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
(312) 922-4022,**

**Attorney for [REDACTED]**

Taken before PAUL DAVID GILLERAN, a Notary Public within and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois, on the **4th day of October, A.D. 2006**, at the hour of 2:25 p.m., at 455 East Illinois Street, Suite 361, Chicago, Illinois.



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THE REPORTER: For the record, my name is David Gilleran. I'm the video recording device operator and officer for this affidavit. My business address is 180 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2424, Chicago, Illinois. This affidavit is being videotaped. The date is October 4, 2006. The time is 2:24 p.m. We are at 4:55 East Illinois Street, Chicago, Illinois. Counselor.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes. For the record, I would just like to state that this affidavit is being taken in conjunction with my conversations with the attorney for the archdiocese of Joliet, Jim Byrne, in preparation for submission to the Catholic Review Committee, which is investigating the testimony of [REDACTED] with respect to sexual misconduct with a minor, in the matter of [REDACTED], then a minor, and father James Burnett, who was a priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Mokena, Illinois. Is that fair?

THE AFFIANT: Correct.

MR. JOHNSON: Alright. Alright. With -- And also, as I had indicated to Jim today, I had been requested by the attorney for [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who has a case pending against Father

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1 Burnett in Will County, to provide a copy of the  
2 affidavits taken here today, and subject to the  
3 consent of the affiants today, this affidavit may  
4 be used in that matter, to the extent that the  
5 parties or the court feel it relevant. With that,  
6 could we swear in the witness?

7 THE REPORTER: Mrs. [REDACTED], would you  
8 please raise your right hand?

9 (WHEREUPON, the affiant  
10 was duly sworn.)

11 A-F-F-I-D-A-V-I-T

12 BY MR. JOHNSON:

13 Q. There's usually a couple of preambles  
14 when we make affidavits in written form that I  
15 will ask you at the front end. You are over 18  
16 years of age. Is that correct?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. Alright. And you're going to answer  
19 questions that I may ask of you today, to the best  
20 of your ability.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And, if called at trial, you would be  
23 able to competently testify to the facts and  
24 questions that I ask you today. Is that fair?

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A. Yes.

Q. Alright. And could you please state your full name for the record again?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Okay. And you are born in what year?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. How about your birth date?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Okay. And could you tell me who you are married to and your children?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Okay. And we're really talking about [REDACTED] today. Is that fair?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. Before we start with respect to questions about your knowledge of [REDACTED]'s first confession and facts related thereto, I'd also like to see if you would take with us today another oath. You took a civil oath just a little while ago where you were asked to raise your hand and to testify many times before a civil proceeding. Fair enough?

A. Okay.



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1 Q. So a deposition, or a statement, or an  
2 affidavit like this might be submitted in a trial  
3 in a court of law. Fair enough?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Alright. But did I also review with you  
6 shortly before we started the videotape the  
7 definition of an oath as given under the Catholic  
8 Encyclopedia, namely "an oath is an invocation to  
9 God to witness the truth of a statement." We  
10 talked about that generally before --

11 A. Right.

12 Q. -- we started this statement. Correct,  
13 or affidavit?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And are you willing to answer questions  
16 and give testimony today consistent with that  
17 religious definition of an oath within the  
18 Catholic Church?

19 A. Definitely.

20 Q. You understand that allegations of  
21 sexual misconduct with a minor by a cleric or a  
22 priest, in particular, is a very serious charge?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you certainly would not give any

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1 false testimony in questions that surround that  
2 issue. Is that fair?

3 A. That's fair.

4 Q. Alright. I would like to just get a  
5 little background information about you. I'm sure  
6 -- I was deposed once and I was a little nervous  
7 when they were asking questions of me. So could  
8 you tell me a little bit about your background and  
9 history and growing up. First of all, where were  
10 you born? What was your maiden name? Where did  
11 you go to grade school, high school, college?

12 A. Okay. I was born in [REDACTED],  
13 Illinois. I'm the middle child. My maiden name  
14 is [REDACTED]

15 Q. Let me interrupt, as lawyers do many  
16 times. What does your dad do for a living?

17 A. He was [REDACTED]

18 Q. Okay. And how many brothers and sisters  
19 did you have?

20 A. I just have one older brother and one  
21 younger sister.

22 Q. Okay. And you went to Catholic grade  
23 schools?

24 A. I went to Catholic school. Our Catholic

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grade was [REDACTED]

Q. And where was that located about?

A. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q. Okay. And you got out of there in eighth grade. Right?

A. Yes.

Q. In 19 --

A. [REDACTED]

Q. I think I'm close to the same age. I won't disclose what that is, but we got out of high school -- or grade school in [REDACTED] Right?

A. Yes.

Q. After [REDACTED] you went on to --

A. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and now I'm not sure if it's still there.

Q. Okay. That was a Catholic --

A. All girls Catholic.

Q. All girls Catholic high school.

A. And I graduated in [REDACTED]

Q. Okay. And did you have any schooling after high school, specifically college?

A. Yes. I went to [REDACTED] for one



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year.

Q. And at or about graduating from high school and then your first year of college, did you happen to meet the man that ultimately became your husband?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Okay. Tell me a little bit about -- a short history about how you met [REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Okay. Did you ultimately get married to [REDACTED]?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Alright. What was the date of your marriage to [REDACTED]?

A. The date was [REDACTED]

Q. Okay. And I know this is rather personal but I thought it might be appropriate to get all of this out. You had -- Your first child's name was?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

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A. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q. Okay. And you were a practicing Catholic at that point in time?

A. Yes.

Q. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] 1974.

Q. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Alright. Tell me a little bit about the circumstances surrounding difficulties that you had in getting your [REDACTED] baptized.

[REDACTED]

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Q. You -- Your in-laws were and still are active Catholics?

A. Yes.

Q. Your parents were and still are active Catholics?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were an active Catholic at the time?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell me what you were taught at or about that time about how important it was to get your child baptized and especially as to when



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1 it was to take place in relation to his or her  
2 birth?

3 A. When I went to the Catholic school, I  
4 was told that your child would not go to heaven  
5 unless he was baptized and, typically, from my  
6 mother, you know, you were told you don't go out  
7 of the house with your baby until that baby's  
8 baptized, which is usually two to three weeks  
9 after birth.

10 Q. Yeah. I think that's what happened with  
11 me as well. So you go basically from the home --

12 A. Right.

13 Q. -- to the church to get baptized.

14 A. Right.

15 Q. So there was no chance that a baby would  
16 die without being baptized.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. Did you have a concern of getting [REDACTED]  
19 timely baptized for his well-being within the  
20 Catholic Church?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. So tell me what efforts you and your  
23 husband did to get your son baptized in a timely  
24 way.

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A. After we were refused a baptism at Seven Holy Founders, I contacted St. Isidore's Church in Blue Island, which was the next closest church to us. It was actually the parish we should've been in, but we were so used to Seven Holy Founders we kept going there. They asked me if I was a member of that parish and I told them no and they said, well, then sorry, they could not baptize my child.

Q. Okay. And then your husband, I believe, contacted another priest?

A. Actually my mother did.

Q. Your mother. Okay.

A. She contacted a priest. My brother used to go to [REDACTED] She contacted a priest at [REDACTED] He said he'd be more than happy to baptize the child and he made arrangements at St. Peter and Paul Church to baptize [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED] Okay. Fair enough. And

did that event of having a priest refuse to baptize your son, [REDACTED] in a timely way have some impact upon your relationship with the Catholic Church in some years to come?

A. Yes. I mean, from everything I was taught and raised I just couldn't believe that that happened. I mean, I just -- I just couldn't believe.

Q. Were you upset -- upset as a mom and as upset as a Catholic?

A. Yes.

Q. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Okay. And, in any event, that may be a subject we can bring up with your husband if anybody cares to ask, but he did [REDACTED] [REDACTED] shortly after this walk with another priest.

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. Let's jump start to another topic. Could you -- At some point in time you move from [REDACTED] to a beautiful area in Mokena. Is that fair?



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- 1 A. Then it was an empty area. Yes.
- 2 Q. Empty area. Alright. And the parish
- 3 out there is what?
- 4 A. St. Mary's.
- 5 Q. St. Mary's. And how close was your
- 6 house to St. Mary's?
- 7 A. Probably a 5-minute drive.
- 8 Q. Okay. Do you remember the street
- 9 address, or --
- 10 A. [REDACTED]
- 11 [REDACTED]
- 12 Q. Okay. In Mokena.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Alright. And I wonder if you could just
- 15 give us a little bit about -- tell us about your
- 16 custom and practice of raising your, you know,
- 17 children in Mokena. Where did they go to grade
- 18 school? Did they go to CCD, things like that.
- 19 A. Okay.
- 20 Q. What was your general routine?
- 21 A. Generally, we enrolled the children in
- 22 the public school near our house, so that they
- 23 could walk there and back. It was [REDACTED]
- 24 School and we found out that it was a good school

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system, so we stayed there. However, I felt it was important for my kids to learn the Catholic faith. Whether they decide to choose to continue with it or not, I wanted them to learn.

Q. Sure.

A. So they went to CCD and they went from first grade through eighth grade.

Q. Okay. I think I have the third grade math right, but [REDACTED] for example, told us that he graduated from high school in [REDACTED]. Does that sound about right?

A. Yes.

Q. Right. And if my third grade -- So that would be a school year of '91 to '92. It starts in '91 and ends in '92. That means he would've, four years before that, if my third grade math is correct, he would've been in eighth grade graduating in 1988. Is that right? Does that sound about right?

A. Yes.

Q. About right? I'll ask [REDACTED]

A. Okay.

Q. I think that's about right. So, if he's in eighth grade -- graduates from eighth grade in

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1 '88, that means he gets out of seventh grade in  
2 '87, out of sixth grade in '86, out of fifth grade  
3 in 1985, out of fourth grade in 1984, out of third  
4 grade in 1983, and in second grade would've  
5 spanned the fall of '81 to the spring of '82. Is  
6 that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Does that sound about right?

9 A. Sounds right.

10 Q. Alright. As far as you can recall, did  
11 [REDACTED] receive his first confession and his first  
12 communion in second grade, which we believe is, at  
13 least at this juncture, is about the year '81-'82  
14 school year?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Alright. I think I'd like to hold up  
17 for the video camera some pictures that we have,  
18 and I wonder if you could just zoom in on this,  
19 [REDACTED]? Could you just hold this one up?

20 A. Sure.

21 Q. And could you just -- Yeah, there you  
22 go. And is that a picture of [REDACTED], at  
23 or about second grade or so?

24 A. Yes.

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Q. Alright. Okay. And could you tell me what this picture is?

A. Okay.

Q. There's two pictures. One on the top, one on the bottom.

A. There are two pictures and they're both poorly done, but it's [REDACTED], with his first communion cake and it's [REDACTED], with the priest during the first communion.

Q. Okay. Let's go chronologically first. He probably has the communion first.

A. Well, first. Yeah.

Q. So let's go to the bottom picture first of [REDACTED], if that's okay. So -- And let's just keep it there for a second, if you would. So it appears that somebody's putting something over his head. Might that be a rosary or something, or don't know?

A. It could be a scapular.

Q. Scapular.

A. I'm not quite sure what it is.

Q. Okay. And the priest that gave Dave first communion was whom?

A. Father Burnett.



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1 Q. Okay. Alright. And that's the first --  
2 the same priest that we're talking about today  
3 that also gave [REDACTED] first confession. Fair?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Alright. Let's just go up to the top.  
6 Sorry, let's just zoom into the top picture, if  
7 that's okay.

8 A. Sorry.

9 Q. And the top picture is, it looks like we  
10 got a first communion cake.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Alright.

13 A. First communion party.

14 Q. So that's not first confession. These  
15 two pictures are first communion.

16 A. Right.

17 Q. Alright. The first confession would've  
18 taken place that same year but earlier. Is that  
19 fair?

20 A. Correct. And we don't have pictures of  
21 that.

22 Q. Alright. Could you tell me what the  
23 custom and practice that you had in helping [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED] in particular, and if there was any

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1 difference with [REDACTED] tell us, in helping them with  
2 religious education, in helping to study and  
3 nurture them in CCD class?

4 A. Okay. Usually I would go over, you  
5 know, their homework or -- They did get some  
6 homework and we'd go over the reading material  
7 and, you know, I'd ask them questions, give them  
8 little quizzes. It was important to me that they  
9 learned their prayers and that was part of our job  
10 to teach them their prayers.

11 Q. Sure. And that was a custom and  
12 practice that you had in helping [REDACTED] as well as  
13 [REDACTED] --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- with the religious homework at CCD.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Alright. And did you have a custom and  
18 practice in driving, whether yourself, your  
19 husband, or in a car pool to school?

20 A. We were in a car pool.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. Car pool. CCD was sometimes different  
23 days and different times, depending on how old the  
24 children were, so --

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Q. Okay.

A. -- they were in car pool.

Q. And, from time-to-time, you drove --

A. Yes.

Q. -- [REDACTED] for example, to CCD class, and that was at the grade school at St. Mary's in Mokena?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. And that's when -- Was Father Burnett the pastor all those times when he was going to CCD?

A. Yes.

Q. As far as you knew, was he the only priest at St. Mary's at the time?

A. No, I believe there was another priest.

Q. The first communion that your [REDACTED] had, who was your understanding as to who gave him first communion and first confession?

A. Father Burnett.

Q. Okay. When -- Could you describe the custom and practice you had in dropping [REDACTED] off to CCD class and then picking him in. Did you actually go into the school room?

A. Sometimes --

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Q. How did that work?

A. Well, sometimes I would actually go into the school room and drop them off at their -- at their room. There were different rooms for the different kids.

Q. Sure.

A. Sometimes I would do that and other times I would just walk them to the door and they would go in.

Q. Okay. And how about releasing the children after CCD class was over? Did you have to go to pick them up?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Had to go into the room?

A. Go to the door of the room.

Q. Door. Okay. There was a time when [REDACTED] was preparing for his first confession in second grade at St. Mary's Mokena. Did you have an occasion to see the room where the first confession was going to take place?

A. Yes. It was -- From what I remember, it was a rather large room. It -- I think it was used as a hall for different functions and it had -- I know it had -- I only recall one door but I'm



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pretty sure it had two, but none of the doors had windows in them.

Q. Okay. So when you went in that room, your recollection was that there were no visible windows that you could see.

A. Correct.

Q. Alright. I think St. Mary's has undergone a renovation or two since that time. I asked you before whether or not you thought that room survived. Do you know if that room where the confession took place survives or not?

A. I don't think so. I think it became part of a bigger room that is now called Father -- called Burnett Hall.

Q. Okay. And was the room where the first confession that [REDACTED] took place in, was that in a close proximity to the church?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. Did you notice anything unusual in the first confession that your oldest son, [REDACTED] had at all? Anything unusual?

A. No.

Q. Alright. You didn't notice anything unusual about Father Burnett at or about this

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1 time?

2 A. No. The only -- There was one thing  
3 that I thought was unusual. When I went to  
4 confession, we always went in the confessional.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. They were having these children go in a  
7 room with a priest looking face-to-face with the  
8 light on.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I had never heard of that before.

11 Q. I did it the old way, too.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. Okay. But as you prepared your son,  
14 [REDACTED] for first confession, did you have some  
15 indication or knowledge that it was going to be  
16 this face-to-face --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- with a priest?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Alright. Okay. I'd like to take you to  
21 the day of [REDACTED]'s, first confession --

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. -- in second grade. Okay?

24 A. Hmm.

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Q. He looked at or about what we saw him in the picture. Fair?

A. Right.

Q. Alright. And what color eyes does you son have?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

A. Right.

Q. He was fair complected?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. What, if anything, did you notice about [REDACTED] that day in getting ready for first confession?

A. He seemed nervous. He just -- You know, he didn't want to eat breakfast in the morning. He just seemed nervous, and I said, you know, [REDACTED] it's nothing to be nervous about. You know, you're making your first confession. This is really important, you know, step in your life. I said, you know, don't worry, don't be nervous. I said Father will be there with you and Father

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1 takes the place of God in the confessional, so do  
2 whatever he says.

3 Q. Okay. Is that something you have a  
4 specific recollection of telling [REDACTED] that  
5 morning?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Alright. Is this concept or notion that  
8 the priest in the confessional takes the place of  
9 God; is that something that you learned in your  
10 Catholic upbringing?

11 A. Yes, it is.

12 Q. Alright. And, in your Catholic  
13 upbringing, whether it be the sisters or priests,  
14 that you also were taught to do what they said.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Alright. And so the gist of what I  
17 believe you said was that he was nervous, as  
18 probably many kids are getting ready for a  
19 sacrament, and you told you tried to calm [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED] down by saying things will alright,  
21 just do whatever Father says to do; he takes the  
22 place of God in the confessional. Is that true?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Alright. And a scale of 1 to 10, 10



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1 being I'm sure that's exactly what I told him and  
2 I being I'm not sure that might be what I told him

3 --

4 A. I know that's exactly what I told him.

5 Q. Okay. On a scale of 1 to 10, how sure  
6 are you that's what you said?

7 A. Ten.

8 Q. Alright. As best you recall, did you or  
9 your husband or somebody else drive your son to  
10 first confession that day?

11 A. I believe my husband did.

12 Q. Okay. And I'll ask you why you remember  
13 that in a little bit, but later that day, after  
14 the first confession, did you have any visitors  
15 over to the house?

16 A. Yes, I had my in-laws over.

17 Q. Okay. And that's the [REDACTED]

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Alright. And they are active and  
20 practicing Catholics then and now?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Alright. Any other people, as far as  
23 you know? Your parents weren't over?

24 A. No, they weren't.

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1 Q. Alright. I take it -- Well, do you  
2 remember -- If you do, you do. If you don't, you  
3 don't. Do you remember what day of the week the  
4 first confession was?

5 A. I'm almost positive it was on a Saturday

6 --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- but I could be wrong.

9 Q. Not sure. We could look the date up --

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. -- and look up it out on the calendar.

12 When is the first time you saw [REDACTED]  
13 after his first confession? Could you tell me  
14 where and could you describe what he said to you  
15 and what you said to him?

16 A. Sure. I heard him come in the house. I  
17 was upstairs.

18 Q. What type of a house do you have, by the  
19 way?

20 A. We have a tri-level. There were like  
21 five steps up and five steps down to the basement.  
22 I was upstairs.

23 Q. And what's upstairs?

24 A. The bedrooms and the bathroom.

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1 Q. Okay. Alright.

2 A. And he came running up and I was, you  
3 know, excited. Tell me about your first  
4 confession, how was it, how do you feel, what  
5 happened, and he --

6 Q. As any normal mom would ask their --  
7 Right. Yeah.

8 A. Yeah. I mean -- And he said, oh, it was  
9 fine. It was fine. He goes I had to wait in line  
10 for a while. He says and then I went in, and then  
11 the -- I believe he said and then we said a prayer  
12 and then Father told me to take off my pants.

13 Q. Well, let me -- let me stop you right  
14 there. You said then Father told me to take off  
15 my pants. Was your understanding at that time  
16 that he was referring to Father Burnett?

17 A. Yes, I thought he was referring to  
18 Father Burnett.

19 Q. Because that's who was scheduled to give  
20 him his first confession. Alright. I'm going to  
21 ask you a few -- obviously, some questions after  
22 this, but on that same scale of 1 to 10, being 1  
23 I'm not sure if that's exactly what he said or 10  
24 being I'm certain that's exactly what Dave told

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me, where are you on that scale?

A. I'm -- I'm very positive, a 10.

Q. Okay. So, as best you can recall, [REDACTED] said then Father asked me to take off my pants or take my pants down. Right?

A. And I yelled at him.

Q. What did you say to that?

A. I was like, [REDACTED] don't say such a thing. It was -- I mean, it was a horrible thing to say. I mean, I have [REDACTED] and they're -- You know, boys are boys. You know, they used to laugh and give each other wedgies and stuff, but when he said -- You know, I'm like don't ever talk that way. Don't talk that way. Don't say such a thing.

Q. Right. So, in essence, it sounded like you were reprimanding [REDACTED] for --

A. Because I thought he was goofing around.

Q. Right. Okay. And were your in-laws in the house at the time?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have any concern that he might take that type of conversation downstairs in front of your in-laws?



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A. Yes.

Q. Alright. Do you remember anything else

██████████ said to you at or about that same time upstairs in the house, same day of the first confession?

A. No.

Q. Okay. I assume -- Well, I will ask you this. Did you have some refreshments or something to serve your in-laws?

A. I'm sure we had coffee and coffee cake, yeah.

Q. Your recollection that it was not dinner?

A. Oh, no, it was not dinner.

Q. Okay. And could you tell me what your custom and practice was back in about '81 or '82, when ██████████ was in second grade, with respect to tucking him in bed at night?

A. Okay. Well, at that time --

Q. Did you have such a custom and practice?

A. Oh, yeah, we did.

Q. Tell me -- Tell me what you would normally do.

A. Okay. It was, you know, taking both

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boys upstairs, you know, make them brush their teeth good, and then tucking them in, staying in the room --

Q. In the same bedroom or different bedrooms?

A. No, two different bedrooms.

Q. Okay.

A. Saying prayers with them at night.

Q. Okay.

A. And then kissing them goodnight.

Q. Okay. Do you believe you had that same custom and practice in tucking [REDACTED] in that night, meaning the night of [REDACTED]'s first confession?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. When [REDACTED] told you that Father Burnett had asked him to take his pants down, did you believe that that's what Father Burnett had asked him to do that day, or did you think [REDACTED] was just bad-mouthing?

A. No, I didn't believe it at all. I thought he was joking around.

Q. Okay. When you tucked [REDACTED] into bed that night, did you have any reason to

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believe that anything bad had happened in or during the first confession?

A. No.

Q. Would you have done the same routine in tucking him in as you did normally?

A. Yes.

Q. Alright. And you've described for us that was. Right? Do you have any specific and detailed recollection of exactly what you said to [REDACTED] and what he said to you when you tucked him in, or is it just a general recollection you followed your routine?

A. I'm sorry, it's just general. I don't recall at this time.

Q. But the specific statement that -- as you related, that Father Burnett or then he asked me to take my pants down or off, you specifically remember that?

A. I remember that.

Q. There's no doubt in your mind that's what --

A. There's no doubt in my mind.

Q. [REDACTED] said? Right. So at the end of the day, the next day, the next week, the next month,

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1 the next year, you had no inclination that  
2 anything wrong had happened in the confessional.  
3 Is that fair?

4 A. That's fair.

5 Q. Alright. I would like to jump start  
6 forward a little bit in having you tell me when it  
7 was that you first remembered that conversation  
8 about what [REDACTED] told you about Father Burnett  
9 taking his pants down, from -- from '81 or '82 and  
10 when it was in second grade, when was the next  
11 time that that conversation or thought came into  
12 your mind or memory?

13 A. That thought --

14 Q. And in relation -- Go ahead.

15 A. Okay. That thought came into my mind,  
16 well, gosh, approximately a year ago, and I should  
17 -- I don't know if you want to hear this, but how  
18 that it came about was.

19 Q. Sure. Certainly.

20 A. Okay. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had  
21 moved in with us for a couple of months until  
22 their house was ready and she was talking about,  
23 you know, the kids they were going to have and she  
24 said but we're not going to baptize them and we're



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1 not going to send them to CCD, and that sounded  
2 pretty odd to me because they got married in the  
3 Catholic Church, and I asked her why, and she said  
4 I think you better talk to your son. So that  
5 night I asked my son. I said, you know, what's  
6 this about, and that's when he told me that he was  
7 abused by Father Burnett.

8 Q. Okay. This -- We're giving this  
9 affidavit in the fall of 2006. Do you believe you  
10 had that conversation with your son in the fall of  
11 2005?

12 A. Five.

13 Q. Right. And that was when he and [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED] right --

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. -- were living in your house?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Right? And when you had the  
19 conversation with [REDACTED] about that topic and said  
20 you better talk to [REDACTED] did you have the  
21 conversation with [REDACTED] about what's up about not  
22 getting baptized the same day that you had a  
23 conversation with [REDACTED]?

24 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Okay. Because they were both living at  
2 your house --

3 A. Right.

4 Q. -- at the same time. Alright. And your  
5 house that you lived in that you're referring to  
6 is -- is where?

7 A. [REDACTED]

8 Q. Okay. In relation to that conversation  
9 that you had with [REDACTED] that same night  
10 you spoke with [REDACTED] in the fall of 2005, could  
11 you tell me when it was approximately that your  
12 first remembered this --

13 A. Conversation.

14 Q. -- conversation that took place on the  
15 second floor in your house, on the same day of the  
16 first confession?

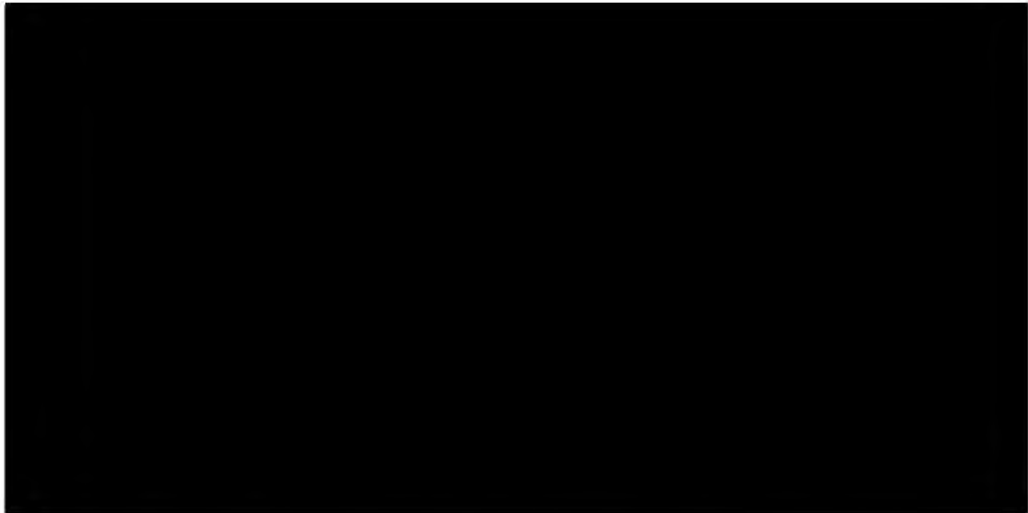
17 A. It was in the first week.

18 Q. So, whenever it was that you remembered  
19 chatting with [REDACTED] about being abused by Father  
20 Burnett, in the fall of 2005, within a week or so  
21 you remembered back to this conversation. Were  
22 you trying to think about what was going on back  
23 then, or how did that recollection come to you?

24 A. [REDACTED]

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Q. Right. And, having not thought about that for so many years, do you have any doubt that that's exactly what [REDACTED] told you back in second grade?

A. I don't have any doubt about it at all.



Q. Do you believe that that recollection corroborates [REDACTED]'s recollection that he was sexually abused by Father Burnett --

A. Yes.

Q. -- during his first confession?

A. Yes.

Q. This conversation in the fall of 2005 with [REDACTED] about being abused in that first confessional and your recollection a week or so later, is that before you had seen any information about other allegations against Father

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1 Burnett?

2 A. Yes. Basically, I hadn't heard anything  
3 about Father Burnett before. I didn't know where  
4 he was. My mom and dad are Catholics and they  
5 used to live in St. Mary's parish, and I called  
6 her up and I said, you know, can you tell me  
7 whatever happened to Father Burnett.

8 Q. You called her up shortly after [REDACTED]  
9 told you this?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Yes. In the fall of 2005?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. And I did tell her what [REDACTED] told me.  
15 You know, I probably shouldn't have but I had to  
16 tell -- I just had to tell my mom.

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. Anyway, she told me -- Well, she heard  
19 Father Burnett was dead, and I thought to myself,  
20 oh, thank God. I went home and told [REDACTED]

21 Q. Well, why did you say thank God?

22 A. Because he can't hurt anybody else.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And [REDACTED] was struggling with what to



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1 do. Should he -- Should he say something or  
2 should he not say something --

3 Q. Right.

4 A. -- and at that point I said, well, [REDACTED]  
5 if he's still with kids, you have to say  
6 something; you don't have a choice.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. But now that I heard he was dead I  
9 called -- or told [REDACTED] I said, you know what, you  
10 don't have to do anything.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. Father's dead.

13 Q. Right. And then did you have a later  
14 conversation with your mom, and tell me a little  
15 bit about that.

16 A. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] My  
19 mom called me in the morning and she said I'm so  
20 sorry, and I said what are you sorry about, and  
21 she goes didn't you watch TV last night, and I  
22 said no. She goes you didn't see the paper? I  
23 said no. Then she said Father Burnett's not dead,  
24 and I said what do you mean? She goes there's a

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boy on there saying he was abused by Father  
Burnett.

Q. And I believe you have seen newspaper  
reports after that point in time about the claim  
of [REDACTED] --

A. Yes.

Q. -- who alleged he was abused -- sexually  
abused by Father Burnett, at least according to  
the paper, included being abused at an early age  
of under 10, which included being abused in the  
confessional. Is that -- Is that fair?

A. I didn't know he was abused in the  
confessional. I know that he said he was abused  
by Father Burnett.

Q. Okay. Fair enough. I took a look at  
the newspaper articles, and the first time I saw a  
newspaper article about the Burnett -- I'm sorry,  
about the [REDACTED] matter was in the early months,  
February, I believe, of 2006. Is that about the  
time frame that you remember seeing this?

A. Yes.

Q. And, according to newspaper reports and  
a statement -- quoting a statement from the  
Archdiocese of Joliet, the first time that this

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1 was even reported to the archdiocese about the  
2 [REDACTED] boy being abused was approximately  
3 December of 2005. You with me so far?

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Shortly before February of 2006. My  
6 question is did your conversation with [REDACTED] and  
7 your recollection a week or so later, that all  
8 took place before December of 2005. Is that fair?

9 A. Definitely. Definitely.

10 Q. Alright. So neither you nor [REDACTED] to  
11 your knowledge -- You did not know anything about  
12 any complaints against Father Burnett when you  
13 recalled this, and to the best of your knowledge,  
14 [REDACTED] didn't have any such recollection.

15 A. No.

16 Q. Alright.

17 A. And then I had to call him up and tell  
18 him that the Father wasn't dead. I guess another  
19 priest had died from the parish.

20 Q. Okay. I may have one or two questions.  
21 I'd like to just take a short little break, and I  
22 may come back. Okay.

23 (WHEREUPON, a short  
24 recess was taken.)

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THE REPORTER: Back on the record. The time is 3:06 p.m.

BY MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Just a couple of follow-up questions. I just forgot a few matters. Have you had any conversations with [REDACTED] about not bringing this issue up to her parents, and if you did, the issue of [REDACTED]'s abuse.

A. Yes.

Q. And tell me what was the nature of those conversations.

A. [REDACTED]



Q. If she knew that --

A. He was abused.

Q. -- he had been abused. From what you have observed these days in 2006 and what you know now in relation to what some of [REDACTED]'s life story



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has been in the past, do you think he has been affected and damaged by this abuse?

A. I definitely believe so.

Q. Okay. I'd like to have you focus in a little bit on [redacted]'s freshman and sophomore year of college. Okay?

A. Okay.

Q. He was a good student in high school?

A. He was -- He was above average student in high school.

Q. And then he graduated from [redacted]

--

A. [redacted]

Q. -- High School, I believe.

A. Right.

Q. And I believe that was about [redacted]

A. Yes.

Q. And then he went where to college?

A. He went to [redacted]



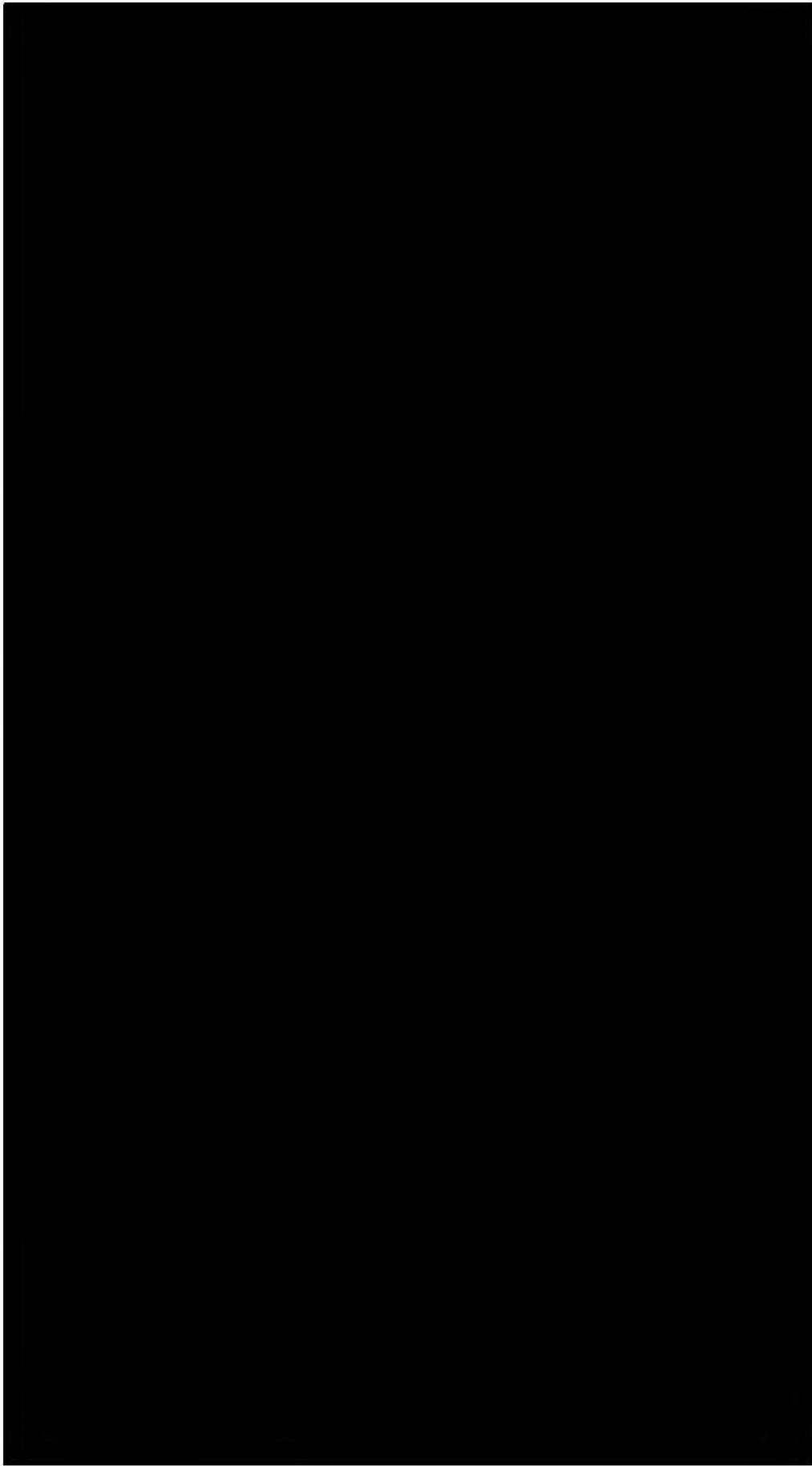
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Q. Have you seen in reports of either Father Burnett or Bishop Imesch in recent months as to whether or not anybody has been taking responsibility for sexual abuse of minors by priests in the Archdiocese of Joliet?

A. I -- There was an incident -- Gosh, I'm not quite sure -- It was in springtime where there was a letter written by Father Burnett to the parish of St. Mary's stating that it was all a lie and he didn't do anything, and Bishop Imesch, I actually felt sorry for him because he had all these priests that were, you know, accused and some convicted of abusing children, and had one of the last days before he retired he was on TV and they interviewed him, and at the end the reporter said, well, Father -- Father, what do you think about all those pedophiles, and he turned around and he said we didn't have any pedophiles in my archdiocese. We didn't have any pedophiles. Pedophiles mean they were prepubescent, and all these kids were 13 or older -- all the accusers. I mean, does it make a difference if you're 12 or if you're 13? You're still abused.

Q. The reports of, in the popular press, of



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[REDACTED] suggest that he was claiming in February of 2006 that he was abused as early as 8 years of age. Did you remember -- I'd like you to assume that. Would that suggest that --

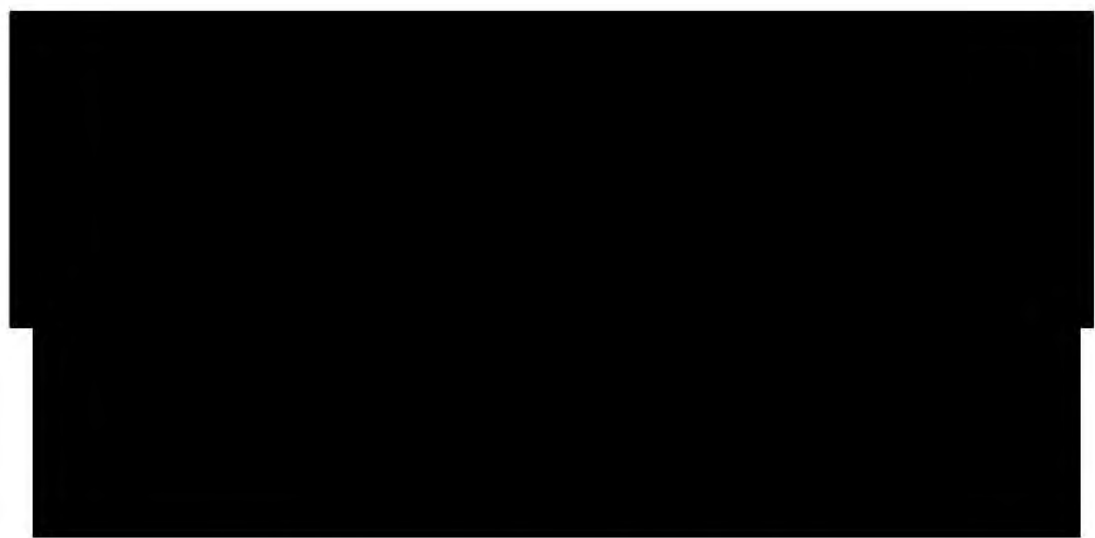
A. He knew.

Q. -- there was a claim of --

A. Oh, I know Bishop Imesch had to have known about [REDACTED] so he was lying right then, or he's senile. There's something wrong with the man.

Q. Right. Well, my question is did -- did you have some concern or anger about statements made by Bishop Imesch that seems to -- that seem to understate claims of pedophilia in the Archdiocese of Joliet.

A. Yes.



Q. If called to a deposition or a trial,

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1           could you competently testify to the facts that  
2           you did today?

3           A.    Yes.

4           Q.    I don't have any other further  
5           questions, so this will be the end of this  
6           affidavit of [REDACTED]

7                         THE REPORTER:   The time is 3:14 p.m.  
8           The running time of this videotape is 49 minutes  
9           and 18 seconds.  Going back on the record.  The  
10          time is 3:31 p.m.

11          BY MR. JOHNSON:

12                 Q.    You know, when attorneys sometimes say  
13                 they don't have anymore questions, sometimes we're  
14                 mistaken.  So, in reviewing my notes, I forgot to  
15                 ask you a couple of questions.  So could I ask  
16                 you, as many times at depositions when this  
17                 happens, would you assume that you are under the  
18                 same oath --

19                 A.    Yes.

20                 Q.    -- the same swearing-in?  So this is a  
21                 continuation of your videotaped affidavit.  Is  
22                 that fair?

23                 A.    Yes.

24                 Q.    And it's the two oaths that you agreed

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1 to answers questions of. Fair enough?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Alright. I asked you some questions  
4 about [REDACTED]

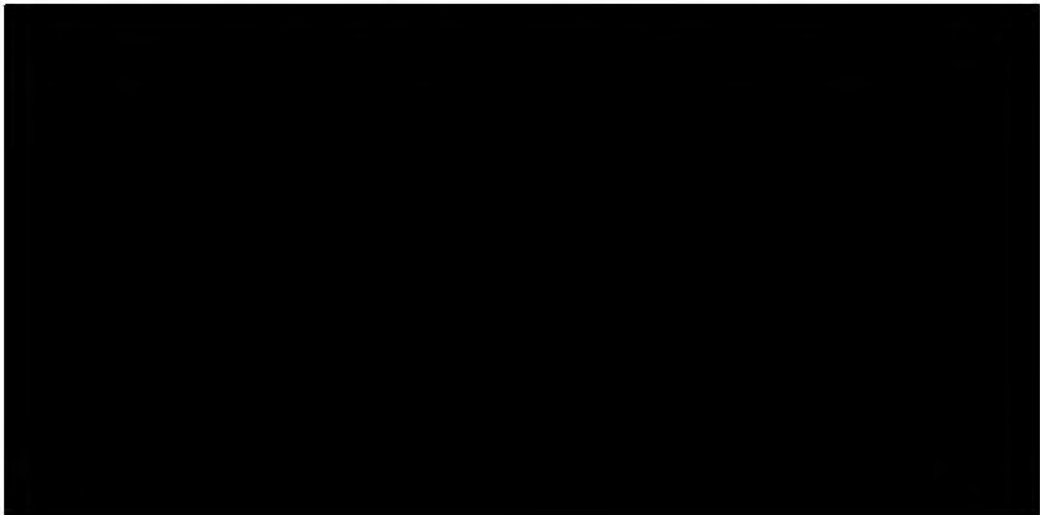
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 I had an opportunity to read a  
9 report that Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of the  
10 Archdiocese of Chicago, dated June of 1992,  
11 entitled The Cardinal's Commission on Clerical  
12 Sexual Misconduct With Minors, and it's a rather  
13 comprehensive 50-some page text, but I want to  
14 quote you from there and ask you if you believe  
15 this has any relation to [REDACTED] They're talking  
16 about impact on victims and specifically "sexual  
17 misconduct by a priest with a minor." It says in  
18 addition to being a violation of celibacy and  
19 chastity, almost always has serious harm or  
20 harmful effects on the victims, whether the matter  
21 becomes publicly known or not. They suffer a loss  
22 of self-esteem. They often find it difficult to  
23 trust an adult again. They may feel guilty. They  
24 may keep the matter hidden or repress it,

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displacing their anger at the church, the  
priesthood, even God.

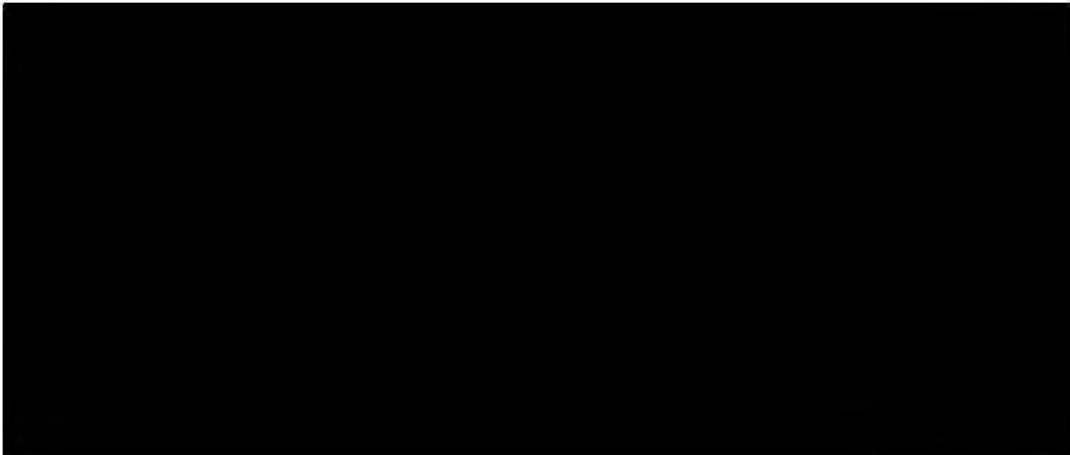
It goes on, page 10, victims' capacity  
to develop a trusting relationship with other  
clergy is impeded and may begin to lose faith in  
the sacraments of the Eucharist, capital E, and  
Penance, capital P, because they are administered  
by priests. If diocesan leaders do not respond  
effectively to victims' reports of sexual abuse by  
clergy, the victims often become further alienated  
from the church. They may ask themselves why God  
is allowing all this to happen to them. Often  
they cease being an active member of the church.  
A tragic loss for the community of faith.





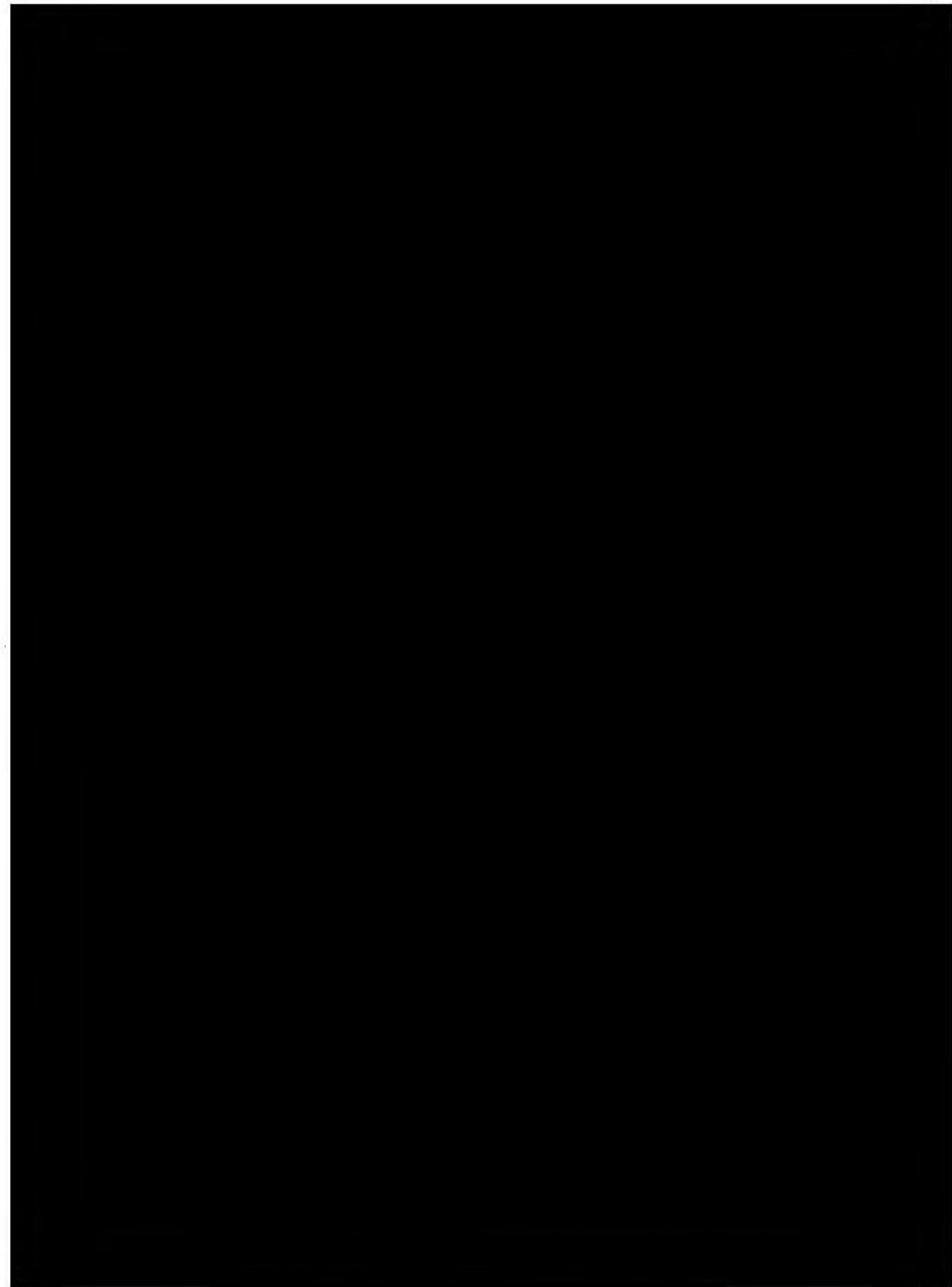
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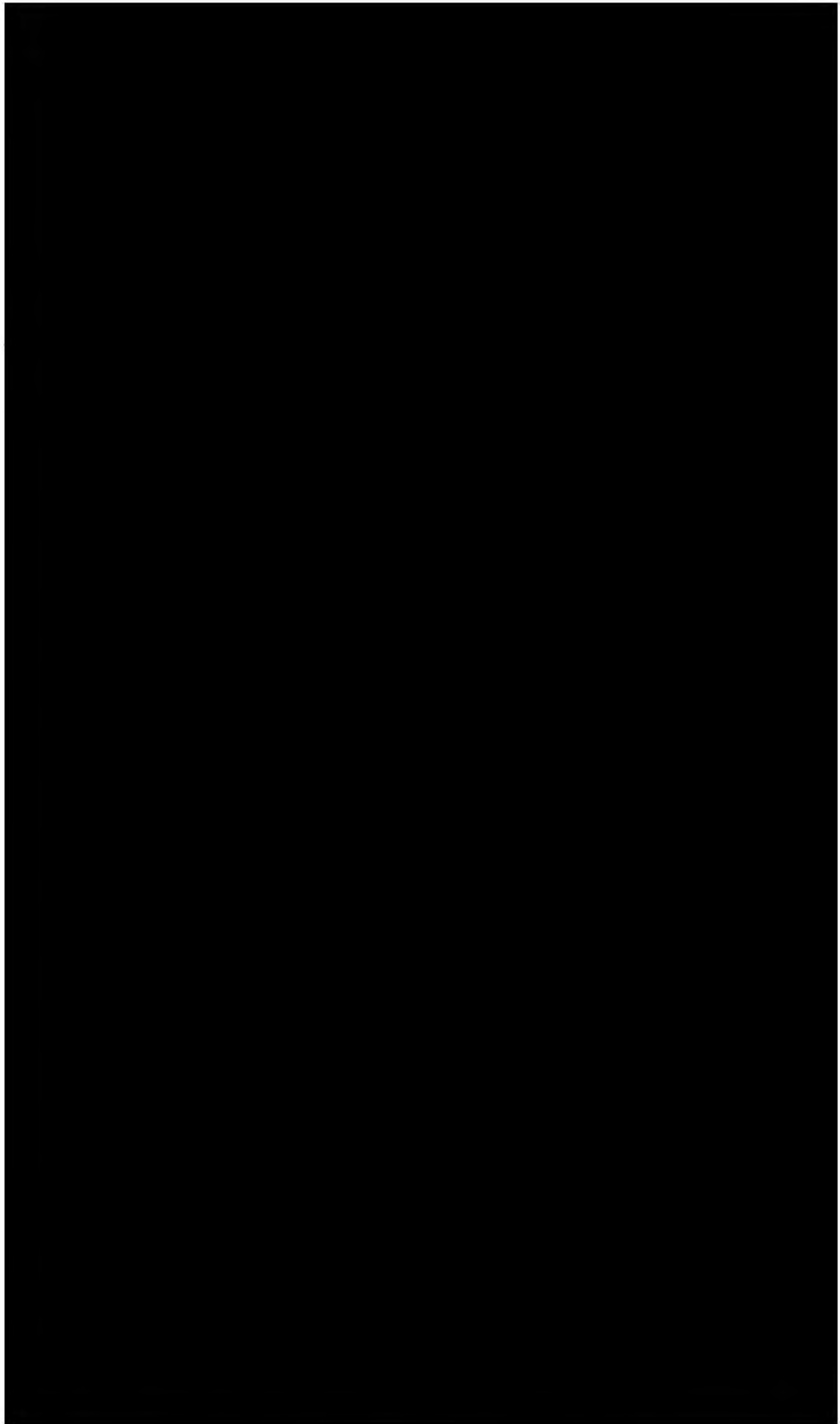
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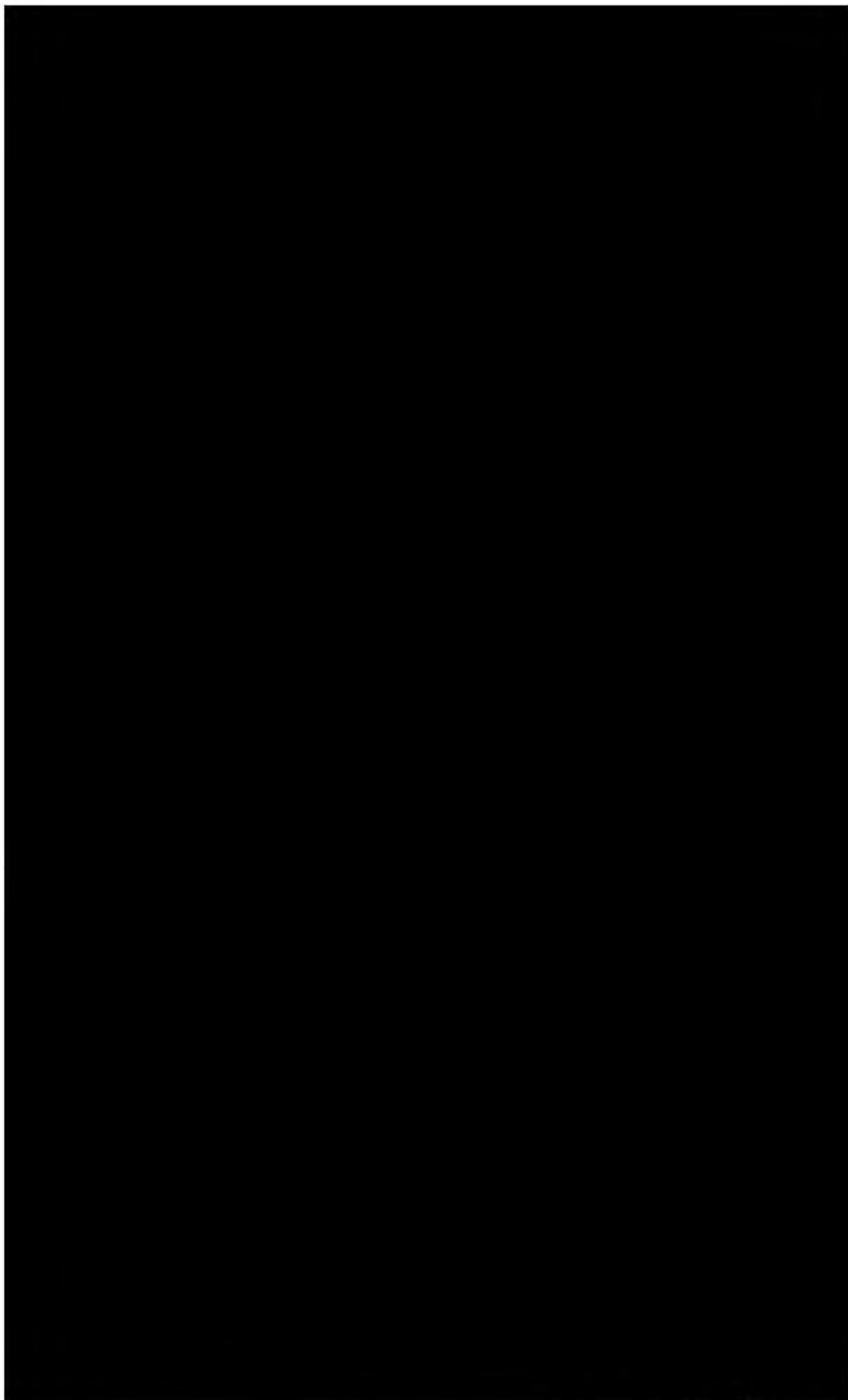
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Q. Okay. And you've answered my questions

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1 to the best of your ability considering the  
2 seriousness of the issue at hand, the alleged  
3 abuse of a minor by a Catholic Priest, and  
4 consistent with the two oaths that we talked  
5 about. Fair enough?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Alright. And, if called, you could  
8 competently testify to these additional facts and  
9 questions that I asked of you. Fair enough?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Alright. I believe these are all the  
12 questions that I have. So I'm sure we will not  
13 return, so unless asked at a later date. Thank  
14 you so much for coming today.

15 A. Thank you.

16 THE REPORTER: This is the end of the  
17 affidavit. The time is 3:41 p.m. The running  
18 time of this videotape is 59 minutes and 54  
19 seconds.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
                                  )     SS:  
COUNTY OF C O O K     )

I, PAUL DAVID GILLERAN, a Notary Public within and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois, do hereby certify that [REDACTED] the affiant, was by me first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the affidavit of the said PATRICIA RUDOFSKI was taken before me at 455 East Illinois Street, Chicago, Illinois, commencing at the hour of 2:25 p.m. on the 4th day of October, A.D. 2006, and was concluded at the hour of 3:41 p.m. on that date.

I further certify that the testimony given at said affidavit by said affiant was recorded by an audio/visual recording device, by me in the presence of said affiant and thereafter transcribed into typewriting under my direction and control.

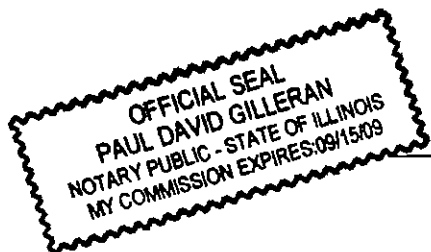
I further certify that the foregoing transcript of said videotaped affidavit is a true, complete and correct report of the entire testimony so given by said affiant, together with such other matters and things as counsel for the parties present at the taking of said affidavit desire to have appear of record.

I further certify that I am not counsel for, nor attorney for any of the parties to the aforesaid cause, nor am I

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related to any of the parties to the aforesaid cause, nor am I interested in any manner in the said cause or in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affix my seal of office, at Chicago, Illinois this 10th day of October, A.D. 2006.



  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:  
September 15, 2009.



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MEMORANDUM

To: Review Committee  
From: James C. Byrne  
Date: December 28, 2006

Re: [REDACTED]  
vs  
Father James Burnett  
Interview of [REDACTED]

---

The following is a Summary of an interview of an individual identified only as a friend of [REDACTED] whose occupation is [REDACTED]. This individual's identity is not known at this time.

The [REDACTED] is a peer of [REDACTED] who attended a public grade school. However, he was an altar boy at St. Mary's in Mokena and Father Burnett had on occasion been a guest for dinner at his parent's home when he was in grade school. His family also visited Father when Father was stationed at St. Peter and Paul.

The need for the interview was due to a second hand reported conversation in which [REDACTED] allegedly made a statement about Father Burnett that could have implied possible adverse knowledge regarding Father. The contractor reportedly stated "*that he would not be surprised if Father Burnett would be the next priest to be accused of sexual abuse of a minor.*"

[REDACTED] was recently interviewed by personnel from Attorney Johnson's office who represents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] denied making the above statement. He recalls that he was [REDACTED] and when talking to [REDACTED] he mentioned Father's name and in doing so gave an opinion "*that Father was effeminate*" or he possibly may have used the word "*queer*". He also said that he does not know of any negative information regarding Father Burnett.

JCB/skm

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[REDACTED]  
VS  
Father Burnett

**Additional Information**

Pursuant to various discussions and request the following information is being provided:

- 1.) **Background check of [REDACTED]**  
There has been a background check conducted which revealed that there had been no civil suits, no criminal charges [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] There was also a check of the sex offender registry which revealed no information.
- 2.) **Interview of [REDACTED]s college roommate.**  
-See attached
- 3.) **Interview of [REDACTED]s wife [REDACTED]**  
-See attached
- 4.) **Interview of [REDACTED]s Father.**  
-See attached

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**RESPONSE OF FATHER BURNETT**

**Prepared**

**By**

**Patrick Reardon**  
**(Civil Attorney for Father)**

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014**RESPONSE OF REVEREND JAMES R. BURNETT  
TO AN ALLEGATION BY**

[REDACTED]

**Preliminary remarks**

Father Burnett has viewed recorded interviews of [REDACTED] and of his mother, [REDACTED] and viewed the photos exhibited therein. Father has no recollection of either of these persons during the time of his parish ministry. Father was involved in the administration of sacraments during the relevant time period. For that reason he is well acquainted with the format and method of the sacrament of reconciliation or first confessions prior to first communion.

**Description of Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The accusation against Father Burnett involves a single instance of sexual misconduct alleged to have occurred during [REDACTED]'s first confession while he was a child.

[REDACTED]'s account of the format of this first reconciliation service is wrong; it does not accurately portray how this service was conducted. This reconciliation was carried out as a family-inclusive celebration. This service was directed by the Director of Religious Education. It involved as many as 100 children from several classes and the CCD program, along with all of their parents. At least one parent was required to be with the child. Father Burnett began each service in the parish church as parents sat with their children. This portion of the service resembled closely the liturgy of the word portion of the Mass. After Father's homily, he went immediately to the reconciliation room, a short distance down a hall from the church entrance doors. Parents and children lined up in the corridor. Each child had a few moments in the room for private confession while his or her parents waited directly at the door in the presence of the DRE and teachers to receive the child and return to the church to continue the service.

The wall of this reconciliation room was glass block on either side of the doorway. While offering a degree of private communication, this glass block wall offered a view of forms through it. Time was of the essence. Father Burnett had to move as rapidly as possible through the children's private confessions so that the remainder of the service could be commenced before the delay became too tedious for those waiting in the church.



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### Discrepancies in the recorded statements

██████████'s statement in her recorded interview that she asked her son about his first confession after he got home seems at variance with the fact that she would have had to be with him during the actual event. If she had not been there, then ██████████'s father would have. Based upon the proximity of the parents, Director of Religious Education or teacher, to the door and glass wall of the private confession room, it is beyond credibility that they would not have known immediately of any improper action. It is also beyond credibility that any person would attempt some improper conduct in such a context.

The other major conflict in ██████████'s recorded statement is that she reports a statement from her son that Father had him take his pants down during this confessional moment. However her son, the accuser, does not acknowledge ever making such a statement to her. Moreover, he does not currently say that this happened. ██████████'s version is that Father's hand was under his bottom as ██████████ sat on Father's lap. Father absolutely denies any such contact and points out that any such behavior would have been easily noticed at the time, even through the glass block walls.

### Conclusion

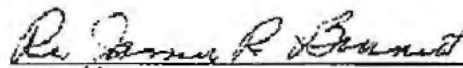
Father Burnett has attempted to live up to his calling as an ordained Catholic priest of the Diocese of Joliet. He is disappointed and discouraged that anyone would accuse him of wrongdoing. He has cooperated with the diocesan process and the concomitant loss of his good name. He does not wish this cooperation to be seen as any form of agreement that the accusation is true. Indeed it is utterly and odiously false. Father will attempt to be true to his calling and forgive those who have falsely accused him. But he does not wish this forgiveness of the accuser to be misinterpreted as any admission that the accusation is true.

## FR. BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1287

Redacted April 2014

TMJA  
Released April 2014

Father Burnett has viewed the recorded statements of [REDACTED] and of [REDACTED]'s mother, Mrs. [REDACTED]. He is aware of the accusation contained therein. Father Burnett unconditionally denies the accusation. Furthermore, as is every priest, Father is aware of the canonical strictures against the abuse of a sacrament and states that he never violated those laws. Father has patiently abided by the process of the investigation out of a realization that the protection of children is paramount. However he respectfully submits that he has a right to his own good name. He asks that the false allegations against him be dismissed as such.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. James R. Burnett

Date: January 8, 2007

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE CLIENT ONLY

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]

OUR FILE NO. GI-036-05

I N T E R V I E W

O F

FR. JAMES BURNETT

ON  
JAN 10th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2006

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.



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TMJA  
Released April 2014

### Interview of Father James Burnett

On Tuesday, January 10, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed Father James Burnett at St. Raymond's Rectory in Joliet, Illinois. The purpose of the interview was to discuss with Father Burnett the allegations of [REDACTED] and for Father Burnett to respond to those allegations. During the course of an approximate forty-minute interview, Father Burnett stated the following in summary:

- He denied ever sexually touching [REDACTED] or any other minor during the course of his ministry. This would specifically include the time he was at St. Mary's in Mokena or any of his other assignments.
- Father Burnett denied ever inappropriately touching or sexually engaging in any type of sexual activity with any minors during the course of his ministry, while at St. Mary's Church or any other time.
- He denied ever being accused of any sexual misconduct during the course of his priesthood.
- Father Burnett stated he was ordained in 1968 and has had the following four assignments: St. Charles Boromeo, Bensenville, Illinois, 1968-1974; St. Mary's Parish, Mokena, Illinois, 1974-1990; St. Peter and Paul Parish, Naperville, Illinois, 1990-2002; St. Raymond's Parish, Joliet, Illinois, 2002-present.



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Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Friday, January 13, 2006

- He stated that he recalls the [REDACTED] family from St. Mary's and recalls that there were, in fact, [REDACTED]
- He recalled [REDACTED] but not as well as he recalled [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- He stated that he first became aware of the abuse allegations by [REDACTED] when he was contacted by a reporter, who happens to be a parishioner of St. Raymond's, sometime in mid December. He stated that he immediately told Bishop Imish about the reporter's statements. He stated that he subsequently learned on Christmas Eve that the situation had escalated and would be looked at by the Review Committee.
- Father Burnett stated it is his understanding that the allegation was essentially that he had [REDACTED] remove his pants while in a confessional area.
- The investigator explained to Father Burnett that [REDACTED]'s allegations were that on several occasions, when [REDACTED] was between the ages of eight and ten, he was fondled both on his bare genital area and through his clothing by Father Burnett in a "confessional type room across from a bathroom, down a hallway, past Sister Mary James' room."
- He specifically denied ever molesting or sexually touching [REDACTED] Father Burnett stated he was familiar with that room but denied that he heard confessions in that room, particularly during school confessions. Father Burnett explained that all of the school confessions were heard in the traditional confessional in the back of the church. Father Burnett stated he may have, on a rare occasion, heard a face-to-face confession in that room but stated that it was not used for confession on even a semi-regular basis.
- Father Burnett was also advised that [REDACTED] alleged that while he was putting on altar server robes, he was fondled by Father Burnett.
- He stated that concerning the altar robes, he did not even think that [REDACTED] was an altar boy but specifically denied ever molesting him or touching him while [REDACTED] may have been putting on his altar server robes.

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Friday, January 13, 2006

- Father Burnett stated he had no idea why [REDACTED] would make these allegations and he denied ever engaging in any type of conduct with [REDACTED] that could even remotely be construed sexual or inappropriate.
- He denied knowing that [REDACTED] was allegedly molested by a member of St. Mary's.
- He further denied knowing of any other priests at St. Mary's or anywhere else who were engaging in sexual misconduct during the times that it was allegedly happening.
- When asked if he had received any letters from [REDACTED] he stated that he recalled receiving one letter from [REDACTED]. He stated that in the letter, [REDACTED] requested that Father Burnett keep him in his prayers. Father Burnett stated it was obvious that the letter was heartfelt and that in the letter, Mr. [REDACTED] expressed concern for his own safety. Father Burnett denied that there was anything in the letter that even remotely suggested that [REDACTED] was complaining of sexual misconduct.
- Father Burnett denied ever receiving any voicemails or messages to call [REDACTED] or any messages that [REDACTED] was trying to contact him. He stated that the only contact he had with [REDACTED] was the letter he received when [REDACTED] was overseas.
- [REDACTED]
- He agreed to submit to a polygraph examination to investigate the truthfulness of his denials.

\* \* \*

On Thursday, January 12, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby arranged for Father Burnett to submit to a polygraph examination to be conducted at the office of F.L. Hunter & Associates, 930 North York, Hinsdale, Illinois. After discussing the matter with Attorney Jim Byrne and Polygraph Examiner Hunter, the following four relevant questions were agreed upon:

1. Did you ever touch [REDACTED]'s bear penis?
2. Did you ever fondle [REDACTED]'s bare genitals?
3. Did you ever touch [REDACTED]'s genitals through his clothing?

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Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Friday, January 13, 2006

4. In the 1990's, were you made aware of any attempts by [REDACTED] to contact you by phone?

The examination is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 1:00 PM.

Attempted Interview with [REDACTED]

On Tuesday, January 10, 2006, Investigator Kirby attempted to contact [REDACTED]. The investigator left a message for [REDACTED] to contact him but to date a return call has not yet received.

**This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.**



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TMJA  
Released April 2014

# F.L. Hunter and Associates, Inc.

930 N. YORK ROAD HINSDALE, ILLINOIS 60521 (630) 920-0571 Fax (630) 920-0587  
FRED L. HUNTER  
DIRECTOR

Mr. James C. Byrne  
Attorney at Law  
815 N. Larkin  
Joliet, IL.  
60434

February 02, 2006

On January 19, 2006, Rev. James R. Burnett voluntarily submitted himself to a polygraph examination in this laboratory. The purpose of this examination was to investigate his involvement in the alleged sexual touching of [REDACTED]'s genitals in the 1970's while at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois.

Prior to his exam, he signed an agreement to take the polygraph examination and to allow the results and any relevant statements to be reported to Attorney James Byrne, the Joliet Archdiocese, and Investigator Steve Kirby. He also released all parties involved from any liability as it may relate to the provisions of this agreement. All executed agreement and health forms are incorporated as part of our file in this case.

## PRETEST INTERVIEW

He indicated that he knew of a number of [REDACTED] families belonging to the St. Mary's Parish in Mokena when he was there. However, he was never really friendly with [REDACTED]'s family. He denied that he had ever been at their home for any type of social event.

He stated that he had gone to St. Procopious Seminary in Lisle, [REDACTED]

They were separate and distinct institutions and there was little or no interaction between the two areas.

He stated that he did not recall that [REDACTED] was ever an altar boy. However if he did this would have been when he was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade (12 or 13 years old).

He indicated that his parish in Naperville upgraded their phones in the late 1990's (98) so that it had voicemail ability. He said that when [REDACTED] wrote him, he did receive the letter in Naperville and he would have replied on church stationary.



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Released April 2014

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Page 2

Mr. James C. Byrne  
Attorney at Law  
Rev. James R. Burnett

### Test Results

The following listed questions were asked of this subject during the polygraph exam.

1. Did you ever touch [REDACTED]'s genitals through his clothing? Answer (NO)
2. Did you ever touch [REDACTED]'s bare penis? Answer (NO)
3. Did you ever sexually fondle [REDACTED]'s bare genitals? Answer (NO)
4. In the 1990's, were you ever made aware of any attempts by [REDACTED] to contact you by telephone? Answer (NO)

**There was a void of any significant physiological responses throughout his polygraph records on the above listed relevant questions.**

**His polygraph records were also void of any significant physiological responses to the comparison and truthful questions utilized during his exam.**

**There was a consistent series of deeper breathes or sigh anomalies throughout his polygraph records on all test segments that did distort his respiration pattern.**

### DISCUSSION

**Due to the lack of valid physiological responses, it was suggested by this laboratory that Rev. James R. Burnett should be re-examined on a later date. On February 02, 2006, he returned to this laboratory for this suggested re-exam. He was encouraged to try and refrain from the deeper breathes or sighs during this exam.**

**It should be noted that this date his responses were identical to his previous evaluation from January 19, 2006. His records also continued to show the deeper breathes or sighing type responses on a consistent basis.**

**Based on the entire Polygraph evaluation of both dates, no valid opinion as to either truth or deception could be rendered to any of the relevant questions under investigation.**

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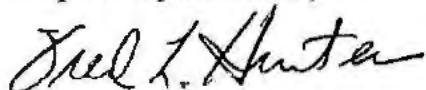
Page 3

Mr. James C. Byrne  
Attorney at Law  
Rev. James R. Burnett

**The regularly placed deeper breathes or sighs during the exams seem to be anomalies more consistent with nervousness than any intentional countermeasure by which to cause distortions of his physiological data. However, all said and done, these anomalies are still suspect.**

**Absent of a valid polygraph evaluation, it is suggested that further conventional type investigation be done to try and substantiate the credibility of allegations made by parties in this investigation. Specifically, whether or not Rev. James R. Burnett did or did not visit socially the [REDACTED] home as indicated by witnesses to this allegation, as well as any other opposite points of contention.**

Respectfully submitted,



Fred L. Hunter

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

000033

**Fr. James Burnett**  
**(Ordained 6-25-68)**

6-15-68	to	2-15-74	Associate	-	St. Charles Borromeo, Bensenville
2-15-74	to	7-14-74 <sup>78</sup>	Associate	-	St. Mary Parish, Mokena
7-14-78	to	6-20-90	Pastor	-	St. Mary Parish, Mokena
6-20-90	to	6-19-02	Pastor	-	St. Peter & Paul, Naperville
6-19-02	to	Present	Pastor	-	St. Raymond Cathedral, Joliet

**Fr. Burnett's Priest File**

Fr. Burnett's priest file was reviewed and there are no allegations of any type of misconduct.

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

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000059

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT SEVEN)

OUR FILE NO. GI-036-05

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

FEB. 17th 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

This report has been exclusively prepared by Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. for the confidential use of the client only. If prepared under the direction of an attorney, it was done so in anticipation of litigation. This report is a confidential and privileged communication. The information contained within is provided in good faith and has been gathered by sources deemed reliable. However, no guarantee or other representation is made to its accuracy or its suitability for any particular purpose. Neither Edward R. Kirby & Associates, Inc. nor its employees and agents shall be held responsible for any inaccuracies in public record information or any other information as it has been presented herein. By acceptance of this report, the client accepts full responsibility for any use or disclosure of this report or its contents.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

On Friday, February 17, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby met with and interviewed

[REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he currently resides at [REDACTED]. His office phone number is [REDACTED] and his cell phone number is [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] stated that he attended St. Mary's Grade School for eight years graduating in [REDACTED] (same year as [REDACTED]).

[REDACTED] advised that since this matter has been published in the newspapers he has discussed this with five or six former classmates and all but one have expressed strong opinions that alleged molestation never occurred. He stated only one of his former classmates, [REDACTED] stated that he is "on the sidelines" because he is just not sure.

[REDACTED] stated that it is his opinion, as well as those of the people he spoke with, that there simply was not the opportunity for Father Burnett to have molested [REDACTED] between forty and one hundred occasions as alleged. He stated that there was little extra curricular activities at the school and that most children left the school when school was over to get on the school bus and leave. He stated that he never knew [REDACTED] to hang around the school. Furthermore, he does not recall [REDACTED] ever being called out of class by Father Burnett to serve mass or for any other reason. He did acknowledge, however, that [REDACTED] was an altar boy. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that at least one of his friends, [REDACTED] who was a classmate and graduated from St. Mary's in [REDACTED] also remembered that [REDACTED] was seldom picked as a funeral mass server. [REDACTED] contention was that if Father Burnett had targeted [REDACTED] one would think he would have taken him out of class, which did not occur.

[REDACTED] stated he was unaware of any socialization by Father Burnett with [REDACTED]'s family of if Father Burnett ever attended family gatherings at the [REDACTED] household.

Regarding confessions, [REDACTED] recalled that confessions for the entire school were only held two or three times a year and that for the most part those confessions were an "assembly line" in that the children would line up outside the office with the glass block walls and go in and out within a minute or two. He described the room as having a chair with a screen where someone could confess, at least, semi-anonymously and chairs that were face to face. He stressed that there were teachers present outside the room in order to keep the students orderly and that the confessions were very short duration.

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TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

[REDACTED]

When asked, he stated that [REDACTED]'s closest friends were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

He stated that he knew Father Burnett as a decent individual and did not believe that he would engage in any inappropriate activity. [REDACTED] provided a letter (copy attached) he sent to several newspapers in which he states, "Father Burnett was a caring, influential priest who help grow St. Mary's Church into the great parish it is now." He also stated in a letter, "During my eight years at St. Mary's, I never saw any indication of, nor did I ever feel that there was any inappropriate behavior going on between Father Burnett and any of the other students." He also stated that Father Burnett was actually much closer to his brother, [REDACTED] who graduated a few years ahead of [REDACTED]. He stated that he discussed the allegations with his brother, [REDACTED] and his brother assured him that at no time did Father Burnett ever make any inappropriate advances towards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that if he could be of further assistance, the investigator should contact him and stated that he would cooperate fully in the future.

**This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.**

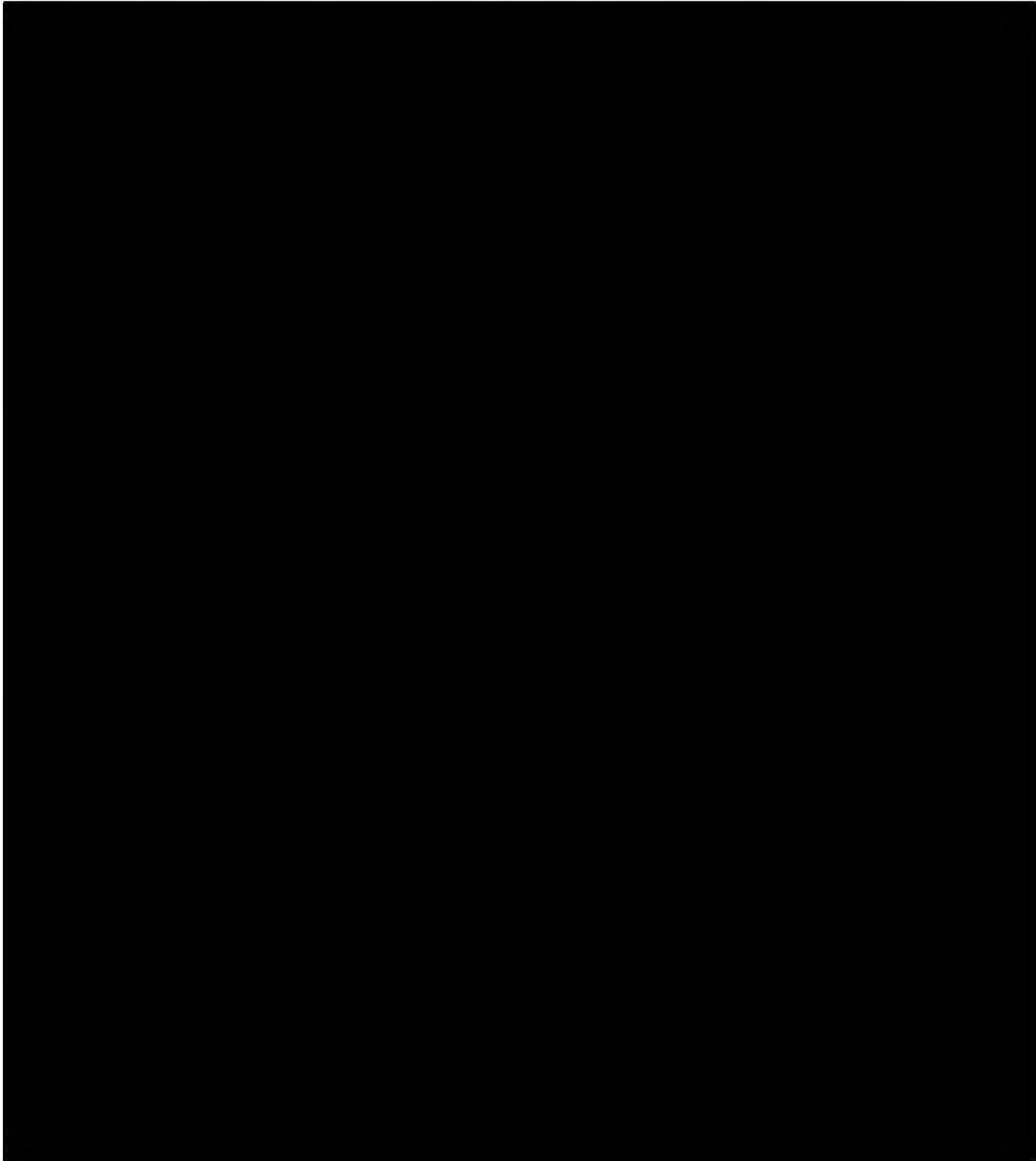
FR, BURNETT SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1379

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Monday, February 20, 2006

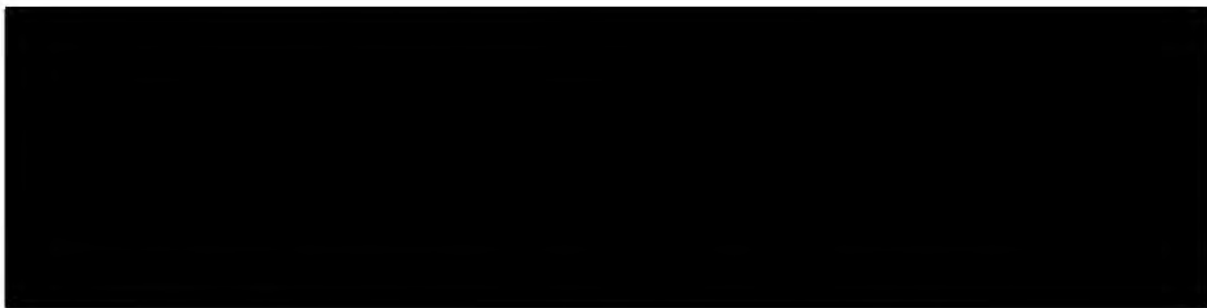
000064

On February 20, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby interviewed [REDACTED] over the telephone concerning the above captioned matter. [REDACTED] sent a letter to Bishop Imesch with a copy going to Sister Judith Davies on February 14, 2006 in which he expressed his opinion that the allegations relating to Father Burnett were not true. He stated that he would be willing to discuss the letter with a representative of the diocese.



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Monday, February 20, 2006



This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.



000067

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Wednesday, March 08, 2006

On Tuesday, March 7, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby interviewed Father Vytas Memenas, who is currently assigned to St. Anthony Parish, 100 North Scott, Joliet, Illinois 60432, telephone [REDACTED]. Father Memenas was Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Mokena from 1972 to 1978. Father Burnett was an associate at St. Mary's from 1974 to 1978 (before being designated Pastor) and lived and worked with Father Memenas during those four years.

Father Memenas stated that he did not have any firsthand information one way or the other that would directly address the allegations of [REDACTED] but emphatically stated that he did not believe the allegations. When asked why, he stated that he always knew Father Burnett to be respectful in how he treated people and never knew him to engage in any type of inappropriate behavior or even suspicious behavior with juveniles during the four years that he worked with him. He stated that from what he knew of Father Burnett's character he did not believe him to be the kind of priest that would abuse anyone. He described Father Burnett as somewhat of a "loner" who did not socialize or go to parishioner's homes often.

Father Memenas pointed out that when he was requested by Bishop Kucera to go to St. Patrick, he told the Bishop that one of the conditions for him accepting the transfer would be for Father Burnett to be made Pastor of St. Mary's. He stated that he would not have made this recommendation had he not had the utmost confidence in Father Burnett. He also pointed out that at the time Father Burnett was only ten years ordained.

Father Memenas stated he has also learned that a number of former classmates of [REDACTED] have stepped forward and publicly supported Father Burnett, including [REDACTED] and members of the [REDACTED] family.

Father Memenas stated that he also knew [REDACTED] of St. Mary's Parish. Father Memenas stated that he also recalls [REDACTED] who would have been six to eight years old when Father Memenas left St. Mary's and was reassigned to St. Patrick Parish in Joliet. He did not have any relevant information regarding [REDACTED].

Father Memenas did point out that the [REDACTED] would have actually been members of [REDACTED] based upon where they resided in the seventies. Father Memenas stated that [REDACTED] did not have a grade school and that parishioners from [REDACTED] who wanted to attend a Catholic grade school would have been bussed to St. Mary's in Mokena but presumably would have gone to the sacraments at [REDACTED].

This Investigation Is Continuing With Supplemental Reports To Follow.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT 11)

OUR FILE NO. GI-036-05

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

APRIL 18, 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006

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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: [REDACTED]  
File No.  
Date:

Allegations of [REDACTED]  
GI-036-05  
Tuesday, April 18, 2006

000069

On Saturday, April 15, 2006, Investigator Steven L. Kirby spoke with [REDACTED] who was married to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The investigator had made previous attempts to contact [REDACTED] and had left two or three messages on her voice mail requesting a call back. She explained that she had been out of town and had just picked up the investigator's messages the previous day.

[REDACTED] stated that her mailing address is [REDACTED]

During the course of her interview, she made the following relevant statements:

- [REDACTED]
- She stated unequivocally that he never talked about being sexually abused by any member of the Catholic Church or anyone in his life. She stated that [REDACTED] considered himself a Catholic (occasionally going to Mass) and occasionally talked about growing up as a Catholic in Illinois. She stated that during those times, he never mentioned any type of abuse situation and never really talked much about his time in grade school. She never heard him mention Father Burnett's name in any context.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]



Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED]  
(SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT NO. 12)

OUR FILE NO. GI-036-05

I N T E R V I E W

O F

[REDACTED]

O N

JAN. 5th 2007

CONFIDENTIAL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 05, 2007

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Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
(Supplemental Report 12)  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Friday, January 05, 2007

### PREDICATION

The client requested that this office locate and interview [REDACTED] formerly of Mokena, Illinois and a St. Mary's parishioner regarding unsubstantiated reports that when he attended St. Mary's in the 1980's that his parents either refused to let him serve as an altar boy or required him quit being an altar boy because of concerns they had concerning Father Burnett.

### INVESTIGATION

During the course of the initial investigation, [REDACTED] was found to be residing at [REDACTED]

On Thursday, January 4, 2007, Investigator Steven L. Kirby contacted [REDACTED] by phone and conducted a telephonic interview. The following is a summary of that conversation:

[REDACTED] confirmed that he attended St. Mary's Parish in Mokena, Illinois from 1977 to 1985 and was a classmate of [REDACTED]. He stated that after [REDACTED] allegations became public information he heard about them from several sources. He then sent [REDACTED] an email offering his sympathies and support. [REDACTED] then telephoned him and they had a brief discussion of the allegations, but that [REDACTED] did not relate any information to him other than what was generally in the news media. He further stated that [REDACTED] did not give him any specifics.

[REDACTED] also stated that in recently discussing this matter with his parents, his parents told him that they thought "Burnett was weird." He said his parents told him that one of the reasons that they never encouraged him to be an altar boy was because of their concerns of Burnett. [REDACTED] confirmed that he had related this to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he never really wanted to be an altar boy and was never, in fact, a server at St. Mary's Parish. He further stated that he was never bothered by Father Burnett and was not aware of anyone who was. He stated that [REDACTED] is the only person he knows that has made allegations and that he does not have any real firsthand knowledge as to whether or not [REDACTED]'s allegations are true.

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Re: Allegations of [REDACTED]  
(Supplemental Report 12)  
Our File No. GI-036-05  
Date: Friday, January 05, 2007

He did confirm that he considered himself a friend of [REDACTED]s and associated with him through the college years up to about ten years ago. He stated that they then fell out of contact until recently when he heard about the allegations against Father Burnett.

[REDACTED]

END OF REPORT

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

**RESPONSE OF FATHER BURNETT**

**Prepared**

**By**

**Patrick Reardon**  
**(Civil Attorney for Father)**

**RESPONSE OF REVEREND JAMES R. BURNETT  
TO AN ALLEGATION BY**

[REDACTED]

**History of allegations**

In approximately December, 2005, [REDACTED] made allegations against Father James Burnett accusing him of acts of sexual misconduct with a minor beginning with abuse during a sacrament of reconciliation. Father has cooperated with the procedures of the Diocese of Joliet and remained absent from ministry for the last year while these allegations have been investigated and reviewed. As a part of this process of review, Father Burnett personally appeared before the Review Board of the Diocese and both presented his position and answered any questions. For this reason, Father will make only a brief additional written statement at this time summarizing what has already been of record.

**Summary of previous response**

Father has never had any particular relationship with [REDACTED]. He was a student at St. Mary School along with his brothers and sister. Contrary to [REDACTED]'s statement, Father Burnett was never a close friend of the [REDACTED] family, never had dinner at their home and does not even know where they lived.

[REDACTED]

Father Burnett believes that the Review Board has already investigated the circumstances surrounding the accusation of improper conduct during the sacrament of reconciliation. The location of the confession room and the glass block walls and the fact that teachers, other students, and often parents, were directly outside this glass block wall during children's confessions make an accusation of misconduct in this context patently false. Father did not take [REDACTED] out of the classroom for any reason. Such actions would have given rise to immediate questions by teachers and administrators.

Father remembers receiving one letter from [REDACTED] asking Father to pray for [REDACTED]. He responded with a letter assuring [REDACTED] of the prayers of his entire parish. Nothing in that correspondence referenced anything related to the current accusations.



01/08/2007 16:44 7737285734

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

Father Burnett has previously answered the false accusations of [REDACTED] in a personal meeting with the Review Board. He re-affirms his previous statements and hereby restates his unconditional denial of these allegations. Father regrets that this person has chosen to make false statements about him. He has struggled to forgive and will pray for his accuser. He respectfully requests that the false allegations against him be dismissed.

Rev. James R. Burnett  
Rev. James R. Burnett

Date: January 8, 2007