



May 2, 2014

Archdiocesan Statement regarding Harry Quigg

In 2004, the Archdiocesan Case Review Board concluded that Harry Quigg had engaged in sexual contact with a 17 year old in 1980. Because the age of majority in 1980 under both canon law and civil law was 16, the Board also concluded that the contact did not constitute sexual abuse of a minor. Subsequent to 1980, Harry Quigg and the complainant engaged in a 15 year relationship. There are no other known allegations against Harry Quigg.

As a result of Quigg's actions, the Review Board recommended to the Archbishop that he was not suitable for priestly ministry. Once the determination was made that Quigg's behavior was not sexual abuse of a minor but sexual misconduct it no longer was under the purview of the Review Board but instead was monitored by the Archdiocesan Vicar for Clergy Office.

The information was not made public because of the determination that the sexual contact did not involve a minor. For the same reason, Quigg's request to respect his privacy was observed. Archbishop Brunett informed him, in person and in writing, that he was not eligible to participate in any public priestly ministry, present himself publicly as a priest, or wear clerical garb. Quigg agreed to the restrictions placed upon him and committed to participate in the Archdiocesan relapse prevention program which included the services of a qualified third party monitor with experience supervising all types of sexual offenders.

It is evident from what the Archdiocese has learned recently that Harry Quigg did not comply with the terms of his ministry restrictions. It is also clear, given this information, that the steps taken by the Archdiocese were not sufficient to alert us of Quigg's violations of the restrictions on the celebration of the sacraments. The Archdiocese will make changes to minimize the chances of this type of situation from occurring again including alerting parish leadership when restrictions are in place. St. Bridget's and Assumption parish leadership were unaware of Quigg's restrictions.

The Archdiocese is undertaking a thorough review of the relapse prevention program and the steps taken to prevent any priest whose ministry has been restricted for any reason from violating those restrictions. In consultation with the current Archdiocesan Review Board we will especially be reviewing our monitoring systems related to priests who have abused minors.

The Archdiocese takes the abuse of power and exploitation of the vulnerable, whether minors or adults, very seriously. This type of behavior is the opposite of what the Church stands for as Christ's instrument in society. Any violation of trust on the part of those serving in ministry is sinful and unacceptable. We promise to learn from this experience and continue to improve our policies and practices so that priests who are not qualified to serve in ministry or present themselves publicly as priests are prevented from doing so to the extent possible.