

June 10, 1997

Rev. Thomas Brundage
3501 S. Lake Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Father Brundage:

I was stationed in Chicago as chaplain of the deaf from 1955 until 1963. I believe it was in the early part of that period that several deaf teenagers who lived in Chicago but attended St. John's School in Milwaukee made some remarks that indicated that Fr. Murphy was taking advantage of them. It was either at that time or on another occasion that they or other deaf boys mentioned that he would go into their dormitory at night and suggested that one of the boys should come to his room to go to confession. I did not discuss any details with them.

I drove to Milwaukee to meet with the then Archbishop Meyer. Later he informed me that Fr. Murphy had at first denied the charges but two weeks later admitted them. He was sent to some retreat house in northern Wisconsin and told to return to St. John to undo the harm he had done. At a convention of pastoral workers with the deaf Larry told me I should have gone directly to him when the matter came to light with the Archbishop.

Dates and events are now foggy in my memory but I do recall very clearly the following: a group of young deaf boys placed circulars on the windshields of priests at a clergy meeting accusing Fr. Murphy of sexual activities with them. The deaf members of a local newspaper's printers' union insisted that a strong article be placed in one of the papers. Archbishop Cousins called a meeting of the teachers at St. John's school but Fr. Murphy was the interpreter at the meeting. I recall very vividly a deaf man stopping to see me in Chicago and using the occasion to tell me that Fr. Murphy had given him a catalogue of homo-sexual bars, etc., in various cities. I got the very strong feeling that this deaf man was feeling guilty and wanted me to take action to defend deaf persons and to put an end to Fr. Murphy's activities. I called Archbishop Cousins and in response to his very direct questions indicated that I thought Fr. Murphy was still active and was influencing deaf persons. Shortly after that Fr. Murphy was removed from the diocese. At various conventions, workshops, etc., I sometimes met deaf people who told me they had seen him in Milwaukee, etc.

On the telephone I mentioned that the reports concerning his use of the confessional to provide homosexual activities seemed serious enough to me to be reported. I sought the advice of our moral professor at Oconomowoc and followed his advice to report the matter to the Apostolic Delegate in Washington. What may have happened I do not know. This was my last involvement in the matter.

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Sincerely,
David Walsh
David Walsh, CSSR