

AUG 16 2002

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I write to acknowledge the information that Peter Burns, formerly a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, now laicized by decree of the Holy See, has received a revocation of his probation, and has been returned to residence at Dodge Correctional Facility in Waupun, Wisconsin. Richard J. Sklba

J. Hornacek
FYI
RJS

"Walter, Kathy Lyn DOC" wrote:

It is my understanding that Mr. Burns no longer functions as a Roman Catholic priest, but that technically he may still be considered a priest by the laws of the Church. Therefore, I am forwarding this information to you with the expectation that you may want to forward this information to Fr. Joe Hornacek.

Mr. Burns' probation has been revoked primarily for having unapproved and unsupervised contact with minors between the years of 1997 and 2002. The contacts were discovered in the spring of 2002. Upon the completion of an administrative revocation hearing, an administrative law judge decided to revoke. The decision was appealed by Mr. Burns through his attorney. The judge's decision was sustained by the Administrator of the Division of Hearings and Appeals. Therefore, within a few days to weeks, Mr. Burns will be transported to Dodge Correctional Institution, the Department of Corrections reception center for prison inmates. Mr. Burns has a stayed 7 year sentence.

Would you please respond briefly to this message so that I can add your office email address to my "address book"? Thank you.

Kathy Lyn Walter
Office Phone: (414) 382-7830
Pager Number: (414) 575-1049
Office FAX 1: (414) 382-7837
Office FAX 2: (414) 382-7976
E-Mail Address: kathy.walter@doc.state.wi.us

9/20/91

Case [REDACTED]

Officer Christenson and Detective Sorensen traveled to St. Peter Claver Rectory, [REDACTED] and made contact with Father Peter Burns and asked that he accompany officers to the police department. At police headquarters Peter Burns was advised of his Miranda warnings which he signed, stating he understood same and did talk to Officers. Peter Burns was advised that we had been contacted by a juvenile about improper conduct on the part of Peter Burns concerning this individual. He was also advised that we were aware that this juvenile had contacted Peter by phone twice on Wednesday, September 18th, and we were aware of the contents of the phone conversation. Peter Burns stated that he thought he met [REDACTED] in 1985 when [REDACTED] joined St. Peter Claver. Peter stated that he trained [REDACTED] as a server and came to know him through that. Peter stated that he played a lot of raquetball with [REDACTED] and remembered taking him to the seminary in Milwaukee, swimming. Peter stated he thought he took him to the seminary swimming sometime in 1986. He stated the reason for taking [REDACTED] to the seminary was that [REDACTED] expressed an interest in the priesthood. Upon leaving the seminary he stated they did travel back to the rectory at [REDACTED] and watch a movie and both the parties subsequently slept. Peter stated that he could not remember touching [REDACTED] while they were in bed because he pretty well had blocked out everything in his memory due to preoccupation with counselling a Milwaukee murder victim's family. Peter then asked what [REDACTED] had told officers. I then informed Father Burns that [REDACTED] had stated that Father Burns asked him if he would rather sleep in the bed or in the couch and when [REDACTED] responded the couch Father Burns said no, sleep in the bed, you'll be more comfortable. I informed him that [REDACTED] entered the bed and a very short time later Father Burns entered the bed and upon laying next to [REDACTED] placed his hand over him onto his penis at which time [REDACTED] stated stop that and Father Burns removed his hand immediately. I then informed him that [REDACTED] said he quickly put the hand back on at which time [REDACTED] said I told you not to do that and [REDACTED] rolled over on his stomach at which time Father Burns stopped and faced the other way. I further advised Father Burns that [REDACTED] stated that the following morning he was told by Father Peter that he should take a shower. [REDACTED] entered the shower. A short time later Father Peter joined him in the shower at which time Peter reached down and grabbed his penis to which [REDACTED] stated I told you not to do that and Father Peter immediately stopped. Peter stated that he is fully capable of doing what [REDACTED] stated was done. Father Peter stated that he had been accused of this incident once before and did in fact fondle a boy when he was in his bed but the District Attorney never issued charges against him for that. He stated that he is in counselling for his problem. Father Peter stated that he could have inadvertently touched [REDACTED] penis while they were wrestling around as he wrestled around with his brothers all the time and did that with numerous individuals. Father Peter did state, however, a short time later that he did now remember touching [REDACTED]'s penis while in the bed but did not remember the incident in the shower. Father Peter was very emotional while

talking to officers and stated that he was feeling really bad about what had happened. Father Peter stated several times that he knows [REDACTED] would not lie about this and is convinced that if [REDACTED] said it happened, it did happen. Father Peter was having a difficult time relating the incident that occurred in the shower but eventually did state to officers that he did in fact grab [REDACTED]'s penis while in the shower. Upon stating that he had grabbed [REDACTED]'s penis while in the shower Father Peter did become emotional and did cry at this point. At this time Father Peter was asked if he would give officers a written statement and he stated that he would be uncomfortable giving officers a written statement without having a lawyer present. At this point, the interview was terminated. Burns was booked, processed and transported to the Sheboygan County Jail pending conference with the District Attorney's Office for charges. OFF. CHRISTENSON/DET. SORENSEN/gaj

cc: D. A. Office

WISCONSIN

30106

CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH#III

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
JUDGEMENT OF CONVICTION

STATE OF WISCONSIN, PLAINTIFF

() Sentence to WI State Prisons

vs

() Sentence Withheld, Probation Ordered

PETER A. BURNS, Defendant

(X) Sentence Imp/Stayed, Probation Ordered

6/12/59, DOB

Cs.#91CF256

The defendant entered pleas of: () Guilty () Not guilty (X) No Contest

The (X) Court () Jury found the defendant guilty of the following crime(s):

CRIME(S)	WI STATUTE(S) VIOLATED	FEL/MISD (F OR M)	CLASS (A-E)	DATE(S) COMMITTED
2ND DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT	940.225(2)E	F	C	W/E 1/23/88- 2/6/88
*91CF287 SEXUAL ASSAULT	940.225(2)E	F	C	FIRST 1/2 OF 1/87

***THE ABOVE CHARGE WAS USED
AS A READ IN FOR SENTENCING
PURPOSES**

The defendant is convicted on 1/22/92

The defendant is sentenced on 4/24/92

T IS ADJUDGED that the defendant is convicted as found guilty, and:
X] is sentenced to the **DODGE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION** for **7 YRS**,

X] is placed on probation for 10 YRS MONTHS,
X] is to pay:

fine of	\$
attorney fees of	
court costs of	<u>42.00</u>
restitution of	
other fees	

X] is to pay mandatory victim/witness surcharges:

Felony 1 counts	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Misd counts	\$
Total	\$ <u>50.00</u>

X] is to be incarcerated in the County Jail:

period of 9 MO COM 6/24/92 @7PM IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY AND PAY

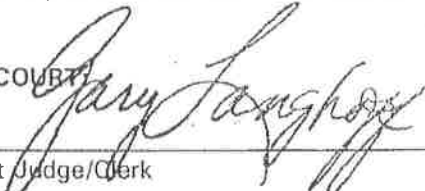
**VICTIMS' COUNSELING FEES, NO CONTACT WITH VICTIMS OR THEIR FAMILIES EXCEPT THRU THERAPY,
CONTINUE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING AND NO UNSUPERVISED CONTACT WITH MINORS AND MAY BE
RELEASED ON SATURDAY AM FOR COUNSELING**

X] is granted work/study release privileges.

T IS ADJUDGED that 0 days sentence credit are due pursuant to s. 973.155 WI Stats. and shall be credited if on
probation and it is revoked.

T IS ORDERED that the Sheriff shall deliver the defendant into the custody of the Department located in the City of
AUPUN.

NAME OF JUDGE GARY LANGHOFF

BY THE COURT

Circuit Ct Judge/Clerk
4/24/92

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY JAMES FRISCH

DEFENSE ATTORNEY ALEX FLYNN

DATE SIGNED AMENDED 5/27/92

STATE OF WISCONSIN, PLAINTIFF

() Sentence to WI State Prisons

vs

() Sentence Withheld, Probation Ordered

PETER A. BURNS, Defendant

(X) Sentence Imp/Stayed, Probation Ordered

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91CF287 SEXUAL ASSAULT	940.225(2)E	F	C	FIRST 1/2 OF 1/87

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IT IS ADJUDGED that the defendant is convicted as found guilty, and:
[X] is sentenced to the **DODGE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION** for **7 YRS**,

[X] is placed on probation for 10 YRS MONTHS,

[X] is to pay:

fine of \$
attorney fees of
court costs of 42.00
restitution of
other fees

[X] is to pay mandatory victim/witness surcharges:

Felony **1** counts \$50.00
Misd counts \$
Total \$50.00

[X] is to be incarcerated in the County Jail:

period of 9 MO COM 6/24/92 @7PM IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY AND PAY

VICTIMS' COUNSELING FEES, NO CONTACT WITH VICTIMS OR THEIR FAMILIES OR MINOR UNDER AGE 18, EXCEPT THRU THERAPY, CONTINUE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING

[X] is granted work/study release privileges.

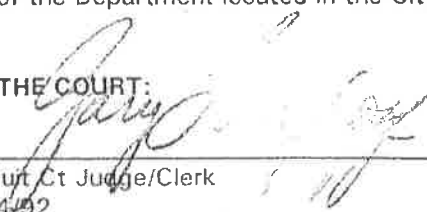
IT IS ADJUDGED that 0 days sentence credit are due pursuant to s. 973.155 WI Stats. and shall be credited if on probation and it is revoked.

IT IS ORDERED that the Sheriff shall deliver the defendant into the custody of the Department located in the City of WAUPUN.

NAME OF JUDGE GARY LANGHOFF

BY THE COURT:

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY JAMES FRISCH


Circuit Ct Judge/Clerk
4/24/92

DEFENSE ATTORNEY ALEX FLYNN

DATE SIGNED

411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4497
414/277-5000
FAX 414/271-3552

Attorneys at Law in
Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin
West Palm Beach and Naples, Florida
Phoenix, Arizona

SEP 27 1996

Quarles & Brady

September 27, 1996

Mr. Wayne A. Schneider
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
3501 South Lake Drive
P.O. Box 07912
Milwaukee WI 53207-0912

SEP 27 1996

Re: Father Peter Burns

Dear Wayne:

Enclosed is a Quarles & Brady Trust Fund check in the amount of \$25,000, payable to Father Peter Burns as you requested. I am glad that this matter has been resolved.

Yours truly,

QUARLES & BRADY



Matthew J. Flynn

MJF/sj

cc: Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
✓ Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba
✓ Fr. Carrol C. Straub

QB2\257496.

ADOM010973

QUARLES & BRADY
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS
411 E. WISCONSIN AVE. 277-5000
MILWAUKEE, WIS. 53202

9806

Sept. 25, 19 96

12-5
750 860

PAY
TO THE
ORDER OF Peter A. Burns

\$ 25,000.00

The sum of 25,000 and 00/100

DOLLARS

M&I Marshall & Ilsley Bank
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

QUARLES & BRADY
CLIENTS TRUST FUNDS (ICLTA)

John J. Stecher
Thomas R. Deane

FOR



SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
AND MUTUAL RELEASE

This Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release (hereafter "Agreement") is made by and between Peter Burns and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee (hereafter "Archdiocese"), and all of its affiliated entities.

WHEREAS, Peter Burns has determined to voluntarily seek dispensation from the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church under certain conditions, as more specifically set out below; and

WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is willing to accept Peter Burns' decision to seek dispensation from the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church, and in reliance on that resignation is willing to agree to the terms set out below; and

WHEREAS, Peter Burns and the Archdiocese wish to settle and compromise all claims that either of them may have against the other, and wish to accomplish the complete and total separation of Peter Burns from the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises herein provided and other valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties to this agreement hereby agree as follows:

1. The Archdiocese agrees to pay to Peter Burns the sum of \$25,000. This sum is payable upon an answer from Rome that Peter Burns' request for dispensation from his obligations as a priest of the Roman Catholic Church has been

granted. If the answer from Rome is that Peter Burns' request is not granted, then Peter Burns agrees to stipulate to a finding by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that he is impeded from performing the functions of a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, and he will not oppose such a finding. In that event, the \$25,000 will be paid to Peter Burns upon entry of an uncontested finding by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that Peter Burns is impeded from performing any functions of the Roman Catholic priesthood. All parties will bear their own costs and attorneys fees associated with this settlement.

2. Peter Burns presently is entitled to a severance reimbursement from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee priest's pension fund. This reimbursement will be paid to Peter Burns pursuant to a letter from Peter Burns directing how these funds are to be paid, so long as consistent with the rules of the plan.

3. The Archdiocese agrees to pay for six months of medical insurance for Peter Burns commencing from the time of an affirmative decision from Rome, or in the event that the response from Rome is negative, then upon the completion of the administrative process declaring him impeded from the exercise of orders. Following that six-month period, Peter Burns shall inform the Archdiocese if he elects, pursuant to law, to continue that coverage at his own expense for 18 more months. The Archdiocese shall have no obligation to pay any

amounts towards medical insurance following the six month period referred to above.

4. In return for the payments set out above, and for the mutual promises contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Peter Burns agrees to release and forever discharge the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and all of the Archdiocese's employees, agents, officers, directors and assigns, including, without limitation, all members of the Roman Catholic clergy, and all parishes and schools, and any person or entity affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in the territory of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee from, and covenants not to sue them for, all claims, causes of action, charges, and demands, whether in tort, contract, or otherwise, of any nature that he may have had at any time up to and including the date of signing of this Settlement Agreement, including without limitation any claim of any nature arising from any entitlements he could assert from having been a priest in the Roman Catholic Church. By signing this Settlement Agreement, Peter Burns agrees to seek dispensation from his obligations as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, agrees to sign the documents necessary and to cooperate in the proceedings necessary to seek approval from Rome to have himself dispensed from the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church; in the event that Rome does not approve his dispensation, to stipulate to a declaration by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that he is

impeded from the exercise of all functions as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, and to not contest any proceedings necessary to a declaration that he is so impeded; agrees never to function in any capacity as a priest, nor to seek reinstatement to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church at any time. He further agrees to give up any claim or entitlement that he may have to any benefit, compensation, support, or other attribute of the Roman Catholic priesthood, other than as specifically set out in the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release. He further agrees never again to perform any of the functions of the Roman Catholic priesthood, including without limitation, administering the sacraments and the celebration of mass, and in no respect will hold himself out to be a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in the future.

5. The Archdiocese, and all of its affiliated entities, hereby release and forever discharge Peter Burns from all claims, demands, and causes of action of any nature that they may have had up to and including the date of the signing of this Settlement Agreement.

6. The parties agree that this Agreement is not an admission of liability on the part of any party.

7. The parties agree not to disclose to any third party, including, without limitation, any newspaper, any electronic media, any reporters, or to release for publicity any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement.

8. The Archdiocese agrees that if in the future Peter Burns is sued for sexual abuse by any individual, the Archdiocese will apply to Peter Burns whatever policy is then in effect for reimbursing former priests for attorneys' fees in defense of such claims. Under no circumstances, however, will the Archdiocese indemnify Peter Burns for any judgment or settlement amount in connection with such claim.

9. In witness of this Agreement, we have signed below on the dates indicated.

Peter A. Burns
PETER BURNS

In presence of:
Patrick Burns

Date 3-18-95

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MILWAUKEE

By: William A. Dennis

In presence of:
Rev. James E. O'Sullivan

Date 3/18/95

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 2, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

Dear Peter,

I am sorry for the delay in writing to you. I had hoped that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Canon Law would issue their guidelines on how bishops should deal with delicate questions on allegations of sexual misconduct before we needed to proceed on this matter locally. The Conference has not yet finished its work in this regard. I do not believe it is just for you to have to remain indefinitely in a state of limbo regarding your canonical status and priestly ministry. Therefore, it seems best that we proceed with a consideration of your situation.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to our diocesan attorney. In that letter I have tried to state succinctly the allegations that have been made against you and which could affect your ability to minister in the future. I must make a decision regarding whether or not you are able to exercise your priestly ministry in light of whether or not these allegations are proven to be true. While the final decision on a process to be pursued rests with me, I request that you respond to me by late January stating your preference whether I use a judicial or administrative process as outlined in my previous correspondence with you. The results of the investigative and decision-making processes will determine whether or not you will be able to exercise ministry in the future. If you elect voluntarily to pursue the process for dispensation from priesthood and its obligations, I will meet with you to work out the best procedure for you and your future. In the meantime, the restrictions placed upon your ministry remain in effect.

These are not easy moments for any of us. I want to do what is just for you, but also what is best for the whole Catholic community. Many blessings and prayers.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Enclosure

ADOM011037

ARCHDIOCESE
OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 2, 1993

Matthew J. Flynn
Quarles & Brady
411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4497

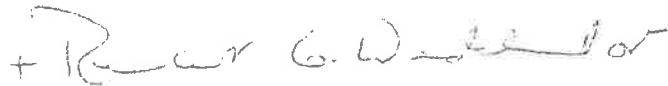
Dear Matt,

In trying to determine the suitability of Father Peter Burns for future pastoral and priestly ministry, I am sending you this letter as the lawyer of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Our log indicates that criminal charges were brought against Father Burns by [REDACTED] a minor, in 1991 that resulted in a conviction and sentence. A similar complaint had occurred in 1987 with regard to [REDACTED]. The restrictions with regard to minors sleeping over in the house were not maintained after these regulations had been established.

In the light of these accusations and conviction, it seems I will have to make a decision whether or not Father Burns can exercise pastoral and priestly ministry because of the grave scandal involved and the risk to the Catholic community.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM011038

PETER A. BURNS

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53209

January 5, 1994

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, OSB
Archbishop of Milwaukee
P.O. Box 07912
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

Re: Canonical Procedure Option

Dear Archbishop Weakland:

I am in receipt of your letter dated December 2, 1993 in which you requested a decision on which canonical option I prefer.

After examining the issues and discussing with my advocate the various options proposed, I wish to indicate that my preference is a formal canonical trial since I do not intend to seek dispensation.

Please be advised that I have chosen Father Daniel Ward, OSB, as my procurator-advocate. I am including a letter of appointment. Since I have no other income than what is presently provided by the Archdiocese, I will need the Archdiocese to cover the cost of my canonical representation.

Sincerely,



(Rev.) Peter A. Burns

cc. Father Daniel Ward, OSB

ADOM011039

ARCHDIOCESE
OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 15, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

Dear Peter,

I know that you are eager to have some clarity with regard to your future. After much thought, prayer, and consultation, I feel I am ready to write you the following letter. We can discuss its contents, if you wish. It is not an easy letter to write, but I know you want me to be up front with you about the future. I want to do what is best for the whole Catholic community and not shirk that responsibility. At the same time I do not want to violate your rights as a priest in the Church.

I have to begin by stating that I do not see how I can assign you to any pastoral ministry in the future. The reason is the public scandal that is associated with your name that prevents fruitful ministry in the future.

Reluctantly, in response to the pastoral needs of our Faith community, and in virtue of my authority as diocesan bishop (c. 381, #1), I formally place upon you the following obligations upon reception of this letter:

1. To refrain from all unsupervised contact with minors.
2. To cease until further notice all public ministry including the celebration of Mass, except in a private setting with only another priest or priests in attendance. The celebration of any other sacraments will require my explicit permission in each case. Until further notice the faculty to hear confession is revoked, except when there is a case of a penitent being in danger of death.
3. To avoid all places, persons, and situations that, from past experience, have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality.

In the meantime, I have informed the Vicar for Clergy that the following would be paid to you to take care of your physical needs: your monthly salary, plus \$650.00 monthly living expenses, and insurance coverage. Further details can be worked out with the Vicar.

ADOM011043

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 15, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

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You have a right to due process in the determination of your exercise of ordained ministry in the future, but I have the responsibility to ensure the good of the community and preclude scandal regarding the exercise of ministry. In order to balance these rights and responsibilities, I have determined that we need to undertake a formal process to decide whether or not you will be declared impeded from the exercise of orders in the future in accord with canon 1044, #2, n.2. If later it seems wisest to me to proceed toward a canonical dismissal from the priesthood, I will be in touch with you, so that again your rights will be safeguarded. If you voluntarily decide to leave the priesthood, then, of course, these provisions and this process will not be necessary. That is another matter and would entail another letter on my part to you to outline how that departure can best take place for your good and that of the diocese.

So that you have, however, an understanding of what the process will entail regarding the future exercise of ministry, let me summarize the steps and procedures that will be used. The process will involve an investigation into the facts, a judgment of whether the impediment exists, and, if so, then a declaration stating that the law itself prevents the exercise of orders.

The process will have two parts to it: the investigation into the facts, and the subsequent judgment and declaration. The process may be conducted in either a judicial or administrative fashion. While the decision whether to use the judicial or administrative process rests with me as the diocesan bishop, I am willing to receive your input regarding which process you would prefer. I know these are complicated canonical issues, but they are meant to protect all of us and there is no way we can avoid them.

The judicial process can utilize either the oral contentious process (cc. 1656-1670) or the ordinary contentious process (cc. 1501-1655). The Tribunal would be involved in accord with usual procedural norms.

The administrative process is less cumbersome, but, nonetheless, provides for appropriate protection of your rights. The following steps would be used in an administrative process:

1. The College of Consultors will be utilized as a board of

ADOM011044

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 15, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

-3

inquiry to assist me in my investigation and decision-making.

2. Information necessary to arrive at a conclusion will be gathered by me, while you may also introduce materials in your own defense.
3. Upon completion of the gathering of all of this information, you and your advocate will have the opportunity to review everything and present a defense.
4. The Consultants will review the information with me and assist me in determining whether or not there is sufficient evidence to proceed to a decision or if additional investigation is needed.
5. Ultimately, I will have to make the decision, based on the information provided in the process, of whether or not the existence of the impediment has been proven; and I will issue that decision to you in writing, stating the facts and reasons which have led to a positive or negative judgment.

In reaching my decision I will choose and consult with an expert in the field of psychology. I would like that consultant to have available any records relating to your situation. If you would sign a release for such records, we will be able to gather the necessary information. A release form is enclosed for that purpose. If you are unwilling to make these records available, we will have to rely only on records and reports which are already in the public forum. I am not certain that these latter materials in isolation from more detailed reporting will serve your best interests.

Obviously as this process is under way, you should avail yourself of all necessary personal, spiritual, and canonical assistance. I would encourage you to continue seeking the psychological counseling services you may need.

In addition, I believe it is essential that you be in contact with a good spiritual director. If you do not presently have such a director, I certainly would advise you to get one.

ADOM011045

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 15, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

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Finally, it is of paramount importance that you have at your disposal a canonical expert to serve as your advocate. Lest there be any taint of conflict of interest, I would advise that you take on the services of a canonist from outside the diocese. If you would like a list of canon lawyers who could serve in this capacity, the Chancery Office is ready to provide such a list to you. You are, of course, free to choose a canonical advisor on your own; but according to existent law, if they are to act as a formal advocate within the diocese, I would have to approve them. If you cannot afford the services of a canonical advisor, arrangements can be made for the diocese to cover expenses and reimburse their diocese or employer for their services here.

I would like to hear from you in writing within three weeks of reception of the date of this letter stating your input on the process to be utilized. At that time you can forward the release form for your records or indicate your decision that we proceed without that information. You may also notify me at that time of the name of the canonist who will serve as your advocate and whether it would be necessary for our diocese to provide funding for those services.

I know these are trying times for you, as they are for all of us. We all want to do what is right for the good of the Church. At the same time we want to respect the rights of all. These concerns may seem to conflict, but we must all do our best. I hope this letter is clear and helpful about how we must proceed and what options there are in those procedures. I am sure you know that it was difficult to write this letter and that I do so with much sorrow. I can imagine how you must feel! Peace and many blessings during these difficult days.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM011046

May 22, 1993

Archbishop Rembert Weakland, OSB
Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center
P.O. Box 07912
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

Dear Archbishop Weakland:

It has been two months since you called me in and told me about the options for my life. I have spent much time thinking about that day in your office and where God is calling me at this point in my life. I know that this decision will continue to command a great deal of my time and energy.

My discernment has brought me to the point of writing this letter. It has a two-fold purpose. First, I will present my understanding of what you told me in March. Second, there are a number of questions which I need answered.

As I remember, you said that you saw three options for my life. The first was that you could begin a church court proceeding to remove me from priesthood. You said you did not want to do this. A second option was that I could remain a priest but you would not give me an assignment - ever. This would include not being assigned to any of the offices at the Cousins Center. To that end you told me that my work in the Archives was done as of March 30th. The only work you said that you might allow was if I could find something which I could do out of my home.

The final option you said was that I could choose to leave priesthood and start a new career. As I remember, you said that the church would continue to pay for my counseling, for any career testing and retraining that I would need, and give me a small sum in which to start a new life (\$15,000.00).

Finally, you said that I should take the time to discern what to do with my life. While I am discerning, the diocese will provide me with a place to live and a salary. Also, you said that there was no time limit to this discernment process.

This is what I understand of what you told me in March.

As I have reflected and prayed over all of this, I have been confronted by a number of questions. The first and foremost question is the rationale for this action. If I am to accept this as your choice of dealing with me and, I assume, other priests in a similar situation, I need you to explain to me why you chose this action.

The other questions I have dealt with the options you presented in March. If I choose to remain a priest, I assume that there would

ADOM011048

be some restrictions on my life. What would these be as far as residence, working, and ministry? I also understand that the diocese has a responsibility to provide me with some financial support. What would this be?

I would appreciate your response to these inquiries. I would ask that it be in writing to avoid any misunderstandings. Please send your response to me at my Dad's house. The address is:

[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, WI 53211.

I am using this address because of the ongoing discussion between myself, Tom Venne, and my probation officer over my residing at Bethany House. I assume Tom has informed you of this discussion.

As I await your response to this letter I will continue to pray over this decision and ask for God's guidance.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Burns
Peter A. Burns

ARCHDIOCESE
OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OCT 23 1995

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 30, 1994

Reverend Daniel Ward, OSB
St. Gregory Abbey

[REDACTED]
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801

Dear Dan,

Thanks so much for taking the time to come to Milwaukee to discuss Father Peter Burns' case with me. Having considered what you, as Advocate for Father Burns, set before me I have come to some conclusions in the matter.

I see no possibility of accepting the first option presented. Father Burns will not be able to be assigned to a ministry position within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee due to the nature of past events and the wide-spread publicity and scandal connected with them.

I am willing to have you move ahead with the process for dispensation from the obligation of priesthood for Father Burns. In order to work out the details of the negotiations for Father's transition I would request that you contact Matt Flynn, our diocesan attorney, whom I have authorized to act on my behalf in this regard. Matt will be expecting to hear from you in the near future to arrange for a time that is mutually agreeable for working out these details.

May the peace of our Risen Lord reside in your heart.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Rembert G. Weakland* or

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, OSB
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM011063

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 S. Lake Drive • P.O. Box 07912 • Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912 • (414) 769-3300

Department of Clergy Personnel

May 6, 1992

FILE COPY

Captain Ronald Joosse
Sheboygan County Jail
615 North 6th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Captain Joosse:

Subsequent to our telephone conversation earlier today, I write to specify the various duties to which Father Peter Burns is hereby assigned during his time of confinement and the work release privileges he has received.

After careful consultation with the persons involved, Father Burns is assigned to archival assistance under the direction of Mr. Timothy Cary, Archivist for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. His responsibilities include answering genealogy requests and those related to a particular parish, an early priest, an ethnic group, etc. He is also involved in arrangement and description of our archival holdings as well as organizing dispensation records, annual parish reports and some tribunal case forms. Father Burns is assisting with updating microfilm descriptions. Normally this office, situated at the Archdiocesan Center indicated on the letterhead above, operates on an 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. schedule each weekday.

According to the practice of the Archdiocese in such situations, Father Burns will not be assigned to any activity which would include contact with adolescents. Upon termination of his period of confined residence, these duties would be reviewed and perhaps adjusted in accord with the terms of his probation and Church norms.

Thank you for considering his request to be moved to Milwaukee County where he would be closer to his assignment.

Sincerely,

Reverend R. Thomas Venne
Vicar for Clergy Personnel

RTV/srs
cc Reverend Peter A. Burns



ADOM011078

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 S. Lake Drive • P.O. Box 07912 • Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912 • (414) 769-3300

The Chancery
(414) 769-3340

MEMO

TO: Fr. Tom Venne
FROM: Tim Cary, Archivist *TC*
DATE: April 20, 1992
RE: Fr. Peter Burns' work in the Archives

In October 1991 Peter began working in the Archives three days/week from 8:30-4:00. Beginning in January 1992 he increased his time to M-F 8:30-4:00. His time with us is spent working in a number of areas.

The Archives receives from 10-20 mail research requests each month which Peter is responsible for answering. Frequently these inquiries are from genealogists interested in acquiring birth/death/marriage information about their early ancestors. We also deal with requests from researchers interested in acquiring information related to a particular parish, an early priest, an ethnic group, etc. Peter performs the research necessary to respond promptly and accurately to these requests.

Peter has also been involved in the arrangement and description of some of our archival holdings. He has worked on organizing dispensation records, defect of form cases and parish annual reports.

In the process of responding to written inquiries Peter frequently must view sacramental records on microfilm. The film's contents were inadequately described in the past and as an ongoing project, Peter has begun to accurately describe our film holdings of sacramental records.

On a more personal note, it has been a pleasure to work with Peter. He is very hard-working, conscientious and meticulous in his archival work. Some of the work that he does can only charitably be described as tedious, yet he never complains and always maintains a sense of humor and a positive approach to his labors.

I enjoy working with Peter very much. He gets along well with all of the Chancery staff. Should the opportunity arise I would welcome the prospect of continuing this working relationship. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

cc Fr. Ralph Gross



ADOM011079

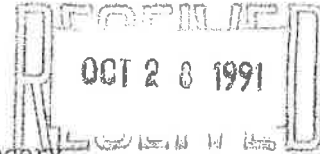
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

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The Chancery
(414) 769-3340

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fr. Tom Venne, Vicar for Clergy Personnel
FROM: Tim Cary, Archivist #407 *Tim*
DATE: 10/25/91
RE: Fr. Burns as volunteer in the Archives/Chancery



Since we last spoke about the possibility of Fr. Burns volunteering in the archives I have spoken with Peter and I wanted to keep you informed as to his status with us.

He called me early this week. He came to see me on Tuesday at which time we talked about the types of work that the archives needs to have done. When we had finished our conversation I asked that he think about what we had discussed and call me in a couple of days to let me know if he wanted to spend some time with us. He called me the next day and we agreed that for the time being he will spend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Chancery from about 8:30-4:00.

Peter came in yesterday and it appears that things will work out fine. He is cooperative and receptive. We will, of course, work around his commitments to counseling and court appearances.

I saw Bishop Sklba earlier this week and he asked me to ask you to keep him informed of Fr. Burns' status.

PS We're looking forward to seeing you on the basketball court soon.

TC



ADOM011083

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

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Office of Auxiliary Bishop

FILE COPY

September 20, 1991

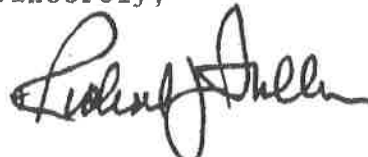
The Reverend Peter A. Burns
Saint Peter Claver Parish
[REDACTED]
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081-5395

Dear Father Burns,

This morning I learned of the serious allegations which have been made regarding your ministry. According to Archdiocesan policy, you are hereby placed on administrative leave, effective immediately, pending further investigation.

In order to protect the interests of all parties concerned, I request that you take up residence at Bethany House, [REDACTED] Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209, as soon as possible. Father Thomas Hickey, as Director of the residence, will provide the support and assistance you may need during these difficult days. Our prayers are with you.

Sincerely,



The Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba
Vicar for Clergy Personnel

Copies: Father Terrance J. Huebner
Father Thomas D. Hickey (tel 466-4258)

ADOM011095



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ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

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Office Of Communications
(414) 769-3453

September 20, 1991

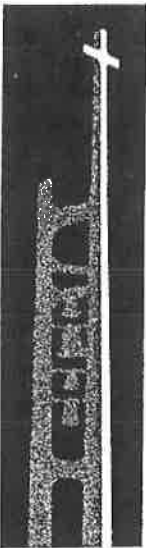
Archdiocesan Statement for Media Regarding the Arrest of Fr. Peter Burns

The Archdiocese has been notified and is cooperating with authorities in this investigation. Until we have further information, we have no additional comment at this time.

see you

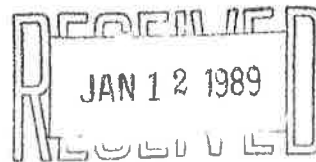


ADOM011096



101 S. Lake Drive
P.O. Box 2018
Milwaukee
Wis. 53201
414/769-3300
Bishop Cousins
Catholic Center

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
The Chancery



January 10, 1989

The Reverend Peter A. Burns
St. Peter Claver Parish
[Redacted]
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Father Burns:

Following the recommendation of the Priests' Personnel Board and in accord with Canons 539-540 of the 1983 Code, you have been appointed temporary administrator of St. Peter Claver Parish, Sheboygan, while the pastor, Father David Braun, is on sabbatical. This appointment is effective immediately.

As temporary administrator you come under the provisions of Canon 540 which is quoted here in full:

- §1 The parochial administrator is bound by the same obligations and has the same rights of the pastor, unless the diocesan Bishop prescribes otherwise [cf. cc. 519; 528-530; 535].
- §2 The parochial administrator may not do anything which could prejudice the rights of the pastor or could do harm to parochial property.
- §3 When he has discharged his office, the parochial administrator is to give an account to the pastor.

Note that you have the responsibility for the Pro Populo Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation [c. 534]; you are authorized to sign checks on all parish accounts to cover ordinary expenditures and to meet payroll obligations. Please note that in keeping with Canon 540, §2, no extraordinary changes are to be made. Urgent matters should be referred to the Archbishop.

Thanks, Peter, for assuming this assignment. Your willingness to do this is gratefully appreciated.

Fraternally in Christ,

(Rev.) Ralph C. Gross
Chancellor and Vicar General
By special delegation

RCG/mk

cc: Rev. Thomas A. Trepanier, Priests' Personnel Board
Most Rev. Leo J. Brust, Co-Vicar for Clergy Personnel
Most Rev. Richard J. Sklba, Co-Vicar for Clergy Personnel

ADOM011097

Police Report

G24

CDAB580R PART 8 COMPREHENSIVE DATA ANALYSIS 87-0001-098 PAGE 1
4/29/89 10:56:41

DOC #: 1 TYPE: N FILED BY: 126 DATE: 1/16/87 COMPLETE

1/16/87

Case [REDACTED]

Information was received from a Father, David Braun, who is the priest at St. Peter Claver Church, that one of his priests, a Father Peter Burns, had been involved in touching one of the students at the school in his private parts and that this student was [REDACTED].

According to Father Braun, the situation apparently has been resolved due to the fact that he, along with Father Burns and [REDACTED] did have a meeting and upon discussing this entire matter it was felt that they would leave it up to the church to handle this matter. On this date, 1/16/87, I made contact with [REDACTED] the mother of [REDACTED] and requested that she come to headquarters with [REDACTED] for an interview. Upon arriving at Headquarters these officers did meet with [REDACTED] and her son, [REDACTED] and at this time we asked [REDACTED] what had occurred. [REDACTED] related the following. He stated that on January 6, 1987 while at school, he was having some problems and wished to discuss these problems with Father Burns. He confronted Father Burns with this and asked him if they could set up a time that he could meet with him so he could discuss some of his problems with him. At this time Father Burns suggested that if he wanted to sleep over at the rectory that night he could do so and he would discuss his problems at that time. [REDACTED] stated that this was not an uncommon practice as he has known other friends of his that have slept over before with Father Burns under the same circumstances. He stated on this particular night while at the rectory, he had discussed his problems with Father Burns and then they did go to bed. He stated he was sleeping in the same bed with Father Burns and while he was lying on his back, he was having problems getting to sleep and suddenly Father Burns placed his hand on [REDACTED] chest and began rubbing his chest and subsequently moving his hand further down, rubbing his stomach and eventually began rubbing his penis. At this time, [REDACTED] stated that when this occurred he did not know what to do so he turned over onto his side and Father Burns immediately stopped doing this. He said that the next day after this occurrence he talked to some of his friends about this as he noted that they had also slept over and wanted to make sure nothing like this was happening to them. He said he then eventually told his mother about this incident and she in turn contacted Father David Braun. [REDACTED] stated to officers that she made contact with Father Braun and they did have a meeting with Father Burns and during this meeting, Father Burns did admit to the fact that he had touched [REDACTED] however he stated that he was merely rubbing his stomach and chest due to the fact that he was trying to relax him. [REDACTED] stated that they talked this matter over for a period of time and it was decided at this time that the police would not become involved but that Father Braun would take care of this matter within the church and they would see to it that Father Burns receives the proper counselling and that the information would also be passed onto the Archbishop. At this time, [REDACTED] stated they did not wish to pursue this matter and felt that she was satisfied

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with the fact that the church would handle the matter and did not feel police involvement would be necessary. [redacted] was advised by officers that we felt it may be in her best interest if police did become involved; however she insisted that she wanted nothing done about this matter and that Father Braun assured her that he would take care of this situation. She was then advised that we would document this information however we would not pursue the matter with Father Burns. DETS. KORFF/WINSCHER/gaj

cc: Det. Korff

ARCHDIOCESE
OF MILWAUKEE

3857 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 6, 1992



Dear Friends,

It might be hard for you to believe, but your letter of last November was never forgotten and was on my mind to answer. It just did not seem to me at the time you wrote that I had the appropriate answer at that moment.

There is no doubt that hindsight is easy. All I can say is that when the first incident came to light at St. Peter Claver parish with regard to Peter Burns, we looked into it and in conjunction with the police force, the pastor, and the psychologist felt that it would be safe to leave Peter there under guided supervision. As far as I know, that was the best decision we could have made at that time. I am not clear in my own mind today whether I would make a different decision, given the evidence we had. Those are such difficult cases; and one tries to be just towards everyone.

Thank you for writing and for your concern. It's true that we want to learn from each experience, but I find that two people are never alike and one simply goes on the best advice that one can get. Perhaps, though, as years go on, you are correct -- we are becoming a little bit more cautious, and rightly so.

Thank you so much for writing and for your concern. Many blessings.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM011186

Have copy to Bp Sklba done

November 7, 1991

Most Rev. Rembert G. Weakland, Archbishop of Milwaukee
P.O. Box 07912
Milwaukee, WI. 53207-0912

(11)

Dear Archbishop Weakland:

We are members of St. Peter Claver Parish in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. This letter follows many hours of prayer and thought about the alleged sexual abuse incidents which occurred in 1987 and 1988 in our parish rectory.

Above all else, we want to acknowledge Fr. Peter Burns as a individual, who as part of our parish, did many positive things, At times, we have worked quite closely with him, not only on various committees at St. Peter Claver, but also through [REDACTED] Fr. Peter was instrumental in implementing the new Christian Funeral Rite. Our parishoners are much better served because of his efforts.

As you can imagine, many rumors surface when a situation of this type occurs. The one we have struggled the most with is that the Archdiocese was aware of the incident and still allowed Fr. Peter to remain here.

On November 3, 1991, Bishop Sklba addressed our parish and acknowledged knowing about the incidents. When a situation of this magnitude happens, a grieving process is experienced not unlike that experienced from a death. One of the key factors in resolving that grief is being able to justify in one's mind the events that occurred. For us and we feel for many others, that justification may never be felt unless the Archdiocese not only acknowledges knowing about this, which it already has, but also openly acknowledges that a serious error in

ADOM011187

judgment took place. That error led to Fr. Peter remaining at St. Peter Claver where a second incident allegedly occurred.

Granted, hind sight is 20/20, but is not one of the most basic elements of our faith to acknowledge and grow from our mistakes?

We feel that as a parish, for our healing process to proceed, we need to hear this in plain open words. Not only is this important to us, but to all the diocese. The entire diocese should learn from our experience. All parishes must know that should an event such as this happen in their parish, the Archdiocese from past experience has learned to react swiftly, decisively and in a manner which will eliminate the source of the problem.

Archbishop Weakland, we realize the enormous demands on your time. With that in mind, but also knowing the importance of this issue, we ask that you, in a manner you feel appropriate, respond to our needs. Again, we have spent many hours in thought and prayer for all those concerned and we will continue to do so.

Please give this matter serious thought. St. Peter Claver is an extension of our home. Our home and the Lord's home has been damaged, we need your help repairing it.



PETER A. BURNS

10/8/91 - Greg Bell, Communications, calls saying that a reporter from Channel 4 wants to do a support story on Peter Burns. It is agreed that this will be handled by A. Flynn from Quarles and Brady and that from our perspective nothing should be said.

10/17/91 - Greg Bell writes to the Milwaukee Journal relative to the manner in which the media treats people who have been arrested. He compared the way in which Peter Burns was treated in the paper vs. Jeffrey Dahmer.

11/5/91 - Peter Burns is seen in the Chancery. He is upset and wonders if he will have the strength to withstand any more of the court appearances. He is asked about seeing his psychologist and hesitates because he is seeing two of them now. Peter is invited to have Mass privately with T. Trepanier at the CCC. He will think about his and let us know.

11/8/91 - R. Sklba writes that Peter Burns should be encouraged to remove his articles from the rectory.

11/12/91 - Peter Burns is seen and given support prior to his court appearance today.

11/25/91 - T. ^{Huebner} calls to say things are better. He asks about Peter Burns regarding the removal of his things from the rectory and is told that T. Venne is working on this.

1/21/92 - Terry Huebner calls to say that he was informed by phone that Star Cable Vision will televise the proceedings for Peter Burns. Greg Bell is informed of this. Peter is seen and given support prior to his court appearance and trial.

1/22/92 - Greg Bell stops to formulate a statement regarding Peter Burns. [REDACTED] from Channel 4 has asked what will happen next. Greg will type out a response stating that the sensitive nature of this situation has affected many lives and that discussion will proceed only as fast as the proceedings themselves.

2/25/92 - is seen following his interview with a probation officer. Peter wonders ^{what} will happen to him in the years ahead. He ~~has~~ seen T. Venne and will see the Archbishop. Peter is told to take one step at a time and be realistic as he moves through the process.

3/10/92 - Peter Burns comes in requesting to concelebrate mass this week. He was pleased to learn that it could be done next week when T. Trepanier returns.

4/23/92 - Peter Burns stops by to deliver his thoughts and thanks to T. Trepanier for the support he has received during the last several months.

5/5/92 - Dennis Lewis stops to discuss concerns regarding Peter Burns.

5/11/92 - Peter Burns is seen. He met with his P.O. and she was very restrictive about his movements, etc.

5/31/95 - Effective June 1, 1995 Peter Burns is placed in the Not Assigned category.

10/7/96 - Peter Burns is on permanent leave effective September 25, 1996.

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 S. Lake Drive • P.O. Box 07912 • Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912 • (414) 769-3300

Priests' Personnel Board
(414) 769-3458

February 13, 1989

The Reverend Peter A. Burns
St. Peter Claver Parish
[REDACTED]
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

Dear Father Burns,

I am writing in response to your recent request for an extension of your current position as Associate Pastor at St. Peter Claver Parish in Sheboygan. As you know, your term is June 17, 1989. Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board and with the approval of Archbishop Weakland, we hereby extend your term for up to three years.

We hope this will afford you the opportunity to continue your priestly ministry, and we look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

Fraternally,



Fr. Tom Trepanier
Executive Secretary
Priests' Personnel Board



ADOM011440

ARCHDIOCESE
OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. BOX 2018 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 12, 1986

The Reverend Peter A. Burns ✓

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

Dear Father Burns,

It is with great pleasure that I ask you to become the Associate Pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Sheboygan. Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board, I am happy to entrust the faithful of that parish to your priestly care in collaboration with the Pastor, Father David Braun, beginning on June 17, 1986. This appointment is being made for a period of time up to three years, after which time it will be reviewed for possible extension.

As representative of the Archbishop in that parish, you are called upon to serve the needs of God's people so that they can take their rightful place as baptized Catholics in their own Faith-community and in society. Your mission, like my own, is one of teaching and sanctifying, and of administrating those areas of parish life delegated to you by the Pastor, Father Braun. You are also asked to collaborate with the Parish Council and those organizations that are part of this parish.

It is a privilege to share my ministry with you. May God's blessings fill your life.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM011444

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 15, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

Dear Peter,

I know that you are eager to have some clarity with regard to your future. After much thought, prayer, and consultation, I feel I am ready to write you the following letter. We can discuss its contents, if you wish. It is not an easy letter to write, but I know you want me to be up front with you about the future. I want to do what is best for the whole Catholic community and not shirk that responsibility. At the same time I do not want to violate your rights as a priest in the Church.

I have to begin by stating that I do not see how I can assign you to any pastoral ministry in the future. The reason is the public scandal that is associated with your name that prevents fruitful ministry in the future.

Reluctantly, in response to the pastoral needs of our Faith community, and in virtue of my authority as diocesan bishop (c. 381, #1), I formally place upon you the following obligations upon reception of this letter:

1. To refrain from all unsupervised contact with minors.
2. To cease until further notice all public ministry including the celebration of Mass, except in a private setting with only another priest or priests in attendance. The celebration of any other sacraments will require my explicit permission in each case. Until further notice the faculty to hear confession is revoked, except when there is a case of a penitent being in danger of death.
3. To avoid all places, persons, and situations that, from past experience, have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality.

In the meantime, I have informed the Vicar for Clergy that the following would be paid to you to take care of your physical needs: your monthly salary, plus \$650.00 monthly living expenses, and insurance coverage. Further details can be worked out with the Vicar.

ADOM027782

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 15, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

-2

You have a right to due process in the determination of your exercise of ordained ministry in the future, but I have the responsibility to ensure the good of the community and preclude scandal regarding the exercise of ministry. In order to balance these rights and responsibilities, I have determined that we need to undertake a formal process to decide whether or not you will be declared impeded from the exercise of orders in the future in accord with canon 1044, #2, n.2. If later it seems wisest to me to proceed toward a canonical dismissal from the priesthood, I will be in touch with you, so that again your rights will be safeguarded. If you voluntarily decide to leave the priesthood, then, of course, these provisions and this process will not be necessary. That is another matter and would entail another letter on my part to you to outline how that departure can best take place for your good and that of the diocese.

So that you have, however, an understanding of what the process will entail regarding the future exercise of ministry, let me summarize the steps and procedures that will be used. The process will involve an investigation into the facts, a judgment of whether the impediment exists, and, if so, then a declaration stating that the law itself prevents the exercise of orders.

The process will have two parts to it: the investigation into the facts, and the subsequent judgment and declaration. The process may be conducted in either a judicial or administrative fashion. While the decision whether to use the judicial or administrative process rests with me as the diocesan bishop, I am willing to receive your input regarding which process you would prefer. I know these are complicated canonical issues, but they are meant to protect all of us and there is no way we can avoid them.

The judicial process can utilize either the oral contentious process (cc. 1656-1670) or the ordinary contentious process (cc. 1501-1655). The Tribunal would be involved in accord with usual procedural norms.

The administrative process is less cumbersome, but, nonetheless, provides for appropriate protection of your rights. The following steps would be used in an administrative process:

1. The College of Consultors will be utilized as a board of

ADOM027783

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 15, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

-3

inquiry to assist me in my investigation and decision-making.

2. Information necessary to arrive at a conclusion will be gathered by me, while you may also introduce materials in your own defense.
3. Upon completion of the gathering of all of this information, you and your advocate will have the opportunity to review everything and present a defense.
4. The Consultants will review the information with me and assist me in determining whether or not there is sufficient evidence to proceed to a decision or if additional investigation is needed.
5. Ultimately, I will have to make the decision, based on the information provided in the process, of whether or not the existence of the impediment has been proven; and I will issue that decision to you in writing, stating the facts and reasons which have led to a positive or negative judgment.

In reaching my decision I will choose and consult with an expert in the field of psychology. I would like that consultant to have available any records relating to your situation. If you would sign a release for such records, we will be able to gather the necessary information. A release form is enclosed for that purpose. If you are unwilling to make these records available, we will have to rely only on records and reports which are already in the public forum. I am not certain that these latter materials in isolation from more detailed reporting will serve your best interests.

Obviously as this process is under way, you should avail yourself of all necessary personal, spiritual, and canonical assistance. I would encourage you to continue seeking the psychological counseling services you may need.

In addition, I believe it is essential that you be in contact with a good spiritual director. If you do not presently have such a director, I certainly would advise you to get one.

ADOM027784

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07012 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 15, 1993

The Reverend Peter Burns

-4

Finally, it is of paramount importance that you have at your disposal a canonical expert to serve as your advocate. Lest there be any taint of conflict of interest, I would advise that you take on the services of a canonist from outside the diocese. If you would like a list of canon lawyers who could serve in this capacity, the Chancery Office is ready to provide such a list to you. You are, of course, free to choose a canonical advisor on your own; but according to existent law, if they are to act as a formal advocate within the diocese, I would have to approve them. If you cannot afford the services of a canonical advisor, arrangements can be made for the diocese to cover expenses and reimburse their diocese or employer for their services here.

I would like to hear from you in writing within three weeks of reception of the date of this letter stating your input on the process to be utilized. At that time you can forward the release form for your records or indicate your decision that we proceed without that information. You may also notify me at that time of the name of the canonist who will serve as your advocate and whether it would be necessary for our diocese to provide funding for those services.

I know these are trying times for you, as they are for all of us. We all want to do what is right for the good of the Church. At the same time we want to respect the rights of all. These concerns may seem to conflict, but we must all do our best. I hope this letter is clear and helpful about how we must proceed and what options there are in those procedures. I am sure you know that it was difficult to write this letter and that I do so with much sorrow. I can imagine how you must feel! Peace and many blessings during these difficult days.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM027785

ARCHDIOCESE
OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. BOX 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/786-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 14, 1994

Kevin S. Ward
Department of Corrections
Division of Probation and Parole
1673 South 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204

Dear Mr. Ward,

I am writing to let you know that, at least for the present, I have given my permission for Peter Burns to continue to celebrate Mass privately at Bethany House with the other residents and to wear proper liturgical vestments when he does. It is understood that this Mass is private and restricted to Bethany House.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

CC: Peter Burns

ADOM027789

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. Box 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 2, 1994

Reverend Daniel Ward, OSB
St. Gregory Abbey
[REDACTED]
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801

Dear Dan,

Let me take this opportunity to update you on where I believe we stand on the situation of Father Peter Burns. I understand from your correspondence with Matt Flynn and your conversation with Barbara Anne Cusack that Peter is indicating that he is willing to pursue voluntary departure from the priesthood. I believe Matt has given you an accurate assessment regarding our position on Peter's demands and that Barbara Anne has provided you with pension contribution figures.

It would be in everyone's best interests for Peter to move ahead with the laicization process. With regard to Peter's concern about publicity over the laicization, I assure you we never publish such facts as a regular course of action in our Catholic press. Even though we would not be issuing any kind of media release on this matter, I cannot guarantee that the media would not obtain this information elsewhere. Obviously, I have no control over what the secular papers publish.

Finally I do think it would be good for you to advise Peter that the recent derogations from penal law affect his case specifically. The derogation would alter the conclusion previously presented in your May 13, 1994, correspondence, namely that the only alternative to such voluntary departure would be for Peter to remain in his current status since the canonical statute of limitations had run its course and dismissal from the clerical state would not be possible. If Peter is unwilling to pursue a voluntary departure from the priesthood, we are in a position to begin the process of dismissal from the clerical state. Up to this point, it did not appear that we had any alternatives. The derogation does provide such an alternative and I am not averse to using it.

ADOM027791

I would request that you discuss these matters with Father Burns and respond to me by September 30, 1994 regarding his plans. I would be in a position to begin the process of dismissal by October 15, 1994.

Thank you again for the canonical assistance you are providing our priests.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rembert G. Weakland". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, OSB
Archbishop of Milwaukee

cc: Matthew J. Flynn
Barbara Anne Cusack

ADOM027792

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE • P.O. BOX 2018 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201 • PHONE 414/769-3300

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

FILE COPY

June 11, 1987

The Reverend Peter A. Burns
St. Peter Claver Church
[REDACTED]
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Peter:


Just a word to let you know that I continue to keep you in mind and prayers as you use spiritual direction and counseling to restore balance and integrity to your life and ministry. I remember a request for some assistance in meeting some of the counseling needs experienced by your "little brother" in Sheboygan. Please give the enclosed token to Father Dave Braun as a contribution to the fund which helps special request situations in the parish. I hope that things go well for you. Please keep us informed and know of our encouragement and prayerful support.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee

RJS/srs

Enclosure

RICHARD J. SKLBA		108
		9 June 19 87 12-7131/2750
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	St Peter Claver Congregation	\$ 100 ⁰⁰
	One Hundred and no 100	DOLLARS
 Lincoln Savings and Loan Association 1725 N. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215		
MIMO	Special charity fund	Richard J. Sklba

ADOM027863

411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee Wisconsin 53202-4497
414/277-5000
FAX 414/271-3552

Attorneys at Law in
Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin
West Palm Beach and Naples, Florida
Phoenix Arizona



GOVERNED BY PARTIES' CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

VIA MESSENGER

May 6, 1994

Charles J. Hausmann, Esq.
Hausmann-McNally, S.C.
633 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

Re: [REDACTED] v.
Archdiocese of Milwaukee, et al.
Case No. [REDACTED]

Dear Chuck:

I am writing to confirm that we have settled the above captioned case on the following terms. We will deliver a check to you for \$675,000 within 15 days of the date of this letter. If it is not paid in that time, interest will accrue at a rate of 12%.

The parties will sign a settlement agreement with a confidentiality provision that is of the essence to this agreement. The settlement agreement also has general release language, and is similar to the other agreements that Bob Elliott and I have entered into.

The defendants also agree to withdraw their appeal in this case, including any request for relief, including contempt sanctions.

I want to make it clear that the confidentiality provision in the settlement agreement governs this letter as well. To the extent that you share this letter with Atty. Raftery, I would like you to make it clear to him as co-counsel for the plaintiffs that he is bound by this confidentiality agreement as well.

When the check is prepared, I will expect to exchange it for a signed settlement agreement by your clients, as well as a stipulated order for dismissal of the above captioned action and the appeal, signed by you or Bob. If this letter does not accurately set out what we have agreed, please call me as soon as possible.

Robert L. Elliott, Esq.
May 6, 1994
Page 2

Yours truly,

QUARLES & BRADY



Matthew J. Flynn

MJF: jlm

bcc: Most Rev. Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Most Rev. Richard J. Sklba
Fr. R. Thomas Venne
Mr. Wayne Schneider

DOC #: 1 TYPE: N FILED BY: 167 DATE: 9/16/91 COMPLETE

9/16/91

Case [REDACTED]

Officer Christenson was contacted by [REDACTED] a student at South High School, while in his office on Monday, September 16th. [REDACTED] stated that during the weekend his uncle visited him and snuck up behind him at one point and tickled his sides. [REDACTED] stated that this caused an immediate flashback to an incident where he had been sexually assaulted by a priest by the name of Father Burns in Sheboygan, WI. during the latter part of January or possibly early February of 1988. [REDACTED] related the following story to Officer Christenson. [REDACTED] stated that he met Father Peter Burns through St. Peter Claver Church where Father Peter Burns is employed and [REDACTED] attended. [REDACTED] thought they first met in 1985/1986 sometime in that area of time. [REDACTED] stated that he would go down to the YMCA and play racquetball with Father Burns on numerous occasions. [REDACTED] stated that when they would go to the YMCA and finish playing racquetball they would take a shower at which time Father Burns would insist that [REDACTED] go into the hot tub with him. [REDACTED] stated that he would have his clothes on and state he did not want to go in however Father Burns would make the statement if you don't go in the hot tub with me I will not give you a ride home and you will have to walk. [REDACTED] stated that on numerous times Father Burns would tickle him while he was in the hot tub. [REDACTED] stated this went on for approximately one year. [REDACTED] further stated during this time they would play basketball also during the playing of basketball that Father Peter Burns would grab him in the ass on numerous occasions. [REDACTED] stated he would tell him not to do this but Father Burns continued to do it. When asked what he meant by grabbing the ass [REDACTED] stated he would pinch him in the ass with his fingers. [REDACTED] recalls an incident in late January; possibly early February of 1988 when he accompanied Father Peter Burns to Milwaukee to attend a seminary. At the seminary they played basketball, swam and went in the hot tub. [REDACTED] remembers again at this time stating he did not want to go into the hot tub but Father Burns stated you know the rules at which time [REDACTED] did enter the hot tub. [REDACTED] stated that the rule was if he didn't go into the hot tub he would have to walk home. [REDACTED] stated that after attending the seminary they went out to eat at Rocky Rococo's Pizza in Milwaukee and then proceeded on to the church rectory where Father Peter Burns lives. [REDACTED] stated that this was a Saturday and Sunday affair with him suppose to sleep over on Saturday night. [REDACTED] could not remember the exact dates but states that it was a Saturday and Sunday after January 16th and no later than the first Saturday and Sunday of February. [REDACTED] stated upon arriving at the home they watched movies at which time [REDACTED] was asked by Father Burns if he wanted to sleep on the couch or in the bed. [REDACTED] stated he wanted to sleep on the couch but Father Burns stated you'll be more comfortable in my bed. [REDACTED] stated he was wearing a pair of shorts he brought along to sleep in as he always sleeps in shorts with nothing on underneath the shorts. He stated Father Burns was wearing nothing but bikini underwear that were colored however he was unsure of the color.

ADOM027939

████████ stated he got in the bed and a short time later Father Burns got into the bed. ██████████ stated they were laying with ██████████ back facing Father Burns. ██████████ stated after about five minutes Father Burns reached across with what he believes to be his left hand and put his hand on his cock. ██████████ stated that he said quit it. He pulled away immediately but then put his hand back on his schwanz. ██████████ stated at that time he said, I said stop. Father Burns left his hand on his cock for a couple of seconds and then ██████████ stated he rolled onto his gut at which time Father Burns flipped over and faced away from ██████████. Upon waking up the next morning Father Burns stated that he should take a shower. ██████████ stated he went into the shower a short time later. Father Burns jumped in the shower with him and grabbed him by the schwanz and jerked on it a little bit. ██████████ stated that, I said stop it or quit it, he could not remember the exact words and turned away at which time Father Burns then left him alone. I asked ██████████ if he was startled when Father Burns crawled in the shower with him and he said no not really as he had taken numerous showers on camp grounds with his father and was not startled when Father Burns walked in to the shower with him. ██████████ stated at this time Father dressed as he had to attend a Sunday church service and when Father Burns left ██████████ stated he ran home. ██████████ stated that approximately one week later he visited Father Burns at his home in the rectory once again at which time Father Burns walked up behind him and tickled him again. ██████████ stated that when Father Burns would tickle him he would grab him, put him on the floor and lay on top of him and tickle his sides. ██████████ made a statement that get off of me I can't breath at which time Father Burns rolled over on to the ground. ██████████ stated he was quite angry at this time, got up and punched Father Burns in the jaw and left and has not returned since. To the best of ██████████ recollection he believes the incident occurred in January of 1988, sometime after the 16th. ██████████ stated in looking at a 1988 calendar this would limit the days to either January 23rd or January 30th or possibly February 6th. OFF.
CHRISTENSON/gaj

PROBATION / PAROLE RULES

CLIENT NAME	CLIENT NUMBER
Peter Allen BURNS	244125-A

The following rules are in addition to any court-ordered conditions. Your probation or parole may be revoked if you do not comply with any of your court-ordered conditions or if you violate any of the following rules.

1. You shall avoid all conduct which is in violation of federal or state statute, municipal or county ordinances or which is not in the best interest of the public welfare or your rehabilitation.
2. You shall report all arrests or police contact to your agent within 72 hours.
3. You shall make every effort to accept the opportunities and counseling offered by supervision.
4. You shall inform your agent of your whereabouts and activities as he/she directs.
5. You shall submit a written monthly report and any other such relevant information as directed by your agent.
6. You shall make yourself available for searches or tests ordered by your agent including but not limited to urinalysis, breathalyzer and blood samples or search of residence or any property under your control.
7. You shall not change residence or employment unless you get approval in advance from your agent, or in the case of emergency, notify your agent of the change within 72 hours.
8. You shall not leave the State of Wisconsin unless you get approval and a travel permit in advance from your agent.
9. You shall not purchase, trade, sell or operate a motor vehicle unless you get approval in advance from your agent.
10. You shall not borrow money or purchase on credit unless you get approval in advance from your agent.
11. You shall not purchase, possess, own or carry any firearm or any weapon unless you get approval in advance from your agent. Your agent may not grant permission to carry a firearm if you are prohibited from possessing a firearm under Wis. Stats. s. 941.29, or federal law.
12. You shall abide by all rules of any detention or correctional facility in which you may be confined.
13. You shall provide true and correct information verbally and in writing, in response to inquiries by the agent.
14. You shall report to your agent as directed for scheduled and unscheduled appointments. Your scheduled appointments are at the following time and place: at 1673 S. 9th Street - 2nd floor, Milwaukee, in person by appointment a minimum of once per week as directed by the agent.
15. You shall follow any specific rules that may be issued by an agent to achieve the goals and objectives of your supervision. The rules may be modified at any time, as appropriate. The specific rules imposed at this time are:
 - A. You shall fully participate in evaluation, psychotherapy, and sex offender programming, including sexuality issues, as directed by the agent.
 - B. You shall cooperate with, fully participate in, and successfully complete all the requirements of the Sex Offender Intensive Supervision Program as directed by the agent.
 - C. You shall not have any contact whatsoever with [REDACTED] or with their families, whether in person, in writing, by telephone, by electronic device, or through a third party - - without prior agent approval.

(see back side)

I have reviewed and explained these rules to the client.		I have received a copy of these rules.	
AGENT SIGNATURE	AREA NUMBER	CLIENT SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED
	30901		

Notice: If you are on parole and sentenced for crimes committed on or after June 1, 1984 or have chosen to have the new Good Time Law apply to your case and you violate these rules; the highest possible parole violator sentence will be the total sentence less time already served in prison or jail in connection with the offense.

As established by Administrative Rule DOC 328.11, you have an opportunity for administrative review of certain types of decision through the client complaint process.

- D. You shall have no unsupervised contact with any person under the age of 18 years without prior agent approval. Supervised contact with any person under the age of 18 years must be monitored by an adult previously approved by agent.
- E. You shall not reside "overnight" in any residence other than your designated residence without prior agent approval.

The term "residence" in Rule #7 and Rule #15-E is hereby defined as "The place where you stay", "the place where you sleep". A "mailing address" or "storage space" of themselves do not constitute residence.

"Overnight" in Rule #15-E is defined as the daily period of time between 11:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. unless redefined by your agent, in advance, to account for 2nd or 3rd shift work schedules.

- F. You shall abide by a curfew from 11:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. daily unless you obtain an exception in advance from your agent. Curfew is defined as that period of time during which you must be inside your designated residence.
If required to be placed on electronic monitoring, you shall fully cooperate with the rules of the Division of Probation and Parole Electronic Monitoring Program.
- G. You shall permit no person, whether juvenile or adult, to reside (or "stay") overnight in your designated residence at any time without the prior approval of the agent. The terms "residence" and "overnight" are defined as previously stated in these rules.
- H. You shall notify your agent of any involvement in a romantic relationship and you shall introduce the person involved to your agent to discuss your past sexual offenses prior to engaging in any type of sexual activity whatsoever with that person.
- I. You shall not possess (or have in your residence) any sexually explicit materials whether visual or audio, without prior agent approval.
- J. You shall seek, obtain, and maintain, full time employment as directed by the agent. You shall obtain agent approval, in advance, before accepting any offer of employment.
- K. You shall not wear clerical garb, including liturgical ceremonial garments, without prior written approval of the designated person representing the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and without prior notification to the agent.
- L. You shall not perform the professional service of counseling or psychotherapy for any person whatsoever, whether or not for remuneration, without prior agent approval.
- M. You shall not perform any functions of pastoral ministry, in general, or presbyteral ministry, in particular, without the prior written approval of the designated person representing the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and without prior notification to the agent.
- N. You shall not hold or exercise any position of authority with the following categories of people - children; the elderly; families; the mentally, emotionally, or physically disabled; or the culturally different/ disadvantaged- without the prior approval of the agent.
- O. You shall maintain a written log on a daily basis accounting for your whereabouts and activities for each day according to the plan provided by the agent.
- P. You shall pay all court ordered financial obligations for Court Case [REDACTED] County, according to the plan provided by the agent with payment completed no later than 01/24/2002.

9/21/91
Case [REDACTED]

D. H.

After the Jeffrey Dahmer case hit the Milwaukee area of July 23, 1991, Detectives Schoenenberger and Sorensen had observed newspaper stories indicating that Father Peter Burns had been involved with the family of one of Jeffrey Dahmer's victims and had also been a family friend of the victim himself. Through various newspaper stories it was determined that Father Burns had spent time with these children and this time may have been spent alone. Contact was made with [REDACTED] reference this previous sexual assault case. She stated that her son, [REDACTED] the victim, was now 18 years of age, was an adult and could speak of this matter himself. Detectives contacted [REDACTED]. He was asked if he had ever received any counselling for this incident. He stated that he had not. He stated he seemed to be handling things okay but did have questions regarding whether Peter Burns had in fact received any counselling for what had occurred and whether Peter Burns had been stopped from having private counselling sessions with children. He did request that we check into this matter and contact was made with Bishop Richard Skelba at the Archdiocese. Bishop Skelba stated that as far as he knew, Father Peter Burns had been in counselling with a psychiatrist, a Dr. [REDACTED] in the Milwaukee area and had continued in counselling with that psychiatrist and that the matter of limiting access to children had been handled through the local pastor but that his files were not readily available but he would check out the situation and advise us. He was requested to obtain, if possible, a release of information from Dr. [REDACTED] to show the extent of counselling and possible success of that counselling. On a later date I did contact Bishop Skelba and I was advised by him at that time that Father Burns had definitely been in counselling but that he had been advised not to obtain a release of information for this department. Several attempts were made to contact [REDACTED] and eventually a meeting was arranged to discuss the situation. At the time that this appointment was to take place, [REDACTED] did not appear and did not notify me as to any change in plans. At this point, our investigation began reference case [REDACTED] and proceeded to the point of Father Burns' arrest reference second degree sexual assault. On 9/21/91 Detective Sorensen received a phone call at home from Sgt. Wanek advising that [REDACTED] had phoned this department at 4:00 A.M. on this date and had requested to speak with me regarding his victimization. He informed Sgt. Wanek that he wished to speak with only me regarding that and Sgt. Wanek did approve call out reference possible interview. At approximately 8:00 A.M. I did contact [REDACTED] and arrangements were made to interview him at police headquarters. Upon his arrival he stated that he had heard the news regarding Father Burns' arrest in the other matter and he had thought that the matter would have been handled initially but now feared that there may be other victims and that the original arrangement with the church officials had not been honored. He stated that he had feelings as to who was he to accuse a priest but felt that since another come had forward, he would also. He did relay the incident again to this detective and was asked to give a written statement. His written statement reads as follows:

"My relationship with Peter Burns started when I was in [REDACTED] grade at St. Peter Claver School. At this point, he had just arrived in our parish and took a liking to the people I hung around with [REDACTED]

With these [REDACTED]
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SUBJECT TO A [REDACTED] REVIEW
AND FURTHER INVESTIGATION.
CHANGES MAY OCCUR.

ADOM027986

friendships, Peter began having them over at the rectory to talk, watch a movie or play a game. One incident that I recall being over at the rectory with some of the other people listed above; was that he began tickling and rolling around with a few of them. It somehow seemed acceptable because they were friends, but I feel that in all our minds, we were a little too old to be tickled. I didn't really think too much of the situation at the time only because I have grown to trust priests and Peter Burns. My [redacted] grade year was very traumatic. To begin with, our school - St. Peter Claver and I.C., were thrown together and became Christ Child Academy. It was hard adjusting to the new environment and new students after [redacted] years of being with only one class. For reasons unnecessary to this case, [redacted]

I was finding it difficult to turn to family and friends for help and advice so I turned to Peter Burns. I figured he could give me some advice; someone not completely involved with the school. - I assumed that he would have a better perspective on the situation because he wasn't involved. One evening in February - April of my [redacted] grade year I called Peter Burns and asked for his help. He invited me to spend the night at the rectory so we could discuss my problems. As I arrived, we sat down on the couch and began talking. His advise was satisfying to me and eventually it came time to go to sleep. Peter Burns then asked me where I felt comfortable sleeping, and gave me the choices of the couch or his bed. He then immediately went into a story about when he was a child, it was accepted that he slept in the same bed as brothers or friends. He continued by saying how he felt that I would probably feel more for comfortable with him, in that he could offer comfort. By this - I thought he meant psychological comfort by simply being there - (like sleeping with your parents as a child during a storm) so, we continued to his bedroom where as he changed to pajamas and I changed into shorts and a t-shirt, in the bathroom. Upon entering the bedroom again Peter Burns began tickling me. I didn't really care for this too much and went into the bathroom again. This is where I had my first thought that he may implying or will attempt something on me sexually. It was then that I entered the bedroom and said I was tired and wanted to go to sleep. He accepted this and I laid down on the very end (side) of the bed with my face opposite of his. He then slowly progressed up behind me. He pressed firmly up against my back and placed his arm around me. After a while he asked me what was bothering me (20 - 30 minutes maybe) because I wasn't asleep. Because I didn't know what to do about the present situation (him up against me) I said I was just thinking about my problems. That was all that was said. Maybe ten minutes after that he moved his hand slowly down my side from my chest, towards my waist. From there he progressed to touching my penis, on the outside of my shorts. I slowly - but immediately go up went into the bathroom, closed the door and laid down on the bathroom floor - mainly to think through what was going on. I could not believe that a man of the cloth, a priest - someone respected by the community, could actually have done this. I went back into the bedroom about 15 - 30 minutes later and said I was tired and wanted to go to sleep in a tone that meant just that, only because I didn't know how else to handle it. If I told him I wanted to go home - I thought he may have reacted differently and possibly try more forcefully what he did before. I went back into the bed - far side again and went to sleep, with him on the other side of the bed. Nothing more was said or done. The next morning we woke up, went to breakfast and he drove me home. It was then that I told my parents what happened. Through my mother - a meeting [redacted] set up that involved

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AND FURTHER INFORMATION
CHANGES MAY OCCUR

ADOM027987

myself, Peter Burns, Father Dave Braun and my mother. In this meeting the incident was brought up and resolved in a manner that we wouldn't press charges, at the time, if Peter Burns were to receive counselling, and - no one shall be allowed to spend the night at the rectory with Peter Burns. Peter Burns agreed to these terms." SIGNED: [REDACTED] dated 9/21/91

I asked [REDACTED] if he recalled what Father Burns' explanation for this incident was during the meeting and he stated that Father Burns had said that he had rubbed his chest to relax him. [REDACTED] states that he would be willing to testify in this matter should that be necessary. He was advised that the matter would be discussed with the district attorney's office and if testimony was required, he would be notified. It should be noted that during an interview with Peter Burns that was held on 9/20/91 by Officer Christenson and Detective Sorensen reference case [REDACTED] Burns stated without being specifically questioned regarding that incident that he had been in counselling for an incident which he had "fondled a teenager" and this had not been with the child involved in case [REDACTED] but was a previous incident which had been called to the attention of the authorities but prosecution had not been pursued at that time. It should be noted that the only case which had been called to the attention of authorities regarding Father Burns at that time period was the case involving [REDACTED] [REDACTED] DET. SORENSEN/gaj

cc: District Attorney's Office

COFY

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AND FURTHER INVESTIGATION.
CHANGES MAY OCCUR.

ADOM027988

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIALEntry for the Chart of Peter Burns

2/15/94 by Liz Piasecki

Spoke today with the Archbishop who had raised a concern about the behavior of Peter Burns. Peter Burns is currently living at Bethany House and is in the process of being retrained to leave the priesthood. The Archbishop told me that he had received a call from Father Tom Hickey who is the supervisor at Bethany House. Tom Hickey reported to the Archbishop that Peter is having overnight guests at Bethany House and the Archbishop asked that I facilitate somehow a direct conversation with Peter and order him to stop that kind of behavior. I subsequently discussed this situation with Father Tom Venne and we met with Father Tom Hickey who happened to be in the building at the time. Father Hickey reported that Peter was having one of the [REDACTED] family staying overnight. It appears to be [REDACTED] s older brother. Tom Hickey said he has a concern because that individual looks much younger than his age. Father Venne said he would talk with Peter Burns on this issue. I also called Peter's attorney, Mr. Alex Flynn and informed him of the situation. Alex immediately called Peter Burns and subsequently called me back and left a message that this matter has been resolved.

2/15/94 by Liz Piasecki

Spoke briefly with Bishop Sklba regarding the situation of overnight guests at Bethany House by Peter Burns. We discussed the possibility of increasing his supervision by means of informing him of some house rules regarding no overnight guests, period, whether it's children or adults and that his residency at Bethany House perhaps should be contingent upon complying with those regulations. If he chooses not to comply with those regulations, then he would be asked to leave Bethany House, but his salary would not be increased. I also mentioned to Bishop Sklba that perhaps we could work closer with the Department of Corrections and Peter Burns probation officer to have more of a handle on Peter's behavior. Also I will call Father Tom Hickey and ask him to call me the instant that Peter has one more guest overnight, if that should occur.



CATHOLIC
SOCIAL
SERVICES

of the Archdiocese
of Milwaukee, Inc.

DATE: April 12, 1994

TO: Archbishop Rembert Weakland
Bishop Richard Sklba
Rev. Tom Venne
Attorney Matt Flynn

FROM: Liz Piasecki, Psy.D. *ep*

RE: Peter Burns

Enclosed are signed copies of the Sex Offender Intensive Supervision Rules from the Department of Probation and Parole.

Peter's signature and initials indicate that he has received a copy and that the rules have been reviewed with him.

LCP:bk

Enclosure

3501 South Lake Drive
P.O. Box 07912
Milwaukee,
WI 53207-0912
414/769-3400
FAX 414/769-3408



CONFIDENTIAL

ADOM028020

FATHER PETER A. BURNS
[REDACTED]
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53209

February 25, 1995

His Holiness
Pope John Paul II
Vatican City, Europe

Your Holiness:

May I respectfully submit herewith my formal request to be dispensed from all the obligations attached to Sacred Orders and to return definitively to lay status.

My name is Peter Allen Burns and I live at the address listed above. My phone number is [REDACTED] I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 12, 1959 and am the son of Robert Burns and Elizabeth (McCaustland) Burns. I have four brothers and two sisters. I attended Sts. Peter and Paul Grade School from 1965 to 1973 and Riverside High School from 1973 to 1977. I then entered St. Francis de Sales College Seminary. I attended this college from 1977 to 1981. After graduating from here I entered St. Francis Seminary from 1981 to 1986. I was ordained a deacon May 17, 1985 and assigned to St. Peter Claver Parish in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. I was ordained a priest on May 17, 1986 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee. My first and only priestly assignment was as Associate Pastor at St. Peter Claver. For a short period of time I was working with the Archivist at the Chancery Offices in Milwaukee. Currently I am working for Budgetel Inns Reservation Center in Milwaukee.

My motivation for this decision begins in September 1991. It was at this time that I was removed from St. Peter Claver Parish and placed on administrative leave. I was given some work at the Archdiocesan Offices in October 1991. This lasted until April 1993. Since April 1993 I have not been given any assignment. It was also at this time that Archbishop Weakland told me that he would not give me an assignment. My decision to seek this dispensation is based on the fact that I will not be able to exercise priestly ministry in the future. Certain accusations of sexual misconduct have been made against me. According to my diocesan bishop, Archbishop Rembert Weakland, I will not be allowed to function as a priest within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee or in any other diocese.

I have not had any difficulties in accepting or preaching any church doctrines. I also respect the authority of the church which should be evident from presenting this petition.

ADOM054807

I have prayed over this decision a great deal. Given the limited options presented me by the Archbishop, I see no other choice for me.

I am fully aware that my decision to return to lay status, if approved by the Holy See, is permanent and final, without hope of eventual readmittance to priestly ministry.

My physical, emotional, and spiritual health has been quite normal throughout my life. However, the last few years have put a great deal of pressure on my emotional and spiritual sides.

I am aware of the rules of the church regarding any future marriage ceremony.

In summary, I am requesting this dispensation because I see no other alternatives for my life as a priest. Archbishop Weakland has made that quite clear.

I solemnly swear to the truth of all of my statements.

Humbly submitted,

Father Peter A. Burns

Father Peter A. Burns

Milwaukee, WI 53209
U.S.A.

ADOM054808

7



ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 25, 1995

His Eminence, Antonio Maria Cardinal Javierre Ortas
Prefect, The Congregation for Divine Worship and
the Discipline of the Sacraments
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

Your Eminence,

The cause I now present concerns the crime of sexual abuse by a priest, including the tragic death of one of his victims, that has caused great scandal in this local Church. Hence, with sincere humility I respectfully submit to the judgement of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments the attached petition of the Reverend Peter Allen Burns, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, to be reduced to the lay state and dispensed from all obligations attached to sacred orders including that of celibacy.

Father Burns is guilty of a sexual assault on a minor boy for which Father has served a prison term and now remains on probation. As a result of this highly publicized case, and also the reality of another allegation of sexual misconduct concerning another minor boy, great scandal has arisen in this local Church. Moreover, based both on the advice of psychology and civil law experts and the fact that Father Burns has never indicated signs of remorse for this conduct, other than showing some concern during his civil criminal proceedings, I judge that he can never return to priestly ministry in this Archdiocese. Furthermore, I could never recommend him to the service of any other diocesan bishop. I have explained my conclusion to Father Burns, who understands the reality of his situation. Hence Father Peter Burns freely submits his petition to the Holy Father.

Reverend Peter Allen Burns

Age: 36 (born: June 12, 1959)

Ordained a priest: May 17, 1986 by the Most Reverend Rembert G.
Weakland, O.S.B., Archbishop of Milwaukee, in the Cathedral
of Saint John the Evangelist, Milwaukee, WI

Date assigned to ministry: June 17, 1986

Date removed from active ministry: September 20, 1991.

Two cases of sexual misconduct with minor boys locate the tragedy of this situation.

First, in January 1987 the pastor of the parish where Father Burns was assigned was informed by the parents of a minor boy that their son told them that Father Burns had touched him in a sexual way. Given that Wisconsin law requires reporting such allegations to civil authorities, this pastor contacted the police who conducted an investigation. A photocopy of the police report, which is enclosed as part of this petition, indicates that, while Father Burns denies any sexual contact with the boy, Father does admit touching him on the stomach and the chest. More

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ADOM054810

8

Importantly, the police report also indicates that Father Burns was aware of the emotional problems the boy was having and, therefore, of his vulnerability. However, the boy's parents decided not to file criminal charges against Father Burns because they were very concerned that the necessary police and court activity would only further damage their child. Yet they conditioned their decision not to file charges against Father Burns with the provision that Father would receive proper psychological evaluation and counseling. Immediately the Archdiocese provided this for Father Burns.

Some time later the boy involved in this case [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The second case against Father Burns came to light in September 1991, but concerns an event that took place in early 1988, thus only a short time after the first case and during the time when Father Burns was in counseling for the first case. This second case is the case for which Father has served a prison term, and now is on probation. A photocopy of the certain civil documents in this case, including his signed statement of guilt and the terms of probation, are enclosed in this petition. These documents clearly explain the details of Father's offense, including statements by Father Burns that he did in fact commit the actions of sexual abuse.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, at no time in his defense did Father Burns suggest that he was not responsible for his actions because of any psychic or mental defect. Rather, the civil court considered Father completely accountable for his actions.

In fact, the judge in the civil court who heard the case and who sentenced Father Burns, and this judge's comments are also included with this petition, notes for the public record how Father Burns betrayed the trust of young people in that Father ingratiated himself on the young persons knowing their weakened condition due to emotional problems. The judge even states that "there is nothing, and I mean nothing to justify or excuse the defendant's conduct". The judge also notes that as a result of these crimes children are traumatized and essentially changed forever. Actually, even children who are not victims yet become aware of the crimes are affected because their attitudes towards persons of authority, especially priests, become suspicious. Truly many of the members of the Church and the community at large are not able to trust priests as easily as they once did trust and respect them.

Furthermore, as might be expected in such a case, extensive media coverage from area newspapers adds to the scandal involved, and photocopies of some of these articles are also enclosed. Of special note in this regard is the fact that Father Burns was a friend of a victim of Jeffrey Dahmer, a serial killer in the Milwaukee area whose crimes were publicized

on an international basis. To be perfectly clear, Father Burns was in no way connected with Jeffrey Dahmer or any of his crimes, but Father's association with that very tragic case has only added to the scandal Father's own crimes have caused.

In accord with canon 384 of the Code of Canon Law, I have given special concern to the spiritual, emotional, and legal well-being of Father Burns. Not only was Father provided with appropriate counseling as a result of his first case, from the time his second case became known in 1991 I have assured that Father Burns would not lack the necessary services of civil and canonical lawyers, or psychological counseling due to a lack of financial resources. Father Burns has taken advantage of these opportunities in all areas of assistance and, therefore, I am sure that Father is not making a hasty or rash decision in the presentation of this petition to the Holy Father.

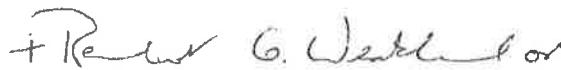
Also the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has made a cash payment for the damage caused by Father Burns. In total, the Archdiocese has paid more than \$1,000,000.00 for the personal injury settlement, legal fees, and related expenses. In addition, I have agreed that, if Father Burns is dispensed from his priestly obligations and returned to the lay state, we will provide him \$25,000 to assist in preparing for some other form of livelihood.

I realize that the age of Father Burns is a few years lower than the minimum age for processing petitions for a dispensation from the obligations of Holy Orders. However, I do not judge that there would be any additional scandal involved in the granting of this request. On the contrary, this laicization may lead to some healing of the extensive scandal that exists because of his actions. Moreover, the granting of this dispensation would result in another measure of safeguard for minors lest Father Burns take advantage of his clerical status for actions of sexual abuse in the future.

Finally, while the recent derogations in canon law would allow for a canonical process of dismissal from the clerical state in this case, Father Burns' voluntary departure appears to be the preferable route, since such an approach complies with canon 1341 by considering a penal process to be the last resort.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this regard and I have the honor to be, Your Eminence,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

July 30, 1995

The Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Dear Archbishop Weakland,

The instruction of the case of the Reverend Peter Allen Burns, who wishes to petition the Holy Father for a dispensation from all obligations arising from sacred orders, including that of celibacy, is now complete. As you had mandated, the instruction was carried out in accordance with the Procedural Norms issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1980 (Prot. N. 128/61).

Father Burns' situation concerns two tragic cases. The first case came to light in 1987 when the parents of a minor boy told the pastor of the parish where Father Burns was assigned that their son had told them that Father had touched this boy in a sexual way. However, the subsequent investigation by the local police was halted by the parents of the boy because they feared that public police and court actions would damage their child emotionally. Therefore, they decided that they would not file civil charges against Father Burns, provided that the Church took appropriate action, including that Father would receive necessary psychological evaluation and counseling. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee immediately provided this for Father Burns.

As you know, some time after this incident, the boy who accused Father Burns [REDACTED] While no one knows the intention or psychological status of the boy at the time of the accident, the law firm of Quarles and Brady, the firm that represents the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, has provided extensive data from court records that indicate there is reason to suspect that [REDACTED] This data is from police records, obtained with the permission of the civil court, which indicate that the police who investigated the incident, as well as other persons who were at the scene of the incident and gave information to the police, considered the matter to probably [REDACTED]

The second case concerns a charge brought forth in 1991 but referring to an incident that took place in 1988, thus only a short time after the first case and during the time that Father Burns was in counseling for that first case. This second case is the case for which Father Burns is guilty in civil law of a sexual crime against a minor boy, served a prison term for this crime, and now is on probation and monitored by the Department of Corrections of the State of Wisconsin. I know that you have seen the police report and court documents concerning this case, so I will not restate them here. I would comment, however, in two respects.

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ADOM054813

11

The first point is that evidence shows that this second victim of Father Burns, who was a friend of the first victim, now suffers from

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] but also on the fact that Father Burns was a friend of a boy who was a victim of Jeffrey Dahmer, a serial killer whose crimes in the Milwaukee area received much local and international media coverage. While Father Burns was in no way involved with Jeffrey Dahmer or any of his horrendous crimes, his association with that case has added to the scandal generated by Father's own crimes against young boys.

The second point is that the civil court judge who sentenced Father Burns certainly considers Father guilty not only of a sexual crime but also of violating the trust of the youth and of the community at large. Thus, since Father Burns' crime is very well known in the community because of newspaper and television coverage the case has received, the true and damaging scandal that has arisen, not only among members of the Church but also among members of the community at large as well, is clear.

Moreover, Father Burns has shown no remorse for his action, other than some demonstrated during his civil criminal proceedings. It appears that he does not appreciate the great harm he has caused his victim and the victim's family. Nor has he apologized to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for the large financial expense (over \$1,000,000.00) he has caused the Archdiocese.

Father Burns' civil and canonical rights have been well protected. In addition, housing and other forms of sustenance are being provided by the Archdiocese, and a commitment has been made by you that, if a dispensation is granted, a financial allowance will be provided to assist him in preparing for some other form of livelihood.

I realize that Father Burns is under the minimum age for processing petitions for a dispensation from the obligations of Holy Orders, yet allowing him to continue to be a cleric communicates a troublesome message to the people about the meaning and purpose of the ordained priesthood in the Church.

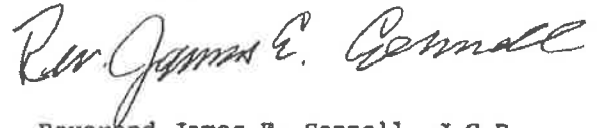
In fact, the civil court has imposed conditions on Father Burns' probation beyond those they would normally impose on a person who is guilty of the crime Father committed, simply because Father Burns is able to truthfully tell people he is a priest and from this perceived state of confidence people might in poor judgment trust Father. For example, the civil court forbids Father from wearing clerical clothes, including liturgical ceremonial garments, without the written approval from an authorized person of the Archdiocesan Curia and also from the assigned agent of the state. In other words, if Father Burns violates this or any other rule of his probation, he will be sent back to jail to complete his prison sentence. Truly, the state government is concerned that a priest who is convicted of sexual abuse might be able to misuse his clerical status so as to win the confidence of young people only to hurt them criminally.

Thus, while people want to trust priests without reservation, allowing Father Burns to continue in the clerical state hinders people in this regard. Indeed they question, why does the Church permit such a man to be a cleric?

Of course, given the derogation in canon law established by the Holy Father in April 1994, a canonical process of dismissal from the clerical state is possible. This direction, however, would not seem to be the preferable course of action, since canon 1341 considers a penal process to be the last resort. Thus, Father Burns' petition to the Holy Father is the appropriate action at this time.

Hence, I now present the case to you for your consideration and action.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend James E. Connell, J.C.D.
Vice Chancellor and Instructor

July 11, 1995

TO: Archbishop Rembert Weakland, O.S.B.
FROM: Father Jim Connell
SUBJECT: Presentation of dispensation case(s) to Rome

Barbara Anne has mentioned to me her discussion with you concerning the advisability of presenting the Peter Burns case to the Congregation in person. She also said that I would be the lucky person.

Given Peter's age of 36 years, anything we can do to prevent his cause from being filed by the Congregation for four years on a technicality seems worth trying. Moreover, the data that Matt Flynn has provided or will soon furnish assists greatly to explain how the [redacted] victim, as well as the damage done to the [redacted] victim and its effect on the people and the financial resources of the Archdiocese, justify a suspension of the "40 year old" norm in Peter's case. Also, the scandal created by the media's reporting of Peter's association with the [redacted] family as their spokesman in the Jeffrey Dahmer case increases the need for the Church to address Peter's clerical status. Hence, it makes sense to me that we create some noticeable attention when delivering the acts of the case to Rome.

Yet, how we most effectively create this attention is not clear to me and I seek your advice by way of some questions.

1. Who should contact the Congregation to make an appointment? Is there a proper protocol in this regard? *Archbishop writes to Msgr. Klinga; cc the Cardinal*
2. Should I carry a letter from you to the Cardinal or the Secretary of the Congregation? *NO*
3. Would Msgr. Jim Harvey, since he is a Milwaukee priest working in the Vatican, be a help with introductions. *NO*
4. Would the second week of September be a reasonable time? *Yes*
5. Should we attempt to include the [redacted] case in this conversation? *Yes, in conversation*
Should attempt to get a case set for [redacted] and delivered at the same time? *NO*
6. What else should I be concerned about? Is there anything else I should do for the Archdiocese while in Rome?

Thanks and I await your comments.

Jim

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ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

His Eminence, Cardinal Prefect
Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
00120 Vatican City State

Your Eminence:

In accordance with the Norms issued by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (14 October 1980; Protocol No. 128/61s), I am submitting for your consideration the case of Father Peter Burns, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. It is his request that he be permitted to return to the lay state and be dispensed from the obligations arising from sacred orders.

Father Burns is not challenging the validity of his orders and so a defender of the bond of orders has not been appointed. I delegated Rev. James Connell, Vice Chancellor, to instruct the case. The full acts of the case as assembled by Father Connell are included herein. The details of his life and ministry are contained in his curriculum vitae.

This is an unusual case due to the age of the petitioner and the circumstances surrounding his behavior and publicity flowing therefrom. Father Burns is thirty-five years of age and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 1986. While he is below the age normally considered by the Congregation in terms of a petition for return to the lay state, his case warrants special consideration. In the eight and a half years that Father Burns has been a priest he has been able to function in that capacity less than five years. He has been involved in widely publicized cases of sexual abuse involving minor boys. These cases and Father Burns' behavior have been a cause of grave scandal among the faithful.

Father Burns has completed his jail term but is still on probation and will remain so for yet a number of years. Given the scandal associated with these cases and the serious nature of the offenses to which he admits, it is impossible for Father Burns to be assigned to any priestly ministry. This impossibility will not diminish in the years ahead. While Father Burns has admitted to these serious sexual offenses, it is my assessment that he shows little or no remorse and does not accept the seriousness of the offenses or their impact on the reputation of the Church and his fellow priests. The psychological factors which contribute to his disordered expressions of sexuality are deep seated and not readily treatable by psychological or spiritual intervention.

ADOM055003

While it may be unusual for a man of Father Burns' age and years of ministry to present such a petition, I accept his reasons and judge this decision to be most beneficial to the Church. This is not a rash or hasty decision on his part and he has received extensive canonical advice. While the recent derogations in canon law would allow for a canonical penal process of dismissal from the clerical state in this case, Father Burns' voluntary departure appears to be the preferable route.

I do not judge that there would be any scandal involved in the granting of this request. On the contrary, this laicization may lead to some healing of the extensive scandal that has existed in relation to his actions. The granting of this petition would also result in another measure of safeguard for minors lest he attempt to take advantage of his clerical status for actions of abuse in the future.

Entrusting this case to your wisdom and prudential judgment and with sentiments of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rembert G. Weakland".

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, OSB
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 15, 1995

His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Sodano
Secretary of State
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

Your Eminence,

A very tragic and highly scandalous situation has developed concerning a priest of this Archdiocese and I seek your assistance in bringing this matter to the attention of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

The Reverend Peter Burns, who is guilty of a sexual assault on a minor boy for which Father has served a prison term, has petitioned the Holy Father for a dispensation from the obligations of priesthood ordination, including that of celibacy, so that Father may return to the lay state.

Recently, however, I was informed by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments that because Father is not yet 40 years of age his petition has been declared *DILATA ET COMPLEANTUR ACTA*. Immediately upon receiving this news I wrote to His Eminence Antonio Maria Cardinal Javierre Ortas requesting that this decision be reconsidered. I now understand that such a reconsideration will not happen. So I request your intervention, not only because of the scandal that already exists in the community as a result of the criminal actions of Father Burns, but also because I fear that new and perhaps even greater scandal will arise as a result of this decision.

Let me briefly explain. Two cases of sexual misconduct locate the tragedy of this situation. The first incident occurred in 1987, only a few months after Father was ordained a priest. However, while there is no doubt that the crime took place, the parents of the first victim, in an effort to protect the boy from any further trauma that a civil trial and related coverage by the news media might cause, decided not to pursue the case. Yet some years later, according to police reports, the victim [REDACTED]

The second case of sexual abuse occurred in 1988 but did not come to light until 1991. This is the crime for which Father was sent to prison and remains on a court-ordered probation. The victim of this second case continues to suffer serious psychological problems, including a fear that some day he also might become [REDACTED]

Truly Father Burns' case is the source of great pain for many persons: the surviving victim and both families, the parishioners of the parish where the crimes took place, the people throughout the Archdiocese who have lost a sense of trust in their own parish priest, and the priests of the Archdiocese who, from time to time, endure harassment and ridicule because of Father's actions.

Moreover, when either Auxiliary Bishop Richard Skiba or I are in the northern part of the Archdiocese, it is not uncommon for people to stop us to ask about Father's status in the Church and tell us how his crime, as well as the crimes of other priest sex offenders, have shaken their faith.

The scandal in Father Burn's situation also includes the reality that Father was a friend of a boy who was a victim of Jeffrey Dahmer, a serial killer whose crimes in the Milwaukee area received much local, national, and international news media coverage. Yet, while Father Burns was in no way involved with Jeffrey Dahmer or any of his horrendous crimes, his public associations with that case has added to the scandal generated by Father's own crimes against boys.

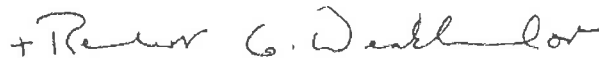
Furthermore, I am concerned that new and very serious scandal will arise from this decision by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments to delay the processing and judgment of Father Burns' petition because of his age. I fear that, if this decision becomes generally known or if people familiar with the case simply surmise from a lack of a definitive conclusion to the petition that a decision has been made to postpone processing the case because of Father's age, people might begin to conclude that the Church equates a convicted priest sex offender with a young priest who might have made an immature decision concerning his ordination. In other words, these people might consider such an application of the general policy concerning age to be an imbalance or lack of equity in which a specific attempt to heal the pain of hatred and violence is sacrificed for a general concern regarding rash immaturity.

In order to provide you with the details of Father's petition I am enclosing a copy of the Acts that were submitted to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

Therefore, my specific request of you is that this case be presented to the Holy Father for his consideration.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter and I have the honor to be, Your Eminence,

Sincerely yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rembert G. Weakland".

The Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM055096

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 3, 1995

Prot. N. 1699/95/S

His Eminence, Antonio Maria Cardinal Javierre Ortas
Prefect, The Congregation for Divine Worship and
the Discipline of the Sacraments
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

Your Eminence,

In response to your letter of October 5, 1995 concerning the petition of the Reverend PETER ALLEN BURNS for a dispensation from the obligations of the priesthood, I request that the decision to postpone consideration of the cause and to declare a DILATA ET COMPLEANTUR ACTA be reviewed.

I make this request not only because of the scandal that already exists in this community as a result of the criminal actions of Father Burns, but also because I fear that new and perhaps even greater scandal will arise as a result of this decision.

First let me speak to the scandal that already exists. Father Burns is guilty of a sexual assault on a minor boy for which Father has served a prison term and now remains on a civil court ordered period of probation.

Actually, two cases of sexual misconduct locate the tragedy of this situation. The first incident occurred in 1987, thus only a few months after Father was ordained a priest. However, while there is no doubt that the crime took place, the parents of the victim, in an effort to protect the boy from any further trauma that a civil trial and related coverage by the news media might cause, decided not to pursue the case. Yet some years later, according to police reports, the victim [REDACTED]

The second case of sexual abuse occurred in 1988 but did not come to light until 1991. This is the crime for which Father was sent to prison and remains on probation. The victim of this second case continues to suffer [REDACTED]

Truly Father Burns' case is the source of great pain for many persons: the surviving victim and both families, the parishioners of the parish where the crimes took place, the people throughout the Archdiocese who have lost a sense of trust in their own parish priest, and the priests of the Archdiocese who, from time to time, endure harassment and ridicule because of Father's actions.

Moreover, when either Auxiliary Bishop Richard Skiba or I are in the northern part of the Archdiocese, it is not uncommon for people to stop us to ask about Father's status in the Church and tell us how his crimes, as well as the crimes of other priest sex offenders, have shaken their faith

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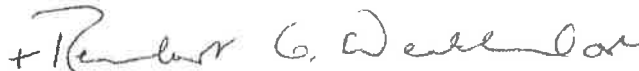
The scandal in Father Burns' situation also includes the reality that Father was a friend of a boy who was a victim of Jeffrey Dahmer, a serial killer whose crimes in the Milwaukee area received much local, national, and international news media coverage. Yet, while Father Burns was in no way involved with Jeffrey Dahmer or any of his horrendous crimes, his public association with that case has added to the scandal generated by Father's own crimes against boys.

Now let me speak to the concern I have that new and very serious scandal will arise from this decision to delay the processing and judgment of Father Burns' petition. I fear that, if this decision becomes generally known or if the people familiar with the case simply surmise from a lack of a definitive conclusion to the petition that a decision has been made to postpone processing the case because of Father's age, people might begin to conclude that the Church equates a convicted priest sex offender with a young priest who might have made an immature decision concerning his ordination. In other words, these people might consider such an application of the general policy concerning age to be an imbalance or lack of equity in which a specific attempt to heal the pain of hatred and violence is sacrificed for a general concern regarding rash immaturity.

I would like very much to discuss this entire situation with you. Actually, I will be in Rome in the near future and I would like to meet with you some time during the last week of November. I will contact you when I arrive in Rome to set an appointment.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this regard and I have the honor to be, Your Eminence,

Sincerely your in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rembert G. Weakland".

The Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM055099

1 THE COURT: At this point the Court will inquire
2 as to why sentence should not now be pronounced. Any reason,
3 Mr. Frisch?

4 MR. FRISCH: No.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Flynn?

6 MR. FLYNN: No reason, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Burns?

8 DEFENDANT BURNS: No reason.

9 THE COURT: When a court imposes sentence in a
10 criminal case it is to consider three primary criteria. First,
11 the gravity of the offense, second, the character of the
12 defendant, and third, the need to protect the public.

13 The Court will address those criteria seriatim,
14 meaning one at a time.

15 With respect to the gravity of the offense, the Court
16 acknowledges that the defendant stands convicted of the crime of
17 second degree sexual assault, and that carries with it a maximum
18 possible penalty of ten years in the state prison system and a
19 \$10,000 fine. The penalty alone signifies that the offense is
20 serious, however, the Court considers more than just the penalty
21 of the crime to determine just how grave the offense is.

22 This is a case of betrayal of the highest order, a
23 case where a man of God betrayed the trust of young, innocent
24 children. A case where Peter Burns violated his position of
25 trust by sexually assaulting two young boys.

1 Considering count 1 in case number [REDACTED], the
2 charge for which defendant stands convicted, Peter Burns
3 ingratiated himself to the victim, he was the child counselor,
4 spiritual teacher, friend.

5 In January of 1988 after a day of basketball,
6 swimming, and going out for pizza, the defendant invited the
7 child to stay overnight at the church rectory. It was in the
8 defendant's bed at the church rectory where the defendant had
9 sexual contact with the boy. The boy summoned the strength to
10 emotionally fight off the despicable sexual advances made by
11 defendant. Clearly, Peter Burns violated the trust that a young
12 boy had for an adult, clergyman, friend.

13 The second count of this case which the Court may
14 consider for sentencing purposes occurred the very next day when
15 the defendant told the youngster to take a shower. And while in
16 the shower, again the defendant sexually assaulted the child.

17 The other charge which was dismissed in a companion
18 case which the Court may consider again for sentencing purposes
19 ostensibly occurred prior to the previously described incident.
20 This incident occurred in January of 1987, it involved a
21 fourteen year old boy who was having emotional problems. The
22 boy came to his priest for guidance, for counseling, and for
23 help.

24 Peter Burns knew in advance that the boy was going to
25 spend the night at the church rectory. And after spending time

1 counseling the youngster the defendant invited the youngster to
 2 sleep in his bed rather than on a couch because, as he told the
 3 child, he would be more comfortable. And while in bed Peter
 4 Burns massaged the child's shoulders and back to relieve tension
 5 and worked his way down to the child's groin area where again
 6 the sexual assault occurred through the boy's undershorts.
 7 Similarly a violation of trust the young boy had for an adult,
 8 clergyman and friend took place.

9 The youngster reported the incident to his parents,
 10 the family decided that because of the emotional problems that
 11 the boy was experiencing and the trauma that the trial would --
 12 the trial would certainly create trauma for the boy, they met
 13 with church officials to discuss the matter. After they
 14 received assurances that no other boys would be allowed to stay
 15 overnight at the church rectory, and that the defendant would
 16 receive counseling, they decided not to press charges.

17 It is difficult to imagine the shock and the guilt
 18 that that family experienced when they learned of the other
 19 sexual assault committed by Peter Burns.

20 There are three primary factors which concern the
 21 Court in this case. They are, first, the blatant betrayal of
 22 trust on the part of Peter Burns. Secondly, the fact the
 23 defendant was given a second chance. And third, apparently the
 24 defendant was in therapy when the second sexual assault
 25 occurred.

1 The defendant has indicated that in 1987 he was having
2 difficult times, his mother died, his father was recovering from
3 a stroke, he was relocating to a new area, didn't have any
4 friends in the new area, these are rough times, that is
5 undeniable.

6 However, there is nothing, and I mean nothing to
7 justify or excuse the defendant's conduct.

8 The victims and their families have a right to feel
9 angry and bitter. Peter Burns devastated their emotions and
10 nearly destroyed their faith. He shattered the very foundation
11 of these peoples' lives. The hurt he caused goes to the inner
12 nerve of the human spirit.

13 The victims and their families have been severely
14 traumatized. The victims and their families the Court believes
15 need counseling.

16 Also the Court believes that the general public really
17 doesn't understand how this type of crime affects its victims.
18 Children are traumatized and essentially they are changed
19 forever. The emotional scarring is something that stays with
20 the victims for the rest of their lives.

21 The feelings of distrust engendered by the
22 perpetration of this type of an act are transferred to others.
23 As one of the victims in these cases puts it, it has become
24 extremely difficult to place any trust in a higher authority or
25 simply to confide in a friend.

1 The Court will now look to the second criterion, that
2 is the character of the defendant.

3 I am sure that in Peter Burns' ministry he has done
4 much good and he's helped many people in need. However, all the
5 good things he has accomplished, all the good things he has done
6 are now blotted out by the dark ugly stain of the sexual
7 assaults.

8 Peter Burns indicated to the presentence investigation
9 report preparer that he enjoyed working with people. God gave
10 Peter Burns a gift and Peter Burns discarded that gift in favor
11 of his own self gratification.

12 It is difficult to fathom how or why the defendant
13 decided to engage in this type of conduct.

14 Peter Burns is 32 years old, comes from a good
15 hard-working catholic family from the east side of Milwaukee.
16 He has four brothers and two sisters, and like many people his
17 family was shocked when they learned of these incidents.
18 However, his family was very supportive of Mr. Burns.

19 The Court also notes that according to the presentence
20 investigation report that Peter Burns graduated from the St.
21 Francis DeSales Seminary in 1985 and was ordained a catholic
22 priest in 1986. As the Court has heard, he currently is on
23 administrative leave from the St. Peter Claver Catholic Church
24 in Sheboygan.

25 Peter Burns is presently involved in psychotherapy

1 with Dr. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED]

2 From the observations of the doctors contained in the
3 presentence investigation report the defendant has a serious
4 problem with a sexual attraction pattern involving adolescent
5 boys.

6 The Court notes that Peter Burns has expressed
7 empathy, sympathy and concern for the victims. He is also
8 remorseful for what he has done.

9 And that brings the Court to the final criterion, the
10 need to protect the public. The Court is satisfied that the
11 need to protect the community will be met by imposing and
12 staying a prison sentence.

13 There is always a danger in permitting a convicted
14 felon to remain in the community. In this case, however, the
15 Court believes that the sentence it has fashioned will have
16 sufficient structure, incentive and supervision to induce the
17 defendant's rehabilitation.

18 The prison sentence and the Court staying of that
19 sentence I believe will insure that the public interests will be
20 served.

21 Peter A. Burns, you are hereby sentenced to the
22 Wisconsin State prison system for an indeterminate sentence of
23 not more than seven years. The Dodge Correctional Facility
24 shall be designated as reception center.

25 It appears that given appropriate supervision and

1 control, Peter A. Burns is not likely to commit further crimes.
2 And the welfare of the community will not suffer. Accordingly,
3 such sentence shall be stayed and the defendant shall be placed
4 on probation for a period of ten years under the following
5 ordered conditions.

6 Number one, that Peter Burns continue to participate
7 with psychological counseling.

8 Number two, that full restitution to the victims and
9 the victim's families for any therapy costs that they have
10 incurred or will incur as a result of these assaults will be
11 made by the defendant.

12 Number three, that Peter Burns be precluded from
13 having any unsupervised contact with any minors.

14 Number four, that the defendant not have any contact
15 with the victims or their families. An exception to the
16 previous two items would be that if in a therapy setting and if
17 upon agreement by both the defendant's therapist and victims'
18 therapists that such contact take place the Court will permit
19 the contact to occur.

20 Also as a punitive component, to the sentence of the
21 withheld portion, I should say the stayed portion of the
22 sentence, and to remind the defendant of the serious nature of
23 the offense, the Court shall impose a jail sentence of nine
24 months in the county jail as a condition of probation. Such
25 jail sentence may be served in Milwaukee County but you have to

1 make arrangements through the Sheboygan County jail officials.

2 Your attorney, Mr. Burns, will explain the difference
3 to you between a withheld sentence and a sentence which is
4 stayed and imposed. But essentially it means you have been
5 sentenced to the Wisconsin State prison system for a period of
6 seven years. That portion of the sentence has been stayed and
7 you are placed on probation.

8 If during the course of your probationary term, which
9 is a lengthy term of ten years, you violate any of the
10 conditions of probation, your probation may be revoked. And if
11 that happens you will not return to this court for sentencing
12 because you have already been sentenced. Should your probation
13 be revoked you would then be incarcerated in the state prison
14 system for a period of up to seven years to serve the sentence
15 which the Court has imposed in your case.

16 Let me inquire as to when your client can start
17 serving the jail sentence. It has to start within the next
18 sixty days. What I can do is indicate that it should start on
19 or before 7:00 p.m. on June 24th, and if you want to make
20 arrangements to serve the jail sentence in another county or
21 start serving the jail sentence before that date, that's fine.

22 MR. FLYNN: We would like that, Your Honor, so we
23 can make those accommodations.

24 THE COURT: So that will be the ordered time at
25 which you must appear to start serving the jail sentence.

1 MR. FLYNN: Your Honor, this was with work
2 release privileges?

3 THE COURT: I hadn't gotten to that but --

4 MR. FLYNN: I'm sorry.

5 THE COURT: In this branch of circuit court if I
6 don't mention anything about work release privileges you are
7 automatically granted it, so it's with work release, I'll make
8 that expressly for the record. It's only in cases where I do
9 not believe that work release is merited that I make that
10 indication on the record.

11 It is the Court's hope that the healing process for
12 all people who are involved in these cases has a chance to
13 begin.

14 At this point I will read the information on
15 postconviction relief.

16 (Information on postconviction relief read to defendant)

17 Mr. Burns and his attorney are directed to read the
18 information on postconviction relief and thereafter sign and
19 date the form which will be provided by the bailiff.

20 Is there anything else?

21 MR. FLYNN: Nothing, Your Honor.

22 MR. FRISCH: Nothing, Your Honor, thank you.

23 THE COURT: That's all.

24

25

* * * * *

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY)

I, Louis L. Mallmann, Official Reporter herein, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and reduced to typewriting by myself, and these proceedings are true and accurate, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

Dated this 28th day of September, 1992.



Louis L. Mallmann



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. N. 1699/95/S

D.nus PETER ALLEN BURNS, sacerdos, archidioecesis
Milvaukien.,
petiit dispensationem a sacerdotali coelibatu.

SS.mus D. N. IOANNES PAULUS, Divina Providentia Papa II,
die 30 iulii 1996 habita relatione de casu a
Congregatione de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, precibus au-
nit iuxta sequentes rationes:

1. Rescriptum vim suam exserit a momento notificationis a competenti Auctoritate ecclesiastica oratori factae, et amplectitur inseparabiliter dispensationem a sacerdotali coelibatu et simul amissionem status clericalis. Numquam oratori fas est duo illa elementa seiungere, seu prius accipere et alterum recusare. Si vero orator est religiosus, Rescriptum continet etiam dispensationem a votis; idemque insuper secumfert absolutionem a censuris, quatenus opus sit.

2. Notitia concessionis dispensationis adnotetur in Libris baptizatorum parociae oratoris.

3. Quod attinet ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, applicandae sunt normae quae in Codice Iuris Canonici statuuntur. Ordinarius vero curet ut res caute peragantur sine pompa vel exteriore apparatu.

4. Auctoritas ecclesiastica, ad quam spectat Rescriptum cum oratore communicare, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruendi cum nova eius vivendi condicione, participet, aedificationem praestet et ita amantissimum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum faciat ea quae sequuntur:

a) sacerdos dispensatus eo ipso amittit iura statui clericali propria, dignitates et officia ecclesiastica; ceteris obligationibus cum statu clericali conexis non amplius adstringitur;

b) exclusus manet ab exercitio sacri ministerii, iis exceptis de quibus in cann. 976, 986, § 2 ac propterea nequit homiliam habere. Insuper nequit fungi ministerio extraordinario sacrae Communionis distribuendae nec potest officium gerere directivum in ambitu pastoralis;

c) item nullum munus absolvere potest in Seminariis et in Institutis aequiparatis. In aliis Institutis studiorum gradus superioris, qui quocumque modo dependent ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit;

d) in iisdem vero Institutis studiorum gradus superioris ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica non dependentibus nullam disciplinam proprie theologicam vel cum ipsa intime connexam tradere potest;

e) in Institutis autem studiorum gradus inferioris dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit nisi Ordinarius, pro suo prudenti iudicio et remoto scandalo, ad munus docendi quod attinet, aliter decernere aestimaverit. Eadem lege tenetur sacerdos dispensatus in tradenda Religione in Institutis eiusdem generis non dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica.

5. Per se sacerdos a sacerdotali coelibatu dispensatus, et a fortiori sacerdos matrimonio iunctus, abesse debet a locis in quibus eius antecedens conditio nota est. Ordinarius loci commorationis oratoris tamen, auditò quatenus opus erit, Ordinario incardinationis vel Superiore maiori religioso, dispensare poterit ab ista clausula Rescriptum afficienti, si oratoris praesentia scandalum paritura non praevideatur.


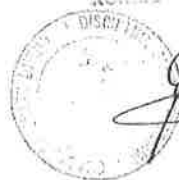
6. Denique ei aliquod opus pietatis vel caritatis imponatur. Tempore autem opportuno breviter ad Congregationem de peracta executione referatur, et si qua tandem fidelium admiratio adsit, prudenti explicatione provideatur.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

Ex Aedibus Congregationis, die 2 augusti 1996.

Sign.: + Gerardus Majella Agnello
Archiep. Secretarius

CONGREGATIO SACR. CONCILII
quod I. ...
Congregatio ...
Romae die 2. 3. 1996.




ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
CHANCERY

COPY

October 2, 1996

Prot. N. 1699/95/S

His Eminence, Antonio Maria Cardinal Javierre Ortas
Prefect, The Congregation for Divine Worship
and the Discipline of the Sacraments
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

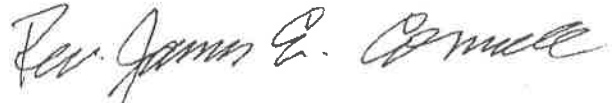
Your Eminence,

I am writing to inform you that on October 2, 1996, PETER ALLEN BURNS signed an Execution of the Rescript whereby he freely and without condition accepts the dispensation from priestly obligations including celibacy, as well as the loss of the clerical state, which had been graciously granted by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, on July 30, 1996.

I trust that the execution of this rescript closes this cause yet, if anything further should be done, I would be pleased to assist.

In gratitude for your cooperation in this regard, I have the honor to be, Your Eminence,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend James E. Connell
Vice Chancellor



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 18, 1996

Most Rev. Rembert G. Weakland, OSB
PO Box 07912
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

Dear Archbishop Weakland:

I enclose herewith correspondence and the rescript by which the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments dispenses the Reverend Peter Allen Burns from his priestly obligations.

With cordial regards and every good wish, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Apostolic Pro-Nuncio

Enclosures

ADOM055222



P A Y M E N T A G R E E M E N T A N D R E C E I P T

On July 30, 1996, Pope John Paul II granted me a dispensation from all priesthood obligations, including celibacy, and returned me to the lay state. According to the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and myself, signed and dated March 18, 1995, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee now owes me \$25,000.00.

Today I received a check in the amount of \$25,000.00 representing payment in full of the obligations.

Given at the Curia of the
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
this 2nd day of October, 1996

Peter Allen Burns
Peter Allen Burns

Br. James E. Connell
Reverend James E. Connell, Witness

From the desk of...

FR. JIM CONNELL

9-25-96

Today I informed
(notified) Peter Burns
of the Discript. His
understand; fully
accepted; and we
discussed the \$ due
him as a result of the
dispenation.

9 -

18,000.00 // 6,000.00 // end of interest
From the desk of...

FR. JIM CONNELL

1. Peter is paid nothing to the present.

∴ nothing owed to Peter B from the present

2. as of July (9/25) he is not a priest.

∴ 25,000 is not compensation but pay of an agreement (a K)

∴ extra tax could be paid

From the desk of...

FR. JIM CONNELL

TAX

1. payment

2 chks.

↳ housing

\$650 x 12 =

\$ _____

But in auto

\$ _____

0 • C

650 • x

12 • =

7800 • T

25000 • +

7800 • -

17200 • T



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Rome, 15 January 1996

Prot. N. 1699/95/S

Your Excellency,

We have read your kind letter of November 3, 1995 with attention to all the concerns presented for our consideration.

It is by the expressed will of higher authority that consideration of the cases of those not yet forty years of age have been postponed.

The acts of the case for a dispensation from the obligations of the priesthood for Reverend PETER ALLEN BURNS have been retained in the archives of this Congregation. Should the imminent danger of death arise, the possibility of immediate consideration remains.

While we recognize that a delay of the decision is not without difficulties, we ask your understanding for the reasons already set forth in our previous letter of October 5, 1995.

With every good wish and kind regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Antonio M. Card. Javierre
Prefect

Carmelo Nicoloni
Undersecretary

His Excellency
The Most Reverend REMBERT G. WEAKLAND, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee
U.S.A.

ADOM055230



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Rome, October 5, 1995

Prot. N. 1699/95/S

Your Excellency,

We have received the acts of the case for a dispensation from the obligations of the priesthood for Reverend PETER ALLEN BURNS, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Since the petitioner is not yet forty years of age, the case falls into a category to which special attention is being given. Therefore, it has been determined that a postponement of consideration and a DILATA ET COMPLEANTUR ACTA must be declared regarding the case.

We believe that it may be useful to present the motivation that has led to this decision.

It has become a matter of concern that while the total number of requests for dispensations from the obligations of the priesthood has decreased, petitions from men not yet forty years of age have continued to increase. Serious pondering and lengthy discussions about this age group have led to the following general conclusions.

A postponement of consideration with the request for a DILATA ET COMPLEANTUR ACTA seeks to guarantee that the petitioner make a complete psychological and emotional assessment of the state of his mind and heart. The hope remains that possible reconsideration might be given to the decision or, at least that a definitive decision will be made with the greatest possible freedom. This precautionary measure is meant to guard against even the slightest possibility that a decision could be made which later in life, due to changing circumstances, might lead to regret and a desire on the part of the petitioner to return fully to the ministry.

There is serious concern that defections which follow an abrupt termination of the ministry or a brevity of ministerial service after ordination may have detrimental effects. Therefore, it has been deemed essential to allow sufficient time to elapse between the actual defection and the conclusion of the administrative process. This measure has been found necessary in order to sustain an esteem for priestly celibacy, to correct the erroneous impression that dispensations may be easily obtained, and to preclude creating scandal among the clergy or the faithful.

Those who bear an obligation toward this priest, whether superiors or friends might be encouraged to pray for him and continue with patience and understanding to do everything that charity requires.

His Excellency
The Most Reverend REMBERT G. WEAKLAND, O.S.B.
Archbishop of MILWAUKEE
U.S.A.

ADOM055232

If you find that for urgent or grave reasons, however, a case should require immediate consideration, the instruction of the process and the request for a dispensation from the obligations of the priesthood may be anticipated. Then, in addition to the ordinary proofs gathered to support the unsuitability of the petitioner prior to ordination, it would be essential to present evidence which demonstrates that serious scandal or possible harm could arise from his remaining in the clerical state and the ministry.

We invite your understanding and support of these directives together with the ordinary procedure for presentation of a petition. At the same time we promise to pray for your efforts in the area of priestly formation, in the selection of candidates for Holy Orders and in the choice of those responsible for their education and formation.

With every good wish and kind regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Antonio M. Card. Javierre
Prefect

+ *G. M. Aguado*
Sec.

REVEREND PETER ALLEN BURNS

Age: 36 (born: June 12, 1959).
Ordained a priest: May 17, 1986.
Date assigned to ministry: June 17, 1986.
First case of sexual abuse became known: January 1987.
Second case of sexual abuse became known: September 1991.
Date removed from active ministry: September 20, 1991.

First Case of Sexual Abuse

1. Incident occurred on January 16, 1987 (p. 24 of the acts).
2. Victim: boy in the parish grade school (p. 24 of the acts).
3. Victim trusted Father Burns to discuss problems (p. 24 of the acts).
4. Crime took place in a bed in the parish rectory (p. 24 of the acts).
5. Father Burns had invited the boy to sleep in the rectory (p. 24 of the acts).
6. Parents decided to terminate the police investigation and allow the Church to deal with Father Burns (pp. 24-25 of the acts).
7. [REDACTED] (pp. 33-34 of the acts).

Second Case of Sexual Abuse

1. Incident occurred in February 1988 but not revealed until September 1991 (p. 41 of the acts).
2. Victim: grade school boy of the parish (p. 42 of the acts).
3. Father developed a friendship with the victim (p. 42 of the acts).
4. The crime had two incidents, one in a bed and the other in a shower, in the parish rectory (pp. 43-44 of the acts).
5. Father Burns had invited the boy to sleep in the rectory (p. 42 of the acts).
6. Father Burns admitted that he committed the crime (pp. 43-44 and pp. 58-61 of the acts).
7. Strong comments stated by the civil court judge (pp. 63, 65, 66, and 67 of the acts).
8. Sentence: 7 years in prison of which 9 months were served; also, 10 years on probation (additional, extraordinary probation rules are in place). If any rule of probation is violated Father could be returned to prison for the balance of the 7 years sentence (p. 74 of the acts).
9. [REDACTED] (p. 37 of the acts).

(over)

Reasons to Consider Father Burns' Petition,
His Age Not Withstanding

1. A dispensation would help to heal the scandal and pain suffered by the victim, his family and friends, the people of Saint Peter Claver Parish, and the entire community.
2. Furthermore, a dispensation would help safeguard against Father Burns taking advantage of his clerical status for actions of sexual abuse in the future.
3. Finally, Father Burns, his rights having been protected and being fully aware of his reality, freely requests the Holy Father for this dispensation.

COPY

July 19, 1995

Reverend Monsignor Nevin J. Klinger
The Congregation for Divine Worship and
the Discipline of the Sacraments
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

Dear Monsignor Klinger,

In the near future I will present to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments a very tragic case concerning the Reverend Peter Allen Burns, a priest of this Archdiocese, who is guilty of sexual misconduct with minor boys, such that serious scandal has developed in this local Church.

One victim of Father Burns [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] While the circumstances of this tragedy remain somewhat uncertain because no one knows for sure the psychological status of this young person, the police investigation of this incident determined that [REDACTED]

Another victim, who was a friend of the victim [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] now suffers from serious psychological problems, including the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] but also on the fact that Father Burns was a friend of a boy who was a victim of Jeffrey Dahmer, a serial killer whose crimes in the Milwaukee area received much local and international media coverage. In fact, the media's association of Father Burns with the Dahmer case because of Father's friendship with one of the victims, even though Father was in no way involved with Jeffrey Dahmer or any of his horrendous crimes, has added to the scandal generated by Father's own crimes against young boys.

Father Burns has submitted to me a letter addressed to the Holy Father requesting a dispensation from all priestly obligations, including that of celibacy, so that he may return to the lay state. Father is now only 36 years of age. I am concerned that allowing Father Burns to remain a cleric even for a few years not only continues the scandal within this Archdiocese, it also affords Father the opportunity to use his clerical status for actions of sexual abuse in the future.

I am including in the acts of this cause the appropriate documents from the civil court actions which I believe will help the Congregation to understand the magnitude of the harm caused by Father Burns. Much time has been necessary to obtain civil court authorization for the release of this information from the civil courts to the Church. My civil lawyers believe that I will have the final documents within the next month.

Once the acts are fully together, I will send to Rome the Reverend James E. Connell, J.C.D., Vice Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Instructor of this cause, to present the matter to the Congregation, to briefly accentuate the essential documents of the acts, and to answer any questions that might arise. My question to you, Monsignor Klinger, is simply, would Father Connell be able to meet with yourself, and whomever else in the Congregation might be available, some time during the period of September 11 to September 15, 1995? If not during these days, what might be some dates when such a meeting could be held?

Thank you for the kindness of your time and your consideration, and I await your response.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rembert G. Weakland".

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

cc: His Eminence, Antonio Maria Cardinal Javierre Ortas
Prefect, The Congregation for Divine Worship and
the Discipline of the Sacraments

ADOM055241

STATE OF WISCONSIN

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

RECEIVED
SEP 20 1991
COURT COMMISSIONER

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

PETER A. BURNS, Defendant.

d.o.b. [REDACTED]

Case No. [REDACTED]

Sheboygan, WI.

Officer Bruce Christenson, Sheboygan Police Department, being first duly sworn on oath says:

Count #1

That during a weekend between the period of January 23, 1988 through February 6, 1988, in the City of Sheboygan, County of Sheboygan, State of Wisconsin, Peter A. Burns did feloniously have sexual contact with a person who is over the age of 12 years but under the age of 16 years, specifically, a person known as [REDACTED] contrary to section 940.225(2)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes and against the peace and dignity of the State.

Count #2

That during a weekend between the period of January 23, 1988 through February 6, 1988, in the City of Sheboygan, County of Sheboygan, State of Wisconsin, Peter A. Burns did feloniously have sexual contact with a person who is over the age of 12 years but under the age of 16 years, specifically, a person known as [REDACTED] contrary to section 940.225(2)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes and against the peace and dignity of the State.

POSSIBLE PENALTY: Class C Felony - A fine of not more than \$10,000. or imprisonment not to exceed 10 years or both on each count.

Complainant states that pursuant to his duties as a police officer with the City of Sheboygan Police Department, he is presently assigned to work as the school liaison officer at Sheboygan South High School. Complainant states that pursuant to those duties on 9/16/91, while he was working in that capacity, he was contacted by a boy known to him and who shall be identified in this complaint as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated that during the preceding weekend, a relative had visited him, snuck up behind him at one point, and tickled his sides.

CLERK OF COURTS

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Defendant.

██████████ said that that caused an immediate flashback to an incident where he had been abused by a priest by the name of Father Burns in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, during the latter part of January or possibly early February of 1988.

██████████ stated that he had met Father Peter Burns through St. Peter Claver Church somewhere in the period of 1985 to 1986. ██████████ stated that he would go with Peter Burns on occasions to the YMCA where they would play racquetball. After the racquetball, ██████████ and Peter Burns would go into the hot tub and on some occasions Peter Burns would tickle him.

██████████ stated that he recalls an incident in late January or possibly early February of 1988 when he accompanied Peter Burns to a seminary in the Milwaukee area. At the seminary, they played basketball, swam and went in the hot tub. After that, they went out to eat at Rocky Rococo's Pizza in Milwaukee and then returned to the St. Peter Claver Church rectory where Father Peter Burns lived. Complainant knows that said rectory was then and still is located at ██████████ Street, in the City and County of Sheboygan, State of Wisconsin.

██████████ stated that this was a Saturday/Sunday visit that he had with Father Burns and he ██████████ was supposed to sleep over at the rectory over Saturday evening. ██████████ stated he could not remember the exact date but indicated that he was certain that it was a Saturday and Sunday after January 16, 1988 and no later than the first Saturday or Sunday of February, 1988. ██████████ stated that upon arriving at that above residence, they watched movies. Peter Burns asked ██████████ if he wanted to sleep on the couch or in the bed. Peter Burns told him he would be more comfortable in his bed. ██████████ stated he was wearing a pair of shorts that he brought along to sleep in.

██████████ stated that he then got into the bed and a short time later Peter Burns also got into the same bed. ██████████ said they were lying on the bed with ██████████'s back facing Peter Burns. After about five minutes, Peter Burns reached across with his hand and put his hand on ██████████'s penis. ██████████ indicated to complainant that he then told Peter Burns to quit it or words to that effect. Peter Burns immediately pulled away but then again put his hand on ██████████ penis. ██████████ then told him to stop or words to that effect. After a couple seconds, ██████████ rolled onto his stomach at which time Peter Burns flipped over and faced away from ██████████

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Upon awakening the next morning at the same location, Peter Burns at one point told [REDACTED] that he should take a shower. [REDACTED] then went into the shower a short time later. Shortly thereafter Peter Burns also came into the shower with him and grabbed [REDACTED] by the penis and jerked on it a little bit. [REDACTED] then told him to stop or quit it, at which time Peter Burns left him alone.

[REDACTED] further stated to complainant that about one week later he again visited Peter Burns. At that time, Peter Burns walked up behind him and tickled him again. [REDACTED] stated that when Peter Burns would tickle him he would commonly grab him on the floor, lay on top of him and tickle his sides. [REDACTED] indicated that on this occasion he told Peter Burns that he couldn't breathe and at that time Peter Burns rolled over onto the ground. [REDACTED] stated he was quite angry, left, and has not returned since.

Complainant states that on September 20, 1991 he contacted a man identifying himself as the said Peter A. Burns. Complainant advised him of his Miranda rights which he stated he understood and agreed to waive. Complainant then told Peter Burns he wanted to discuss allegations that had been made by the above described [REDACTED] concerning alleged improper conduct. In response to Peter Burns' questions as to what the content of those allegations was, complainant said that [REDACTED] had told him that Peter Burns had touched [REDACTED] penis both in the above described bed and in the above described shower. In response to further questioning, Peter Burns acknowledged that he has known the said [REDACTED] through the above described church since around 1985. He further indicated that he has not seen the said [REDACTED] for a long time. Peter Burns acknowledged that there was a time as described above when he did take [REDACTED] to the seminary and then back home to Sheboygan as described above. He recalled specifically a discussion with [REDACTED] as to whether [REDACTED] would sleep on the couch or in the bed. He acknowledged that [REDACTED] did sleep in the bed with him. In response to questioning concerning the above allegations that he had touched [REDACTED] penis on that occasion, Peter Burns acknowledged that he did recall touching

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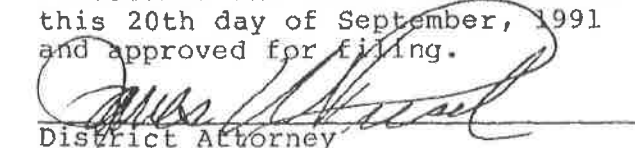
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_____ in bed. He also acknowledged that the next morning they did go in the shower together. While he had some difficulty remembering it, Peter Burns did acknowledge that he did touch _____ in the shower as well.

Based on the aforesaid investigation your complainant is informed and verily believes that the above named Peter A. Burns committed these offenses.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of September, 1991 and approved for filing.


District Attorney
Sheboygan County


Complainant

STATE OF WISCONSIN

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

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PETER A. BURNS, Defendant.

[redacted] d.o.b. [redacted]

Case No. [redacted]

Sheboygan, WI.

Detective Donald Sorensen, Sheboygan Police Department, being first duly sworn on oath says:

That during the first half of January, 1987, in the City of Sheboygan, County of Sheboygan, State of Wisconsin, Peter A. Burns did feloniously have sexual contact with a person who at that time was over the age of 12 years, but under the age of 16 years, contrary to section 940.225(2)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes and against the peace and dignity of the State.

POSSIBLE PENALTY: Class C Felony - A fine of not more than \$10,000. or imprisonment not to exceed 10 years or both.

Complainant states that pursuant to his duties as a Detective with the Sheboygan Police Department, after the arrest and charging of Peter A. Burns, d.o.b. 6-12-59, in case no. [redacted] had been publicized, a boy known as [redacted] asked a member of the Sheboygan Police Department to have the opportunity to speak with complainant. It should be noted that complainant previously had tried to talk with [redacted] Subsequently complainant did contact the said [redacted] and did make arrangements for an interview.

During that first interview, [redacted] told complainant that he believed that his relationship with Peter Burns began when [redacted] was in [redacted] grade at St. Peter Claver School. [redacted] stated that his [redacted] grade year was traumatic for him. In part this was due to the fact that his school and another Catholic school had merged into one school known as Christ Child Academy. [redacted] He stated to complainant that he turned to Peter Burns for some advice.

[redacted] stated that one evening during a period that he believed to be that of February to April of his [redacted] grade year, which would make it in 1987, [redacted] contacted Peter Burns and asked him for his help. Peter Burns invited [redacted] to spend the night at the rectory so they could discuss

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his problems. After [REDACTED] arrived at the rectory which affiant knows to be located at that time at [REDACTED] in the City of Sheboygan, County of Sheboygan, State of Wisconsin, the two of them sat down on the couch and began talking. [REDACTED] felt satisfied by Peter Burns' advice. Eventually it came time to go to sleep. Peter Burns asked [REDACTED] where he felt comfortable sleeping and gave him two choices, that of the couch or Peter Burns' own bed. Peter Burns told [REDACTED] that he would probably feel more comfortable with Peter Burns and that he could offer comfort. [REDACTED] changed into shorts and a t-shirt and then entered Peter Burns' bedroom. [REDACTED] said he was tired and wanted to go to sleep. [REDACTED] then lay down on one side of the bed with his face opposite that of Peter Burns who also was on the same bed. [REDACTED] stated that Peter Burns slowly progressed up behind [REDACTED] and ultimately pressed up against [REDACTED]. After a while, Peter Burns asked [REDACTED] what was bothering him because [REDACTED] had not yet fallen asleep. [REDACTED] said he was just thinking about his problems or words to that effect.

[REDACTED] further told complainant that about ten minutes later, he noticed that Peter Burns moved his hand slowly down his side from his chest toward his waist. He observed further as Peter Burns progressed to the point where Peter Burns was touching the penis of the said [REDACTED] on the outside of [REDACTED] shorts. At that time, [REDACTED] got out of the bed and went into the bathroom. [REDACTED] stayed in the bathroom for a while thinking about what had been going on. [REDACTED] then returned to the bedroom and said simply that he was tired and wanted to go to sleep in a tone that meant just that. [REDACTED] said to complainant that he didn't know how else to handle the situation at that time.

[REDACTED] then went back into the bed on the far side again and went to sleep with Peter Burns on the other side of the bed. Nothing more was said or done. The next morning after they awakened they had breakfast and Peter Burns drove [REDACTED] home.

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Shortly after that incident, [REDACTED] told his parents what had happened at the rectory. [REDACTED] further told complainant that [REDACTED] mother set up a meeting involving Father Peter Burns, as well as the priest who was the pastor of that parish at that time as well as [REDACTED] mother. In that meeting which came shortly thereafter and was attended also by the said [REDACTED] the above incident in the rectory was brought up and discussed. [REDACTED] told complainant that his family and the two priests had resolved the matter at that time in a manner that would not result in their pressing charges at the time. [REDACTED] told complainant that he and his mother had told Peter Burns that if he were to receive counselling and further that if Peter Burns would agree not to allow any children to spend the night at the rectory with him, that they would in effect try to keep the matter within the church. Complainant further states that during the above described interview with [REDACTED] indicated that he was coming forward with this information at this time because he felt that the original agreement that had been entered into between his family and Father Burns had not been honored. Thus he indicated that he no longer wanted to keep the matter only between his family and the church.

Complainant further states that in the investigation concerning the other case, [REDACTED] involving allegations of sexual abuse to a boy identified as [REDACTED], that on 9-20-91, complainant participated in the interview by himself and Officer Bruce Christenson of a person identifying himself as the said Peter A. Burns. During that interview, after waiving his Miranda rights, Peter Burns, while not being specifically questioned regarding any allegations concerning the above described [REDACTED] that Peter A. Burns did state that he recalled another incident for which he had been in counselling as a result of his having "fondled a teenager." Peter Burns further indicated that that did not involve the said [REDACTED] who was the alleged victim in the case they were then interviewing him about. Peter Burns did indicate, however, that this other fondling incident involved a case that had been called to the attention of the

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authorities previously. Complainant further states that he has examined the official regularly maintained records of the Sheboygan Police Department and is informed by them that only one other allegation had been called previously to the attention of that agency concerning Peter Burns. Complainant knows from those records that that is an allegation that pertained to the above described [REDACTED] and believes that the statement made by the said Peter A. Burns on 9-20-91 must be in reference to the allegation involving the said [REDACTED]

Complainant is informed on the basis of a report prepared by Detectives Korff and Winscher of his Department, whose reports he has found to be reliable in the past, that on 1-16-87 they had been informed by Father David Braun who was then the pastor at St. Peter Claver Church, that one of his priests, the said Peter A. Burns had been alleged to have been involved in touching one of the students at their school. The report further indicates that the pastor indicated that the situation had been resolved as a result of the meeting that he and Father Burns had attended with the above described [REDACTED] parents. As a result of that report, on 1-16-87, Detectives Korff and Winscher had contact with the mother of the said [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was also present. During the interview by Detectives Korff and Winscher, [REDACTED] mother stated that her family had talked over the matter for a period of time but had decided that they did not want the police to become involved because they felt that the matter would be taken care of within the church. The report further indicates that the detectives advised the mother of [REDACTED] that the detectives felt that it may be in her best interest if the police did become involved. However, she insisted that she wanted nothing done about the matter at that time. As a result, no formal police action could be taken at that time, but the information was documented.

Complainant further states that because of the 1-16-87 documented contact with the family of the said [REDACTED], he believes that the information provided to him in late September of 1991 by the said [REDACTED] that the sexual contact by Peter Burns occurred during the months of February to April of 1987 is in error. As a result, complainant knows that on

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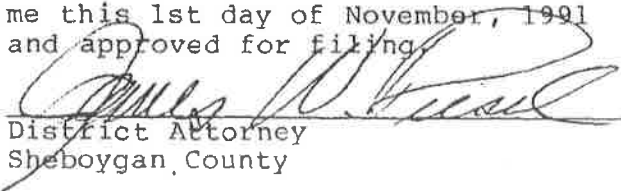
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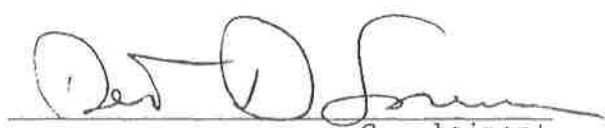
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10-29-91, Detective Schoenenberger of his Department conducted a re-interview of the said [REDACTED] in the presence of [REDACTED] mother. Complainant is informed by an official report prepared by Detective Schoenenberger that on 10-29-91 during that re-interview, [REDACTED] stated that he is unable to remember the exact date when the above described sexual contact by Peter Burns occurred, although he indicated that it was in the early part of 1987.

Complainant is informed by Detective Schoenenberger that [REDACTED] stated that he knows he only stayed overnight at the rectory with Peter Burns on one occasion. [REDACTED] stated that he recalled the above described meeting between his family and the two priests and also recalled the contact that his mother and himself had with the police department shortly thereafter, but does not recall the specific dates of either event. However, [REDACTED] stated that he knows that the above described incident in which he describes Peter Burns' conduct in touching the penis of [REDACTED] occurred definitely in 1987 and shortly before the contact that his family had with the Sheboygan Police Department. Based upon that information, complainant believes that the incident of sexual touching as described above had to have occurred during the period of January 1 to January 16, 1987. Based on the aforesaid investigation complainant is informed and verily believes the above named Peter A. Burns committed the above described offense.

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 1st day of November, 1991
and approved for filing


District Attorney
Sheboygan, County


Complainant