



Off. (312) 642-1837

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

VICAR FOR PRIESTS

800 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 311

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

TO: File
DATE: April 8, 1990
RE: Mark Holihan

1. I called Our Lady of the Snows to talk to Jim Mezydlo and Leo Kinsella. Jim was not available. I did speak to Leo at length about the importance of him not making any comments to anyone regarding the case. I told him he should not make reference to the rumors that have been circulating for the last 10 years, etc., and especially to say nothing at all about the comments made by the cook. I emphasized the importance of him to refer any inquiries from lawyers to Jim Serritella and any other inquiries to simply say that the case is under investigation and it would be inappropriate for him to comment.

2. I said all this to Leo as gently as I could and I think he understood what I was getting at. He mentioned that someone at the Sunday night meeting mentioned that the eighth grade boys were trying to scare the sixth grade boys with comments like: "Wait until you get to eighth grade!" Evidently the eighth grade teacher, Sr. Paulette, is very much in Mark Holihan's corner and the kids are implying that she will really give it to the sixth graders for having blown the whistle. She is very defensive of Mark.

April 9, 1990

1. I was able to reach Jim Mezydlo. He said things were going pretty well. Because of the lengthy Palm Sunday services, there was not much of an opportunity for people to talk about it after Mass. A few have inquired about how Fr. Holihan is doing. One mother said she felt that the parish and school were handling the situation very well. She had been in attendance at the Thursday evening meeting.

2. Mike Ritchie said only one older man was very upset because he didn't know anything about the meeting on Thursday. He has no children in school and when Mike explained that it was just for the parents of the children and the reasons why, he seemed to understand.

3. Jim said that the meetings with the parents on Thursday went well, but the second meeting was a little rougher than the first. Someone said they heard that Fr. Holihan left St. Jane de Chantal because of similar allegations. This wasn't really addressed directly, but Carol Craddock handled the meeting very well and simply said we are not dealing with issues that may or may not have happened, but we are dealing with the present situation.

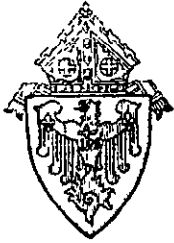
AOC 002927

[REDACTED]
July 20, 1986

Dear Cardinal Bernardin,

We are faced with a very unpleasant and potentially dangerous situation at Our Lady of the Snows Parish. Rumors have been running rampant about the sexual activities of our pastor, Father Holihan, and little boys. As reasonable adults of normal intelligence, two neighborhood women and I dismissed these rumors as ill gossip and never repeated the nonsense.

Recently, however, this nonsense struck closer to home. My closest friend's son came home from a Mass he had just served, very upset. He had just witnessed Father Holihan's unzipping the other altar boy's pants and fondling his genitals. The molester boy also told his mother of the incident. Both mothers discussed the incident together. The mother of the molester boy was afraid to do anything



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800 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 311
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

TO: File
DATE: April 4, 1990
RE: Mark Holihan

1. Leo Kinsella called at 11 A.M. He wanted to talk to me on a very important matter. He does not want our diocese to end up like Lafayette, Louisiana. Leo apparently spends a lot of time there since he retired. In view of the fact that I was leaving shortly for St. Louis, I asked Leo if he could discuss it over the phone. He then went to a private phone in order to not be overheard.

2. Leo said that they have a cook at the rectory who is approximately 77 years old. Her name is [REDACTED]. She was born in the United States and then went back to Poland at age 3. She was raised in Poland and married there. She was separated from her husband during the war and eventually she herself came to the U.S. She speaks broken English. Leo thinks she is nuts and wonders why Mark has never gotten rid of her. In the light of all that has happened, Leo has been thinking and felt obliged to let me know something that has happened.

3. Leo said that within the last year, on at least two different occasions, [REDACTED] came to him and told him what had happened at the rectory one Sunday afternoon. Evidently [REDACTED] does the laundry, and thinking that Mark was gone for the day, went to his room to put the laundry away, and when she opened up the bedroom door, she discovered Mark in bed with a young boy. When she first told Leo this, he didn't pay much attention, as he did consider her to be "nutty as a bed-bug."

[REDACTED]

4. Leo said that several people have asked him why Fr. Holihan doesn't get rid of [REDACTED]. Actually, Fr. Holihan treats her very well, even though she has no particular regard for him. Leo is beginning to wonder if the reason why Fr. Holihan keeps her on is in order to make sure that she doesn't ever talk. But if this case went to court, Helen could be discredited by any number of people.

5. Leo said there have been all kinds of rumors around the parish for the last ten years. Leo had heard Mark's nickname "Happy Hands Holihan", but Leo says he never saw anything himself of this nature.

6. Leo said it is ironic, because he himself tried to get Mark to come to Our Lady of Snows. Mark was in the neighboring parish, St. Jane de Chantal, and when his term expired there, Leo talked him into coming to the Snows. Leo thought that he was a very good worker. He and Mark got along quite well, as long as Mark was the associate. Once Mark became the pastor, Leo feels he turned on him and in Mark's mind, Leo is now "Uriah Heep".



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

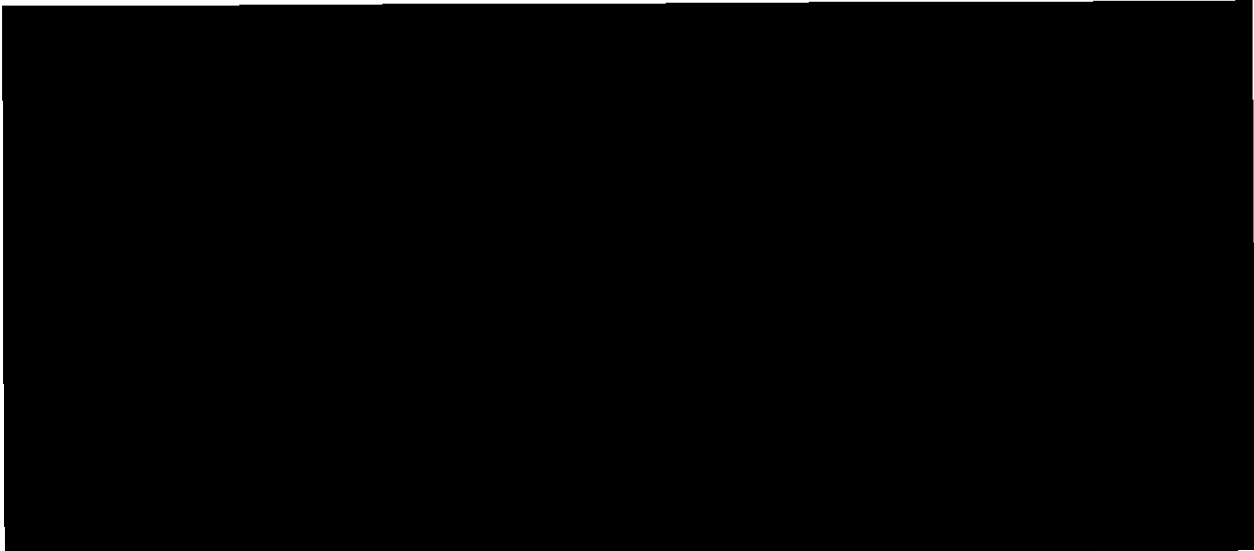
Vicar for Priests
800 North Clark Street, Suite 311
Chicago, Illinois 60611
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TO: File
FROM: Tom Ventura *TV 8-18-86*
RE: Mark Holihan, pastor, Our Lady of the Snows

7-16-86: Call from Fr. Roache. Parishioner expressed concern about rumors concerning pastor's relationship with young boys. Overnights to his family cottage. Former principal supposedly expressed her concerns. Pastor is currently up for renewal of his 6 year term.

7-16-86: I called Fr. Holihan. (████████) Explained the concern. Arranged a meeting to discuss situation. He denied any problems and wants to get to the bottom of the rumors.

7-21-86:



7-22-86: Call to Sister Alberta, (████████), former principal. During her term at the parish, there had been periodic rumors, but when she pressed people for factual information, they never produced any. She had experienced difficulties in communication with H. but nothing in this area. She left because she felt she was becoming a figurehead principal. Recently some women from the parish contacted her about concern about an alleged incident involving pastor and 2 servers, age 12. However, again the facts are vague and they are reluctant to have their names used. I urged her to have them call me so we can get to the bottom of this either to protect innocent children if something is going on or to protect the pastor's good name, if nothing is going on. She agreed.

7-22-86: Call to John Curran, (████████), classmate and friend. He said he has heard nothing and personally knows of no reason for concern. Years ago he recalls

children were at risk. If the story seemed to lack substance it is important to end the rumors. She said that the pastor relates much better with boys than with girls or adults. Also, he plays favorites among the boys and the non-favorites feel resentful or neglected. Also, he does too much "rough-housing" with the boys.

8-15-86:

