



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
 VICAR FOR PRIESTS
 800 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 311
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

*I spoke with Fr. O'Brien
 on Oct. 11. He categorically
 denied that he had been
 to a Sox game with [redacted]*

Off: (312) 642-1837

TO: Cardinal Bernardin
 FROM: Bishop Raymond Goedert
 DATE: 9/28/91
 RE: Rev. William O'Brien



1. You will recall at our meeting a month or so ago, when we were reviewing all of the more serious cases, I brought up the situation concerning Bill O'Brien. You said that you would be willing to handle this case directly.

*+ JLB
 10/14/91*



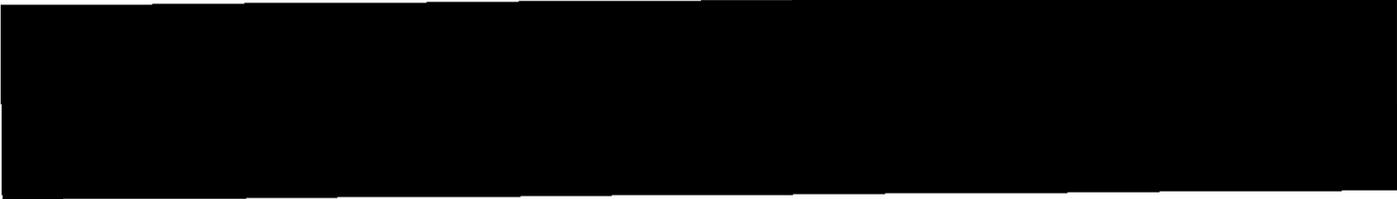
4. You had also agreed to confront Bill on other information that came to my attention within the last year or so. I think the simplest thing would be to enclose copies of my file memos of Sept. 13, 1990 and Sept. 15, 1990. I have never confronted Bill on these matters, but Jim Roach had made it quite clear to Bill that he should not be seeing [redacted]

5. [redacted]

But, if it is true that Bill was with [redacted] at the ball game last summer, then he is certainly playing with fire. If [redacted] decides to go public, Bill's reputation and priesthood could be utterly destroyed.

*cc: [unclear]
 Vicar for Priestly Office
 Archdiocese of Chicago
 [unclear]*

One of my recommendations, after talking to Ray Goedert, is that Bill O'Brien should get his own lawyer. The Cardinal asked whether Bill ought to be removed from his high profile position and I said we needed to discuss that at the next Advisory Board meeting.



Bill did admit to both Tom and to Ray that he was "involved". He also felt he was injured by the relationship as was 



At the time, Bill was offered separate legal counsel but declined, feeling he would get that if needed. It was suggested that he resign at the time, but he refused to, saying that he would run his course at the Propagation of the Faith and leave some time in 1990 and then be re-assigned. Obviously that date went by. Perhaps his assignment was for a longer period of time. At least he appeared to be open to the possibility of leaving the Propagation of the Faith.

He was ordered not to have any contact with the  after this time and also to stay away from the south side.



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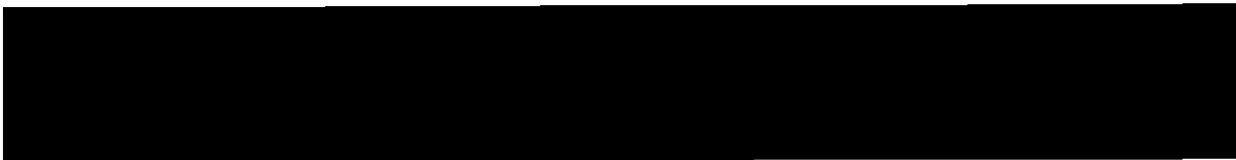
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Off: (312) 642-1837
Fax: (312) 642-4933

Memo to File
From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley
Date: 11/16/93
Re: Rev. William O'Brien

Fr. William O'Brien came to see John Canary and me today. When we had last met in May, we said we would get together sometime after September. O'Brien was to make a retreat and report back to us how things were going after that retreat.

He made the retreat late in September with Fr. Rich McCaslin up at the Jesuit Retreat House outside of Kenosha. According to O'Brien the retreat went very well and has been helpful to him in any number of ways.



I directly asked Fr. O'Brien whether he thought at this time he would ever act out again as he has in the past. He assured us that he would not, and that he had taken precautions in his personal life to see that those situations would be handled properly next time around. If they do occur, he says he is ready to respond to them in an appropriate manner. He wishes to remain a priest and knows that there will be a price to be paid personally for that. He is willing to pay that price.



We told him that we cannot at this time give him direct and specific information on what he will be eligible for in terms of assignments in the future, specifically, for the pastorate. He seems aware of this and finds it OK. He would however like to know what will happen at some point along the line. We did tell him that that was a question we would bring before the Advisory Board at the appropriate time.



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We asked O'Brien directly whether there is anyone who could monitor him while in Rome. We felt this would be a concern of the Advisory Board. He then assured us that Fr. Mike Wulsch, a classmate and good friend who knows his entire situation, will be accompanying him. We told O'Brien that, once we have talked to Wulsch, he will be most acceptable to us as a monitor during O'Brien's stay in Rome. The Sabbatical will take place from Sept. '94 until Dec. '94 in Rome.

O'Brien seemed to be in a good place at this time.