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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

April 25, 1986

CONFIDENTIAL

Vicar for Priests
800 North Clark Street, Suite 311
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Off: (312) 642-1837
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TO: File
FROM: Fr. Ventura
RE: Fr. Russel Romano '73

1. On 3-24-86 Fr. John Klein, rector of Quigley South, phoned me concerning Russ Romano, a faculty member. In March 1985, one year ago, student [redacted] expressed to a school counselor, his concerns about Fr. Romano's behavior to him, especially inappropriate hugs and kisses. K. confronted R. [redacted] K. arranged a plan of monthly supervisory meetings with R. to monitor the situation. Things seemed to improve.

2. However, now school counselor Joe Binder has informed K. that students [redacted] and [redacted] expressed concern about inappropriate behavior by R. specifically serving beer to minors, showing pornographic movies, hugs and kisses, and being in the same bed with [redacted] who stayed overnight in R's quarters at St. Barbara Rectory, Brookfield. [redacted] had slept at the rectory but experienced no difficulty. [redacted] indicated that R. had fondled and touched him. The young men added that R. would sometimes phone them, inviting them to come to the rectory at night. At such times he seems to have been drinking.

[redacted] The original call was to the DCFS Hotline (800-252-2873).

4. On 3-25-86 K. and I met with R. to discuss these allegations, his response, and the course of action to be pursued by Quigley South and the Archdiocese. The following actions were taken:

[redacted]

- On 3-25-86 R. was placed under a canonical directive instructing him to cease further contacts with persons under the age of 18. On 4-11-86 this was made more specific and signed by R. and by myself. The penalty for violation of this directive is ipso facto liability to suspension.

5. On 3-26-86 I informed Fr. Don Hughes, pastor of St. Barbara, Brookfield, about the situation. He said that he had been concerned about R. entertaining Quigley students in his quarters. He had confronted him about it, but was unable to take