

September 14, 2005

Archbishop Angelo Amato, SDB
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Excellency:

In accord with the norms of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, I am submitting for your consideration the case of a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Reverend John C. Wagner has been accused of sexual abuse of minors. The summary of these allegations is enclosed. Father Wagner has admitted that some acts of sexual assault occurred but denies others.

Over the years, efforts were made to provide spiritual and psychological interventions that would rehabilitate Father Wagner. Although he was in therapy for the admitted behaviors and even went so far as to make a recommitment to celibacy before two auxiliary bishops and his therapist, he continued to re-offend. He has been without any assignment and under precept not to exercise ministry for the last ten years. With our current understanding of the nature of his condition, it is clear that he will never be able to assume any public ministry. He has cooperated with the precepts placed upon him regarding no exercise of ministry. However, from the latest report we have received, he has not been in compliance with the order to have no unsupervised contact with minors. With this latest revelation that the teenaged nephew of [REDACTED] has been spending time with Wagner at his residence for the last few years, concerns are raised anew. It is impossible to provide the level of monitoring that would seem to be required in this case. Father Wagner will not move to a supervised residency. Therefore, the liability for the Archdiocese is great as is the potential for scandal if it appears that no definitive action has been taken.

As we have reviewed the various files and heard reports from victims, it is clear that he consistently abused his office both to gain access to vulnerable adolescents, male and female indiscriminately, and to elicit the trust of their parents. Both in his parochial assignments and in his campus ministry positions, he found opportunities to abuse his office in a flagrant and repetitive fashion. He has exhibited no remorse for these serious offences. His only concern has been his financial status. It was on the basis of finances that the canonical procedures in 1995 were abandoned.

The impact on his various victims has been significant. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has yet to even locate all of the potential victims that could come forward for assistance. Our new found awareness of the severity of damage caused by sexual abuse at the hands of clergy makes it impossible for us to ignore this situation or allow any longer the unresolved nature of this case.

ADOM040053

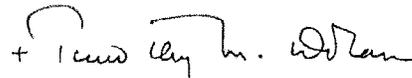
Given the nature and frequency of the alleged and admitted sexual abuse, along with the serious abuse of office, I have pondered long and hard to arrive at an opinion about the most appropriate action to be taken. In order that justice may be made manifest and healing of the victims and the Church may proceed, I am asking that Reverend John C. Wagner be dismissed *ex officio* from the clerical state. Whatever financial needs he may have can be provided for from a fund that can be set up for him until he is eligible for a pension.

If the judgement of Your Eminence is that this case should proceed to a dismissal by decree of your Congregation, I would cede to that judgement. The severity of the offenses is such that it is my opinion that these requests are justified.

I look forward to your further instructions in this matter.

With sentiments of deepest esteem and prayerful best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM040054

CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vatican,
Palazzo del S. Ufficio

10 July 2006

PROT. N. 257/05-23442
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency,

I write regarding the case of the **Reverend John C. WAGNER**, a priest of your Archdiocese who has been accused of the sexual abuse of minors and concerning whom Your Excellency has requested dismissal from the clerical state *ex officio*

As Your Excellency is aware, this Dicastery, following an initial examination of the case, does not excluded the possibility of presenting your request to the Holy Father. However, before proceeding to a final decision in this case, this Congregation asked Your Excellency in its letter dated 28 February 2006 for more information regarding the cleric's case, especially concerning the acts of the preliminary investigation and also whether the cleric was willing to request freely a dispensation from the obligations of priesthood including, celibacy. To date this additional documentation has not been received at this Dicastery.

For these reasons, we kindly ask that Your Excellency assist us by supplying all the relevant documentation relating to the case either in original or in authentic copy.

If the cleric should decide to seek laicization, he is to be informed that the petition addressed to the Holy Father be formulated in such a way that it contain an admission of the acts perpetrated and include an expression of his sincere remorse.

Awaiting the courtesy of your reply, with prayerful support and best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Angelo AMATO, SDB
Titular Archbishop of Sila
Secretary

(Enclosure)

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Timothy M. DOLAN
Archbishop of Milwaukee
3501 South Lake Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912, USA.

ADOM040064

January 15, 2008

Most Reverend Angelo Amato, SDB
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Excellency:

In accord with the norms of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, I am submitting once again for your consideration the case of a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Reverend John C. Wagner, who has been accused of multiple counts of sexual abuse of minors. The summary of these allegations is enclosed. The chart is highlighted with updated portions showing that additional concerns have arisen. Father Wagner has admitted that some acts of sexual assault occurred but denies others. He has now cut off all contact with representatives of the Archdiocese so we have no way of confronting him on these additional reports, especially the extremely disturbing one that he may still be in contact with teenage boys. Therefore, the liability for the Archdiocese is great, as is the potential for scandal if it appears that no definitive action has been taken. Pending state legislation to abolish retroactively the statute of limitations will gain more supporters if it appears we are letting these pending cases languish.

As we have reviewed the various files and heard reports from victims, it is clear that he consistently abused his office both to gain access to vulnerable adolescents, male and female indiscriminately, and to elicit the trust of their parents. Both in his parochial assignments and in his campus ministry positions, he found opportunities to abuse his office in a flagrant and repetitive fashion. He has exhibited no remorse for these serious offences. His only concern has been his financial status. It was on the basis of finances that the canonical procedures in 1995 were abandoned.

The impact on his various victims has been significant. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has yet to even locate all of the potential victims that could come forward for assistance. Our new found awareness of the severity of damage caused by sexual abuse at the hands of clergy makes it impossible for us to ignore this situation or allow any longer the unresolved nature of this case.

ADOM040048

Given the nature and frequency of the alleged and admitted sexual abuse, along with the serious abuse of office, I have pondered long and hard to arrive at an opinion about the most appropriate action to be taken. In order that justice may be made manifest and healing of the victims and the Church may proceed, I am asking that Reverend John C. Wagner be dismissed *ex officio* from the clerical state. Whatever financial needs he may have can be provided for from a fund that can be set up for him until he is eligible for a pension.

If the judgement of Your Excellency is that this case should proceed to a dismissal by decree of your Congregation, I would cede to that judgement. The severity of the offenses is such that it is my opinion that these requests are justified.

I look forward to your further instructions in this matter.

Thank you.

With sentiments of deepest esteem and prayerful best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a cross at the end.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Cnta del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

22 February 2008

PROS. N. 257/05-26893
responsione fiat mentio huius numeri

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 2008, with additional information regarding the case of the **Reverend John C. WAGNER**, a priest of your Archdiocese, accused of sexual abuse of minors and concerning whom Your Excellency has requested dismissal from the clerical state *ex officio*.

After having carefully examined the present case, this Congregation has decided to authorize Your Excellency to initiate an administrative penal process as outlined in can. 1720 of the *Code of Canon Law*, granting also a derogation from the prescription concerning the delict *contra sextum* with minors. Your Excellency is therefore kindly requested:

- 1) to inform the accused of the allegations and the proofs, while affording him the opportunity, via his canonical advocatc, of a proper defence;
- 2) to evaluate accurately all the proofs' and the evidence with the assistance of two assessors who are competent and renowned for their prudence;
- 3) to issue a decree in accordance with cc. 1342-1350 *CIC*, if the delict can be proven with certainty. The decree should contin the reasons *in iure et in facto*.

If, as a result of this process, Your Excellency Will be still of the opinion that the accused should be *dismissed from the clerical state* or have some other *perpetual penalty* imposed upon him, you are requested to refer the matter to this Congregation. Should a decree imposing such a penalty be issued by this Dicastery *in Congressu Particulari*, the accused would have the right to present recourse to the Ordinary Session of the Cardinal and Bishop Members of this Congregation (*Feria IV*).

./.

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Timothy M. DOLAN
Archbishop of Milwaukee
3501 South Lake Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912, USA.

ADOM040067

Before proceeding with the above-mentioned administrative penal process, Your Excellency is kindly asked to approach the cleric asking him whether he is willing to request freely a dispensation from the obligations of priesthood including celibacy. If the cleric should decide to seek laicization, he is to be informed that the petition addressed to the Holy Father be formulated in such a way that it contain an admission of the acts perpetrated and include an expression of his sincere remorse. Your Excellency is also requested to indicate your own opinion as to the merit of this petition.

I take the opportunity to offer Your Excellency my sincere respects and I remain,

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Amato', written in a cursive style.

Angelo AMATO, SDB
Titular Archbishop of Sila
Secretary

ADOM040068

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Metropolitan Tribunal
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, J.C.D.
Phone: (312) 751-8384
e-mail: plagg@archchicago.org



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Fax: (312) 751-8314

MOST REV. TIMOTHY IV J, i

28 March, 2008

APP 0 2008

RE: P.N. 257/05 — 26893

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee
3501 South Lake Drive
P.O. Box 070912
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

Your Excellency:

I am the advocate whom **Reverend John C. Wagner** mandated to represent him in the canonical proceedings against him. I am again sending you a copy of his mandate and my acceptance.

Father Wagner sent me a copy of the letter you sent him on 17 March, 2008, informing him that the Holy See had mandated an administrative penal process be conducted in accordance with c. 1720, and inviting him to request voluntary laicization before the process begins.

I have spoken with Father Wagner about his situation and the options that are available to him. While he acknowledges and accepts that he will never minister publicly as a priest again, he nonetheless is not inclined to ask to be dispensed from the obligations of the clerical state unless the Archdiocese of Milwaukee could provide some assistance and guarantees for his future. I believe his concerns are just.

Father Wagner is now two years away from being able to apply for Social Security. He has exhausted his savings during the eleven years the Archdiocese of Milwaukee not only did not pay him but intervened in the jobs he was able to obtain. While he is certainly grateful to the Archdiocese for paying him over the last few years, he still has not been able to save enough money to sustain him through to retirement.

There is also a larger issue here, Your Excellency, which I find particularly disturbing. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It was out of this milieu that Father Wagner entered the priesthood. I know there were many other men who came through the same seminary system and did not act out sexually, but I also believe that for Father Wagner, [REDACTED], his experiences in the seminary exacerbated the situation.

It seems to me that the Archdiocese of Milwaukee bears some responsibility for that. I do not believe the offer of \$10,000 at the time of petition for laicization and \$10,000 at the time of dispensation is sufficient. It certainly would not carry Father Wagner through the two years until his retirement. However, should a more equitable arrangement be able to be worked out, one that would give Father Wagner some financial security for a two year period of time, I believe he would voluntarily petition for a dispensation from the obligations of the clerical state.

Should this not be possible, I will assist Father Wagner in preparing his defense. Although I have not seen any of the charges against him, a 1993 letter from Archbishop Weakland to the diocesan attorney indicates that there are four accusations of sexual misconduct with a minor. It is not clear from the letter whether these minors were under the age of sixteen, as the *ius vigens* required for incurring a penalty. I'm sure this matter will become clear once I am given access to the file.

If you wish to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact me. May these days of Easter be blessed for you and those you serve.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,



(Rev.) Patrick R. Lagges
Advocate for Father John Wagner

cc: Rev. John C. Wagner

ADOM040079

February 12, 2004

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Eminence:

In accord with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth* and *The Essential Norms* which are in effect in the United States, I am referring several cases for your consideration. I take very seriously the problem of sexual abuse of minors by clergy and the ensuing public outcry over past inaction by church officials. The demand for justice is one that receives a favorable hearing from me.

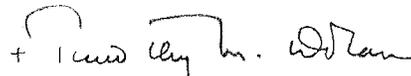
However, I also believe firmly that some situations call for justice tempered by mercy. I have reviewed carefully all of cases of alleged sexual abuse of minors by clergy. We are in the methodical process of preparing all such cases for referral to the Congregation. In the course of that review, I have come to the conclusion that some clerics, even though we are convinced about the substance of the allegations and even though, in some cases, the cleric has confessed, should not be imposed with canonical penalties.

I am sending in this mailing the cases of those priests whose life situations are such that a canonical penal trial or an administrative dismissal would be unreasonable. They are either of such advanced age or fragile health that such actions could be tantamount to a death sentence. Therefore, in each case I am asking that the priest be permitted to live out whatever may remain of his life in prayer and penance. The elements of such a life will be designed along the protocols presently being prepared by the Conference of Bishops. In all cases, there would be no public ministry permitted and the priest would not present himself publicly as a priest by title or attire.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Should Your Eminence determine that an alternate action be taken, I stand ready to accede to your wishes.

With sentiments of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM039323

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

NAME: Reverend Raymond Joseph Adamsky
 DATE OF BIRTH: July 27, 1931
 AGE: 72
 PRESBYTERAL ORDINATION: May 31, 1958
 YEARS OF MINISTRY: 35 years
 DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION: Milwaukee
 ADDRESS: 3253 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235

ASSIGNMENTS:

YEAR	PARISH	LOCATION	APPOINTMENT
1958-1961	Blessed Sacrament	Milwaukee, WI	Assistant Pastor
1961-1964	St. Joseph	Grafton, WI	Assistant Pastor
1964-1969	St. John	South Milwaukee	Assistant Pastor
1969-1971	St. Mary	Fond du Lac, WI	Associate Pastor
1971-1973	St. Philip Neri	Milwaukee	Associate Pastor
1973-1974	St. Leonard	Muskego, WI	Associate Pastor
1974-1975	St. Casimir	Milwaukee	Associate Pastor
1975-1978	St. Vincent de Paul	Milwaukee	Associate Pastor
1978-1981	St. Stanislaus	Milwaukee	Associate Pastor
1981-1986	St. Kilian	St. Kilian, WI	Pastor
1986-1992	St. Joseph	Racine, WI	Associate Pastor
1992-1993	St. Monica Nursing Home	Racine, WI	Chaplain
August 31, 1993	Disability Retirement		

ACCUSATION AGAINST THE CLERIC

YEAR	VICTIM	AGE	IMPUTABLE ACTS	DENUNCIATION
1983	[REDACTED]	10	Inappropriate and forced kissing, embracing, attempted fondling done repeatedly	1983
1983	[REDACTED]	12	Repeatedly engaged in forced kissing, embracing; sexually explicit "gift" of underwear	1983
1964	[REDACTED]	10	Forced kissing and fondling of breast on several occasions	1994
1964	[REDACTED]	13	Not specified	1993
1965	[REDACTED]	12	Forced kissing and fondling	2004
1971	[REDACTED]	12	Forced kissing and fondling of breast four times	1995
1961	[REDACTED]	10	In confessional told to insert finger in vagina as penance	2002

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC

The Milwaukee District Attorney reviewed the files and determined that all cases were beyond the statute of limitations.

Civil settlements were reached with two of the victims in the amounts of \$20,000 and \$50,000.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE

YEAR	ACTION TAKEN
1961	Parents reported to Chancellor who met with them and then arranged for a transfer to another parish for cleric
1983	Parents reported to Vicar for Clergy; cleric referred for counseling and associate pastor informed to monitor activities; cleric sent for evaluation and reassigned; cleric says his actions misinterpreted
1989	Cleric confronted and he declares he does not remember; placed under restricted ministry; sent for counseling
1992	Cleric transferred to non-parochial ministry with restrictions on contact with minors; moved to supervised housing
1993	Cleric retired and moved to retired priests' residence
1995	Restrictions on ministry formulated into canonical precept
2004	Cased referred to Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

SUSTENANCE PROVIDED TO THE CLERIC

Father is fully vested in the priests' pension plan and receives the same monthly payment as any other retired priest. He resides in diocesan sponsored housing with reduced room and board.

RESPONSE / RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC

Father admitted the events from 1983 but said they were misconstrued. All other allegations he claims lack of memory even though none of the accusers know one another and all sequence of dates match up not only with the place of assignment but also with transfers that are not explained in the files.

BISHOP'S VOTUM

The pattern of the allegations has an internal consistency. All of the dates and places are verified in the records. The accusers have no knowledge of or contact with one another. Father admits to one incident but dismisses its seriousness. He claims lack of memory for all others. These cases have been given no public notoriety and there has been no scandal. Despite the evidence of probable guilt, I am asking that Father Adamsky not be subjected to a penal trial. His health has deteriorated significantly in recent years. He has agreed not to appear in public wearing priestly attire and to live with the restrictions contained in the precept, namely that he have no contact with minors and no public ministry. He is permitted to say private Mass only and his confessional faculties have been revoked.

I ask that Father Adamsky, for reasons of advanced age and poor health, be permitted to live a life of prayer and penance the details of which will be worked on with him.

