

**Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Finance Council
Minutes of March 7, 2003 Meeting**

Present: Archbishop Dolan, Bishop Skiba, Mark Doll, Patricia O'Donoghue, Rev. Phil Reifenberg, Wayne A. Schneider, Sr. Janet Senderak, SSND, Joseph Terrian, Rev. Donald Thimm

Excused: Thomas Bausch, T. Michael Bolger, Joan Braun

Recording Secretary: Kim Stollenwerk

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Cathedral Project – Women's Assessment Center

A single gift of \$115,000 was received. Some major donors may be on the horizon. The building project is going well and is on schedule to be completed by the deadline.

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ADOM006289

MAR 01 2002


 ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
 SCHOOLS, CHILD, AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

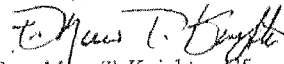
TO: Rev. Joseph F. Hornacek
 ✓ Vicar for Clergy
 Barbara Reinke
 Director of Project Benjamin
 FR: Rev. Marv T. Knighton
 Re: Allegations
 Date: March 1, 2002

I wish to again thank you both for your understanding amid the needed probing that your position demands of you. I fully understand the delicate position you hold, significantly when charges come forward of such magnitude. I again wish to reiterate these allegations are false in this matter in regard to my accuser, [REDACTED]. Yesterday as you can expect, I had a great deal of time to think over all that was shared and I have come to the following conclusions on this matter.

- Before any meeting is set up with my accuser, I do see it necessary for me to speak with an attorney on this matter. I need to know legally the advantage and disadvantage of meeting with [REDACTED] and his therapist. My concern is, if [REDACTED] has been in therapy for over ten years on and off, how can we as parties have a wholesome discussion if he and maybe his father continue in dysfunction.
- I also need to know legally where I stand if [REDACTED], his father [REDACTED] continue to make these false accusations of inappropriate sexual behavior.
- I checked my notes when I returned home and [REDACTED] was in therapy at the time when he first made his false allegations with me. I also have in my notes his father coming to see me because he was so upset with one of the sessions where [REDACTED] was blaming him for everything about his life and how bad of a parent he was.
- Upon the death of [REDACTED], he was in attendance at St. Jude the Apostle. It was also during that time that [REDACTED] for the most part [REDACTED]. The attitude of his classmates from my understanding changed somewhat when [REDACTED].
- At your convenience, I would like to meet with you both to discuss further this matter in regard to these unfortunate false allegations that have been made.
- Finally, in defense of Fr. Thomas Venne and my comment about him not recording this back in the 1990's, we all waited for something to come in from his Therapist or [REDACTED] and not one thing transpired. I believe to due that, Fr. Venne and Attorney Matthew Flynn did not do anything because they never received an official complaint. I hope to make this point clear in defense of Fr. Thomas Venne who also served as Vicar and also did a fine job/ministry which is a difficult position to hold.

Once I have made contact with two attorneys, I will get back to you as soon as possible. Again, thank you for your time, your concern for [REDACTED] my accuser and for me who is being falsely accused. Like the late Cardinal Bernadine, it is simply a terrible experience to have, even more when it is so untrue.

Sincerely,


 Rev. Marv T. Knighton 75

*Statute of limitations has expired for any civil or criminal
 behavior*

January 15, 2008

Prot. No. CDF 406-04 -- 19047

Most Reverend Angelo Amato, SDB
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Citta del Vaticano
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

Your Excellency,

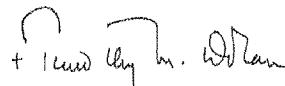
With regard to the above-captioned case, I have pondered long and hard about your suggestion that we impose a ten-year precept on Reverend Thomas Trepanier and then consider his return to ministry. I respectfully submit that such a resolution is not tenable. Ten years will not eradicate the facts in this matter; Father Trepanier sexually abused a minor and can never, therefore, function as a priest again. There is no such thing as a "safe" ministry when his background is publicly known by his own admissions.

I respectfully implore you to reconsider and confirm the results of the administrative process that was conducted here and grant the administrative laicization. This was a decision reached only after serious deliberation with some of my most trusted canonical consultants. There is currently pending civil legislation in Wisconsin attempting to abolish the statute of limitations on sexual assault retroactively. Such legislation would seriously compromise the Archdiocese's ability to exercise its mission. The more we can demonstrate our seriousness about purifying the priesthood as the Holy Father has implored us to do, the more we can speak credibly about the adverse effects of such legislation. Our critics challenge us on the fact that known abusers have still not been laicized. If word got out that the Holy See had left the door open for a reconsideration of Father Trepanier's case in ten years, our credibility would be seriously damaged.

Thank you for your reconsideration of this case.

With sentiments of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM046674

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.

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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.

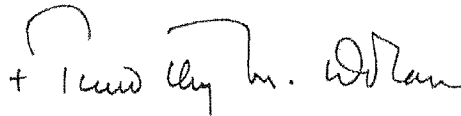
If the judgement of Your Excellency is that this case should proceed to a dismissal by decree of your Congregation, I would cede to that judgement. The severity of the offenses is such that it is my opinion that these requests are justified.

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 beginning.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
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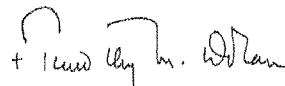
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the Office of Finance and Administration, which is common for most of the other dioceses in the country. Some discussion on cemeteries followed. It was noted that the sales staff, Ministers of Consolation, are paid on a commission basis. It was questioned whether or not they are being compassionate and effective. It was also questioned as to whether Joe Sankovich is speaking with funeral directors. It was suggested that an advisory council be established, consisting of pastors, funeral directors and other appropriate outside members. It is expected that Joe Sankovich will make this same recommendation.

California lawsuit – Siegfried Widera

This lawsuit was filed against the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Diocese of Orange in California alleging abuse 30+ years ago. So far, only one case has been filed, but we are anticipating three or four more. The costs may be as high as \$400,000 per victim. There will be some insurance coverage, however it will take a long time to recover. The insurance companies argue that the Archdiocese was negligent and therefore coverage does not apply. Results of the psychiatric evaluations of the victim have not yet been received. Archbishop Cousins sent a letter to the Diocese of Orange outlining the problems with Fr. Widera.

Pastoral Mediation

Our care for victims goes beyond the law. We provide care/therapy even if the statute of limitations has passed and the victims are unable to take legal action. Restorative justice makes reparations for lost jobs, education, etc. due to the depression and other psychological effects of abuse. This is a process done without an attorney for either side. Currently, Marquette University has a mediation program in place. Also, Barbara Anne Cusack, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, has done research in this area. Several victims have come forward and think pastoral mediation sounds helpful. Pastoral mediation has been in place for many years now, however it has not had a formal edict. The maximum settlement amount is \$30,000 per victim. This amount is a goal and is not concrete.

The Finance Council believes this is a step in the right direction. There could be hundred of legitimate victims asking for \$30,000 each. Since this cannot be taken from CSA, how would this be funded? If the costs become too great, they would have to be borrowed. A loan would be internal and probably would come from the Income Care Fund. It would be hoped that some funding would come from the insurance and would help repay the loan. The worst-case scenario would force the Archdiocese to liquidate property. If Wisconsin takes the same approach as California and offers a one-year reprieve on the statute of limitations, then more drastic action would need to be taken. This could result in program cuts, seminary cuts, etc.

Currently, we are working on setting up a Trust Fund to shelter the Parish Deposit Fund.

Budget

The net deficit of the proposed budgets submitted is \$1.7 million. The Cabinet has been and will continue to meet to discuss and revise the budget. Many options have surfaced, such as sharing of staff (some offices are already doing this), reducing the contribution to the priests' pension plan, capping salary increases, increasing the percentage of health

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insurance premiums shared by employees, reduce the office cleaning services. Some of the options are drastic and may not be feasible at this time. St. Francis Seminary must be made aware of our predicament and be willing to share in budget cuts. Since parishes have already completed their budgeting processes, we would not be able to increase parish assessments for the coming year. Finance Council approval would be needed to eliminate the 8% cap in increases in assessments or imposing a 10% penalty for failure of a parish to report their financial statements. Another option may be to reduce or eliminate the subsidized lunch program for employees.

Currently unassignable priests are receiving full salaries and are budgeted under the Vicar for Clergy. There is a proposal to reduce their benefit to be the same as the current pension benefit, \$1,250 per month and also offer \$20,000 for laicization (\$10,000 at the start and \$10,000 at the completion of the process). Also, they remain on our health insurance until they find other employment. The final effect of all this is not known at this time and it may be a wash with the current budget.

What would be the impact of reduced services and programs? Parishes need to be made aware of those reductions as soon as possible. What effect would an increased parish assessment have on the CSA contributions? It is felt that increasing the assessment would be just. We currently have a 4% assessment -- the lowest in the country.

The planning process will take place after the budget is finalized. The purpose of this process is to re-evaluate the central offices and their effectiveness on parishes and programs. The committee will include outside people as well as a few internal people.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Stollenwerk

ADOM006287