

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Abbot Timothy Kelly, O.S.B.

RE: Michael Bik

DATE: September 3, 1998

August 28, 1998. Msgr. Daniel Taufen, moderator of the curia of the Saint Cloud Diocese, called Rene McGraw to report a conversation he had had with the chancellor of the Archdiocese [REDACTED] about an allegation of sexual misconduct involving Michael Bik in the mid 70s prior to his joining this community. Father Rene reported this to me at a little after 3:30 P.M. and I attempted to reach the chancellor of [REDACTED] about 4:00 P.M. CDST. [REDACTED] I left a message on voice mail requesting him to return the call when he was in. This was a Friday and I did not expect a return call until Monday or even Tuesday if Monday might have been a day off.

September 1, 1998. Since I did not receive a call back on Monday or so far on Tuesday, I called [REDACTED] once again and asked that the chancellor, Very Rev. [REDACTED], return the call. This he did just before noon CDST. He told me that an offer had been made in the archdiocese that anyone who had suffered sexual abuse in the past in the context of the church was invited to report this and it would be dealt with. A man came forward and reported to him two incidents of sexual abuse occurring in the mid 70s at Saint Stephen's Church in Anoka, MN. The perpetrator was identified as Michael Bik who at the time was a teacher in the Catholic school there. One incident happened at school, the other at Michael's apartment. The incidents involved oral sex and masturbation. I informed Father Gordon Tavis, president of the prep school where Michael now works, and Brother Dietrich Reinhart, president of the university, where Michael is involved in campus ministry and is a faculty resident. I did not reveal to the two presidents the details of the abuse, only that something reportedly happened.

I called Dr. Steven Vincent, Michael Bik's counselor, to seek his advice on how to approach Michael since there is always a danger of extreme reaction when such a message is conveyed. He told me he did not believe Michael would harm himself, though he said one never knows what action a person might actually take in such circumstances. He advised me to tell Michael to call Dr. Vincent after he had been told of the allegation.

Because we are concerned with the timing of this, we wanted Brother Isaac, who is in charge of faculty residents, to be informed that

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something was coming down. However, Isaac is not on campus and was not available for contact.

September 2, 1998. When it became clear that we would not be able to get in touch with Brother Isaac, we concluded that Michael should be approached and told. However, I decided that it would be better to wait for Thursday morning to talk with him since I did not want him stewing over this alone on Wednesday night. My secretary arranged an appointment with him for Thursday morning.

September 3, 1998. I talked with Michael this morning beginning at about 8:45. I told him of the information I had, advised him to get a monk he could talk with and to let me know who that would be, advised him to contact our lawyer for monks who are accused, and to call Dr. Steve Vincent. He has done all of these things and I find him very cooperative. We spent close to one hour together talking, and I told him he would have to move back into the monastery which he will do. At noon time he sat with me at lunch, we talked briefly in the corridor before he was to visit with the monk he had chosen. I later talked briefly with Dr. Vincent who is on campus today and willing to meet with Michael.

I talked with Michael in my office after supper. He had spoken to the monk he had chosen; he had called the lawyer; and he had spoken with Dr. Vincent. He then acknowledged that there was one other person with whom he had an encounter prior to joining the monastery. He said: "I swear to you that there has never been any sexual encounter with anyone since I joined the monastery."

My perceptions: Michael at no time denied any thing I had presented to him. He also, and this impresses me, offered to tell me of another individual and this was not at my bidding. By mid afternoon today he had done exactly what I had asked him to do in choosing a monk to talk with, in calling the lawyer and making an appointment, and in seeing his therapist. He has been totally cooperative and I would judge totally honest.