

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a Summary Timeline of Allegation, prepared by the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, dated April 13, 2006, summarizing Victim LG and LH's allegations of sexual abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas. According to the summary, Victim LH was required to undress in front of Thomas. According to the summary, Victim LG alleged that Thomas required members of a parish sports team to undress and shower in front of the cleric.

CLERGY DAILY LOG

The Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, pursuant to Article §1104.4.3, is responsible to "monitor programs for treatment, rehabilitation or supervision of clerics..."

The Individual Specific Protocol for: _____

(Cleric Name)

requires that you keep a "log" of your daily activities. The "log" is completed daily and submitted to the Director at the end of each week for review. Include the place, the purpose of visit/trip/activity (i.e. Spiritual Direction, therapy), and the telephone number if it is appropriate. Please remember that this tool is intended to provide an accurate record of the day rather than a detailed clock.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u> (If appropriate)	<u>PURPOSE</u>
7:00 – 8:00 A.M.			
8:00 – 9:00			
9:00 – 10:00			
10:00 – 11:00			
11:00 – 12:00			
12:00 – 1:00 P.M.			
1:00 – 2:00			
2:00 – 3:00			
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6:00 – 7:00			
7:00 – 8:00			
8:00 – 9:00			
9:00 – 10:00			
10:00 – 11:00			
11:00 – 7:00 A.M.			

Client Signature: _____

Date: _____

On-Site Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date Received: _____

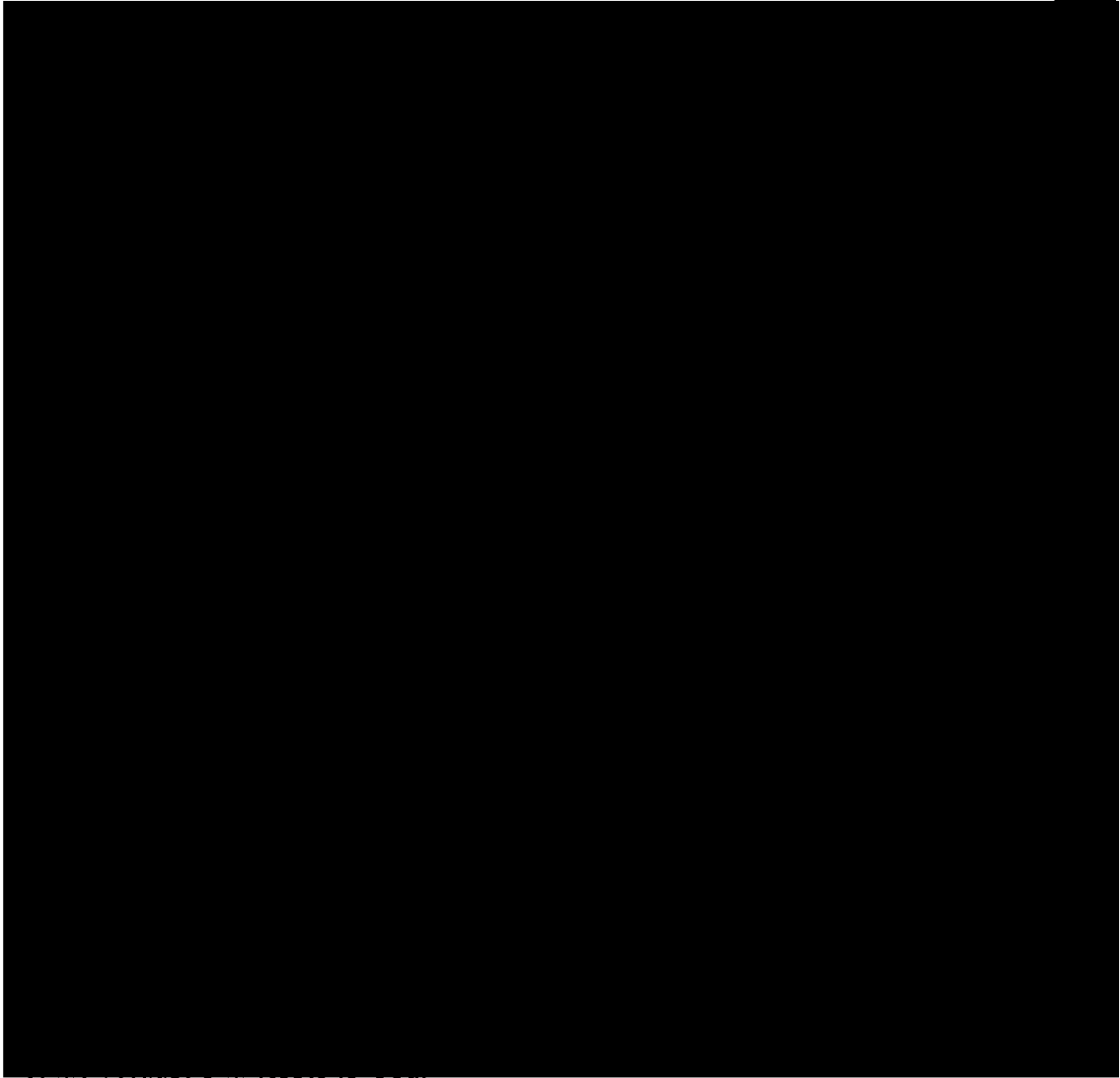
Revised 4/5/07

Director Signature: _____

Joseph Thomas
History of Abuse:

Timeframe: 1980's

Victim came forward in 2002 and stated that Joseph Thomas abused him when he attended St. Margaret Mary's Grade School in the 1980s. He stated that the abuse began when he was in the third or fourth grade and continued through his eighth grade year. [REDACTED]



This allegation was substantiated.

Timeframe: 1959-1960

In April 2004 a third party report was made against Joseph Thomas. The reporter stated that a male minor reported to him that Joseph Thomas had sexually abused him when he was sixteen or seventeen years old. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Former vicar for priest stated that he discussed that call with Joseph Thomas and he acknowledged that he did sexually abuse the alleged victims [REDACTED] and probably the victim as well.

This was a third party allegation and never presented to the board. Cardinal kept Joseph Thomas out of ministry because he admitted to the allegation.

Timeframe: 1959-1960

A third party report was made in April 2004 that Joseph Thomas abused a male minor when he was nine or ten years old. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Joseph Thomas stated that he definitely abused this victim and probably abused his [REDACTED] He stated that he would instruct the victim to go into the bathroom to "wash his dirty hands" and instruct him to strip and come into the living room naked. He stated that he would then look at his naked body for his own sexual pleasure.
[REDACTED]

This was a third party allegation and never presented to the board. Cardinal kept Joseph Thomas out of ministry because he admitted to the allegation.

Archdiocese of Chicago Priest Vitae Card

**Joseph Stephen
Thomas**

Born:



Ordained: 05/01/1952

Died: 08/24/2011

Ethnicity: Polish

No Image
Attached

Assignment	Position	Begin Date	End Date
St. Columba Parish (134th St.)	Assistant Pastor	07/08/1952	07/06/1960
St. David Parish (Union St.)	Assistant Pastor	07/06/1960	05/16/1966
St. Ferdinand Parish (Barry Ave.)	Assistant Pastor	05/16/1966	06/12/1975
St. Ferdinand Parish (Barry Ave.)	Administrator	01/04/1974	
St. Giles Parish (Oak Park)	Associate Pastor	06/12/1975	12/19/1975
Our Lady of the Cross Mission (Chase Ave.)	Administrator	12/19/1975	12/07/1987
St. Margaret Mary Parish (Chase Ave.)	Pastor	12/19/1975	12/07/1987
St. John Vianney Parish (Northlake)	Associate Pastor	12/08/1987	01/14/1997
	Sabbatical	01/02/1989	04/02/1989
St. Margaret Mary Parish (Chase Ave.)	Pastor Emeritus	01/14/1997	08/24/2011
St. John Vianney Parish (Northlake)	Resident	07/23/1998	08/24/2011

**Extraordinary
Appointments:**

ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH

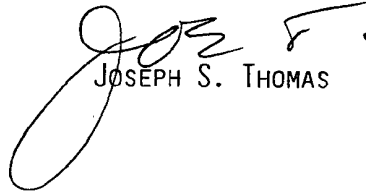
46 N. Wolf Rd.
Northlake, Illinois 60164-1669

PHONE 562-0500

DEAR CARDIANL BERNARDIN:

THANK YOU FOR THE THANKSGIVING BOOKLET YOU SENT ON THE
MORALE OF PRIESTS. MY BEST TO YOU AND YOURS FOR THE COMING
FEAST OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXCELLENT
SHEPHERDING DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS.

VERY TRULY YOURS IN CHRIST,



JOSEPH S. THOMAS

ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH

46 N. Wolf Rd.
Northlake, Illinois 60164-1669

PHONE 562-0500

Dear Cardinal:

Thank you for your gentle presence in our midst.
Everyone who was here truly enjoyed the occasion. And
thank you for the kind words to me personally and for
note. I am enjoying my stay here. I have been received
well by the people and Charlie is kind to me. I hope the
parish stays at ease for a while.

May God continue to bless you in your most difficult
work. Thank you for your dedication.

Very truly yours in Christ,



Joseph S. Thomas

Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 751-5205

INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC PROTOCOL
For

Joseph Thomas

The Individual Specific Protocols (ISP) implement the primary goal of protecting minors and the integrity of the Church. Additionally, the ISP serves as a safeguard for the individual priest/deacon with regard to the possibility of subsequent allegations. As long as the cleric is a client of the Office of Professional Responsibility, he will be subject to appropriate protocols, restrictions and monitoring under the authority of the Vicar for Priests and supervised by the Professional Responsibility Administrator (PRA); please refer to protocol number 15.

This ISP for _____ is as follows (PRA to initial all that apply):

1. _____ Restricted from being alone with minors (anyone under the age of 18) without the presence of another responsible adult.
2. _____ Therapy with the suggested frequency of _____ times per week/month (please circle one) as recommended by _____ (therapist name). Attendance to therapy is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.
3. _____ Continued regular Spiritual Direction with the suggested frequency of _____ times per week/month (please circle one) as recommended by _____ (spiritual advisor name). Attendance to recommended Spiritual Direction is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.
4. _____ The "Clergy Daily Log" to be completed on a daily basis and co-signed by the monitor. The log is a tool that is used for the protection of minors, the priest/deacon, the monitor and the Archdiocese. Although it lists all time periods, it is to intended to provide an accurate record of the day rather than a detailed clock. If you are describing an off-campus activity, please include the place, the general purpose of the visit/trip/activity (e.g. Spiritual Direction, therapy), and the telephone number only if it is a private residence. (For example, it is enough to indicate that you did personal shopping rather than the name, location and telephone number of each individual store.) If your self-description is challenged, some documentation/verification may be requested. The monitor will return the log forms at the end of each month to PRA.
5. _____ Abide by the restriction of residence to _____

6. ☐ No inappropriate use of computers, software, Internet capabilities, communications tools or technology. The standards articulated in the *Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago* and the *Handbook For Archdiocesan Employees* will apply.
7. ☐ Must complete and submit the "Travel/Vacation Agreement" to PRA prior to a scheduled departure.
8. ☐ Attendance at a recommended support group _____ (please indicate specific support group). Recommended frequency of _____ times per week/month (please circle one). Attendance at a recommended support group is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.
9. ☐ No ministerial participation in the public celebration of the Eucharist or any other Sacrament or Sacramental without the prior, written permission of the Vicar for Priests.
10. ☐ Refrain from wearing any garb that would give the appearance of, or seem to infer, a priest/deacon who has canonical faculties and is currently assigned to some ministry (e.g., the 'clerical shirt').
11. ☐ The right of defense must not involve the public life of the Church.
12. ☐ On-site visits by PRA annually to include meeting with PRA and the cleric.
13. ☐ On-site visits by Vicar for Priests (VP) annually to include a meeting with VP and the cleric.
14. ☐ This ISP is to be reviewed annually with PRA, VP, and the cleric.
15. ☐ Because the private celebration of the Eucharist is possible, during the course of each week one of the Masses celebrated is to be for the intention of the priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago.
16. ☐ Any change or alteration to this agreement will involve consultation with the cleric, his monitor, the PRA, and the VP. The cleric, his monitor, the PRA, or the VP can initiate the discussion for change or alteration, and at the discretion of any of the parties, his legal and/or canonical counsel may be involved.

I have reviewed, understand, and agree to all of these individual specific Protocols.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature of PRA: _____ Date: _____

Signature of VP: _____ Date: _____

A copy of this Protocol will be kept on file in the Office of Professional Responsibility and on file in the Office of the Vicar for Priests.

CLERGY DAILY LOG

The Office of Professional Responsibility, pursuant to Article §1104.4.3, is responsible to "monitor programs for treatment, rehabilitation or supervision of clerics..."

The Individual Specific Protocol for: Joseph Thomas

(Cleric Name)

requires that you keep a "log" of your daily activities. The "log" is completed daily and submitted to the Administrator at the end of each month for review. Include the place, the purpose of visit/trip/activity (i.e. Spiritual Direction, therapy), and the telephone number if it is appropriate. Please remember that this tool is intended to provide an accurate record of the day rather than a detailed clock.

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10:00 – 11:00			
11:00 – 7:00 A.M.			

Client Signature: _____

Date: _____

Monitor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date Received: _____

Administrative Signature: _____

Rev. 7/15/03

AOC 020273

TRAVEL/VACATION NOTIFICATION

_____ [name of cleric] has informed this office that he will be traveling to
_____ [destination address and contact phone number] from
_____ [departure date] through _____ [return date].
_____ [name of cleric] will be monitored by
_____ [name of travel monitor]. _____ [name of
travel monitor] has accepted the responsibility of verifying the location and activities of
_____ [name of cleric] during the aforementioned time frame. *

[see attached correspondence]

1. Contacts with minors by _____ [name of cleric] must be in the presence of _____ [name of travel monitor]. Inappropriate situations and locations incompatible with a priestly lifestyle are to be avoided.
2. _____ [name of travel monitor] may be asked to attest to the activities and whereabouts of _____ [cleric name] over _____ [aforementioned time frame].
3. As previously noted, the date of return to _____ 's [cleric name] residence has been scheduled for _____ [aforementioned return date].
However, due to weather conditions or emergencies that may arise, the date may be changed. In the event of such a circumstance, should the original plans be substantially changed, please contact PRA at [312] 751-5205.

Cleric Signature: _____ Date: _____

PRA Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of this document will be provided to the cleric. The original will be placed in the cleric's file in the Office of Professional Responsibility and a copy will be placed in the cleric's file in the Vicar for Priests' Office.


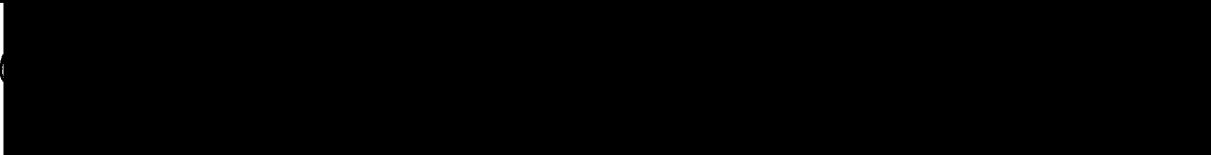


Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 751-5205

INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS
For

Rev. Joseph Thomas

The Individual Specific Protocols (ISP) implement the primary goal of promoting the safety of minors. Additionally, the ISP protects the integrity of the Church and serves as a safeguard for individual priest or deacon. As long as the cleric is a client of the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, he will be subject to appropriate protocols, restrictions and monitoring under the authority of the Vicar for Priests and supervised by the Director of the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review (Director). The agreement of a priest or deacon to abide by these protocols is not understood to prove the truth of any allegation and is not intended to be an admission of guilt for any delict or crime, whether in Canon Law, or State and Federal Law. This agreement represents the cooperation of the cleric with his bishop as he exercises his pastoral office (e.g., Canons 369 and 392).

This ISP for Rev. Joseph Thomas is as follows (Director to initial all that apply):

1. The client is restricted from being alone with a minor or minors, that is anyone under the age of 18, without the presence of another responsible adult.
2. 
3. 
4.  The "Clergy Daily Log" to be completed on a daily basis and co-signed by the on-site supervisor. The log is a tool that is used for the protection of minors, the cleric, the on-site supervisor and the Archdiocese. Although it identifies time periods, it is intended to provide a general record of the day rather than a detailed clock. If you are describing an off-site activity, please include your destination and the general purpose of the visit or activity. For example, it is enough to indicate that you did personal shopping at a given Shopping Center rather than the details of each individual store. However, if your self-description is challenged or a complaint is lodged with the Archdiocese, some documentation and verification may be necessary to sufficiently address the situation.
5.  Abide by the assignment of residence to Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, Mundelein, IL.

6. (D) Must complete and submit the "Travel/Vacation Agreement," and obtain concurrence with the Agreement, prior to a scheduled departure. In the event of a prolonged stay in a particular location, the Archdiocese is required to notify the Ordinary of that place of your presence there.
7. N/A Attendance at a recommended support group _____ (please indicate specific support group). Recommended frequency of _____ times per week/month (please circle one). Attendance at a recommended support group is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.
8. No inappropriate use of computers, software, Internet capabilities, communications tools or video technology. The standards articulated in the *Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago* and the *Handbook For Archdiocesan Employees* apply as they do to all Archdiocesan personnel.
9. No ministerial participation in the public celebration of the Eucharist or any other Sacrament or Sacramental without the prior, written permission of the Vicar for Priests.
10. Refrain from wearing any garb that would give the appearance of, or seem to infer, a priest/deacon who has canonical faculties and is currently assigned to some ministry (e.g., the 'clerical shirt').
11. On-site visits by the Director and the VP annually to include a meeting with the cleric.

This Individual Specific Protocol is to be reviewed annually with the Director, VP, and the cleric. Also, there can be additional, written notations tailored to the needs of a specific situation which are signed by all parties and appended to this document. Any change or alteration to this agreement will involve consultation with the cleric, his on-site supervisor, the Director, and the VP. The cleric, his on-site supervisor, the Director, or the VP can initiate the discussion for change or alteration, or request that this Individual Specific Protocol be reviewed by the independent Review Board. At the discretion of any of the parties, the legal and/or canonical counsel of the cleric may be involved in the discussions.

I have reviewed, understand, and agree to all of these individual specific Protocols.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature of Director: _____ Date: _____

Signature of VP: _____ Date: _____

Additional, written notations appended to this document? yes ☐ no ☐

(Revised 4/5/07)

CLERGY DAILY LOG

The Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, pursuant to Article §1104.4.3, is responsible to "monitor programs for treatment, rehabilitation or supervision of clerics..."

The Individual Specific Protocol for: _____
(Cleric Name)

requires that you keep a "log" of your daily activities. The "log" is completed daily and submitted to the Director at the end of each week for review. Include the place, the purpose of visit/trip/activity (i.e. Spiritual Direction, therapy), and the telephone number if it is appropriate. Please remember that this tool is intended to provide an accurate record of the day rather than a detailed clock.

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10:00 – 11:00			
11:00 – 7:00 A.M.			

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____

On-Site Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Date Received: _____

Revised 4/5/07

Director Signature: _____

TRAVEL/VACATION NOTIFICATION

NOTE: This form must be submitted to Director of the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review three weeks prior to planned departure
In event of an emergency need, contact Director or Vicar for Priests to discuss travel

_____ [name of traveling cleric] has informed this office that he will be traveling to _____ [destination address and contact phone number] from _____ [departure date] through _____ [return date]. The traveling cleric will be chaperoned by _____ [name of chaperone]. The Director may contact the chaperone at the following phone number

prior to departure _____. The identified chaperone has accepted the responsibility of verifying the location and activities of the traveling cleric during the aforementioned time frame, as well as assuring that the traveling cleric will be spending the identified overnights in the same residence as him/her.

1. Contacts with minors by the traveling cleric must be in the presence of the identified chaperone. Inappropriate situations and locations incompatible with a priestly lifestyle are to be avoided.
2. The identified chaperone may be asked to attest to the activities and whereabouts of traveling cleric over the aforementioned time period of travel.
3. As previously noted, the date of return to the traveling cleric's residence has been scheduled for _____ [aforementioned return date]. However, due to weather conditions or emergencies that may arise, the date may be changed. In the event of such a circumstance, should the original plans be substantially changed, please contact the Director at [312] 751-5205.

Cleric Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of this document will be provided to the cleric. The original will be placed in the cleric's file in the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review and a copy will be placed in the cleric's file in the Vicar for Priests' Office.

Revised 2/12/07

TRAVEL/VACATION NOTIFICATION

NOTE: This form must be submitted to PRA three weeks prior to planned departure
In event of an emergency need, contact PRA or Vicar for Priests to discuss travel

_____ [name of cleric] has informed this office that he will be traveling to
[destination address and contact phone number] _____
_____ from _____ [departure date]
through _____ [return date]. _____ [name of cleric]
will be chaperoned by _____ [name of chaperone]. PRA may contact
the chaperone at the following phone number prior to departure _____. The
identified chaperone has accepted the responsibility of verifying the location and
activities of _____ [name of cleric] during the aforementioned time
frame.

1. Contacts with minors by _____ [name of cleric] must be in the
presence of the identified chaperone. Inappropriate situations and locations
incompatible with a priestly lifestyle are to be avoided.
2. The identified chaperone may be asked to attest to the activities and whereabouts of
_____ [cleric name] over the aforementioned time period of travel.
3. As previously noted, the date of return to _____'s [cleric name]
residence has been scheduled for _____ [aforementioned return date].
However, due to weather conditions or emergencies that may arise, the date may be
changed. In the event of such a circumstance, should the original plans be
substantially changed, please contact PRA at [312] 751-5205.

Cleric Signature: _____ Date: _____

PRA Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of this document will be provided to the cleric. The original will be placed in the cleric's file
in the Office of Professional Responsibility and a copy will be placed in the cleric's file in the Vicar
for Priests' Office.

Revised 3/28/06

Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 751-5205

INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS
For

Rev. Joseph Thomas

The Individual Specific Protocols (ISP) implement the primary goal of promoting the safety of minors. Additionally, the ISP protects the integrity of the Church and serves as a safeguard for individual priest or deacon. As long as the cleric is a client of the Office of Professional Responsibility, he will be subject to appropriate protocols, restrictions and monitoring under the authority of the Vicar for Priests and supervised by the Professional Responsibility Administrator (PRA). The agreement of a priest or deacon to abide by these protocols is not understood to prove the truth of any allegation and is not intended to be an admission of guilt for any delict or crime, whether in Canon Law, or State and Federal Law. This agreement represents the cooperation of the cleric with his bishop as he exercises his pastoral office (e.g., Canons 369 and 392).

This ISP for Rev. Joseph Thomas is as follows (PRA to initial all that apply):

1. The client is restricted from being alone with a minor or minors, that is anyone under the age of 18, without the presence of another responsible adult.

2.

3.

4. ☒ The "Clergy Daily Log" to be completed on a daily basis and co-signed by the monitor. The log is a tool that is used for the protection of minors, the cleric, the monitor and the Archdiocese. Although it identifies time periods, it is intended to provide a general record of the day rather than a detailed clock. If you are describing an off-site activity, please include your destination and the general purpose of the visit or activity. For example, it is enough to indicate that you did personal shopping at a given Shopping Center rather than the details of each individual store. However, if your self-description is challenged or a complaint is lodged with the Archdiocese, some documentation and verification may be necessary to sufficiently address the situation.

5.

☒ Abide by the assignment of residence to Cardinal Stritch Retreat House

6. W Must complete and submit the "Travel/Vacation Agreement", and obtain concurrence with the Agreement, prior to a scheduled departure. In the event of a prolonged stay in a particular location, the Archdiocese is required to notify the Ordinary of that place of your presence there.
7. N/A Attendance at a recommended support group _____ (please indicate specific support group). Recommended frequency of _____ times per week/month (please circle one). Attendance at a recommended support group is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.
8. No inappropriate use of computers, software, Internet capabilities, communications tools or video technology. The standards articulated in the *Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago* and the *Handbook For Archdiocesan Employees* apply as they do to all Archdiocesan personnel.
9. No ministerial participation in the public celebration of the Eucharist or any other Sacrament or Sacramental without the prior, written permission of the Vicar for Priests.
10. Refrain from wearing any garb that would give the appearance of, or seem to infer, a priest/deacon who has canonical faculties and is currently assigned to some ministry (e.g., the 'clerical shirt').
11. On-site visits by the PRA and the VP annually to include a meeting with the cleric.

This Individual Specific Protocol is to be reviewed annually with PRA, VP, and the cleric. Also, there can be additional, written notations tailored to the needs of a specific situation which are signed by all parties and appended to this document. Any change or alteration to this agreement will involve consultation with the cleric, his monitor, the PRA, and the VP. The cleric, his monitor, the PRA, or the VP can initiate the discussion for change or alteration, or request that this Individual Specific Protocol be reviewed by the Professional Responsibility Review Board. At the discretion of any of the parties, the legal and/or canonical counsel of the cleric may be involved in the discussions.

I have reviewed, understand, and agree to all of these individual specific Protocols.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature of PRA: _____ Date: _____

Signature of VP: _____ Date: _____

Additional, written notations appended to this document? yes ☐ no ☐

(Revised 1/XII/04)

TRAVEL/VACATION NOTIFICATION

NOTE: This form must be submitted to PRA three weeks prior to planned departure
In event of an emergency need, contact PRA or Vicar for Priests to discuss travel

_____ [name of cleric] has informed this office that he will be traveling to
[destination address and contact phone number] _____
_____ from _____ [departure date]
through _____ [return date]. _____ [name of cleric]
will be chaperoned by _____ [name of chaperone]. PRA may contact
the chaperone at the following phone number prior to departure _____. The
identified chaperone has accepted the responsibility of verifying the location and
activities of _____ [name of cleric] during the aforementioned time
frame.

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presence of the identified chaperone. Inappropriate situations and locations
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2. The identified chaperone may be asked to attest to the activities and whereabouts of
_____ [cleric name] over the aforementioned time period of travel.
3. As previously noted, the date of return to _____'s [cleric name]
residence has been scheduled for _____ [aforementioned return date].
However, due to weather conditions or emergencies that may arise, the date may be
changed. In the event of such a circumstance, should the original plans be
substantially changed, please contact PRA at [312] 751-5205.

Cleric Signature: _____ Date: _____

PRA Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of this document will be provided to the cleric. The original will be placed in the cleric's file
in the Office of Professional Responsibility and a copy will be placed in the cleric's file in the Vicar
for Priests' Office.

Revised 3/28/06

APR 12 2008

COPY

of an original document from the files of
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

This is a red ink stamp!
DO NOT COPY

76 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910

Chicago, IL 60611

(312) 751-5205

INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS

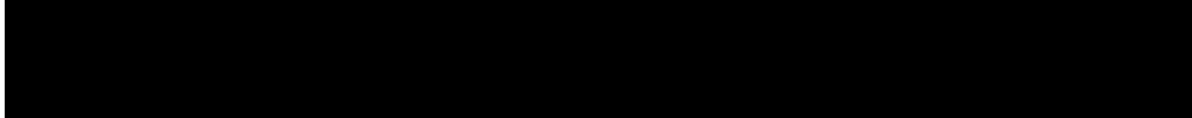
For

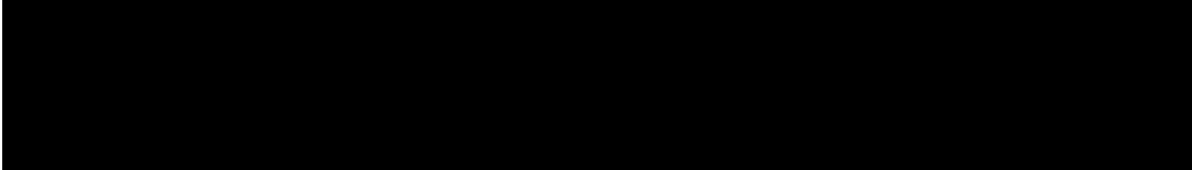
Rev. Joseph Thomas

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1. The client is restricted from being alone with a minor or minors, that is anyone under the age of 18, without the presence of another responsible adult.

2. 

3. 

4. ☒ The "Clergy Daily Log" to be completed on a daily basis and co-signed by the monitor. The log is a tool that is used for the protection of minors, the cleric, the monitor and the Archdiocese. Although it identifies time periods, it is intended to provide a general record of the day rather than a detailed clock. If you are describing an off-site activity, please include your destination and the general purpose of the visit or activity. For example, it is enough to indicate that you did personal shopping at a given Shopping Center rather than the details of each individual store. However, if your self-description is challenged or a complaint is lodged with the Archdiocese, some documentation and verification may be necessary to sufficiently address the situation.

5. ☒ Abide by the assignment of residence to Cardinal Stritch Retreat House

June 30th, 1952

My dear Father Thomas,

**I hereby appoint you assistant to the pastor of
St. Columba Church, Chicago, Illinois.**

**You will kindly report for duty to Father Kelly
on July 8th.**

With blessing,

Archbishop of Chicago

Reverend Joseph S. Thomas


June 24, 1960

My dear Father **Thomas,**

I hereby appoint you assistant to
the pastor of **St. David Church, Chicago, Illinois,**
transferring you as assistant to the pastor of
St. Columba Church, Chicago.

You will kindly report for duty
on July 6th to **Father Boyle, the pastor.**

Wishing you every blessing, I
remain,

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

Reverend **Joseph S. Thomas**

St. Columba Rectory

13305 S. Green Bay Av.

Chicago Ill.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Archbishop

May 10, 1966

C

Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
St. David Rectory
3210 South Union Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60616

O

Dear Father Thomas:

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you as Assistant to the Right Reverend Monsignor Matthew A. Canning, Pastor of St. Ferdinand Church, 5900 West Barry Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with Canon 476, 3, to grant you the necessary faculties for the faithful discharge of that duty.

P

This appointment is effective May 16, 1966, but I would ask you to make arrangements with the Pastor about the exact date when you assume your new duties.

Y

Wishing you every blessing and priestly success in your pastoral assignment, I am, dear Father Thomas,

Very truly yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

Chancellor

cc: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Matthew A. Canning

April 3, 1973

**Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
St. Ferdinand Rectory
5900 West Barry Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60634**

Dear Joe:

This letter will confirm the decisions of the Clergy Personnel Board that you be granted a one year extension of your term of office at St. Ferdinand for the reasons cited in your letter of March 7, 1973.

Our best wishes for a productive and satisfying ministry.

Fraternally yours,

MJA:mcp

**Reverend Michael J. Adams
Executive Secretary.**

Personal File



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Archbishop

January 4, 1974

C

Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
St. Ferdinand Parish
5900 W. Barry
Chicago, Illinois 60634

O

Dear Father Thomas:

During the period of illness and convalescence of the Most Reverend William E. McManus, D.D., Pastor of St. Ferdinand Parish, I hereby appoint you as Vicar Substitute and to grant you the necessary faculties to care for the parish in accordance with Canon 465, 4.

P

Wishing you every blessing, I remain, Dear Father Thomas,

Very truly yours in Christ,

Y

Archbishop of Chicago

cc: Most Rev. William E. McManus, D.D. - Pastor
Rev. Msgr. John V. Sugrue - Vicar Delegate

AOC 020288



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Chancellor
312/787-2315

May 29, 1975

C
O
P
Y

Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
St. Ferdinand Rectory
5900 W. Barry
Chicago, Illinois 60634

Dear Father Thomas:

In accordance with Canon 476, and following the recommendation of the Diocesan Clergy Personnel Board, His Eminence, John Cardinal Cody, is pleased to appoint you as Associate Pastor to the Reverend Thomas B. McDonough, Pastor, St. Giles parish, Oak Park.

This appointment is effective June 12, 1975, but I would ask you to make arrangements with the Pastor about the exact date when you will assume your new duties.

Wishing you every blessing and priestly success in your new pastoral assignment, I am, dear Father Thomas,

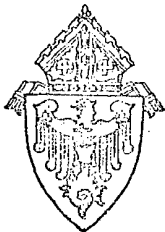
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Richard A. Rosemeyer

Rev. Msgr. Richard A. Rosemeyer
Vicar General and Chancellor

cc: Most Rev. William E. McManus, D.D., Pastor, St. Ferdinand parish, Chicago
Rev. Thomas B. McDonough, Pastor, St. Giles parish, Oak Park

AOC 020289



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Archbishop

December 19, 1975

C
Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
St. Giles Rectory
1045 N. Columbian Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

O
Dear Father Thomas:

Due to the retirement of the Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Kelly, Pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish, Chicago, that parish has become vacant.

P
In accordance with Canon 455 of the Code of Canon Law and following the recommendation of the Diocesan Clergy Personnel Board, we are pleased to appoint you herewith as Pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish, Chicago, with full spiritual and temporal administrative powers, and we heartily commend you to the good people there.

Y
This appointment is effective immediately and, in accord with Archdiocesan policy, is valid for a term of six years, that is, to December 19, 1981. We wish you to take canonical possession of this parish as soon as possible.

You will assume canonical possession and jurisdiction of the above-mentioned parish as soon as the Profession of Faith is taken before the Vicar General, the Chancellor or the Co-Chancellor, acting as our Delegate according to the provisions of Canon Law.

Wishing you every blessing in this pastoral office, we remain,

Very truly yours in Christ,

+ John Cardinal Cody
Archbishop of Chicago

Chancellor

bcc: Diocesan Clergy Personnel Board

AOC 020290



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Vicar General

ATTESTATION OF ACT OF INSTALLATION
IN THE NAME OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, AMEN

Under the Roman Pontificate of His Holiness Pope Paul VI, His Eminence,
John Cardinal Cody, being Archbishop of Chicago, I do hereby attest that
the

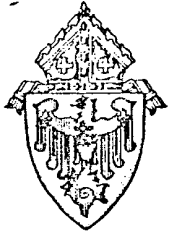
Reverend Joseph S. Thomas

duly appointed pastor whose letter of appointment bears the date of **December 19,**
1975, has on this date in accordance with Canon Law (Canon 461) and the
statutes of the Archdiocese of Chicago taken canonical possession of the
parish of

St. Margaret Mary Parish
2324 West Chase
Chicago, Illinois


Chancellor

Dated: **December 23, 1975**



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Archbishop

November 9, 1981

Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
St. Margaret Mary Rectory
2324 W. Chase
Chicago, Illinois 60645

Dear Father Thomas:

I wish to acknowledge your recent request to continue in a second term as Pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish.

Your request has been supported by the recommendation of your Urban Vicar, of the Diocesan Clergy Personnel Board, and of your own fine record of priestly service to the good people of St. Margaret Mary parish.

Accordingly, in light of Canon 455, I am pleased to extend your appointment as Pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish for an additional six years, that is, to December 19, 1987.

With deep appreciation for your devoted service to the People of God, and with every sincere personal good wish, I am, dear Father Thomas,

Very truly yours in Christ,

+ *John Cardinal Cody*
Archbishop of Chicago

cc: Very Rev. Frederick M. Niemeyer
Diocesan Clergy Personnel Board

+JPC:JRK/ ag

AOC 020292

December 8, 1987

Dear Father Thomas:

It gives me great pleasure to assign you as an associate pastor to St. John Vianney parish in Northlake, Illinois. I know that the wisdom and broad experience you have gained as pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish will enable you to be of great assistance to Father Fanelli.

You have served the people of St. Margaret Mary well, Father Thomas, and I know your parishioners will miss you very much. While I had intended to appoint you as pastor of another parish, you are aware that special circumstances at St. John Vianney necessitated a change in my original plans. Father Goadert, the Vicar for Priests, and Father Jakubowski, the local Dean, whom I had asked to advise me on the needs of St. John Vianney parish reported that the parish would benefit greatly by the appointment of a priest with considerable experience as a pastor, both in ministering to the spiritual needs of the parishioners, as well as in handling the temporal affairs of the parish. Together with representatives of the Clergy Personnel Board, they studied the list of all available priests and you were their unanimous choice. Your excellent record both as an associate pastor and as pastor was the reason for their recommendation.

I thank you in a very special way for your willingness to accept this new assignment. I trust that the parishioners of St. John Vianney, together with their pastor, Father Fanelli, will receive you warmly and welcome your ministry on their behalf.

With prayers for Our Lord's blessings on you and the people of St. Margaret Mary and St. John Vianney parishes, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
Saint Margaret Mary Parish
2324 W. Chase Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60645



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

OCT 7 1988

COPY

October 5, 1988

Office of the Archbishop

Dear Joe,

In light of the recommendation of the Sabbatical Board, I am pleased to grant your request for a sabbatical beginning January 2, 1989 through April 2, 1989. Please inform Father Ken Velo of your address(es) during this time.

The appointment is made with the understanding that you will resume your position as Associate Pastor at St. John Vianney upon your return.

Following Archdiocesan and Sabbatical Board policy, St. John Vianney will pay your salary for the period of the three-month sabbatical. The Center for Development in Ministry will pay tuition, room and board expenses.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your fine work at St. John Vianney as well as for your thirty-six years of service to the Archdiocese.

As you look forward to this important transition in your priesthood, please know that you have my support and prayers. Please pray for me as well.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph Card. Bernardin

Archbishop of Chicago

Rev. Joseph S. Thomas¹⁵³⁵
St. John Vianney
46 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164

cc: Rev. Kenneth Velo
Rev. Wayne F. Prist
✓ Clergy Personnel Board
Rev. Charles Fanelli

AOC 020294

Rev. Joseph Thomas

Diocesan Priests' File Checklist

- ☒ Acknowledgement of Misconduct Policies, dated 10/1/93
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae, dated _____
- ☒ Last Will & Testament, dated ?
- ☒ Personal Inventory, dated 8/11/86
- ☐ Photo (for assignment card kept in Suzie's office)

Please list any other important documents that are in this file:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MISCONDUCT POLICIES

Please check one:

☒ I acknowledge that I have read and am familiar with the Archdiocesan policies and procedures regarding sexual misconduct with minors, adopted September 21, 1992.

☐ Please send me a copy of these policies and procedures.

Signature: _____

Name (printed): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Joseph S. Thomas

JOSEPH S. THOMAS

46 N WOLF RD

NORTHLAKE, IL 60164

OCT 1 - 1993

OFFICE OF THE
CHANCELLOR

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

July 14, 1997

Dear Joe,

In light of your discussion and previous correspondence with Bishop Raymond Goedert, I am pleased to hereby name you Pastor Emeritus of St. Margaret Mary Parish. This is effective January 14, 1997.

I take this occasion to express my gratitude for all you have done through your 44 years of service to the Archdiocese and for all you have done recently at St. John Vianney parish. The Church of Chicago is deeply appreciative for your faithful and devoted care of God's people.

Please contact Father Charles Kelly of the Priests' Retirement and Mutual Aid Association to discuss your retirement benefits if you have not already done so.

Joe, may you enjoy your years of retirement and know of our appreciation and gratitude for all you have given of yourself to minister to those entrusted to your care.

Faternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Francis E. George".

Most Rev. Francis E. George O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Linda J. Burns".
Ecclesiastical Notary

Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
St. John Vianney Parish
46 N Wolf Road
Northlake, Illinois 60164

AOC 020297

Reverend Joseph S. Thomas
July 14, 1997 - Page Two

cc: Most Reverend Raymond E. Goedert, Vicar General
Reverend R. Peter Bowman, Vicar for Administration
Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki, Chancellor
Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, Vicar for Priests
Most Reverend Timothy J. Lyne, Vicar for Senior Priests
Most Reverend Thad Jakubowski, Vicar
Reverend Francis Jenks, Dean
✓ Diocesan Priests' Placement Board
Reverend Charles F. Kelly, PRMAA
Reverend Patrick Pollard, PRMAA
Reverend Charles Fanelli
Reverend Mark Sorvillo

Phone Conversation - [REDACTED] Thomas

Date: 3/18/02

Time: 8:15 a.m.

From: [REDACTED]

- Seek out legal help
- Will need to change appointment
- 2:00 p.m. tomorrow
- Cell # [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED] Time: AM

- Cancel 9:30 on 3/19/02.
- Has seen an attorney

PF 1031 [redacted]

⑥ Joseph Thomas, St John Hummer, No Lake
But attorney will contact me [redacted]

PHONE CALL	
FOR [redacted]	DATE TIME 3/18/02 8:15 AM
M [redacted]	
OF [redacted]	
PHONE <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> MOBILE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AREA CODE [redacted]
NUMBER [redacted]	EXTENSION [redacted]
MESSAGE - Seek out legal help will meet Change appt. 2:00 tomorrow -	
LNP	
SIGNED [redacted]	call # [redacted]
FORM 4003	

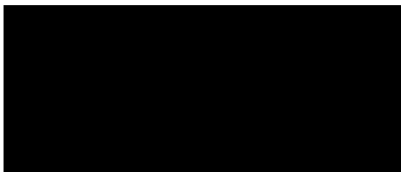
BURKE, WARREN, MACKEY & SERRITELLA, P.C.

22ND FLOOR IBM PLAZA
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3607
TELEPHONE (312) 840-7000
FACSIMILE (312) 840-7900
www.burkelaw.com

JAMES A. SERRITELLA
DIRECT DIAL NUMBER
(312) 840-7040
jserritella@burkelaw.com

April 15, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL



Re: [REDACTED] Father Joseph Thomas

Dear [REDACTED]

I am following up on your letter of March 18, 2002 and our related telephone conversations. As I indicated, I have passed your letter on to Ms. Kathleen Leggdas, Fitness Review Administrator of the Archdiocese. I understand that your client has also been in contact with her office. Either you or your client can contact Ralph Bonaccorsi (312-751-8293), Assistance Minister of the Archdiocese, to arrange for therapy or other interim assistance at Archdiocese's expense while this matter is being processed. In the meantime, I await the additional information you mentioned in your letter.

Please call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Serritella".
James A. Serritella

lj

cc: Kathleen Leggdas
Ralph Bonaccorsi

7/30/02

called [REDACTED] & told
her we are lining up an
interviewer & R.B. should
call her w/ one week to
set up interview.

J.

WHILE YOU WERE OUT			
FOR <u>PFRA</u>		DATE <u>7-30</u> TIME <u>1:40</u> <u>A.M.</u>	
M. <u>[REDACTED]</u>			
OF <u>Attorney</u>		PHONED	
PHONE <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOBILE <u>312/899.9090 x 512</u>		RETURNED YOUR CALL	
AREA CODE <u>312</u> NUMBER <u>899.9090</u> EXTENSION <u>x 512</u>		PLEASE CALL	
MESSAGE <u>Responding to K.L.'s request to meet w/ her client</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u>		WILL CALL AGAIN	
		CAME TO SEE YOU	
		WANTS TO SEE YOU	
FINISHED		Tops FORM 4008	

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611





Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

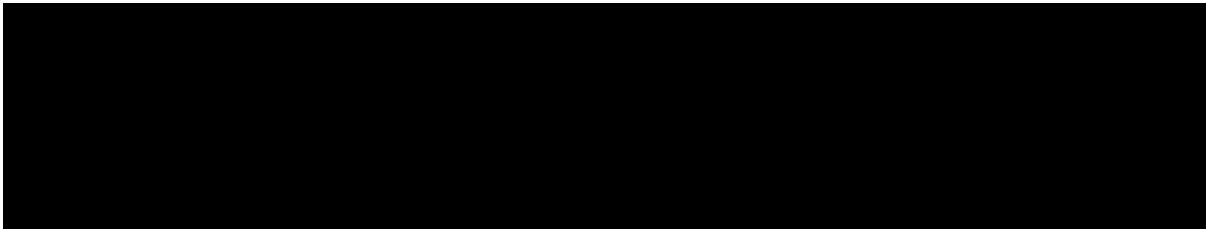
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of PCAC

From: Leah McCluskey, Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator 

Re:  Thomas, J.

Date: August 22, 2002



IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have a right to report accusations of child abuse to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (The Department of Children and Family Services "hotline" telephone number is 1-800-252-2873). You also have a right to report such accusations to the State's Attorney's Office or other law enforcement agencies. (The Cook County State's Attorney's telephone number is (312) 443-5440; the Lake County State's Attorney's telephone number is (708) 360-6644). If you have any questions as to how to make such a report you may refer those questions to the Department of Children and Family Services or the State's Attorney's Office.

I have read and understood the above notice. A representative of the Archdiocese has given me a copy of the Department of Children and Family Services brochure describing the child abuse reporting laws. The representative of the Archdiocese whose name appears below has not discouraged me in any way from reporting to the authorities.

Date

Signature

Print Name

I presented a copy of this "Important Notice" and a copy of the Department of Children and Family Services brochure describing the child abuse reporting laws to the person whose printed name and signature appears above, on the date indicated in this document.

August 29, 2002
Date

Leah McCluskey, MSW
Signature

Leah McCluskey, MSW
Print Name



For
File

—
Joseph Thomas

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a memorandum from Leah McCluskey, Interim Professional Fitness Review Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Fitness Review, to file, dated September 7, 2002, summarizing her meeting with Victim KV to formalize his allegation of sexual abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas. According to the summary, Victim KV alleged he was abused by Thomas at St. Margaret Mary parish from the fourth to eighth grades, in the 1980s. Victim KV stated the abuse included genital fondling and oral sex.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611





Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Memorandum

To: File – PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator 

Re: Rev. Joseph Thomas (Resigned) Response to Allegation of


Date: September 13, 2002

Date of Interview: September 5, 2002







Time: 2:00pm


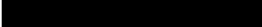
Present at Interview


Joseph Thomas [JT], accused
Cynthia Giacchetti [CG], attorney
Ms. Leah McCluskey, Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator [PFRA]
Fr. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests [VP]

Face-to-Face Interview

Joseph Thomas [JT] and Cynthia Giacchetti [CG] were on time for the 2:00pm meeting at the Vicar for Priests Office. After introductions were made, PFRA described the responsibilities of the Office of Professional Fitness Review as well as those of PFRA.

PFRA read the allegations of sexual misconduct against JT which were made by   CG initially responded to the allegation read by stating that some information regarding the alleged abuse that the alleged victim's attorney  had written was not presented in the actual victim interview. For example, CG questioned acts of alleged penetration and incidents occurring in the  school alleged by  on behalf of his client 

In regards to the alleged victim, JT stated that  name "sounds familiar." However, the name other minor stated by  "doesn't ring a bell" for JT.

CG then proceeded to lead JT through some questioning. 

[REDACTED]

JT denies all allegations of sexual misconduct made by [REDACTED] JT's specific responses are as follows.

[REDACTED]

In regards to working with altar boys, JT stated "I'm not sure if I trained altar boys." JT added that there were two assistants who usually trained the altar boys and JT recalls that Fr. O'Shea trained the altar boys at the time. JT recalls that it is a possibility that he trained the altar boys for a time while Fr. John O'Shea (now deceased) was sick. The other priests assigned to St. Margaret Mary's with JT were: Tom Kelly (deceased), Jim Joslin, [REDACTED] (left priesthood; married), and Ed Carlson.

When asked if JT ever brought any minors up to his room, he stated "I don't remember." JT then stated, "I have never had sex with any minors."

[REDACTED]

CG stated that she might write a formal request on behalf of JT to have the opportunity to address the Review Board in response to the allegations of sexual misconduct made by [REDACTED]

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Victim Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Legal Services

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a memorandum from Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Professional Fitness Review, to file, dated September 13, 2002, summarizing a meeting with Fr. Joseph Thomas. At this meeting, Thomas was given an opportunity to respond to the allegation made against him by Victim KV. Thomas explained the layout of several areas of St. Margaret Mary parish and school, in an effort to refute specific elements of Victim KV's allegation. According to the summary, Thomas also specified that his regular day off would have made him unavailable on certain days Victim KV alleged abuse occurred.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Professional Fitness Review Board
676 North St. Clair – Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
Hotline: 1-800-994-6200

RECORD OF CASE DISPOSITION

The Professional Fitness Review Board met on 9/21/02 to conduct a
(enter date: month/day/year)

(check one:) ☒ First Stage Review ☐ Second Stage Review ☐ Supplementary Review ☐ Status Report

regarding the allegation of [REDACTED]
(enter name of alleged victim)

against Fr. Joseph Thomas (Retired)
(enter name of accused priest or deacon)

(check one:) ☒ a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago ☐ a deacon of the Archdiocese of Chicago

☐ an extern priest or deacon of the (Arch)diocese of _____
(enter name of [Arch]diocese)

☐ a religious priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of religious community)

☐ a resigned priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of diocese or religious community)

☐ a deceased priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of diocese or religious community)

which claims as follows [REDACTED] alleges that JT [REDACTED]
(enter brief description of the alleged misconduct)

[REDACTED] In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that [REDACTED]

(check one:) ☒ there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.
☐ there is not reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.
☐ there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

If there is a finding of reasonable cause to suspect, the Board recommends that

(check one:) ☒ the priest or deacon be immediately withdrawn from ministry (or that his withdrawal from ministry continue) and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.
☐ no further action be taken because the accused priest is resigned or deceased, except to provide appropriate outreach to those affected by the alleged misconduct.

The Board further recommends: 5-0 Unanimous; enough info. to determine reasonable cause, will consider any additional info. from either party for 2nd Stage Review

9/22/02 - TC w/FEG: before we accept this, which
he will, we should check record to see if [REDACTED] was
actually a student there. 9/23/02 - per graduation record: yes.

9/23/02 - PCA C mtg. [REDACTED]

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Fitness Review Board **Saturday, September 21, 2002**

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Leah McCluskey, Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator [PFRA]

I. Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2002

II. Case Reviews

First Stage Reviews

A. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas (Retired) – PFR-103

The Review Board conducted a First Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED]

The claim is as follows: [REDACTED]

In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

The Board recommends that Rev. Joseph Thomas be immediately withdrawn from ministry (or that his withdrawal from ministry continue) and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

The Board further recommends: unanimous 5-0 vote, enough information to determine reasonable cause; will consider any additional information from either party for Second Stage Review.

B.

C.

D.

D.



Cc: Members of the Review Board
Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to Review Board
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a Record of Case Disposition from the Archdiocese of Chicago's Professional Fitness Review Board, dated September 21, 2002, concerning Victim KV's allegation of abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas. According to the disposition, Victim KV's allegation of abuse included genital fondling, kissing and oral sex.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements the Archdiocese of Chicago's Professional Fitness Review Board Minutes from the meeting of September 21, 2002. According to the minutes, the Board considered the matter of Victim KV's allegation against Fr. Joseph Thomas. Victim KV's allegation of abuse included genital fondling, kissing and oral sex.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Memorandum

To: File -PFR-103

From: Laura A. Neri-Palomino, ^{LNP}Administrative Assistant

Re: **Rev. Joseph Thomas (Retired)**

Date: September 27, 2002

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on September 21, 2002:

The Review Board conducted a First Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED] against Rev. Joseph Thomas [JT] (Retired) not (Resigned) a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The claim is as follows: [REDACTED]

In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

The Board recommends that Rev. Joseph Thomas be immediately withdrawn from ministry (or that his withdrawal from ministry continue) and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

The Board further recommends: unanimous 5-0 vote, enough information to determine reasonable cause; will consider any additional information from either party for Second Stage Review.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a memorandum to file from Laura Neri-Palomino, Administrative Assistant in the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Fitness Review, to file, dated September 27, 2002, summarizing the Review Board discussion regarding Victim KV's allegation against Fr. Joseph Thomas. According to the memorandum, Victim KV's allegation of abuse included genital fondling, kissing and oral sex.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

October 5, 2002

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Fitness Review Board met on September 21, 2002. The Board fully considered all oral and written reports in the matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas (Retired) in the allegation made by [REDACTED]. A First Stage Review was conducted pursuant to Article §1104.08 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

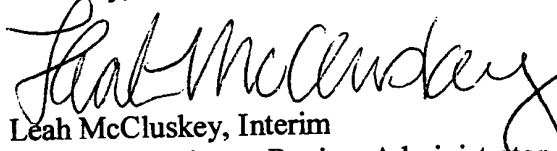
In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined in a unanimous 5-0 vote that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

The Board recommends that Rev. Joseph Thomas be immediately withdrawn from ministry (or that his withdrawal from ministry continue) and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.

The Board will consider any additional information from either party for Second Stage Review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey, Interim
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

LM:lnp

cc: Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Pat Lagges, Judicial Vicar
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Minister
John O'Malley, Director of Legal Services

I accept the finding.
FD

October 12, 2002

Fr. James Kaczorowski
Our Lady of Lourdes
4640 N. Ashland
Chicago, IL. 60640

Dear Fr. Kaczorowski:

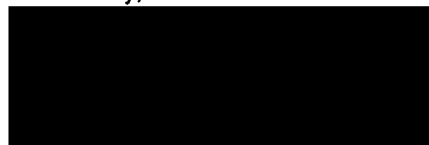
I am writing this letter in support of Fr. Joseph Thomas. My children and myself are totally shocked at the allegations against Fr. Thomas and cannot believe that they could in any way be true. My late husband considered him the finest priest he had every known. When my son was in eighth grade he was into quite abit of mischief in the school and almost did not graduate. At my husband's request, Fr. Thomas was kind enough to give counsel to my son on several occasions. This certainly helped us all at that time.

All our friends and neighbors in the parish that I have spoken with (even those who have moved away) cannot believe that these allegations in any way could be true. Fr. Thomas is a man of extremely high moral character. He handled his job as Pastor at St. Margaret Mary's in a very professional manner. His sister lived here in the parish in the convent. One of our neighbors worked in the rectory at that time. Fr. Thomas was very good to her, arranging to pay her for her prior volunteer services and she always spoke highly of him.

Of any priests in the Archdiocese, Fr. Thomas should not have these allegations against him.

If there is anything I can do to help Fr. Thomas, please let me know. Our prayer group is meeting tonight and our prayers will be with him.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

St. Margaret Mary Parishioner

cc: Fr. Thomas

PFR-103

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

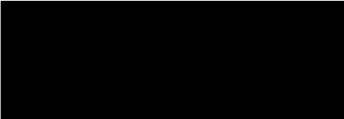
Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

October 16, 2002



Dear [REDACTED]

Please be advised that the Professional Fitness Review Board conducted a First Stage Review on September 21, 2002 pursuant to Article §1104.08 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Cardinal George has accepted the Board's determination that there is reasonable cause to suspect that Fr. Joseph Thomas (Retired) engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. Father Joseph Thomas will be relieved of any ecclesiastical ministry or function.

If at any time you would like to submit additional information regarding this matter to this office, please contact me. Also, please know that our Assistance Ministry Office continues to be available to you. You can reach them at (312) 751-8267 or by e-mail at assistmin@archdiocese-chgo.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator

LM:lnp

cc: Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Minister

A:/Victim Notification Letter

AOC 020320

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

October 17, 2002

Rev. Joseph Thomas
St. John Vianney
46 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164

Dear Father Thomas,

Please be advised that the Professional Fitness Review Board conducted a First Stage Review on September 21, 2002 pursuant to Article §1104.08 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Cardinal George has accepted the Board's determination that there is reasonable cause to suspect that you engaged in sexual misconduct with [REDACTED] a minor at the time of the alleged occurrence. As a result, you are to remain in a restricted residence with a monitoring protocol.

If at any time you would like to submit additional information regarding this matter to this office, please contact me. Also, please know Rev. James Kaczorowski continues to be available to you. You can reach him at (312) 642-1837.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".
Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

LM:lnp

cc: Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar

A: Accused Notification Letter

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

October 24, 2002

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note in response to your letter of October 17, 2002, regarding the matter of **Rev. Joseph Thomas**, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the allegation made by [REDACTED] following the First Stage Review conducted by the Review Board on September 21, 2002.

In light of the Board's consideration of the information presented in this matter, I accept the Board's determination that there is reasonable cause to suspect that Father Thomas engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. Father Thomas has already withdrawn from public ministry, has been restricted to a residential facility, and is subject to a monitoring protocol.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. J. J. J.".

Ecclesiastical Notary

cc: Most Reverend Raymond E. Goedert, Vicar General
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services
Reverend James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Minister
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services
Ms. Laura Neri, Office of Professional Fitness Review

OCT 25 2002

AOC 020322

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate IV



6002 W. Berteau Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60634

773-202-7720
Fax: 773-202-7725

November 6, 2002

DRAFT 3

Dear St. John Vianney Parish family members,

I am deeply saddened to inform you that your former associate pastor (and in recent years, a retired priest in residence at your parish), Rev. Joseph Thomas, has been [temporarily] withdrawn from all parish ministry following an allegation received by officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago that he engaged in sexual misconduct more than 15 years ago with a minor while he served as pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Chicago.

This allegation has been reported to the Cook County State's Attorney. [Though Fr. Thomas strongly denies the allegation,] The independent Fitness Review Board concluded in its first-stage review that there was reasonable cause to suspect that sexual abuse of a minor had occurred. The Review Board recommended to Cardinal George that Fr. Thomas be withdrawn from all ministry, and Cardinal George accepted that recommendation. Pending a second-stage review and in accord with archdiocesan policies, Fr. Thomas is residing in a monitored and restricted setting without access to minors.

Archdiocesan officials have not received any allegations of misconduct involving Fr. Thomas from St. John Vianney Parish or from any other parish where he served. If any parishioner has additional information or a concern to raise, please contact your pastor, Fr. Charles Fanelli, or the Archdiocesan Fitness Review Administrator directly at 1-800-994-6200.

I have pledged my support to Fr. Fanelli for whatever your parish might need over the days and weeks to come. I also have asked that our archdiocesan Assistance Ministry staff be of assistance to your parish leaders during this difficult time.

May I ask you to pray especially for all who are in need of the Lord's healing: for the adult who alleged misconduct, for Fr. Thomas, and for all victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse. Please also keep the U.S. bishops in your prayers as we meet this week in Washington, D.C. to finalize the new national policies for better responding to the pain of sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Thad J. Jakubowski
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate IV

Visit the Archdiocese of Chicago's official home page on the World Wide Web
<http://www.archdiocese-chgo.org>

AOC 020323

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Most Rev. Edwin M. Conway D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago



1651 West Diversey
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Office: (773) 388-8670
Fax: (773) 388-8676

November 9, 2002

Dear St. Margaret Mary Parish family members,

I regret to inform you that your former pastor, Rev. Joseph Thomas, has been withdrawn pending further review from all parish ministry following an allegation received by officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago that he engaged in sexual misconduct more than 15 years ago with a minor while he served as pastor at St. Margaret Mary Parish. Since he retired in 1997, Fr. Thomas has resided at St. John Vianney Parish in Northlake.

This allegation has been reported to the Cook County State's Attorney. Though Fr. Thomas denies the allegation, the independent Fitness Review Board concluded in its first-stage review that there was reasonable cause to suspect that sexual abuse of a minor had occurred. The Review Board recommended to Cardinal George that Fr. Thomas be withdrawn from all ministry, and Cardinal George accepted that recommendation. Pending a second-stage review and in accord with archdiocesan policies, Fr. Thomas is residing in a monitored and restricted setting and has been directed not to be alone with minors.

Archdiocesan officials have not received any other allegations of misconduct involving Fr. Thomas. However, if any parishioner has additional information or a concern to raise, please contact your pastor, Fr. Mark Sorvillo, or the Archdiocesan Fitness Review Administrator directly at 1-800-994-6200.

I have pledged my support to Fr. Sorvillo for whatever your parish might need over the days and weeks to come. I also have asked that our archdiocesan Assistance Ministry staff be of assistance to your parish leaders during this difficult time.

May I ask you to pray especially for all who are in need of the Lord's healing: for the person who alleged misconduct, for Fr. Thomas, and for all those affected by sexual abuse. Please also keep the U.S. bishops in your prayers as we meet this week in Washington, D.C. to finalize the new national policies for better responding to the pain of sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwin M. Conway".

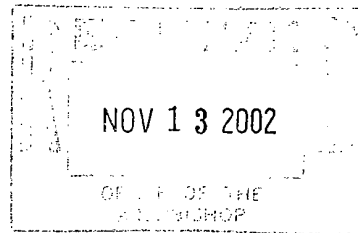
Most Reverend Edwin M. Conway
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate II

Vincent Bratt

ack

Saturday, November 09, 2002

His Eminence Francis Cardinal George
Archbishop of Chicago
1555 North State Parkway
Chicago, IL 60611



Your Eminence,

I wanted to take a moment to write in support of former St. Margaret Mary Pastor Father Joseph Thomas in response to the recent allegations of sexual misconduct. I must tell you how horrified I was when I saw the news report about this alleged incident of misconduct.

I am a graduate of St. Margaret Mary School, Class of 1979. I also served the Church as an Altar Boy from 1976 to 1980, all under the tutelage of Father Thomas.

I can honestly say that no one person has affected my life more than Father Thomas did. During my years at St. Margaret Mary, Father Thomas taught me not only how to be a good Catholic, but also how to be a good person: to live in a way that Jesus showed us. His teaching and caring demeanor to me and all of my classmates is partially responsible for the man, husband and father that I am.

In 1997, I sought out Father Thomas for more than 3 months to ask him to perform my wedding ceremony. After explaining to my then fiancée how important Father Thomas was to me, she agreed that no one could possibly perform the ceremony other than him. When we met for dinner to ask him, not only did Father Thomas remember me after well over 15 years apart, but he asked questions about my family and friends from my years at St. Margaret Mary School. We were very honored and fortunate that he was able to perform the ceremony for us. We consider Father Thomas a member of our extended family and always will.

I stand fully in support of Father Thomas, and I hope that you will join me in this. While I fully acknowledge that one person's positive words in light of highly negative publicity might not change everyone's opinion, I felt strongly to let you know mine.

I am available to you, at your convenience, to speak to his integrity and his importance in my and my family's life. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

M

Warm Regards,

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted address block]

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate IV



6002 W. Berkeau Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60634

773-202-7720
Fax: 773-202-7725

November 9, 2002

Dear St. John Vianney Parish family members,

I regret to inform you that your former associate pastor (and in recent years, a retired priest in residence at your parish), Rev. Joseph Thomas, has been withdrawn pending further review from all parish ministry following an allegation received by officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago that he engaged in sexual misconduct more than 15 years ago with a minor while he served as pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Chicago.

This allegation has been reported to the Cook County State's Attorney. Though Fr. Thomas denies the allegation, the independent Fitness Review Board concluded in its first-stage review that there was reasonable cause to suspect that sexual abuse of a minor had occurred. The Review Board recommended to Cardinal George that Fr. Thomas be withdrawn from all ministry, and Cardinal George accepted that recommendation. Pending a second-stage review and in accord with archdiocesan policies, Fr. Thomas is residing in a monitored and restricted setting and has been directed not to be alone with minors.

Archdiocesan officials have not received any allegations of misconduct involving Fr. Thomas from St. John Vianney Parish or from any other parish where he served. If any parishioner has additional information or a concern to raise, please contact your pastor, Fr. Charles Fanelli, or the Archdiocesan Fitness Review Administrator directly at 1-800-994-6200.

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May I ask you to pray especially for all who are in need of the Lord's healing: for the person who alleged misconduct, for Fr. Thomas, and for all those affected by sexual abuse. Please also keep the U.S. bishops in your prayers as we meet this week in Washington, D.C. to finalize the new national policies for better responding to the pain of sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thad J. Jakubowski".

Most Rev. Thad J. Jakubowski
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate IV

Visit the Archdiocese of Chicago's official home page on the World Wide Web
<http://www.archdiocese-chgo.org>



November 11, 2002

Rev. James Kaczorowski
Our Lady of Lourdes
4640 North Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640

Dear Jim,


To say that I was surprised to hear the news that Fr. Joe Thomas was the latest priest from the Archdiocese to be accused of sexual wrongdoing is to put it mildly. When I think about this and the harm that it is doing to a wonderful human being it hurts inside and makes me very angry.

When I was ordained in 1976, my first assignment was to St. Margaret Mary with Joe Thomas as my pastor. I stayed there for two extensions for a total of seven years. Joe was the best pastor that a newly ordained could have possibly had. As you well know, a pastor is very important in the formation of a young priest. My last two pastors were contributors to the reason why I left the priesthood in 1996 after twenty years. Joe's gentle guidance and example made me feel good to be a priest.

Working closely with Joe and having stayed in touch with him over the years, I can strongly state that I believe with my whole heart and soul that Joseph Thomas could NOT have done what he is accused of doing. His spirituality, his commitment to his vows, his love of God, the priesthood, his family and his parish families would not allow him to do such a thing. In just hearing the things I have said about Joe over the years and having met him at his 50th Anniversary, my wife is as equally saddened, upset and frustrated by these false accusations.

Joe is a reconciler. One of the reasons that Cardinal Bernardin asked him to go to St. John Vianney was to unite factions that were popping up in the parish. In being assigned as pastor at St. Margaret Mary, he had the difficult task of replacing a pastor who had been his pastor at St. Columba. He handled the situation with a love and concern for his fellow priest, Msgr. Thomas Kelly. I never heard a cross word between them and Msgr. Kelly always spoke highly of Joe, as an assistant and as a pastor. Parishioners from St. Columba and St. Ferdinand were among his friends. They saw in him what I do, that Joe Thomas is a beautiful man.

Joe is a quiet man. He is a humble man who doesn't like to be the center of attention. But he is a strong man, too. Although never liking to create any waves, you knew that he was in charge. He is a family man. He was very close to his sister and brother and his family. He was proud of St. Margaret Mary and enjoyed when his family would visit.



And he was proud of his family and loved when they celebrated special occasions such as his niece's 1st Communion at SMM. Joe made me feel a part of his family and Joe became a part of my family. To this day, he still sends my mother birthday cards and he always remembered my parents' anniversary. I asked him to concelebrate at my father's funeral mass because I knew that my Dad would have wanted Joe there.

I respect Joe Thomas as a priest, as a man and as a God-fearing Catholic Christian. There is nothing I am surer of than the fact that he is innocent of any wrongdoing. I am sure that God is watching over him as God watched over Cardinal Bernardin when he was unjustly accused.

My wife [REDACTED] and I extend to Joe Thomas our prayers. We also pray for you, Kaz, as you help Joe through these difficult days. We pray for strength for Joe's family and his parish families. We pray for wisdom for the review board and the Cardinal who will be hearing his case. And we pray for his accuser that he finds a peace within a troubled soul.

If you need any assistance from me, please do not hesitate to ask. I will do anything to clear the good name of Joseph Thomas. He does not deserve what is happening to him. Again, I state, Joseph Thomas is innocent!

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]

Fr. James Kaczoroski
Our Lady of Lourdes
4640 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60640

November 11, 2002

Dear Father Kaczoroski:

I am 39 year old father of a three year old boy. My first parish was Our Lady of Lourdes. I learned to love the church there as a young boy. (If you want to know who I am, ask [REDACTED] about me and my family.)

When I was nine I moved to St. Margaret Mary parish. I had real trouble adjusting to the new environment with all the usual new kid on the block problems. One of the contributors to an easing of the adjustment process was Fr. Joseph Thomas.

I am writing to complain about the treatment of Fr. Thomas. Fr. Thomas was my pastor for a number of years while I grew up in St. Margaret Mary (SMM) parish. I was an altar boy at SMM and I worked in the rectory in high school and occasionally in college while Fr. Thomas was pastor. Fr. Thomas was one of the finest priests I ever dealt with there. He is a good man and a class act.

It was appropriate to tell us about the complaint at the parish mass on Sunday. However, I think it was totally inappropriate to let the press know about it before a thorough examination of the charge. The archdiocese action basically tarred an innocent man. To use the vernacular, it's a CYA (cover your ass) mentality running the archdiocese. The archdiocese is so concerned about its image that it will sacrifice a few pawns for it.

I have two theories about the accusation. First, it is very likely that, in a population the size of a typical parish, some of the parishioners have mental illness. It isn't a stretch to believe that this may have motivated the accuser.

This leads me to my second bit of speculation. I was shocked by the news and even more shocked by the presence of cameras. I really resent the fact that cameras were rolling in our faces as we left church yesterday. Reporters were asking us to speculate on something about which we know little. Is it any coincidence that, in a week when the Cardinal is getting bad press about backsliding on sexual abuse, this news is released?

I am disgusted by the actions of the church hierarchy. I feel terrible about the treatment of Fr. Thomas. I completely vouch for the character of the man.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

P.S. Please forward a copy this letter to Fr. Thomas.

November 11, 2002

Fr. James Kaczorowski
Our Lady of Lourdes
4640 N. Ashland
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Fr. Kaczorowski:

I would hope that by now you have heard from a number of parishioners at St. Margaret Mary concerning Fr. Joseph Thomas. You cannot imagine how shocked and upset my family was about the allegations concerning his behavior as pastor at St. Margaret Mary.


We live [REDACTED] to the rectory and have done so for 30 years. We observed Fr. Thomas from the time he moved in until he left the parish some 14 or 15 years ago. There has been no priest assigned to that or any parish that we know who would be less likely to be taken as a predator against children or adults, male or female. He is the most gentle and pastoral priest we have known. While he was always willing to minister to any of our spiritual needs he never forced himself upon us. Our youngest daughter is devastated by the charges. She was prepared for all of the sacraments by Fr. Thomas and to this day, (and she is 28) he remains one of the good priests who justified her staying in the Church.

Before he came to St. Margaret Mary the area around the school and church was filled with teenagers drinking and being rowdy. On the fourth of July some hooligans would think nothing of planting illegal fireworks in the black top school playground (which is now covered by the Activity Center) and in at least one case, setting fire to a car that was unfortunately parked at that location.

Msgr. Kelly made efforts to quell this delinquency and was marginally successful. When Father Thomas became pastor, in his quiet but no-nonsense way he patrolled the area riding his bike and speaking to anyone who would defile the peace and telling them that they had no business occupying Church property. We never had trouble again.

When one of our children broke his leg playing softball with other children from St. Margaret Mary on school grounds, Fr. Thomas not only visited him in the hospital but came to our house to ask if we would need any assistance dealing with the hospital bills. I assured him that we were fully insured and thanked him for his pastoral concern. I will never forget that he offered his assistance.

Several of our children ([REDACTED]) worked in the rectory in the evening and on weekends answering the phone and the door after the regular staff left for the day. None of these children ever reported any incident with any of the priests and certainly not with Fr. Thomas whom they all regard with the highest respect. I will not speak for them. I am sure that they will write to you on their own.



November 12, 2002

Father James Kaczorowski
Vicar for Priests
645 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 543
Chicago IL 60611

Dear Fr. Koczorowski:


What ever happened to "Innocent until proven guilty", or doesn't that apply to members of the Catholic Church -- especially to Priests?

From 1966 until 1982 I was the [REDACTED] as well as the [REDACTED] at St. Margaret Mary Parish. I am also a graduate of the parish school, as are four of my five children, and was involved in everything in SMM from Parish Council [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I have known very well every priest who was stationed there for most of its existence. AND FATHER THOMAS IS CERTAINLY NOT GUILTY of any criminal, unsavory and immoral act of any kind. I now live in the far north-west suburbs but am forever spiritually a member of SMM. I was informed of Fr. Mark Sorvillo's announcement on Sunday, by a friend who sobbed as she informed me. Anyone who has every known this absolutely great priest knows he is incapable of such an act.

But I can not understand how MY Church allows such smut to appear in public. Even when the article included the words "which Thomas denies", Recall what such an accusation did to Cardinal Bernadin during the last year of his life. Rather than trying to raise funds to pay the fines of those who ARE guilty -- and unfortunately I am sure there are some guilty priests -- the Archdiocese should be suing the media who accuse those who are innocent, thereby totally ruining many innocent lives.

Please notify Father Thomas that I, too, have absolute faith in him and pray for him daily as I have since I left SMM. I was in that parish during the tenures of Fr. McCarthy, Msgr. Ferring, Msgr. Kelly, and enjoyed all the benefits Fr. Thomas brought to SMM.

Very truly yours,





**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA**

[REDACTED]
6525 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626

November 13, 2002

Rev. James Kaczorowski
Vicar for Priests – Archdiocese of Chicago
645 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 645
Chicago IL 60611

Re: Rev. Joseph Thomas

Dear Father Kaczorowski:

I lived in St. Margaret Mary Parish from 1975 to 1994 and was a very active member of the parish (School Board, Parish Council, etc.) over those nineteen years. Moreover, my three children attended the parish school for all eight years.

Never did I get a sense about Fr. Thomas that he was not to be trusted around children or adolescents. Never did I hear from anyone else, young or old, that he was not to be trusted. On the contrary, I always experienced him to be a man of deep faith and unquestionable integrity.

Last night I spoke with my middle daughter [REDACTED] who is now twenty-nine years old and a clinical child psychologist at [REDACTED]. She was distressed to learn about the accusations against Fr. Thomas. She exclaimed, "I LOVED Fr. Thomas! He was around us a lot and there was never a hint of suspicion about him."

Over the years, I have come to trust my daughter's "people sense." [REDACTED] can detect a creep or a phony right away. I take her testimony quite seriously.

I send you [REDACTED] and my witness in hopes of making some contribution to righting the terrible wrong that has been done to this good man and fine priest.

Sincerely Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kaczorowski, James T.

From: Dwyer, Jim
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2002 10:48 AM
To: Kaczorowski, James T.
Subject: FW: St Margaret Mary priest

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2002 3:53 PM
To: jdwyer@archdiocese-chgo.org
Subject: St Margaret Mary priest

My name is [REDACTED] and I would like to go on the record that I feel that the accusation against Father Thomas is a complete fabrication, and the accuser should be completely ashamed. Father Thomas was, and still is, a great man, and man of God. He portrayed the best representative of a good man in what he said and in his support of the Church and the parishioners. Everyone loved him, no one could not love him. And don't try to put a spin on the word love. This world condemns good people yet congratulates the wicked. Victims don't have right anymore, the perpetrators are innocent even when caught in the act. Politicians cover up for themselves and their fellow mates. Evil has truly come out ahead of the battle of good and evil. It is time for the good of man and the good of the Church to be strong and support those who represent good.

An accusation of this magnitude being told to the press is another disgrace. This accusation of an alleged incident had damaged the man's reputation and all of his work he had done for the Church. I see the media accuse, and almost convict, without telling anyone of all of the good things he has done. Where is that good news?! Why does the Archdiocese hide and stand back? They should be strong and come forward when a false accusation is being made. I know things have to go through the system, I see how the system operates and it is produced and supported by crooks and thieves. Evil is winning the battle. People have the right to speak out for Father Thomas, the Archdiocese has a right to support and stand by a good man, a good priest.

I have seen how the system works, it is wrong. They say it needs repair, it needs good people to build on it, not the politicians to make it crumble. People get treated wrongly in the system, and I can just see the system hurting another good man, wrongfully. They will call it 10 or 20 years from now a case that slipped through the cracks and it is all cleared up now. Meanwhile, a good man has to live with shame and dishonor.

If there was one person I looked at with pride, dignity, and trust, it was and still is Father Thomas.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Kaczorowski, James T.

From: Dwyer, Jim
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2002 10:47 AM
To: Kaczorowski, James T.
Subject: FW: Father Thomas

FYI


-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2002 10:17 PM
To: jdwyer@archdiocese-chgo.org
Subject: Father Thomas

We just heard terrible news about Father Thomas...he was a dear friend of my husbands and we would like to get more information. My husband would like to contact him with support, but doesn't know how to go about it. Additionally, my husband was to meet with Father Thomas at a reunion just a few weeks ago and was saddened when Fr Thomas didn't make it to the reunion. In any event I'm sure you're restricted on any information you can pass out, but please let him know.. [REDACTED] wishes him well and is praying for him.

Thank You

[REDACTED]


November 21, 2002


Rev. James Kaczorowski
Vicor for Priests
645 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Father Kaczorowski:

This letter is in support of Rev. Joseph Thomas. My family attended St. Margaret Mary for over 30 years, including the 12 years Father Thomas was Pastor. I cannot believe he is being accused of any impropriety. He is a true shepherd of his people and always considered the best interests of his parishioners. My parents are long gone, but I am still in touch with Father Thomas and value our friendship. Admittedly, I cannot look at this situation objectively, but I do feel I know this man well.

It's my hope that when Father Thomas is found innocent, this will also be announced from the pulpit, The New World and the secular media. I hope, too, that the name of the accuser is announced. I do know that the Archdiocese checks each case thoroughly to be sure the accuser has not had this idea planted in his mind and/or is looking for a big pay-out from the Archdiocese.

I pray that everything possible will be done to prove Father Thomas' innocence.

Sincerely,


Nov. 26, 2002

Dear Fr. Kaczorowski,

I'm writing in favor of Fr. J. Thor
my pastor for years in S. Margaret's

Church.

He was highly thought of then,

since that time and right now.

Sincerely,

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

December 10, 2002



Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is in regards to the allegations of misconduct against Fr. Joseph Thomas that your client, [REDACTED] had formalized on August 29, 2002.

During the meeting that took place in this office on August 29, 2002 [REDACTED] indicated that there were other minors besides himself and [REDACTED] who were allegedly abused by the accused. However, [REDACTED] stated during the mentioned meeting that at that time he did not feel comfortable disclosing the names of the other alleged victims.

In meeting with the Review Board, they have requested that I inquire as to [REDACTED] current feelings regarding revealing the names of the other individuals who were allegedly abused by Fr. Thomas. [REDACTED] original feeling as to not wanting to disclose the mentioned information is completely understandable. However, due to the seriousness of the accusations made by [REDACTED] the Board would be interested in any additional information that [REDACTED] may have regarding any other allegations of misconduct against Fr. Thomas.

I ask that if you feel it is appropriate, to please discuss this matter with your client. Please then contact me at your convenience at 312.751.5206.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Interim, Professional Fitness Review Administrator

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Legal Service

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312)751-5205
1-800-994-6200
Fax (312)751-5279

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:



FROM:

Leah McCluskey

DATE:

December 10, 2002

FAX NUMBER:



TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

2

PHONE NUMBER:

PHONE NUMBER:

RE:



☐ URGENT

☒ FOR REVIEW

☐ PLEASE COMMENT

☐ PLEASE REPLY

☐ PLEASE RECYCLE



This letter will be mailed to you today.

Leah

Confidential

AOC 020338

From: [REDACTED]
To: <assistmin@archdiocese-chgo.org>
Date: 1/30/03 10:35AM
Subject: Removed priest

Hello,

I'm writing about a priest at my parish who was removed from ministry last November due to an allegation of abuse occurring 15 years ago. His name is Fr. Joseph Thomas, of St. John Vianney parish in Northlake.

I would like to know the status of his case -- whether any conclusion has been reached or whether it remains open to further investigation, etc. I've heard rumors that he may be coming back soon but I've also sensed that his removal may be permanent. Has his case been closed?

We've always known Fr. Joe to be a humble, straightforward, and decent priest and remained concerned about where his investigation stands at this point.

If I've misdirected where this letter should go, feel free to forward it on to the appropriate office.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

*Let's talk re this
on Fri am.*

St. John Vianney
[REDACTED] rectory

*call w/
Ralph*

[REDACTED]

Cell. Fr. Fanelle

call pastor re status of case

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review





Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

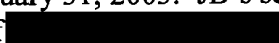
MEMORANDUM


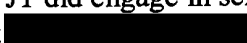


To: PFR-103




From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator 








Re: **Thomas, Joseph (Resigned)** 



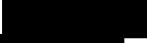
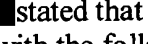

Date: January 31, 2003

PFRA spoke with Jack Burke [JB] via phone on January 31, 2003. JB's services have been acquired by PFRA to assist with the investigation of  allegation of sexual misconduct against Joseph Thomas [JT].

On September 21, 2002, PFRA brought the matter of  allegation against JT before the Review Board for First Stage Review. The Cardinal accepted the Board's recommendation that there is reasonable cause to suspect that JT did engage in sexual misconduct with a minor. The Board also requested that PFRA contact , attorney for  to determine if  would be willing to reveal the identities of the other individuals mentioned in his allegation stating that there were other altar boys who were abused by JT.

Since the September 21, 2002 Board meeting, PFRA has attempted to contact  via phone, e-mail, and regular mail to request that  disclose the names of the other alleged victims of JT as stated in his interview with PFRA on August 29, 2002.  has not responded to any of PFRA's requests for additional information.

Through his own investigations, JB spoke with  via phone on January 7, 2003 requesting that he  speak with  to request the names of the other alleged victims of JT that he referred to in his interview on August 29, 2002. As per JB,  informed him that he would contact  to request the information. Since January 7, 2003 JB has not received a response from  nor has  returned JB's two follow-up phone calls.

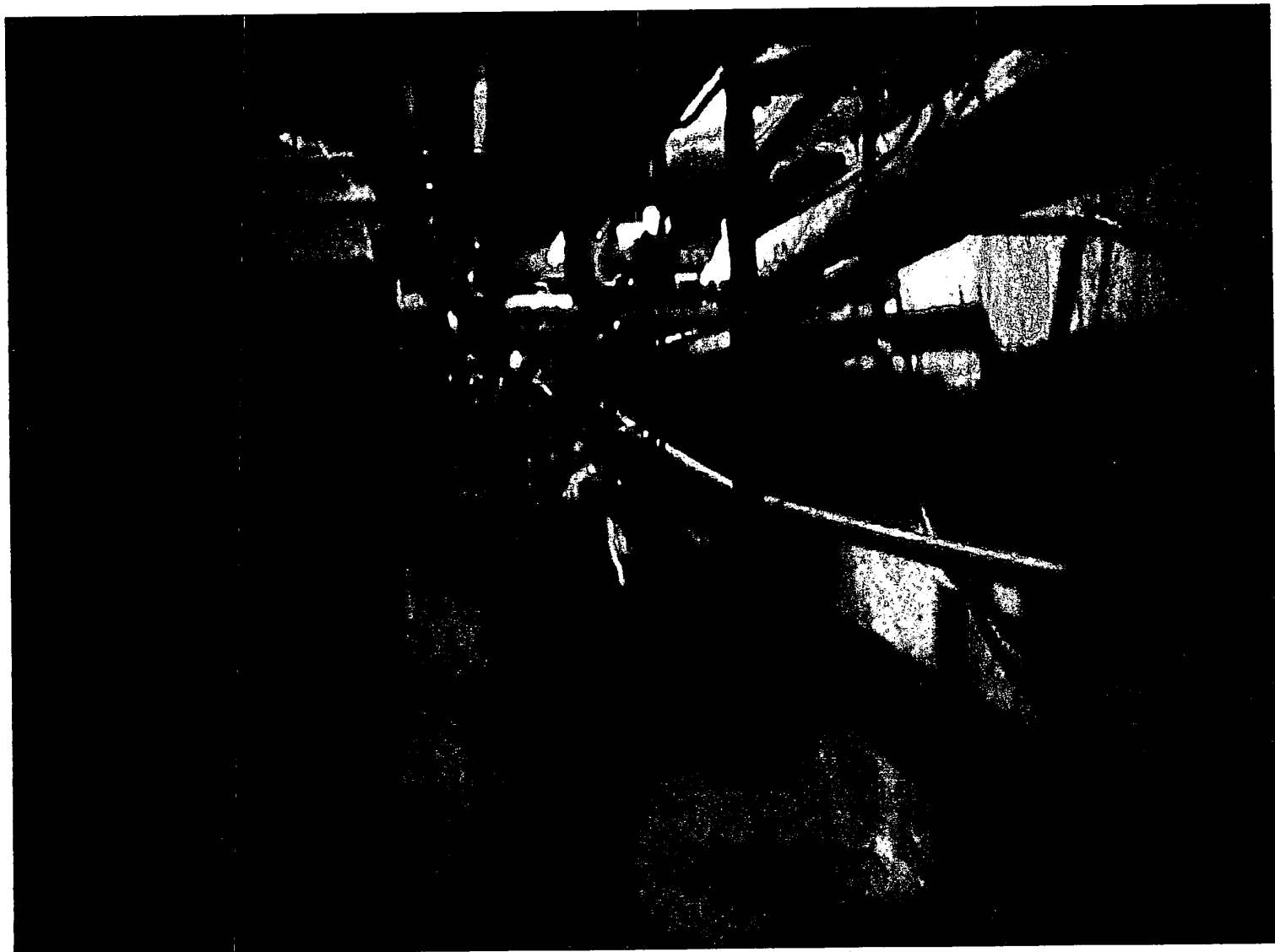
In  interview, he named  correctly spelled  a former altar boy and classmate at St. Margaret Mary.  stated that  and had also been sexually abused by JT. JB provided PFRA with the following details:

- [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and died in [REDACTED]
- JB has found the contact information for a [REDACTED] in the Chicago area
- JB has found the contact information for a [REDACTED] born in [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] born in [REDACTED] who currently reside within the parish boundaries of St. Margaret Mary
- JB explained to PFRA his process of how he would be able to determine who altar boys were at St. Margaret Mary's during the time period of alleged abuse by [REDACTED]

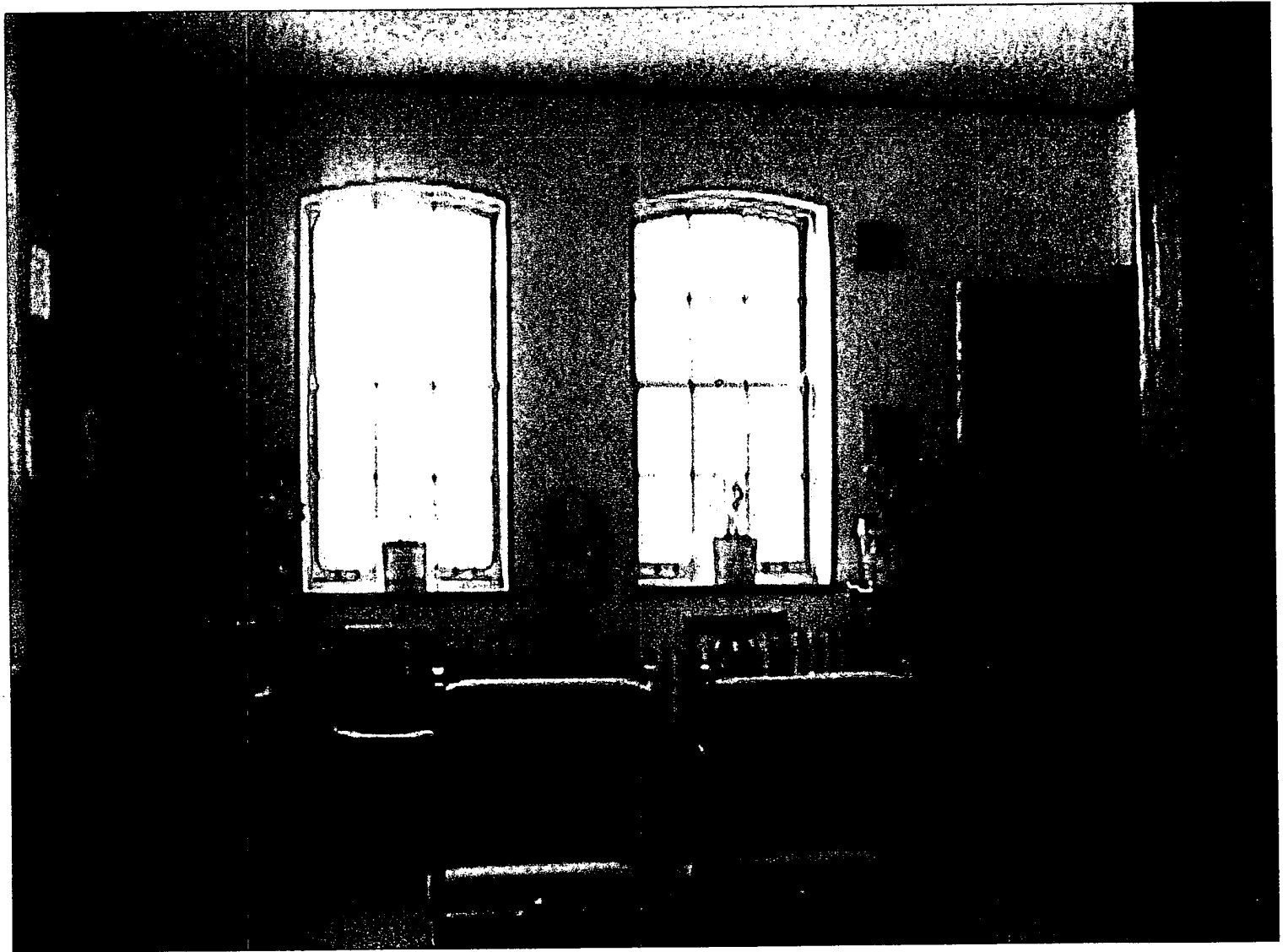
PFRA explained to JB that the previously described information would be presented to the Board in order to determine if the Board recommends that JB follow up with the information in relation to [REDACTED]'s allegation of sexual misconduct against JT.

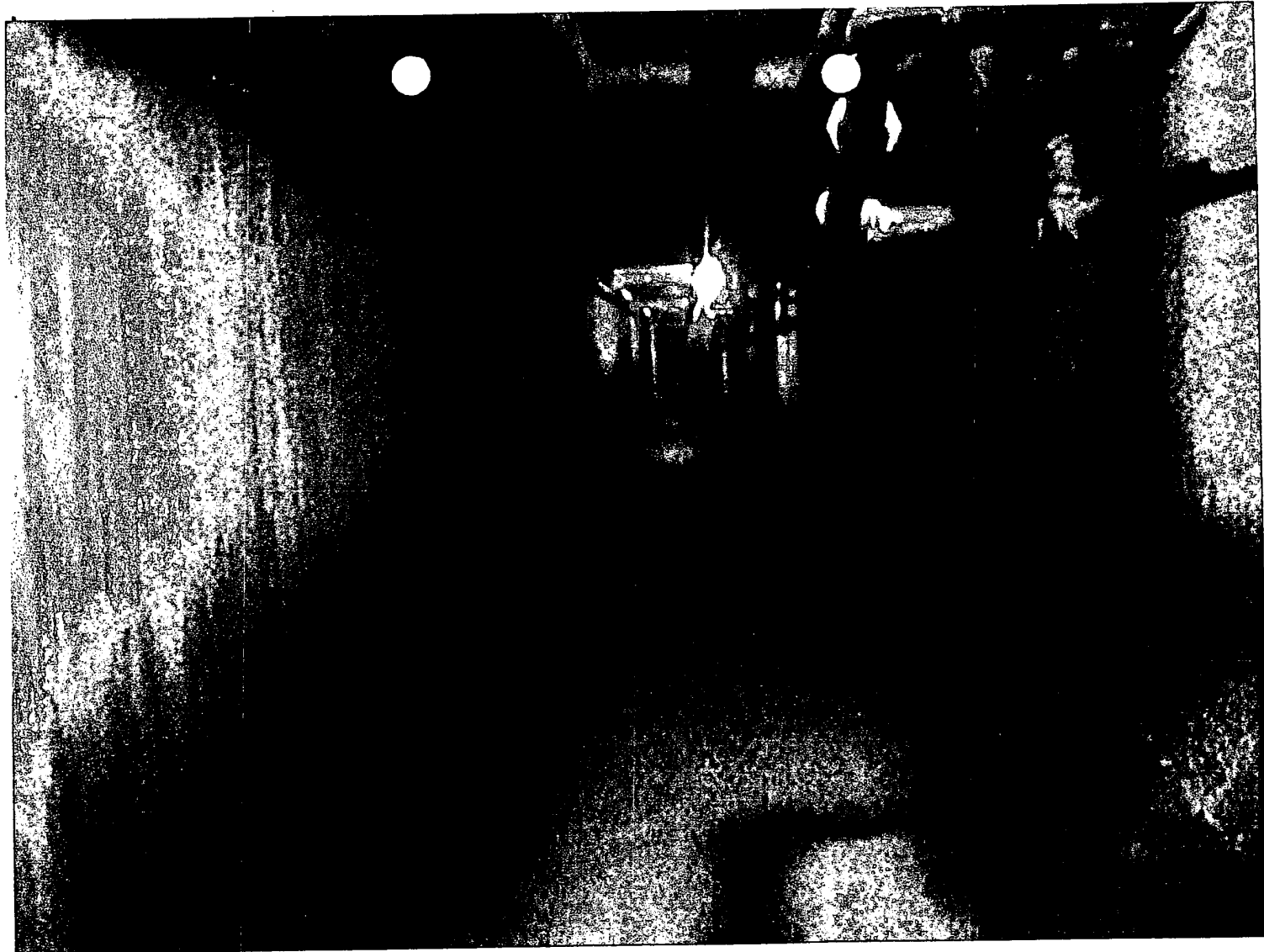
Cc: Bishop-Elect Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Legal Services

TUNNEL View from High School side
- St. Margaret Mary's
2/13/03



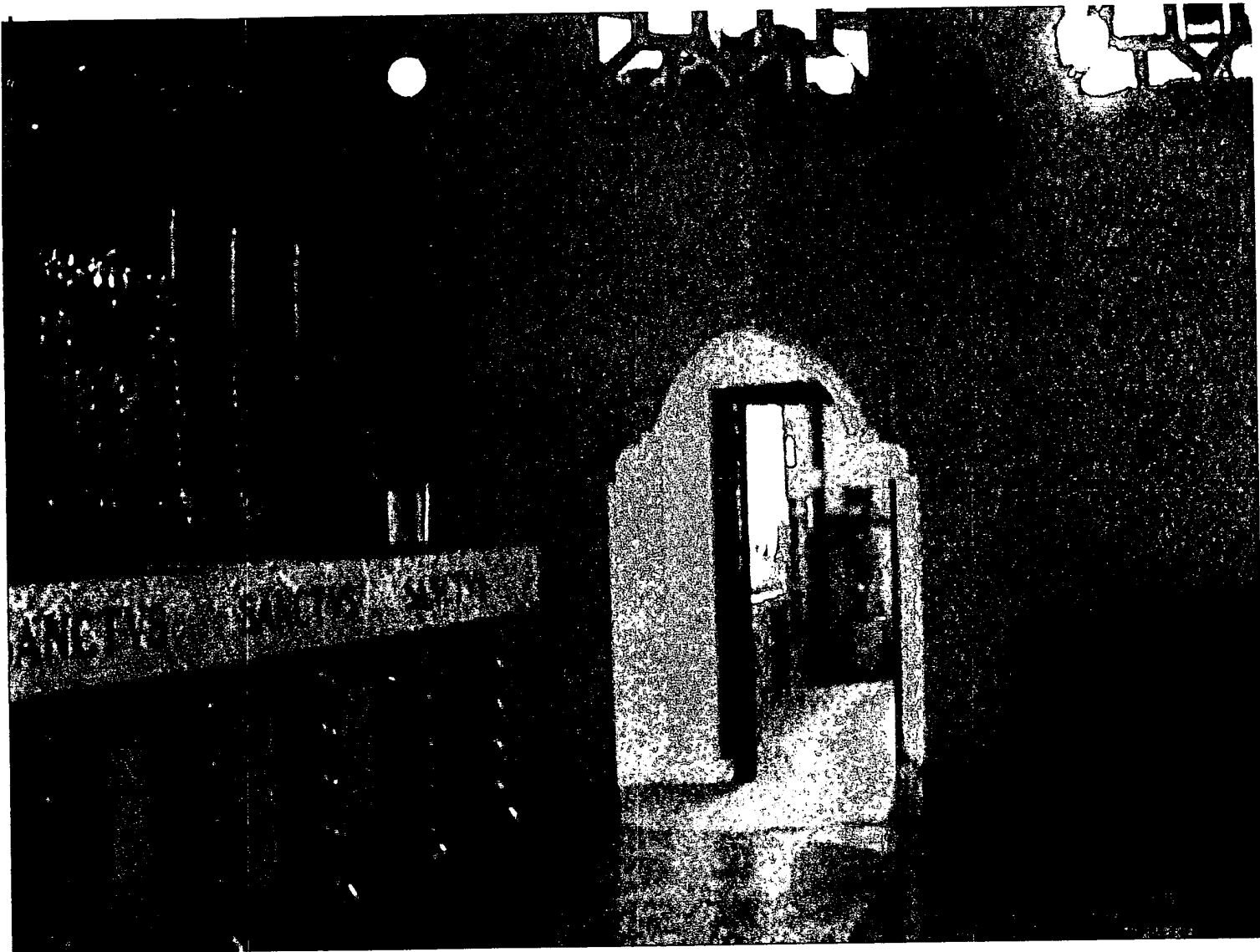
Room behind the Altar
St. Margaret-Mary's
2/13/03





— . - 2 / - - - CL Margaret Marie 2/12/03

AOC 020344



AL. IMMAGINE DI MANIC 2113103

AOC 020345

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312)751-5205
1-800-994-6200
Fax (312)751-5279

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:

Jack Burke

FROM:

Leah McCluskey

DATE:

February 13, 2003

FAX NUMBER:

312-372-8526

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

8

PHONE NUMBER:

PHONE NUMBER:

312-751-5205

RE:

Allegation Reports

☐ URGENT

☒ FOR REVIEW

☐ PLEASE COMMENT

☐ PLEASE REPLY

☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

Jack,

Here are the reports for Thomas/ [REDACTED]

Leah

Confidential

AOC 020346

From: Leah McCluskey
To: Neri-Palomino, Laura
Date: 2/13/03 8:43AM
Subject: [REDACTED]/thomas

Laura,

Could you please fax Jack Burke [investigator] the following reports in the interest of time—

[REDACTED] allegation against Joseph Thomas
Joseph Thomas' response to [REDACTED] allegation

The fax number is [REDACTED]

Thank you!

Leah

Memorandum to File

COPY

Date: March 3, 2003

From: Brett K. Starr
Jack Burke & Associates, Ltd.
Re: Inspection of Premises of St. Margaret Mary
Archdiocese – Fitness Review (Joe Thomas)

On February 13, 2003, I examined and photographed the premises of St. Margaret Mary's located at 7341 North Claremont in Chicago, IL. Following a phone call placed to the parish facility manager Jack Kemp ("Kemp"), I visited St. Margaret Mary. I introduced myself to Kemp as a private investigator working on behalf of the Archdiocesan Fitness Review Board and I provided Kemp with a business card. Kemp gave me a brief tour of the premises and allowed me to view the rectory. Kemp then allowed me to examine the altar and the room behind the altar (sacristy). I photographed and videotaped this room. Kemp then took me to a tunnel below St. Margaret Mary's, which connects the church and the school. I examined both entries to the tunnel and then I walked through the tunnel four times. Kemp said that he has worked for St. Margaret Mary for approximately fifteen years and, to his knowledge, the tunnel structure has not been modified. (Kemp stated that he had not been through the tunnel for two years, the last time to check for rodents.)


I videotaped the entire tunnel. The floor of the passage is of sand. To enter the tunnel from the rectory side one must step up a couple of steps. Overhead bulbs spaced throughout the passage light the tunnel. All of the light bulbs were working. As one enters the tunnel from the rectory side, the first approximately 110 feet length of the tunnel has a height of approximately 5 feet 8 inches. The tunnel then turns and the height of the tunnel becomes approximately 6 feet for approximately 60 feet. The final remaining 110-foot portion of the tunnel, toward the school, has a height that is approximately 4 feet 7 inches. The actual tunnel height is taller, however, but the distance between the pipes (attached to the ceiling) and the floor where one can walk has a measurement of 4 feet 7 inches. The width of the tunnel is approximately 4 to 5 feet wide. The temperature at the interior of the tunnel is quite warm and felt uncomfortable for an adult during the winter. At the school entry to the tunnel, there were a few items of clothing and some props.

Kemp attempted to locate the blueprints for the tunnel and the church, but to no avail. Kemp said that if I needed these documents, I should contact the Archdiocese Archives facility. The videotape and photographs discussed herein are included with this memorandum.

AOC 020348

CONFIDENTIAL

Joseph S. Thomas

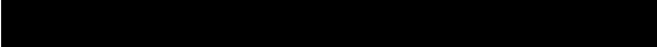


March 3, 2003

Dear Fr. Vincent:

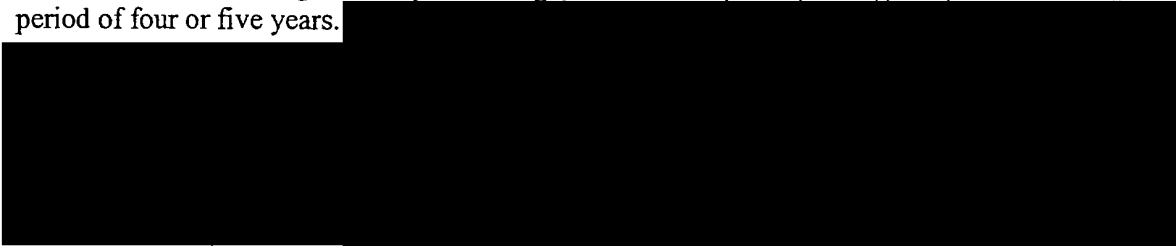
1) ~~This is to confirm my request that you serve as my canonical Advocate.~~

2) You will find my current mailing address and phone number above. After I leave here, you can mail to



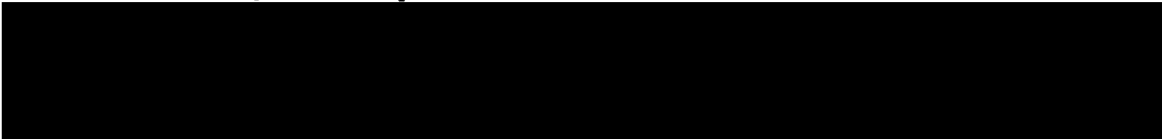
This mail will be sent to me until I get a more permanent address.

3) The allegations: a young man alleged that I sexually abused him when he was in our parish school at St. Margaret Mary in Chicago, where I was pastor, during early 1980's over a period of four or five years.



I denied that I had any sexual relationship with the young man at any time. I remembered his name and believe he had attended SMM School. But I did not remember if he had been an altar server. I did not have any special liaison with him while I was at SMM nor after I left.

4) The Archdiocese informed me of the allegations personally through the Vicar for Priests, Fr. James Kaczorowski, and the Vicar for Retired Priests, Bishop Timothy Lyne. They told me of the process: that there would be an interview of the young man and an interview of me. Then the Review Board would meet and make a tentative decision. This was at the end of May, 2002. I was interviewed with my attorney present as well as the Vicar for Priests, after the young man was interviewed with his attorney present. The Review Board met on September 21, 2002 and decided that the allegation was "probable".



On November 8, 2002 I had a phone call from Fr. Kaczorowski, informing me that someone had leaked the allegation to a TV reporter and that the Archdiocese was going to make a public statement on the weekend of November 9-10, 2002 at St. John Vianney Parish (where I had been living) and at the parish where the allegation was supposed to have taken place, St. Margaret Mary in Chicago. There was some newspaper and TV publicity. I have since been in touch with Fr. Kaczorowski. I also have received many cards and

letters of support since the allegation became public. The young man's name was not made public at that time and to my knowledge, still is not public. It is not known who leaked the information to the TV reporter.

I have been informed by my attorney and by Fr. Kaczorowski that investigation into the allegation and its details is being made and that the next review has been postponed because of this.

5)

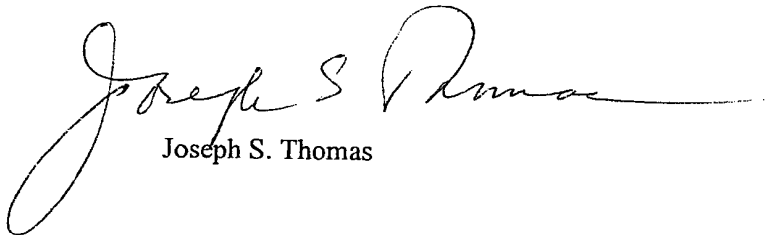
[REDACTED]

6) My attorney: Cynthia Giacchetti 53 W Jackson Blvd., #1515, Chicago, IL
Phone: [REDACTED]

Vicar for Clergy: Rev. James Kaczorowski 645 N. Michigan Avenue, #543 Chicago, IL
Phone: 312-642-1837

Thank you for being patient. I appreciate your acceptance of this case.

Very sincerely yours in Christ,


Joseph S. Thomas

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a letter from Fr. Joseph Thomas to his canonical advocate, Fr. Vincent Bertrand, dated March 3, 2003. In his letter, Thomas reiterates the allegations made against him by Victim KV. According to the letter, the alleged misconduct included one incident of sodomy and an incident of sexual touching.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review




Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Joseph (Resigned) [REDACTED]

Date: March 12, 2003

PFRA contacted [REDACTED], a former student at St Margaret Mary grade school who attended the grammar school and was an altar boy at the same time as [REDACTED]

PFRA introduced herself to [REDACTED] and informed him that an investigation into an allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Joseph Thomas [JT] was being conducted. [REDACTED] was informed that his name was taken from a [mid 1980s] class list and from an altar boy list at St. Margaret Mary. [REDACTED] agreed to answer some questions for PFRA.

PFRA asked if he had any interactions with JT while he was a student at St. Margaret Mary. [REDACTED] requested to give some background information on himself. He stated that he was a "junior staffer" at the St. Margaret Mary rectory for approximately four and one half years. When asked by PFRA, [REDACTED] stated that he worked at the rectory from when he was thirteen years old until he was 17 or 18 years old. Please note that [REDACTED] birth date is [REDACTED]. As a junior staffer, [REDACTED] answered phones and the like on Friday nights and on weekends.

[REDACTED] stated that he has known JT since he was seven years old. [REDACTED] described his parents as being "very active in the church" and were friends with JT as a result of their involvement. Throughout the entire time that he has known JT, [REDACTED] stated that he never witnessed or saw any inappropriate actions by JT against anyone. [REDACTED] also noted that when individuals would come to visits priests at the rectory, no one would go to the priests' rooms. Visits would take place in the common area of the rectory.

[REDACTED] stated that he is a [REDACTED] and his phone number is unlisted. He was curious as to how PFRA had obtained his phone number. PFRA informed [REDACTED] that individuals assisting with the investigation had provided PFRA with his contact information and that his name was obtained from school records. When asked, PFRA provided [REDACTED] with her name and contact information.

Cc: Bishop-Elect Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 020352

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

March 14, 2003

Rev. Joseph Thomas
c/o Vicar for Priests Office
645 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 543
Chicago, IL 60611

RECEIVED

JUN 05 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

Dear Joe:

I realize you must have many questions about what is happening with regard to your situation. I have appreciated your patience and understanding, and I thank you again for agreeing not to exercise ministry while your case is pending. As you know, the Dallas Charter and Norms created a canonical difficulty. They required bishops to act immediately, but Church law prohibited us from taking any action under the Norms until they received the approval of the Holy See. I am very grateful to each of you for cooperating in the implementation of the Charter and Norms, even though that cooperation has taken a toll on you. I am writing the same letter to each of you so that you are clear as to what will be happening next.

The Holy See approved the revised Norms on December 8, 2002, and Bishop Gregory indicated they would go into effect March 1, 2003. I want you to be aware of the implications of this, so that at least you will understand how we will be proceeding in the Archdiocese of Chicago. There are still some aspects of the process that the USCCB Committee on Canonical Affairs is working on, so some part of the process are less clear than others.

In the near future, I will be submitting each of your cases to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, as required by the Norms that Congregation issued in 2001. At that time, I will ask the Congregation for a dispensation from the statute of limitations so that we are free to conduct a trial according to the Code of Canon Law.

The reason for my request will be that the seriousness and the nature of the matter demand it. The sexual misconduct of clergy has caused great harm to the Church in the United States. Unless the Church appears to be taking these allegations seriously, we will lose the confidence of our faithful people and the Church in the United States will no longer have a credible voice.

Moreover, the nature of sexual abuse is such that those who are abused often repress the memory of these actions for many years. It has taken great courage on the part of many of them to come forward with these accusations. I can assure you that they did not make their decisions easily. Whether these actions took place, who was involved, and other such matters are things that are to be dealt with in a canonical trial. But I do not doubt for a moment the sincerity of those who have claimed to be victimized.

AOC 020353

At the same time I submit the case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, I will make formal what up to now has been simply an agreement between you and me. The Essential Norms for the United States require that at this time I issue a decree, in virtue of canon 1722, prohibiting you from exercising sacred ministry and directing where you are to reside.

If the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith dispenses from the statute of limitations and directs me to conduct a trial here in Chicago, I will then submit all the material from your case to Father Bill Woestman, the Promoter of Justice, who will then present a petition to the Metropolitan Tribunal. The petition will ask the Tribunal to decide two issues: Did you commit an act of sexual misconduct, as described in canon 1395? If the answer to that is affirmative, shall the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state be applied to you?

At this point, if you have not already engaged the services of a canonical advocate, you will be required to do so. Your advocate's job is to ensure the protection of your rights and to raise any issues with regard to the above questions.

According to the wishes of the USCCB, the judges for the trial will be chosen from a pool of judges who will be trained in Washington during the last two weeks of February. This will ensure that no Archdiocesan priest will be deciding your case.

The judges will use the information that has been gathered by the Fitness Review Board Administrator, the Vicar for Priests, the Victim Assistance Minister, and your own personnel file. They may also ask for additional information in the case, as they see fit. You or your advocate can also propose other questions to the judges that would assist them in their investigation.

After the judges have collected all the information in the case, you and your advocate will be allowed access to all of the information that the judges will be using in making their decision. You will also be allowed to comment on the information you review, and your advocate will be given an opportunity to present arguments in the case.

At the conclusion of the process, both the Promoter of Justice and you can appeal the decision of the Tribunal. The appeal can be based upon the procedures that were followed during the course of the trial or upon the merits of the decision that was handed down. According to the 2001 Norms of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, these appeals are to be directed to the Supreme Apostolic Tribunal of that Congregation.

I believe that this is the most effective way to ensure that justice is served in the Church. By using our legal system, the rights of all parties are guaranteed and decisions are made on the basis of correct jurisprudence. Regardless of the outcome, the decisions will not only *be* just, but they will also *appear* just in the eyes of our people. This will demonstrate that decisions are not made in an arbitrary manner in the Church, but are made in an orderly and well-reasoned manner.

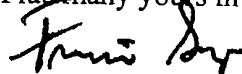
It is for this reason that I will not make any administrative decisions about the disposition of your case. I believe the judicial process will allow you and your advocate to present arguments concerning the substance of the case and the procedures that have been followed. The

judges will then be able to render a decision on this matter which is consistent with our jurisprudence and canonical practice.

I am very much aware of the pain that you have gone through during these months. While this has been personally painful for you, I believe this time has also given our people an opportunity to look at this issue more thoroughly and realize its complexity. Some of the stridency has lessened, and people seem to be reassured that the cases will be handled in a just and equitable manner.

You have been in my prayers each day, and I ask that you continue to keep me in yours.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Francis George", written in a cursive style.

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Fitness Review




Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Joseph (Resigned) [REDACTED]

Date: April 2, 2003

PFRA had made attempts to contact [REDACTED] via phone and mail regarding the current investigation regarding [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct of a minor by Fr. Joseph Thomas. [REDACTED] is a former student at St Margaret Mary grade school who attended the grammar school and was an altar boy at the same time as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had received the letter sent by PFRA, informing him of a pending investigation involving an allegation of sexual misconduct of a minor made against Fr. Thomas. [REDACTED] had contacted PFRA via phone on April 1, 2003 in response to the aforementioned letter. It was explained to [REDACTED] that his name had been taken from a [mid 1980s] class list and from an altar boy list at St. Margaret Mary.

PFRA asked if [REDACTED] had any interactions with Fr. Thomas while he was a student at St. Margaret Mary. [REDACTED] plainly stated that he has no knowledge of Fr. Thomas being involved in any type of sexual misconduct with any minors, including himself. He continued that he had "never heard a thing" regarding allegations of sexual misconduct against Fr. Thomas until he had seen a story on the news a few months ago.

PFRA thanked [REDACTED] for his time and responding to the letter regarding this matter.

Cc: Most Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 020356

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review



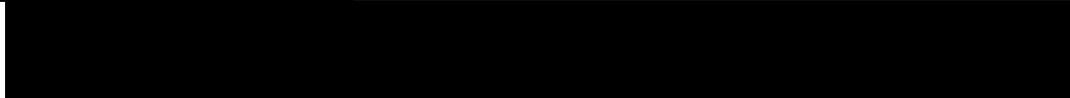
Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Fitness Review Board
Saturday, April 26, 2003

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:



Members absent:



Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator [PFRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board



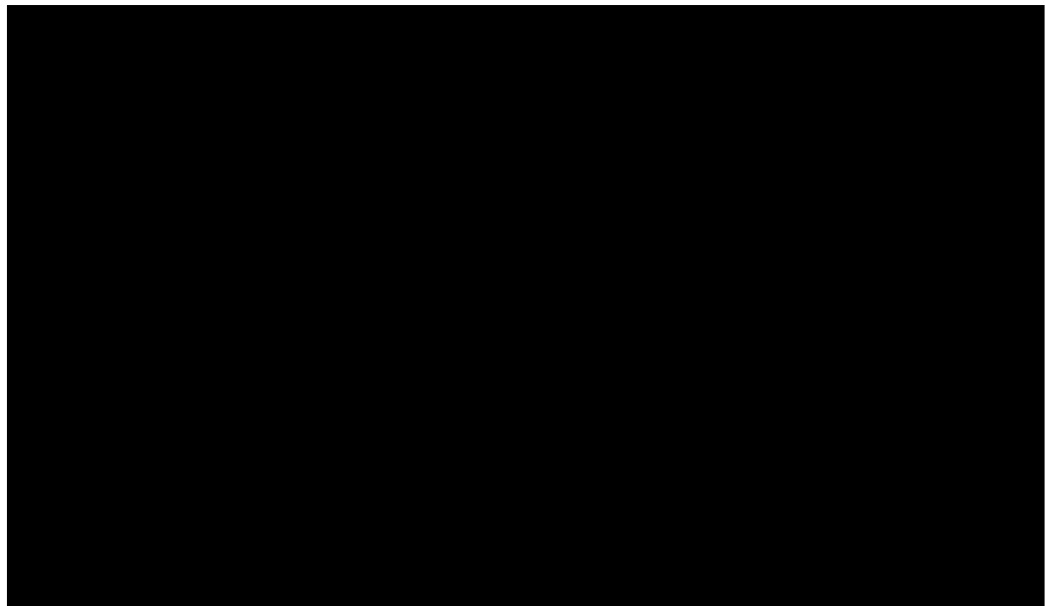
I. Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2003

II. Case Reviews

Second Stage Reviews

A.

B.



C.



D.

III. Other Matters

1.

2.

3. In the Matter of Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn] – PFR-103

The Board recommends that PFRA write a letter to [REDACTED] attorney for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] requesting to schedule a meeting to discuss additional information obtained by PFRA regarding [REDACTED] allegation against JT.

Next scheduled meeting is May 17, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review



MEMORANDUM

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

To: File -PFR-103
From: Professional Fitness Review Board Minutes
Re: **Thomas, Joseph (Retired) (Withdrawn)** [REDACTED]
Date: April 26, 2003

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Fitness Review Board Meeting on April 26, 2003:

The Board recommends that PFRA write a letter to [REDACTED] attorney for [REDACTED] requesting to schedule a meeting to discuss additional information obtained by PFRA regarding [REDACTED] allegation against JT.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

April 29, 2003



Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing this letter to you in regards to your client [REDACTED] and his allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Joseph Thomas.

I have obtained some additional information that is pertinent to the aforementioned matter and as a result, I would like to schedule a time with you so that you and I could meet.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience at 312.751.5205.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 020361

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review





Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279





MEMORANDUM



To: File - PFR-103







From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator 




Re: Thomas, Joseph [Retired, Withdrawn] 

Date: May 5, 2003

PFRA spoke with  attorney for  via phone on May 5, 2003.  was responding to a letter sent by PFRA regarding additional information regarding  allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Thomas.

PFRA asked  if he would like to schedule a time to meet in person, or if he would care to discuss the aforementioned matter over the phone.  informed PFRA that he would like to address the matter while on the phone.

 was informed that PFRA spoke with both [two] male adult individuals who were named by  as possible victims of sexual abuse by Fr. Thomas.  was also informed that the aforementioned males were told by PFRA [in separate conversations] that there was an allegation of sexual misconduct made against Fr. Thomas and that an investigation was taking place. PFRA informed  that the individuals were told that their names were taken from class and altar boy lists from St. Margaret Mary's as opposed to being told that  had provided their names. PFRA continued by informing  that both men stated in separate conversations that Fr. Thomas did not abuse them in any way, nor were they aware of any others abused by Fr. Thomas.

 appreciated the information and made note of the difficult decision made by  to provide PFRA with the names of the men interviewed. He continued by informing PFRA that he was in the process of gathering information regarding  allegation against Fr. Thomas to forward to Jim Serritella.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Victim Assistance Ministry
John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 020362

Law Offices
Cynthia Giacchetti
53 West Jackson Boulevard
Suite 1515
Chicago, Illinois 60604
May 13, 2003

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

Telephone
312-939-6440
Facsimile
312-427-1788

BY FAX (312-751-5279) AND MAIL

Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator
676 N. St. Clair--Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Re: Father Joseph Thomas

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

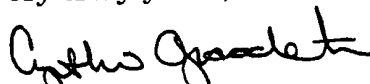
Pursuant to our telephone conversation of yesterday's date, this letter is to formalize in writing my request that Father Thomas, his canon lawyer, and I be allowed to address the Fitness Review Board regarding the allegations made against Father Thomas.

It is my understanding the Second Stage Review for Father Thomas is scheduled for the Board's next meeting on Saturday, June 21, 2003. I have not yet been able to contact Father Thomas' canon lawyer about that date but I am available. Could you please confirm whether there will be time on that date for us to address the Board. If so, can you please let me know what time we should appear.

In the event that the present agenda does not allow time for us to address the Board on June 21, 2003, I hereby request that we be afforded that opportunity at the next Board meeting and that no final decision be made by the Board until we have had the opportunity to address them.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Very truly yours,


Cynthia Giacchetti

cc: Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

AOC 020363

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

May 14, 2003

Ms. Cynthia Giacchetti
53 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

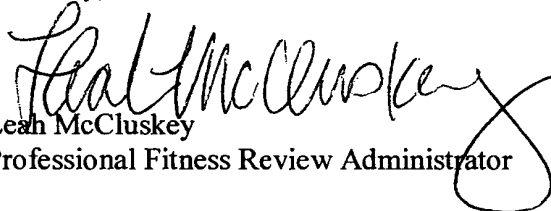
Dear Ms. Giacchetti,

This letter is in response to the faxed letter that I received today regarding Fr. Thomas. I do understand that you have requested to address the Review Board along with Fr. Thomas and his canonical advocate on Saturday, June 21, 2003.

Any individual making an allegation or any individual who is accused of an allegation has the right to request to address the Review Board. However, I stress that the reason to request to address the Board is to present any **additional** information that the Board does not already have. Therefore, if you, Fr. Thomas, and/or his canonical advocate has additional information to present to the Board regarding the allegation of sexual misconduct made by [REDACTED] please contact me by Friday, May 30, 2003 so that I may schedule time on the June 21st agenda.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
John O'Malley, Legal Services

AOC 020364

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

May 23, 2003

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator
676 North St. Clair
Chicago, IL 60611

RECEIVED

MAY 29 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

Accompanying this letter is a decree which appoints you as the investigator into an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor that was made against **Rev. Joseph Thomas**. The terms of this investigation are spelled out in the decree.

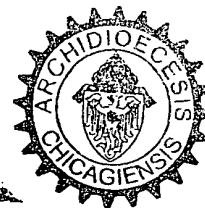
At the same time, I am designating you as the person who is to supervise the "monitoring protocol" which has been established for Father Thomas. I ask that you report to me on a regular basis, but no less than quarterly, on Father Thomas' compliance with this protocol. You may also wish to report more frequently to the Professional Fitness Review Board so that they can make further recommendations to me on this matter.

In order to ensure confidentiality in this matter, I ask that you perform this task personally and not designate anyone else for this purpose. Should there be periods of time when you will not be able to perform this task personally, please refer the matter to the Vicar for Priests.

Thank you for agreeing to take on these additional tasks.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago



Ecclesiastical Notary

AOC 020365

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

RECEIVED

MAY 29 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

D E C R E E

Having received the recommendation of the Archdiocesan Professional Fitness Review Board that there is "reasonable cause to suspect" that **Reverend Joseph Thomas** engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor, I have concluded that this constitutes information which "at least seems to be true" (c. 1717).

Therefore, in accordance with the aforementioned canon, I decree that an inquiry be done into the facts and circumstances of this accusation, as well as its imputability to **Father Thomas**.

Since my other duties prevent me from conducting this investigation personally, I hereby appoint **Ms. Leah McCluskey** to act as the investigator in this matter. In carrying out these duties, Ms. McCluskey will have all of the authority of an auditor, in accordance with cc. 1428 and 1717. She is to collect any additional proofs she deems necessary in accordance with the norm of law as they relate to the present allegation. She is delegated to take testimony from the accused and from any witnesses (cc. 1530 – 1538 and 1547 – 1573), to obtain any necessary documents (cc. 1540 – 1546), to enlist the services of any experts deemed necessary (cc. 1574 – 1581), and to have access to places or things which she deems necessary for her investigation.

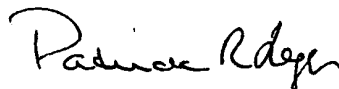
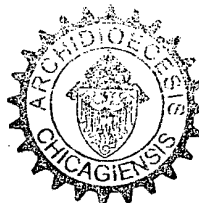
In conducting her investigation, Ms. McCluskey is to take care that such an investigation does nothing to harm **Father Thomas**' name or to violate his right to protect his privacy. Nor may he be asked to do anything which violates his conscience or is morally unacceptable according to the Church's moral teachings.

After she has concluded her investigation, Ms. McCluskey is to make a written report to me, no later than thirty days from the date of this appointment. This report is to address the facts, circumstances, and imputability concerning the alleged offense.

Given on 23 May, 2003 at Chicago, Illinois.



Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago



Ecclesiastical Notary

AOC 020366

Send To: Fr. Joseph Thomas

Subject: Canonical Mandate for Appointment of a Canonical Advocate

F. P. Thomas

Fr. Joseph Thomas

Dear Fr. Joseph:

May 24, 2003

Greetings in Christ! I recently spoke with Fr. Kaczorowski with the Archdiocese of Chicago. It appears that the Archdiocese has not yet received the canonical mandate from you appointing a canonical Advocate. I would appreciate that you sign the mandate below, and send a copy to Cardinal George, Fr. Kaczorowski, and myself in the next couple of days. With my prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

F. V. E. Bertrand

Rev. Vincent E. Bertrand, JCL

CANONICAL MANDATE APPOINTING CANONICAL ADVOCATE FOR FR. THOMAS:

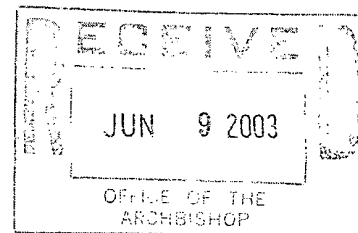
I hereby appoint Fr. Vincent E. Bertrand, JCL, as my canonical Advocate. Fr. Bertrand is a canon lawyer in good standing with the Church, and currently serves as Adjutant Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. He has a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Canon Law Society of America and the Midwest Canon Law Association. He is an experienced canonical Advocate. I give Fr. Bertrand permission to assist me in all canonical matters related to my case. I give the Archdiocese of Chicago permission to discuss my case with Fr. Bertrand.

Joseph Thomas
Fr. Joseph Thomas

6/3/03
Date

CC:

Rev. Vincent Bertrand
Ms. Cynthia Giacchetti
Rev. James Kaczorowski



AOC 020367

Subject: Canonical Case of Fr. Joseph Thomas

Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator
676 N. St. Clair--Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms McCluskey:

May 24, 2003

Greetings in Christ! I received a copy of a May 13, 2003 letter from Ms. Giacchetti indicating that the second stage review for the case of Fr. Joseph Thomas is scheduled with the Review Board for June 21, 2003. I understand that a final decision on the case may be made by the Board at that meeting. I would like to submit some serious concerns that I have about the case at this point.

First, I am very concerned that Fr. Thomas has not yet been provided with an opportunity to review and respond to the evidence being considered in his case. As you are aware, Fr. Thomas is an elderly priest now [REDACTED]. In light of the fact that it would be very difficult for Fr. Thomas to review the acts of his case in person at the chancery, we petition the Board to immediately provide copies of the evidence to Fr. Thomas or myself so that we can review and respond to the evidence before the Board meeting on June 21. If it is absolutely impossible to provide us copies of the evidence, we ask that the Board immediately arrange and pay for a trip for Fr. Thomas to Chicago to review the evidence and take written notes. As you are aware, it is very important that Fr. Thomas have the opportunity to review and respond to the evidence in his case as part of his canonical due process rights. After we have had the opportunity to review the evidence, I will assist Fr. Thomas in preparing a written personal statement responding to the allegations and evidence in his case. I am enclosing Fr. Thomas' preliminary personal statement, and ask that the Board seriously consider it in making a decision on the case.

Second, in addition to his written personal statement, Fr. Thomas has the right to submit witness statements and the defense brief of a canonical Advocate. In his preliminary personal statement, Fr. Thomas states that he has received many cards and letters of support since the allegation became public. We ask that such cards and letters be seriously considered by the Board in making a decision on the case.

Third, since I have not yet had the opportunity to review the evidence in the case, I am unable to provide a complete defense brief at this time. However, I do wish to submit a preliminary defense brief at this time. I ask that the Board seriously consider the following preliminary remarks in making a decision on this case:

1) In his preliminary personal statement, Fr. Thomas states that the allegant alleges that the sexual abuse took place in the early 1980's. The allegant alleges that Fr. Thomas

AOC 020368

sexually abused him when he was in the 3rd or 4th grade through the 8th grade. The
allegant did not report the allegation to the Archdiocese until he was 32. Based on this
information, it is clear that the canonical statute of limitations on this allegation has
expired.

[REDACTED]

Fr. Thomas has strongly denied the allegations made by this allegant. It must
be pointed out that it is not for Fr. Thomas to prove his innocence of the allegation. It is
for the allegant to show why he believes Fr. Thomas is guilty of the allegation.

3)It must be asked: Why did the allegant wait several years to report the allegation to the
Archdiocese? The fact that he waited so long should raise serious questions about the
veracity and credibility of the allegation.

4)Fr. Thomas has clearly worked with many young people during his many years of
priestly ministry. If he was sexually abusing young people, why have not more young
people come forward with allegations? Many psychological experts point out that most
active pedophiles sexually abuse multiple young people.

[REDACTED]

It appears that there is no proof that Fr. Thomas
as sexually abused minors in the past. As such, it does not appear that he is a high risk
or sexually abusing minors in the future. Although it appears that the Archdiocese
ould be justified in restricting his ministry around minors, it does not appear that his
ase warrants permanent removal from all ministry or dismissal from the clerical state. We
ould recommend that he be allowed retirement with limited faculties in the Archdiocese.

Fr. Thomas is an elderly priest. If the Archdiocese determines that the allegation
ainst him is credible, we ask that the Archdiocese not even consider an imposed
cization procedure due to his advance age. This is clearly in line with the
commendation of the Charter and Essential Norms in the U.S.

Again, we hope that the Archdiocese will immediately arrange for an opportunity for Fr. Thomas to review the evidence in his case, and submit a written response to such evidence. We will look forward to your response on this matter in the near future. If you would like to speak with me about this matter, please give me a call at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Thank you for your kind assistance with this important matter. With my prayerful good wishes to the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Vincent E. Bertrand

Rev. Vincent E. Bertrand, JCL
Canonical Advocate for Fr. Thomas

[REDACTED]

cc: Fr. Joseph Thomas
Fr. James Kaczorowski
Ms. Cynthia Giacchetti

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a letter from Fr. Vincent Bertrand, canonical advocate for Fr. Joseph Thomas, to Leah McCluskey, Professional Fitness Review Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Fitness Review, dated May 24, 2003. In his letter, Bertrand contests many of the allegation made against his client, Thomas, by Victim KV. According to the letters, Thomas denied the specific allegations of genital fondling and oral sex made by Victim KV.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

May 27, 2003

Rev. Joseph Thomas
c/o Vicar for Priests Office
645 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 543
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Joe:

I am again writing to you to give you an update as to what is happening concerning the allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor which have been made against you. I am extremely grateful to you for your patience in this matter. As you know, the Dallas Charter required me to act quickly in cases involving allegations of clerical sexual misconduct with a minor to ensure that no priest with a credible accusation was engaged in public ministry. However, because the accompanying Norms had not been approved by the Holy See, I have not been able to act as quickly as I would have liked in getting your case resolved.

With the Norms having gone into effect on March 1, 2003, along with further instructions which came from the Holy See in February, we are now in a position to begin referring our cases to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Before I make such a referral, I will gather any additional information that seems necessary and review the matter once again. I will then send your advocate a copy of the letter I will be sending to the Holy See, and allow him or her the opportunity to offer an opinion as well. I anticipate this being done by the middle of July.

To that end, I have delegated Ms. Leah McCluskey to review each of the cases to see if more information needs to be gathered. I have asked her to report back to me within one month so that I can make a determination about referring the case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. According to the recommendation of the Canonical Affairs Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, if the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith directs me to begin a penal trial, the judges to be used will not be priests serving in the Archdiocese of Chicago. They will be chosen from a list of priests who have been trained to hear cases of clerical sexual misconduct.

In referring your case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, I will also consult with the Promoter of Justice and issue a decree which formalizes those things which I asked you to do for the good of the Church and under your promise of obedience to me. The imposition of this decree is required by Norm 6 of the Essential Norms established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

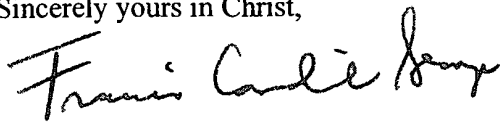
AOC 020372

I have also designated Ms. McCluskey as the person to ensure that the "monitoring protocol" which you signed is being followed. She will report to me and to the Professional Fitness Review Board concerning your compliance with this protocol. I have asked that she perform this function personally, with the Vicar for Priests doing so in her absence. This will ensure the confidentiality and professionalism of this monitoring.

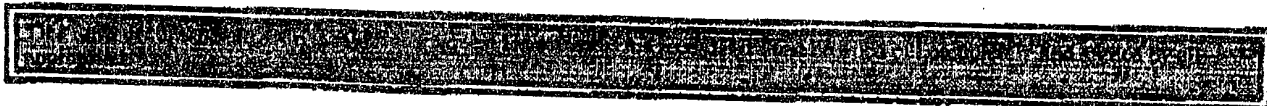
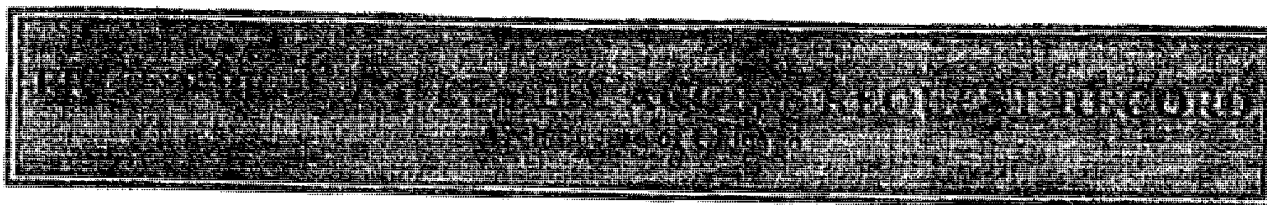
The protocols which you sign from time to time are not to be considered as penalties imposed on you. Instead, they are ways in which I exercise my responsibility to ensure that you fulfill the obligations which you received when you were ordained. I am establishing these protocols as individual precepts, which canon 49 describes as "a decree which directly and legitimately enjoins [you] to do or omit something, especially in order to urge the observance of law." You will receive a copy of my precept at the same time you receive a copy of your protocol.

I hope this clarifies the process somewhat for you. I am grateful that we can finally begin a process for the resolution of your case. I know this has been a very difficult period of time for you in your priesthood. You have always been in my prayers during this time. I ask that you continue to keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Francis" being the most prominent.

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

**TO BE FILLED IN BY AGENCY HOLDING RECORDS**

Name of Priest File: <u>REV. JOSEPH THOMAS</u>	
Record of Agency/Office: <u>VICAR FOR PRIESTS</u>	
Address: <u>645 N MICHIGAN SUITE 243</u>	
City/State: <u>CHGO, IL</u>	Zip: <u>60613</u>
Phone: <u>312-642-1837</u>	

Person Requesting File: <u>CYNTHIA GIACCHETTI</u>	Date of Request: <u>6-3-03</u>
Written Request Attached (Written request must accompany this form) Y <u>N</u>	

Person Authorizing Access: <u>REV. JOSEPH THOMAS</u>	Date Records Accessed: <u>6-5-03</u>
Signature: <u>Joseph S Thomas</u>	

TO BE FILLED IN BY REQUESTER

Requester's Signature Acknowledging Receipt of File:

Requester's Comments:

Initialed:

(Revised 12/95)

Send To: Archdiocese of Chicago

Subject: Canonical Case of Fr. Joseph Thomas

Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator
676 N. St.Clair--Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

June 10, 2003

Greetings in Christ! On May 24, 2003 I sent you a letter with regard to the canonical case of Fr. Joseph Thomas, currently being examined by the Archdiocesan Review Board. We have not yet had a response to this letter.

Again, I want to make it clear that neither Fr. Thomas or I have had the opportunity to review the evidence in his case. Since the Archdiocese appears reluctant to provide us copies of the evidence and since there is no way that Fr. Thomas and I can review and respond to the evidence at the Archdiocesan offices prior to the next Review Board meeting on June 21, 2003 ([REDACTED]

[REDACTED]), we hereby petition the Board to grant Fr. Thomas and I a one month extension to review and respond to the evidence before the Board makes a decision on his case. I feel certain that we can review and respond to the evidence by July 21, 2003.

We believe that it is a very important part of Fr. Thomas' canonical due process rights to be able to review and respond to the evidence in his case before the review board and Cardinal makes a decision on the case. After reviewing the evidence, we will submit a written response for the Board to consider in making its decision.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this petition for an extension. We would appreciate that you let us know the decision on this petition by next week. If you have any questions, please contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. With my prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Vincent E. Bertrand

Rev. Vincent E. Bertrand, JCL
Canonical Advocate for Fr. Thomas

[REDACTED]

cc: Fr. Joseph Thomas
Fr. James Kaczorowski
Ms. Cynthia Giacchetti

AOC 020375

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Fax: (312) 751-8314

11 June, 2003

Rev. Joseph S. Thomas
c/o Vicar for Priests Office
645 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Joe:

Cardinal George received the signed mandate that you have given so that Rev. Vincent E. Bertrand can represent you.

By virtue of the special mandate that was given in my letter of appointment as Judicial Vicar, I approve your request to have Father Bertrand function as your advocate in the matter concerning the allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor that have been raised against you.

Please assure Father Bertrand that the Archdiocese of Chicago will cooperate with him as he assists you in your right of defense.

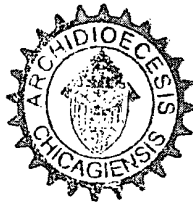
I am grateful that you have chosen to obtain good canonical counsel, Joe. I realize these processes are often confusing. It's helpful to have someone who can explain things to you, as well as defend your rights in these proceedings.

You continue to be in my prayers daily, Joe.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick R. Lagges".

(Rev.) Patrick R. Lagges
Judicial Vicar

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chh. King".
Ecclesiastical Notary

cc: Rev. Vincent Bertrand
Rev. James Kaczorowski ✓
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic
Ms. Leah McCluskey
Mr. John C. O'Malley

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

June 16, 2003

Rev. Vincent E. Bertrand, JCL
1235 E. Guinevere "Q"
Springfield, MO 65804

Dear Fr. Bertrand,

I attempted to reach you via phone this morning at both numbers that you provided me with in your letter dated June 10, 2003.

Enclosed with this letter are copies of the allegation of sexual misconduct made against Fr. Joseph Thomas, as well as Fr. Thomas' response. In accordance with our policies, no other copies are to be made from Fr. Thomas' file except for the aforementioned reports. Both you and/or Fr. Thomas are welcome to request to view Fr. Thomas' files in writing through Jimmy Lago, our Chancellor. His contact information is as follows:

Mr. Jimmy Lago
Chancellor
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, IL 60690-1979

All correspondence and other information regarding this matter is placed in Fr. Thomas' file. The Board will be provided all information when this matter is on their agenda. For your information, the matter of [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Thomas is not on the agenda for the next Board meeting, which is scheduled to take place on June 21, 2003.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 312 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator

Enclosures

AOC 020377

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Fitness Review



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW BOARD MEETING Saturday, June 21, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2003

II. Case Reviews

Initial Reviews:

A. [REDACTED]

B. [REDACTED]

Second Stage Reviews:

C. [REDACTED]

D. [REDACTED]

E. [REDACTED]

F. [REDACTED]

G. [REDACTED]

III. Other Matters

Cynthia Giacchetti to address Board with additional information on behalf of [please allow 30 min. for each]:

a. Joseph Thomas [REDACTED]

b. [REDACTED]

The next scheduled Board Meeting is for Saturday, July 19, 2003

PAGE 1 OF 10

CONFIDENTIAL

To FR. VINCENT BERTRAND
Fax 417-866-1140

JULY 2, 2003

From JOSEPH S. THOMAS
c/o SLI Fax 301-422-5416

Cc: Cynthia Giacchetti

I have thought of sending some or all of this to:

Fr. James Kaczorowski
Mrs. McCluskey

Please advise me as to content,
as to my future action in regard to the following pages
or in regard to anything else I should be doing, or something I have omitted..

Thank you.

Joseph S. Thomas

AOC 020379

(2 of 3)

PAGE 2 of 10

I, Joseph S. Thomas, repeat my complete denial of all the allegations by [REDACTED] and of having any special liaison with him at any time that I was at St. Margaret Mary, or before or after. I deny that any of the things that he has stated happened between him and me.

**THIS LIST AND THE OBSERVATIONS AND STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN
UPDATED ON JULY 3, 2003**

I was pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Chicago from January 1976 through January 1988

I left after two terms of six years each, my reason being that I wanted to leave administration. I was invited to go to St. John Vianney Parish in Northlake where I would be an associate with Father Charles Fanelli. I retired in January 1997. I became a retired resident at St. John Vianney, helping out at the parish, until the present time.

The following is a list of priests who would know my habits (in regard to having Wednesday off and often Tuesday night until Wednesday evening). Priests who were at St. Margaret Mary and could remember who trained the altar boys. They might remember when altar boys started training (i.e. what grade). They would also know whether altar boys served special days or more likely a week at a time.

Mr. [REDACTED] (Associate at SMM - 1976-82) [REDACTED]. He has left the priesthood and is now married. I spoke to him and he is willing to give an interview.

Rev. [REDACTED] (Associate at SMM - 1982-1988) - [REDACTED]. He sent a letter telling me he is willing to help in any way.

Cmdr. [REDACTED] (I don't know the exact dates that he was at St. Margaret Mary as a resident). He is still a Navy Chaplain as far as I know - he was a Quigley Professor when he was at SMM. He sent a letter saying he would help if needed - [REDACTED]

Jesuit Fathers - At this time there were one or two Jesuit priests from India residing during the years of my pastorate. Most of them have returned to India. One left the priesthood and is still in the area: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - he wrote a letter and said he would help - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] O.Carm. (Exact years I do not remember) - he lived with his elderly mother and said Mass at SMM almost daily until his mother died. He then moved southwest. [REDACTED]

Msgr. [REDACTED] (Retired Pastor) - resided at SMM until his death in 1994.

Rev. [REDACTED] (Associate and then Retired Resident) - resided at SMM until his death in 1998 or so. Trained and scheduled the altar boys for many years.

The following is a list of School personnel who might also remember my habits:

Mrs. [REDACTED] (Principal of SMM the whole time I was pastor - now retired): [REDACTED]. She might remember who trained altar boys as a rule - what grades they were chosen from - how the serving schedule was made out.

Mrs. [REDACTED] (teacher and vice principal while I was there - present principal): SMM School [REDACTED] (at least two teachers there in my time who are still at SMM I think - dates of teaching not sure) - Mrs. [REDACTED] (above) or [REDACTED] (below) would have their phone numbers or perhaps they could be given your number and asked to call you. There might be other teachers that were there at that time.

PAGE 3 of 10

Rectory – Most would know of my ordinary habits, including the Wednesday off. Some might remember the Tuesday night away.

Mrs. [REDACTED] (secretary at SMM 1966 to 1982 – retired): [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (secretary of SMM from 1982 to the present) – she has also been a long time SMM parishioner and her four children attended the school – her husband currently also works at the parish, [REDACTED] though he was not working at SMM when I was pastor): SMM Rectory [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Housekeeper - I am not sure of the date when she came to SMM, but she came during my time – cleaned rooms, made beds, etc. – to my knowledge she is still at SMM): SMM Rectory [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Laundress and helped where and when she was needed - she was at SMM my whole time – I believe she still comes once a week to help out): SMM Rectory [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (cook the whole time I was at SMM – she “lived in” until she married – I don’t know the date but it could be obtained – she now works at another rectory in the Archdiocese): [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED] above.

Priests who knew of my Wednesday day off – and frequently overnight from Tuesday afternoon or evening until Wednesday night – [REDACTED] would be most likely to remember the Tuesday night bit. The others certainly know of the Wednesday regularity for many, many years.

Rev. [REDACTED] – cf. above

Rev. [REDACTED] – cf. above

Cmdr. [REDACTED] – cf. above

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Bishop [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

Rev. [REDACTED] – classmate and friend: [REDACTED]

If any of these phone numbers turn out to be wrong – consult the Archdiocesan Directory – all should be listed there.

ANY OF THE ABOVE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING, I THINK, TO TESTIFY AS TO MY INTEGRITY.

OTHERS:

[REDACTED] coach of basketball at St. Ferdinand Church where I was an associate from 1966-75, has indicated a willingness to testify to my integrity. [REDACTED]

People at SJV: Father Charles Fanelli is pastor and I am sure he could get a list of people who would be willing to testify to my integrity. [REDACTED]

PAGE 4 of 10

I also have gotten letters from people who said they would help in any way and I will include them. I would suggest searching the First Communion, Confirmation Books and school records in regard to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - the person [REDACTED] said was present, [REDACTED] I spoke to Father Tom Tivy and he thought that though [REDACTED] had been baptized by him, he did not think [REDACTED] had been raised Catholic or that [REDACTED] had gone to a Catholic School (he was not sure however). Fr. Jim Kaczorowski should know where to reach Father Tom Tivy. The records of SMargaret Mary could be searched to see if he attended SMM school.

In regard to people knowing the name of the person who made the allegation against me, [REDACTED] A man from SMM parish said his grown children (who are contemporaries of [REDACTED] knew the name. He told me the name was [REDACTED] I did not acknowledge that this was correct or not. The parish secretary, [REDACTED] also gave me the correct name. Both were not sure how wide spread it was known in the parish. [REDACTED] also gave me the correct name. The present school principal, [REDACTED] did not know the name.

I question that third or fourth graders were trained as altar boys.

During the time in question, I almost always took Wednesday as my day off and often would go on the Tuesday evening before - returning Wednesday evening or sometimes even Thursday morning.

It am pretty sure it was not our policy to have one altar boy serve the same Mass every week [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I ordinarily did not train altar boys - this was done when I first came by a layman, whose name escapes me at the time - when he became sick and died (of cancer I believe), Father [REDACTED] took over the training and scheduling of altar boys. If I ever trained a boy, it may have been for a funeral or wedding if Father [REDACTED] was not around. I might get altar boys for serving as needed but did not do the ordinary scheduling. Father [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] above might remember about this procedure.

[REDACTED]

There was a parish library beneath the west sacristy room of the church. It was ordinarily locked when not in use, but open at times with a librarian present for the use of parishioners. I did not do anything untoward with him or anyone, as [REDACTED] alleges. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(3 of 3)
PAGE 5 of 10

I am not sure what confessional [REDACTED] was speaking about – whether it was the regular one in church at which there is no gate (only three regular doors). We may have been using the usher's room for face to face confessions at that time where the people in church could not be seen – or the baptistery where there was a gate but where the people in church could not be seen. I did not that I ever did anything untoward at the time of hearing the confession of [REDACTED] either near or in the confessional with him or anyone as [REDACTED] alleges.

[REDACTED]

If [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] he probably started first grade in September 1976; 2nd grade 1977; 3rd grade 1978; 4th grade 1979; 5th grade 1980; 6th grade 1981; 7th grade 1982; 8th grade 1983 – graduating in June of 1984. It is possible the years are off one if he started early or lost a year. Whether he attended Kindergarten could be discerned from records.

I suggest getting a list of his classmates and try to interview them, especially altar boys – as to whether they ever saw a special relationship between him and me – or if they had ever been present at anything untoward as he alleges. Also some may have kept altar boys lists and a search of the years that [REDACTED] was an altar boys might turn up.

I suggest checking bulletins of the past – frequently altar boy schedules were listed in the bulletin.

Old graduation program if kept might have a list of those who received special citations: at one point, we gave out citations to altar boys for their years of service.

I wonder how long he has had this [REDACTED] since it developed in childhood.

I REPEAT:

I repeat that I did not have any special liaison with [REDACTED] at any time before, during or after I was pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish.

[REDACTED]

I do not remember [REDACTED] and I did not do anything untoward to him or to [REDACTED] in his presence.

[REDACTED]

I did not perform any sexual misconduct at any time such as penetration as [REDACTED] alleges.

I did not molest [REDACTED] at any time of his life, including from about 3rd to 8th grades – absolutely no penetration – no anything.

[REDACTED]

PAGE 5 of 10

I, JOSEPH S. THOMAS, DENY THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY [REDACTED] THAT I SEXUALLY ABUSED OR MOLESTED HIM, ALONE OR IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS, IN ANY WAY, AT ANY TIME, IN ANY PLACE, ALONE OR IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS - OR THAT I SEXUALLY ABUSED OR MOLESTED ANYONE IN HIS PRESENCE IN ANY WAY, AT ANY TIME, IN ANY PLACE. I ALSO DENY ALL OF HIS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ME.

AOC 020384

PAGE 7 of 10

Copy of a letter I was thinking of sending to send to [REDACTED] - I would appreciate your comments please as to whether it is advisable, or not, and if so your comments on the contents.

July 3, 2003

Dear [REDACTED]:

~~I am asking you to withdraw your allegations of sexual molestation and abuse against me, Father Joseph S. Thomas. I know that I did not have any special liaison with you while I was pastor. I recall you name and a bit what you looked like, but I do not remember having anything more to do with you than I did with any of the other children in the parish.~~

Your allegations have truly upset my senior years of life. I am 76 years of age and the anxiety, apprehension and even anger has taken a toll on me, not to mention my family.

I don't know if all that you alleged happened to you and you are confusing me with someone else, or if you made all of it up, but I do know that I did not do it.

I have no intention of filing any counter-suit at this time, but if this continues I may have to in order to restore my good name.

I have prayed for you and continue to pray for you and your family. Please think about what you are doing.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph S. Thomas

AOC 020385

PAGE 8 of 10

I HAVE RECEIVED HUNDREDS OF CARDS AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT.***Below are the names and phones of those who indicated specifically a willing to help if needed.***

[REDACTED] - athletic director at St. Ferdinand Parish in Chicago: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - cousin and Attorney at Law - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Fr. [REDACTED] - associate with me at SMM - associate now at St. Thomas Villanova - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - SMM parishioners - he is an attorney - children went to SMM school around the time of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] - secretary at SMM until 1982 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - niece - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - SJV parishioner - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Fr. [REDACTED] - pastor and friend - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - President of SJV Parish Council - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Secretary (in my time and still is) and Building Head at SMM - children went to school around the time of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - parishioner of St. Ferdinand Parish - Office for Peace and Justice [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - parishioner of SMM - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - parishioner of SMM and Attorney at Law - children went to school around the time of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - parishioner of SMM - children went to school around the time of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Catholic Theological Society of America - former parishioner of SMM - children went to school around the time of [REDACTED] - Office [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - former SMM altar server (1981) and former parishioner - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - associate with me at SMM (left priesthood and married) - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - one time parishioner of SMM (altar server and graduate of SMM school in 1979)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - nephew - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - brother - [REDACTED] or c/o [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - nephew - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - resident with me at SMM - (left priesthood and married) - [REDACTED]

AOC 020386

PAGE 9 of 10

THE FOLLOWING PAGE IS A COPY OF AN ALTAR SERVER LIST FROM THE TIME THAT [REDACTED] ALLEGES THE ABUSE TOOK PLACE.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE FOLLOWING PAGE:

1) It is the only Altar Boy List from SMM that I could find, probably since I did not ordinarily train or assign altar boys. I do have lists of altar servers and many other groups (Parish Council, Holy Name, Ladies Groups, etc.) from SMM and other parishes in which I served through the years.

2) I sent the list to the present parish secretary, who looked up the names and wrote the year of their graduation from SMM Parish School. The ones without dates probably attended public school.

3) The upper group consists of those who were in the parish school at the time. The ones in the lower group would be high-schoolers.

4) The group graduated in 1981 would be 8th graders – the next group 1982, would be 7th graders – the next group 1983, would be 6th graders. There does not seem to be anyone listed lower than 6th grade. This would support my memory of training altar boys from 6th grade up.

5) One of the persons who were named by [REDACTED] as a witness is [REDACTED] – on the list as having graduated in 1983. According to our figuring, [REDACTED] would have graduated in 1984. Though that is not yet confirmed.

6) [REDACTED] NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE LIST AS A SERVER. [REDACTED]

7) It is possible some of these persons or their parents might still live at the same address and have the same phone number – 773 would be the area code.

8) It is possible that some old lists of altar servers still exist at the parish in their files, or schedules – sometimes the names of servers for a week are listed in a parish bulletin. It might be worthwhile looking at the bulletins back in the early 80's for a search of [REDACTED] name and any other information that might be present if his name does appear.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements the statement prepared by Fr. Joseph Thomas, providing various defenses to the allegations of sexual abuse made by Victim KV, as well as providing the names of witnesses who might be called upon to support Thomas's story. Thomas provides very specific descriptions of places and events, which he states disprove the allegations made by Victim KV.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312)751-5205
1-800-994-6200
Fax (312)751-5279

July 8, 2003

Fr. Joseph Thomas



COPY
of an original document from the files of
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

This is a red ink stamp!
DO NOT COPY

Dear Fr. Thomas,

Enclosed you will find documentation regarding the newly revised Monitoring Protocols. Fr. James Kaczorowski will be contacting you in the near future to schedule a meeting so that the three of us may discuss and review the enclosed information. Fr. Daniel Smilanic, Promoter of Justice and Delegate to the Cardinal, will also be present at the meeting to address any canonical questions.

I have also enclosed a copy of the most recent policies and procedures, *1100 Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance to Victims and Procedures for Determination of Fitness for Ministry*. A newly revised copy of the policies and procedures are to be effective on July 15, 2003 and as a result, are not yet available.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns:

Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312 751-5205, office
312 751-5279, fax
lmcccluskey@arhcchicago.org

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosures

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Vince Bertrand, J.C.L., Canonical Advocate

AOC 020389

TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

July 8, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Attention: Leah McCloskey
Archdiocese of Chicago
676 N. St. Clair
Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

RECEIVED

JUL 11 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

Re: Father Joseph Thomas

Dear Ms. McCloskey:

I am happy to have the opportunity to write on behalf of Father Joseph Thomas. I have known Father Joe all my life. I am fifty-four. My mother and Father Joe were cousins. I have seen him at family functions, such as picnics and parties. Most of the time, Father Joe organized these family events. He has shown me through his example the importance of family. He has been a guest in my home. I have celebrated mass with him on numerous occasions. At all times he has been the embodiment of a holy man.

When my parents were in nursing homes, I called Father Joe to administer the last rights. It would not have seemed proper for me to call anyone else to be responsible for such an important task. When I called him, he only wanted to know where and when. My parents died three weeks apart. Father Joe celebrated both funeral masses, and I credit him with helping my family through that difficult period.

When I got married, I called Father Joe. Again, such a special occasion required a special man. My wife and I just celebrated our eighteenth year of marriage.

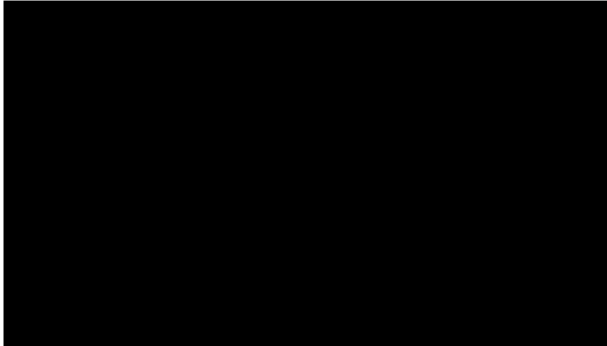
Not long ago, my wife and three boys and I were privileged to attend Father Joe's golden anniversary in the priesthood. I observed a room filled with friends, some who had flown in from around the country. One elderly lady in a wheel chair said she would not have missed the event for anything. She had flown in from Nevada. It was very moving to see that Father Joe is special to so many people.

As an attorney, I know that it is hard to disprove a negative. The trier of fact will observe the various witnesses, and weigh their character. From my personal observations, Father Joe Thomas has a fifty year track record to being a holy man as well as a great friend.

AOC 020390

Re: Father Joseph Thomas
—page 2—

Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions.



RECEIVED

JUL 11 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

AOC 020391

STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:

[REDACTED]
Parish Secretary
Saint Margaret Mary Rectory
2324 West Chase Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60645-1810
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

APR 18 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

[REDACTED] parish secretary at Saint Margaret Mary Church, informed me she was aware of the allegations being made against Father Joseph Thomas. She said is employed as a secretary at Saint Margaret Mary Church Rectory. She told me she has worked at the Rectory since 1978. She began working as a clerk and became secretary in 1982.

[REDACTED] said Father Thomas arrived at Saint Margaret Mary Parish on January 8, 1976. She said to the best of her recollection, Father Thomas was off every Wednesday. She said Father Thomas had a summer home in the Antioch, Illinois area. It is her recollection Father Thomas went to his summer home just about every Wednesday. [REDACTED] said it is her recollection on most Wednesdays, Father Thomas was gone before she arrived at work on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m.

[REDACTED] said it is her recollection there were frequent occasions Father Thomas left Tuesday evening to go to his summer home.

[REDACTED] said Father Thomas was not one to socialize with children. She said he was a very private person. [REDACTED] said to this day she does not know the individuals with whom Father Thomas socialized while at Saint Margaret Mary Parish. [REDACTED] said it is her recollection Father Thomas had a small circle of friends. It is her recollection, some of his friends did go to Father Thomas' cottage.

[REDACTED] said there at the time Father Thomas was at Saint Margaret Mary Parish, there were three weekday morning Masses. The Masses are at 6:30 a.m., 7:15 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. [REDACTED] said it is her recollection the altar servers were scheduled for a week of weekday Masses at the same time each day. For instance, the same two servers would serve at the 6:30 a.m. Mass Monday through Friday.

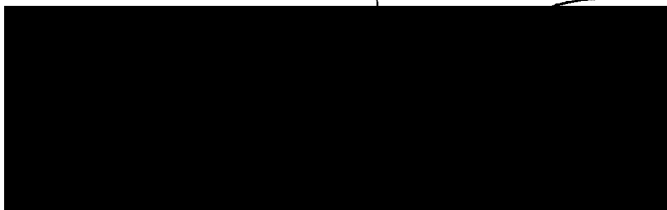
[REDACTED] said [REDACTED] who is now deceased, trained the altar servers. She said Father Thomas did not train the altar servers.

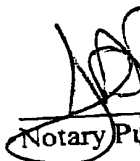
[REDACTED] said she left work each day at 5:00 p.m. Typically, on Wednesdays, Father Thomas' day off, he had not returned by the time she left for the day. [REDACTED] said if there was a student with whom Father Thomas was close, she would have known.

The above statement was taken by telephone on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 by the undersigned.

John D. Rea
Private Investigator

The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms her agreement with what is stated therein.



 "OFFICIAL SEAL"
John D. Rea
Notary Public, State of Illinois
My Commission Expires: 11-18-07
Notary Public

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:

[REDACTED]
Principal – Retired
Saint Margaret Mary Grammar School

[REDACTED] informed me she was the principal at Saint Margaret Mary Grammar School from 1972 through her retirement in 1997. [REDACTED] met Father Joseph Thomas in approximately January of 1976. Her recollection is Father Thomas had Wednesdays off. [REDACTED] said Father Thomas usually went golfing up north near his summer home. [REDACTED] said Father Thomas had a regular group of golfing buddies.

[REDACTED] did not recall if Father Thomas served Wednesday morning Mass. She did recall there were occasions Father Thomas left the Church on Tuesday night to go up north. [REDACTED] said there were three daily Masses on weekdays. Her best recollection is altar servers were children from the sixth through eighth grades. She thought at some point fifth graders were allowed to be servers due to the lack of candidates from the upper grades. [REDACTED] said Father O'Shea conducted training for the altar servers.

[REDACTED] said Father Thomas never took trips with any of the altar servers or other students. She stated she never saw Father Thomas alone with any student. She did remember Father O'Shea taking trips to the seminary with some of the altar servers. She said Father O'Shea may have taken some to Cubs' games.

[REDACTED] said she never saw Father Thomas wearing blue jeans. [REDACTED] said she is only vaguely familiar with the name of the alleged victim. She said he and his family must not have been involved in school matters as she would have remembered the name.

[REDACTED] said she heard there was a tunnel below the school. She never saw the tunnel in her 25 years at the school. There was a story that used to be told about a Monsignor Faring (phonetic) and a bear in the tunnel. She did not remember the story but remembered it was circulating around the school during her time as principal.

The above statement was taken by telephone on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 by the undersigned.

John D. Rea
Private Investigator

The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms her agreement with what is stated therein.

[REDACTED]
"OFFICIAL SEAL"
John D. Rea
Notary Public, State of Illinois
Notary Public My Commission Exp. 11/18/2007 commission expires: 11-18-07

AOC 020394

APR 1 2 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:



_____ said he was an associate pastor at Saint Margaret Mary Parish from 1976 through 1983. He said he met Father Joseph Thomas in 1976. _____ said he has since left the priesthood. He remembered Father Thomas and Father O'Shea were both off on Wednesdays during the entire time he was at Saint Margaret Mary Parish. _____ said Father Thomas and Father O'Shea treasured their day off.

_____ said Father Thomas generally went to his cottage. He remembered Father Thomas leaving on Tuesday evening on many occasions. He remembered Father Thomas often returned on Thursday morning. To the best of his recollection, Father Thomas never presided over a Wednesday morning Mass if it was his day off. _____ said there were six priests at Saint Margaret Mary Parish while he was there. Typically, there were enough priests to cover the Wednesday Masses in Father Thomas' absence.

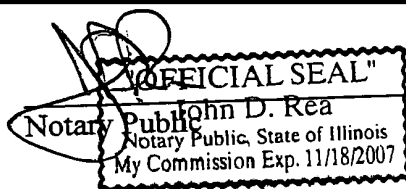
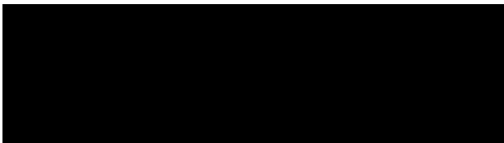
_____ said he did not recall names of the altar servers that assisted him during his time at Saint Margaret Mary Parish. He said Father O'Shea was responsible for training the altar servers.

_____ said Father Thomas is a good person. He said Father Thomas is the type of person who would never do anything to upset anyone. _____ said Father Thomas was not comfortable around children.

The above statement was taken by telephone on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 by the undersigned.

John D. Rea
Private Investigator

The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms his agreement with what is stated therein.



My commission expires: 11-18-07

RECEIVED

APR 1 19 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS

STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:

Reverend [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reverend [REDACTED] told me he has known Father Joseph Thomas since they were ordained 50 years ago. Reverend [REDACTED] said he has remained a close friend of Father Thomas. He said they usually golfed together on their day off. Reverend [REDACTED] said to the best of his recollection, Father Thomas, when at Saint Margaret Mary Parish, had Wednesdays off.

Reverend [REDACTED] said he and Father Thomas golfed on Wednesdays during the time Father Thomas was at Saint Margaret Mary Parish. He said they golfed near Antioch, Illinois, where Father Thomas had his summer home.

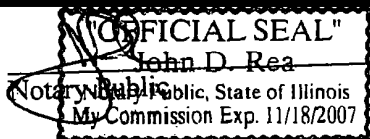
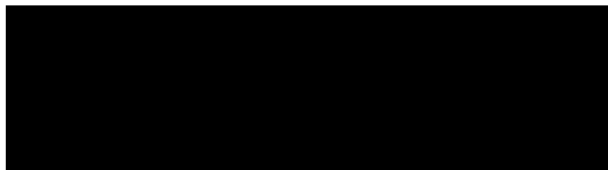
Reverend [REDACTED] said years ago he recalled Father Thomas would come up to the Antioch area on Tuesday nights. He said to the best of his recollection, Father Thomas came up to the Antioch area on Tuesday nights when Father Thomas was at Saint Margaret Mary Parish.

Reverend [REDACTED] said he can not recall ever seeing Father Thomas wearing blue jeans. He said he does not believe the allegations being made against Father Thomas. He said Father Thomas is not that type of person. Reverend [REDACTED] said he would be willing to help Father Thomas any way he could.

The above statement was taken by telephone on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 by the undersigned.

John D. Rea
Private Investigator

The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms his agreement with what is stated therein.



(My commission expires: 11-18-07)

AOC 020396

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611




(312)751-5205
1-800-994-6200
Fax (312)751-5279

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of an original document from the files of
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

This is a red ink stamp!
DO NOT COPY

July 8, 2003

Fr. Joseph Thomas


Dear Fr. Thomas,

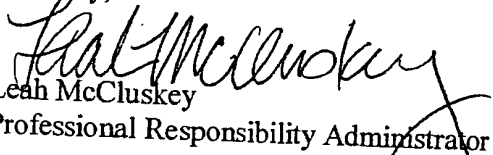
Enclosed you will find documentation regarding the newly revised Monitoring Protocols. Fr. James Kaczorowski will be contacting you in the near future to schedule a meeting so that the three of us may discuss and review the enclosed information. Fr. Daniel Smilanic, Promoter of Justice and Delegate to the Cardinal, will also be present at the meeting to address any canonical questions.

I have also enclosed a copy of the most recent policies and procedures, *1100 Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance to Victims and Procedures for Determination of Fitness for Ministry*. A newly revised copy of the policies and procedures are to be effective on July 15, 2003 and as a result, are not yet available.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns:

Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312 751-5205, office
312 751-5279, fax
lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosures

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Vince Bertrand, J.C.L., Canonical Advocate

AOC 020397

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APR 13 2004

STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Bishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocese of Chicago
Pastoral Center
Vicar General
1555 North State Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60610-1613
(312) 751-8271

Bishop [REDACTED] informed me he has known Father Joseph Thomas since both attended high school seminary in 1940. He said they became close friends at Mundelein in approximately 1945.

Bishop [REDACTED] said as long as he has known him, Father Thomas has taken off Wednesdays. He said typically, Father Thomas would spend his Wednesdays off up at the residence owned by Father Thomas, Bishop [REDACTED] and a number of their classmates in Lake Villa, Illinois. Bishop [REDACTED] said he often went to the residence. Bishop [REDACTED] said he often drove up on Tuesday evenings. He said Father Thomas often drove up on Tuesday evening as well. Usually, Father Thomas and Bishop [REDACTED] would grab a hamburger up north around 10:00 p.m. He said other priests would sometimes join them on Tuesday evenings. Bishop [REDACTED] said he and the others would stay overnight at the cottage and spend Wednesdays there. He said Father Thomas liked to golf. They would have dinner on Wednesday evening and then return to their parishes or assignments in the Chicago area.

Bishop [REDACTED] said, more often than not, he was able to spend his Wednesdays off with Father Thomas up in Lake Villa. Bishop [REDACTED] said he is reasonably certain Father Thomas, during the late 1970's and early 1980's spent his Wednesdays off in Lake Villa.

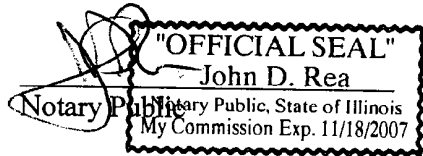
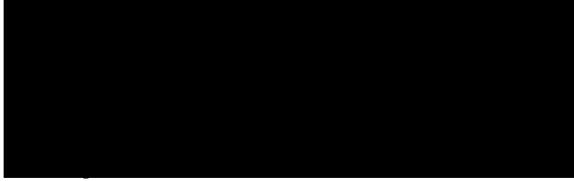
Bishop [REDACTED] said he just did not notice if Father Thomas ever wore blue jeans.

The above statement was taken by telephone on Thursday, July 10, 2003 by the undersigned.

John D. Rea
Private Investigator

AOC 020398

The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms his agreement with what is stated therein.



(My commission expires: 11-18-07)



July 11, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Suite 1910
676 North St. Clair St.
Chicago, Illinois
60611

Attention: Leah McCluskey

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JUL 15 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

This letter is in regard to the abuse allegation someone has generated against my brother, Rev Joseph S. Thomas, Jr.

Why someone has accused him of something that may have happened many years back, is beyond my understanding! It, also to date, has taken a year out of a priest's life at an age when he should be enjoying retirement, and positively interacting in his late years now with his great nieces and great nephew, and other family members and friends.

Father Joe and I are close in age, about four years separate us, and from the time he and I were little boys, I can recall him saying nothing other than he was going to be a priest when he grew up! No ifs, ands, or buts about this! He taught me how to serve Mass in the late 1930's, and we even had an altar in our room, made by him, with cut out dolls for priests, and full sets of vestments for the different liturgies. He was the pastor and I was the assistant, and of course he had a full schedule of services prepared for us each week.

When growing up, we had wonderful friends in our Berwyn, Illinois neighborhood, that were nothing but a positive influence on both of our lives. It was an ecumenical neighborhood ahead of its time. We had a mixture of all nationalities and religions, and a great group of boys and some girls too, that played and interacted in a very friendly manner. We had wonderful childhood experiences, with great parents, as were the parents of our friends, God rest all their souls. Our grammar school education came from one of the top schools in the Archdiocesan system, St. Leonard in Berwyn, which in those days was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph out of LaGrange.

We even had our own baseball field, where in the summer we would play 16 inch baseball from morning to night, and tag football in the fall! I can still remember seeing Father Joe running to one of our late spring Saturday afternoon baseball games, to get "in", after a school day's work at Quigley downtown. He was always needed in a game, since he was the fastest runner in our group, and certainly could cover ground in the outfield! Today, his arthritic knees preclude him from long walks, much less running. I always kid him that the bad knees in his later years now are a result of all that "kneeling and genuflecting".



AOC 020400

It's difficult for me to believe that this alleged abuse accusation holds any water! Father Joe has always been a very unassuming, laid back individual, who always relates well with people, and has been a positive influence in many lives, whenever and wherever I have seen him interacting with them; and this goes back almost 70 years now! I certainly have never seen nor heard of his having any sexual problem within or outside the family with children, or adults of either sex, in the 70 years that I have known him. It may be that he is being attacked because someone is taking advantage of his easy going, personable nature. To be honest with you, he is not a fighter.

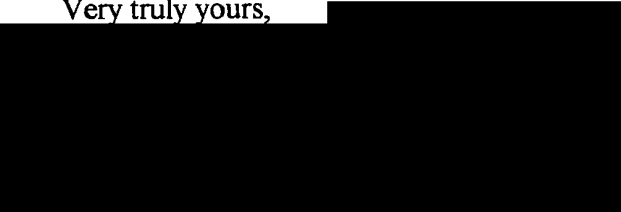
I have a parish priest here from India who told me a story about an Indian priest from his area in the Diocese of Ujjain. This priest was getting out of a taxi when the Hindu driver hit him on the side of the face, and knocked him down as he was going to pay him. He gave the driver the money and the driver hit him again on the other side of the face, when the priest got up the second time, he proceeded to knock the heck out of the man! The driver said he thought that Christ taught everyone to love their enemies and turn the other cheek. The priest told the driver that Christ didn't say how many times you had to turn the other cheek!

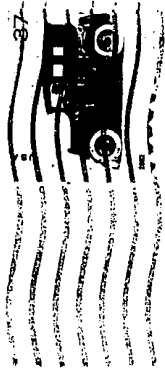
This reminds me of Father Joe, since I believe he would turn the other cheek, again, again, again, and again, ad infinitum!

By the way, my parish priest is in the order of the Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle. St. Thomas is believed to be buried in India.

In any event, these are some of my observations about the problem that may be relevant to the board's decision, when Father Joe's case is reviewed again.

Very truly yours,



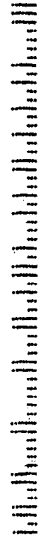


0/b1

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Suite 1910
676 North St. Clair St.
Chicago, Illinois
60611

Attention: Leah McCluskey

60611X2956 0006



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility
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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

July 11, 2003

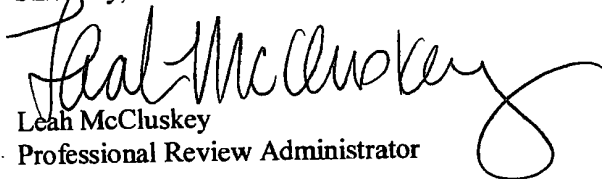
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

As the Auditor whom you appointed in accord with Canon 1717 to conduct a Preliminary Investigation into the allegations of sexual abuse of minors that have been made against the Rev. Joseph Thomas, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, I would like to inform you that the investigation has not yet been completed. Once the aforementioned investigation is completed I will forward my recommendations to you for your determination in this matter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Review Administrator

*Accepted July 15, 2003
F Ar*

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

AOC 020403



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JUL 15 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

JULY 11, 2003

PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW BOARD
ATTENTION: LEAH MCCLOSKEY
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
676 N. CLAIR
SUITE 1910
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

RE: FATHER JOSEPH THOMAS

DEAR MS. MCCLOSKEY -

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF FATHER JOSEPH THOMAS. FATHER JOE AND I ARE SECOND COUSINS ON MY MOTHERS SIDE OF THE FAMILY. I HAVE KNOW HIM FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULT LIFE. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAMILY ORIENTATED. WHEN I THINK OF A PRIEST THE IMAGE OF FATHER JOE ALWAYS COMES TO MIND.

I WAS OUTRAGED WHEN I HEARD OF THE RIDICULOUS ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST FATHER JOE. WHEN MAKING YOUR DECISION I WOULD ONLY HOPE THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER FATHER JOE'S TOTAL CAREER AS A PRIEST AND THE POSITIVE AFFECT HE HAS HAD ON SO MANY FAMILIES INCLUDING MINE.

THE ONLY CONCLUSION YOU CAN COME TO IS THE RIDICULOUS CHARGES ARE UNFOUNDED.

VERY TRULY YOURS,



AOC 020404

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JUL 16 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW



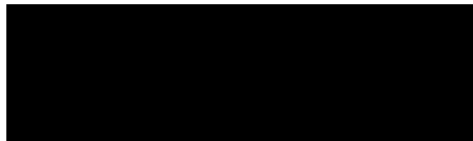
7/13/03

Ref: Fr. Thomas

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family has been a parishioner at St. John Vianney in Northlake, Illinois for 15 years with 4 altar boys. We have always found Fr. Thomas a wonderful priest without ever any complaint by any of our sons. Only positive remarks and comments about Fr. Thomas and his priestly work. Fr. Thomas also says beautiful funeral Masses as well.

Regards,



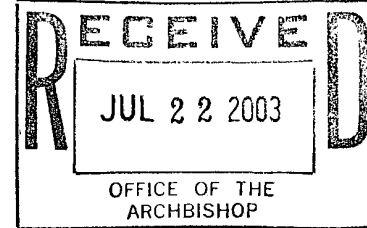
AOC 020405

Send To: Archdiocese of Chicago
Subject: Canonical Case of Fr. Joseph Thomas

- Bill Jachet
- Rev. Fiala

Cardinal Francis George
Archdiocese of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Fr. Vincent E. Bertrand, JLL
1235 E. Guinevere "C"
Springfield, MO 65804



July 14, 2003

Dear Cardinal George:

Greetings in Christ! I am forwarding to you the preliminary defense statement for Fr. Joseph Thomas, an incardinated priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago currently under investigation for sexual misconduct.

Fr. Thomas has provided an excellent personal statement responding to the allegation and evidence in his case. We ask that the Archdiocese seriously consider Fr. Thomas' personal statement in making a decision on this case. Fr. Thomas has also submitted a list of several formal and character witnesses who are willing to provide witness statements for his defense. We ask that the Archdiocese take time to interview these witnesses before making a decision on this case. If the Archdiocese fails to interview these witnesses, we will make note of this in our remarks to the Holy See.

As Fr. Thomas' canonical Advocate, I would like to ask that the Archdiocese consider the following remarks:

1) In his August 29, 2002 interview with the Archdiocese, [REDACTED] alleged that Fr. Thomas sexually abused him from the time he was in third or fourth grade through the eighth grade. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Fr. Thomas strongly denies this allegation. It is completely unbelievable that such incidents in a public setting could take place on several occasions and not be noticed by anyone else in the church. This allegation is most serious as it involves not only alleged sexual abuse of a minor (canon 1395.2), but also a violation of canon 1387. [REDACTED] should be made aware that if he is making false allegations in regard to these incidents, he could face the penalty in canon 1390.1.

2) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Fr. Thomas has strongly denied this incident. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] should be made aware that if he is making a false allegation about this incident, he could face the penalties in canon 1390.2 and canon 1390.3.

3)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Again, Fr. Thomas strongly denies participation in such incidents. [REDACTED] should again be made aware that if he is making a false allegation about these incidents, he could face the penalties in canon 1390.2 and canon 1390.3.

4)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] should again be made aware that if he is making a false allegation about this incident, he could face the penalties in canon 1390.2 and canon 1390.3.

5)

6)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] should again be warned that if he is making a false allegation here, he could face the penalties in canon 1390.2 and canon

7)

Again, it is simply unbelievable that such sexual abuse would take place on so many occasions and no one would ever notice. It must also again be asked why [REDACTED] would continue to maintain contact with Fr. Thomas if he was being sexually abused by Fr. Thomas. [REDACTED] should again be warned that if he is making a false allegation here, he could face the penalties in canon 1390.2 and canon 1390.3.

8) It must be pointed out that it is not for Fr. Thomas to prove that he is innocent of these allegations by [REDACTED]. It is for [REDACTED] to show why he believes Fr. Thomas is guilty of the allegations. It must also be pointed out that Fr. Thomas has worked with many young people during his many years of priestly ministry, and that [REDACTED] is the only person who has ever accused Fr. Thomas of sexual abuse. If Fr. Thomas was sexually abusing minors, why has only one person come forward with an allegation? Most experts on sexual abuse of minors make it clear that those who sexually abuse minors most often abuse more than one minor.

9) It must also be pointed out that the canonical statute of limitations on the allegations in this case have long ago expired. In relation to this point, it must be asked why [REDACTED] waited so many years to report such alleged abuse to the Archdiocese. [REDACTED] provides various reasons why he did not report the incidents when he was still a minor. However, the fact is that he did not report the alleged abuse for many years even after he became an adult. This fact should raise serious questions about the veracity and credibility of the allegation.

[REDACTED]

However, it does not appear that there is any canonical basis at this time for permanently removing Fr. Thomas from all public ministry in the future. We would recommend that Fr. Thomas be allowed retirement with limited faculties in the Archdiocese.

11) Fr. Thomas is an elderly priest. If the Archdiocese determines that the allegations against him are credible, we ask that the Archdiocese not even consider an imposed laicization procedure due to his advanced age. This is clearly in line with the recommendation of the U.S. Charter and Essential Norms.

We would like to express sincere appreciation to the staff of the Archdiocese for the very professional way in which they have handled this case. Thank you for your kind consideration of this preliminary defense statement. If you need further information, please contact Fr. Thomas or myself. With my prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Vincent E. Bertrand

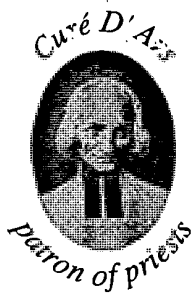
Rev. Vincent E. Bertrand, JCL
Canonical Advocate for Fr. Thomas



cc: Fr. James Kaczorowski
Ms. Leah McCluskey

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a letter from Fr. Vincent E. Bertrand, canonical advocate for Fr. Joseph Thomas to Cardinal Francis George, dated July 14, 2003, forwarding a preliminary defense statement to the Archdiocese of Chicago, in response to Victim KV's allegations of sexual abuse. According to the letter, Victim KV alleged he was abused by Thomas at St. Margaret Mary parish from the fourth to eighth grades, in the 1980s. Victim KV stated the abuse included genital fondling and oral sex. In his letter, Fr. Bertrand argues that many aspects of Victim KV's allegation are unbelievable, such as the frequency with which the abuse was alleged to have occurred, and specific locations where the abuse was said to have taken place.



ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

46 N. Wolf Road, Northlake, Illinois 60164-1669, 708/562-0500

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JUL 16 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

14 July 2003

Dear Professional Fitness Review Board,

I am happy to be able to write a note concerning Father Joseph Thomas. He has been an associate pastor and then the retired helper at St. John Vianney since 1988. We have become good friends and I look up to him as a hero in his priestly service.

Father Thomas has made it his ministry to visit the sick and to celebrate funerals. He has met many people in the context of visiting the sick in the hospitals and nursing homes and in their own homes. He is so well loved because of this personal service, care for which he has won nothing but the undying thanks and respect from very many families.

Families have taken to Father Thomas also. Often the young children would wait for him in the back of the church after Mass. Father often would have a toy or a joke for them or he would wiggle their arm when a little one would shake his hand. They would laugh and come back again the next Sunday for another visit.

Among the altar boys, the teenage boys and girls who work at the rectory, the children in the school and religious education program, the boys and girls in the Athletic Association, there has never been a single incident of concern. Rather all the children love him as a lovable grandfather priest and their parents love him the same for all the good he does with everyone.

I hope you get a sense of how well loved and appreciated Father Thomas has been to this faith community. You only have to stand in the back of church each weekend as people of all ages come up to ask how is he doing and when is he coming home. The steady stream of cards and letters to him has not stopped.

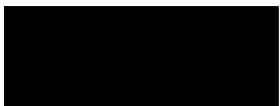
Please give him back to the people who love him so much!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Charles Janelli

Pastor

AOC 020411



July 14, 2003

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
676 North St. Clair St., Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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JUL 17 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

I am writing this letter in support for my uncle, Father Joseph Thomas. I urge the Board to make every fair and reasonable effort to clear his name and eradicate the contemptible charges that have been brought against him as soon as possible.

I have obviously known Uncle Joe since I was a child. Many adjectives come to mind when I think of him – gentle, compassionate, loving, reverent, fun-loving, and conscientious are just a few. He has been a tremendous influence on the family. His high moral standards and deep religious beliefs have been exemplary. Since he was a child, his life's desire was to enter the priesthood. He truly exemplifies what it means to be a minister of God and knows no other life. He has helped our family through many difficult times – the terminal illness of my mother and my aunt, the sudden death of my mother-in-law and a close cousin – to name a few. Without his support and prayerful guidance, we would not have navigated those trying times nearly as well. Over the years, I have also had the opportunity to attend many social gatherings at Father Joe's parishes. In their words and actions, I could tell that Joe had the same inspirational impact on countless others.

Uncle Joe was a big part of my life growing up. He was always giving of his time and himself. He was the "fun" uncle. He loved playing games with us and was full of surprises. He would take us on vacations, whether that was a long weekend in Wisconsin or several days in Colorado. My brothers, too, would spend the night at the rectory with him on occasion. He was there for every birthday, holiday, graduation, etc. We have nothing but fond memories. Even though I live several hours away now, Uncle Joe has always made an effort to come visit me and my family.

As you might expect, he has given the Sacraments special meaning to the family. He has married and baptized two generations now. This year, my youngest daughter made her First Holy Communion. Due to this unfortunate situation, Uncle Joe was unable to attend. That was the first time he has not been part of a religious event in the family. It was very disappointing. We, and especially my daughter, missed him very much.

I love my Uncle Joe and my opinions of him are naturally biased. But, I also know him better than most and I can tell you that he is incapable of hurting anyone, whether physically or emotionally. I urge you, again, to resolve this situation as quickly as possible and clear Fr. Thomas' name. He is not a threat to society. He is a gentle, loving man who deserves to spend the last years of his life with his family and his friends. He has devoted his whole life to serving others and God. It both saddens and infuriates me to see him ostracized and humiliated. While I have not been privy to the details of his case, I cannot believe that justice is being served right now.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,



AOC 020412

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JUL 15 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

July 14, 2003

Leah R. McCluskey
Professional Fitness and Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
676 N. St. Clair
Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

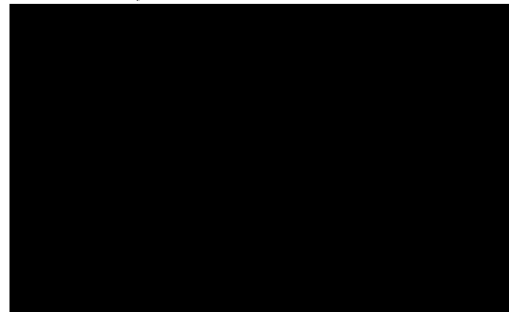
Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Father Joseph Thomas.

During the late 60's and early 70's, 7 of my 10 children were in St. Ferdinand's Grammar School. Father Thomas played a major role in their lives. From supervising them as altar boys to assisting them in earning Eagle Scout badges in Boy Scouts. He also helped with Girl Scouts and Marian Awards. Father could always be counted on to be an inspiration through his good example. Father Thomas was present in good times and in bad. He is a credit to the priesthood.

In these troubled days in our Church, we need to support men such as Father Thomas.

Sincerely,



AOC 020413

July 15, 2003

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JUL 21 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

To whom it may concern,

We want to express our great concern for Fr. Thomas and the unfounded situation that he is in.

We and our six children have been members of St. John Vianney for more than 10 years now. Our oldest son was 10 then and immediately became an altar boy. About 4 years later his brother also became an altar boy and they have been serving every week, (daily and on Sundays) ever since then. They've served for Fr. Thomas often and have always talked highly of him.

He has always been extremely friendly with our children; the young ones and the teenagers; but never close to being ungentlemanly (out of line).

We hope that our testimony will help to convince you of his upstanding and holy conduct.

Sincerely



Illustration/Design



AOC 020414

[REDACTED]

July 15, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Attention: Leah McCluskey
676 North St. Clair St., Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

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JUL 17 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

To the Members of the Chicago Archdiocese Professional Fitness Review Board:

Highest integrity. Strong character. Utmost humanitarian. These are just some of the words that describe my uncle, Fr. Joseph S. Thomas.

Last year, our extended family and friends celebrated Fr. Thomas' golden anniversary of priesthood. We were so very privileged to share this special occasion with him. For more than 50 years, he has provided a tremendous service to the communities and parishes he has served through administering sacraments, serving as counselor, and providing his unique insight – and humor – to life and everyday situations. Not only have his parishioners been extremely grateful for what he has brought to their lives, but as my uncle, I can personally attest to his immense strength of character, deep care and concern for his fellow man, and the tremendous amount of spirituality, love and support he has given my family.

For the past 34 years, Fr. Thomas has been the best, most supportive uncle I could ever ask for. Of course he's the one who baptized me ... gave me my first Communion at a combined glorious celebration with his 25th anniversary of priesthood ... confirmed me ... married me and my husband, [REDACTED] .. and, most recently, baptized my daughters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. What an incredible honor it has been to have him administer all of these sacraments to my family and me. Indeed, Fr. Thomas is the "pillar" of our family.

But even more importantly, it's those intangible things that he has brought to my life that are, simply put, immeasurable. His incredible sense of humor ... his extreme gentle soul ... his daily actions of true selflessness and empathy for others ... his unique insight on world events that, no matter what, always makes you feel more at peace.

As you review his case, please know that Fr. Thomas is a person of incredible character ... strength ... and commitment to God and the Church. The dedication to the vows he took when he became a priest more than a half century ago have never been stronger. I am so incredibly proud to have Fr. Thomas as my uncle, especially when I think of how many lives he has touched with his pastoral duties through the decades – including mine.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

AOC 020415

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

July 15, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
676 N. St. Claire
Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Board:

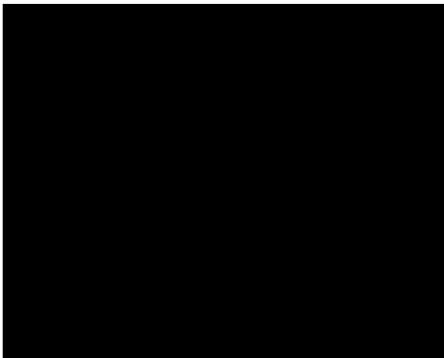
I am writing to attest to my faith in the good character of Fr. Joseph Thomas.

As a parishioner at St. John Vianney Parish for several years I have had opportunity to interact with Fr. Thomas in a variety of circumstances: Mass, his excellent homilies, confession and various parish events and meetings. My son served him at Mass as an altar boy on many occasions.

Fr. Thomas is a wonderful and holy priest. His presence at the parish is deeply missed and I have yet to encounter a parishioner who does not believe he is totally innocent of the charges of abuse that were brought against him. In fact, were this not such a serious charge, the suggestion would be laughable.

I hate to think of suffering to which Fr. Thomas has been subjected over the past months. I hope that you will quickly resolve this issue in his favor and return him to a parish that will welcome him with love and joy.

Thank you and God Bless,



AOC 020416

[REDACTED]

July 16, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Leah McCluskey
676 N. St. Claire, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been parishioners of St. John Vianney Parish in Northlake Illinois since 1980. We have always been actively involved at the parish. We've known Fr. Joseph Thomas since his arrival at St. John Vianney. We see him more than just on Sundays because of our volunteer activities and involvement in parish life. His absence over the past year has been very hard on us. We sincerely miss him!

During this past year since Fr. Thomas has been gone we have been praying for his return. [REDACTED] our eight year old, misses going to confession to him and his friendly handshake. [REDACTED] our seventeen year old, misses his cheerful whistling as he comes and goes. [REDACTED] misses Father doing the novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual help on Tuesday evening.

[REDACTED] works at the rectory on [REDACTED] evenings as the receptionist. [REDACTED] have also performed this duty over the past eight years. Father Thomas was often the only one in the rectory with them. As parents we never had any reason to be concerned. He often greeted us as we picked our children up. He was always attired as a priest, even in the rectory. He was always friendly yet reserved. Father has been to our home to celebrate first communion. Father Thomas has always been a gentleman. He remembers all of the rectory staff at Christmas time with appropriate gifts. [REDACTED] recalls that he was always generous to needy people that stopped at the rectory looking for food or cash. He often provided cash from his own pocket. She was comforted that Father Thomas was there when she worked. She recalls that he pushed for tighter security

for the teens that worked in the evening thus facilitating the office remodeling.

Father Thomas was generous with his time also. He often made sick calls. He liked watching sports. He would interrupt his viewing when requested to hear a confession. [REDACTED] recalls how helpful he was looking up bible verses on his computer the year we rented biblical animals for our Vacation Bible School. He often participated, upon request, with the children ages four through thirteen of the Vacation Bible School. He was always friendly, priestly and fatherly. He also was wonderful coming up with Saint biographies to support the annual All Saints day party. His enthusiasm for computer work and digital photography made him an interesting person for people of all ages to talk with.

Father Thomas is a wonderful priest. He has good advice, common sense and a great love of God that comes through in his dealings with all people. We love him. We have always found him to be gentle, generous, and meriting the greatest of trust.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]

July 16, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Leah McCluskey
676 N. St. Claire, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

To Whom It May Concern:
Re: Father Joseph Thomas

Dear Mr. McCluskey:

In response to the accusation of Father Joseph Thomas, please accept my testimony. In this day of turmoil in the Roman Catholic Church, accusations have been constantly thrown to the priesthood. Some of them are valid and correct, and some are not. It is obvious to me that Father Joseph Thomas has been falsely accused of improper sexual misconduct. Nothing could be further from the truth. He always maintained a professional and caring concern for all. My son, [REDACTED] was an altar boy for 10 years and served Mass with Father Thomas. Believe me, I would be aware if anything unfortunate happened to my son. We have a close and open communication between us.

I have been in the St. John Vianney Parish for nearly 25 years. When Father Thomas came to St. John Vianney, I have always witnessed him to be one of our "best priests". He, in spite of his age, and not always moving that well, **always** came and administered to the sick in our community and parish. Father Thomas was always there when you needed him.

When I was in the hospital last year [REDACTED] Father Thomas came every day to give me communion. When I was released from the hospital, Father Thomas came to my home, gave me communion, and prayed for me. When he visited me, he always thought of his parishioners, and also asked me to remember them in my prayers. Father Thomas was always unselfish. He took his role as a priest seriously; whether administering to the sick, giving Last Rights, or at Mass.

It is most unfair and unfortunate that Father Thomas has suffered. He is not one who deserves this, and I feel strongly that this is comparable to Cardinal Bernadine's accusations. I pray that Father Joseph Thomas will once again walk with his head held high, that his name is once and for all cleared, and that his suffering ceases. The real truth must now be heard. If you need further information or additional testimony, please feel free to contact me. Thank you and God bless you.

Most Sincerely, [REDACTED]

P.S. My son & I can be a witness for a future hearing.

AOC 020419

Letitia M. Paradowicz



RECEIVED

JUL 18 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

July 16, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Leah McCluskey
676 N. St. Claire, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

To the Professional Fitness Review Board:

It is a privilege for me to write this letter in support of Father Joseph Thomas. I met Father Thomas many years ago when he arrived at St. John Vianney Parish and was introduced to the parish, the school and to the school children. At the time, I was the 6th grade teacher and a member of the Junior High Staff. I've been working at St. John Vianney School for 17 years and for the last three years I have been the principal of the school.

Father Thomas has always been very supportive of our school and our staff and has been a very welcome role model in the school community. When he began presiding at our school Masses, he always gave homilies that the children were able to understand at their level. He related his own experiences as a young child so the children could try to practice the lessons he was teaching. Great example for all of us! He spoke about his family and the life lessons he learned from them. He obviously is very proud of his family.

Over the course of many years, Father Thomas became a "real person" to our students and our staff. Father Thomas and I put together a mini-program that helped to train our 6th grade boys to serve school Masses. As a result of his training and his example, many of our boys readily volunteered to serve Mass and also extended themselves to become Altar Servers for the parish. When finished with their training, every one was confident that they could do a good job at our Masses.

He always has a kind word for our students and takes pride in their accomplishments from the Preschoolers to the students in Grade 8. He has celebrated with us at our school shows, our special Thanksgiving celebration, and a great variety of other school events. Our staff always felt comfortable asking him to stop by and visit classrooms. Our

AOC 020420

2.

students have expressed that they are always comfortable in his presence and that comment comes especially from our Junior High students.

What a role model to follow! As a member of the faculty, I remember participating in two retirement breakfasts for him. The chuckle among the staff was that he would never be able to retire. We have always enjoyed his company, his wit, his practical advice and his availability to us when we needed to consult with him.

Many years ago, we had a staff baby shower for one of the Junior High Faculty members at my home. He promptly responded and joined us for our celebration. While in my home, I asked him to bless my house. He did that very thoroughly! He went to every room including the basement and the garage. I was honored to have him in my home.

Father Thomas is a great example of what a priest is all about. He ministers to his flock, regardless of their age or circumstance with kindness, compassion, knowledge, and a sincere Love of the Lord.

We pray for him and look forward to his return to our community of St. John Vianney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Letitia M. Paradowicz".

Letitia M. Paradowicz
St. John Vianney School, Principal

July 16, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Leah McCluskey
676 N. St. Claire, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

Dear Mr. McCluskey:

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow me to respond on behalf of Father Joseph Thomas. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a parishioner of St. John Vianney for the past 24 years. I was born in [REDACTED], and served as an altar boy for 10 years at St. John Vianney. On many occasions, I served Mass with Father Joseph Thomas. My age at that time was approximately 6 ½ - 12 years of age.

Never once did I experience any signs or concerns of misbehavior with Father Thomas. If there were ever a problem, I would have known about it during all those years. Father Thomas never crossed the boundary of his role as a priest. Instead, he was always, gentle, polite and nice. I always respected Father Thomas because he always respected others and me in our parish.

I would like to again clarify that I had never had to deal with any misconduct from Father Thomas. Surely, if he was any kind of sex offender, this type of behavior would have showed or manifested. History has a tendency of repeating itself and would have showed up with me or the other altar boys – and it never did – nothing like this never took place.

Father Thomas was always there for his parish and his people. It would make me so happy to see his name cleared of these accusations so that he can once again be part of society and a man of God once more. If you would like me to be a witness as testimony to the above, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak on behalf of Father Joseph Thomas.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

AOC 020422

July 16, 2003

Professional Fitness and Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Ms. Leah McCluskey
676 North St. Claire
Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

Re: Rev. Joseph Thomas

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing this letter to you to share my and my family's experiences with Fr. Joseph Thomas during his tenor at St. John Vianney Parish from August of 1988 till his removal last year from our parish.

I moved into St. John Vianney in August of 1988 with my wife and small family and was introduced shortly thereafter to Fr. Thomas. Fr. Thomas, who was assisting our pastor, Fr. Charles Fanelli with a host of things Parish initiatives and activities, was very active on all levels in the parish.

As my family grew and started attending the parish school, I was asked by our pastor to become more active within some of the parish organizations. As I did, I had more and more contact with Fr. Thomas through various committees, parish, and school organizations.

I joined the Knights of Columbus, and Fr. Thomas was the parish representative. I served on the Parish Council, and Fr. Thomas was a regular attendee and contributor.

My family continued to expand from three to seven children, all attending the parish school. So, in 1997 I became a member of the parish school board. Again, Fr. Thomas was a regular participant at school board meetings and almost all functions and fund raisers that the school initiated.

[REDACTED]

Over the course of my regular involvement over that extended period, I had countless occasions to work with and observe Fr. Thomas', to witness his tremendous spirit and good humor, his invaluable capacity to unite people, his ability to effect compromise or lend calm and perspective to those situations which called for difficult answers and cooler emotions.

AOC 020423

I also witnessed Fr. Thomas, the priest, who spent countless hours in the confessional, and always delivered a sermon at the children's mass with his message at a level the kids (and not so little kids) could relate to.

His sermons to the children told stories with important lessons about God's love for them, but somehow worked in the metal car he received for his 8th birthday, or the first communion missal he still had kept after all these years.

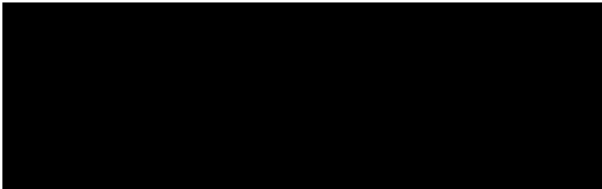
I have had the pleasure of having Fr. Thomas at my home many times, and each of my now, 9 children have a very special love for him.

At the end of Sunday Masses, we had adopted a special ritual we did with Fr. Thomas. After the Mass and the procession out to the vestibule in the back of the church the parishioners would be in line filing out of the church and saying good morning to the priests. Fr. Thomas would be in the back greeting people whether he was the celebrant of the Mass not.

My children would all run up to Fr. Thomas where he would have one hand outstretched, and each of my kids of all ages (high school to toddlers) would put a hand in. When all had a hand in, a communal group shake would take place. This was a practice started by Fr. Thomas with them, and it just typical of his way to add a bit of fun to the otherwise mundane routines of life.

His love of people, and care demonstrated for all was recognized by all in the parish. We miss him at St. John Vianney.

I thank you for allowing me to share these experiences with this fine man and great Priest.



Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Leah McCluskey
676 N. St. Claire, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

July 16, 2003

RECEIVED
JUL 18 2003
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parishioner of St. John Vianney Parish in Northlake, Illinois and I am writing to you in regards to Fr. Joseph Thomas. I was baptized in the parish in 1980, and have known Fr. Thomas for as long as I can remember. Not only have I been a regular parishioner, I also volunteered as a CCD teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, and various other parish activities in addition to working as a night secretary at the rectory from 1994 to 1999. Currently I teach math at [REDACTED] and attend the [REDACTED] pursuing my Masters Degree in Education.

While working at the rectory, I was in the office from 5 pm until 9 pm several nights a week. Some times the rectory was busy and active, and other times it was rather deserted. However, I always felt safe. Fr. Thomas was usually upstairs working on something, or in the basement teaching a marriage or baptism class, or checking to make sure that I was ok and going to lock up after myself when I left. He was caring and kind to me, and all of the other young people who worked at the rectory. His conduct was never inappropriate or could even be remotely conceived as such.

I recall one sermon Father gave where he mentioned how much he enjoyed radishes as a child, but could never grow them himself. My 5 year old brother went home and insisted that we plant radishes for Fr. Thomas. After my brother brought in the fruits of his labor, Father was very grateful and thanked [REDACTED] again and again. [REDACTED] has never been afraid or nervous to go up to Father by himself after mass just to say hello and wish him a good Sunday, and Father always responds with a warm smile and a handshake.


Joseph Thomas is a kind and caring person, and the entire parish has missed him greatly the past year. We all consider him a part of our family and an exceptional person, both in character and in deed. He has been a wonderful example of everything a priest ought to be to both my siblings and myself. Fr. Thomas was always the priest we sought out for those especially difficult confessions, or just to ask for advice or council. I hope you keep in mind what high esteem the parishioners have for Fr. Thomas as you are making what I am sure will be the appropriate decision concerning his accusations.

May God Bless You and Guide You,

[REDACTED]

AOC 020425

Joseph S. Thomas



Rev. Vince Bertrand
6015 S. Jefferson Avenue
Springfield, MO 65806

July 18, 2003

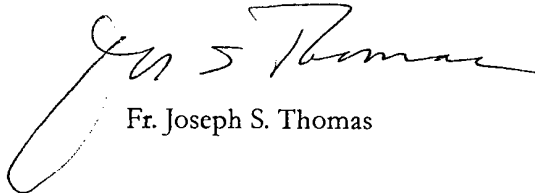
Dear Vince:

Because your style and my style do not mix and I am uncomfortable working with you, I am sorry but I have to end our relationship as of Friday, July 18, 2003.

I do appreciate the time, talent and effort you have expended on my behalf thus far, but I also feel the end of our relationship will be better for both of us.

Please shred or return to me anything that you have in my file. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Fr. Joseph S. Thomas

CC: Cardinal Francis George
Rev. James Kaczorowski
Ms. Cynthia Giacchetti
Mrs. Leah McCluskey
Mr. Brad Brodeur

AOC 020426



RECEIVED

JUL 22 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

July 19, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Leah McCluskey
676 N. St. Claire, Suit 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. McCluskey and Review Board:

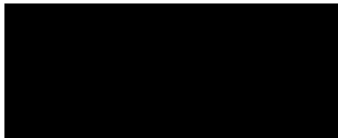
As parishioners of St. John Vianney Church for the past ten years, our family has known only positive interactions with Father Joseph Thomas. Our son, now twenty years old, served as an altar boy for eight years at St. John's. He has always been very comfortable in Father Thomas's company. Our son has made only good comments regarding Father Thomas, especially that he never needed to be nervous or worried around him because he was so even-tempered and easy to please. Our teenage daughter is comfortable in Father's presence as well, as he is very soft-spoken and mild-mannered. He has always greeted everyone with his warm, hospitable smile, and there has never been any indication of improper intentions.

Father Joseph Thomas has shown his love for the people of God by his dedicated work at St. John's. We pray that he will soon return to St. John Vianney Parish.

Sincerely,



AOC 020427


Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Leah McCluskey
676 N. St. Claire, Suit 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

July 20, 2003

Dear Professional Fitness Review Board,

As an altar boy at St. John Vianney Parish from 1993 to 2001, I believe I have a vast number of experiences and memories of Father Joseph Thomas. Because of my familiarity with Father Thomas, I can honestly and wholeheartedly attest to his innocence in the accusations that have been made toward his personality and conduct. He is a gentle, friendly, and inspiring individual, and I resent the fact that anyone would falsely accuse him of such perverted acts. I will be extremely happy when these disgusting charges are dropped and he is able to return to his priestly duties.

From the very first time I met Father Thomas, I can remember his kind and warm greeting. As an altar boy, I had more interactions with Father Thomas than the average parishioner and I am glad I was able to have this extra time with him. I served and attended countless Masses he offered. One thing that stands out in my memory was his appreciation of the work that the altar boys, as well as others, did for the parish. He always thanked me for doing "a very good job" serving for his Mass. Never, in any instance, did he act in an inconsiderate or improper manner toward me or any of my fellow altar boys.

Father Thomas impressed me, especially in the few months before he retired. I enjoyed and benefitted from his homilies and guidance in the confessional. I vividly remember serving at Father Thomas' 50th Anniversary Mass, and feeling honored and proud to be a part of his life. I was unhappy to watch him retire, but very glad that he continued to be an active part of the parish. His example of the religious life and the life of a good Catholic will always be a model I attempt to follow.

I look forward to Father Thomas' return to St. John Vianney Parish. I will be overjoyed to embrace him and welcome him back from his unfortunate and undeserved trials. As a friend and supporter of Father Thomas, I firmly assure you that the accusations are false and that Father Joseph Thomas is an upright and virtuous man.

Sincerely,


RECEIVED

JUL 22 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW

[REDACTED]
July 21, 2003

Professional Fitness Review Board
Archdiocese of Chicago
Attention: Leah McCluskey
676 N. St. Claire, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

Because of a business trip this letter may be late for the case of Father Joseph Thomas's, however I would ask that the Professional Fitness Review Board accept it into his file. My husband and I have deep respect and admiration for Joseph Thomas as a priest and a person, and we would be disappointed to not have an opportunity to give witness to our regard for him.

My husband, [REDACTED] and our family have been parishioners of St. John Vianney in Northlake for approximately fifteen years. During some of that time we had been licensed foster care parents through Catholic Charities as well as grandparents of children who also worship at St. John's and the parents of an adopted [REDACTED] daughter. My position at St. John's is informal as I volunteer [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As indicated, my contact with the parish involves a lot of children. In addition I have been happy to help out with various parish functions that give me the opportunity to have internal contact with the rectory as well as the sacristy.

Father Thomas is greatly missed. It seems everyone feels sadness and disbelief at the accusations made against him. Joe Thomas has always displayed great calmness and charity in his dealings at the parish level. During any involvement I have had with him there has never been indication of any impropriety on any sort. In particular, Father Thomas has shared deep concern and warmth for our foster children and was mindful of their welfare. Being foster parents my husband and I always felt an obligation to be protective of those children in our care and were cautious of all contacts they made; nothing was assumed. Never did we witness anything that would cause alarm or even undo attention. In one particular case we cared for a little boy who was greatly influenced by Father Thomas's demeanor and kindness towards him. For him, Joe Thomas was the grandpa he lacked in his life. Imagine the joy and benefits brought to that child!

The task of the Professional Fitness Review Board must be overwhelming as you consider all aspects of parish life and a particular priest's involvement in it. As you look at the case of Father Joseph Thomas and the accusation of a supposed long-ago incident, my husband and I ask that you also take into consideration our absolute confidence in Father Thomas innocence based not only on a regard for him but lack of any evidence in his conduct and any dealings we had with him. We will continue to pray for your board, the accuser, all the clergy and, in particular, for Joseph Thomas.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

AOC 020429

RECEIVED

JUL 30 2003

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
PROFESSIONAL FITNESS REVIEW**

7-25-03

To whom it may concern:

We are parishioners at St. John Vianney in Northlake and are well acquainted with Father Joseph Thomas. We have always found him to be a very conscientious and loving person of high standards. He is kind and thoughtful and giving, remembers birthdays and anniversaries and has a great compassion for the sick. We are proud to have had him minister at St. John Vianney and to have had him as a friend. We thank him for the spiritual benefits he has showered on the parish and our personal family.

May God bless him and keep him and shower him with His Grace. Our prayers are with him at this time.



**St. John Vianney
Parishioner**

AOC 020430

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APR 18 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Cynthia Giacchetti
53 W. Jackson Blvd
Suite 1515
Chicago, IL 60604

July 25, 2003

Dear Ms. Giacchetti:

I understand that you are representing Father Joseph Thomas and I wanted to let you know my feelings about him. I don't know if this will be of any use to you, but it will make me feel good to know that I have tried to help a dear friend.

My family (husband, two daughters and one son) lived in St. Ferdinand Parish while Father Joe was an associate pastor. My children were very young, the eldest was 5 when Father was transferred to St. Margaret Mary parish as its pastor.

I had the privilege of working with Father Joe on Liturgies and had the pleasure of having him as a friend. My children liked him a lot and he treated them with love and respect. I saw how he interacted with children who served his Masses and with children in general – all kids seemed to enjoy being around him.

After he left St. Ferdinand he remained friends with our group. He married several of our children and baptized their children. He has been a guest in our home many times as we are a group who plays cards, golfs and just gets together for dinner every now and then. We were all stunned when we heard of the accusation against him.

Knowing him as I do, I cannot help but feel that the accusation has no basis in fact. I know all things are possible, but this is very hard for me to believe.

If I can help in any way please let me know. This is a hard time for our Church and I know that there are those who are guilty of this terrible sin, but in my heart I know that Father Joe is not one of these. Thanks for taking care of him.

Sincerely,



AOC 020431

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

July 25, 2003

Rev. Vincent E. Bertrand, JCL
1235 E. Guinevere "Q"
Springfield, MO 65804

COPY

Dear Fr. Bertrand,

I received your letter dated July 14, 2003 regarding your client Fr. Joseph Thomas and the allegation of sexual misconduct made against him.

Thank you for all of the documentation sent and I assure you that this information will be placed in Fr. Thomas' file and will be presented to the Review Board with all other documentation relating to this matter.

As always, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

AOC 020432

[REDACTED]

July 27, 2003

Cynthia Giacchetti
53 West Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1515
Chicago, IL 60604

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APR 18 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The [REDACTED] Family has known
Father Joseph Thomas for approximately
thirty years.

He celebrated a First Communion
Mass at our home in 1970 for our
fourth daughter, [REDACTED] Twenty
years later, he officiated at [REDACTED]
wedding - [REDACTED] is our fifth daughter

— — —

St. Ferdinand's was a large, active parish - with five children we were involved in the school; we were members of various organizations, and participated in the social events of the parish

We have been, and are close personal friends with many of St. Ferd's parishoners.

We tell you this to give you a background of our association with the parish staff, the school faculty and the many people that make up the St. Ferdinand community.

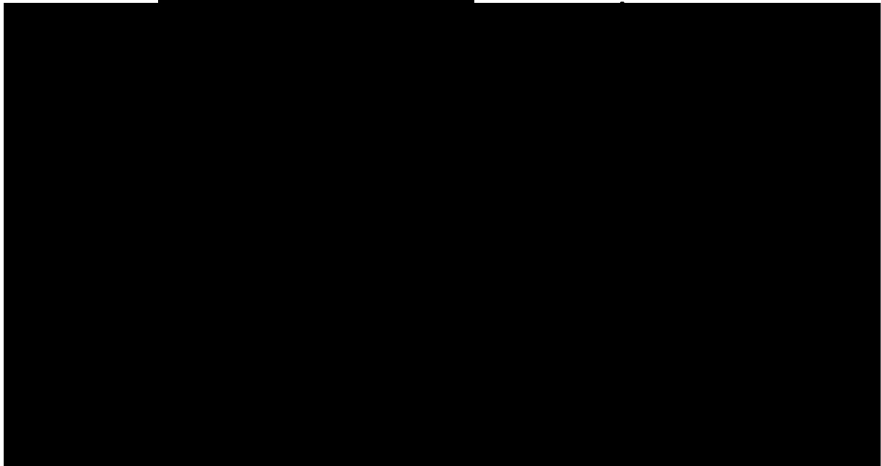
NEVER, have we heard a derogatory comment about Father Joe from anyone !!!!

One comment that we heard many times was this:

"He (Fr. Joe) is a Priest's Priest"

All the good qualities of a priest - devotion to his vocation, ability to teach, a caring nature, a role model - are what make up the character of Fr. Joe.

Proud to be his friend
The [redacted] Family



STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:

Father [REDACTED]
Saint Thomas of Villanova
1201 East Anderson Drive
Palatine, Illinois 60074-4155
(847) 358-6999

RECEIVED

COPY

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Father [REDACTED] informed me he was an associate priest at Saint Margaret Mary Parish from approximately 1982 through 1988. He met Father Thomas in approximately 1982. Father Thomas was his Pastor. He said it was his recollection, the Pastor had Wednesdays off. He remembered Father Thomas had a lake home he would go to on his day off. He did not remember Father Thomas' routine. He had Thursdays off.

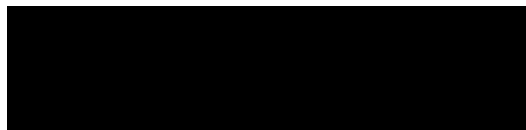
Father [REDACTED] said he ^{can't recall seeing} ~~never saw~~ Father Thomas wearing blue jeans. He said he was certain he never saw Father Thomas in blue jeans during the time they worked together.

Father [REDACTED] said he was not familiar with the name of the alleged victim. He said he did remember a lot of the servers with whom he said Mass. He said if he used the server on a regular basis, he would recall the name.

The above statement was taken by telephone on Wednesday, July 30, 2003 by the undersigned.

John D. Rea
Private Investigator

The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms his agreement with what is stated therein.



"OFFICIAL SEAL"

John D. Rea

Notary Public, State of Illinois

My Commission Exp. 11/18/2007

Notary Public

(My Commission expires: 11/18/07)

[REDACTED] August 8, 2003

Cynthia Giacchetti
53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1515
Chicago, IL 60604

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. Giacchetti:

I am writing you on behalf of our parish priest, Father Joseph Thomas, who has been absent from our parish for the past year.

I don't know of anyone in our area who has ever said a negative word against Father Thomas. That encompasses people outside of our parish as well as our own parishioners. Father Thomas has been very active in compassionate priestly duties ministering to patients in the area hospitals, visiting and bringing Holy Communion to them and to the shut-ins and home-bound people in our community often while suffering severe leg pains himself.

I have been the [REDACTED] at St. John Vianney Parish here in Northlake for over the past thirty years and as so have had unlimited opportunities to observe Father Thomas' behavior as well as other priests who have frequented the Sacristy for various reasons, preparing for religious services, etc, and I must say Father Thomas ranks highest among all for trustworthy treatment of all of us who worked in association with him and

AOC 020437

for the parish, including the altar boys, big and small, with giving us all the utmost respect in fairness and appreciation of our efforts at all times.

It is unconscionable to believe that Father Thomas could ever be accused of any kind of mistreatment or abuse of anyone, man, woman or youth and more unbelievable that he could be accused of such charges.

We will never stop praying for his exoneration of the terrible charges leveled against him which we hope will soon be forthcoming. We hope and pray for Father's well-being which I'm sure has been seriously impaired by these unjust charges and the subsequent unjust treatment he has had to endure since this terrible nightmare came into being.

I sincerely hope my expression of our whole heartedly beliefs in Father's goodness and lifelong wholesome behavior will help speed up his exoneration and freedom to be able to again resume his religious ministry and his personal life. May God bless him and help him, he is most deserving. Thank You for your attention.

Most Sincerely



8-8-03

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

To: Cynthia Giacchetti

Re: Fr. Thomas

Fr. Thomas has been
a wonderful Priest.
My Dad [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] always had
high praise for him.
I have never seen
or heard Fr. Thomas
act in an inappropriate
way.

I hope his name
can be cleared
of this.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]
(St. John Vianney
Church)

8/11/03

Dear Mrs. Giacchetti,

This is just a short letter -
to let you know of my
friendship & knowledge
of Fr. Joseph Thomas.

He is a very special person
to me and my family. He
has known most of my
14 children from the time
he was at St. Ferdinand's.
He was friendly - easy
to talk with and a
consecrated person.

When my husband died
in 1991 - we had just arrived
home from Wisconsin - where
he died - and Fr. Thomas
came to see us - & help
us with our grief.

My sons were in Scouts
when Father was their
moderator - always he was
caring and interested in
their progress. Never any
questionable behavior.

My 2 oldest daughters
worked evenings and
weekends at the Rectory
when Fr. Thomas was living
there. Never any questionable
behavior.

We were all upset with
the allegation against Father.
We believe (and know) he
is innocent and would
never hurt anyone in any
way.

Most sincerely -



August 17, 2003

Cynthia Giacchetti
53 West Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1515
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RECEIVED

APR 1 9 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. Giacchetti:

Father Joseph Thomas is an old and dear friend of mine. Our friendship began almost 30 years ago, when I was a parishioner at St. Ferdinand Parish in Chicago. I was a parishioner there for many years, a teacher-aide, a school board member, a liturgy team member, and a member of the Ladies of St. Ann, at which time Father Thomas was the moderator. My older son [REDACTED] was also a Cub Scout at the time that we lived in the parish, and Father Thomas was the moderator for the boys. On a personal level, Father Thomas and I played bridge in the same group, getting together monthly. We still get together monthly till this day, even though the group is spread out into several different villages and parishes.

Back in the days of St. Ferdinand, Father Thomas was a model priest. He was wholeheartedly involved in parish activities, spiritual as well as social, and always a pleasure to be around.

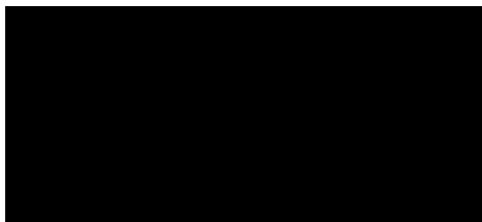
As a priest and as a friend, Father Thomas has continued to be a major presence in my life. My three children are now grown, and he has remained a welcome participant in their lives. He witnessed all of their marriages as celebrant of their nuptial masses, he baptized all my grandchildren, has attended birthday and graduation parties, visited sick family members, celebrated or con-celebrated funeral masses, and still continues to play bridge with our group.

Over the years we have often talked about what an exemplary priest Father Thomas is. We have referred to him as the "priest's priest," only thinking, if only there were more priests like him. He has never spoken or acted in any way inappropriately for all the years I have known him. I can only speak so highly of him, and have felt badly that he has had to deal with the hurt that the sexual misconduct allegations must be causing him. I feel I know him well enough to say that I cannot, nor will I ever, believe there is any truth to these allegations.

I pray for Father Thomas every day so these hard days will end happily for him. If there is anything more I can do to help, please call or write me. God guide you in his defense.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

AOC 020442



RECEIVED

APR 1 8 2003

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS

August 19th, 2003

*Cynthia Giachetti
53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1515
Chicago, Illinois 60604*

Dear Ms. Giachetti,

I am writing in support of Father Joseph Thomas.

I've known Fr. Joe since at least 1991 through his ministry at St. John Vianney parish in Northlake, where I occasionally attend services, in addition to two other area parishes. During that period, I've never witnessed nor sensed anything the least bit untoward or unprofessional in his sermons, actions, or conversations, including those in the confessional. I typically found him to be cheerful, thoughtful, and straightforward, and his sense of Christian mission always seemed intact and alive.

I support his reputation without hesitation or doubt.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Cc: Fr. Charles Fanelli

AOC 020443

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

St. John Vianney
08-19-03

To whom It May Concern,

We are writing in support of our dedicated & beloved assistant, Rev. Joseph Thomas. Fr. Thomas has been a most caring, loved & revered priest amongst our elderly & sick parishioners & a very inspirational & jovial priest with our school children & altar servers.

Please do all in your power to defend & promote his innocence.
Thank you & God bless you.

Sincerely,





ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

46 N. Wolf Road, Northlake, Illinois 60164-1669, 708/562-0500

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

20 August 2003

Dear Ms. Giacchetti,

I am happy to be able to write to you concerning Father Joseph Thomas. He has been an associate pastor and then the retired helper at St. John Vianney since 1988. We have become good friends and I look up to him as a hero in his priestly service.

Father Thomas has made it his ministry to visit the sick and to celebrate funerals. He has met many people in the context of visiting the sick in the hospitals and nursing homes and in their own homes. He is so well loved because of this personal service, care for which he has won nothing but the undying thanks and respect from very many families.

Families have taken to Father Thomas also. Often the young children would wait for him in the back of the church after Mass. Father often would have a toy or a joke for them or he would wiggle their arm when a little one would shake his hand. They would laugh and come back again the next Sunday for another visit.

Among the altar boys, the teenage boys and girls who work at the rectory, the children in the school and religious education program, the boys and girls in the Athletic Association, there has never been a single incident of concern. Rather all the children love him as a lovable grandfather priest and their parents love him the same for all the good he does with everyone.

I hope you get a sense of how well loved and appreciated Father Thomas has been to this faith community. You only have to stand in the back of church each weekend as people of all ages come up to ask how is he doing and when is he coming home. The steady stream of cards and letters to him has not stopped.

Please help him come back home soon!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rw. Charles Janelli

Pastor

Cynthia Giacchetti
53 West Jackson Blvd, Suite 1515
Chicago IL 60604

AOC 020445

September 1, 2003

Ms. Cynthia Giacchetti
53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1515
Chicago, IL 60604

RECEIVED

APR 18 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. Giacchetti:

We are [REDACTED] long-time friends of Fr. Joe Thomas. He has asked us to write to you a letter speaking of our relationship with him and our experience of Fr. Joe in situations that involved our children and others.

We first met Fr. Joe Thomas when he was assigned to St. Ferdinand parish in Chicago in the early 1970's. Fr. Joe immediately became a close friend of our family. At that time, we had 5 children, the oldest two were boys, ages 8 and 9. Fr. Joe was often at our home, interacting with our family, celebrating home Masses, as well as other family celebrations. He was responsible for celebrating the first communions of both of our oldest sons – celebrations that took place in our family home. In our experience, there were never any interactions with our children that we felt were inappropriate. We felt very comfortable with Fr. Joe being around all of our children. Fr. Joe was involved in other sacramental preparations – Reconciliation and Confirmation – with our children; many of these preparations took place in our family home.

During that same period of time, [REDACTED] was the cub master at St. Ferdinand's. Fr. Joe was appointed the chaplain of the scouting program for the parish. During any one year, we would have as many as 60 young men, ages 8 to 12, in the scouting program. Fr. Joe would have been involved with us in monthly 'pack nights' which were evenings spent at the parish in various scouting activities. He was also responsible for the "Parvuli Dei" award – a religious scouting award. Again, Fr. Joe always treated the children with respect, was honest and trustworthy in all his dealings with the children, and never left us with any negative feelings about how he would interact with these young men in scouting. [REDACTED] worked together with him for four years in the scouting program; Fr. Joe continued on with the program after [REDACTED] had left his involvement as scout master.

Beyond those years, we have maintained a close relationship with Fr. Joe over all of these past 30 years. He has been not only our priest, but our friend. He has attended most of our family celebrations, the funerals of our parents, and other special moments that he was free to attend. We have been together in a bridge club from St. Ferdinands that meets monthly all of these 30 years. He has baptized a lot of our grandchildren and married a number of our children. In all of our 30 years' experience of knowing Fr. Joe and having him around us, and our family, we have never had an uncomfortable feeling about any of his interactions with us or our children or friends and their families.

Respectfully yours,
[REDACTED]

AOC 020446

RECEIVED

APR 18 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

september 2, 2003

Cynthia Giaccheppi
53 W. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1515
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Giaccheppi:

I am [REDACTED] I taught sixth, seventh and eighth grades at St. Ferdinand School during the years that Father Joseph Thomas was stationed at St. Ferdinand. During that time many of the boys in my classes served as altar boys. However, in the all the years I taught there while Father Thomas was on staff never did any of the altar boys say or in any way lead one to suspect that Father Thomas's relationship with them, either on or off the altar, was anything but honorable and right. Knowing Father Thomas, I find it difficult to believe that he engaged in sexual misconduct with any young man at any time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

AOC 020447

September 9, 2003

Cynthia Giacchetti
53 W. Jackson Blvd. – Suite 1515
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. Giacchetti:

My name is [REDACTED] I am a 36-year-old Catholic who grew up without a father. My mother raised me with an older sister and younger brother. My father was an officer in the U.S. Air Force, and was missing in action [REDACTED] We lived on the northwest side of Chicago. I attended St. Ferdinand Church and School from pre-school through 5th grade, when my family moved to the suburbs. I was active in the church, extracurricular after-school activities, the school band, and the Boy Scouts the entire time that I lived in this area. During this period, I met and became friends with Father Joe Thomas. I cannot recall exactly the first time we met, but I can say that he has always been a welcome part of my family's and my life.

I have spent countless hours with Father Thomas as a child and as an adult. A memory I especially hold close to my heart was how he would play catch with my brother and me when he would be over for dinner. He always had time to spend with us kids, not just the adults. Another compelling memory is of Father Thomas as the moderator for the Parvuli Dei program at St. Ferdinand Church. The purpose of this special Catholic scouting program is to "help young boys explore activities to discover the presence of God in their daily lives, as members of their families and parishes, and also to develop a good, positive self-image through the contributions they can make to the group or community." He married my siblings and remembers year after year to send a greeting congratulating us on our anniversaries. He baptized our children, and celebrated my son's life at his funeral mass. He is in every way possible a part of my life, not only as a friend, but spiritually also. The circle of friends my family has that goes back to my youth will, I'm sure, say the exact same things. I no longer attend weekly church services because of personal reasons, but when he is celebrating mass with my family in attendance, I listen to what he has to say because of who he is to me. I respect him as a person and as a priest.

When my mother ([REDACTED]) told me of the allegations brought against Father Thomas, my wife and I were in total disbelief, and are still. I stand behind Fr. Joe Thomas' reputation as a spiritual advisor, a friend, and especially a person of integrity.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

AOC 020448

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

September 16, 2003

Rev. Joseph Thomas

Dear Fr. Thomas,

Enclosed you will find documentation regarding the monitoring protocols.

The monitoring protocols have been changed somewhat. This was done principally in order to put into a standard written form, arrangements that had been made orally and/or on an individual basis. It was felt that by committing as much as possible to a written form, misunderstandings could be reduced and communication would be facilitated. These changes reflect the feedback provided by all those involved in the monitoring program, including those who are subject to it. The enclosed forms contain the adjustments made to the monitoring forms that were provided to you in July of 2003. All those involved in monitoring will be receiving a copy of the new forms.

I understand that you are in the process of identifying a new canonical advocate. Once you have requested the representation of a canonical advocate, please discuss these forms with him/her. I will then forward copies of all enclosed material to your advocate.

In designing a form that addresses so many different, complex situations, one or another points may be unclear. If you have any question or concerns, please contact me at [312] 751-5205.

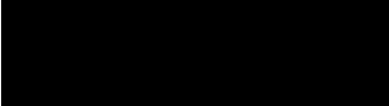
Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

Enclosures

AOC 020449



Sept. 23, 2003

Cynthia Giacchetti
53 W. Jackson Blvd. Ste.1515
Chicago, IL 60604

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. Giacchetti,

Father Joseph Thomas is not my friend. I know him, rather, in the capacity of confessor and I am hurting because of his absence. It is true that I know what many others say concerning his dedication, loyalty, compassion, and concern as a result of their involvement with him, and we are equally outraged at the accusations against him. The profile just doesn't fit

Father Thomas walks with a noticeable limp. Sometime it is more pronounced than usual and it is obvious he is in pain. When asked, he merely dismisses it with a wave of his hand while insisting that everyone has problems. Nevertheless, Father is always prompt to fulfill his obligations, extending himself beyond expectations even though he is officially a retired resident.

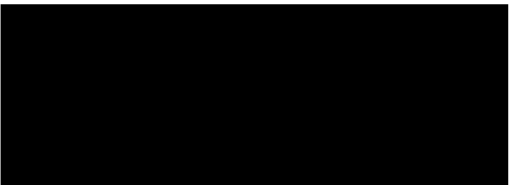
Father Thomas' homilies are not charismatic in their presentation but forceful because of the truth they present. He promotes Our Blessed Mother and the importance of saying the Rosary. In addition he promotes the importance of prayer. His personality is not warm and fuzzy but gently caring and truthful. In his philosophy he remains steadfast to the teachings of the Church and our Pope. Moreover, he is not progressive or liberal nor does he suggest the Church must keep up with the culture of our times. Father Thomas is rather, a good Catholic priest

Since I know many priests, I can honestly say there are some about whom I could not give witness testimony concerning the abuse about which Father Thomas has been accused but with all the intensity of my convictions I insist that Father Thomas simply doesn't fit the profile of someone who could have committed sexual abuse.

Sincerely,



AOC 020450




Cynthia Giacchetti
Suite 1515
53 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

RECEIVED

APR 1 8 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. Giacchetti:

I am sending you a letter in which I would like to verbalize my unqualified support of Father Joe Thomas. Father Joe has been an extended part of my family ever since I was able to remember. He along with his sister, brother, mother and father have known my family since my parents were teenagers. Growing up, it was just assumed that they were part of our lives. His sister,  was like a second mother to me. Father Joe either celebrated or con-celebrated the marriage of members of our family. He counseled me when I was going through a most difficult time in my life. Without his kindness and astute suggestions/guidance, I feel that I would not have had the courage to make vital life decisions that, as time passed, contributed so greatly to the person I am today. He probably is not even aware how his role in my life directly affected the life choices I chose and for which I thank God every day.

Do you understand how even though you do not see a particular person all the time you can still love, cherish, and respect that person all the same? Do you understand that you can hold that person in the highest esteem, and that person is probably not even aware that you feel that way? It is this way with Father Joe. He has always been in our lives, he will always be in my heart, and he will always have my undying respect. And, there will be not one person anywhere who will ever change my perception of his goodness as a person, a friend and as a priest.

Have you ever heard someone say, "I would trust my life with _____?" Well, succinctly said, I would trust my life and any of those that I hold dear with Father Joe.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance in any way.

Sincerely,



AOC 020451

RECEIVED

APR 18 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

September 26, 2003

Dear Ms. Giacchetti:

I would like you to know that my family and I wholeheartedly support Father Joe Thomas. I have known him since about 1940 at which time my wife (then my girlfriend) and I spent time at the home of his parents in Berwyn. (My wife and his sister, [REDACTED] were close friends and she was also our [REDACTED] at our wedding.) And then, over the years, Father Joe would come down with [REDACTED] to visit us in our home. I remember attending his ordination over 50 years ago which was a very special time for us. We were so proud of knowing such a fine young man! Interestingly enough, at Fr. Joe's ordination, I ran into our parish priest from [REDACTED] and found out that he and Fr. Joe were cousins. I knew then and there why I liked and respected them both so much - they were related, they were such fine young men, and let me tell you this - I was (and am) honored to know both of them. As the years went by, we kept in close touch and often attended his family events and celebrations in Chicago. He also helped my daughter, [REDACTED] through a very difficult time she was having about 25 years ago. I do believe his help and guidance is a big part of why she is so happy with her life today.

My wife would be helping me to write this letter, but she has suffered from Alzheimer's for some years now. But I know that she would want me to write to you in support of Father Joe. I guess I could go on and on with little stories about how he has been a part of our lives for over 60 years. But, just let me tell you this: I believe in Father Joe. I always have. Whatever was said up there in Chicago does not change my mind. He is a good person; he is a good priest. I always was, and I am to this day, proud to know him. Nothing will change that. I hope this gets straightened out so that he can return to his parish in the near future.

If you need anything from me, please call me or write. I would be happy to help.

[REDACTED]

AOC 020452

Mandate of Procurator and Advocate

I, the undersigned Reverend Joseph Thomas, born in Chicago, IL on [REDACTED] name [REDACTED] and establish as my advocate and procurator, the Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL, so that he will represent and defend me before the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and, if necessary and legitimate, before any higher court and in any instance of judgment. I further declare that from this moment forward all his actions are considered by me to be ratified and valid without the need for any further confirmation on my part.

I declare expressly that this current mandate is valid as a special mandate for all foreseeable actions for which the Code of Canon Law requires one.

Joseph Thomas
Signature of Client

Date: 10/5/3

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, October 18, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- I. Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2003
 - II. Review of September 20, 2003 Board Meeting recommendations
 - III. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A.

[REDACTED]

Review for Cause

B.

[REDACTED]

C.



IV. Other Matters

D.



[REDACTED]

E.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

F. Placements

[REDACTED]

Joseph S. Thomas

- As per Vicar Fr. James Kaczorowski, Fr. Thomas to [REDACTED] move to Mundelein on October 15, 2003
- Upon Fr. Kaczorowski's return from vacation on October 23, 2003, will request to schedule a meeting with Fr. Thomas to include PRA; monitoring to be addressed at future scheduled meeting

G. [REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is November 15, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

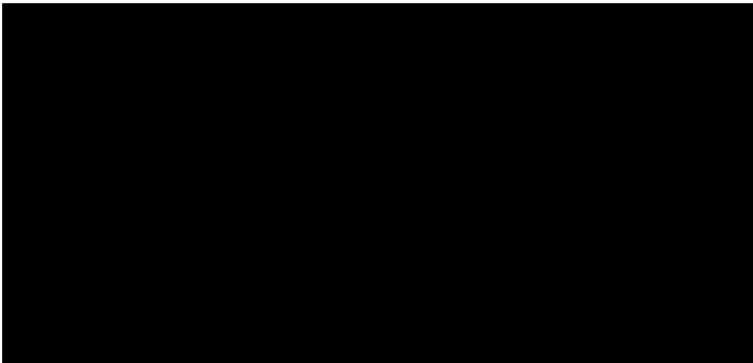
(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING **Saturday, October 18, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

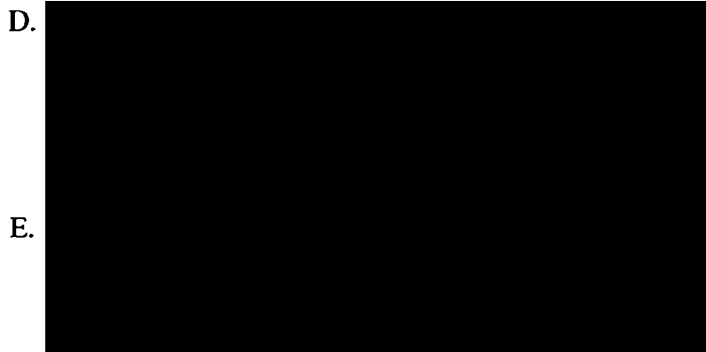
AGENDA

I. Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2003

II. Case Reviews

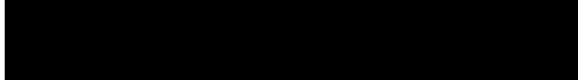


III. Other Matters



F. Placements

- 
- Joseph S. Thomas (Retired/Withdrawn 2002) - PFR-103
- October 15, 2003

G. 

The next scheduled Board Meeting is for Saturday, November 15, 2003

From: Daniel Smilanic
To: Jimmy Lago
Date: Tue, Oct 21, 2003 5:02 PM
Subject: Case of Fr. Joe Thomas

Jimmy -

Fr. Joe Thomas has appointed Msgr. Fred Easton, the Judicial Vicar of Indianapolis, as his Canonical Advocate.

Shortly, Msgr. Easton will be asking to review Fr. Thomas' file on Friday, October 31st. I thought I would give you a 'heads up', because we will be in the midst of the Festival of Faith that day.

Fr. Dan Smilanic

CC: James Kaczorowski; Janet Leonatti; John O'Malley; Leah McCluskey

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312)751-5205
1-800-994-6200
Fax (312)751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-103
From: Review Board Minutes
Re: Joseph Thomas (Retired/Withdrawn)
Date: October 24, 2003

COPY
of an original document from the files of
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
This is a red ink stamp!
DO NOT COPY

A Summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on October 18, 2003:

Placements

- As per Vicar Fr. James Kaczorowski, Fr. Thomas to return [REDACTED] and move to Mundelein on October 15, 2003
- Upon Fr. Kaczorowski's return from vacation on October 23, 2003, will request to schedule a meeting with Fr. Thomas to include PRA; monitoring to be addressed at future scheduled meeting

PRIEST PERSONNEL FILE ACCESS REQUEST RECORD

Archdiocese of Chicago

This form documents an individual priest's request for access to his records. It must be filled out completely and signed by all appropriate parties.

TO BE FILLED IN BY AGENCY HOLDING RECORDS

Name of Priest File:	REV. JOE THOMAS		
Record of Agency/Office:	VICAR FOR PRIESTS OFFICE		
Address:	645 N. MICHIGAN AVE., STE. 543		
City/State:	CHICAGO, IL	Zip:	60611
Phone:	(312) 642-1837		

Person Requesting File:	FR. DAN SMILANIC	Date of Request:	10/21/03
Written Request Attached (Written request must accompany this form)		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N

Person Authorizing Access:	SR. MARY ANN ZRUST	Date Records Accessed:	10/27/03
Signature:	S. Mary Ann Zrust		

TO BE FILLED IN BY REQUESTER

* Requester's Signature Acknowledging Receipt of File: Maryann Hof

Requester's Comments:
File requested for review by the Canonical Advocate, Msgr. Fred Easton. Review will take place on Oct 31st at the Archives & Records Center
Initialed: <i>mf</i>

(Revised 12/95)

Office of Professional Responsibility

P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator

Re: Thomas, Joseph S. [Removed]

Date: November 5, 2003

PRA and Rev. James T. Kaczorowski met with Rev. Joseph Thomas at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House on October 30, 2003. Fr. Thomas had recently moved to the retreat house, and the meeting was scheduled to check in with the cleric and to present to him the revised monitoring protocols.

Fr. Thomas was given copies of the Individual Specific Monitoring Protocols, Daily Log Forms, and Vacation/Travel Agreement forms. It was agreed that PRA would forward copies of all forms as well as a copy of the *§1100 Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance to Victims and Procedures for Determination of Fitness for Ministry* to Fr. Thomas' canonical advocate, Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton JCL.

It was explained to Fr. Thomas that no signatures to indicate agreement with the protocols were being asked until he has the opportunity to speak with Msgr. Easton.

During the meeting, Fr. Thomas expressed his thankfulness and appreciation for the time

Fr. Kaczorowski confirmed with Fr. Thomas that Msgr. Easton would be traveling to the Archdiocese of Chicago on October 31, 2003 to review his files. He also advised Fr. Thomas to speak with his civil attorney [Cynthia Giachetti] and his advocate regarding [redacted] allegation of sexual misconduct against him. Lastly, Fr. Kaczorowski advised Fr. Thomas [redacted] to the Review Board without his consent.

Fr. Thomas stated that he unequivocally denies [redacted] allegation.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanec, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

November 7, 2003

**Mrs. Cynthia Giachetti
Suite 1515
53 W. Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60604**

RECEIVED

APR 18 2004

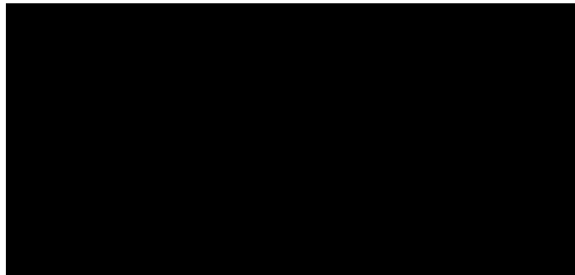
**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Dear Mrs. Giachetti,

I am writing to give you my thoughts about the Rev. Joseph Thomas, who has been accused of sexual abuse.

In the 30 years that I have know him and his family, Father Joseph has always been a dedicated and self-sacrificing priest. When he quietly told me that he had no such dealings with the young man, his sincerity and demeanor further convinced me that he was speaking the truth.

I personally believe the accusation is false. My prayer is that truth and justice will prevail.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility





P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279


MEMORANDUM



To: File - PFR-103


From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Withdrawn] 

Date: November 21, 2003

PRA received a phone call today from Msgr. Frederick Easton, canonical advocate for Rev. Joseph Thomas. As per Msgr. Easton, he is in Chicago and plans on meeting with Fr. Thomas today. Further, Msgr. Easton has reviewed Fr. Thomas' entire file within the Archdiocese and feels that there are additional avenues that need to be explored regarding  allegation against Fr. Thomas.

Msgr. Easton suggested that there are former classmates of  as well as a housekeeper at St Margaret Mary who need to be interviewed regarding this matter. 

 PRA suggested to Msgr. Easton that he do what he feels necessary to serve his client appropriately. PRA also suggested to Msgr. Easton that he speak with Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Promoter of Justice with any questions regarding further investigations of this matter.

Msgr. Easton appreciated the information given and informed PRA that he would be in touch. Msgr. Easton may be reached at the following phone numbers:

 cell
 other

cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

AOC 020464


November 24, 2003


Ms. Cynthia Giachetti
Suite 1515
53 West Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RECEIVED

APR 1 3 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. Giachetti,

It saddens me to think that this letter would be needed to support the defense of Father Joseph Thomas in regard to the allegation of sexual abuse of a child. I have always considered him a humble and holy man.

I served as a volunteer in visiting the homes of parents in preparing them for the baptism of their children from September of 1976-1979 while I was principal of St. Francis Xavier School in Wilmette and living with my aged mother in St. Margaret Mary Parish, Chicago. From 1979-1983 I served full time as a pastoral minister in the parish. Never in that time did I have any reason to suspect Father to be involved in any abuse of his power as pastor and priest.

My prayer is that this matter can be resolved for the good of both Father Thomas and the person who brings this allegation forward. If there is any further information you wish, you may contact me at the above address.

Sincerely,



AOC 020465

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Responsibility





P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279



MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn] 

Date: January 5, 2004

PRA spoke with Rev. Msgr. Frederick Easton, JCL via phone today regarding the status of the allegation of sexual misconduct made against Rev. Joseph Thomas by . Msgr. Easton informed PRA that Fr. Thomas' civil attorney, Ms. Cynthia Giachetti is continuing to investigate the allegation made by . As a result, Msgr. Easton stated that this matter is not ready to be brought before the Review Board for a Review for Cause.

It was agreed at the end of the phone conversation that Msgr. Easton would contact PRA once all investigations by Ms. Giachetti and her office are concluded. Upon completion of the aforementioned investigation, Msgr. Easton feels that this matter will be ready to be presented to the Review Board.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 020466

STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:

Chaplain [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Father [REDACTED] indicated that he was resident at St. Margaret Mary Church probably beginning in the fall of 1983. He said he was at St. Margaret Mary in residence for about five years and that Father Joe Thomas was pastor there for four and a half of those years.

Father [REDACTED] also said that he would have dinner at the rectory about two nights a week with Father Joe but it would not always be the same night of the week. He would be there on Sundays as well for dinner. He was not aware of any particular day of the week that Father Joseph Thomas took a day off. He was not aware that Father Joe shared a lake house with other priests. He was not so involved in the rectory that he could say either way whether Father Joe was ever typically gone overnight.

Father [REDACTED] said that because he had to be at school by 7:30 am, he would take the earliest Mass during the week, which was probably at 6:30 in the morning. However, he would take whatever Mass Father Joe assigned him for the weekend schedule.

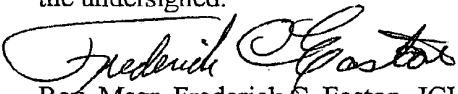
Father [REDACTED] characterized Joe Thomas as a good, quiet, steady kind of man. He was an introvert who really worked at relating to people. Father [REDACTED] said that, as far as he could see, Father Joe seemed to relate well with young people but really preferred to relate to adults. He does not recall Father Joe ever speaking about his Mass servers. He said that from his observations, Father Joe would not seek to be with young people.

Father [REDACTED] said that he never heard any accusation against Father Joe when he was at St. Margaret Mary Parish. Further, he was very much surprised when he heard that Father Joe was removed from ministry. He said he had heard from some of the parishioners who were his close friends and they were very shocked the Father Joe was accused and removed from ministry. He said these parishioners could not believe the accusation to be true. He had heard from the parishioners closely involved in the parish that they simply don't believe the allegation to be true. They also say that, if they have correctly identified the one who was making the accusation, they remember that child to have had problems all along. In their view, it was the problem of the young man rather than the problem of Father Joe.

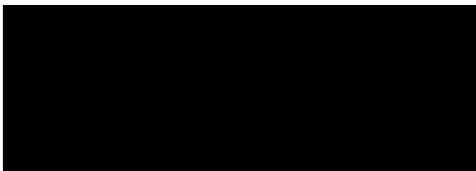
Father [REDACTED] indicated that the two parishioners who were very much involved in the parish and who are good friends of his are [REDACTED]. He said that [REDACTED] was the chairperson of the parish fund-raiser and that her husband, [REDACTED], led the [REDACTED] every year. They also had sons who were servers at Mass. Their sons never heard anything going on involving Father Joe nor did they.

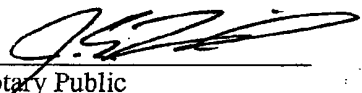
Father [REDACTED] concluded his remarks by stating that he felt that the accusations against Father Joe are totally out of character with his personality. Father Joe really did not relate to children and other than the fact that boys served Mass for him. He never saw him as having any opportunity to do the things of which he is accused.

The above statement was taken by telephone on the afternoon of Thursday, January 29, 2004 by the undersigned.


Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms his agreement with what is stated therein.




Notary Public
J.E. Fink
CAPT, JAGC, U.S. Navy

With the U.S Armed Forces
Naval Support Activity
Millington Tennessee

(My commission expires: Indefinite)

NOTARY PUBLIC
AUTHORITY PER
10 U.S.C. SECTION 1044(a)
INDEFINITE COMMISSION

RECEIVED


FEB 19 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS
METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL



MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph

Date: January 31, 2004

PRA and Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests met with Rev. Joseph Thomas on January 26, 2004 at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House. Fr. Kaczorowski had arranged the meeting with Fr. Thomas so that the current monitoring protocols could be discussed.

PRA provided Fr. Thomas with the current Individual Specific Monitoring Protocols, a Daily Log form, and a Travel/Vacation Agreement form. Fr. Thomas was also informed that copies of the aforementioned forms would be forwarded to his canonical advocate, Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton JCL.

Fr. Thomas informed PRA and Fr. Kaczorowski that he has been discussing his case with Msgr. Easton and with his civil attorney, Ms. Cynthia Giachetti. As he read through the monitoring information provided to him, Fr. Thomas quietly remarked "it [Individual Specific Protocol] says you're guilty." Fr. Kaczorowski discussed with Fr. Thomas his need to work with his attorneys in order to clear himself of this allegation. Fr. Thomas questioned whether or not he would be able to baptize a child in his family or preside over a relative's funeral mass, to which Fr. Kaczorowski informed him that he could not. PRA informed Fr. Thomas that this matter would be presented to the Independent Review Board as soon as Msgr. Easton and Ms. Giachetti had completed their investigation.

Fr. Thomas was pleasant during the meeting, however notably quiet at times.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:



We first discussed when she and her family came to St. Margaret Mary Parish and became acquainted with Father Joseph Thomas. It seemed clear from the conversation that when they first came to St. Margaret Mary, another priest who was Indian was there. They had previously been members of St. Gertrude Parish. The record show that Father Thomas became pastor on December 31, 1975 and [REDACTED] indicated that it was earlier that same year that her family came to St. Margaret Mary Parish.

[REDACTED] indicated that her older son, [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and that the younger son, [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]. She further indicated that, when they first moved to Margaret Mary, there was no kindergarten so they did not get involved with St. Margaret Mary School until was time for [REDACTED] to go into first grade. She said this would have been in 1980. [REDACTED] indicated that initially she did a lot of fund raising for St. Margaret Mary school including running the candy sales. She said she was on the school board for four years and eventually became president of the school board. It was at that time she began to work closely with Father Thomas. She said that it was beginning around 1985 or 1986 that she became especially involved in the school. Repeatedly in this connection, [REDACTED] said that Father Thomas was a wonderful man.

She said that her boys would serve Mass and would ride their bicycles especially up for 6:30 A.M. Mass, come home and have breakfast, and then go on to school. She said she was never worried about them. When the accusations against Father Thomas came up, [REDACTED] said she had a talk with her older son, [REDACTED] and asked him whether or not he had never heard of any accusations against Father Thomas when he was s server. She said that her son said, "absolutely not."

[REDACTED] indicated [REDACTED] would have been in fourth grade when he began to serve Mass. She further clarified that [REDACTED] began serving Mass right after they moved into St. Margaret Mary Parish. She was not certain at what age the parish permitted boys to start serving, but her younger son, [REDACTED] also began to serve when he became of age. She also indicated that her sons served other Masses in addition to the 6:30 A.M. Mass. They really rotated to all of the morning Masses during the week according to a schedule. She was uncertain whether or not her two sons always served together or with other boys. She thought that it might of been the case that there was only one server for a Mass. However, she thought her sons would know best about this detail.

[REDACTED] indicated that she had no idea as to who the accuser might be. She said that there was some hearsay talk in the parish that there was a young boy who was always troubled and

AOC 020470

who came from a broken family and that perhaps he was the accuser. She did not remember the name. The undersigned mentioned the name, [REDACTED] said that the only knowledge of that name comes from the actor by the same name. She thought, perhaps, one should ask one of her sons if the name was familiar.

The undersigned asked if her husband, [REDACTED] would know more or less than she about this matter. She said he would know less than she would. She said she talked with her husband, [REDACTED] about the matter and they are pretty much in agreement. She said her husband said the same thing about Father Thomas, namely, that he really liked him.

The undersigned asked [REDACTED] if there was anyone in St. Margaret Mary Parish who was ever upset with Father Thomas for any reason. She said that the parish was building a new building and there were people upset with Father Thomas because it was not getting built as soon as they wanted it to be built. However, there was no one there who really and truly disliked Father Thomas. The undersigned asked if there were any reports that Father Thomas dealt inappropriately with children or adults. She said there were never any accusations that Father Thomas was dealing in appropriately with children or, for that matter, with adults.

[REDACTED] indicated that both of her sons will be very willing to talk about this matter and she provided their telephone numbers.

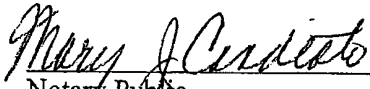
This statement was taken by telephone on the morning of February 9, 2004 by the undersigned.


Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL

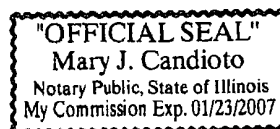
The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms his agreement with what is stated therein.

[REDACTED]
Date: 2/27/04

Place: Wilmette, IL


Notary Public

(My commission expires: 1-23-07)



Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a letter from Victim KZ's attorney to Cardinal Francis George, dated February 17, 2004, alleging Fr. Joseph Thomas sexually abused Victim KZ. According to the letter, Victim KZ was abused by another priest, while Thomas was present and watched a number of the incidents of alleged abuse. Victim KZ's attorney reported that these incidents occurred at St. Edna parish.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, February 21, 2004- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

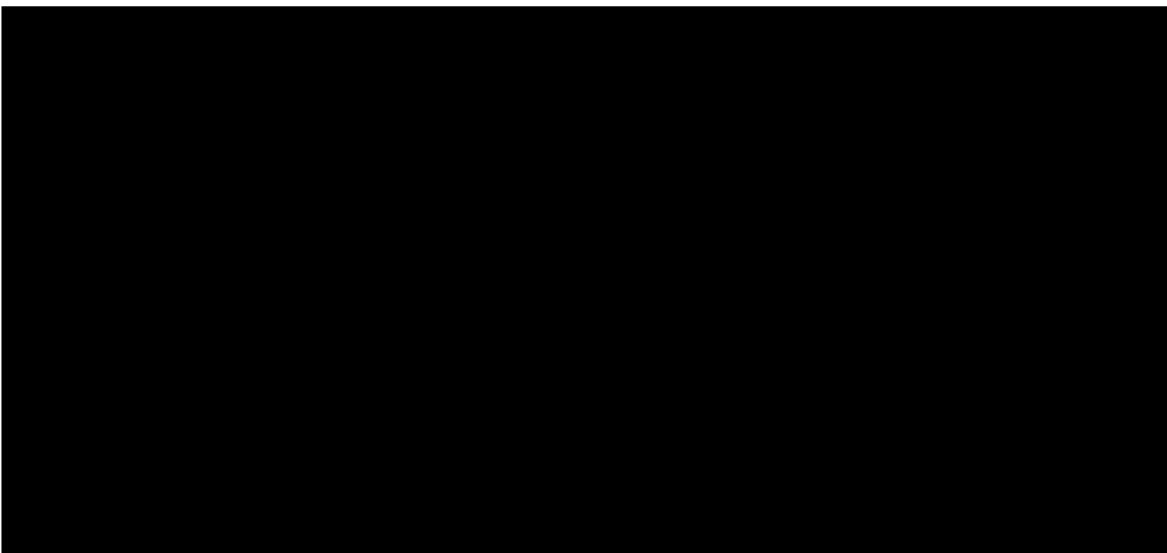


Members absent:



Non-members present:

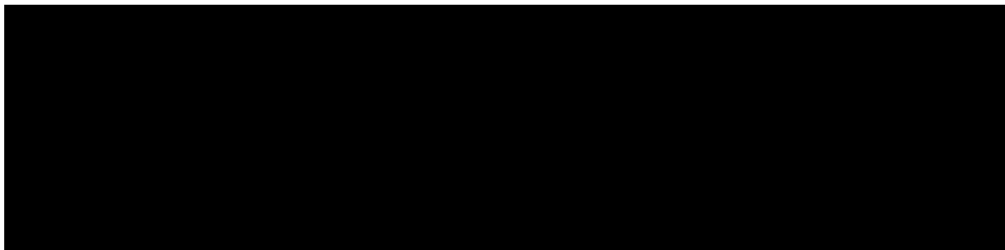
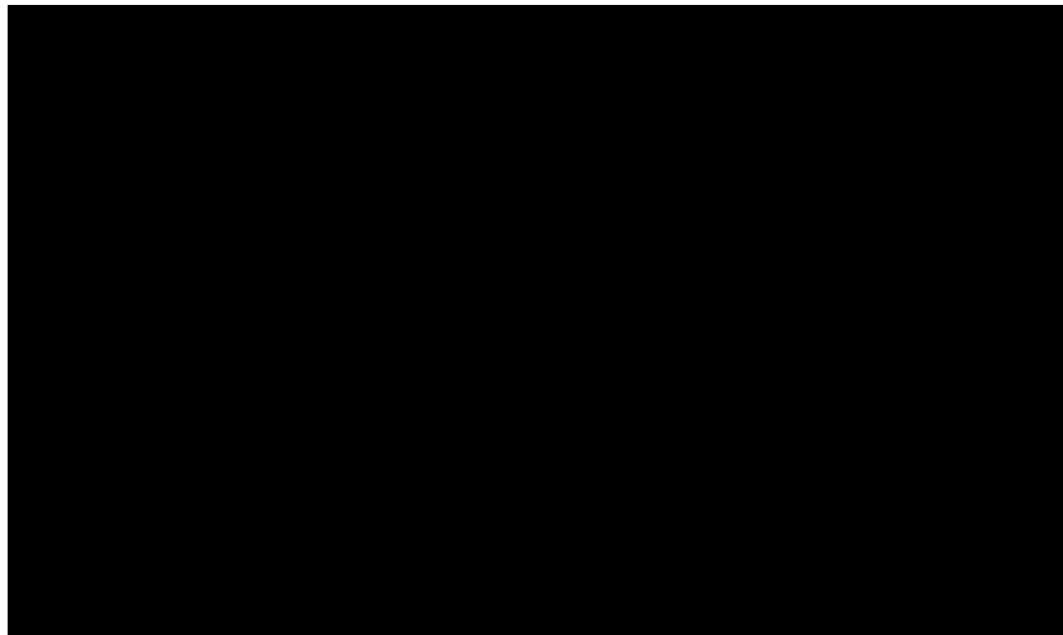
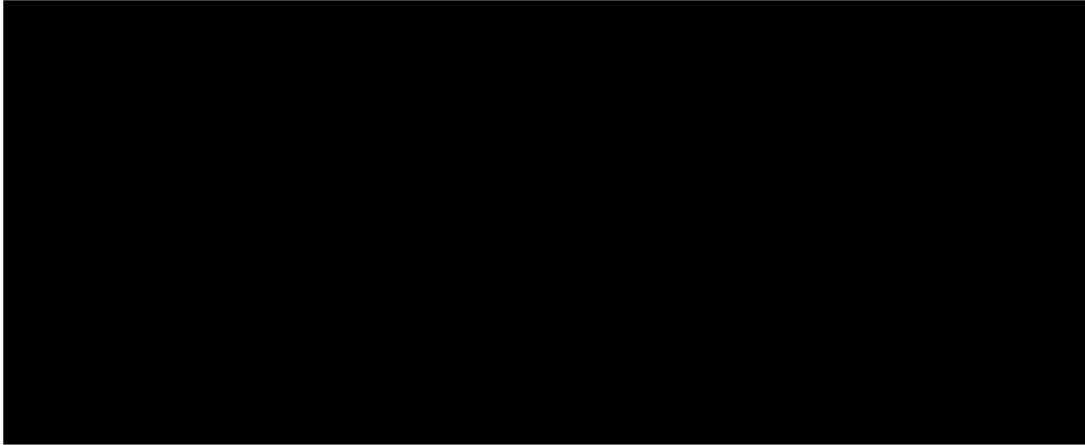
Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board



I. Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2004

- The Board requested in a unanimous 6-0 decision that a correction be made on page two, bullet point three of the January 10, 2004 minutes [see revised January 10, 2004 Minutes]

II. Update from January 10, 2004 Meeting



III. Case Reviews

Initial Review:

A. [REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

IV. Case Updates

In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn 2002] - PFR - 103

The Review Board made the following recommendations in regards to [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against **Fr. Thomas**.

- That Fr. Thomas is advised against contacting any alleged victims.
- [REDACTED]
- That PRA write letters to Fr. Thomas' civil attorney and canonical advocate asking that they forward any/all information regarding this matter to PRA by a stated deadline so that this matter will be on the March 20, 2004 Review Board Agenda for a Second Stage Review.

V. [REDACTED]

VI. Other Matters

- The December 2004 Board meeting has been rescheduled for December 4, 2004

Next scheduled meeting is March 20, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING **Saturday, February 21, 2004- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

I. Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2004

II. Case Reviews

Preliminary Review:

A. [REDACTED]

III. **Case Updates:**

A. In the Matter of Joseph Thomas (Retired/Withdrawn 2002) - PFR-103
• Allegation made by [REDACTED]

B. [REDACTED]

IV. **Monitoring Meetings/Monitoring Update**

A. [REDACTED]
B. [REDACTED]
C. [REDACTED]
D. [REDACTED]
E. [REDACTED]
F. [REDACTED]
G. [REDACTED]

H. Joseph Thomas (Retired/Withdrawn 2002) - PFR-103

V. [REDACTED]

VI. **Update on New Allegations Received**

The next scheduled Board Meeting is for Saturday, March 20, 2004

AOC 020477

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-205
From: Review Board Meeting
Re: Joseph Thomas (Retired/Withdrawnn)
Date: February 21, 2004

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on February 21, 2004:

The Review Board made the following recommendations in regards to [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against **Fr. Thomas**.

- That Fr. Thomas is advised against contacting any alleged victims.
- [REDACTED]
- That PRA write letters to Fr. Thomas' civil attorney and canonical advocate asking that they forward any/all information regarding this matter to PRA by a stated deadline so that this matter will be on the March 20, 2004 Review Board Agenda for a Second Stage Review.

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Fax: (312) 751-5279




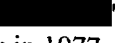

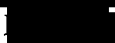
MEMORANDUM



To: Files - PFR-225 and PFR-103





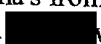
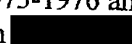

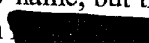




From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: 
Thomas, Rev. Joseph/

Date: February 26, 2004

PRA spoke with Rev.  regarding an allegation of sexual misconduct against Revs.  and Joseph Thomas made by  As per a letter from  attorney, Frs.  and Thomas abused  when he was a minor in 1977 at St. Edna's.

As suggested by Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Promoter of Justice, PRA contacted Fr.  due to the fact that he was assigned to St. Edna's while  was pastor in the mid to late 1970s.

When asked by PRA, Fr.  stated that he does not recall any concerns about  behavior, aside from the fact that "he  was grouchy." Fr.  informed PRA that he was assigned to St. Edna's from 1973-1976 and identified St. Edna's as "a CCD school." PRA provided Fr.  with  name, to which he stated that the name and/or family was not familiar to him. When asked by PRA, Fr.  stated that he might recall Fr. Thomas' name, but that it "doesn't ring a bell" that Fr. Thomas would have been associated with  at St. Edna's. Fr.  informed PRA that two of  close friends were Rev.  [deceased] and a priest by the name of .

PRA thanked Fr.  for the information provided.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 020479

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 3, 2004

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

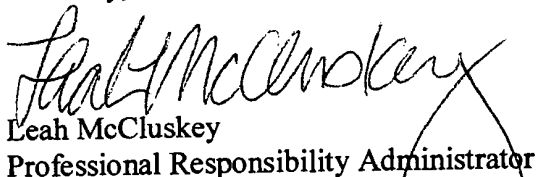
Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on February 21, 2004 and were provided an update on [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas.

The Board has recommended that in light of the information presented, that the following actions be taken:

1. That Fr. Thomas is advised against contacting the alleged victims regarding this matter.
2. [REDACTED]
3. That I forward a letter to Fr. Thomas' civil attorney and canonical advocate requesting that they forward any and all information regarding this matter to my attention no later than March 10, 2004.
4. That I inform Fr. Thomas' civil attorney and canonical advocate that this matter will be presented to the Review Board for a Second Stage Review on Saturday, March 20, 2004.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

I accept this process
for
public 2004

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2004

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

AOC 020480

Office of Professional Responsibility

P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 3, 2004

Ms. Cynthia Giachetti
53 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Giachetti,

I am writing this letter in regards to your client Rev. Joseph Thomas and the allegation of sexual misconduct made against him by [REDACTED]

As per the independent Review Board, I request that you forward all information regarding the aforementioned matter to me by Wednesday, March 10, 2004. A Second Stage Review of [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Thomas will be placed on the Review Board agenda scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2004.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".
Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

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COPY

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 3, 2004

Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton JCL
6000 W. 34th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224

Dear Msgr. Easton,

I am writing this letter in regards to your client Rev. Joseph Thomas and the allegation of sexual misconduct made against him by [REDACTED]

As per the independent Review Board, I request that you forward all information regarding the aforementioned matter to me by Wednesday, March 10, 2004. A Second Stage Review of [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Thomas will be placed on the Review Board agenda scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2004.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

AOC 020482

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 03/04/2004 01:47
NAME : PROFESSIONAL FITNESS
FAX : 312-7515279
TEL : 312-7515206
SER.# : BROM2J864224

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DURATION
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OK
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ECM

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Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312)751-5205
1-800-994-6200
Fax (312)751-5279

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:		FROM:	
Cynthia Giachetti		Laura A. Neri-Palomino	
		DATE:	
		3/4/04	
FAX NUMBER:		TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	
312-427-1788		2	
PHONE NUMBER:		PHONE NUMBER:	
312-939-6440		312-751-5206	
RE:			
Thomas [REDACTED]			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COPY <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE REVIEW <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE CONFIRM			
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE PROVIDE <input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ATTACHED <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE RETURN			

Ms. Giachetti,

A letter regarding the above matter is being sent to you via fax and the original
will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions please call Leah McCluskey at 312-751-5205.

AOC 020483

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

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 FAX : 312-7515279
 TEL : 312-7515206
 SER.# : BROM2J864224

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 OK
 STANDARD
 ECM

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility
 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
 Chicago, IL 60611



(312)751-5205
 1-800-994-6200
 Fax (312)751-5279

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Rev. Msgr. Fredrick C. Easton JCL
 FROM: Laura A. Neri-Palomino
 DATE: 3/4/04
 Canonical Advocate
 FAX NUMBER: 317-592-4036
 TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 2
 PHONE NUMBER: 312-751-5206
 RE: Thomas, [REDACTED]

☒ COPY ☐ PLEASE REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE CONFIRM
☐ PLEASE PROVIDE ☐ FOR YOUR INFORMATION ☐ SEE ATTACHED ☐ PLEASE RETURN

Msgr. Easton,

A letter regarding the above matter is being sent to you via fax and the original
 will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions please call Leah McCluskey at 312-751-5205.

TH 3/4/04

AOC 020484

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 8, 2004

Rev. Joseph Thomas
Cardinal Stritch Retreat House
P.O. Box 455
Mundelein, IL 60060-0455

Dear Fr. Thomas,

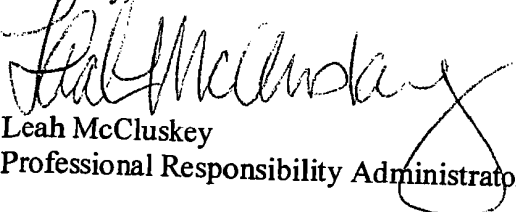
I am writing to you on behalf of the independent Professional Responsibility Review Board regarding the allegation of sexual misconduct made against you by [REDACTED]

The Review Board has requested that I ask if you would be willing to sign the enclosed consent, [REDACTED]

Please discuss this matter with your civil attorney Ms. Cynthia Giachetti and/or your canonical advocate Msgr. Frederick Easton. I ask that you respond to this request by March 15, 2004.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

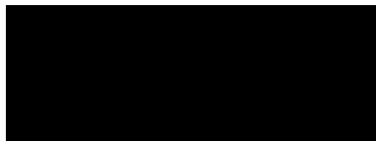
Cc: Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, J.C.L., Canonical Advocate
Ms. Cynthia Giachetti, Attorney

AOC 020485

COPY RECEIVED
APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

STATEMENTS FROM A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING:



The undersigned began the interview asking for his name, address and date of birth. He was born on [REDACTED] in Chicago, Illinois. he said he became acquainted with Father Joseph Thomas when he was in fourth grade in St. Margaret Mary Grade School in Chicago, Illinois and this would have been approximately in 1982. He said that his family became members of St. Margaret Mary Parish as early as 1976 but he became much more familiar with Father Thomas once he became a student in of the parish school in 1982. Prior to that time he had been attending a local public school before he transferred to St. Margaret Mary School.

He said he became more acquainted with Father Thomas once he started serving mass. He could not remember precisely how old they were required to be or what grade school they had to be in before they could become an altar boy; however, it was either in fourth grade or sixth grade as he recalled. He thought that he was serving mass for Father Thomas at least once a week after he started serving. In addition, he would see him after Mass with his parents on Sundays. He said Father Thomas would make occasional visits to the school classrooms and he would see him there. He said that normally two altar boys would be assigned to serve at a mass but it was not uncommon to serve by oneself. He said that at the time there were three morning masses during the week, 6:30, 7:15 and 8:45 and the servers would rotate week by week from one Mass time to the other. He could not remember whether Father Joe would himself rotate from one Mass to the other. He could not remember whether or not there was any one particular day of the week Father Joe was not present for mass. He could not remember hearing that Father Joe had a particular day off each week.

The undersigned specifically asked [REDACTED] whether or not Father Joseph Thomas ever touched him inappropriately and he said that Father Joe never did so. He said he never witnessed or never heard that Father Thomas touched any other server inappropriately. He said he never heard any rumors among his classmates or the other mass servers that he had ever touched one of the boys inappropriately. He did not remember Father Joseph asking him to help move things in or out of storage or, if he did, there was nothing to it. He did not recall any instances when Father Joe would ask the servers to stay after mass to help them do anything or to do any errands with them.

The undersigned asked [REDACTED] if he would remember any of the names of his classmates are his fellow Mass servers and he said that he would. The undersigned asked him if he remembered the name of a [REDACTED]. He said he did remember him but he was either one or two classes ahead of him. He said he did not remember too much about [REDACTED]. He said they were acquainted but they were not friends. He thought that [REDACTED] was not someone about whom much would have been said because he was not popular. When asked why [REDACTED] was

not popular, [REDACTED] said that he really did not know but did explain that most of the socializing in the school centered around sports and he remembered that [REDACTED] was not involved in sports and that, perhaps, this accounted for something.

The undersigned asked [REDACTED] how Father Thomas typically related to the young people and he said that he related to them very well. He said that probably his most vivid memory of Father Thomas comes from one incident which happened during his year in sixth grade. He remembers followed Fr. Joe coming into the sixth grade class, interrupting Mrs. Mahoney's math class around Christmas time, which is something that he would normally do a around Christmas. However, on this particular occasion he sang songs with the kids and this was great fun.

He remembers that he may have done some one-on-one things with Father Thomas. For example, it is highly likely that he would of serve Mass for Father Thomas by himself. It was not uncommon for him to be in the rectory since he was the head altar boy and therefore would have to work out serving schedules with the priests at the rectory. And it would not be uncommon for him to be sent on an errand to the rectory for his teacher or the principal of the school. He also recalled the annual altar boy fishing trip. They will go to Mundelein Seminary for this trip. One or so of the other priests would go along as well as some of the older men of the Men's Club. He has the recollection that it was Father O'Shea who coordinated the fishing trips.

The undersigned asked [REDACTED] which priest usually handled the training of servers. He said that this was always Father O'Shea and not Father Thomas.

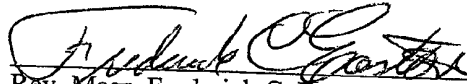
The undersigned asked [REDACTED] what would be his brother's perspective in these matters. He said that his brother was two years younger than he. However, he would have a similar perspective in that both of them attended St. Margaret Mary School and both of them were altar servers. He also went on at least one of the fishing trips to Mundelein.

The undersigned asked for [REDACTED] general impression of the personality of Father Thomas. He said that Father Joe Thomas was moderately outgoing and was kind. He was very proud of his parish and proud of the church building itself. He remembered the Father Joe tried to reach out and create a very good environment in the school. He spoke of the school because that is where he saw him at least fifty percent of the time.

The undersigned asked [REDACTED] where he went to school after St. Margaret Mary and he indicated that he attended Loyola Academy. The undersigned also asked where [REDACTED] attended high school but he did not recall. However, he advised that almost all who graduated from St. Margaret Mary School went on to Catholic high school at some location or another. These schools would have been Notre Dame high school in Niles, Quigley North located on the north side Gordon Technical School also on the north side. There is a slight possibility that he went to St. Ignatius. However there were usually only one or two per class who went on to St. Ignatius.

The undersigned found [REDACTED] to be quite candid in this interview.

This statement was taken by telephone on the afternoon of March 9, 2004 by the undersigned.

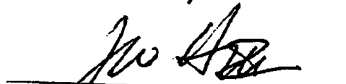

Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL

The undersigned has read the above statement and affirms his agreement with what is stated therein.

[REDACTED]

Date: 1 APRIL 2004

Place: NEWPORT, RI


Notary Public

(My commission expires: 31 JUL 04)



**Archdiocese
of Indianapolis**

*The Church in
Central and Southern
Indiana*

1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410

Metropolitan Tribunal
317-236-1460
800-332-9836 Ext. 1460
Fax 317-236-1401

March 9, 2004

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator
P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, IL 60690-1979

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

I am writing in response to the announcement that the second stage review for Fr. Joseph Thomas is now scheduled for March 20, 2004 and all information is required to be presented by March 10.

I am most urgently requesting for a delay in this procedure. First, it comes as a complete surprise in as much as our prior conversations indicated that you wanted to afford me and those assisting Fr. Thomas as much time as needed for our work in his defense. I can assure you we are working at this task, albeit we are not able to devote all of our time to the task.

As I have read, the first review was about a year ago and I understand the desire to bring closure to his situation. I know that he himself would want closure. I have a sense, from reading the files that Fr. Thomas was not at all well served by his previous ecclesiastical advocate. Thus, in effect, there has been some time not so well spent or utilized since the first stage review. Yet, I have only relatively more recently been involved with the case.

At this time, I find I am on the cusp of assembling some elements of information which includes talking to a few people who were close to the situation about which [REDACTED] speaks. I believe this new information is crucial in bringing clarity and hopefully will show that there is no reason to believe Father Thomas was the perpetrator that [REDACTED] has stated he is. At the same time Cynthia Giachetti and her investigator are also working on other aspects pertinent to this task. Both of us have other commitments as well which make it impossible to meet this deadline.

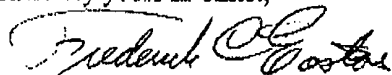
I should also advise that I shall be out of town beginning Sunday, March 14 and, effectively, through March 30. I should like to consult Cynthia Giachetti and her investigator about how much more time they would need. Yet, there is no sense that this work is drifting but is truly focused on the accomplishment of well-defined tasks, which when completed will be promptly delivered to you.

Therefore, I am faxing this letter to you today as well as placing it in the mail. I can be reached by telephone during the day through Thursday of this week at 317-236-1468. However, as the Archdiocesan offices are on a four-day

workweek, I shall be out of the office on Friday, but may be reached at 317-409-6192.

I hope we may be granted a sufficiently long extension needed to complete our work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frederick C. Easton".

Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL
Advocate for Rev. Joseph Thomas

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 10, 2004

Rev. Joseph Thomas
C/o Ms. Cynthia Giachetti

Dear Fr. Thomas,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on February 21, 2004 and were provided an update on [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against you.

The Cardinal has accepted the Board's determination that the following actions are taken:

1. That you are advised against contacting the alleged victims regarding this matter.
2. [REDACTED]

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I may be reached at [312] 751-5205 or via e-mail [lmccluskey@archchicago.org]. Also, please know that Rev. James T. Kaczorowski continues to be available to you. He may be reached at [312] 642-1837.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

AOC 020491

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility

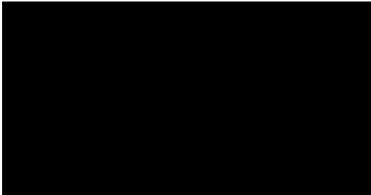


COPY

P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 10, 2004



Dear [REDACTED]

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on February 21, 2004 and were provided an update on your allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas.

The Cardinal has accepted the Board's determination that the following actions are taken:

1. That Fr. Thomas is advised against contacting you regarding this matter.
2. [REDACTED]

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I may be reached at [312] 751-5205 or via e-mail [lmccluskey@archchicago.org]. Also, please know that the Office of Assistance Ministry continues to be available to you. They may be reached at [312] 751-8267.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 020492

PRIEST PERSONNEL FILE ACCESS REQUEST RECORD

Archdiocese of Chicago

This form documents an individual priest's request for access to his records. It must be filled out completely and signed by all appropriate parties.

TO BE FILLED IN BY AGENCY HOLDING RECORDS

Name of Priest File:	
THOMAS, JOSEPH	
Record of Agency/Office:	
VICAR FOR PRIESTS	
Address:	
645 N MICHIGAN STE 543	
City/State:	Zip:
CHICAGO, IL	IL
Phone:	
312-642-1837	

Person Requesting File: <i>CYNTHIA GLACETTI</i>	Date of Request: <i>3-10-04</i>
Written Request Attached (Written request must accompany this form)	Y <input type="radio"/> N <input checked="" type="radio"/>

Person Authorizing Access:	Date Records Accessed:
MARY ANN ZRUST, SLW	3-12-04
Signature:	
Mary Ann Zrust	

TO BE FILLED IN BY REQUESTER

Requester's Signature Acknowledging Receipt of File:

[Signature]

Requester's Comments:

Initialed:

(Revised 12/95)

AOC 020493

ay
Re: J Thomas

From: "Easton, Msgr. Fred" <fEaston@archindy.org>
To: <jkaczorowski@archchicago.org>
Date: Wed, Mar 10, 2004 8:06 AM

To: Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests

Good morning, I wanted to send you a copy of the letter I faxed and mailed to Leah McCluskey regarding the process relative to Fr. Joe Thomas.

If you need to contact me, you can respond to e-mail or call me at 317-236-1468.

Here is the text of the letter:

March 9, 2004

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator
P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, IL 60690-1979

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

I am writing in response to the announcement that the second stage review for Fr. Joseph Thomas is now scheduled for March 20, 2004 and all information is required to be presented by March 10.

I am most urgently requesting for a delay in this procedure. First, it comes as a complete surprise in as much as our prior conversations indicated that you wanted to afford me and those assisting Fr. Thomas as much time as needed for our work in his defense. I can assure you we are working at this task, albeit we are not able to devote all of our time to the task.

As I have read, the first review was about a year ago and I understand the desire to bring closure to his situation. I know that he himself would want closure. I have a sense, from reading the files that Fr. Thomas was not at all well served by his previous ecclesiastical advocate. Thus, in effect, there has been some time not so well spent or utilized since the first stage review. Yet, I have only relatively more recently been involved with the case.

At this time, I find I am on the cusp of assembling some elements of information which includes talking to a few people who were close to the situation about which [REDACTED] speaks. I believe this new information is crucial in bringing clarity and hopefully will show that there is no reason to believe Father Thomas was the perpetrator that [REDACTED] has stated he is. At the same time Cynthia Giachetti and her investigator are also working on other aspects pertinent to this task. Both of us have other commitments as well which make it impossible to meet this deadline.

I should also advise that I shall be out of town beginning Sunday, March 14 and, effectively, through March 30. I should like to consult Cynthia Giachetti and her investigator about how much more time they would need. Yet, there is no sense that this work is drifting but is truly focused on the accomplishment of well-defined tasks, which when completed will be promptly delivered to you

Therefore, I am faxing this letter to you today as well as placing it in the mail. I can be reached by telephone during the day through Thursday of this week at [REDACTED]. However, as the Archdiocesan offices are on a four-day workweek, I shall be out of the office on Friday, but may be reached at [REDACTED]

I hope we may be granted a sufficiently long extension needed to complete our work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL
Advocate for Rev. Joseph Thomas

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Law Offices
CYNTHIA GIACCHETTI
53 West Jackson Boulevard--Suite 1460
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Tel. 312-939-6440 Fax. 312-362-9907
cgiacchetti@aol.com

March 11, 2004

BY FAX 312-751-5279

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Re: Rev. Joseph Thomas

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

This is in response to your letter of March 3, 2004, scheduling a March 20, 2004, Second Stage Review of [REDACTED] allegations against Father Thomas.

I know you have recently received a letter from Msgr. Frederick Easton requesting that the Board's Review be rescheduled because we are unable to provide all the information necessary to present to the Board for their review by that date. I agree and join in Msgr. Easton's request for a delay.

I also note that although we have been working diligently it will be impossible for me personally to be able to obtain all the information necessary to present on Father Thomas' behalf by March 20, 2004. I presently represent a defendant in a federal death penalty case. I have been involved most of this week in taking evidentiary depositions of witnesses in that case. I am also required to provide the trial judge by March 16, 2004, with an extensive memorandum and proposed questionnaire for jury selection, which I am working on simultaneously with taking these depositions. Given the nature of this case and the possibility that a death sentence could be imposed on my client, I am obviously required to devote my complete attention to that case at this time. The depositions and the jury selection issues were scheduled before I received your letter scheduling Father Thomas's Second Stage Review, so it was impossible to reschedule those matters.

In order for me, along with Msgr. Easton, to competently represent Father Thomas in this matter and to be sure that the Board has all the information

necessary to make their decision, a continuance of the March 20, 2004, date is absolutely necessary and respectfully requested.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note that I have moved my offices. My address remains the same (53 West Jackson Boulevard) but my Suite No. is now 1460. My telephone number remains the same (312-939-6440) but my new fax number is 312-362-9907.

Very truly yours,



Cynthia Giacchetti

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

March 15, 2004

Rev. Joseph S. Thomas
P O Box 455
Mundelein, IL 60060

Dear Father Thomas,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Most Reverend Raymond E. Goedert will assume the responsibilities of interim monitor at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, Koenig Hall, effective Tuesday, March 16, 2004. While he serves in this capacity, Bishop Goedert will reside at the retreat house. I am deeply grateful to him for accepting this responsibility at the present time. As this transition occurs, I also wish to thank Father Anthony Talarico for having served in the capacity of monitor for the past two or more years while, at the same time, performing his primary duties of administrator at the retreat house.

Sometime within the next two weeks, Bishop Goedert, Father Jim Kaczorowski, my Vicar for Priests, and Ms. Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator, will meet with the residents at Koenig Hall as a group and review the contents of the protocol. We are also inviting Father Talarico and Father Siedlecki to be present for this meeting since there will be occasions when they will function as monitor in Bishop Goedert's absence.

I am sorry this process is taking so much longer than I believed and expected it would. I want to assure you of my prayers for you. Likewise, I ask that you pray for me. May this season of Lent be a time of special blessing for you.

Sincerely, yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George
Archbishop of Chicago

AOC 020498

Cc: Most Reverend Raymond E. Goedert
Most Reverend Edwin M. Conway
Mr. Jimmy Lago
Dr. Carol Fowler
Ms. Leah McCluskey
Reverend James T. Kaczorowski
Reverend Thomas A. Tivy
Reverend Daniel A. Smilanic
Reverend Anthony Talarico
Reverend Edmund J. Siedlecki

FAX

VICAR FOR PRIESTS OFFICE

645 N. Michigan, Suite 543

Chicago, Illinois 60611

(312) 642-1837

Fax: (312) 642-4933

To: *Rev. Joseph Thomas*
From: *Fr. James Kaczorowski*

Fax Number:

Date: *3/15/04*

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

MESSAGE:

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR YOUR REVIEW ☐ REPLY ASAP ☐ COMMENT

Attached you will find a copy of the letter being sent to you by Cardinal George.

The original will reach you by mail. Be assured of my prayers for you.

Fraternally,



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

March 17, 2004

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair St.
Chicago, IL 60611

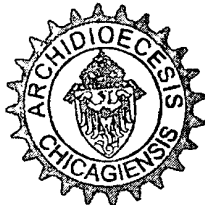
Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note in response to your letter of March 3, 2004, regarding the matter of **Rev. Joseph Thomas**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago who currently retired, and the allegation made by [REDACTED]

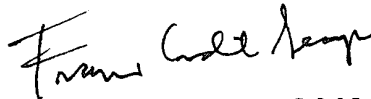
In light of the Board's consideration of the information presented in this matter at their meeting of February 21, 2004, I accept the Board's recommendations for actions to be taken in this regard.

I understand that any further information is to be presented to the Professional Responsibility Review Board at their regular meeting to be held on March 20, 2004.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Richard Landis".

Ecclesiastical Notary

cc: Most Reverend Edwin M. Conway, Vicar General
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services
Reverend James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Minister
Mr. Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services

AOC 020501

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, March 20, 2004- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Revision

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- PRA will have copies of the revised January 10, 2004 Meeting Minutes sent to all Board members in the packets for the April 17, 2004 Review Board meeting.
- I. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2004**
- The Board approved the meeting minutes in a unanimous 5-0 vote.
- II. Update from FEG's decisions from March 20, 2004 Review Board Meeting**
- PRA provided the Review Board with the information that Cardinal George accepted and supported their recommendations from March 20, 2004 concerning the following matters: [REDACTED], Thomas/[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- III. Case Reviews**

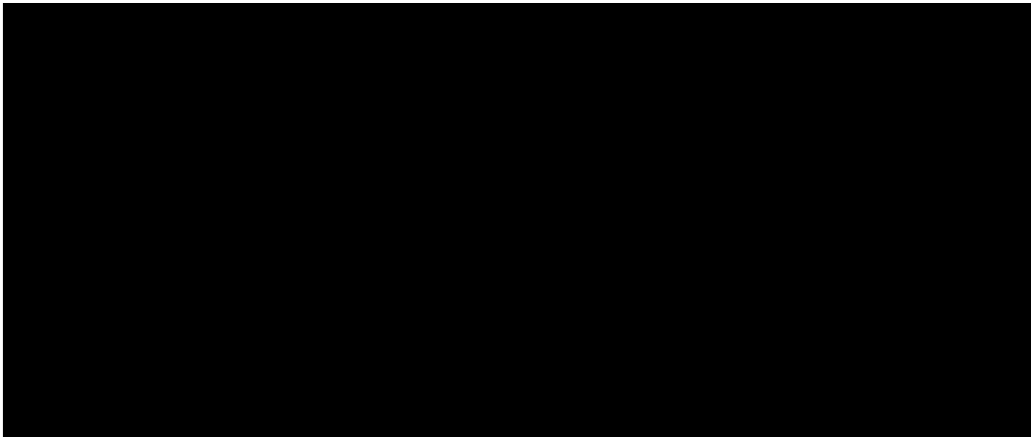
Initial Review:

A.

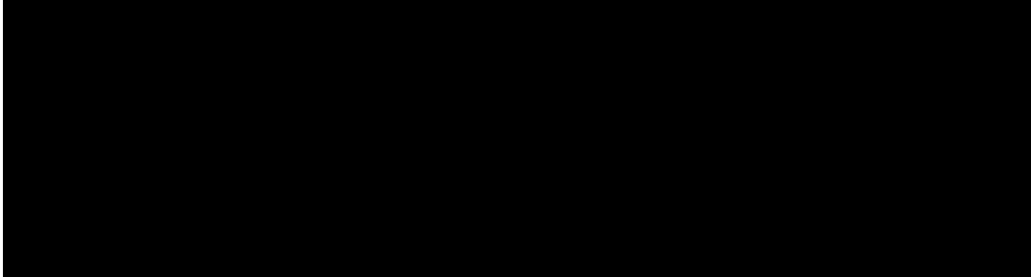
[REDACTED]



B.



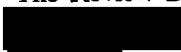

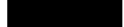
C.





Second Stage Review

D. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired 1997] - PFR - 103

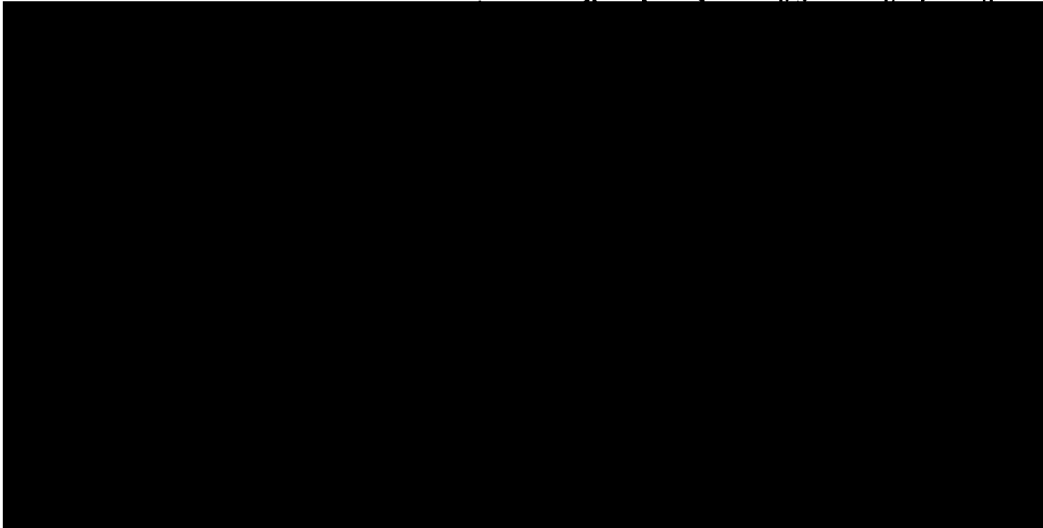
The Review Board was to conduct a Second Stage Review regarding the allegation of

 The claim is as follows: Fr. Thomas fondled, kissed, and penetrated 


In a unanimous 5-0 vote, the Board recommended to honor the written requests of Ms. Cynthia Giachetti [civil attorney] and Msgr. Frederick Easton [canonical advocate] to postpone the Second Stage Review until the next scheduled Board meeting. As per Ms. Giachetti and Msgr. Easton, they requested the extension on behalf of their client Fr. Thomas so that they could complete their investigation of the allegation and provide PRA with their findings. The Board also recommended that PRA request a written response from either Fr. Thomas, Ms. Giachetti, or Msgr. Easton to the Board's past request 


IV. Other Matters

-
-
-
-



Next scheduled meeting is April 17, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, March 20, 2004- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- PRA will have copies of the revised January 10, 2004 Meeting Minutes sent to all Board members in the packets for the April 17, 2004 Review Board meeting.
- I. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2004**
- The Board approved the meeting minutes in a unanimous 5-0 vote.
- II. Update from FEG's decisions from March 20, 2004 Review Board Meeting**
- PRA provided the Review Board with the information that Cardinal George accepted and supported their recommendations from March 20, 2004 concerning the following matters: [REDACTED] Thomas/[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- III. Case Reviews**

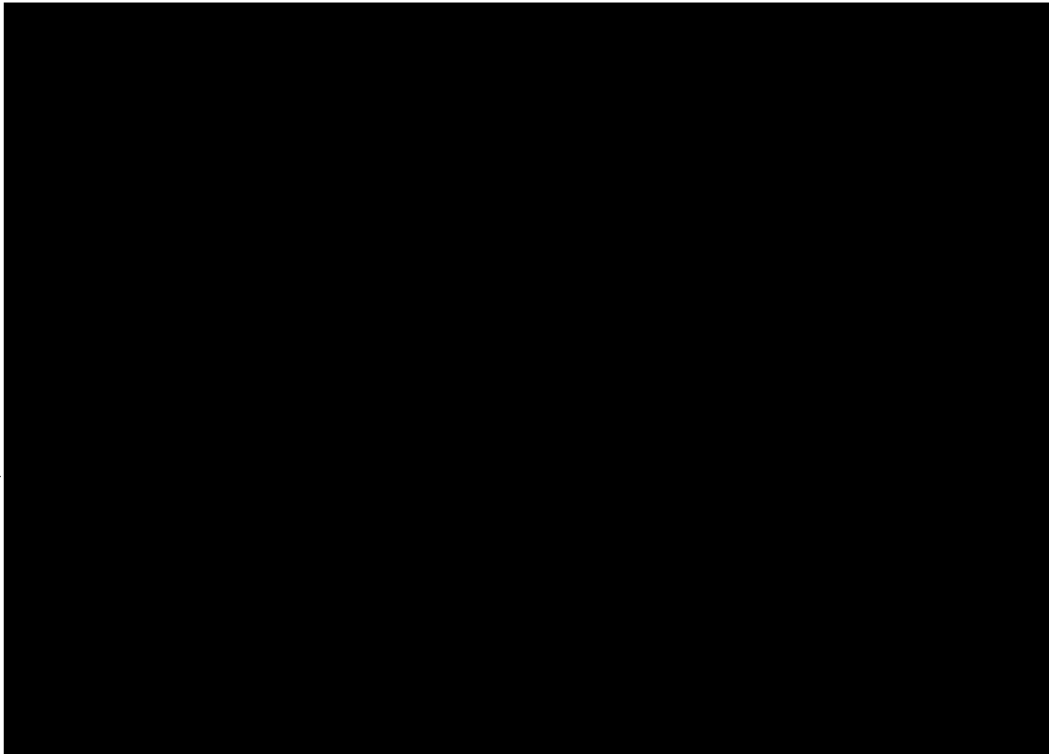
Initial Review:

A.

[REDACTED]



B.








C.

Second Stage Review

D. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired 1997] - PFR - 103

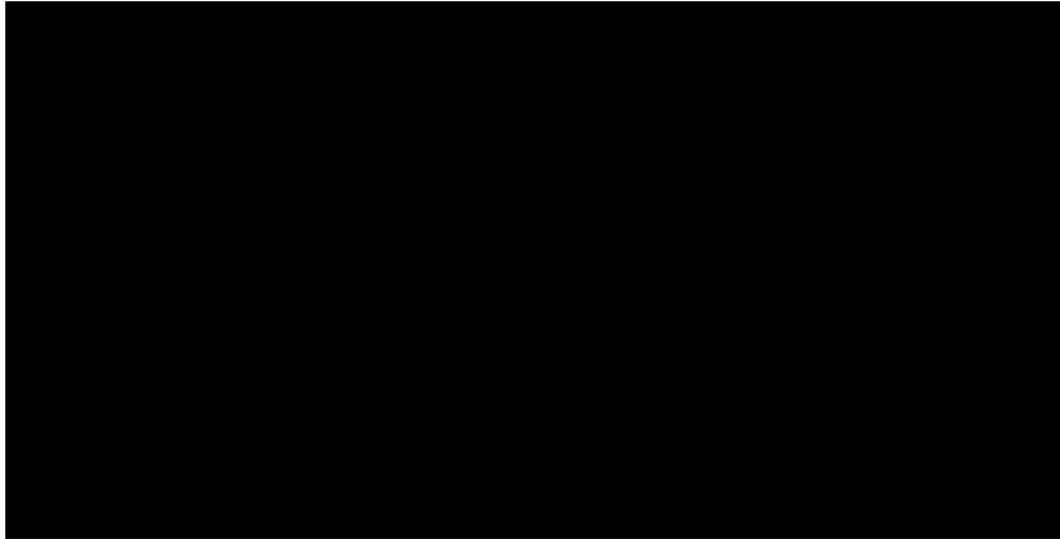
The Review Board was to conduct a Second Stage Review regarding the allegation of

 The claim is as follows: Fr. Thomas fondled, kissed, and penetrated 


In a unanimous 5-0 vote, the Board recommended to honor the written requests of Ms. Cynthia Giachetti [civil attorney] and Msgr. Frederick Easton [canonical advocate] to postpone the Second Stage Review until the next scheduled Board meeting. As per Ms. Giachetti and Msgr. Easton, they requested the extension on behalf of their client Fr. Thomas so that they could complete their investigation of the allegation and provide PRA with their findings. The Board also recommended that PRA request a written response from either Fr. Thomas, Ms. Giachetti, or Msgr. Easton to the Board's past request 


IV. Other Matters

-
-
-
-



Next scheduled meeting is April 17, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING **Saturday, March 20, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2004
- II. Update on decisions made by FEG from 2/21/04
- III. Case Reviews

Initial Reviews:

A. [REDACTED]

Preliminary Review:

B. [REDACTED]

C. [REDACTED]

Second Stage Reviews:

- B. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas (Retired 1997) - PFR-103
 - Allegation made by [REDACTED]

III. Other Matters

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The next scheduled Board Meeting is for Saturday, April 17, 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-103
From: Review Board Meeting
Re: Thomas, Joseph (Retired 1997) [REDACTED]
Date: March 20, 2004

A summary of the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on March 20, 2004:

The Review Board was to conduct a Second Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED]
The claim is as follows: Fr. Thomas fondled, kissed, and penetrated [REDACTED]

In a unanimous 5-0 vote, the Board recommended to honor the written requests of Ms. Cynthia Giachetti [civil attorney] and Msgr. Frederick Easton [canonical advocate] to postpone the Second Stage Review until the next scheduled Board meeting. As per Ms. Giachetti and Msgr. Easton, they requested the extension on behalf of their client Fr. Thomas so that they could complete their investigation of the allegation and provide PRA with their findings. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Professional Responsibility Review Board
676 North St. Clair - Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
Hotline: 1-800-994-6200

RECORD OF CASE DISPOSITION

The Professional Responsibility Review Board met on 3/20/04 to conduct a
(enter date: month/day/year)
(check one:) ☐ First Stage Review ☒ Second Stage Review ☐ Supplementary Review ☐ Status Report
regarding the allegation of _____
(enter name of alleged victim)
against Joseph Thomas
(enter name of accused priest or deacon)

(check one:) ☒ a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago ☐ a deacon of the Archdiocese of Chicago
☐ an extern priest or deacon of the (Arch)diocese of _____
(enter name of (Arch)diocese)
☐ a religious priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of religious community)
☐ a resigned priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of diocese or religious community)
☐ a deceased priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of diocese or religious community)

which claims as follows: _____
(enter brief description of the alleged misconduct or inappropriate behavior)

In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that

(check one:) ☐ there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.
☐ there is not reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.
☐ there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

If there is a finding of reasonable cause to suspect, the Board recommends that

(check one:) ☐ the priest or deacon be immediately withdrawn from ministry (or that his withdrawal from ministry continue) and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.
☐ no further action be taken because the accused priest is resigned or deceased, except to provide appropriate outreach to those affected by the alleged misconduct.

The Board further recommends: unanimous 5-0; postpone

til 4/7/04

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 23, 2004

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on March 20, 2004 and was to conduct a Second Stage Review of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Joseph Thomas pursuant to Article 1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Thomas is a withdrawn priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board determined that in light of the information presented, to grant the requests of Fr. Thomas' canonical advocate and civil attorney to delay the Second Stage Review of this matter for 30 days. The Board recommended that the Second Stage Review will take place at the next Board meeting scheduled for April 17, 2004.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

*I accept this delay
although this case has
been too often delayed.
F. Lagges
March 27, 2004*

RECEIVED

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar

MAR 26 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

AOC 020511

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

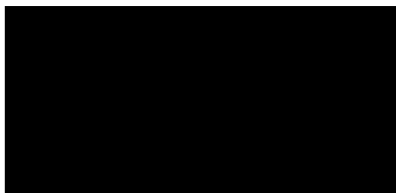
Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 26, 2004




Dear [REDACTED]

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on March 20, 2004 and was to conduct a Second Stage Review regarding your allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas, a withdrawn priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, pursuant to Article §1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

The Cardinal has accepted the Board's determination to postpone this matter until the next Board meeting scheduled to take place on April 17, 2004. Further, this matter will be heard for a Second Stage Review on the aforementioned date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I may be reached at [312] 751-5205 or via e-mail [lmccluskey@archchicago.org]. Also, please know that the Office of Assistance Ministry continues to be available to you. They may be reached at [312] 751-8267.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 020512

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

March 26, 2004

Rev. Joseph Thomas
P.O. Box 455
Mundelein, IL 60060-0455

Dear Fr. Thomas,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on March 20, 2004 and was to conduct a Second Stage Review regarding [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against you pursuant to Article §1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry.

The Cardinal has accepted the Board's determination to postpone this matter until the next Board meeting scheduled to take place on April 17, 2004. Further, this matter will be heard for a Second Stage Review on the aforementioned date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I may be reached at [312] 751-5205 or via e-mail [lmccluskey@archchicago.org]. Also, please know that Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests continues to be available to you. He may be reached at [312] 642-1837.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton J.C.L., Canonical Advocate
Ms. Cynthia Giachetti, Attorney

AOC 020513

From: Daniel Smilanic
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 3/26/04 1:38PM
Subject: HELLO, AND WOULD YOU PLEASE DELIVER A MESSAGE

[REDACTED]
Hello - hope all is going well.

Could I ask you to deliver a message to Fred Easton, who is staying at the Casa. He is representing one of our accused clerics, and this is rather important as it contains a deadline.

Message:

Fred -

The Cardinal has accepted the recommendations of the Review Board that the case be deferred until the April meeting. However, we ask that you and Cynthia get your material in as soon as possible, no later than Wednesday, April 7th.

The tardy arrival of material has developed into a serious problem, and so we are now setting firm deadlines. One of the civil attorneys (not you or Cynthia) has become such a problem that the Review Board is sending him a personal letter about this.

[REDACTED]
Dan Smilanic

From: Daniel Smilanic
To: Leah McCluskey
Date: 3/29/04 10:03AM
Subject: Fwd: Re: HELLO, AND WOULD YOU PLEASE DELIVER A MESSAGE

Leah -
FYI
Fr. Smilanic

>>> [REDACTED] 03/27/04 12:52AM >>>
Dan,

Fred is here and I've just printed and delivered the message.

Thanks ... see you soon.

[REDACTED]
Daniel Smilanic <dsmilanic@archchicago.org> wrote:

[REDACTED]
Hello - hope all is going well.
Could I ask you to deliver a message to Fred Easton, who is staying at the Casa. He is representing one of our accused clerics, and this is rather important as it contains a deadline.

Message:

Fred -

The Cardinal has accepted the recommendations of the Review Board that the case be deferred until the April meeting. However, we ask that you and Cynthia get your material in as soon as possible, no later than Wednesday, April 7th.

The tardy arrival of material has developed into a serious problem, and so we are now setting firm deadlines. One of the civil attorneys (not you or Cynthia) has become such a problem that the Review Board is sending him a personal letter about this.

[REDACTED]

Dan Smilanic

Do you Yahoo!?

Yahoo! Finance Tax Center - File online. File on time.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

April 1, 2004

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair St.
Chicago, IL 60611

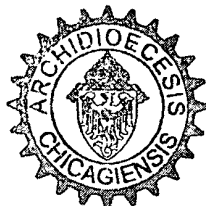
Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note in response to your letter of March 23, 2004, regarding the matter of **Rev. Joseph Thomas**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago who currently retired, and the allegation made by [REDACTED]

In light of the Board's consideration of the information presented in this matter at their meeting of March 20, 2004, 2004, I accept the Board's recommendations that further consideration of this matter be postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Responsibility Review Board, scheduled for April 17, 2004.

I would like it to be clear, however, that this delay is in response to the request of Father Thomas' canonical and civil advocates. Because this matter has been delayed several times in the past, I ask that the Second Stage Review be conducted the April 17th meeting so that this case can be resolved in a just and timely manner.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



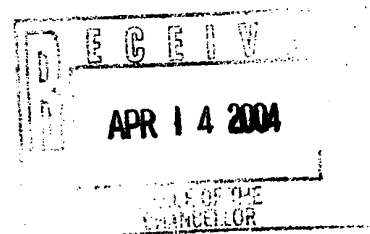
Sincerely yours in Christ,



Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Rev. Richard Lender
Ecclesiastical Notary

cc: Most Reverend Edwin M. Conway, Vicar General
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services
Reverend James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Minister
Mr. Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services



AOC 020516

From: Daniel Smilanic
To: Leah McCluskey
Date: 4/1/04 4:15PM
Subject: Fwd: RE: Deadline issue

Leah -
I think it will all be there for the next meeting.
Fr. Smilanic

>>> "Easton, Msgr. Fred" <fEaston@archindy.org> 04/01/04 01:35PM >>>
Yes, I thought it must have been from a source other than Leah or you. I am talking with Cindy more extensively today and will be working on a cover letter/executive summary to accompany all the materials we want to present to the Review Board.

I am back from Rome now.

Fred

-----Original Message-----
From: Daniel Smilanic [<mailto:dsmilanic@archchicago.org>]
Sent: April 01, 2004 11:22 AM
To: Easton, Msgr. Fred
Subject: Re: Deadline issue

Fred -
Thanks for all your hard work.
The 'urgency' developed in part in response to the pressure that has been put on Leah and I to get a conclusion to this case, as well as to another one. The pressure came from several camps. I can explain more when I see you in Evansville.
Anyway, thanks for getting the stuff to us by April 7th.
Dan Smilanic

>>> "Easton, Msgr. Fred" <fEaston@archindy.org> 03/27/04 01:49AM >>>
Hi, Dan:

Steve gave me the e-mail this morning. I am sure we can get the material to Leah's office by April 7 in one form or another.

I must say I was blindsided by what has seemed a sudden urgency, as I mentioned on the phone. I may not have mentioned that it was Leah who told me something in the vein that her office wanted to give me all the time I needed to defend Fr. Joe. Thus, it came as a surprise that now there is this urgency. I recognize, though, it has been in progress for a while. However, I think I was perhaps misled by what Leah told me and perhaps she was not intending for me to interpret what she said in the way I did. Anyhow, I hope the issue is moot as we can, I think, get the materials to her on April 7 or earlier.

I am here in Rome until Tuesday morning, so if you need to get to me again, send another message to Steve. I am using someone else's internet access at the moment.

Peace,

Fred

April 2, 2004

Joseph S. Thomas
PO Box 455
Mundelein, IL 60060-0455

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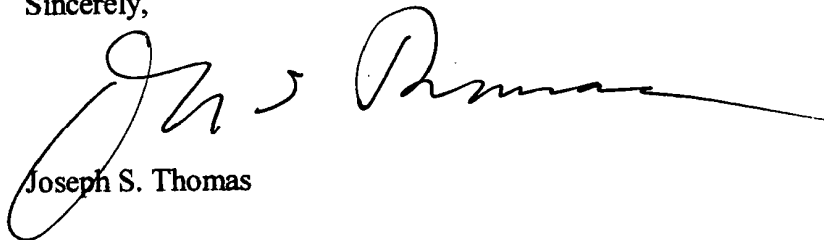
APR 07 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Leah:

In regard to the letter of March 23, 2004 I have considered the matter and have decided I do not want to release the requested records.

Sincerely,



Joseph S. Thomas

Cc Msgr. Fred Easton
Ms. Cynthia Giacchetti
Rev. James Kaczorowski

AOC 020519

COPY

April 3, 2004

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ms. Cynthia Giacchetti
53 W. Jackson Blvd. Suite 1515
Chicago IL 60604

Dear Ms. Giacchetti,

We received a telephone call this afternoon from our pastor emeritus, Fr. Joseph Thomas, asking if we would write a letter to you describing the scheduling and duties of the sacristans at St. Margaret Mary Parish. I believe he said this requested information was to be used by yourself and Msgr. Fred Easton, Fr. Thomas' canon lawyer, in preparation of his defense against allegations purportedly occurring some twenty years ago. We are pleased to offer our assistance by writing this letter.

[REDACTED] and I have been church sacristans as a couple since I retired in 1990 and still perform this monthly task. At that time Sacristans served every day of the week except Sunday. Sometime in the early '90's that schedule was been cut to 12 to 15 opportunities to serve in this ministry during a given month. 19 individuals currently fulfill these tasks on a fixed monthly schedule which occur on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday in each week. Nominally, many sacristans attend the weekday 8:45 AM morning mass on the day of their scheduled service and begin their duties immediately after mass. The priest, altar servers (currently senior parishioners assist at mass in this ministry) and lector are usually still in attendance in the sacristy when commencing this cleaning schedule.

There are a few tasks which are repeated on each day of service but individual assignments can differ from day to day and within the monthly schedule. These duties consume about an hour to an hour and a half depending on how many sacristans are involved daily (two people sharing a date vs. individuals) and the conditions of the sanctuary and sacristies (tending to flowers and plants used for seasonal decoration; candle replacement when they burn low; supplies requiring replenishment).

Although these tasks are usually done immediately after mass, there are those who fulfill their scheduled duties when an opportunity presents itself anytime during of the day. Sacristans who arrive later must gain access to the church through the rectory and let themselves into the church via the connecting door to the rectory. In the absence of a sacristan the church is locked within the hour after mass by a member of the rosary group, who gather after every morning mass for prayer.

Fr. Thomas asked me if I knew who might have been involved as sacristans on the Wednesday schedule during the time period you are investigating but my memory could not help him there. Many women who were involved at that time have since moved from the parish or have died. There might have been one male sacristan, [REDACTED], and three women, [REDACTED] who served then and still serve as a sacristans.

If there is anything more we can do, please do not hesitate to give us call or drop a note. We cannot be more anxious than Fr. Thomas to bring this issue to a close but it is close.

AOC 020520

April 7, 2004

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APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITYTo: Msgr. Andrew Euston
Cynthia Giacchetti

I am writing in regard to the case of Father Joseph Thomas. I was a sacristan at St. Margaret Mary Parish in the 1980's.

The questions given to me and my responses are as follows:

1. Were you ever in the society before or after Mass celebrated by Father Thomas? No, not that I recall.
2. If so, how did Father Thomas interact with the altar server? I couldn't say how he interacted with the altar server in the society but I do know that whenever I was present with him and any children, altar server or others, his conduct and interaction was always most appropriate. He was friendly and open, always interested in what was going on in the lives at the moment and joking with them. I always felt that he was a sincerely caring and kind pastor to all the children in the parish.
3. Did he ever go off to do something, asking one or more of the server to come along? I do not know.
4. If so, what do you know about what they were doing?
5. Do you recall whether Father Thomas said Mass on Wednesday or not? Was this his day off? I'm afraid I do not recall which day of the week was Father Thomas's day off or whether or not he said Mass on Wednesday.



BURKE, WARREN, MACKay & SERRITELLA, P.C.

22ND FLOOR IBM PLAZA
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3607
TELEPHONE (312) 840-7000
FACSIMILE (312) 840-7900
www.burkelaw.com

JAMES A. SERRITELLA
DIRECT DIAL NUMBER
(312) 840-7040
jserritella@burkelaw.com

April 7, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE ([REDACTED]) & U.S. MAIL

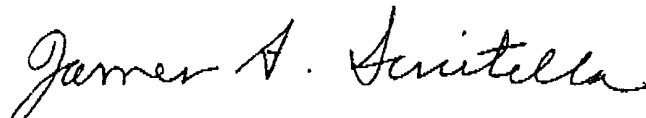
Re: [REDACTED] and Father Joseph Thomas

Dear [REDACTED]

I am following up on your letter of February 17, 2004 regarding the above matter. I have passed your correspondence on to Ms. Leah McCluskey, the Fitness Review Administrator of the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is my understanding that someone from her office has been or will be in contact with you about this matter. As you know, either you or your client can contact Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi (312-751-8267), Assistance Minister of the Archdiocese, for therapy from a licensed therapist.


Please call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


James A. Serritella

lj

cc: Leah McCluskey
Ralph Bonaccorsi


April 7, 2004
Page 2

bcc: Reverend James Kaczorowski
Reverend Thomas Tivy
John O'Malley

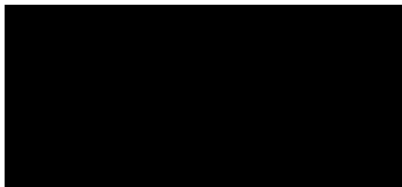
BURKE, WARREN, MACKAY & SERRITELLA, P.C.

22ND FLOOR IBM PLAZA
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3607
TELEPHONE (312) 840-7000
FACSIMILE (312) 840-7900
www.burkelaw.com

PATRICIA B. CARLSON
DIRECT DIAL NUMBER
(312) 840-7076
pcarlson@sitterdinglaw.com

April 7, 2004

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS



Re: [REDACTED] and Father Joseph Thomas

Dear [REDACTED]

We represent the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a corporation sole ("the Catholic Bishop"). I am writing to confirm that the Catholic Bishop agrees that the running of any statute of limitations applicable to [REDACTED] claim against the Catholic Bishop arising out of the allegations against [REDACTED] and Rev. Joseph Thomas, which has not already been barred by the statute of limitations applicable to [REDACTED] claim, shall be tolled as of March 15, 2004, which is the date that you first requested such tolling. This tolling agreement shall last until December 15, 2004 (the period from March 15, 2004 until December 15, 2004 is the "Tolling Period"). Please be sure to understand that we only represent the Catholic Bishop and that we do not speak for or represent the accused priests.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice of termination of this Agreement to the other party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The termination of this Agreement shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date the written notice is deposited with the United States Postal Service by the notifying party.

The Tolling Period shall not be asserted or relied on in any way (whether in computing the running of the time under any applicable statute of limitations or by way of laches or otherwise) by any party in defense of any such claim, which may at any time hereafter be asserted against any party by any other party. Apart from this specific tolling, the Catholic Bishop reserves all of its defenses, including that of the statute of limitations, against any claims [REDACTED] may have against the Catholic Bishop.

BURKE, WARREN, MACKAY & SERRITELLA, P.C.

[REDACTED]
April 7, 2004
Page 2

Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed, construed or otherwise interpreted as an admission by any Party of the existence or validity of any claim by either party against the other party. You agree, for your part, that [REDACTED] will not commence litigation against the Catholic Bishop while this agreement remains in effect. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

If you agree with the terms expressed in this letter, please sign it at the place indicated and return it to me.


Very truly yours,

Patricia B. Carlson

Patricia B. Carlson

Agreed: _____
[REDACTED]

BURKE, WARREN, MACKAY & SERRITELLA, P.C.


April 7, 2004

Page 3

bcc John C. O'Malley, Esq.
Rev. James Kaczorowski
Matthew Kaminski
Christopher Spala
Christopher Weiner
James A. Serritella, Esq.

RECEIVED

APR 18 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

April 8, 2004

In regards to the case of Fr. Joseph Thomas

THE QUESTIONS:

1) Were you ever in the sacristy before or after Mass celebrated by Father Thomas?

yes.

2) If so, how did Father Thomas interact with the altar servers? *He interacted appropriately with the altar servers, doing the normal routine after mass activities. I was a Parispener during his entire time as pastor and was at numerous activities and functions with him and always found his behavior to be appropriate.*

3) Did he ever go off to do something, asking one or more the servers to come along?

not that I know of.

4) If so, what do you know about what they were doing?

N/A

5) Do you recall whether Father Thomas said Mass on Wednesday or not? Was this his day off?

I don't recall.

04/08/04 13:52

Apr 06 04 03:34P

NO. 652 D01
P. 2

2 of 2

To

Names of sacristans from bulletins of the 1980's.

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I would appreciate it if you would do me the favor of responding to the questions listed below and faxing your responses to:

1) Msgr. Fred Easton - 317-236-1401 (Fax)

2) Cynthia Giacchetti - 312-427-1788 (Fax)

If you prefer not to do this, I understand - or if you don't think that your answers would be relevant, that's all right, too.

PLEASE MAKE SURE:

- 1) That the FAX is clearly directed to the persons listed above.
- 2) That the FAX clearly indicates that it is in regard to the case of Fr. Joseph Thomas.

THE QUESTIONS:

- 1) Were you ever in the sacristy before or after Mass celebrated by Father Thomas? *YES*
- 2) If so, how did Father Thomas interact with the altar servers? *Kindly*
- 3) Did he ever go off to do something, asking one or more the servers to come along? *NO*
- 4) If so, what do you know about what they were doing? *_____*
- 5) Do you recall whether Father Thomas said Mass on Wednesday or not? Was this his day off? *do not Recall*

I surely appreciate anything you can offer in this regard. If you have any questions, please call me at 708-212-3654.

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

Father Thomas

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
METROPOLITAN AREA

AOC 020528

To [REDACTED]

Names of sacristans from bulletins of the 1980's.
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

RECEIVED

APR 1 2 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I would appreciate it if you would do me the favor of responding to the questions listed below and faxing your responses to:

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If you prefer not to do this, I understand - or if you don't think that your answers would be relevant, that's all right, too.

PLEASE MAKE SURE:

- 1) That the FAX is clearly directed to the persons listed above.
- 2) That the FAX clearly indicates that it is in regard to the case of Fr. Joseph Thomas.

THE QUESTIONS:

1) Were you ever in the sacristy before or after Mass celebrated by Father Thomas?

yes

2) If so, how did Father Thomas interact with the altar servers?

He always acted in the most professional, mature manner. He was most grateful to the children for coming to assist at mass.

3) Did he ever go off to do something, asking one or more the servers to come along?

no

4) If so, what do you know about what they were doing?

5) Do you recall whether Father Thomas said Mass on Wednesday or not? Was this his day off?

I don't really recall.

I surely appreciate anything you can offer in this regard. If you have any questions, please call me at 708-212-3654.

I have lived in the Father Thomas parish for 46 yrs. and would say that Fr. Thomas and Msgr. Kelly (as pastors) rank #1 as they were exemplars of dedicated priests. At the time of my husband's demise Fr. Thomas showed true concern and compassion for me and my eight children as a true shepherd. [REDACTED]

FROM: [REDACTED]

Names of sacristans from bulletins of the 1980's.

RECEIVED

APR 1 9 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I would appreciate it if you would do me the favor of responding to the questions listed below and faxing your responses to:

1) Msgr. Fred Easton - [REDACTED] (Fax)

2) Cynthia Giacchetti - [REDACTED] (Fax)

If you prefer not to do this, I understand - or if you don't think that your answers would be relevant, that's all right, too.

PLEASE MAKE SURE:

- 1) That the FAX is clearly directed to the persons listed above.
- 2) That the FAX clearly indicates that it is in regard to the case of Fr. Joseph Thomas.

THE QUESTIONS:

- 1) Were you ever in the sacristy before or after Mass celebrated by Father Thomas?
I served as a sacristan after Mass twice a month, I don't remember anything unusual happening.
- 2) If so, how did Father Thomas interact with the altar servers?
I don't remember him interacting with the altar servers.
- 3) Did he ever go off to do something, asking one or more the servers to come along?
No
- 4) If so, what do you know about what they were doing?

5) Do you recall whether Father Thomas said Mass on Wednesday or not? Was this his day off?

I am not aware because I was participating in a bowling league on Wednesdays.

I surely appreciate anything you can offer in this regard. If you have any questions, please call me at 708-212-3654.

RECEIVED

Father Thomas

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
METROPOLITAN AREA

Law Offices
Cynthia Giacchetti
53 West Jackson Boulevard - Suite 1460
Chicago, Illinois 60604

COPY

Telephone
312-939-6440

cgiacchetti@aol.com

April 13, 2004

Facsimile
312-362-9907

BY MESSENGER

RECEIVED

Leah McCluskey
Professional Fitness Review Administrator
676 N. St. Clair--Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

APR 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Re: Father Joseph Thomas

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

Delivered herewith are materials for presentation to the Professional Responsibility Review Board for its Second Stage Review which I understand is presently scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2004. Those materials consist of:

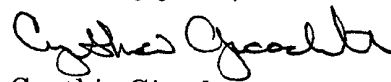
(1) Summary of Findings of Fact submitted on behalf of Father Joseph Thomas and signed by Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL, along with attachments consisting of nine signed statements, three letters, a six page chart summarizing the scheduling of altar boys, and 21 pages from the Sunday bulletins on which the chart is based. The originals of the Sunday bulletins are, of course, available if the Board want to review them.

(2) Three responses from sacristans serving at St. Margaret Mary Church. These responses came in after the Summary was prepared so they are not listed therein. However, they are submitted in further support of the Summary of Facts.

(3) Seventeen letters of support for Father Thomas describing his character and behavior and completely inconsistent with the allegation against him.. I know you have received many other letters of support that were sent directly to the Board. These letters were sent to me, so I send them on to you to submit to the Board for their consideration in making their decision in this matter.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Very truly yours,


Cynthia Giacchetti

AOC 020531

COPY

RECEIVED

APR 13 2002

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS OF FACT

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

SUBMITTED BY REV. MSGR. FREDERICK C. EASTON, ADVOCATE FOR REV. JOSEPH THOMAS, BY CYNTHIA GIACHETTI, JD. CIVIL ATTORNEY FOR REV. JOSEPH THOMAS AND BY MR. JOHN D. REA, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FOR CYNTHIA GIACHETTI

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

1. A summary report of the weekly bulletins of St. Margaret Mary Parish from 1981 through 1984 indicating those weeks when [REDACTED] was scheduled to serve Mass
2. Photocopies of pages of parish bulletins highlighting the name of [REDACTED] as scheduled to serve Mass
3. Statements taken from the following persons:

NAME	RELATIONSHIP
[REDACTED]	Parish secretary at Saint Margaret Mary Church 1982 to the present
[REDACTED]	Principal at Saint Margaret Mary Elementary School from 1972 through her retirement in 1997
[REDACTED]	Associate pastor at Saint Margaret Mary Parish from 1976 through 1983
Reverend [REDACTED]	Priest classmate of Rev. Joseph Thomas who played golf with him on days off
Bishop [REDACTED]	Priest classmate and close personal friend of Rev. Joseph Thomas who spent time with Fr. Thomas on days off
Reverend [REDACTED]	Associate pastor at Saint Margaret Mary Parish from approximately 1982 through 1988
[REDACTED]	Priest-resident at St. Margaret Mary Parish for five years beginning in the fall of 1983 while he taught at one of the high schools.
[REDACTED]	Active parishioner of Saint Margaret Mary Parish from 1980 to the present
[REDACTED]	A student in of the parish school in 1982 after a transfer from a public school and an altar server

4. Interview of [REDACTED] on August 29, 2002 in the presence of the following: his attorney, Leah McCluskey, Administrator, Office of Professional Responsibility, and Ralph Bonacorsi, Victim Assistant Ministry (In the file held by the Archdiocese of Chicago)
5. Interview of Joseph Thomas on September 5, 2002 in the presence of present also were Leah McCluskey, Administrator, Office of Professional Responsibility, Cynthia Giachetti, attorney for Rev. Joseph Thomas, and Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests (In the file held by the Archdiocese of Chicago)

6. Report of Inspection of the Premises of St. Margaret Mary by Brett Starr of Jack Burke and Associates, Private Investigators dated March 3, 2003 (In the file held by the Archdiocese of Chicago)
7. Interview of [REDACTED] on March 12, 2003 (in the file held by the Archdiocese of Chicago)
8. Interview of [REDACTED] on April 2, 2003 (in the file held by the Archdiocese of Chicago)
9. Handwritten letters from two women who were sacristans at St. Margaret Mary Church during the time in question and two people in charge of assigning sacristans: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CLAIMS OF FACT BY [REDACTED] IN RELATION TO INFORMATION FROM THE ABOVE SOURCES:

[REDACTED]

A number of people who were in a position to know affirmed that on most Wednesdays, Father Thomas was *not at the parish* since it was his day off:

Mrs. [REDACTED] parish secretary at Saint Margaret Mary Church, recalled that Father Thomas went to his lake home just about every Wednesday and on most Wednesdays, he was gone before she arrived at work on at 8:00 a.m.

[REDACTED] the school principal, also said he was away on Wednesdays at his lake home.

The priests who were with him also affirmed his habit of taking Wednesdays off: Reverend [REDACTED] recalled that Fr. Thomas would often come up on Tuesday evenings to begin his day off; Bishop [REDACTED] another classmate, recalled that he would drive up on Tuesday evenings with Fr. Thomas and they would not return until after dinner in the evenings on Wednesdays.

[REDACTED]

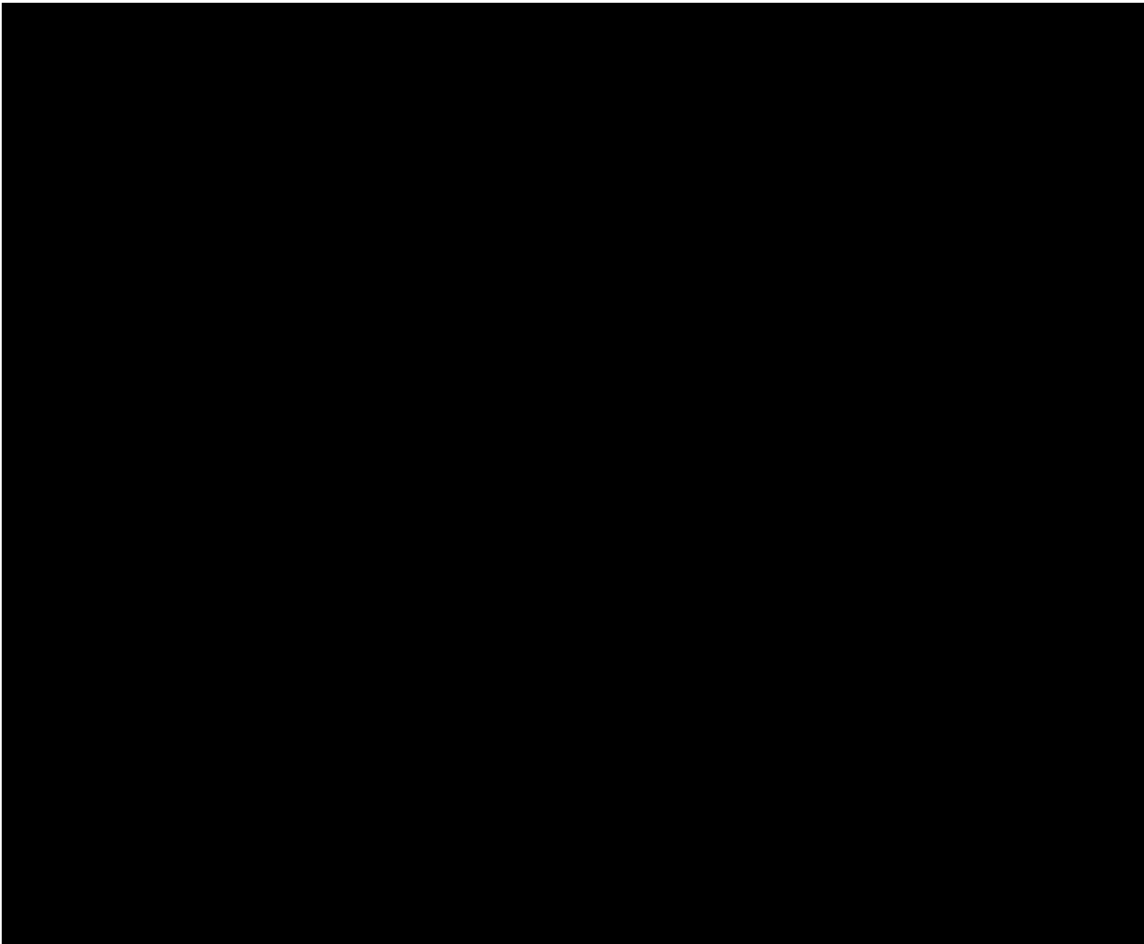
[REDACTED]

However, it is clear by all reports that Father Thomas never trained the altar servers, but rather it was Father O'Shea who always trained the servers. (Father O'Shea is now deceased.) It is important to note that the parish secretary, the principal of the school as well as one of the associate pastors who confirm that Father O'Shea trained the servers.

[REDACTED]

Again, following [REDACTED] indication that these incidents of abuse were connected with his having contact with Father Thomas by serving Mass, it should be noted that it is clear that at St. Margaret Mary in those days boys began to serve only in sixth grade: this is affirmed by [REDACTED] the school principal in those days; further, we know from the available bulletins that [REDACTED] graduated in 1984 and that the first time his name is listed as a server was for the week of August 10-15, 1981, the year he began sixth grade and not third grade as his report would seem to suggest.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

The allegations of [REDACTED] suggests that Father Thomas was seeking out young boys and in particular him.

Mrs. [REDACTED] the parish secretary, reported that Father Thomas was not one to socialize with children;

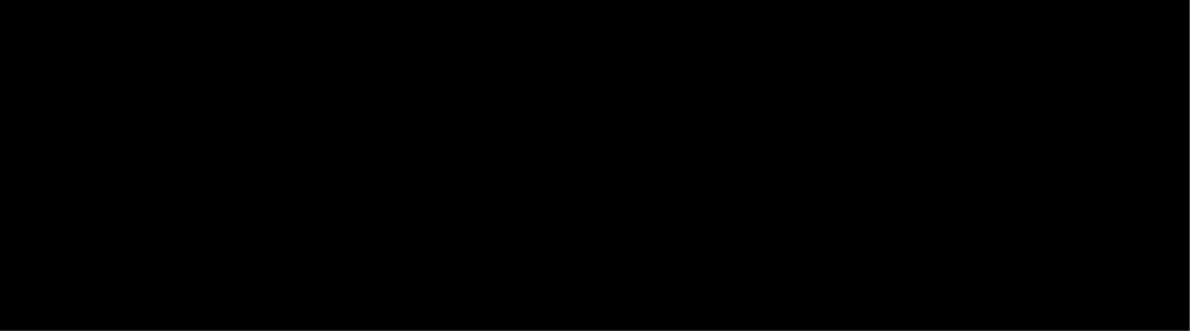
[REDACTED] the school principal at the time in question, reported that she never saw Father Thomas alone with any of the students of the school;

[REDACTED] the former associate pastor, stated that Father Thomas was not comfortable around children.

Therefore, the descriptions of Father Thomas' behavior by [REDACTED] are not consistent with those persons who knew him at the time.

Further, and very importantly, [REDACTED] had volunteered the names of two other boys whom Father Thomas allegedly assaulted, namely, [REDACTED]. However, when these men were interviewed as listed above, they categorically denied that any such sexual abuse happened to them at the hand of Rev. Joseph Thomas.

[REDACTED]



In the case of Father Joseph Thomas we have a priest who was well known not to seek out young people and was a man who generally kept to himself except for the needs of the ministry. Those who were in a position to know him at the time the reported incidents of sexual abuse allegedly occurred never saw him alone with young people or seeking out their company. On Wednesdays when [REDACTED] alleges many of the instances occurred, we have the word of those who were with Father Thomas at his lake house or on the golf course, since they were with him on his day off. The parish secretary and the parish school principal were also aware that Father Thomas took Wednesday as his regular day off. The accusations of [REDACTED] are not consistent with the observations of others who were in a position to know. Further, there are no other people other than [REDACTED] who have come forward to make accusations, but rather there is a host of testimonials of others who have arisen to his defense and do not believe the allegations are at all consistent with what they know of Father Thomas.

Therefore, after giving this matter thorough consideration and especially in light of the additional evidence which is outlined above, the undersigned submits that the above establishes that what was thought at the outset to be "knowledge which at least seems true" (*notitia verisimilis*) or a credible allegation is no longer such.

Hence, the undersigned advocate submits this report for the consideration of Francis Cardinal George and the Review Board of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL
Advocate for Rev. Joseph Thomas

Indianapolis, Indiana
April 13, 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, April 17, 2004- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Corrected

Review Board Members Present:



Members absent:



Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- PRA will have copies of the revised March 20, 2004 Meeting Minutes sent to all Board members in the packets for the May 15, 2004 Review Board meeting.

I. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2004

- The Board approved the meeting minutes in a unanimous 7-0 vote.

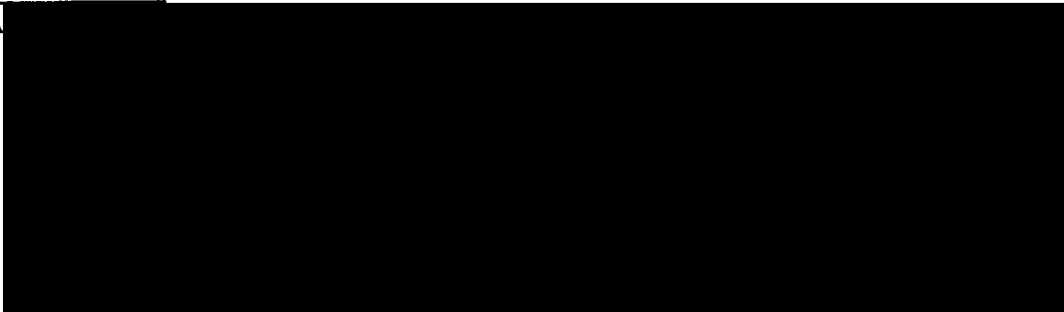
II. Update from FEG's decisions from March 20, 2004 Review Board Meeting

- PRA provided the Review Board with the information that Cardinal George accepted and supported their recommendations from March 20, 2004 concerning the following matters: [REDACTED] and Thomas/[REDACTED]

III. Case Reviews

Initial Review:

A



B.



C.

Second Stage Review:

D. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn] - PFR - 103

The Review Board conducted a Second Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The claim is as follows: Fr. Thomas fondled, kissed, and penetrated [REDACTED]

In a unanimous 7-0 vote [REDACTED] had left the meeting], in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

Supplementary Review:

E. [REDACTED]

*Please note that as a result of the additional information presented to the Board on the day of the April 17, 2004 meeting, the matters were reviewed in the following order [slightly different than reflected on the Agenda]:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Thomas/[REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is May 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



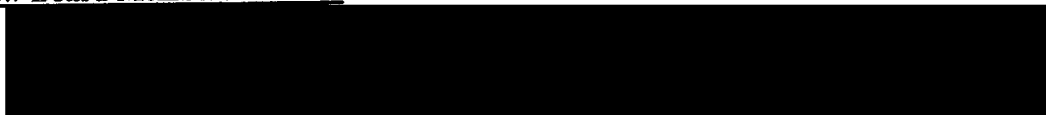
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, April 17, 2004- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:



Members absent:



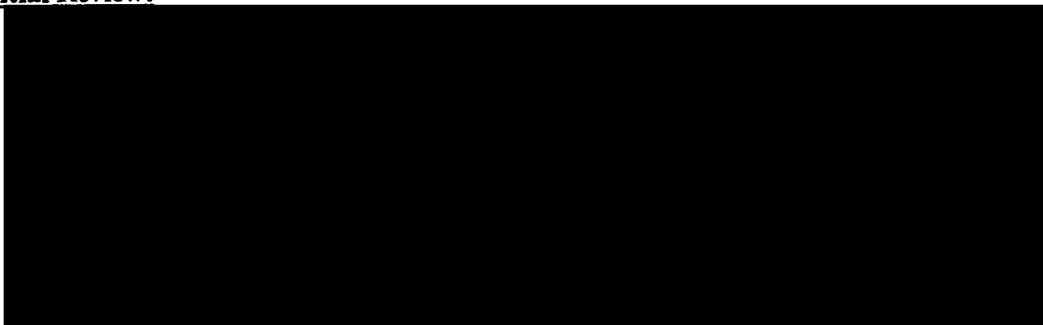
Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

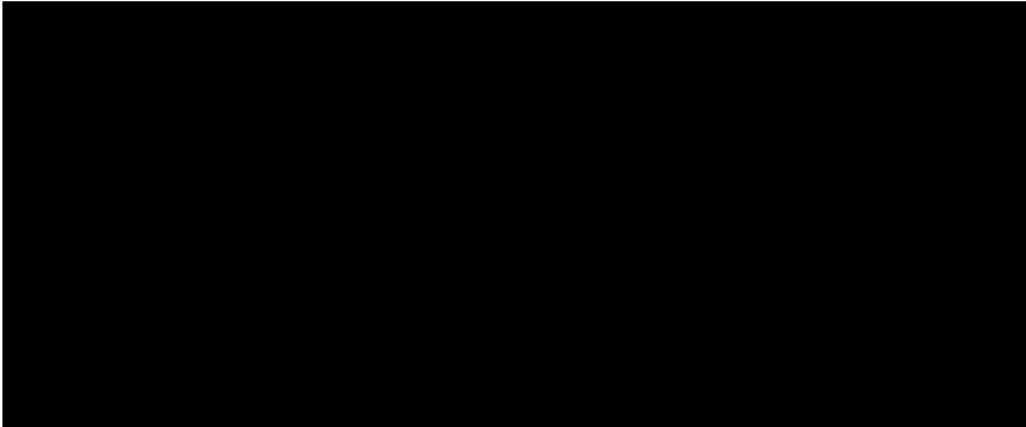
-
- PRA will have copies of the revised March 20, 2004 Meeting Minutes sent to all Board members in the packets for the May 15, 2004 Review Board meeting.
- I. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2004**
- The Board approved the meeting minutes in a unanimous 7-0 vote.
- II. Update from FEG's decisions from March 20, 2004 Review Board Meeting**
- PRA provided the Review Board with the information that Cardinal George accepted and supported their recommendations from March 20, 2004 concerning the following matters: [redacted] and Thomas/[redacted]
- III. Case Reviews**

Initial Review:

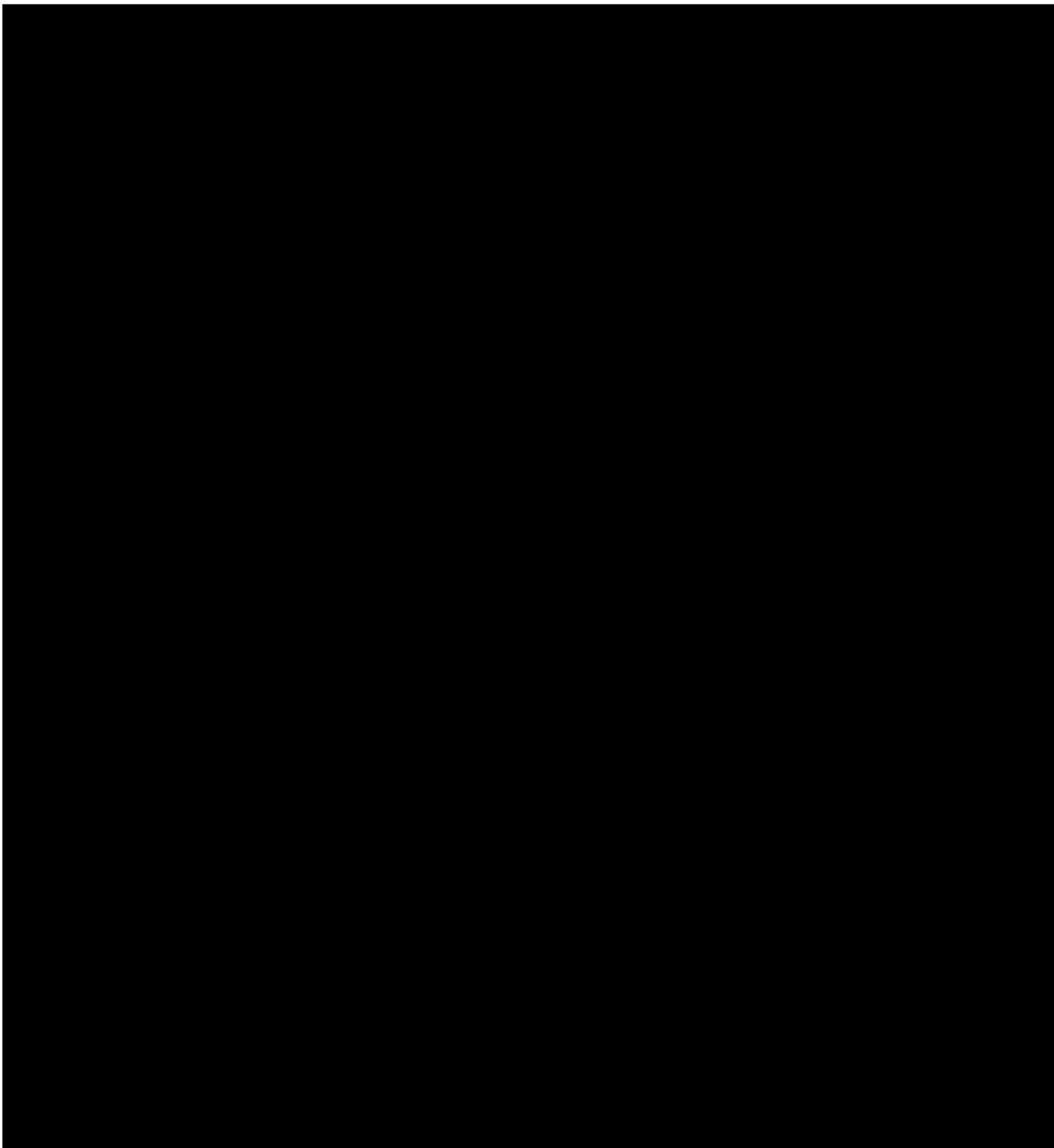
A.



B.



C.



Second Stage Review:

D. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn] - PFR - 103

The Review Board conducted a Second Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The claim is as follows: Fr. Thomas fondled, kissed, and penetrated [REDACTED]

In a unanimous 7-0 vote [REDACTED] had left the meeting], in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that the information at least seems to be true of an offense.

Supplementary Review:

E. [REDACTED]

*Please note that as a result of the additional information presented to the Board on the day of the April 17, 2004 meeting, the matters were reviewed in the following order [slightly different than reflected on the Agenda]:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Thomas [REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is May 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312)751-5205
1-800-994-6200
Fax (312)751-5279

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING **Saturday, April 17, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

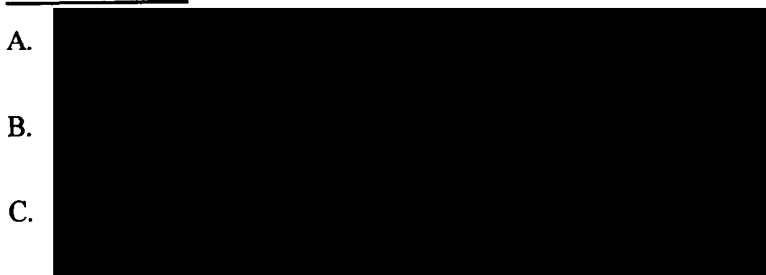
- I. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2004
- II. Case Reviews

Initial Reviews:

A.

B.

C.



Second Stage Review:

- D. In the Matter of Joseph S. Thomas (Retired/Withdrawn) - PFR-103
 - Allegation made by 

Supplementary Review:

E.



- III. Other Matters

The next scheduled Board Meeting is for Saturday, May 15, 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-103
From: Review Board Meeting
Re: Rev. Joseph Thomas (Retired/Withdrawn)
Date: April 17, 2004

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on April 17, 2004:

The Review Board conducted a Second Stage Review regarding the allegation of [REDACTED] The claim is as follows: Fr. Thomas fondled, kissed, and penetrated [REDACTED]

In a unanimous 7-0 vote [REDACTED] had left the meeting], in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that the information at least seems to be true of an offense.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Professional Responsibility Review Board
676 North St. Clair – Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611



(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
Hotline: 1-800-994-6200

RECORD OF CASE DISPOSITION

The Professional Responsibility Review Board met on 4/17/04 to conduct a
(enter date: month/day/year)
(check one:) ☐ First Stage Review ☒ Second Stage Review ☐ Supplementary Review ☐ Status Report
regarding the allegation of _____
(enter name of alleged victim)
against Joseph Thomas
(enter name of accused priest or deacon)

(check one:) ☒ a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago ☐ a deacon of the Archdiocese of Chicago
☐ an extern priest or deacon of the (Arch)diocese of _____
(enter name of [Arch]diocese)
☐ a religious priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of religious community)
☐ a resigned priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of diocese or religious community)
☐ a deceased priest or deacon of _____
(enter name of diocese or religious community)

which claims as follows: fondling/kissing/penetration
(enter brief description of the alleged misconduct or inappropriate behavior)

In light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that

(check one:) ☒ there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.
☐ there is not reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.
☐ there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

If there is a finding of reasonable cause to suspect, the Board recommends that

(check one:) ☒ the priest or deacon be immediately withdrawn from ministry (or that his withdrawal from ministry continue) and that restrictions and monitoring be imposed in accord with Archdiocesan policies and procedures.
☐ no further action be taken because the accused priest is resigned or deceased, except to provide appropriate outreach to those affected by the alleged misconduct.

The Board further recommends: 7-0 ([redacted] left prior to vote) reasonable cause to suspect

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

To: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
From: Laura A. Neri-Palomino LNP
Re: Thomas, Joseph Rev. (Withdrawn) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
Date: April 20, 2004

Leah McCluskey asked that I forward you copies of the victim interview reports as well as the accused interview reports in reference to the above matters.

.....

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
✓ John O'Malley, Legal Services
✓ Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, Administrative Assistant
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: April 21, 2004

RE: [PFR-103] Thomas, Joseph (Retired-Withdrawn)/ [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 4/19/04. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [REDACTED]. Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Thomas, Joseph [REDACTED].

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Most Rev. Edwin M. Conway

AOC 020548

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a memorandum from Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, to file, dated April 21, 2004, summarizing a phone call with Victim KX concerning his allegations of sexual abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas. According to the memorandum, Victim KX was abused from 1959 to 1960 at St. Columba parish.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

April 22, 2004

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

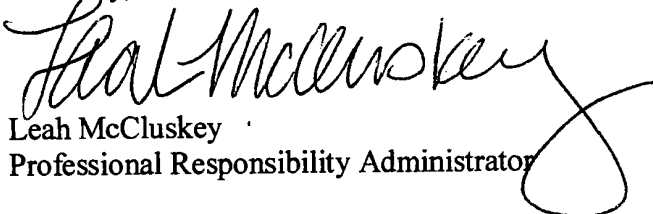
Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on April 17, 2004 and conducted a Second Stage Review of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas pursuant to Article §1104.10 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Thomas is a retired and withdrawn priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

After much discussion, the Board recommended at the time of their suffrage that there is a reasonable cause to suspect that the accused engaged in sexual abuse of a minor. However, there are two features of this that your Eminence should be aware of. Only moments before their discussion began, the Board received the evidence and the arguments of the Attorney and Canonical Advocate for the accused. This was even after the representatives for the accused had been admonished to file their materials expeditiously. Also, there were strong expectations that the Board conduct their suffrage regarding this allegation at this meeting, and those expectations were communicated to the Board. These expectations were understandable given the delays associated with this case.

With this letter I would also like to confirm your presence at the May 15, 2004 scheduled Review Board meeting in order to hear the assessments and the reasoning of the Board with regard to [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Thomas.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar

*I informed +
drawing the letter
to the Board*

Ref. 5/1, 2004

RECEIVED

MAY 04 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

AOC 020550

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility




P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: Review Board Members

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn]/ [REDACTED]

Date: May 6, 2004

On April 17, 2004 the independent Review Board made a Second Stage Review recommendation to Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I. in the matter of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas.

In a unanimous 7-0 vote, the Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

After presenting the Board's aforementioned recommendations to Cardinal George on Monday, April 19, 2004, his Eminence informed PRA and Rev. Daniel Smilanic that he would be present at the Saturday, May 15, 2004 scheduled Board meeting. Prior to issuing his final decision, Cardinal George would like to hear from the Board how it came to their recommendations and determinations regarding this matter.

If any Board member would like to request copies of the information from the file on this matter forwarded to him or her prior to the May 15th meeting, please contact Mrs. Laura Neri-Palomino at [312] 751-5206 as soon as possible.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 020551

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Legal Services

John C. O'Malley
Director



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

Tel: (312) 751-5379
Fax: (312) 751-5252
e-mail: jomalley@archchicago.org

May 6, 2004

RECEIVED

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 11 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Michael J. Howlett, Jr.
Counsel to the State's Attorney
Richard J. Daley Center
69 West Washington Street, 32nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

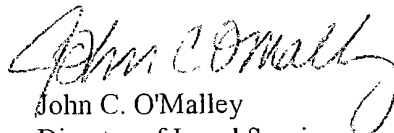
RE: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Howlett:

Please be advised the Archdiocese of Chicago has received an allegation from [REDACTED] approximately 53 years of age, that an archdiocesan priest, Rev. Joseph Thomas, sexually abused him in 1959 or 1960. [REDACTED] was approximately 10 years old and in the 5th grade at the time of the alleged sexual misconduct and Fr. Thomas was assigned to St. Columba Parish, 13323 South Greenbay Avenue in Chicago and Cook County, Illinois at the time of the abuse. The priest is currently retired and not in active ministry.

If our office can provide any additional information, or be of any further help, please let me know.

Very truly yours,


John C. O'Malley
Director of Legal Services

JCOM:sm

cc: Ms. Shauna Boliker
Ms. Leah McCluskey
Mr. James A. Serritella

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, May 15, 2004- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:



Members absent:



Non-members present:

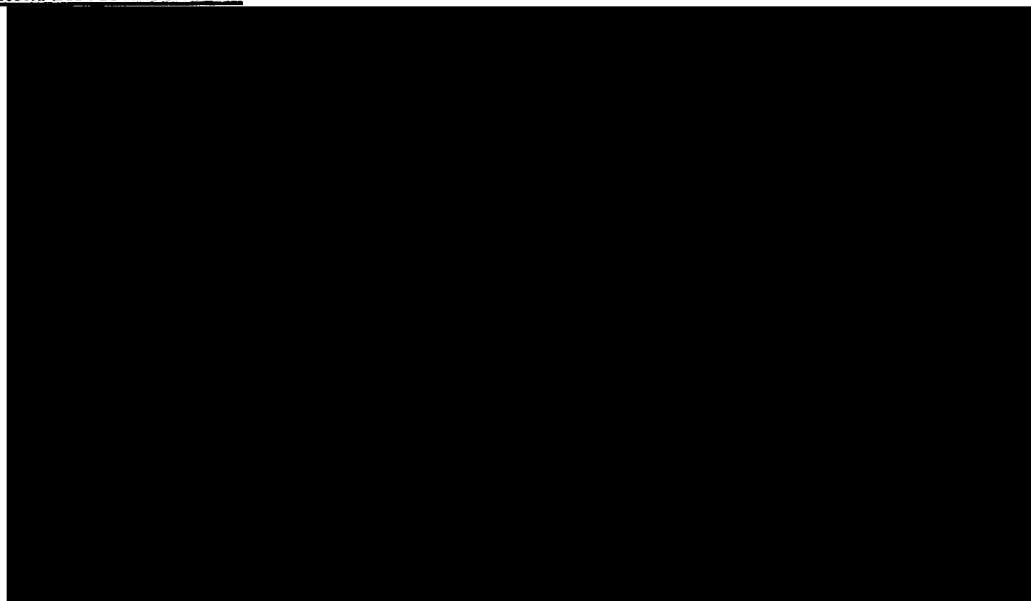
Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- Cardinal George was unable to be present for the meeting as a result of a scheduling conflict.

I. Case Reviews

Initial Review cont'd.:

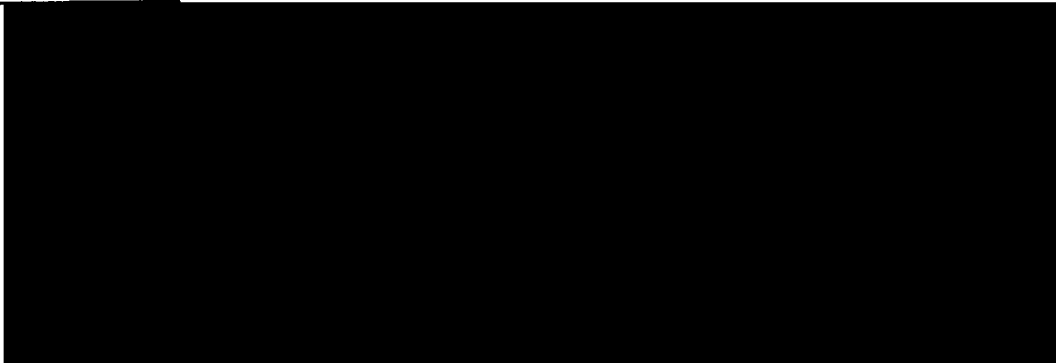
A.





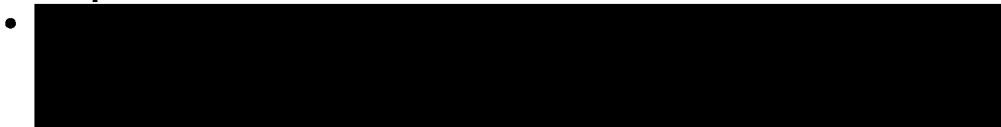
Review for Cause

B.



II. Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2004

- The Board identified an error on page three of the meeting minutes. Upon PRA's correction of the error, the Board approved the meeting minutes in a unanimous 7-0 vote. A copy of the corrected meeting minutes will be sent to all Board members in the packet for the June 19, 2004 meeting.



III. Update from FEG's decisions from April 17, 2004 Review Board Meeting



- PRA provided the Review Board with the information that Cardinal George was to meet with them in person on May 17, 2004 concerning the following matters:
[REDACTED] and Thomas [REDACTED]
- The Board recommended that the matter of Thomas [REDACTED] be placed on the June 19, 2004 agenda, as Cardinal George was not present for the May 15, 2004 Board meeting.

- [REDACTED]

Supplementary Review

C. [REDACTED]

D. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn] - PFR - 103

The Review Board was to have a discussion with Cardinal George regarding their April 17, 2004 Second Stage Review recommendation of reasonable cause to suspect. As a result of a scheduling conflict, the Cardinal will be present at the June 19, 2004 scheduled meeting to discuss this matter.

IV. Other Matters

[REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is June 19, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: PFR-103
From: Review Board Meeting
Re: Thomas, Joseph (Retired/Withdrawn) [REDACTED]
Date: May 15, 2004

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on May 15, 2004:

The Board recommended that the matter of Thomas [REDACTED] be placed on the June 19, 2004 agenda, as Cardinal George was not present for the May 15, 2004 Board meeting.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: PFR-103
From: Review Board Meeting
Re: Thomas, Joseph (Retired/Withdrawn)
Date: May 15, 2004

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on May 15, 2004:

The Review Board was to have a discussion with Cardinal George regarding their April 17, 2004 Second Stage Review recommendation of reasonable cause to suspect. As a result of a scheduling conflict, the Cardinal will be present at the June 19, 2004 scheduled meeting to discuss this matter.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

May 26, 2004

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archdiocese of Chicago
155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Enclosed with this letter you will find the most recent information regarding [REDACTED] [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas. The information enclosed was provided by Fr. Thomas' civil attorney and canonical advocate, Ms. Cynthia Giachetti and Msgr. Fred Easton respectively. I am forwarding you this information as a result of your request for such at our meeting on Friday, May 21st.

This matter will be placed on the June 19, 2004 Review Board Agenda so that you may share your questions and concerns regarding this matter with the Board via phone while you are in Colorado on that date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosures

AOC 020559

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, June 19, 2004 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes - May 15, 2004

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. [REDACTED]

B.

C.

Discussion with Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.

D. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph S. Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn] - PFR - 137

During the telephone conversation, Cardinal George and the Board reviewed the Board's April 17, 2004 Second Stage Review determination of reasonable cause to suspect. At the conclusion of the June 19, 2004 phone call, Cardinal George verbally accepted the Board's April 17th Second Stage Review determination of this matter.

Review for Cause

E.

F.

G.



Next scheduled meeting is July 17, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

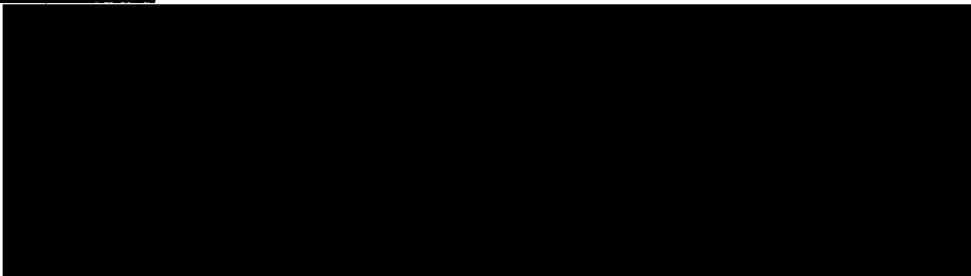
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING **Saturday, June 19, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2004
- II. Case Reviews

Initial Reviews:

- A.
- B.
- C.

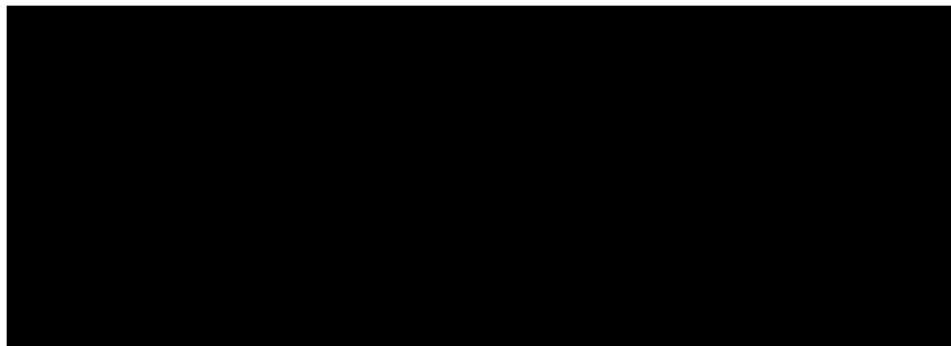


Discussion with Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.

- D. In the Matter of Joseph S. Thomas (Retired 1997/Withdrawn 2002) - PFR-103
 - Allegation made by [REDACTED]

Review for Cause:

- E.
- F.
- G.



- III. Other Matters

The next scheduled Board Meeting is for Saturday, July 17, 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-103

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: **Thomas, Rev. Joseph J. (Retired/Withdrawn)** [REDACTED]

Date: June 19, 2004

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on June 19, 2004.

During the telephone conversation, Cardinal George and the Board reviewed the Board's April 17, 2004 Second Stage Review determination of reasonable cause to suspect. At the conclusion of the June 19, 2004 phone call, Cardinal George verbally accepted the Board's April 17th Second Stage Review determination of this matter.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

June 21, 2004

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on April 17, 2004 and conducted a Review for Cause of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas pursuant to Article §1104.9 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Thomas is a retired and withdrawn priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

As a result of your telephone conversation with the Review Board on June 19, 2004, you verbally accepted the Board's April 17, 2004 Review for Cause determination that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey ^{CMF}

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2004

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I accept the determination with the understanding that further information will be asked for before the next stage of the process. The conversation with the Review Board left me with the impression that 2 conversations were being formed together: (1) Did he do what he is accused of? (2) How he has tolerated psychologically which would make him a danger to children? It seems to me as if I repeat question + seek back its own response. F. George Jun 21, 2004

AOC 020565

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, July 17, 2004 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

-
- I. Approval of Minutes - June 19, 2004
 - II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A.

[REDACTED]

B.

C.

D.

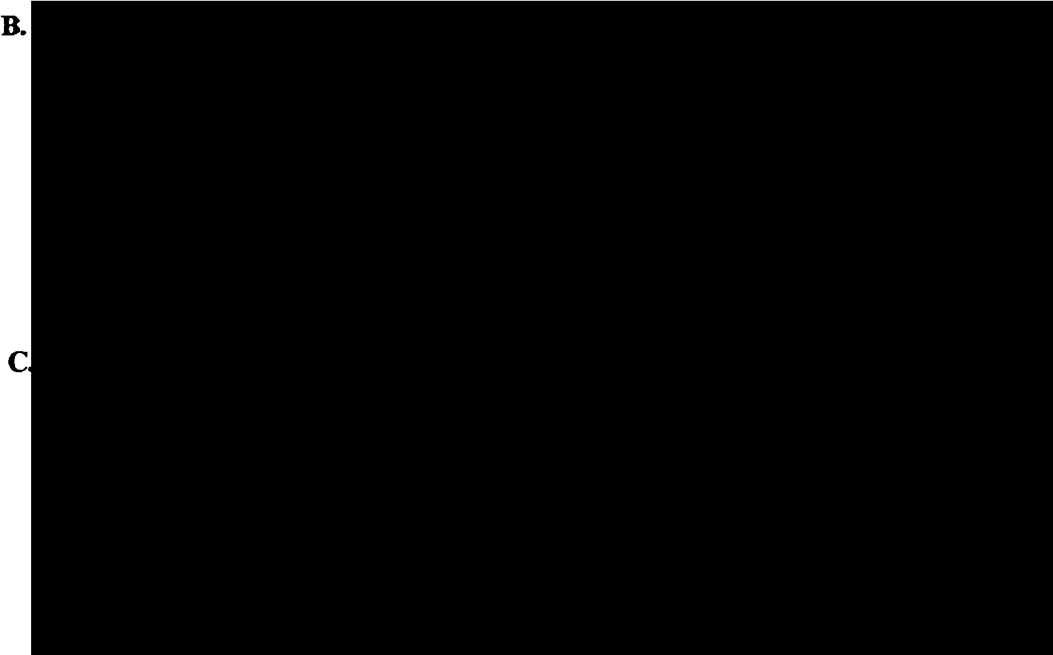


Review for Cause

A.



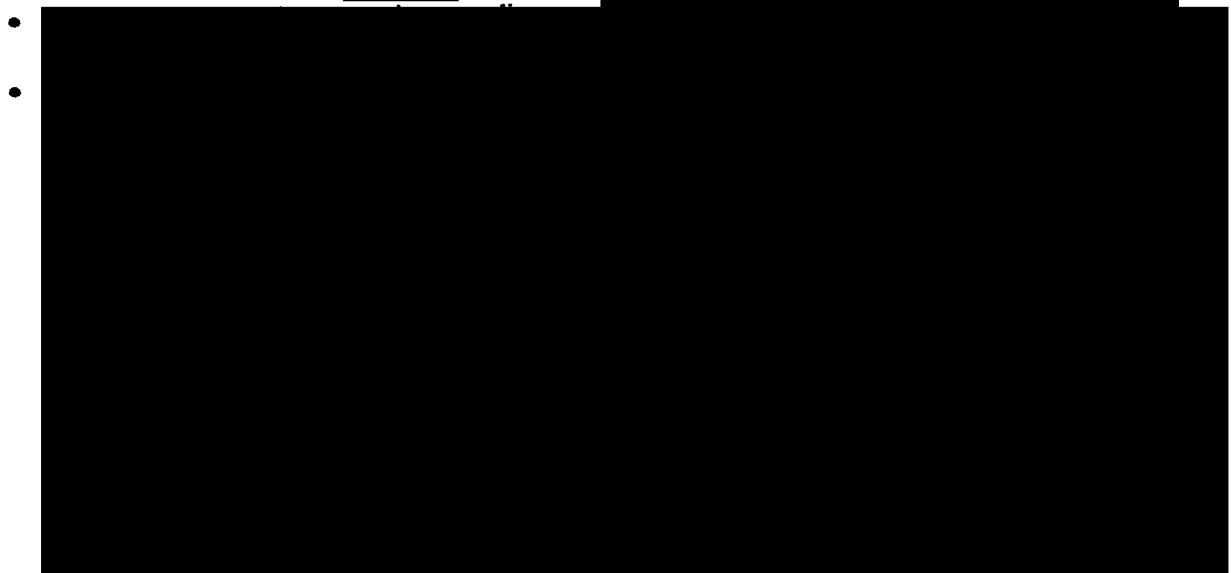
B.



C.

III. Other Matters

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared with the Board their meeting with Cardinal George regarding the Board's discussions and recommendations regarding [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against **Rev. Joseph Thomas**
- Terms for Board members [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will expire in September 2004



- PRA updated the Board with Cardinal George's decisions based upon their recommendations from the June 19, 2004 meeting
-

Next scheduled meeting is August 21, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, September 18, 2004 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Corrected

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

None

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

2

I. Approval of Minutes - July 17, 2004

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

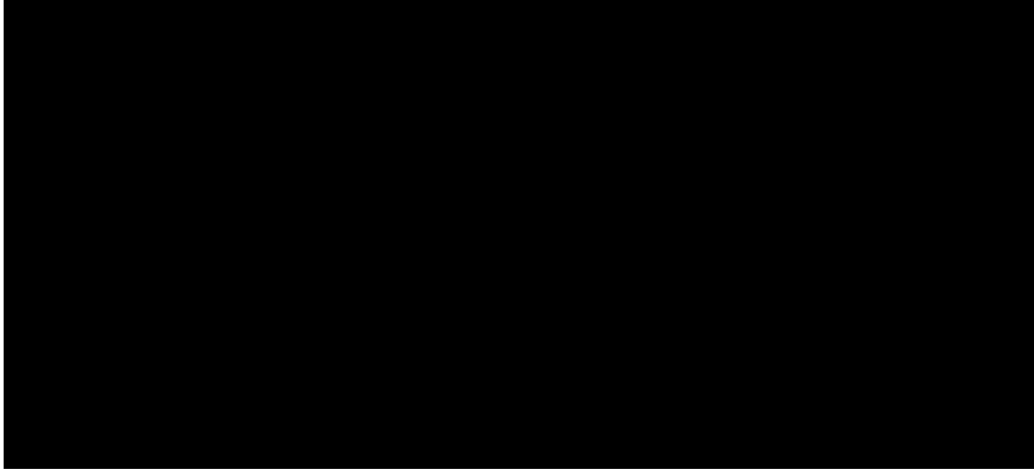
A.

[REDACTED]

B.

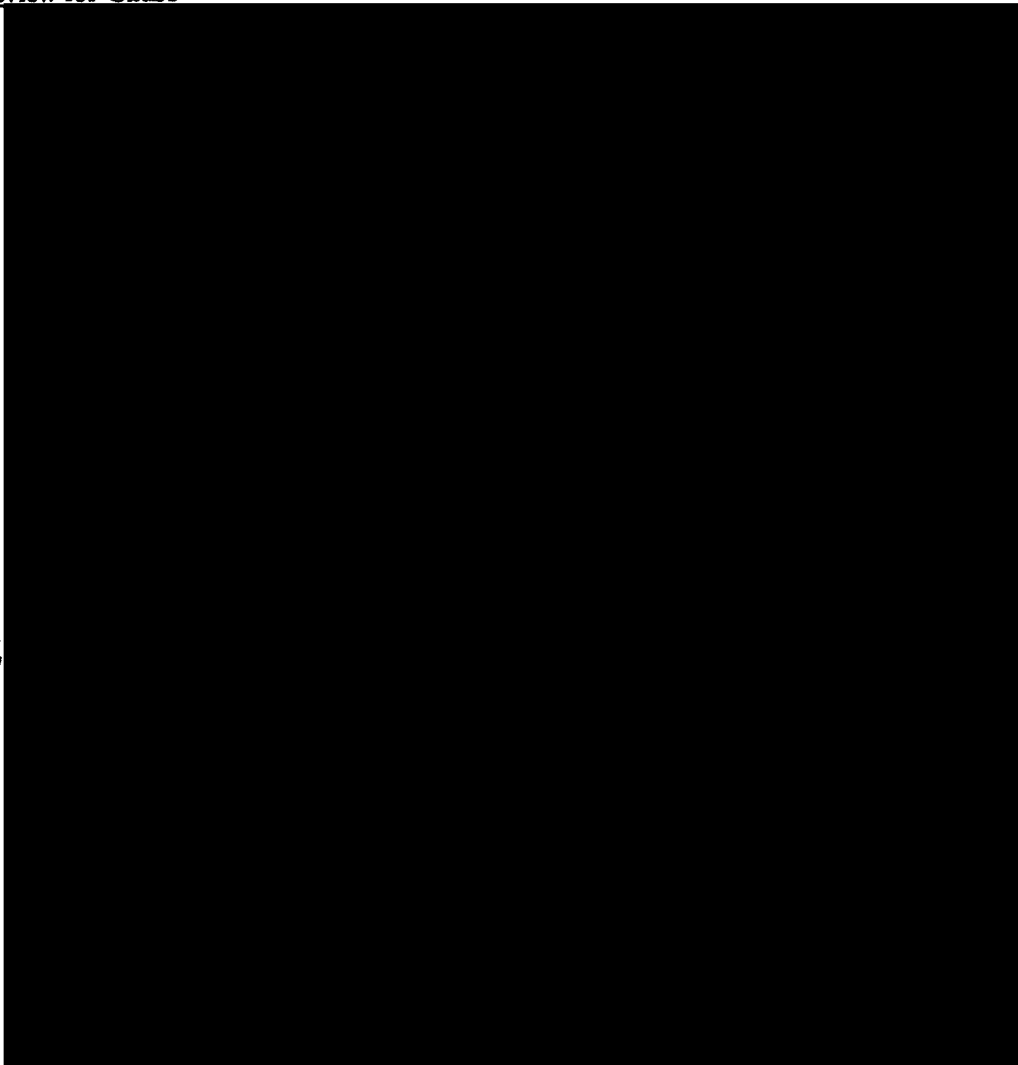


C.



Review for Cause

A.

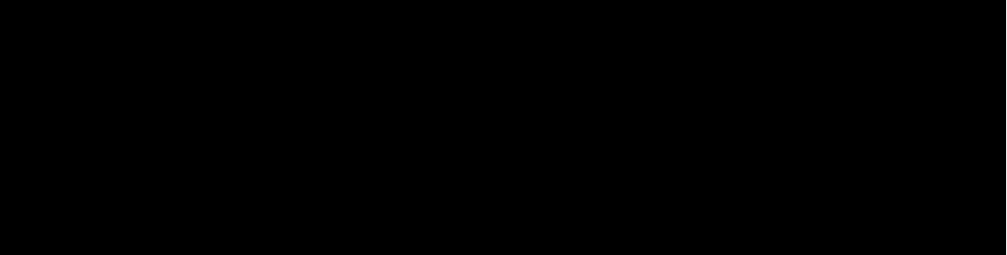


B.
17

C.



III. Other Matters

- PRA and Fr. Smilanic updated the Board on Cardinal George's pending decision on [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against **Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn]**.
 - The Board expressed their feeling that it would be a mistake for Cardinal George to not send this matter to Rome for review.
 - The Board provided their suggestion that Cardinal George forward the matter to Rome "as is [with all of the relating documentation]" along with his doubts.
- 
- This was the final Board meeting for members [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as their terms ended in September 2004. There will be a luncheon after the November 20, 2004 meeting for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to be attended by all Board members, Fr. Smilanic, and PRA.

Next scheduled meeting is October 16, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, September 18, 2004 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:



Members absent:

None

Non-members present:

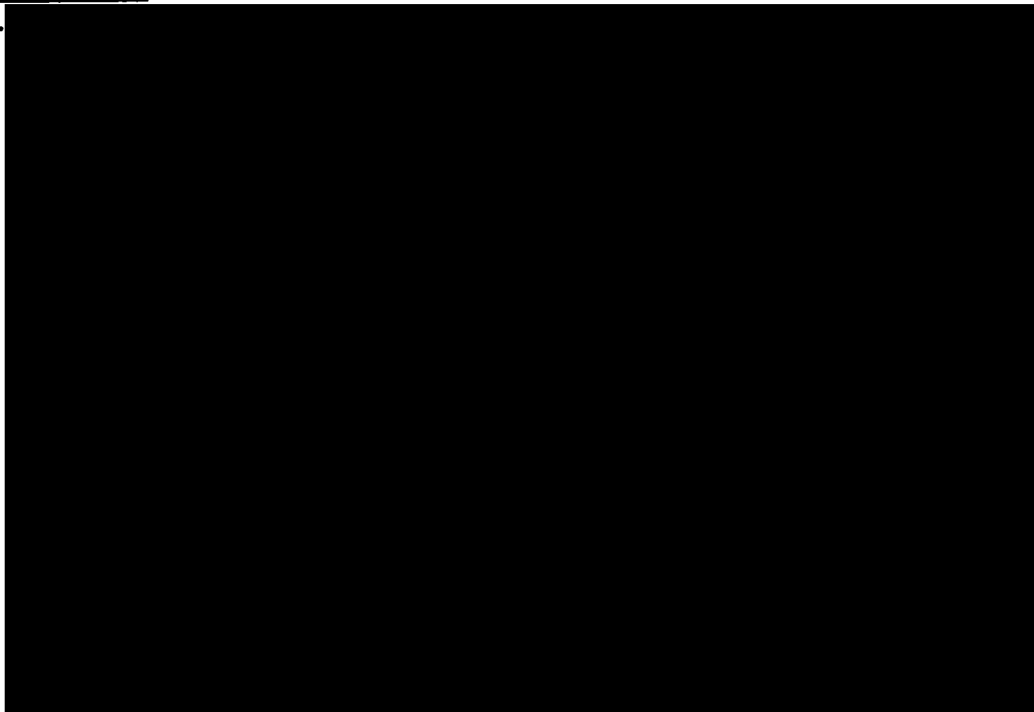
Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes - July 17, 2004

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A.

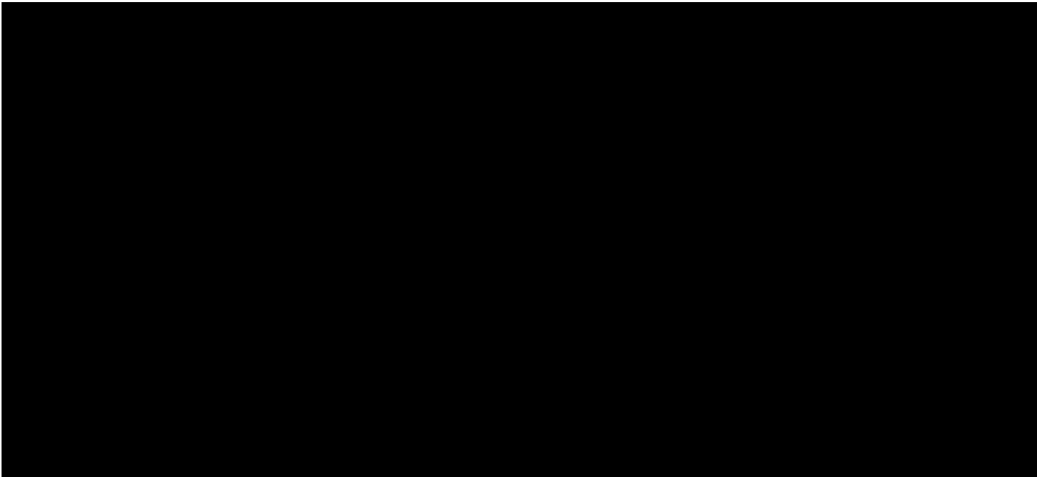


B.



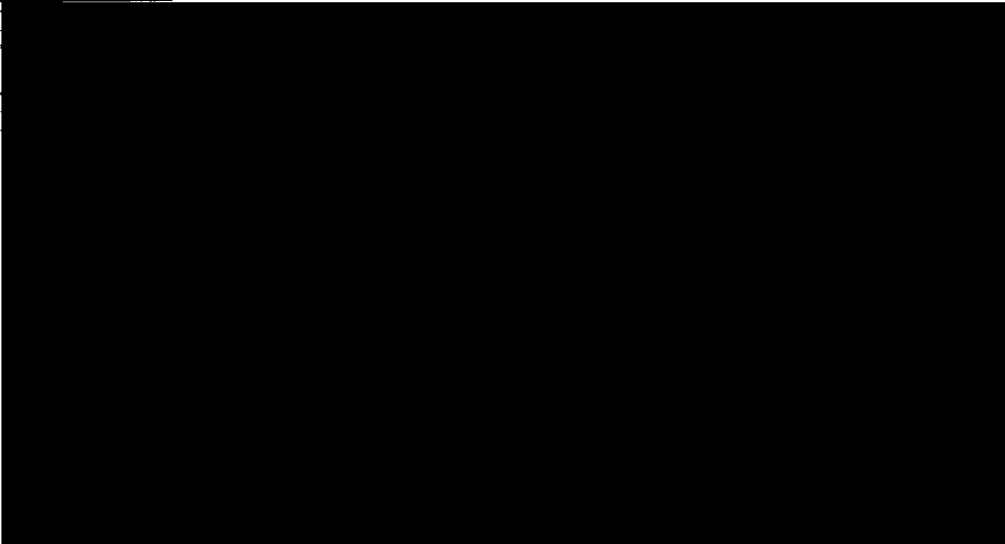
C.



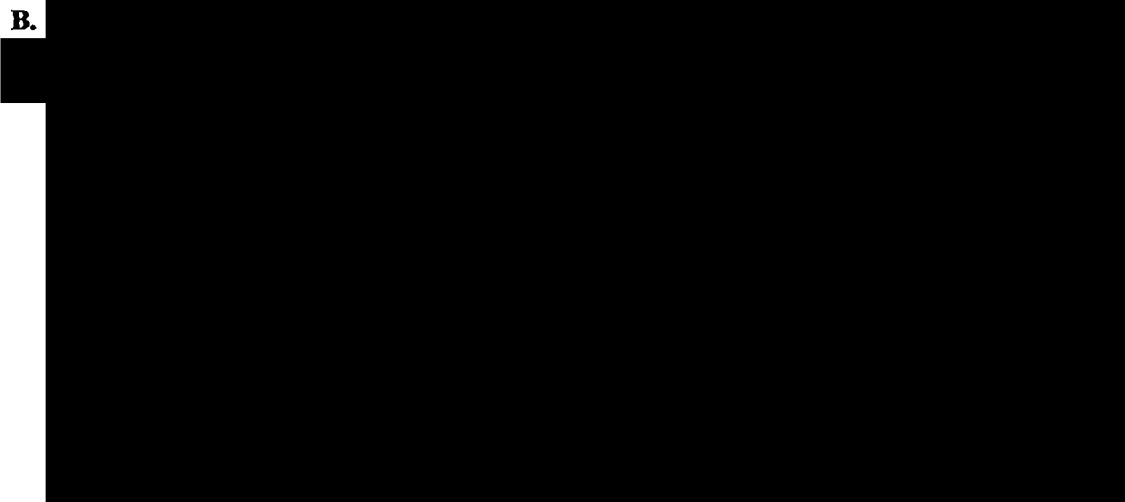


Review for Cause

A.



B.





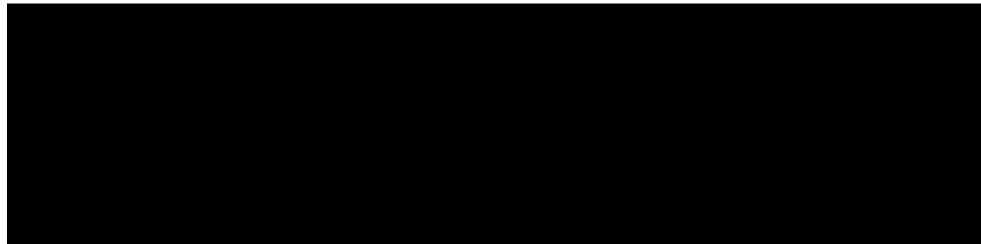
C.



III. Other Matters

- PRA and Fr. Smilanic updated the Board on Cardinal George's pending decision on [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against **Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn]**.
 - The Board expressed their feeling that it would be a mistake for Cardinal George to not send this matter to Rome for review.
 - The Board provided their suggestion that Cardinal George forward the matter to Rome "as is [with all of the relating documentation]" along with his doubts.

•



- This was the final Board meeting for members [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as their terms ended in September 2004. There will be a luncheon after the November 20, 2004 meeting for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to be attended by all Board members, Fr. Smilanic, and PRA.

Next scheduled meeting is October 16, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

CODE OF CONDUCT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM
Archdiocesan, Religious and Extern Priests

Parish/School/Agency C. S. Retreat House

DATE 9/27/4

I have received a copy of the CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CHURCH PERSONNEL. I have read and understand the Code of Conduct, and I agree to abide by it. I have also read and understand the "Measures to Aid Observance of the Code of Conduct" and the "Practical Suggestions" and will employ them to help me observe the code of conduct. A violation of this code can result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination and/or removal from ministry.

Signature

Print Name

Position

☒ Archdiocesan

☐ Extern

☐ Religious Community

The signed Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form shall be kept in personnel files at the Pastoral Center. Please return the acknowledgement form to:

Archdiocesan Priests:
Office of the Chancellor
Archdiocese of Chicago
155 E. Superior
Chicago, IL 60611

Religious/Extern Priests:
Rev. Jeremiah Boland
Archdiocese of Chicago
155 E. Superior
Chicago, IL 60611

SEP 29

From: John Treanor
To: Neri-Palomino, Laura
Date: 10/15/04 10:34AM
Subject: Re: assignments

Laura,
Here is the info that you seek.
Peace
Jac

The priests, at St. Margaret Mary, in the 1980s, were:

1980

Joseph S. Thomas
John J. O'Shea
Donald T. Skiba
Peter Wells, SJ (res.)
Kenneth Misquitta, SJ (res.)

1981

Joseph S. Thomas
Msgr. Thomas J. Kelly (Pastor emeritus)
John J. O'Shea
Donald T. Skiba
Peter Wells, SJ (res.)
Kenneth Misquitta, SJ (res.)

1982-1983

Joseph S. Thomas
Msgr. Thomas J. Kelly (Pastor emeritus)
John J. O'Shea
Donald T. Skiba
John Beggarly, SJ (res.)
Kenneth Misquitta, SJ (res.)

1984-1985

Joseph S. Thomas
Msgr. Thomas J. Kelly (Pastor emeritus)
John J. O'Shea
Edward A. Carlson
James W. Joslyn
Jacob Maduka, SJ (res.)

1986

Joseph S. Thomas
Msgr. Thomas J. Kelly (Pastor emeritus)
John J. O'Shea
Edward A. Carlson
James W. Joslyn
Anthony Raj, SJ (res.)

1987

Joseph S. Thomas
Msgr. Thomas J. Kelly (Pastor emeritus)
John J. O'Shea

Edward A. Carlson
James W. Joslyn

1988

Raymond P. Devereux
Msgr. Thomas J. Kelly (Pastor emeritus)
John J. O'Shea
Edward A. Carlson
James W. Joslyn
Deacon Thomas Stanton

1989

Raymond P. Devereux
Msgr. Thomas J. Kelly (Pastor emeritus)
John J. O'Shea
Deacon Thomas Stanton
Paul G. Manderfield (res.)

John J. Treanor
Vice Chancellor
Archives & Records
711 W. Monroe
Chicago, IL 60661
(312)831-0711 (ext. 873)
jtreanor@archchicago.org

>>> Laura Neri-Palomino 10/11/04 03:54PM >>>

Jac,
Would it be possible to get priest assignments at St. Margaret Mary in the 1980's ASAP? Please advise.
Thank you

Laura A. Neri-Palomino
Administrative Assistant
312-751-5206
Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of Professional Responsibility

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279

MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-103
From: Review Board Meeting Minutes
Re: Thomas, Joseph (Retired/Withdrawn) [REDACTED]
Date: October 18, 2004

A summary of the discussion from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on September 18, 2004:

- PRA and Fr. Smilanic updated the Board on Cardinal George's pending decision on [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas.
- The Board expressed their feeling that it would be a mistake for Cardinal George to not send this matter to Rome for review.
- The Board provided their suggestion that Cardinal George forward the matter to Rome "as is [with all of the relating documentation]" along with his doubts.

MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator

Re: [REDACTED]

Date: November 2, 2004

PRA received an allegation of sexual misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas made by [REDACTED] on February 24, 2004. [REDACTED] attorney, [REDACTED] notified the Office of Professional Responsibility of the aforementioned allegation via written correspondence.

Upon meeting with [REDACTED] and a subsequent review of information provided, PRA was unable to make any connection between Rev. Joseph Thomas and the details of the allegation. Upon receiving a draft of the report written by PRA based upon the July 19, 2004 meeting with [REDACTED] he indicated that he does not recall identifying the second of his two abusers as "Fr. Joseph Thomas [see October 2, 2004 Memorandum from [REDACTED] addressed to PRA]." Further, [REDACTED] indicated that he only recalls the name "Thomas" in connection with the second alleged abuser, and that "Thomas" had a crew cut and wore horn-rimmed glasses.

As a result of this information received by PRA on October 7, 2004, [REDACTED] has not made any formal allegation of sexual abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas. [REDACTED] does allege that he was abused by two priests [see file] and that the second accused priest may have had the first or last name "Thomas."

Therefore, any allegation made by [REDACTED] will be removed from Fr. Joseph Thomas' file.

Changed [REDACTED] to ("Unidentified")
Changed [REDACTED] to "

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

04 SC063

04 SC064

P.O. Box 1979

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205

Fax: (312) 751-5279

Office of Professional Responsibility



November 2, 2004

RECEIVED

DEC 16 2004

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES

Dear [REDACTED]

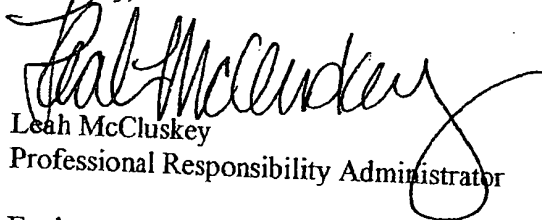
Enclosed you will find a final report of your allegation of sexual misconduct against [REDACTED] and Fr. Thomas. The report is based upon your revisions you returned to my office. Thank you so much for your additions and changes.

Upon your review of the report, please provide your signature and date and return the document in the envelope provided. One the final report is signed by all, I will forward a final copy to you in care of your attorney, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in the interest of continuing to expedite this process, I ask that you return the enclosed report to me by November 16, 2004. In the event that I do not receive any response from you by November 16th, I will assume that the final report is accurate and I will proceed forward with this matter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

AOC 020583

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a memorandum from Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, to file, dated November 2, 2004, summarizing her meeting with Victim KZ to formalize his allegation of abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas and another priest. According to the memorandum, the single incident of alleged abuse occurred at the St. Edna rectory in the late 1970s. Victim KZ also alleges Thomas witnessed Victim KZ being abused by another priest at St. Enda. However, Victim KZ was not sure of the full name of the Fr. Thomas he described. McCluskey noted in the memorandum that Thomas was never assigned to St. Edna parish.

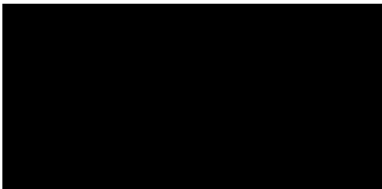
BURKE, WARREN, MACKAY & SERRITELLA, P.C.

22ND FLOOR IBM PLAZA
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3607
TELEPHONE (312) 840-7000
FACSIMILE (312) 840-7900
www.burkelaw.com

PATRICIA B. CARLSON
DIRECT DIAL NUMBER
(312) 840-7076
pcarlson@burkelaw.com

November 17, 2004

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS



Re: [REDACTED] and Father Joseph Thomas

Dear [REDACTED]

Pursuant to your November 10, 2004 letter, the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a corporation sole ("the Catholic Bishop") agrees to extend the tolling agreement set forth in its April 7, 2004 letter to you until June 15, 2005 (the period from March 15, 2004 until June 15, 2005 will now be called the "Tolling Period"). The other terms set forth in the April 7, 2004 letter remain in place.


Please call if you have any questions about this.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia B. Carlson".

Patricia B. Carlson

BURKE, WARREN, MACKAY & SERRITELLA, P.C.


November 16, 2004

Page 2

bcc John C. O'Malley, Esq.
Rev. James Kaczorowski
Matthew Kaminski
Christopher Spala
Christopher Weiner
James A. Serritella, Esq.

DEC 01 2004
ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES

TELEPHONE
(312) 201-8600

FACSIMILE
(312) 201-1180

RECEIVED

DEC 13 2004

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

04-188/LIEN

November 29, 2004

Archdiocese of Chicago
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago IL 60690-1979

RE: [REDACTED] v Unknown

ATTORNEY'S LIEN

Dear Sir:

We represent the above named individual in a cause of action asserted against you for injuries and damages sustained on the above date due to your negligence or fault.

Please consider this our Notice of Attorney's Lien which is being sent pursuant to applicable Illinois Statutes. We represent the aforesaid claimant pursuant to a written contract for professional services which provides that we receive 1/3 of any recovery (or a lesser amount as determined by statute).

We suggest that you forward this letter to your insurance carrier immediately. They will be able to handle this for you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Certified Mail No. 7003 1680 0004 6094 2424 Return Receipt Requested

LIEN

AOC 020587

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

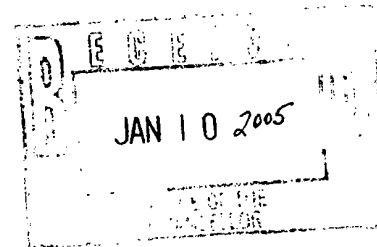
Office of the Archbishop



155 E. Superior St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

January 3, 2005

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair St.
Chicago, IL 60611



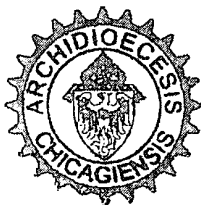
Dear Ms. McCluskey,


I am writing to you as a follow-up to my letter of June 25, 2004 in which I requested additional information about the allegations brought forward by [REDACTED] against **Rev. Joseph Thomas** before I made a decision as to whether I ought to refer this case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. For a number of reasons, this information was not immediately forthcoming. Hence I have not been able to make a decision on Father Thomas' case.

Just recently, I have been informed that the Archdiocese has now received additional material concerning the allegation which may help to clarify the matter. This information has prompted me to again request a delay in the resolution of this matter so that this new material can be studied further. I have already accepted the Review Board's initial recommendations that there is some semblance of truth to the allegation by [REDACTED]. Therefore, I believe Father Thomas should continue to be prohibited from exercising public ministry and that his monitoring protocols should remain as stated.

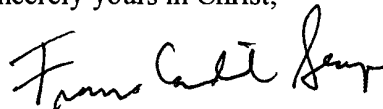
However, I do not wish to make a decision on whether the case needs to be referred to the Holy See until such time as the Review Board has had an opportunity to review the additional material and advise me on it according to my letter of June 25th.

I am grateful to you and to the Review Board for the patience you have shown in this matter. I hope that with the cooperation of all parties I can present this additional information to you in the near future.




Ecclesiastical Notary

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

AOC 020588

cc: Rev. George J. Rassas, Vicar General
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services
Reverend James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Minister
Mr. Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services

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Office of Professional Responsibility





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Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

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Fax: (312) 751-5279


MEMORANDUM

To: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

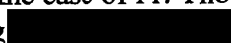
From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 


Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn]


Date: January 7, 2005

This memo is in response to Your Eminence's attached January 3, 2005 Memorandum concerning the cases of Rev. Joseph Thomas 

In regards to Your Eminence's question of scheduling meetings with the alleged victims of the two aforementioned accused, PRA would suggest contacting the Office of Assistance Ministry. In the past, the Office of Assistance Ministry has worked with alleged victims and/or their attorneys and/or their families to schedule meetings with Your Eminence.

In regards to Your Eminence's questions regarding the case of Fr. Thomas, please find attached the recently received information regarding  alleged victim of the accused and the original cover Memorandum.



Cc: Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Promoter of Justice
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Office of Assistance Ministry
Mr. John O'Malley, Director of Legal Services

AOC 020590



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The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Metropolitan Tribunal

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P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-1460 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1460
Fax: 317-236-7318

January 31, 2005

Ms. Leah McCluskey
Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, IL 60611

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2005

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Ms. McCluskey:

I have heard from Fr. Dan Smilanic that the complainant regarding Fr. Joseph Thomas has present new information. In light of that fact, I would like a copy of that new information so that I may continue to properly represent Fr. Thomas in this matter.

With very best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL
Advocate for Rev. Joseph Thomas

AOC 020591

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a memorandum from Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, to file, dated March 10, 2005, regarding Victim KX's allegation of abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas. According to the memorandum, Leah McCluskey asked Victim KX if he would follow up with Victim LG to inquire about Victim LG's possible abuse by Thomas, as mentioned by Victim LG to Victim KX.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces a memorandum to file from Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, dated March 10, 2005, summarizing her phone call with Victim KX, regarding Fr. Joseph Thomas' alleged abuse of Victim LG and LH. According to the memorandum, Victim KX spoke to Victim LG, who did not want to be involved in the matter concerning Thomas. However, Victim LG also confirmed that he was abused by Thomas at St. Columba parish.

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Approved
4/16/05
(W)

Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, April 9, 2005 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Members absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] (P)
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

I. Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2005

- One typo on page 2, [REDACTED]
- Unanimously approved pending one correction [6-0]

• [REDACTED]

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review

A. [REDACTED]

B.

R
C

D.



Update on Recommendations Made to the Cardinal:

E.



- F. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired 1997/Withdrawn 2002] –PFR-103**
PRA updated the Board that Cardinal George will intend to provide a written response to their April 17, 2004 Review for Cause recommendations on this matter in the near future.

III. Other Matters:

- [REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, April 16, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-~~235~~ 103
From: Review Board Meeting
Re: Joseph Thomas (Retired/Withdrawn)
Date: April 9, 2005

A summary of the conversation from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on April 9, 2005:

Update on Recommendations Made to the Cardinal:

PRA updated the Board that Cardinal George will intend to provide a written response to their April 17, 2004 Review for Cause recommendations on this matter in the near future.

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=APR-11 16:43

END=APR-11 16:44

FILE NO.=136

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Page 1 of 4

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Returned: 2 displays of 2 matches
Priest accused of abuse is put on restricted duty

Click here for complete article (\$2.95)

Author: Curtis Lawrence**Date:** November 11, 2002**Publication:** Chicago Sun-Times**Page:** 12**Word Count:** 299**Excerpt:**

A 75-year-old retired priest who was living at St. John Vianney parish in Northlake until recently has been withdrawn from all pastoral duties by an Archdiocese of Chicago review board investigating charges of sexual misconduct with a pre-teen boy.

The charges against the Rev. Joseph Thomas date back more than 15 years, when he was pastor at St. Margaret Mary parish in Rogers Park, according to archdiocese officials. In a letter to St. John Vianney parishioners, Auxiliary Bishop Thad ...

At last, Viet MIAs being laid to rest**Hero pilot buried with full honors in Palatine**

Click here for complete article (\$2.95)

Author: Tom McNamee**Date:** June 25, 1989**Publication:** Chicago Sun-Times**Page:** 29**Word Count:** 424**Excerpt:**

Nineteen years after his plane was shot down over North Vietnam, Lt. Col. Robert J. Panek's family and friends finally said their goodbyes Saturday and buried him safely on American soil.

Panek, whose remains were exhumed and returned to the States in December, was buried with full military honors in St. Michael's Cemetery in Palatine.

With some 250 mourners gathered around the grave, an Air Force detail played "Taps," fired a 21-gun salute and presented carefully ...

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Priest accused of abuse is put on restricted duty

[Click here for complete article \(\\$2.95\)](#)

Author: Curtis Lawrence
Date: November 11, 2002
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At last, Viet MIAs being laid to rest Hero pilot buried with full honors in Palatine

[Click here for complete article \(\\$2.95\)](#)

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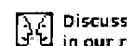
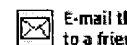
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News briefs

This story ran on nwitimes.com on Tuesday, November 12, 2002 12:32 AM CST

CHICAGO

Retired Chicago priest accused of past sex abuse

A review board of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago has removed a retired 75-year-old priest from pastoral duties pending an investigation into charges of sexual misconduct with a preteen boy more than 15 years ago.

The Rev. Joseph Thomas was pastor at St. Margaret Mary parish on the far North Side of Chicago during the time of the allegations, archdiocese officials said.

Thomas, who was living at St. John Vianney parish in Northlake until recently, denies the allegations.

In a letter to St. John Vianney parishioners, Auxiliary Bishop Thad Jakubowski said the charges were reported to the Cook County state's attorney's office.


Thomas was at the Chicago parish from 1975 to 1987 before becoming associate pastor in Northlake. He retired in 1997 but continued to assist with sacraments and Mass, archdiocese spokeswoman Mary McDonough said.

In an initial review, the board found reasonable cause to suspect the abuse and recommended removal, according to Jakubowski's letter. Cardinal Francis George accepted the recommendation, placing Thomas in a "monitored and restricted" setting where he will not be alone with minors, pending a second-stage review.

A similar letter was sent to St. Margaret Mary parishioners.

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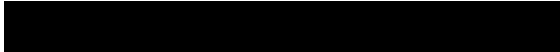
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SUMMARY TIME LINE OF ALLEGATION

	ACCUSED	ACCUSER
Name:	Rev. Joseph Thomas	[REDACTED]
Address:	Cardinal Stritch Retreat House Mundelein, IL	N/A
Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]	
Current age:	80	Deceased
Name of civil attorney:	Cynthia Giacchetti	N/A

Date of Ordination [of accused]: 5/1/52

Location: Mundelein

Age at ordination: 25

Assignment location of accused: N/A

Status of accused: Retired/Withdrawn from ministry

Name of canonical advocate: Msgr. Fred Easton

Date allegation received: 4/14/05

Date allegation formalized:

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse:

Date of last incident of alleged abuse:

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse:

Brief summary of alleged abuse: third party allegation reported to PRA by former classmate of [REDACTED], as per third party [REDACTED] disclosed the abuse to him [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Brief summary and date of response from accused: after more than one discussion regarding the allegation with the Vicar for Priests [Rev. James T. Kaczorowski], Fr. Thomas admitted to the alleged abuse reported by the third party

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 9/17/05 letter from Cardinal George to PRA stating that, "Fr. Thomas is permanently withdrawn from ministry with the same restrictions as those whose cases have been presented."

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth:

Current age:

Name of civil attorney:

Date allegation received: 4/14/05

Date allegation formalized:

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse:

Date of last incident of alleged abuse:

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: unknown

Brief summary of alleged abuse: third party allegation reported to PRA by former classmate of [REDACTED] as per third party, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; PRA has attempted to speak with [REDACTED] through the third party; as per third party, [REDACTED] is not interested in speaking with PRA

Brief summary and date of response from accused: after more than one discussion regarding the allegation with the Vicar for Priests [Rev. James T. Kaczorowski], Fr. Thomas admitted to the alleged abuse of [REDACTED] brother of [REDACTED] reported by the third party; as per Fr. Kaczorowski, Fr. Thomas stated that he "probably" did what [REDACTED] reported to the third party as well

Stage of disposition by Review Board: awaiting response from victim, therefore the Review Board process is not completed

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
✓ Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, Administrative Assistant^{LNP}
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: April 15, 2005

RE: [PFR-103] Thomas, Joseph Rev. (Retired/Withdrawn) [REDACTED] (Deceased)
and [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 4/14/05. We are opening a file and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator will begin the Review Process by attempting to arrange an interview with [REDACTED]. Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Thomas, Joseph/[REDACTED]

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment


cc: Rev. George Rassas, Vicar General

AOC 020607



MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn] [redacted] Deceased
Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn] [redacted]

Date: April 15, 2005

PRA received a phone call from Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests on April 14, 2005 regarding Rev. Joseph Thomas and two third party allegations of sexual abuse made against him. [redacted] reported the alleged sexual abuse of [redacted] [deceased] and [redacted] to PRA in April 2004 [see file] when they were minors and students at St. Columba. According to Archdiocesan Archives, Fr. Thomas was assigned to St. Columba from July 8, 1952 through July 6, 1960.

Fr. Kaczorowski spoke with Fr. Thomas via phone on April 14, 2005 prior to contacting PRA. The purpose of Fr. Kaczorowski's phone call to Fr. Thomas was to again ask the cleric if he had engaged in the sexual abuse of a minor/minors in the past. Fr. Kaczorowski first asked Fr. Thomas if he knew of a former student at St. Columba named [redacted]. When Fr. Thomas replied that he did not know such a person, Fr. Kaczorowski asked him if he knew [redacted] by the names of [redacted]. Fr. Thomas informed Fr. Kaczorowski that he did know two former students of St. Columba named [redacted].

Fr. Kaczorowski then asked Fr. Thomas if he had ever sexually abused [redacted] or [redacted]. Fr. Thomas' initial response to Fr. Kaczorowski was that he never abused either boy. After some additional questioning and discussion regarding the [redacted] initiated by Fr. Kaczorowski, Fr. Thomas eventually admitted to definitely abusing [redacted] and "probably" abusing [redacted] as well.

As per Fr. Kaczorowski, Fr. Thomas stated that he would have [redacted] come to the rectory for disciplinary measures. He would instruct [redacted] to go into the bathroom located off of the living room of the rectory to "...wash his dirty hands..." Fr. Thomas would also instruct [redacted] to strip while he was in the bathroom and emerge back into the living room naked. He would then look at [redacted] naked body. Fr. Thomas informed Fr.

Kaczorowski that he instructed [REDACTED] to do these things for his [Fr. Thomas'] own sexual pleasure.

As per Fr. Kaczorowski, Fr. Thomas stated that he "...for sure..." did these abusive things to [REDACTED], and that he "...probably..." did the same things to [REDACTED]

It was agreed that PRA would document this information at Fr. Kaczorowski's request.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Legal Services

John C. O'Malley
Director



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Tel: (312) 751-5379
Fax: (312) 751-5252
e-mail: jomalley@archchicago.org

May 13, 2005

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MAY 16 2005

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Michael J. Howlett, Jr.
Counsel to the State's Attorney
Richard J. Daley Center
69 West Washington Street, 32nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

RE:

[REDACTED]
(deceased)
Dates of Birth: Unknown
Dates of alleged abuse: Unknown

Dear Mr. Howlett:

Please be advised the Archdiocese of Chicago recently received information from [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED] that an archdiocesan priest, Fr. Joseph Thomas, sexually abused [REDACTED]. Fr. Thomas was assigned to St. Columba Parish from July 8, 1952 through July 6, 1960. The parish is located at 13323 South Greenbay Avenue in Chicago and Cook County. [REDACTED] was 10 or 11 years of age and a student at the school at the time of his alleged sexual abuse. [REDACTED] was between 16 and 17 years of age when the alleged sexual misconduct occurred. The priest is retired from active ministry. There is no other information available at this time.

If our office can provide any additional information, or be of any further help, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

John C. O'Malley
Director of Legal Services

JCOM:sm

cc: Ms. Shauna Boliker
Ms. Leah McCluskey
Mr. James A. Serritella

SCDir\05SC035 & 05SC036\Notification to State's Attorney Office re [REDACTED]

AOC 020610

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September 15, 2005

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that in April 2004, I received a third party allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor by Rev. Joseph Thomas. [REDACTED] first contacted me via phone in April of 2004 to report his knowledge that when [REDACTED] was a minor, Fr. Thomas sexually abused him. As per [REDACTED] in recent years [REDACTED] has disclosed the alleged abuse to him. Fr. Thomas is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

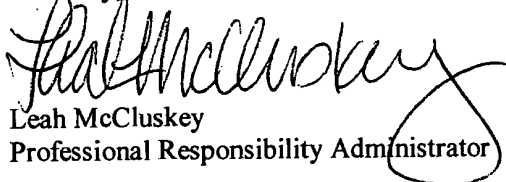
The Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, formerly Vicar for Priests, reported to me on April 14, 2005 that he discussed the aforementioned matter with Fr. Thomas earlier that same day. During this phone conversation, Fr. Thomas admitted to Fr. Kaczorowski that he did sexually abuse [REDACTED] and that he 'probably' abused [REDACTED] as well. I have enclosed with this letter copies of the April, 2004 and the April, 2005 memorandums, which directly relate to this information.

In order for this case to be commended to our Review Board, it would be necessary for [REDACTED] to formalize the allegation, as is required by our policies and procedures. He is unwilling to do so. However, Fr. Kaczorowski and I believe the allegation, and the allegation of [REDACTED] to have the semblance of truth. In light of the information received in regards to this behavior and other behaviors of Fr. Thomas, I am submitting this matter to assist you in your decision about Fr. Thomas' fitness for ministry.

I know that you have already withdrawn Fr. Thomas from ministry, [REDACTED]

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosures

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests

*Fr. Thomas is presently
serving for priest with
the same restrictions as
those who have been
forfeited.
F. Sany
Sep. 17, 2005*

AOC 020611

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COPY

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September 15, 2005

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that in April 2004, I received a third party allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor by Rev. Joseph Thomas. [REDACTED] first contacted me via phone in April of 2004 to report his knowledge that when [REDACTED] was a minor, Fr. Thomas sexually abused him. As per [REDACTED] [REDACTED] disclosed the alleged abuse to him prior to his death in 2002. Fr. Thomas is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, formerly Vicar for Priests, reported to me on April 14, 2005 that he discussed the aforementioned matter with Fr. Thomas earlier that same day. During this phone conversation, Fr. Thomas admitted to Fr. Kaczorowski that he did sexually abuse [REDACTED] I have enclosed with this letter copies of the April 2004 and April 2005 memorandums, which directly relate to this information.

In order for this case to be commended to our Review Board, it would be necessary for [REDACTED] to formalize the allegations, as is required by our policies and procedures. [REDACTED] However, Fr. Kaczorowski and I believe the allegation, and the allegations of [REDACTED] to have the semblance of truth. In light of the information received in regard to this behavior and other behaviors of Fr. Thomas, I am submitting this matter to assist you in your decision about Fr. Thomas' fitness for ministry.

I know that you have already withdrawn Fr. Thomas from ministry, [REDACTED]

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

Leah McCluskey
Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosures

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Dele
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests

*is perm. wld
from ministry
with the same
restricts as those
whose cases
have been present*

*Fr. Thomas is permanently
withdrew from ministry and
the same restriction as those
whose cases have been
present.
Fr. by
Sept 17, 2005*

AOC 020612

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

September 27, 2005

Professional Responsibility Review Board
c/o Ms. Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator
Office of Professional Responsibility
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1910
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Review Board Members,

Let me begin again by saying how much I value the work of our Professional Responsibility Review Board and how important your work is to our local Church. Your work has been validated, in time, by the Holy See's response to our presentation of our cases. I am grateful.

The function of the Professional Responsibility Review Board as stated in the *US Essential Norms* is: "...advising the diocesan bishop/eparch in his assessment of the allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of suitability for ministry" (4, A). The mandate of the Professional Responsibility Review Board as stated in the Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago is: "The Board shall serve as the principal advisor of the Archbishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of suitability for ministry." (1104.3.4).

Quite a while ago I received your assessment of the case involving [REDACTED] [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against the Reverend Joseph Thomas. I am sorry that it has taken me so long to respond to your work on this case. This is a very complex case; correspondingly, your work and my response to your work, as well as the whole process surrounding this case, is complex. As you know, after you concluded your process, I spoke with you as a group about your analysis and I further studied the case material with two members of the Board, both of whom are attorneys. In the intervening time, I have also consulted with others about the information regarding Father Thomas.

I am not able to reach moral certitude that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the incidents as described did, in fact, occur. However, your assessment concludes by recommending that Father Thomas not be returned to ministry. Given all the considerations about his fitness for ministry and other determinative information that I have received, I agree with that recommendation. Therefore, for the protection of minors, as well as for his own benefit, I direct that he live in a residence of retired priests where his deportment will be supervised and his functioning open to scrutiny. The

AOC 020613

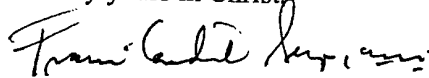
decree which will implement my decision will specify in some detail what he will be permitted to do and what he will not be permitted to do. First and foremost, he will never be permitted to be alone with anyone under the age of 18. A capable priest who resides in the same residence with him has been designated as his monitor. He is removed from public ministry for the safety of children.

My manner of receiving your assessment should not be construed to mean that the allegation of the accuser that he was a victim of sexual abuse as a minor is not believed, nor should it be construed as a negative finding for the specific accusation of the accused. It is simply a statement about the coherence of evidence associated with the descriptions of a specific set of incidents.


Of course, should new, substantial information be brought forward about this particular case in the future, then we will all reconsider the matter.

Again, thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Francis" being the most prominent.

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago


File Fr. Joe Thomas

September 29, 2005

Dear Mr. Lago:

I read in the Chicago Tribune a few days ago about the eleven priests of the Chicago Archdiocese who are being withdrawn from the ministry because of allegations of sexual abuse. Our former pastor, Fr. Joseph Thomas, was one of two or three priests whose cases have not been referred to the Vatican. Several years ago, when allegations were made against him, I wrote to the priest at Our Lady of Lourdes who was handling his case. I did not hear from him concerning my letter. Consequently I am writing to you a similar letter in hopes that Fr. Thomas will receive a fair and unbiased hearing. I know I am not alone in regarding Fr. Thomas as a fine, sensitive and caring pastor. Everyone that I talked to at the time was as shocked as I to hear that he was caught up in this crisis.

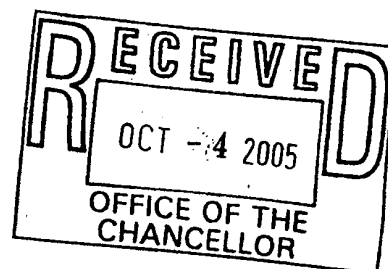
My family lives [REDACTED] St. Margaret Mary school. We have nine children. At least 7 of those children worked part time in the rectory answering the phone and the door in the evenings and on the weekends. Never, at any time, did my husband or myself suspect Fr. Thomas of inappropriate behavior. Our children never reported any kind of problem with this man. To the contrary, all were impressed with his kindness and his concern for his parish.

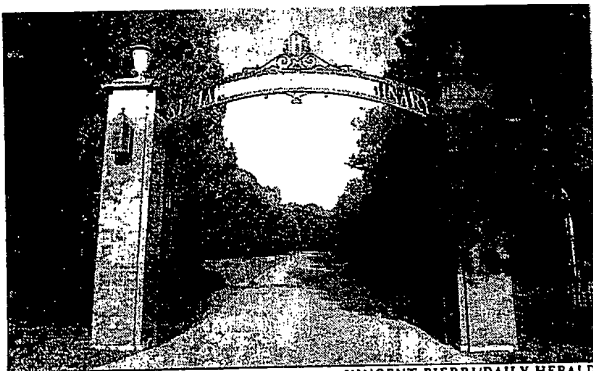
One of our sons experienced a broken leg in a parish softball game when the youngest curate slid into him. Of course, it was an accident and not the fault of the priest. Fr. Thomas, however, made a point of visiting us and asking if we needed help with the medical expenses. We assured him that we realized it was an accident and we had no intention of pursuing the matter. Fr. Thomas was very solicitous about our son and kept in touch with us.

Years later, when our youngest daughter was in the hospital with an asthma attack, he made a point of visiting her. When he decided to leave St. Margaret Mary we were saddened because he had been everything that anyone could ask for as a shepherd of our souls.

I hope that in the passion of the moment, when obviously there have been incidents of sexual abuse by some priests, Fr. Thomas is not caught in the flurry of accusations. I know the bishops have to make examples of those who are guilty. Fr. Thomas has never given us or the parishioners to whom we have spoken any reason to suspect him of being anything but a good and caring priest. Certainly at a time when vocations are few and far between the Church cannot afford to lose one of its finest priests. He and the Archdiocese are in our prayers.

Yours truly, [REDACTED]





VINCENT PIERRI/DAILY HERALD

Critics are concerned about priests living on the grounds of the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein recently removed by the Chicago Archdiocese on allegations of sexual misconduct.

Police want list of punished priests

BY MADHU
KRISHNAMURTHY
AND BOB SUSNJARA
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Mundelein officials want the Chicago Archdiocese to provide information on several priests living on seminary grounds in the village who have been removed from public ministry after allegations of sexual misconduct with minors.

Nearly all the 11 priests ousted by Cardinal Francis George last week reside on the grounds of University of St. Mary of the Lake off Route 176. Some of the priests have lived there since 2002, but village authorities learned of it only recently, Police Chief Raymond J. Rose said.

Some of the priests are in nursing homes, an archdiocese official said. Seven of the priests had ties to churches in Cook, Lake and DuPage counties. The allegations date back 50 years, past the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution.

Rose said the priests don't have to register as sex offenders, but police would like to follow the same procedure and have their files available in the event of an incident. He said the village is aware of the archdiocese's concern about the priests' privacy.

"We're trying to find that middle ground that allows us to have the information, so the community is aware that we have the information," he said. "Should there ever be any reports or concerns, we would

have that file in the police department."

Rose said any information on the priests would remain confidential.

An archdiocese official said Tuesday the Mundelein police request is under consideration.

"It's a very difficult conundrum at the moment," said Colleen Dolan, archdiocese director of communications and public relations. "I would presume the lawyers would have to look at the legalities of this because you can't just put (the priests') names on a list."

Though the archdiocese has not released a full list of the removed priests' names, officials there confirmed a list obtained by the Daily Herald. It has been widely published.

Mundelein police are asking for more than just names. Officials want to know how to identify the men, details of the allegations against them and how they are being monitored.

Mundelein Mayor Kenneth Kessler said while police are being cautious, there is no reason for alarm about the accused priests living on the seminary grounds.

"It's not like this just happened last week," he said. "These people have been there and there have been no problems to date. We actually have far better ability to know what's going on with an organization of that nature than what's going on up and down the streets of regular old, private Mundelein."

MISCONDUCT 10-5-05

Daily Herald 10/5/05

Mundelein police want list of punished priests

BY MADHU
KRISHNAMURTHY
AND BOB SUSNJARA
Daily Herald Staff Writers

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See **LIST** on **PAGE 13**



VINCENT PIERRI/DAILY HERALD
Critics are concerned about several priests living on the grounds of the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein recently removed by the Chicago Archdiocese on allegations of sexual misconduct.

Continued

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2005

List: 11 priests' activities being

DAILY HERALD SECTION 1 **PAGE 13**

1 from Page 1

L134

monitored, according to church

Continued from Page 1

counties. The allegations date back 50 years, past the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution.

Rose said the priests don't have to register as sex offenders, but they would like to follow

reason for alarm about the accused priests living on the seminary grounds.

"It's not like this just happened last week," he said. "These people have been there and there have been no problems to date. We actually have far better ability to know what's

receive regular counseling, Dolan said. The priests also can move out of the seminary and leave the priesthood at any time, she said.

But critics say the archdiocese's monitoring system does not work. One such priest accused of sexual misconduct

their files available in the event of a future incident. He said the village is aware of the archdiocese's concern about the priests' privacy.

"We're trying to find that middle ground that allows us to have the information, so the community is aware that we have the information," he said. "Should there ever be any reports or concerns, we would have that file in the police department."

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Mundelein Mayor Kenneth Kessler said while police are being cautious, there is no

up and down the streets of regular old, private Mundelein."

Still others are calling for that information to be made public.

Veteran Lake County Children's Advocacy Center investigator Mark Pleasant said the public should know whether the priests undergo counseling and the severity of their supposed offenses.

"The whole problem here is the lack of information that is available," said Pleasant, who works for an arm of the Lake County state's attorney's office. "These people exist (under) a veil of secrecy."

Dolan said the priests are not under house arrest but must check in with a monitor before leaving university grounds. At times, they may be accompanied by a chaperone. They are allowed to drive cars. They are forbidden from being alone with minors.

Their living quarters were once a retreat house now used solely as a home for removed priests. It is separated by a lake from the seminary campus.

"They are not mixed in with the seminarians, and they definitely should not make plans to go where there are children," Dolan said. "Each one of them, in order to maintain this process, have signed a document to the cardinal saying that they will abide by these rules."

The priests are required to "lead a life of prayer and penance." They should also

radar.

Callicott was removed as pastor of Holy Angels parish on Chicago's South Side in 2002 amid accusations he engaged in sexual misconduct with two teenage boys in the 1970s at another church. He was sent to the University of St. Mary of the Lake.

In January 2004, controversy arose when archdiocese officials learned Callicott was traveling from Mundelein, at the invitation of Holy Angels officials, to talk to grade-school students about sex.

"What they call monitoring leaves a lot to be desired," said Barbara Blaine, president of Chicago-based Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. "There is no way to monitor these guys 24 hours a day."

The cardinal has ordered a church trial for Callicott's case.

Dolan said there won't be a repeat of that case because all

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parishes have been informed of the 11 priests' removal.

"Every priest in the diocese

received a letter from the cardinal," she said. "The priests that are up in Mundelein know that

they are in a restricted setting. They don't belong in any parish, functioning."

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility




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MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Cardinal Stritch Retreat House Residents

Date: October 7, 2005

Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests, Mr. John O'Malley, Director of Legal Services, and PRA traveled to the Mundelein Police Department today to meet with Mr. Raymond Rose, Chief of Police and Mr. Cameron Eugenis, Deputy Chief. The meeting was arranged to discuss those archdiocesan priests who have been withdrawn as a result of a substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor and currently reside at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House located in Mundelein, Illinois. Chief Rose made it clear throughout the meeting that the discussion was not to include any withdrawn priest living in Mundelein who is already a registered sex offender.

After preliminary discussion surrounding the process of a priest being withdrawn from ministry and the Review Board process, Mr. O'Malley informed Chief Rose and Deputy Chief Eugenis of the information that Francis Cardinal George had wished to share with the Mundelein police concerning the aforementioned priests.

Chief Rose stated that basic information they would like to be provided on any priest removed from ministry and living at the Retreat House would be their date of birth, a picture of each man, and a picture of each man's car. Through further discussion, the following information was also requested on each aforementioned priest: height, weight, eye color, hair color, social security number, driver's license number and expiration date, employment information, vehicle information [make, model, year, color, license plate number].

It was also agreed that PRA would contact Chief Rose and Deputy Chief Eugenis via phone in the event that one of the aforementioned priests moves into or out of the Retreat House.

PRA then verbally provided the following information on each withdrawn priest residing at the Retreat House, which was recorded by Chief Rose's secretary: name, date of birth,

date removed from ministry, and the date of the last substantiated allegation. PRA also verbally provided a basic summary of the monitoring protocol that each withdrawn priest has been asked to follow.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
John O'Malley, Legal Services

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PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING Saturday, October 15, 2005

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2005
- II. Case Reviews

Initial Review:

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

Review for Cause:

G.

H.

I.

J.

K.

III. **Review for Advice:**

L.

IV. **Other Matters:**

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Letter from Cardinal regarding Fr. Joseph Thomas [REDACTED] matter

The next scheduled Board Meeting is for Saturday, November 19, 2005

Cardinal Stritch Retreat House

RECEIVED

DEC 9 2005

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

December 9, 2005

Dear Fr. Thomas:

The Vicar for Priests and Leah McCluskey have requested that I ask you to meet with them on December 16 at 11:30 am. I am told they would like to meet with you for thirty minutes.

I suggest you all meet in the retreat master's room, number 100.

Sincerely,



Deacon Richard F. Hudzik

Cc: Leah McCloskey

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March 29, 2006

Cynthia Giacchetti
53 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Giacchetti,

Enclosed you will find a packet of information released by the Archdiocese of Chicago on Monday, March 21, 2006. This information was also provided your clients, [REDACTED] Fr. Joseph Thomas at Cardinal Stritch Retreat House.

If you have any questions please direct them directly to Leah McCluskey at 312-751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Neri-Palomino".

Laura A. Neri-Palomino
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure

AOC 020624

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
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March 29, 2006

Msgr. Frederick C. Easton JCL
6000 W. 34th St.
Indianapolis IN 46224

Dear Msgr. Easton,

Enclosed you will find a packet of information released by the Archdiocese of Chicago on Monday, March 21, 2006. This information was also provided your client, Fr. Joseph Thomas at Cardinal Stritch Retreat House.

If you have any questions please direct them directly to Leah McCluskey at 312-751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Neri-Palomino".

Laura A. Neri-Palomino
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure

AOC 020625

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

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April 3, 2006

Rev. Joseph Thomas
Cardinal Stritch Retreat House
P.O. Box 455
Mundelein, Illinois 60060-0455

Dear Fr. Thomas,

I want to thank you again for meeting with Revs. Vincent Costello and Edward Grace and myself at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House on March 22, 2006 to review the enclosed Individual Specific Protocols [ISP].

As we discussed on March 22nd, I am returning the ISP and the related forms that we reviewed to you and have forwarded copies to your canonical advocate and civil attorney as well. I ask that you review and discuss the ISP with your counsel and then return the signed protocol to me no later than April 17, 2006.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205 or Fr. Costello at [312] 642-1837.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosures

Cc Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, J.C.L., canonical advocate
Cynthia Giacchetti, civil attorney

AOC 020626

6. W Must complete and submit the "Travel/Vacation Agreement", and obtain concurrence with the Agreement, prior to a scheduled departure. In the event of a prolonged stay in a particular location, the Archdiocese is required to notify the Ordinary of that place of your presence there.
7. N/A Attendance at a recommended support group _____ (please indicate specific support group). Recommended frequency of _____ times per week/month (please circle one). Attendance at a recommended support group is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.
8. No inappropriate use of computers, software, Internet capabilities, communications tools or video technology. The standards articulated in the *Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago* and the *Handbook For Archdiocesan Employees* apply as they do to all Archdiocesan personnel.
9. No ministerial participation in the public celebration of the Eucharist or any other Sacrament or Sacramental without the prior, written permission of the Vicar for Priests.
10. Refrain from wearing any garb that would give the appearance of, or seem to infer, a priest/deacon who has canonical faculties and is currently assigned to some ministry (e.g., the 'clerical shirt').
11. On-site visits by the PRA and the VP annually to include a meeting with the cleric.

This Individual Specific Protocol is to be reviewed annually with PRA, VP, and the cleric. Also, there can be additional, written notations tailored to the needs of a specific situation which are signed by all parties and appended to this document. Any change or alteration to this agreement will involve consultation with the cleric, his monitor, the PRA, and the VP. The cleric, his monitor, the PRA, or the VP can initiate the discussion for change or alteration, or request that this Individual Specific Protocol be reviewed by the Professional Responsibility Review Board. At the discretion of any of the parties, the legal and/or canonical counsel of the cleric may be involved in the discussions.

I have reviewed, understand, and agree to all of these individual specific Protocols.

Signed: Joseph S. Thomas Date: 4/7/06

Printed Name: JOSEPH S. THOMAS

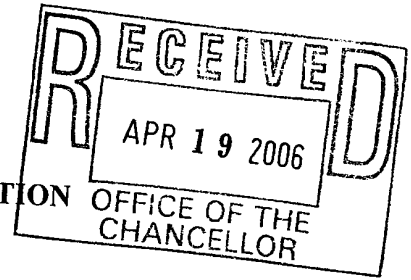
Signature of PRA: Frank McElroy Date: 4/13/06

Signature of VP: Rev. Christopher G. ... Date: 4/28/06



Additional, written notations appended to this document? yes ☐

no ☒

(Revised 1/XII/04)



SUMMARY TIME LINE OF ALLEGATION

	ACCUSED	ACCUSER
Name:	Rev. Joseph Thomas	
Address:	Cardinal Stritch Retreat House Mundelein, IL	N/A
Date of Birth:		
Current age:	79	Deceased
Name of civil attorney:	Cynthia Giacchetti	N/A
<hr/>		
Date of Ordination [of accused]:	5/1/52	
Location:	Mundelein	
Age at ordination:	25	
Assignment location of accused:	N/A	
Status of accused:	Retired/Withdrawn from ministry	
Name of canonical advocate:	Msgr. Fred Easton	
<hr/>		
Date allegation received by PRA:	4/14/05	
Date allegation formalized with PRA:		
Date of initial incident of alleged abuse:		
Date of last incident of alleged abuse:		
Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse:		
<hr/>		

Brief summary of alleged abuse: third party allegation reported to PRA by former classmate of [REDACTED]; as per third party, [REDACTED] disclosed the abuse to him [REDACTED] Fr. Thomas had [REDACTED] come to the rectory for a punishment for lack of work completed in class; Fr. Thomas had [REDACTED] disrobe while he [Fr. Thomas] watched

Brief summary and date of response from accused: after more than one discussion regarding the allegation with the Vicar for Priests [Rev. James T. Kaczorowski], Fr. Thomas admitted to the alleged abuse reported by the third party

Stage of disposition by Professional Responsibility Review Board: not presented to the Review Board due to the fact that the victim is deceased; will be presented to the Review Board for their discussion

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth:

Current age:

Name of civil attorney:

Date allegation received by PRA: 4/14/05

Date allegation formalized with PRA:

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse:

Date of last incident of alleged abuse:

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: unknown

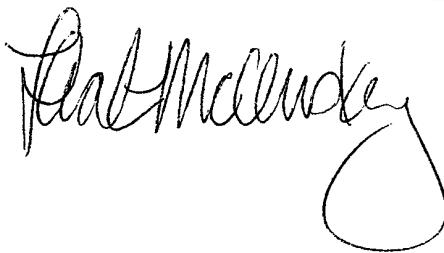
Brief summary of alleged abuse: third party allegation reported to PRA by former classmate of [REDACTED]; as per third party, [REDACTED] informed third party that [REDACTED] Fr. Thomas would have him [REDACTED] strip and take cold showers in front of him [REDACTED] PRA has attempted to speak with [REDACTED] through the third party; as per third party, [REDACTED] is not interested in speaking with PRA

Brief summary and date of response from accused: after more than one discussion regarding the allegation with the Vicar for Priests [Rev. James T. Kaczorowski], Fr. Thomas admitted to the alleged abuse of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] reported by the third party; as per Fr. Kaczorowski, Fr. Thomas stated that he "probably" did what [REDACTED] reported to the third party as well

Stage of disposition by Professional Responsibility Review Board: not presented to the Review Board due to the fact that the victim does not wish to speak with PRA; will be presented to the Review Board for their discussion

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

Signature of PRA:



Date: 4/13/06

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: [REDACTED]

Name of civil attorney: [REDACTED]

Date allegation received by PRA: 3/21/02

Date allegation formalized with PRA: 8/29/02

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1980s

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1980s

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: more than one

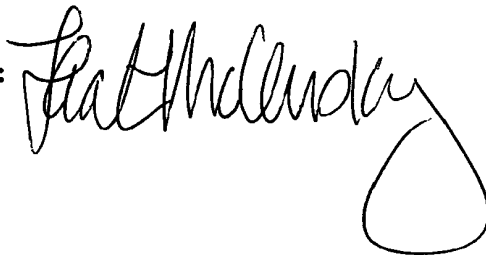
Brief summary of alleged abuse: fondling/kissing/penetration; 1980's during social time spent with cleric

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 9/5/02; Fr. Thomas denied the entire allegation

Stage of disposition by Professional Responsibility Review Board: 4/04—Review Board recommendation of reasonable cause to suspect was not accepted as a decision by Cardinal George; however Cardinal George continued Fr. Thomas' withdrawal and monitoring as the result of other allegations against the accused

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

Signature of PRA:



Date:

5/3/06

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Office of Professional Responsibility





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MEMORANDUM


To: Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
John O'Malley, Director of Legal Services

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn] 

Date: May 3, 2006

Upon a review of files today, it was determined that  allegation of misconduct against Rev. Joseph Thomas is physical in nature and not sexual. Therefore, this matter is to be referred to the Vicar for Priests Office.

Therefore, the attached May 6, 2004 notification letter sent to the office of the Counsel of the State's Attorney needs to be corrected to reflect that  allegation against Fr. Thomas is physical and not sexual in nature.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
John O'Malley, Office of Legal Services
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

AOC 020632

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

May 3, 2006

Rev. Joseph Thomas
P.O. Box 455
Mundelein, Illinois 60060-0455

Dear Fr. Thomas,

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of your current completed and signed Individual Specific Protocol. Please note that copies of this document have also been sent to your canonical advocate, civil attorney, Vicar for Priests, and to your on-site monitor Deacon Richard Hudzik.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

Cc: Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, J.C.L., Canonical Advocate
Cynthia Giacchetti, Civil Attorney
Deacon Richard Hudzik, On-site Monitor

AOC 020633

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

MAY 17 2006

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

To: Leah McCluskey

From: Rev. James T. Kaczorowski

JTK

Date: May 12, 2006

Re: Rev. Joseph Thomas '52

Toward the end of my term as Vicar for Priests, Leah McCluskey, director of Professional Responsibility, asked me to talk with Father Thomas concerning the [REDACTED] brothers. As a result I spoke with Joseph Thomas over the phone concerning these two boys. I asked him if he abused either of them. Father Thomas shared with me what occurred with one of the [REDACTED] boys at St. Columba Parish in the 1950's while he was assigned to this parish. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I asked him if he had abused the other [REDACTED] or other students. He said he was unable to recall any other incident.

AOC 020634

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Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
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Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, May 13, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
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MINUTES

Corrected

Review Board Members Present:

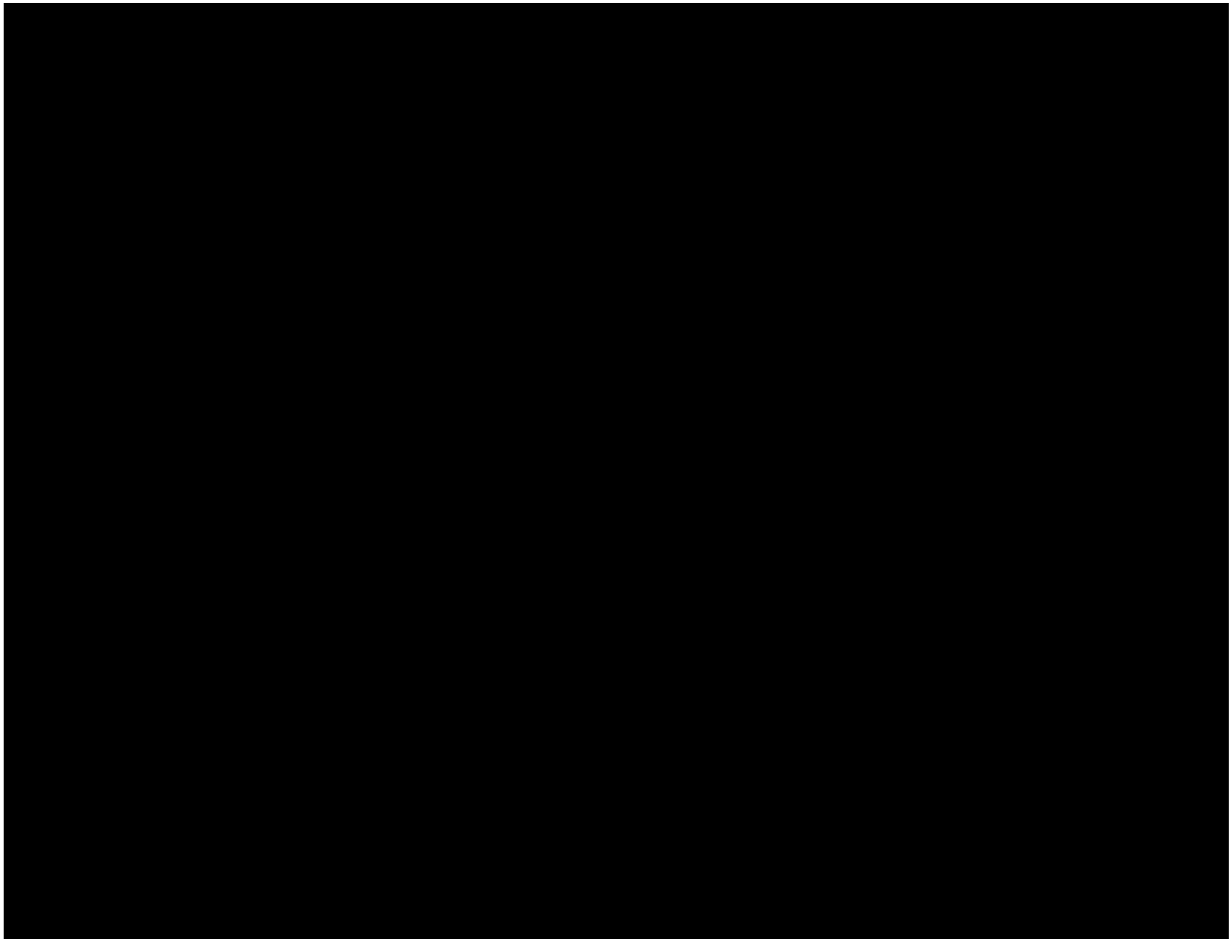


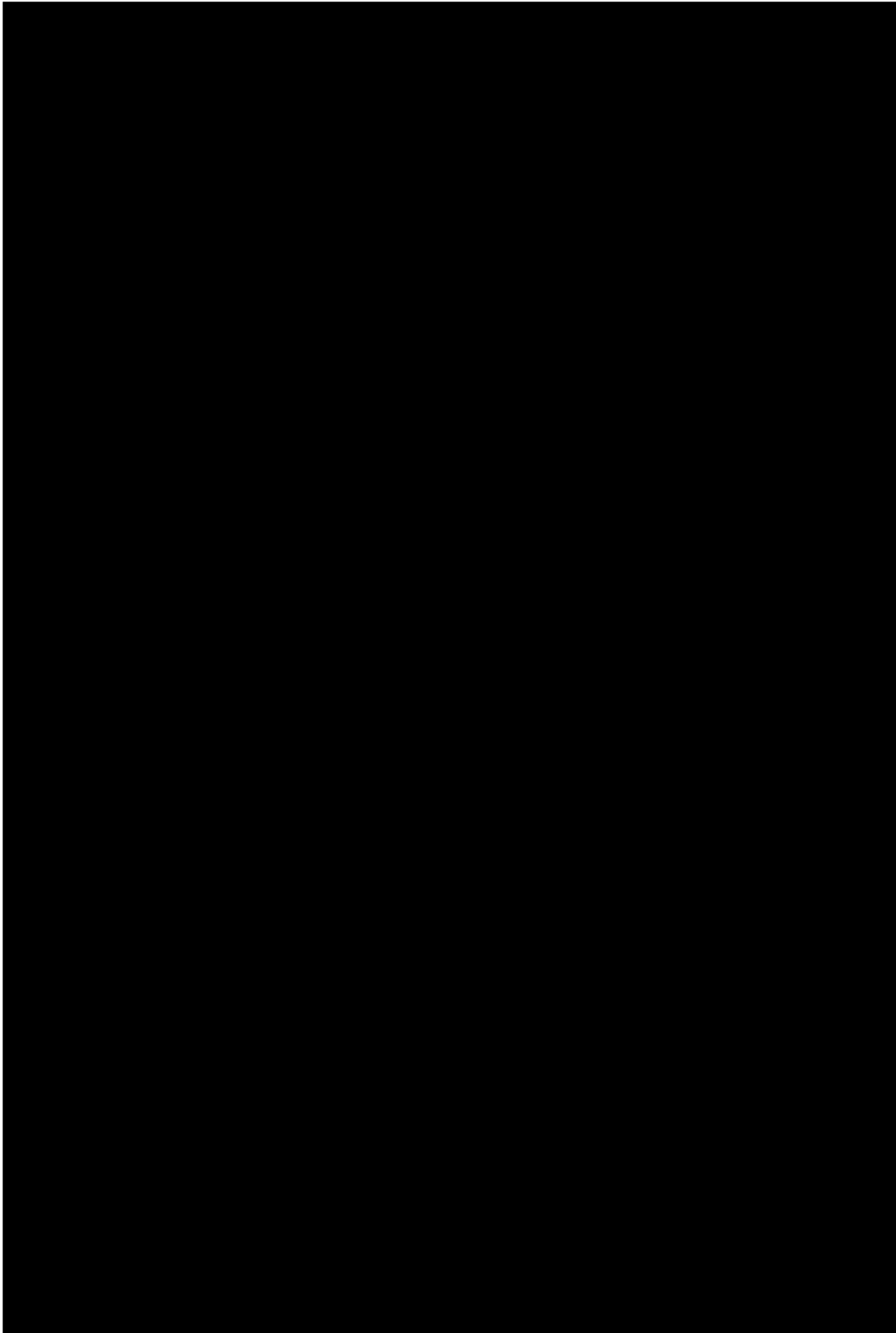
Review Board Members Absent:

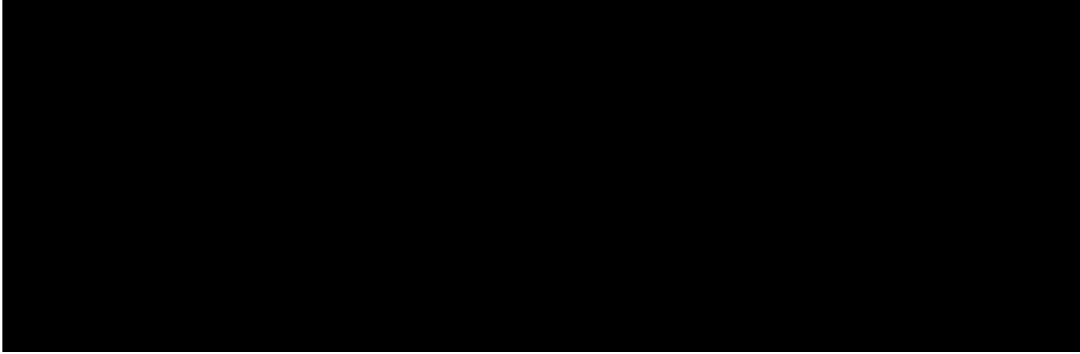


Non-members present:

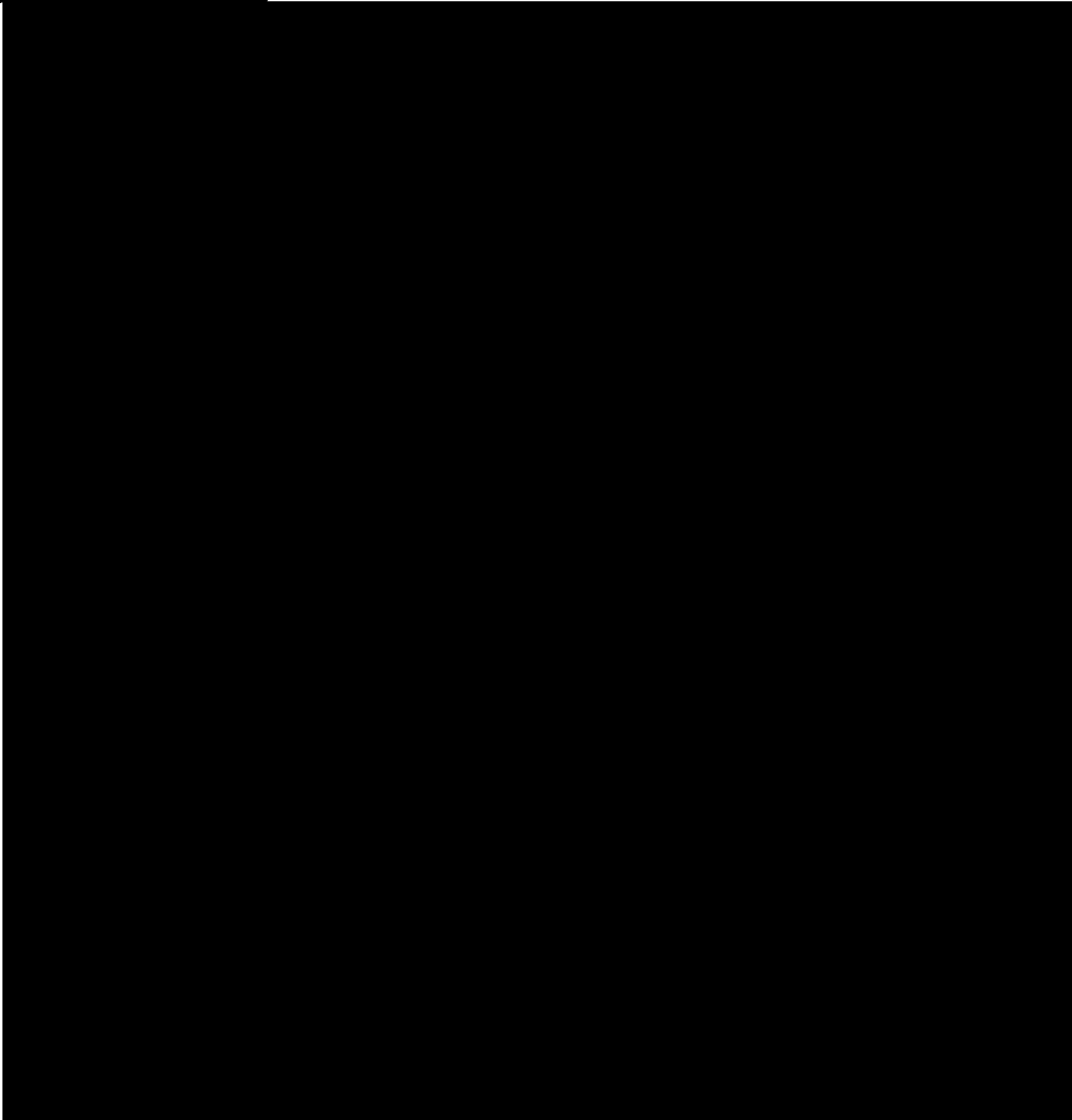
Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] 
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

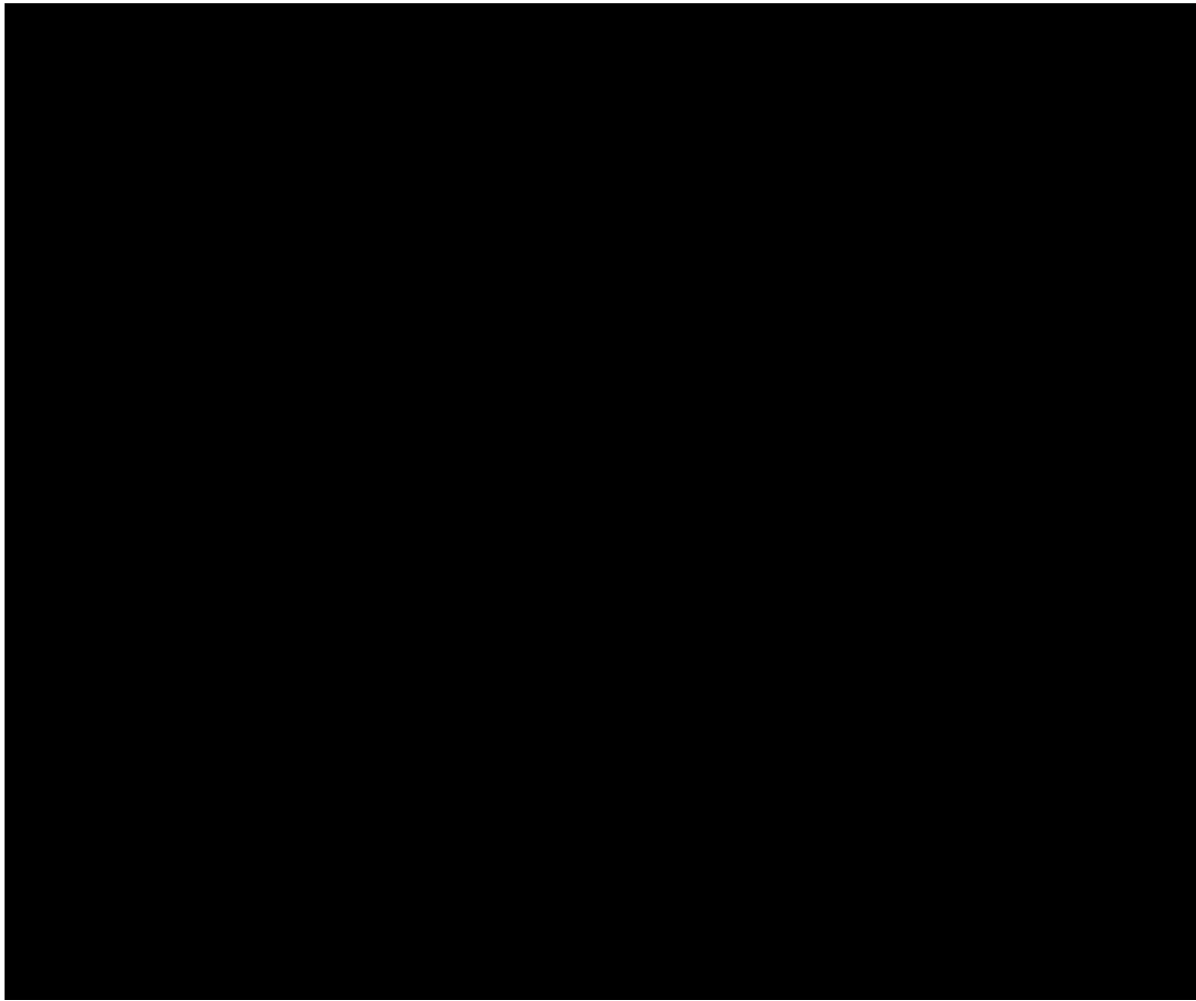




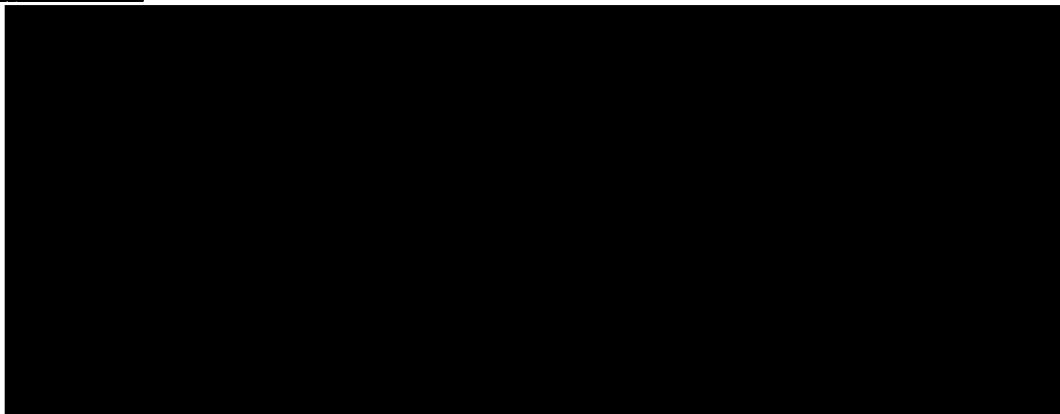


New Matter not on Agenda





I. Case Reviews
Initial Review
A.



II. Review for Cause

B.



C.

[REDACTED]

III. Other Matters

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Due to the lack of time, the following matters will be presented to the Board for its review at the June 17, 2006 Board meeting:
 - Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn]/[REDACTED]
 - Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn]/[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will not be present at the scheduled July 15, 2006 Board meeting
- [REDACTED]

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, June 17, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

changes

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979
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Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, May 13, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Absent:

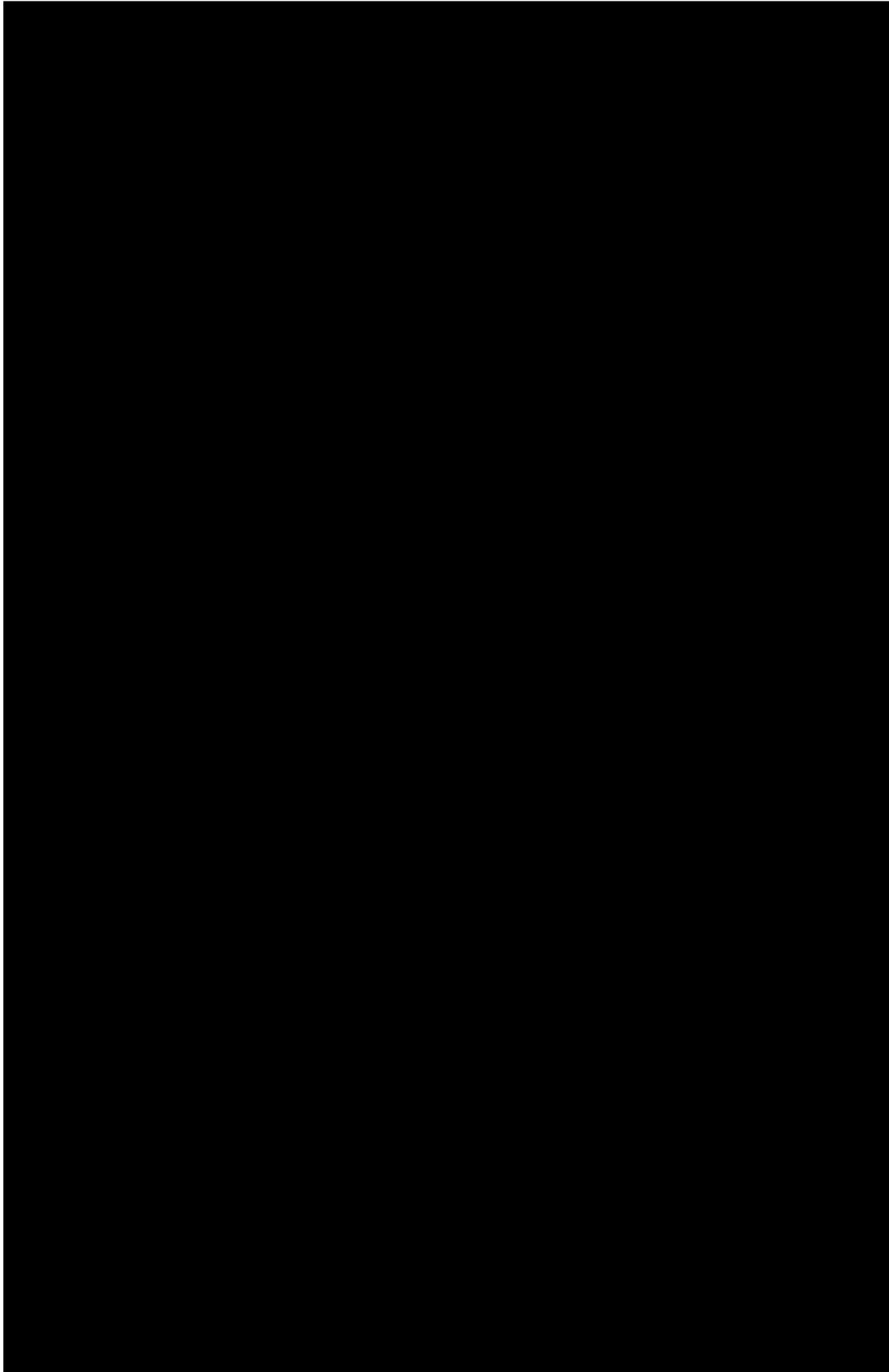
[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

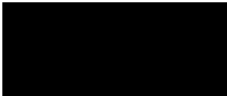
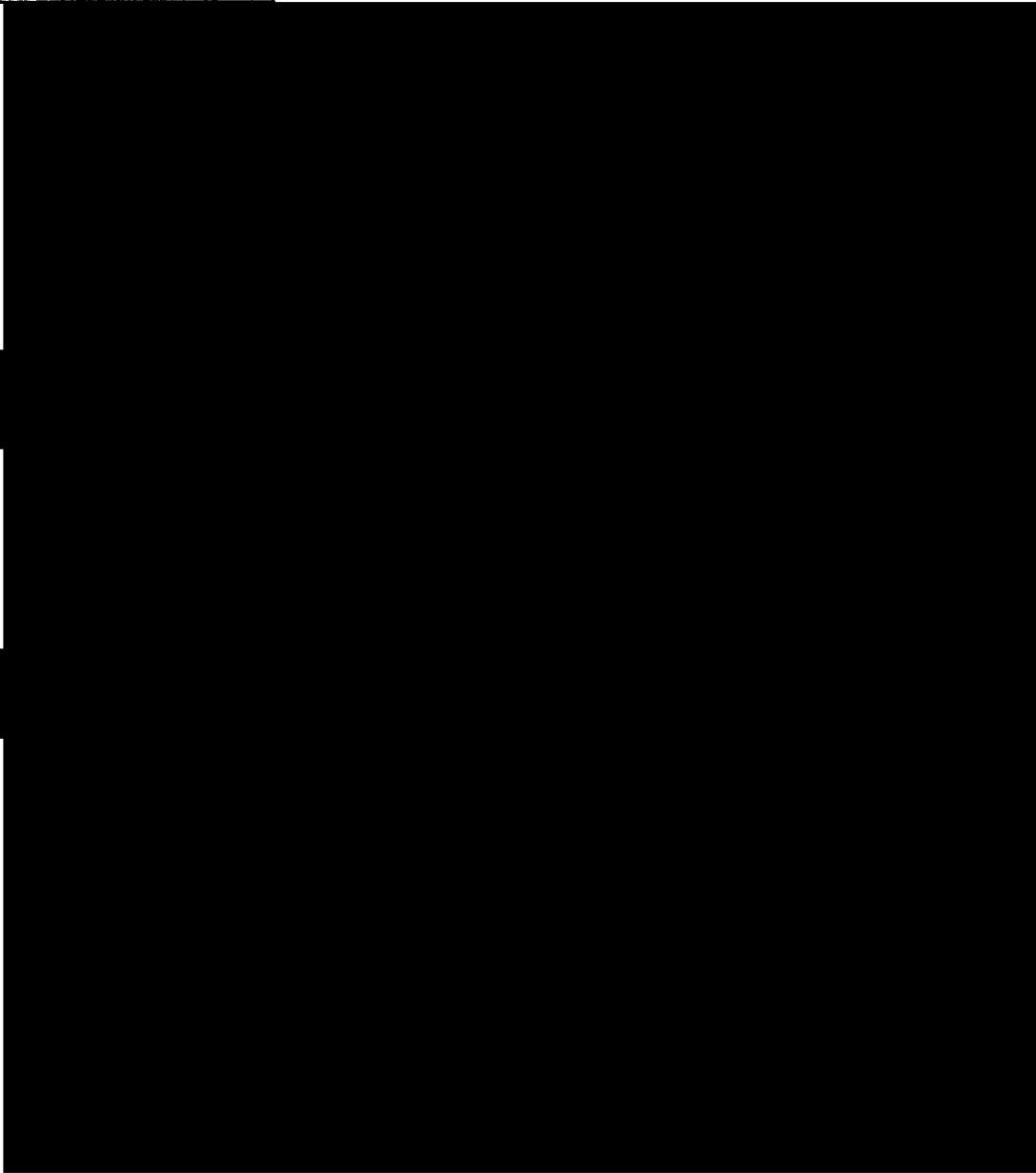
(w)

[REDACTED]



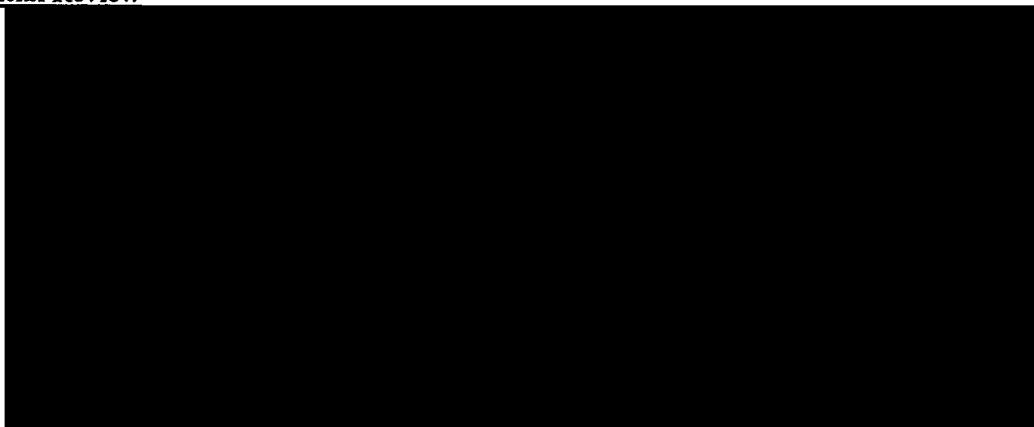


New Matter not on Agenda





I. Case Reviews
Initial Review
A.



II. Review for Cause

B.

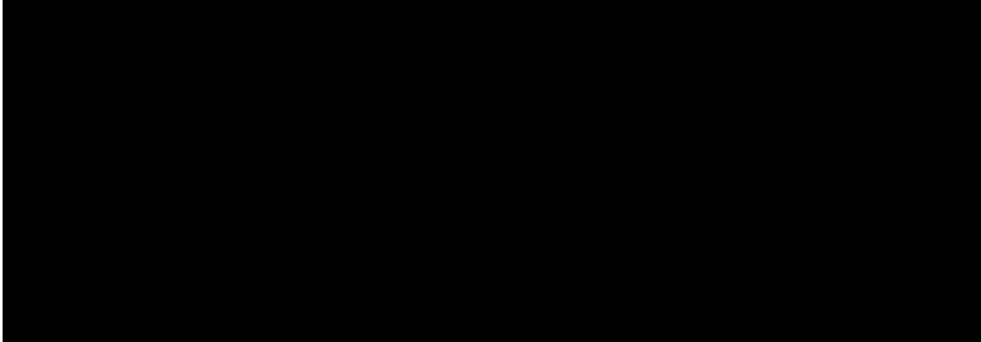
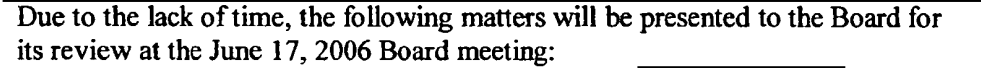

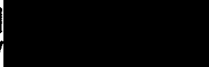
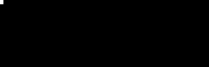






C.



III.

Other Matters

- 
- 
- 
- Due to the lack of time, the following matters will be presented to the Board for its review at the June 17, 2006 Board meeting:
 - Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn] 
 - Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn/ 
 - 
-  and  will not be present at the scheduled July 15, 2006 Board meeting
- 

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, June 17, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General

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PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING Saturday, May 13, 2006

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2005
March 18, 2006
April 8, 2006

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review:

A. [REDACTED]

III. Review for Cause:

B. [REDACTED]

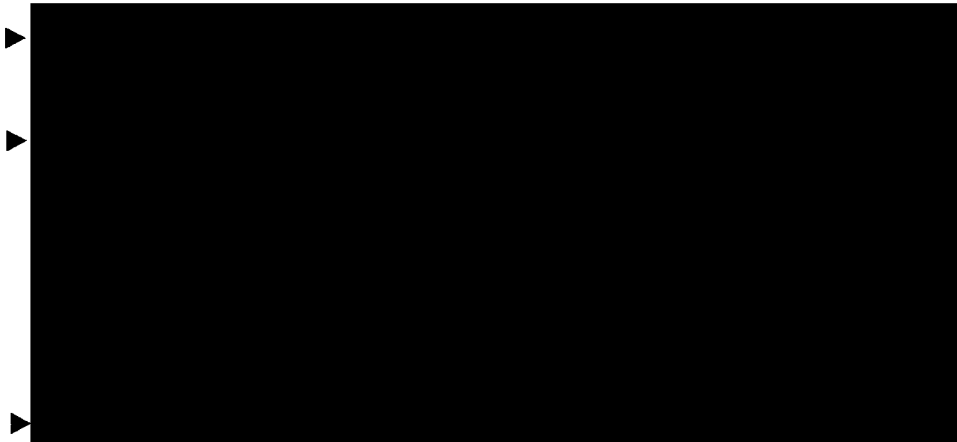
C. [REDACTED]

IV. Other Matters:

▶ [REDACTED]

▶ [REDACTED]

- ▶ In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas (Retired 1997/Withdrawn 2002) – PFR-103
- Third-Party Allegation - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]



► New Deacon candidate [?]

The next Board Meeting is the in-service scheduled for Saturday, **June 17, 2006**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator
312-751-5205
lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP
Assistant Administrator
312-867-8793
pzacharias@archchicago.org

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
1-800-994-6200
312-751-5279 (fax)

MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator

Re: Rev. Joseph Thomas (Retired-Withdrawn)

Date: May 13, 2006

The attached is a copy of Fr. Thomas' "Summary Time Line of Allegation" presented to all Review Board Members for the May 13, 2006 Board meeting.

AOC 020649

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: [REDACTED]

Name of civil attorney: [REDACTED]

Date allegation received by PRA: 3/21/02

Date allegation formalized with PRA: 8/29/02

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1980s

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1980s

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: more than one


Brief summary of alleged abuse: fondling/kissing/penetration; 1980's during social time spent with cleric

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 9/5/02; Fr. Thomas denied the entire allegation

Stage of disposition by Professional Responsibility Review Board: 4/04—Review Board recommendation of reasonable cause to suspect was not accepted as a decision by Cardinal George; however Cardinal George continued Fr. Thomas' withdrawal and monitoring as the result of other allegations against the accused

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

Signature of PRA:



Date:

6/5/06

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P.O. Box 1979
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Professional Responsibility Review Board
Saturday, June 17, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(312) 751-5205
Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

Review Board Members Absent:

[REDACTED]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board



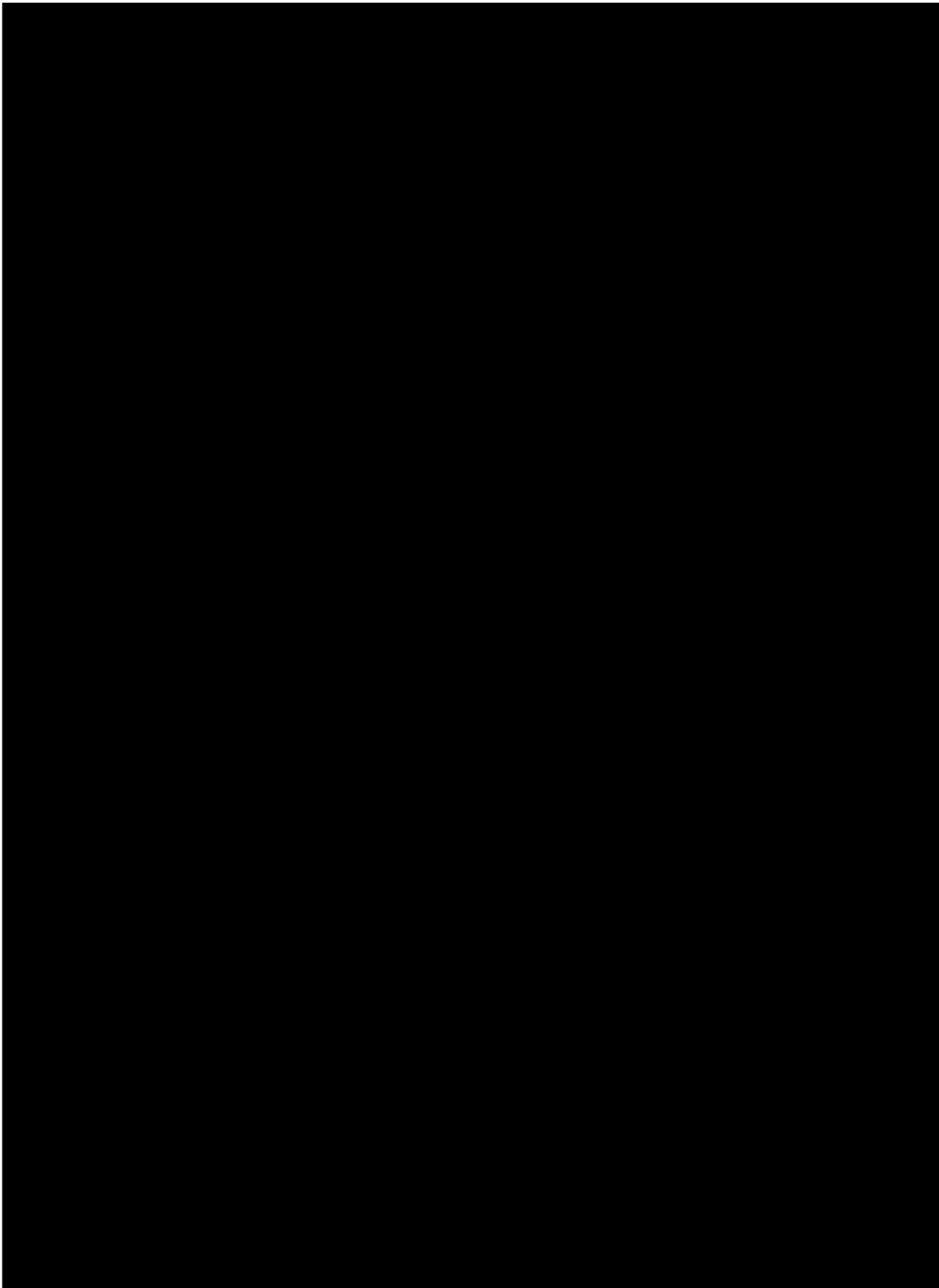
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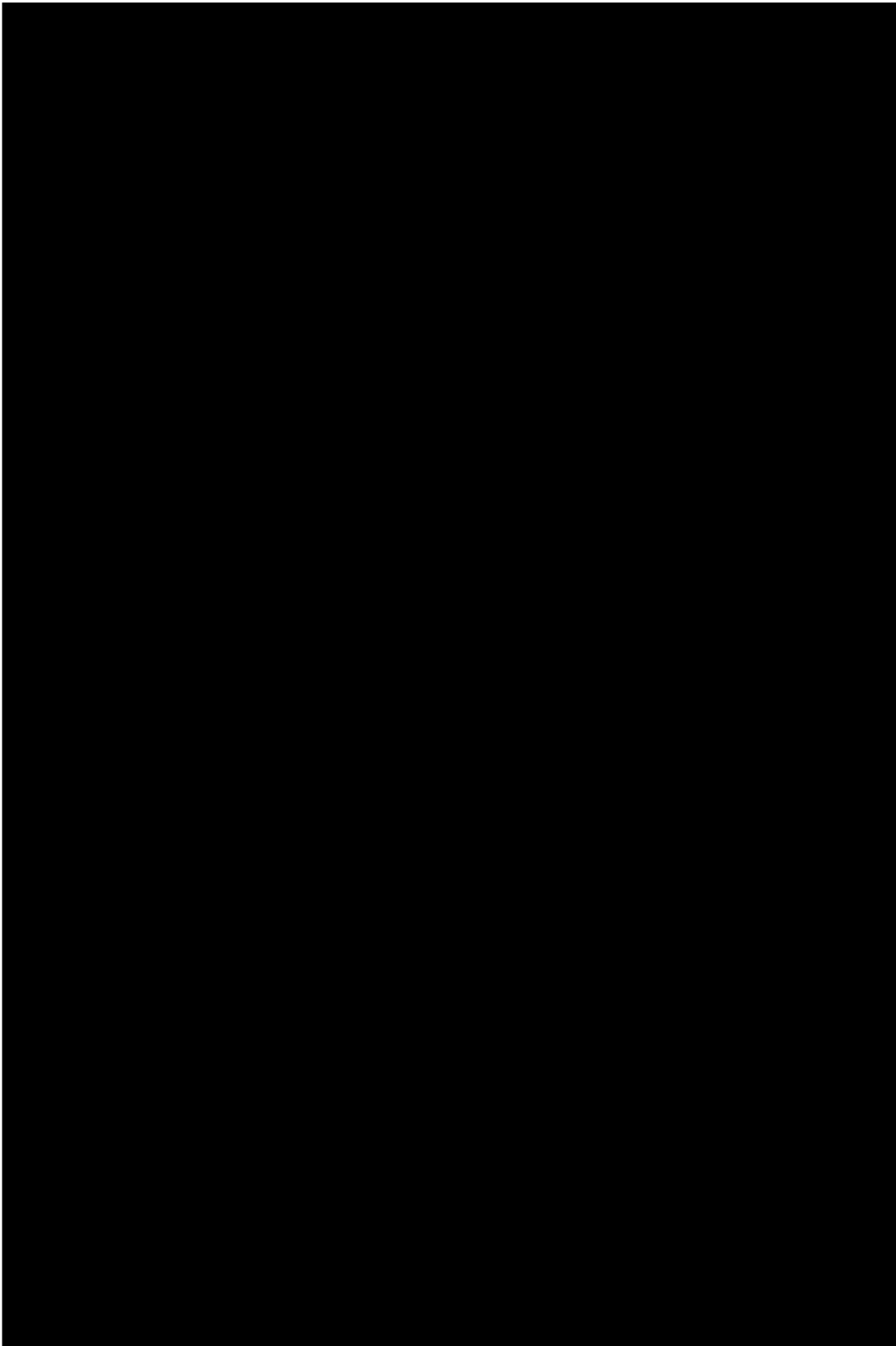
[REDACTED]

I. Case Reviews **Initial Review**

A.

[REDACTED]





B. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn]– PFR – 103

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the third party allegation made on behalf of [REDACTED] [deceased]. The allegation is as follows: [REDACTED]

In a 6-0 vote [REDACTED] had left the meeting and did not vote] in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board further recommended that PRA and Rev. James Kaczorowski [former Vicar for Priests] meet with Fr. Thomas to ask him for his response to the third party allegation.

In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas [Retired/Withdrawn]– PFR – 103

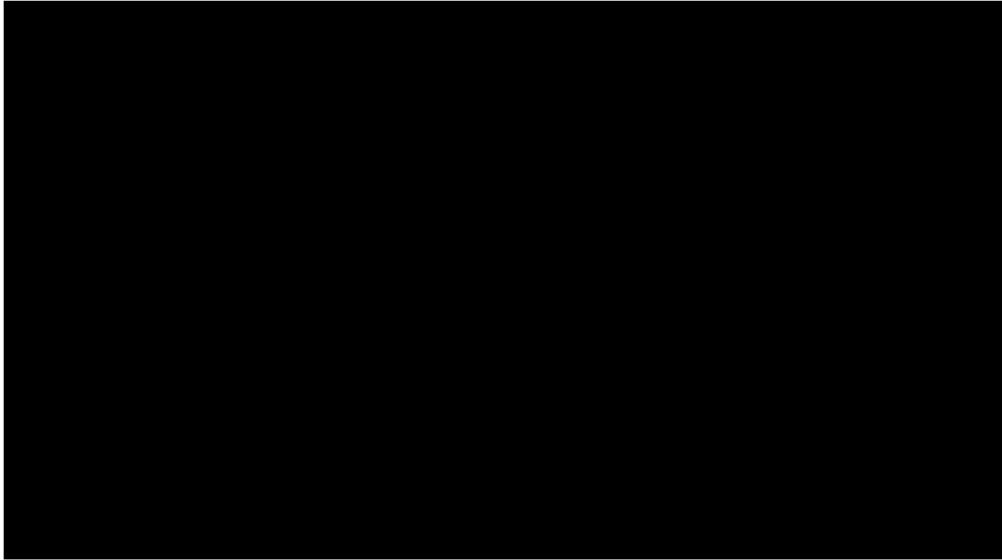
The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the third party allegation made on behalf of [REDACTED] The allegation is as follows: [REDACTED]

In a 6-0 vote [REDACTED] had left the meeting and did not vote] in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board further recommended that PRA and Rev. James Kaczorowski [former Vicar for Priests] meet with Fr. Thomas to ask him for his response to the third party allegation.

II. Review for Cause

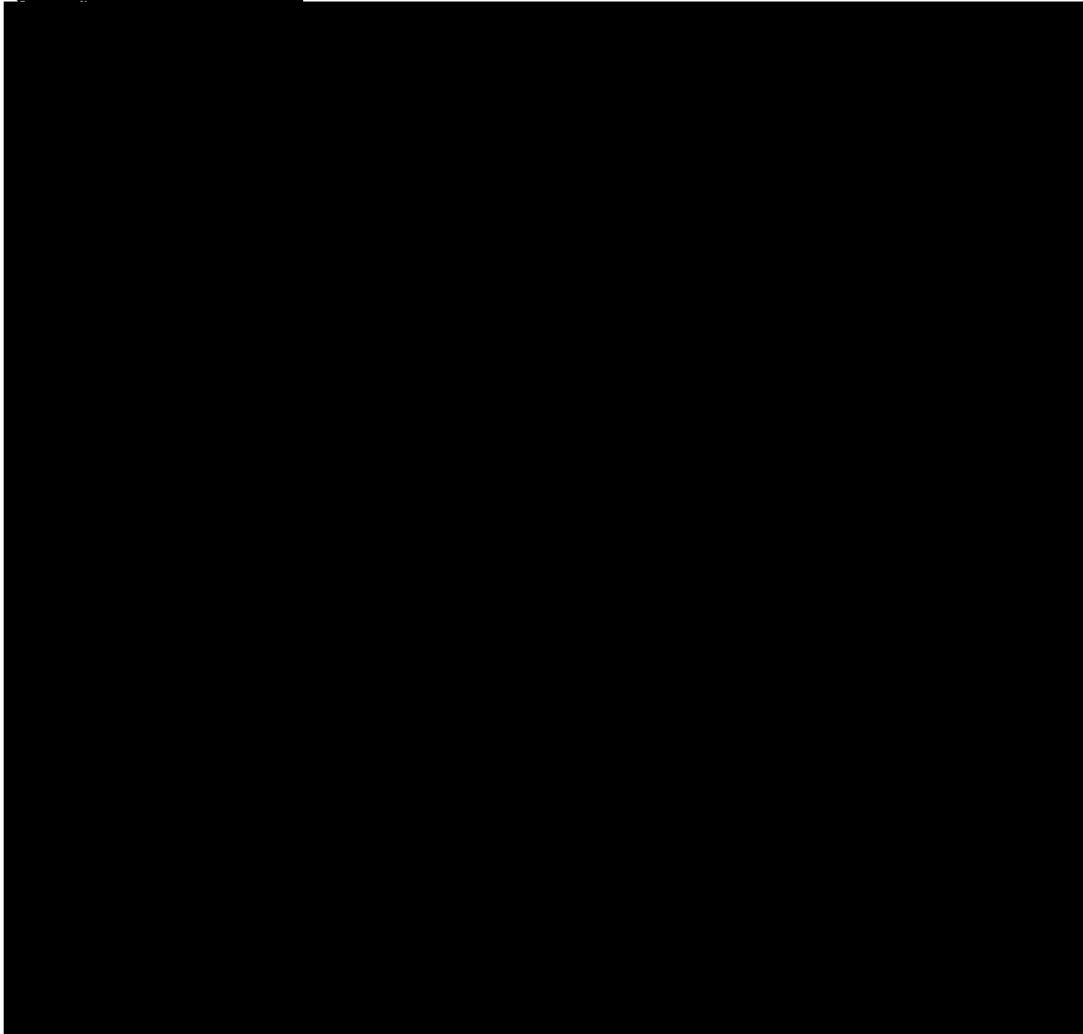
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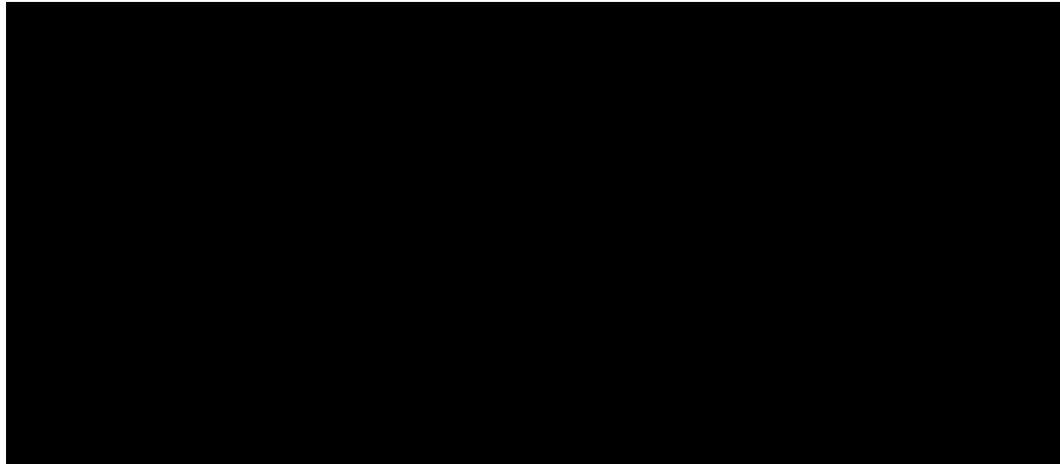
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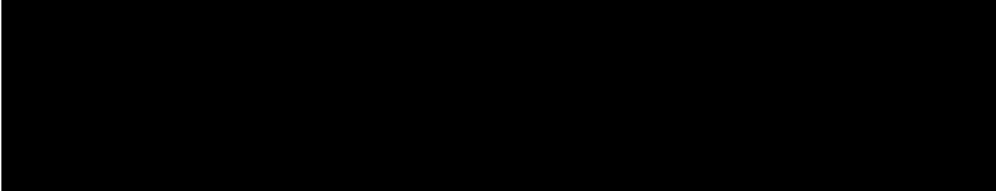
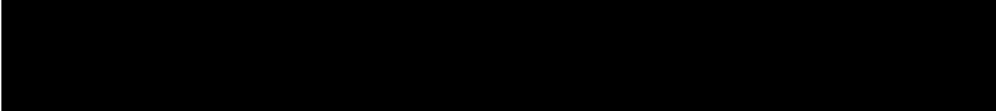
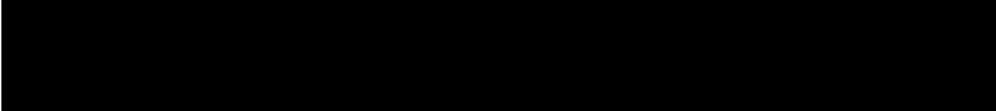
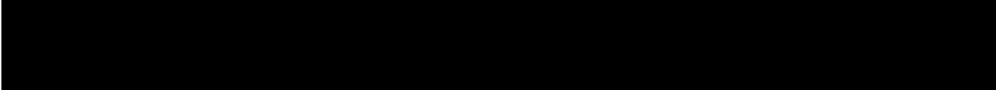
III. Supplementary Review

E.





IV. Other Matters

- 
- 
- 
- 

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, August 19, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Cc: Review Board Members
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General

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Office of Professional Responsibility



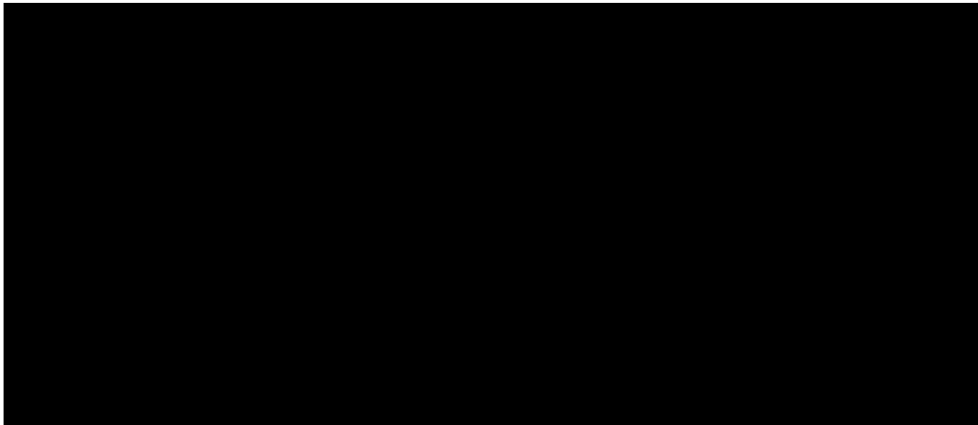
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Fax: (312) 751-5279
www.archchicago.org

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING Saturday, June 17, 2006

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2006
- II. From the May 13, 2006 Meeting:
Initial Review [Note: Identified as “Other Matters” on the May 13th Agenda]:
 - A. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Thomas (Retired 1997/Withdrawn 2002) – PFR-103
 - Third-Party Allegation - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]



III. **Initial Review:**

B. [REDACTED]

C. [REDACTED]

IV. **Review for Cause:**

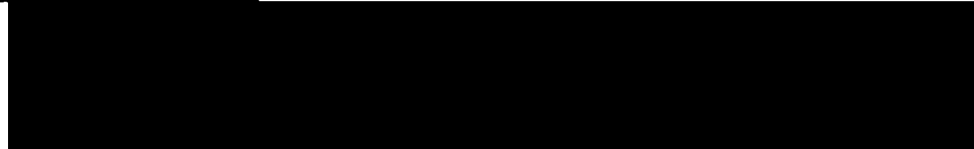
D. [REDACTED]

E.



IV. **Supplementary Review:**

F.



The next Board Meeting is the in-service scheduled for Saturday, **July 15, 2006**

63

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-103

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph (Retired/Withdrawn) [REDACTED]

Date: June 17, 2006

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2006:

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the third party allegation made on behalf of [REDACTED]

In a 6-0 vote [REDACTED] had left the meeting and did not vote] in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board further recommended that PRA and Rev. James Kaczorowski [former Vicar for Priests] meet with Fr. Thomas to ask him for his response to the third party allegation.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a memorandum to file from the Archdiocese of Chicago's Review Board Meeting, dated June 17, 2006, summarizing Victim LG's allegation of sexual abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas. According to the memorandum, Victim LG alleged that Thomas required members of a parish sports team to undress and shower in front of the cleric.

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-103

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph (Retired/Withdrawn)/ [REDACTED]

Date: June 17, 2006

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2006:

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the third party allegation made on behalf of [REDACTED] [deceased]. The allegation is as follows: [REDACTED]

In a 6-0 vote [REDACTED] had left the meeting and did not vote] in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board further recommended that PRA and Rev. James Kaczorowski [former Vicar for Priests] meet with Fr. Thomas to ask him for his response to the third party allegation.

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements a memorandum to file from the Archdiocese of Chicago's Review Board Meeting, dated June 17, 2006, summarizing Victim LH's allegation of sexual abuse by Fr. Joseph Thomas. According to the memorandum, Victim LH was required to undress in front of Thomas.

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MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-103

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph (Retired/Withdrawn from Ministry)

Date: June 21, 2006

The attached is a copy of Rev. Joseph Thomas' "Summary Time Line of Allegation" presented to all Review Board members for the June 17, 2006 Board meeting.

AOC 020663

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Office of Professional Responsibility



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June 27, 2006

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

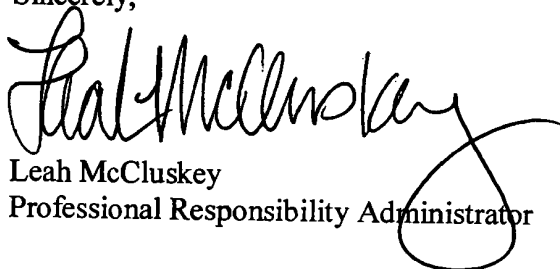
Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on June 17, 2006 and conducted an Initial Review of the third party allegation that Rev. Joseph Thomas engaged in sexual misconduct with [REDACTED] pursuant to Article §1104.8 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Thomas is a retired and withdrawn priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board made the recommendation that in light of the information presented, this matter warrants additional investigation. It was specifically requested that I meet with Fr. Thomas to ask of his response to the allegation, as he originally provided to former Vicar for Priests, Rev. James Kaczorowski. The additional information obtained will be presented to the Board along with all other information regarding this matter for a Review for Cause.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

*I agree with
this recommendation.
Fr. [unclear]
jgg, jcc*

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests

RECEIVED

JUL 05 2006

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OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

AOC 020664

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June 27, 2006

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
155 E. Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on June 17, 2006 and conducted an Initial Review of the third party allegation that Rev. Joseph Thomas engaged in sexual misconduct with [REDACTED] [deceased] pursuant to Article §1104.8 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Fr. Thomas is a retired and withdrawn priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board made the recommendation that in light of the information presented, this matter warrants additional investigation. It was specifically requested that I meet with Fr. Thomas to ask of his response to the allegation, as he originally provided to former Vicar for Priests, Rev. James Kaczorowski. The additional information obtained will be presented to the Board along with all other information regarding this matter for a Review for Cause.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests

AOC 020665

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PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD MEETING

Saturday, July 15, 2006 – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

AGENDA

I. Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2006

II. Case Reviews

Initial Review:

A. [REDACTED]

B. [REDACTED]

III. Review for Cause:

C. [REDACTED]

IV. Information Updates:

D. [REDACTED]

E. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph S. Thomas (Retired 1997/Withdrawn 2002) – PFR-103

- Allegations made by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- Initial Reviews 6/17/06

F. [REDACTED]

V. Other Matters:

▪ [REDACTED]

- Update on potential Deacon candidate

▪ [REDACTED]

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 19, 2006.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator
312-751-5205
lmccuskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP
Assistant Administrator
312-867-8793
pzacharias@archchicago.org

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
1-800-994-6200
312-751-5279 (fax)

MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-103

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph (Retired-Withdrawn)/
Thomas, Rev. Joseph (Retired-Withdrawn)/

Date: July 15, 2006

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on Saturday, July 15, 2006:

Information Update

Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board and Professional Responsibility Administrator orally provided information on the June 17, 2006 meeting with Cardinal George regarding the matter of the third party allegations of the sexual abuse of [REDACTED] by Rev. Joseph Thomas; the Board was informed that Cardinal George stated that the Board can receive from him the information of what he is going to do in response to these matters, as he has enough information to keep Fr. Thomas out of active ministry; the Cardinal also stated that he does not need the Board's recommendations in the matters concerning Fr. Thomas, as the accused has already admitted the abuse to the former Vicar for Priests [Rev. James Kaczorowski]; as a result of Fr. Thomas' admission to Fr. Kaczorowski, the Cardinal has kept the accused out of ministry; Fr. Smilanic and PRA will speak with the Cardinal for clarification on how to proceed with these matters, if it is to be before the Review Board or not [because Fr. Thomas admitted the acts to Fr. Kaczorowski]

From: Leah McCluskey
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 12/15/2006 4:14:42 PM
Subject: Re: Victim Of Sexual Abuse

Dear [REDACTED]

I first must apologize for the unspeakable delay in my response to your e-mail that was received by a general e-mail used by our Department of Legal Services. Your e-mail was just discovered yesterday after an individual in Legal Services was sifting through hundreds of SPAM e-mails. I hope that this e-mail does reach you after this long delay.

[REDACTED] my name is Leah McCluskey and I work in the Office of Professional Responsibility where we receive all allegations of the sexual abuse of minors by clerics of the Archdiocese of Chicago. I would like the opportunity to speak with you so that I may provide you additional information on my office, as well as to ask if you would feel comfortable meeting regarding the matters you identified involving Fr. Joseph S. Thomas and [REDACTED]

You can find all of my contact information at the end of this e-mail. If you choose [REDACTED] I do look forward to hearing from you soon.

Peace,

Leah

Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Professional Responsibility Administrator
Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of Professional Responsibility
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Office: [312] 751-5205
Fax: [312] 751-5279
lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

>>> [REDACTED] 3/20/2006 3:30 PM >>>

[REDACTED]

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces an email exchange between Victim KW and Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago, Office of Professional Responsibility. The original email from Victim KW is March 20, 2006 and the reply from McCluskey is dated December 15, 2006. In the original email, Victim KW states that he was abused by a visiting priest from St. Ferdinand's parish in 1968. According to Victim KW, the alleged abuse was reported, and Fr. Joseph Thomas was involved in the investigation of the allegation.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator
312-751-5205
lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP
Assistant Administrator
312-867-8793
pzacharias@archchicago.org

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
1-800-994-6200
312-751-5279 (fax)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry
Rev. Vince Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor
Leah McCluskey, Office of Professional Responsibility
John O'Malley, Legal Services
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Archbishop's Delegate to the Review Board
Patricia Zacharias, Office of Professional Responsibility

FROM: Laura Neri-Palomino, Administrative Assistant^{LNP}
Office of Professional Responsibility

DATE: December 18, 2006

RE: [PFR-103] Thomas, Rev. Joseph (Retired-Withdrawn) [REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of a new allegation received by this office on 12/14/06.

Please advise this office of any information you may have in your files regarding Thomas, Rev. Joseph [REDACTED]

It is extremely important that you forward copies of any and all documentation pertinent to this case to this office within 5 business days of receipt of this memo to ensure that the investigation of this matter be properly handled.

Thank you.

Attachment

Cc: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Very Rev. John Canary, Vicar General
Rev. Dennis Lyle, Rector, Mundelein Seminary
Very Rev. James Presta, Vicar, St. Joseph Seminary

AOC 020670

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Administrator
312-751-5205
lmclluskey@archchicago.org

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312-751-5279 (fax)



January 19, 2007

Rev. Joseph Thomas
P.O. Box 455
Mundelein, Illinois 60060-0455

Dear Fr. Thomas,

I am writing to you in regards to the **TRAVEL/VACATION NOTIFICATION** form that you have agreed to fill out and return to me three weeks prior to any planned overnight absence from your residence of the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House. Upon filling out the form, please provide a copy to Deacon Richard Hudzik prior to sending it to my office. This is to ensure that Deacon Hudzik is aware of your planned overnight absence in the event that he does not receive a copy of the notification form from my office prior to any planned departure. I have enclosed a blank copy of the notification form with this letter.

Rev. Vincent Costello and I will be in contact with you regarding any future additional changes to your Individual Specific Protocol, Daily Log, and/or Travel/Vacation notification forms. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

Cc Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL, canonical advocate
Cynthia Giacchetti, civil attorney
Deacon Richard Hudzik
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

AOC 020671

ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ACCUSED

Name of accuser: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Current age: [REDACTED]

Name of civil attorney: [REDACTED]

Date allegation received: 3/21/02

Date allegation formalized: 8/29/02

Date of initial incident of alleged abuse: 1980s

Date of last incident of alleged abuse: 1980s

Approximate number of incidents of alleged abuse: more than one

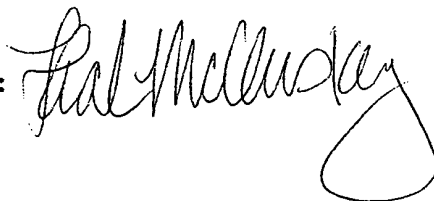
Brief summary of alleged abuse: fondling/kissing/penetration; 1980's during social time spent with cleric

Brief summary and date of response from accused: 9/5/02; Fr. Thomas denied the entire allegation

Stage of disposition by Review Board: 4/04—Review Board recommendation of reasonable cause to suspect was not accepted as a decision by Cardinal George; however Cardinal George continued Fr. Thomas' withdrawal and monitoring as the result of other allegations against the accused

Additional allegations made by accuser: None

Signature of Director:



Date:

4/12/07

COPY

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

HAND DELIVERED

April 13, 2007

Deacon Richard Hudzik
Cardinal Stritch Retreat House
P.O. Box 455
Mundelein, Illinois 60060-0455

Dear Deacon Hudzik,

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the summary of allegations of the sexual abuse of minors against Rev. Joseph Thomas that have been received by the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review to date. You will also find copies of the most recent "Clergy Daily Log" and "Travel/Vacation Notification" forms that Fr. Thomas will be directed to use as a client of this office.

As you know, one of our Vicars for Priests Rev. Vincent Costello and myself are scheduled to meet with Fr. Thomas today to review with him his updated Individual Specific Protocol [ISP]. Once I have a signed copy of Fr. Thomas' updated ISP, I will forward a copy to you for your information and records.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Cc Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

AOC 020673

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5388
312-751-8307, fax

May 4, 2007

Rev. Joseph Thomas
P.O. Box 455
Mundelein, Illinois 60060-0455

Dear Fr. Thomas,

I wanted to thank you again for taking the time to meet with Rev. Vincent Costello, Rev. Edward Grace, and myself last month to review the enclosed Individual Specific Protocols [ISP].

As we discussed on April 13th, I am returning the ISP and the related forms that we reviewed to you and have forwarded copies to your civil attorney and canonical advocate as well. I ask that you review and discuss the ISP with your counsel and then return the signed protocol to me by May 21, 2007.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205 or Fr. Costello at [312] 642-1837.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leah McCluskey (P2)".

Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Enclosures

Cc Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests ✓
Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, J.C.L., canonical advocate
Cynthia Giachetti, civil attorney

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 751-5205

RECEIVED MAY 11 2007

INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS
For

Rev. Joseph Thomas

The Individual Specific Protocols (ISP) implement the primary goal of promoting the safety of minors. Additionally, the ISP protects the integrity of the Church and serves as a safeguard for individual priest or deacon. As long as the cleric is a client of the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, he will be subject to appropriate protocols, restrictions and monitoring under the authority of the Vicar for Priests and supervised by the Director of the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review (Director). The agreement of a priest or deacon to abide by these protocols is not understood to prove the truth of any allegation and is not intended to be an admission of guilt for any delict or crime, whether in Canon Law, or State and Federal Law. This agreement represents the cooperation of the cleric with his bishop as he exercises his pastoral office (e.g., Canons 369 and 392).

This ISP for Rev. Joseph Thomas is as follows (Director to initial all that apply):

1. The client is restricted from being alone with a minor or minors, that is anyone under the age of 18, without the presence of another responsible adult.

2.

3.

4. ☒ The "Clergy Daily Log" to be completed on a daily basis and co-signed by the on-site supervisor. The log is a tool that is used for the protection of minors, the cleric, the on-site supervisor and the Archdiocese. Although it identifies time periods, it is intended to provide a general record of the day rather than a detailed clock. If you are describing an off-site activity, please include your destination and the general purpose of the visit or activity. For example, it is enough to indicate that you did personal shopping at a given Shopping Center rather than the details of each individual store. However, if your self-description is challenged or a complaint is lodged with the Archdiocese, some documentation and verification may be necessary to sufficiently address the situation.

5. ☒ Abide by the assignment of residence to Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, Mundelein, IL.

6. (P) Must complete and submit the "Travel/Vacation Agreement," and obtain concurrence with the Agreement, prior to a scheduled departure. In the event of a prolonged stay in a particular location, the Archdiocese is required to notify the Ordinary of that place of your presence there.
7. N/A Attendance at a recommended support group _____ (please indicate specific support group). Recommended frequency of _____ times per week/month (please circle one). Attendance at a recommended support group is to be reflected on "Clergy Daily Log" forms.
8. No inappropriate use of computers, software, Internet capabilities, communications tools or video technology. The standards articulated in the *Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago* and the *Handbook For Archdiocesan Employees* apply as they do to all Archdiocesan personnel.
9. No ministerial participation in the public celebration of the Eucharist or any other Sacrament or Sacramental without the prior, written permission of the Vicar for Priests.
10. Refrain from wearing any garb that would give the appearance of, or seem to infer, a priest/deacon who has canonical faculties and is currently assigned to some ministry (e.g., the 'clerical shirt').
11. On-site visits by the Director and the VP annually to include a meeting with the cleric.

This Individual Specific Protocol is to be reviewed annually with the Director, VP, and the cleric. Also, there can be additional, written notations tailored to the needs of a specific situation which are signed by all parties and appended to this document. Any change or alteration to this agreement will involve consultation with the cleric, his on-site supervisor, the Director, and the VP. The cleric, his on-site supervisor, the Director, or the VP can initiate the discussion for change or alteration, or request that this Individual Specific Protocol be reviewed by the independent Review Board. At the discretion of any of the parties, the legal and/or canonical counsel of the cleric may be involved in the discussions.

I have reviewed, understand, and agree to all of these individual specific Protocols.

Signed: Joe S. Thomas Date: 5/11/07

Printed Name: JOE S. THOMAS

Signature of Director: [Signature] Date: 5/24/07

Signature of VP: [Signature] Date: 5/23/07

Additional, written notations appended to this document? yes ☐ no ☒

(Revised 4/5/07)

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office



P. O. Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
312-751-5388
312-751-8307, fax

May 29, 2007


Rev. Joseph Thomas
P.O. Box 455
Mundelein, Illinois 60060-0455

Dear Fr. Thomas,

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of your current completed and signed Individual Specific Protocol. Please note that copies of this document have also been sent to your canonical advocate, civil attorney, Vicar for Priests, and to your on-site supervisor Deacon Richard Hudzik.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,


Leah McCluskey
Director, Office for Child Abuse
Investigations & Review

Enclosure

Cc: Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests
Deacon Richard Hudzik, On-Site Supervisor
Cynthia Giacchetti, Civil Attorney
Rev. Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, JCL, Canonical Advocate

AOC 020677

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Chancellor
Jimmy M. Lago



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

312-751-5382
Fax: 312-751-5381

April 9, 2008

Reverend Joseph Thomas
Cardinal Stritch Retreat House
PO Box 455
Mundelein, IL 60060-0455

Dear Father Thomas,

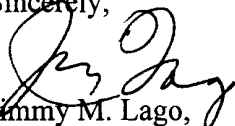
This letter is to update you on actions we are taking to upgrade our monitoring and supervision program. For the past year, we have been reviewing the recommendations from the consultants we hired in 2006 as well as the Ad Hoc Committee who worked with us this past year to redesign our programs for oversight and compliance. We are now in the process of implementing improvements to both of these programs.

We have engaged Dr. Monica Applewhite, former president of Praesidium, Inc., the national accrediting body for religious communities seeking to comply with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth* and *Essential Norms*, to design and recommend an individual protocol with each removed priest. Secondly, we have hired a new compliance supervisor, Ms. Shawnte Jenkins, to oversee compliance with these agreements and protocols.

The Vicar for Priests and members of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth will be in contact with you to discuss these changes.

Please give them your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Jimmy M. Lago,
Chancellor

cc. Cardinal Francis George
Fr. John Canary
Fr. Vince Costello
Fr. Ed Grace
Jan Slattery

*mailed
4-9-08*

AOC 020678

From: Patricia Zacharias
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 9/11/2008 6:09 PM
Subject: Re: Inquiry

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your inquiry.

By way of introduction, I am the Assistant Director of the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Part of the responsibility of my office is to receive allegations of the sexual abuse of a minor against Archdiocesan clerics and lay personnel.

I want to help you in any way I can and will try to respond to the questions within your email message.

In reference to your question about the priests who served at St. Ferdinand, I can respond by giving you this link which will take you to the Archdiocesan website. On the website is a listing of Archdiocesan priests who have a minimum of one substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor against them. Please be aware that this list will not include any priests who passed away prior to a first substantiated allegation.

http://www.archchicago.org/c_s_abuse/report_032006/list.pdf

The information you or anyone shares with the Archdiocese in reference to the sexual abuse of minors is only shared within certain offices of the Archdiocese and possibly the civil authorities, when indicated. The information is not made public.

If you have information you would like to share with us, I would be happy to speak with you to receive the information. Please just let me know and we can schedule a telephone time, or you could send it to me via email or regular mail.

In reference to your question about if you should consider speaking with [REDACTED] I can only respond with what I have learned from other families who have spoken with me about similar questions. Ultimately, some families choose to sit down privately [REDACTED] and share their worry and concern and wondering with them. Others choose not to do so. There tend to be a variety of factors which lead to that decision. Our Office of Assistance Ministry, whom I work closely with, works with family members frequently and I know would be happy to speak with you, if you would like. Just let me know and I can either have them contact you or I can give you their contact information. Please find below links to my office as well as the Office of Assistance Ministry.

<http://www.archchicago.org/departments/ocair/ocair.shtm>

http://www.archchicago.org/departments/assistance_ministry/assistance_ministry.shtm

I hope you find this information to be of some help.

Please let me know if you would like to speak further about this and/or if you would like for me to ask one of my colleagues within the Assistance Ministry to contact you.

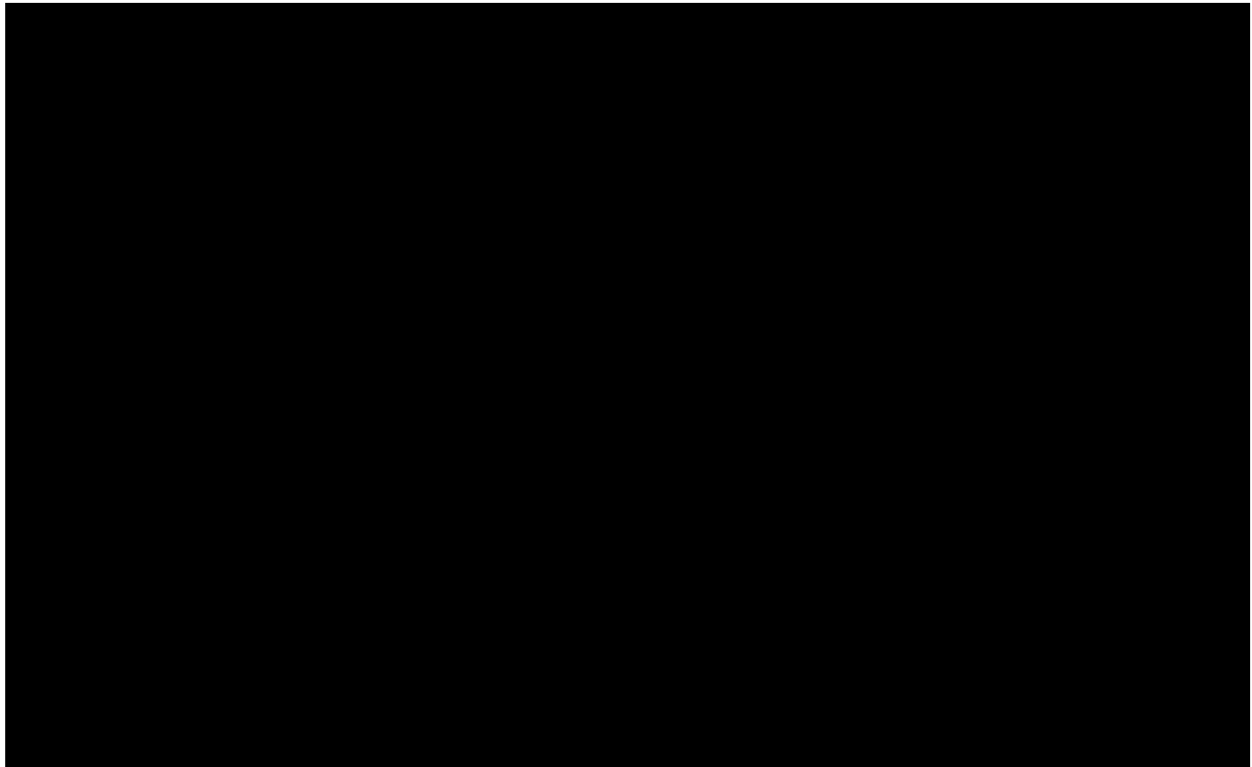
Thank you again, [REDACTED]

Sincerely,
Patty Zacharias

Patricia J. Zacharias
Archdiocese of Chicago

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Assistant Director
P.O. Box 1979
Chicago, IL 60690-1979
pzacharias@archchicago.org
312-867-8793
FAX: 312-751-5279

>>> [REDACTED] 09/11/08 3:52 PM >>>



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<http://clk.atdmt.com/MRT/go/msnnkwxp1020093185mrt/direct/01/>

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements an email exchange between Victim KY's father and Patricia Zacharias, Assistant Director of the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review, dated September 11, 2008. In his email, Victim KY's father expressed concern that one of his children may have been abused by a priest assigned to St. Ferdinand parish in the 1970s. In his email, Victim KY's father identified a Fr. Thomas as one of the priests serving in that parish during the relevant time period.

From: Julie Satzik
To: Zacharias, Patricia
Date: 9/11/2008 9:28 AM
Subject: re: priest list

Hi,

The priests were:

1970-1972

William E. McManus
Joseph F. Ognibene
Joseph S. Thomas
Thomas J. McGovern
Matthew A. Canning

1972

William E. McManus
Joseph F. Ognibene
Joseph S. Thomas
Thomas J. McGovern
Matthew A. Canning

1973

William E. McManus
Joseph F. Ognibene
Joseph S. Thomas
John C. Hergenrother
Matthew A. Canning

1974-1975

William E. McManus
Joseph S. Thomas
John C. Hergenrother
Thomas A. Del Re
Matthew A. Canning

1976

William E. McManus
Joseph E. Auer
John C. Hergenrother
Thomas A. Del Re
Matthew A. Canning

1977

Robert H. McGlynn
Joseph E. Auer
Thomas A. Del Re
Anthony A. Adducci

1978

Robert H. McGlynn
Joseph E. Auer
Thomas A. Del Re
Anthony A. Adducci
Leonard T. Mezydlo

1979

Robert H. McGlynn
Joseph E. Auer
Anthony A. Adducci
Leonard T. Mezydlo
Joseph Colletti (LFT)

Julie

Julie A. Satzik
Assistant Research Archivist
Archdiocese of Chicago's
Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
Archives and Records Center
711 W. Monroe
Chicago IL 60661


>>> Patricia Zacharias 9/10/2008 11:50 AM >>>
Hi Julie,

Could you forward a listing of priests at St. Ferdinand's parish in Chicago from 1970-1979?

Thanks,
Patty

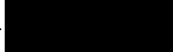
MEMORANDUM

To: PFR 103

From: Patty Zacharias, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn]

Date: September 19, 2008

I consulted with Leah McCluskey about Miscellaneous Case # 163 –  St. Ferdinand Parish.

She suggested I copy pertinent information (see attached) into Fr. Thomas's general file as he is mentioned within the case.

Monica Applewhite, Ph.D.
Confianza, LLC

11/17/08

Dear Shawnte,

File

This is a follow-up to our interview and subsequent conversation regarding Fr. Joe Thomas. As you know, we conducted our interview with him on Thursday, November 13 in preparation for preparing his individual specific protocols. We knew going into the interview that Fr. Thomas's Canonical status was distinctive because thus far no decree has been issued to him. Given his "informal" status (he essentially agreed to retire and live at Mundelein) we were hopeful he would also agree to the terms of supervision and/or that his activities would not warrant any major disruptions. He is, after all, 82 years old and we knew his most common destination is to Marytown, just down the street. Unfortunately, neither of those two optimistic scenarios came to pass in our interview.

First, Fr. Joe Thomas leaves the Retreat House about five or six days per week. He goes to a variety of destinations, mostly in the northern suburbs of Chicago to meet with adult friends, including several Archdiocesan priests. He goes to homes to play Bridge with adult friends who are his peers. Minors occasionally appear in these homes, but he not report engagement with them and relationship development seems unlikely. There is, however, a home in which he visits with his niece, her husband, and their three small children – ages 12, 9 and 4. The older two are girls and the youngest is a boy. Fr. Thomas reported that he told his niece about "the allegation" and "of course told her it wasn't true." So, given that he leaves the retreat house routinely, with a variety of companions and has access to minors, verification would be a necessary component of his Individual Specific Protocols.

Second, Fr. Thomas was extremely resistant to any form of verification and was indignant when we asked for the names of people with whom he spends time. Although he ultimately gave us several names of his companions, he specifically said he does not want any of his friends or family to be called and did not provide any contact information. He reported that he just wants to "forget the whole thing." I believe, Shawnte, that we made every reasonable effort to explain the reasons for the program and to assure Fr. Thomas that we would be professional, respectful and discreet with his information. You will recall that when we discussed his niece's "need to know" because she has small children, that Fr. Thomas laughed and that before the interview was concluded, he simply walked out.

The purpose of this note is to request that Archdiocese provide formal direction regarding the process with Fr. Joe Thomas. If we are to proceed with his protocol, it is unlikely that he will agree to participate in the Prayer and Penance Program on an informal basis and so a decision would have to be made to formalize his status as a participant in the program. Otherwise, the decision could be made that the Archdiocese would prefer not to move forward with his protocol and no further action would be taken with respect to its development and associated verifications.

Please let me know if you need further information or if I may clarify any portion of this correspondence. Thank you for your continued dedication to this work and the opportunity to support you in your role.

Very truly yours,

Monica Applewhite, Ph.D.
Confianza, LLC

Leah McCluskey - Fwd: Joseph Thomas

From: Jimmy Lago
To: McCluskey, Leah
Date: 11/17/2008 11:57 AM
Subject: Fwd: Joseph Thomas

Leah,

Was there ever a Review Board decision for Joseph Thomas?

jim lago

Jimmy M. Lago
Chancellor
312 751-5382 - office
312 751-5381 - fax

Leah McCluskey - Re: Fwd: Joseph Thomas

From: Jimmy Lago
To: McCluskey, Leah
Date: 11/17/2008 12:02 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Joseph Thomas

thnks. jml

Jimmy M. Lago
Chancellor
312 751-5382 - office
312 751-5381 - fax

>>> Leah McCluskey 11/17/2008 12:02 PM >>>
Jimmy,

Jan and Shawnte asked me about this earlier this morning.

Yes, one case was substantiated by the Review Board and there was one case that was substantiated by Administrative Review.

Please let me know if you need any more specific information.

Leah

Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Archdiocese of Chicago
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Office: [312] 751-5205
Fax: [312] 751-5279
lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

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>>> Jimmy Lago 11/17/08 11:57 AM >>>
Leah,

Was there ever a Review Board decision for Joseph Thomas?

jim lago

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AOC 020687

Leah McCluskey - Enclosed Memo re: [REDACTED] Removed Priests

From: Leah McCluskey
To: Lago, Jimmy
Date: 11/18/2008 9:28 AM
Subject: Enclosed Memo re: [REDACTED] Removed Priests

Thank you Jimmy.

Leah

Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW
Director, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Archdiocese of Chicago
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Office: [312] 751-5205
Fax: [312] 751-5279
lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

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>>> Jimmy Lago 11/18/08 8:43 AM >>>
Please see the enclosed memo, which Cardinal George and Fr. Canary has approved.

Jim Lago

Jimmy M. Lago
Chancellor
312 751-5382 - office
312 751-5381 - fax

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: This is Shawnte Jenkins. Today's date is November 13, 2008, and I'm here with Father Joseph Thomas. Can you say and spell your name please?

THOMAS: You want me to spell Joseph Thomas?

JENKINS: Yes, please.

THOMAS: J-o-s-e-p-h T-h-o-m-a-s, Joseph Thomas.

JENKINS: And do you know you're being recorded today?

THOMAS: Yeah, they told me that.

JENKINS: Okay. I just want to start with some background information. Were you raised Catholic?

THOMAS: Yes, ma'am.

JENKINS: Could you tell me just a little bit about your upbringing as a Catholic?

THOMAS: Went to Catholic school.

JENKINS: Did you go to Catholic school? Where did you go to school...

THOMAS: Quigley seminary.

JENKINS: What elementary school did you go to?

THOMAS: St. Leonard's in Burlington.

JENKINS: And how about high school?

THOMAS: Quigley.

JENKINS: And then?

THOMAS: <inaudible 00:58>.

JENKINS: And what degrees did you get there?

THOMAS: MA and STB.

JENKINS: Okay. What was your MA in?

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INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

Interview with Joe Thomas

THOMAS: My what?

JENKINS: Your MA, what was it in?

THOMAS: English.

JENKINS: English, okay. And how did you decide to enter the priesthood?

THOMAS: Couldn't even tell ya. It was just kind of was on my mind off and on through the years.

JENKINS: Through elementary school...

THOMAS: Ya, I was thinking about it.

JENKINS: How did your family react to that?

THOMAS: Fine.

JENKINS: Good, okay. Do you have any siblings or any other family members that were priests?

THOMAS: That what?

JENKINS: That were priests?

THOMAS: No. Well, yeah, I did have a couple of aunts who were sisters and an uncle who was a priest.

JENKINS: Okay.

THOMAS: Had a couple of cousins.

JENKINS: And in what years did you complete your education?

THOMAS: 1952.

JENKINS: How about when did you graduate high school do you remember?

THOMAS: Well it was a five-year course, Quigley was at that time, so 1945.

JENKINS: 1945. And then do you remember when you finished your MA?

THOMAS: I think it was at the end of First Theology, which would be somewhere around 1949.

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: Okay. And then ordained?

THOMAS: '52.

JENKINS: And what work did you do through your career? You said you have your MA in English. Did you teach English? [shook his head] What kind of work – types of work have you...

THOMAS: Parish priest.

JENKINS: Okay. And other work?

THOMAS: I did a little marriage counseling for a couple of years.

JENKINS: So after you were ordained, can you tell me about your first assignment?

THOMAS: I was out in Parish, St. Columbia.

JENKINS: And what was your role there?

THOMAS: Priest and a parish.

JENKINS: What I need to know was like your duties, what you did, the type of people that were there, the type of work that you did.

THOMAS: Mass, confessions to communion of people. I taught religion classes.

JENKINS: And what was your title in your first assignment?

THOMAS: They called us an assistant.

JENKINS: Okay. And you – how was your relationship with the pastor?

THOMAS: Fine. He was a wonderful man.

JENKINS: What was his name?

THOMAS: His name?

JENKINS: Mm-hmmm.

THOMAS: Thomas Kelly.

JENKINS: And how did you two interact?

Interview with Joe Thomas

THOMAS: Fine. Always friends through the years.

JENKINS: And what kind of roles did you find yourself doing there?

THOMAS: Say that again?

JENKINS: What kind of – what role did you do there? You said, you celebrated mass...

THOMAS: Assistant priest in a parish, go to meetings, women and men. I kind of watched over the kids that were playing basketball and football. They didn't have football there, but basketball...

JENKINS: What part of that position did you enjoy the most?

THOMAS: I couldn't say I enjoyed any one or the other more.

JENKINS: There was nothing that you felt like was your calling or role that you particularly cared about?

THOMAS: No.

JENKINS: Okay, how about your next assignment after that?

THOMAS: That was St. David in Chicago. Pretty much the same thing.

JENKINS: What was different about this parish than the other?

THOMAS: It was inner city, not inner city, but it was in Chicago. The first one is way out on the southeast side, almost like a suburb where this one is and there's a different group of people. The first one was more Croatian, Polish and the other one was a lot of Lithuanians and Irish, Polish and others. Thank you.

JENKINS: Do you speak any other languages?

THOMAS: No...

JENKINS: Was it difficult for you...

THOMAS: I've taken... I've taken languages.

JENKINS: Okay.

THOMAS: Well, they all spoke English.

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: They all spoke English.

THOMAS: I was always in a parish that was considered an English-speaking parish. I wasn't in a Polish parish or a Spanish parish.

JENKINS: And did you find anything particularly fulfilling in the second parish you were in?

THOMAS: Say that again.

JENKINS: What part of the work in your second parish...

THOMAS: I couldn't say anything.

JENKINS: Nothing in particular

THOMAS: That's when I did take a few courses and became a – I was assigned a few couples from the marriage counseling board, but I didn't do that too long.

JENKINS: Marriage counseling?

THOMAS: I didn't really care about that.

JENKINS: Okay. How about your assignment after that?

THOMAS: I went to St. Ferdinane in Chicago again on the north side, around 3200. That was a big parish. And, again, we did have a hospital there, that one of us – there were three associates. They started calling us associates instead of assistants. And after the first year and a half, the pastor retired. Bishop [REDACTED] became the pastor. Same old thing.

JENKINS: Same old thing.

THOMAS: Well, with the exception...except that we had the hospital that we were – that a few – if it was your day, then you had to be around in case there was an emergency and somebody calls you for a priest. We did have a phone on.

JENKINS: What aspect of being a priest have you found the most fulfilling, have you enjoyed the most?

THOMAS: I never thought about it.

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: If you thought about it now, what do you think?

THOMAS: I just did it.

JENKINS: You just did it?

THOMAS: Well, yeah.

JENKINS: Okay. How about your next assignment after that?

THOMAS: Well, I was a short time over at St. Giles <inaudible 07:08> ^{Oak Park} Park. Again, it was all the same thing. I was only there for six months until I became pastor.

JENKINS: Was there any particular assignment that you enjoyed more than others?

THOMAS: No, I can't say.

JENKINS: And was your role always the same? Was there any parish where you were doing the marriage counseling, another one maybe you were in charge of some classes or you taught...

THOMAS: Well, we started the program called the RCIA some place along the line.

JENKINS: The RCIA?

THOMAS: No, I think that was later at the other parish. You'd give instructions to people on becoming Catholic, or young people getting married, or old people getting married. In the office, you know. Take the census of the first ones, but I never did that after that again. The pastor just – when I first got there he wanted to give me something to do in the summer time.

JENKINS: And did you have a good relationship with all the pastors that you worked with...

THOMAS: Yeah, pretty good. I'm the only one that was kind of a little tricky was the first pastor at St. Ferdinand's. We all kind of called him a character, you know, you'd have to tip toe. But then he was retired. I always had good relationship with him. A little more difficult to please. But Bishop Manus was fine and the other three were great people Father Boyle, Father Kelley, who was Monsenior Kelly at that time. He was the head of the – he was the local kind of like, what do you call it...

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JENKINS: The dean?

THOMAS: Chancellor – Vicar general for the military. He had been in the Navy. So he would sometimes travel around. He was very kind to me. The first five years of our priesthood, we couldn't – we weren't supposed to own a car and he always let me use his car. Then he bought one in his name and let me use his after a couple of years. And he was the one who was – he was the retired pastor at the parish I went to become a pastor.

JENKINS: And what parish was that where you became a pastor?

THOMAS: St. Margaret Mary in Chicago on the north side. The pastor there, he was – he retired.

JENKINS: And how about – you left off with you sent to St. – did you say St. Giles for six months?

THOMAS: St. Giles, yeah.

JENKINS: And then where were you?

THOMAS: That's when I became pastor.

JENKINS: Okay. And was that your last assignment...

THOMAS: No, I was at St. John Vianney after I decided I didn't want to be a pastor, it was kind of a six and six and the Cardinal offered to let me stay there for a little while because they were starting a building program and I said, no. I've had enough of being the boss. I'd rather say if there's a leak in the roof, I'd rather go to the pastor and say there's a leak in the roof. And he'd come to me and say there's a leak in the roof. I don't know it was just tiring. I'm not really a boss...

JENKINS: What was your role...

THOMAS: If there was a problem, a little bit of a problem, in St. John Vianney people and a new pastor or something and since I was free, one of my quote-friends-unquote asked me to go there and just be their priest, so I went there. And I was there until I, until I was removed in 2002.

JENKINS: Did you have any other work duties during your ministry?

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THOMAS: Not that I can think about.

JENKINS: How about any volunteerism? Have you ever done any volunteer work?

THOMAS: In a way, my whole life is a volunteer. Didn't pay a lot. My salary was \$50.00 a month the first year, of course, money went further.

JENKINS: Well, outside of the priesthood any type of...

THOMAS: Volunteering? Volunteering. I can't think of any.

JENKINS: No. Okay. Did you want to ask any questions?

APPLEWHITE: Well, I was curious about you said it's someone who was quote-a friend-unquote. I just wondered...

THOMAS: I just – we joke about it. My friend Bishop ~~Getterd~~ ^{Goodert}

APPLEWHITE: Oh, okay. Now is he a classmate of yours?

THOMAS: Yes. We get together once a week.

APPLEWHITE: Oh, okay.

THOMAS: He's one of the fellows.

APPLEWHITE: Is that in Antioch?

THOMAS: Lake Villa.

APPLEWHITE: Lake Villa?

THOMAS: Yeah.

APPLEWHITE: And who – a bunch of classmates own a house...

THOMAS: We're down to about four now. One just got secretion. We used to have 8, 10, 15 and several have died and a few have gotten sick.

APPLEWHITE: And how is it – I'm curious how it's structured. Does everybody own it together?

THOMAS: Well, you have some kind of thing where, you know, I don't know, what they call those things, but if I die, they get it.

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APPLEWHITE: Okay.

THOMAS: My part...

APPLEWHITE: Your part goes to the remaining people?

THOMAS: We're almost in the process of selling it or doing something with it, because it's getting to be too much for us. It's a regular home. It's an all year round and the only time I go there is when somebody else is there.

APPLEWHITE: Villa Lake?

THOMAS: I want to be there. Lake...

APPLEWHITE: Lake Villa.

THOMAS: It's just south of Antioch.

APPLEWHITE: I was just curious to know, when you said "friend."

THOMAS: It's either...

APPLEWHITE: I'm glad you said that...

THOMAS: Well, I mean, you know...

APPLEWHITE: Yeah, I know, people – "friends" try to get me jobs too!

THOMAS: I actually enjoyed the place I was at. I got along fine with the pastor. In fact, the pastor calls me from St. Thomas on the far south side, but he calls me at least once or twice a week to see what I'm doing.

APPLEWHITE: Okay, good. What's his name?

THOMAS: His name is Charles Fennell.

JENKINS: Okay. Can you tell me about a typical day for you? Like on a Monday morning, you wake up and then what? What time do you wake up?

THOMAS: I don't wake up. I'm aroused by an alarm. Depends on what's happening, like today you guys got me up early. I sleep – tomorrow I'll go to bed and just put the alarm off and I'll wake up once or twice to go to the bathroom, but then I'll just sleep until I've decided

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to sleep. Sometimes it might be 11:00 and sometimes it might be 1:00. Depends on what's happening.

JENKINS: And then what do you do when you get up?

THOMAS: I get some lunch. If I'm eating lunch here, I'll go here. Once in a while, on a Friday usually, I just go have some lunch someplace...

JENKINS: Where would you go if you don't have lunch here what kind of places do you go?

THOMAS: I go to the restaurant over here or the Triangle down the block or Grays Lake and there's another family restaurant. I just go to any place.

JENKINS: Do you normally go alone?

THOMAS: Go where?

JENKINS: Go alone?

THOMAS: Yep. Always, unless once in a great while there's somebody that's in town or calls and says let's go to lunch or something like that, but I'd say the last time was about three weeks ago and some people were here from Missouri.

JENKINS: Were those relatives?

THOMAS: No, they were just friends from one of the parishes, St. David's Parish - St. David, husband and wife, I married them.

JENKINS: So after you go to lunch, whether it's here or out at one of the restaurants, then what happens?

THOMAS: I either come home or I may have something, you know, I may have to buy some gas or stop at Walgreens or something. But I, normally, I just come home.

JENKINS: And when you get back here what do you do?

THOMAS: Probably a word – a crossword puzzle, watch TV if there's anything on, listen to music. I've got a bunch of CDs that I have in a big player just play one right after the other.

APPLEWHITE: Like one of those six CD things that you can...

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THOMAS: No it's a 200.

APPLEWHITE: 200?

THOMAS: Yeah. I have 150 in it.

APPLEWHITE: Wow.

THOMAS: CDs.

APPLEWHITE: Play it one after the other.

THOMAS: They just play one right after the other, if it works right.

APPLEWHITE: Okay...

THOMAS: I just watch – may watch – I like to watch Jeopardy and I tape Wheel of Fortune and once in a while there's a program that sounds like pretty good. You guys wouldn't know, because you're too young. From when I was younger and I don't know if you ever heard of James Cagney.

APPLEWHITE: Sure.

THOMAS: He could portray anything, a killer, a rat fink or anything. He never used the word even damn or hell and now and the violence in some of them <inaudible 16:58>. Once in a while I'll watch Two and a Half Men, but then if it's just the three of them and it's kind of where there's their mother and the one guy's former wife it's alright, but when they're jumping into bed with one another, that too much. I go back to the Dick Van Dike, even Jack Benny is on sometimes or something like that. Just to pass the time.

APPLEWHITE: I favor Dick Van Dike and I Love Lucy, myself.

THOMAS: Yeah.

APPLEWHITE: I do. Those shows are good.

THOMAS: They're, you know, they're comedies and you need a laugh once in a while. It's just goofy stuff, you know, it's still pretty good. Redd Foxx, what's his name? I can't think of the name of the program.

JENKINS: Do you read much?

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THOMAS: No, I never was a reader. I did read, but I don't read much now. I work crossword puzzles. I started on Sudoku, but that got to be too much routine. It's the same thing over and over again so I don't like that much.

APPLEWHITE: Do you do any work on the computer?

THOMAS: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I have a computer and...

APPLEWHITE: What kind of work do you do?

THOMAS: To certain point. Photos of family, friends or something, writing letters. You know, when I don't feel like sitting down and writing or addressing things like Christmas cards, envelopes and stuff. And got on the internet and...

APPLEWHITE: Do you do a Christmas newsletter or card?

THOMAS: No. I just buy – no, I buy cards and send them out. I used to do a newsletter, but I kind of feel uncomfortable with this black cloud hanging over my head.

APPLEWHITE: About how many Christmas cards do you get a year?

THOMAS: A couple hundred. I might write a little note to them, how is everybody doing or something. Dear Frank and Bill, most of these people now are older, but I might still remember some of their kids if they're parishioners, relatives, you know. Kids may not be living at home anymore, say hello to so and so or so and so.

APPLEWHITE: So and after you've watched a little TV and relaxed?

THOMAS: Pardon?

APPLEWHITE: After you've watched a little TV and unwind, then what do you do?

THOMAS: You mean in the afternoon?

APPLEWHITE: Mm-hmmm.

THOMAS: That's pretty much it. I might like to open mail if I get mail or – in the evening, I have dinner and I usually go over to Marytown if I'm here and if there's services.

APPLEWHITE: Oh, okay.

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THOMAS: And sometimes Benedict's <inaudible 20:17> go over here to St. Anthony or something, usually a half hour so. That's probably about five minutes down the road.

APPLEWHITE: I went to Mary Town to get my daughter's first communion gift.

THOMAS: Did you?

APPLEWHITE: While I was in town. They've got a really nice...

THOMAS: Nice gift shop there, yeah.

APPLEWHITE: Gift shop. Yeah. Do you know Conventual Friars over there?

THOMAS: I don't. I just there for the services.

APPLEWHITE: Oh, okay.

THOMAS: I really don't know any of them. I've met a few, but don't know them.

JENKINS: And after you come from Mary Town do you eat here often?

THOMAS: Well, I eat at 6:00...

JENKINS: Before you go?

THOMAS: Before I go.

JENKINS: Do you eat most of your meals here?

THOMAS: Let's see. Sunday I eat breakfast and then if my friend is available, I go over there or he comes here.

JENKINS: What's your friend's name?

THOMAS: His name is Larry Hanley. In fact he's on retreat this week.

JENKINS: I'm sorry. It's Larry?

THOMAS: Hanley, H-a-n-l-e-y. He lives in Fox Springs.

APPLEWHITE: Okay.

THOMAS: And then we go out and have a bite to eat and then come back home about 3:00 or 4:00 he comes over and we watch a football

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game or a baseball or go out to eat in Antioch. There's a place we go to eat. Squire it's called.

APPLEWHITE: Squire.

THOMAS: And then we...

APPLEWHITE: I was wondering. I saw – I went through some of the daily logs to kind of understand your routine a little bit before and I wondered is the Squire Restaurant a theme restaurant?

THOMAS: No, it's a Greek restaurant.

APPLEWHITE: Oh, Greek, okay.

THOMAS: But they're good, you know, just an ordinary family restaurant...

APPLEWHITE: Okay. I was just curious because I saw Squire and I thought I wonder if it's kind of medieval...

THOMAS: No.

APPLEWHITE: Or something like that.

THOMAS: I don't know where they got the name Squire, but they've been there a long time.

APPLEWHITE: Nothing to do with Squire, yeah, if you're going there medieval.

JENKINS: Do you ever go out to eat with any of the guys from here?

THOMAS: No. No, I used to go once in a while and we'd meet [REDACTED] afterwards, but then I'd find out they'd be buying heavy drinks and they'd split the bill and I was paying for their drinks and I'm a cheapskate.

APPLEWHITE: Oh, sure.

THOMAS: I don't drink so.

APPLEWHITE: You don't drink alcohol at all?

THOMAS: Hmm?

APPLEWHITE: You don't drink alcohol at all?

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THOMAS: No, I used to drink wine once in a while, not very often. I haven't had any wine in a while. And I never – I don't know if I were – I've tasted beer. I never liked it. And the heavy – you know, the other stuff, I don't think I've ever had a cocktail. I might sip from my dad once in a while, but I don't know what it tastes like. I never ordered a cocktail to drink or had it in my room. I just don't drink and I really haven't had any in quite a while. In fact, I'm kind of grateful I didn't get on to it. Because I can remember once when I did, you know. I don't have lapses where I'd say, well, I don't know what I did.

APPLEWHITE: Yeah, exactly.

THOMAS: For that three hours.

JENKINS: Okay, so after you come from Mary Town?

THOMAS: Well, I just putz around. Sometimes I'll work on the computer. Sometimes I'll go through my mail. I think I get some mail there now and still go back to St. John for lunch usually once a week. I still have an address over there so I get some of that junk mail and stuff.

APPLEWHITE: What town is St. John...

THOMAS: North Lake.

APPLEWHITE: North Lake, okay. Okay.

THOMAS: It's the last town going west on North Avenue.

APPLEWHITE: Okay.

THOMAS: Before you get into DuPage County.

APPLEWHITE: And the Squire Restaurant's the one in Antioch.

THOMAS: That's the one in Antioch, yes.

APPLEWHITE: Okay.

THOMAS: And I just, you know, I like doing crossword puzzle or see if there's anything on TV that's worthwhile. I usually watch Wheel of Fortune, because I taped it earlier.

JENKINS: What time would you say you normally get back here on a weekday?

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THOMAS: Get back here? From...

JENKINS: From eating out. Whenever you...

THOMAS: Usually 7:30, 7:45 or something like that.

JENKINS: And then you're normally here for the night?

THOMAS: Yeah and even on Wednesday I get back by 7:30, seldom after 8:00, once in a great while. Go to my niece's house in [REDACTED] The next time I see them will be at Thanksgiving. I haven't seen them since the end of September so.

JENKINS: And you said [REDACTED]

THOMAS: Yeah.

APPLEWHITE: How far away is [REDACTED] from here?

THOMAS: About a half hour. It's around 83 and 53. I don't know if you ever take 53 or not. You go right down 45 to 83 and then straight to 83 and 83 begins to wind east and [REDACTED] is there to the west.

JENKINS: And how are your weekends different from your weekdays?

THOMAS: [Laughs] other than, you know, like this weekend I'll be here all day; nothing to do – no place to go.

JENKINS: Do you ever spend weekends at your – the home you own?

THOMAS: No, I haven't been overnight from this place since I've been here.

APPLEWHITE: Is that in '02, you think?

THOMAS: Pardon?

APPLEWHITE: Did you come here in 2002?

THOMAS: Three.

APPLEWHITE: 2003.

JENKINS: And you haven't gone on an overnight <inaudible 26:27>.

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THOMAS: I didn't feel like bothering somebody with being a monitor or chaperone <inaudible 26:31> stay here. I have no – I mean, the one place I would like to go sometimes would be down to [REDACTED] to see my niece who lives down there. I used to go several times in between when they'd come up here. Stay two or three days. But I haven't been there. They've been here. They'll be here for Christmas.

APPLEWHITE: Do they have kids in [REDACTED]

THOMAS: Yes. They have a 16-year-old and a 14-year-old and a 12-year-old. But I've never been with them alone.

APPLEWHITE: Is there – is it about the <inaudible 27:14> not wanting to bother with that or deal with that? Is that – people have different reasons for not wanting to deal with it. Sometimes it's because they don't – they're concerned about the person having had information about...

THOMAS: Well, I'm embarrassed.

APPLEWHITE: History and other people...

THOMAS: Mine is embarrassment.

APPLEWHITE: Do they know already?

THOMAS: Oh, they know, yeah. Oh yeah...

APPLEWHITE: Because usually...

THOMAS: I told everyone when it was first going to become public, I called them all and told them before they heard from someone else.

APPLEWHITE: Because, I mean, now that Shawnte's here, you don't usually have to have a conversation. I mean...

THOMAS: Say that again.

APPLEWHITE: Well, now that Shawnte's in this role, *she* can have that conversation and it didn't have to be you.

THOMAS: I know that, but I don't want them bothered even.

APPLEWHITE: Okay, because usually people don't – I mean...

THOMAS: Having to worry about me.

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APPLEWHITE: I mean, I've had lots and lots of these conversations...and they

THOMAS: The one person that I might have, you know, not minded would be my brother, but he died two years ago, so he's gone and I have no other sibling left. My sister's dead and my brother's dead. Now the only ones' left are the two nieces and two nephews.. My nieces are married and my nephews aren't.

APPLEWHITE: Well, it's just – and I'm just saying this because, you know, I've made a lot of those calls and I've had a lot of those conversation and most of the time, if they already know, it's really not uncomfortable. You just – you know, they're glad that somebody's looking after their relative and they want to, you know, it's – they're caring, you know.

THOMAS: I know they are, yeah...

APPLEWHITE: The intention is not to be shameful or judgmental or anything like that. And, you know, she – I mean, I've listened to Shawnte and heard the way she handles it and I guess my hope would be that you would, you know – if there is a place that you want to go and people that you want to see, the system is in place to make it happen in a way that's comfortable and safe and, you know – so not just say 'well I'm not going there'. You know what I mean? There's ways to make things happen and, it's just to give thought to down the road. It doesn't have to – you don't necessarily have to be the one to have the conversation.

THOMAS: I know, but I have to tell them that's going to happen.

APPLEWHITE: But if they already know – I mean, if they already know the basics, why is that so hard?

THOMAS: No, but I mean, they...

APPLEWHITE: All you have to say, you just have to say the words, you know, if, you know, we're planning to come on a trip and somebody from the Archdiocese will probably be contacting you. And that's all you have to say.

THOMAS: Right away, they say why.

APPLEWHITE: And maybe they would, honestly, maybe they would or maybe they would just say – and if they said why, then you could say, well you know my situation and then let Shawnte do the rest.

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THOMAS: Well, anyway, I'm not going to worry about that.

APPLEWHITE: Okay. He's like, you know, you're wasting your energy.

THOMAS: Yeah, you are. Maybe there's a tragedy and someone died or something.

APPLEWHITE: Well, because having contacts with your family members and people who care about you, those are healthy things that are important.

THOMAS: Yeah.

APPLEWHITE: And, you know, the last thing we want to do is have people cut off from people who matter to them because of embarrassment or something else. In these situations you have to deal with, you can put the system to work. The resources are available to you, you can put them to work. Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt your interview. I was just...

JENKINS: Oh, sure, that's okay. Let's talk about your spiritual director. Are you involved with a spiritual director?

THOMAS: Never had one, never will <inaudible 30:56>.

JENKINS: Any pastoral counseling?

THOMAS: Any what?

JENKINS: A pastoral counselor?

THOMAS: What's that?

JENKINS: Someone, even if they're not an official spiritual director, someone else you can talk to, get some kind of feedback or support.

THOMAS: No, I go to confession and talk with a priest once in a while two or three times a year. [REDACTED]

JENKINS: Would you be interested in getting a spiritual director?

THOMAS: No. I just never – I hated to give spiritual direction. I didn't do much of it myself.

JENKINS: Oh, okay.

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THOMAS: I don't like it.

JENKINS: Would you be opened to having a spiritual director?

THOMAS: I prefer not to.

JENKINS: Okay. Can you tell me about times when you do encounter children what happens with you?

THOMAS: I grab them and kiss them and hug them. [Laughs] I don't encounter children. Well my niece's, that's the only children I ever encounter. They come in and say hi Uncle Joe and I'm never alone with them.

JENKINS: Okay.

THOMAS: I mean, they're friendly and I've always been – I mean, I'm a friendly person. People like me but I kind of walk my own way most of the time. .

JENKINS: Have you ever been given any direction on what to do when you encounter children or what's your understanding about what's supposed to happen when you encounter children?

THOMAS: [Laughs] I don't encounter children. What do you mean?

JENKINS: Well, there's children all around. So you may be in the Walgreens, you may be at the Squire restaurant, you may be at your niece's house...

THOMAS: I just walk by them, that's all. If a mother has a kind in the hand, the kid smiles at you, I smile back. I really don't – very seldom ever see kids to the point of, you know, I suppose really encountering...

JENKINS: Except for at your niece's...

THOMAS: Walking by, you know, and my niece's house, yeah. And again, they're just so full of life.

JENKINS: And how old are her children?

THOMAS: Her kids are – let's see. One I think just turned nine, seven and four I think the boy is.

JENKINS: And what are their names and ages? What are their names?

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THOMAS: The kids you mean?

JENKINS: Yes.

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: And I just wonder, I've heard you mention you're never alone with them. How is that explained to them why you can be alone with them?

THOMAS: Because the mother and father are there and the kids are running around. Frequently when I'm there, there are other people there. You know, there are relatives or something are there on the husband's side. Well, I mean, I've never babysat the kids at all. I wouldn't even dare try even if I didn't have the problem. I couldn't go chasing after a kid because I tend to just walk, but I can't run.

JENKINS: Have they ever asked you to babysit?

THOMAS: To babysit? No. Not even when they were young. I never babysat. You know, even my nieces and nephews I never babysat. I never babysat. Once or twice my sister and I went to [REDACTED] with the girl, one of the girls and one of the boys or something. That was a long time ago. They were teens already.

JENKINS: How about any of your friends? Do they have grandchildren that may be around?

THOMAS: Friends? Grandchildren? [Laughs] They're priests.

JENKINS: You don't have any friends that aren't priests?

THOMAS: Well, I mean, I have casual friends up here, former parishioners and things like that.

JENKINS: Do any of your— your casual friends have children or grandchildren?

THOMAS: I don't see those. If I see them, it's like these people from [REDACTED] They have children, grandchildren, but one lives in [REDACTED] and — I don't interact with children at all anymore. In the parish, used to, but not since... I mean the only ones I see are the ones that — very often are the ones over here and one of my nieces once in a while from [REDACTED]

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: Can you talk about who you socialize with? I heard you say you just – you have your priest friends and then casual friends.

THOMAS: We have the – well, I have the bridge group thing of four or five – two widows, a divorced lady and a deacon and his wife and then an elderly couple that are – not that the others aren't old. These two are around my age and the others are younger. And we play bridge maybe once every month or six weeks or something.

JENKINS: Where do you get together to play bridge?

THOMAS: At one or the other's house. No kids around. Once in a great while there are grown kids, once in a great, great while a kid might bring a kid over or something.

JENKINS: Any other groups you're a part of?

THOMAS: Pardon?

JENKINS: Any other social groups you're a part of?

THOMAS: No, not beyond priests, you know, that I go on a regular basis to see.

APPLEWHITE: How'd you get into the bridge group?

THOMAS: Some of the parishioners we've just done it.

APPLEWHITE: Oh okay.

THOMAS: I don't know. We just started playing. Most of them don't live there anymore so I think we've just done it for...

APPLEWHITE: It's hard to get a bridge group together.

THOMAS: Yeah, now it is. But that was 30 years ago.

APPLEWHITE: Really?

THOMAS: Yep.

APPLEWHITE: Is it still pretty competitive?

THOMAS: No, no.

APPLEWHITE: No?

Interview with Joe Thomas

THOMAS: We don't hardly even keep score.

APPLEWHITE: No, really?

THOMAS: Yeah. We do keep score.

APPLEWHITE: Yeah, but nobody gets mad about it.

THOMAS: Not anymore, no. There's no gambling, well two bits or a buck or something.

APPLEWHITE: Okay.

THOMAS: There's no prizes or anything and we just go over there and then we have a dessert usually before we leave. Then Christmas we usually have a Christmas dinner at somebody's house. And they're just a nice group of people I've known throughout the years.

JENKINS: How about your priest friends? Do you all ever get together as a group? Or do you...

THOMAS: Yeah, every Wednesday, the ones that I see. We used to have a class meeting once a year, but this year we didn't have one for some reason or another. There's still about 20 or 25 of us around that are available.

APPLEWHITE: Do you meet at Villa Lake?

THOMAS: Lake Villa.

JENKINS: Lake Villa.

APPLEWHITE: At your house?

THOMAS: At the house. The four I mean. Not the class meeting, but there are four of us that get together, as I say, there were five, but recently one has problem with his lungs. Like, let's see, Thursday, yesterday there was Larry and Lee came over for a few minutes from here but he didn't stay for dinner. And Paul Rosemier and <inaudible 38:40> from Palatine and Bishop <inaudible 38:42> was there <inaudible 38:43> and then he had picked up one of the priests from here <inaudible 38:47>. He has to have oxygen all the time and he picked him up to go out to dinner <inaudible 38:54> he teaches at the seminary. That's pretty much it.

Interview with Joe Thomas

APPLEWHITE: Now what's in Antioch? Is it the Squire Restaurant?

THOMAS: Yeah, Antioch is the next town over...

APPLEWHITE: Oh, okay.

THOMAS: It's a little bit bigger than Lake Villa.

APPLEWHITE: And it looked like there was a regular – in going through the sheets, like there was something every Wednesday morning?

THOMAS: Yeah, I have breakfast with Father Hanley and then...

APPLEWHITE: Okay.

THOMAS: And in the summer we go golfing if it's nice and play nine holes or so.

APPLEWHITE: Okay.

THOMAS: Which is over the border in Wisconsin and in the winter we eat breakfast a little later, more like brunch and then I don't eat breakfast, but he does. And we come back to the house, see what's there and sit around a while and <inaudible 39:48> buildings and they have one of these rec buildings and sometimes we'll go over there and play pool.

APPLEWHITE: Oh, really.

THOMAS: About an hour or two, just to kill time.

APPLEWHITE: Do they have a good pool table?

THOMAS: Yeah, they got a couple of pool tables. They're not the greatest, but we're not the greatest players and if he isn't available or sometimes the place isn't available because they're having something over there and it's too crowded – well, I mean, another guy that sometimes comes up. He might come up once every five or six weeks and we play bridge. There's four of us that play bridge. But right now, there's only three of us that play bridge.

APPLEWHITE: That's kind of hard.

THOMAS: Yeah. Well, we never – the other two aren't gung-ho, you know, so I suggest at times that we play with a dummy that you bid on it, I've

Interview with Joe Thomas

done that. They'll play bridge with us and we got the fourth. But, I just as soon not play. The gung-ho ones have died...

APPLEWHITE: The mellow ones are still alive.

THOMAS: Anybody wanted to say bridge, they'd get up right away.

APPLEWHITE: Right, right, right.

THOMAS: The others would say, yeah, if you need me.

APPLEWHITE: Yeah. My husband and I were like that about Spades. We like Spades.

THOMAS: Do you? Yeah.

APPLEWHITE: We know about bridge but we never really got into it – yeah.

THOMAS: Bridge is a nice game but...

APPLEWHITE: I know. I always wanted to play bridge.

THOMAS: Yeah.

APPLEWHITE: Takes some time to learn though.

THOMAS: Yeah, it does, to get all the ends and outs.

APPLEWHITE: Do you want to take a break?

THOMAS: A what?

APPLEWHITE: Take a break and...

THOMAS: No, let's get this over with.

APPLEWHITE: All right. All right, okay. Let us know if you need a break though.

THOMAS: Unless you guys want to take a break.

APPLEWHITE: No.

JENKINS: I'm fine. So you said the only family that you socialize with that has children is your niece.

THOMAS: Yes.

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: And does she know about your situation, she and her husband?

THOMAS: Mm-hmm.

JENKINS: What exactly does she know?

THOMAS: I don't know. She knows about the accusation. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I never talked about it.

APPLEWHITE: [REDACTED]

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: Oh, okay. Okay. And have you talked about it with her since [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

THOMAS: No.

JENKINS: And what's her name?

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: [REDACTED] What's her last name?

THOMAS: Pardon?

JENKINS: What's her last name?

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: And how about her husband's name?

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: Anyone else? Any other families that you may think of that have children that you occasionally see sometimes? [Shook his head] Any of your casual friends that – you said some of the parishioners you hang out with sometimes and they have children, but you don't see them on a regular basis.

THOMAS: They don't have children. They're mostly older.

JENKINS: Or grandchildren.

Interview with Joe Thomas

THOMAS: The ones that I know of. No, I never see the grandchildren, except this one couple once in a great while if they're playing bridge. One of their daughters or sons may come through with a younger kid, but even they're getting older.

JENKINS: Okay and so you said you have a niece [REDACTED] who lives in Long Grove and you have another niece in Kansas.

THOMAS: Mm-hmm.

JENKINS: And what's her name?

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: What's her last name?

THOMAS: What do you want to know all those things for?

APPLEWHITE: We put together what's called an Individual Protocol that include – the support systems for the person and so we now – we like to know who's in the systems of support. Sometimes people will give us lists that include, you know, people that to know because they're on parole or, you know, there's – I mean, you know, for you it's probably hard for you to imagine the kind of stuff you encounter when you do work like this but you got to ask, you know, who are these people and what...

THOMAS: The radio and watch television or read the newspaper.

APPLEWHITE: Yeah. And so, I mean, you know, yours is a pretty ordinary kind of situation, but surprisingly there are plenty of unordinary situations. So you just have to imagine that when we ask these questions, sometimes we don't always get an ordinary answer. So you're being very patient about it though I have to say.

JENKINS: And what was [REDACTED] last name?

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: [REDACTED] and is she married?

THOMAS: Say that again?

JENKINS: Is she married?

THOMAS: Yeah, she's married to [REDACTED]

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: Okay and do they have children?

THOMAS: Yeah, I mentioned that before.

JENKINS: What are their names?

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: Do you know their ages, [REDACTED]

THOMAS: 16, 14, 12 somewhere around there.

JENKINS: And, I'm sorry. You said [REDACTED] has three kids, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and what was the other child?

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

JENKINS: [REDACTED] Okay.

THOMAS: [REDACTED]

APPLEWHITE: [REDACTED] with a [REDACTED]

JENKINS: [REDACTED] with a [REDACTED] Okay.

APPLEWHITE: I like [REDACTED] That's a nice a name.

JENKINS: Okay and you have two nephews you said. Where do they live?

THOMAS: Well one lives in [REDACTED]

JENKINS: What's his name?

THOMAS: [REDACTED] We call him.

JENKINS: [REDACTED] What's his real name?

THOMAS: [REDACTED] is his real name. He never uses [REDACTED]

JENKINS: And is he married?

THOMAS: Pardon?

JENKINS: Is he married?

Interview with Joe Thomas

THOMAS: No.

JENKINS: Any children? How about your other nephew?

THOMAS: No that I know of.

APPLEWHITE: Decided not to tell Uncle Joe.

JENKINS: Right. Okay your other nephew?

THOMAS: Yeah, he lives in [REDACTED]

JENKINS: Is he [REDACTED]

THOMAS: They're both [REDACTED] yeah.

JENKINS: Is he married?

THOMAS: No.

JENKINS: Any children that you know of?

THOMAS: Not that I know of.

APPLEWHITE: How old are those guys? The nephews?

THOMAS: They're forty-ish.

APPLEWHITE: Fortyish.

THOMAS: All three of them, four of them are. Around 40, somewhere. I think one's just became 44. I think is 45 now, [REDACTED] the youngest.

JENKINS: Now does [REDACTED] know your situation?

THOMAS: They all know it.

JENKINS: And do they all know just the same that there was an allegation? You went away for a year.

THOMAS: Well, I mean, there was an allegation. I told them I didn't do anything and it was in the paper I think at the time so, you know, I'm sure they know. I told my brother and, you know, what I told my brother, I'm sure he spoke with them.

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: Okay. Any questions that you need to ask?

APPLEWHITE: What are your hobbies now?

THOMAS: Messing around with the computer, crossword puzzles, creating things on the computer like greeting cards or something when I send somebody a birthday card or something, if I feel like it. I just send pictures I've taken around here in the spring and the fall and the winter and playing golf and just nine holes, but we play golf maybe once a week depending on the weather in the summertime, playing pool in the winter time.

JENKINS: Is there anything that you would like to do that you haven't – you've been afraid to ask or thought that you maybe wouldn't be able to do, you would like to see?

THOMAS: Ya, I want to go to [REDACTED] alone.

JENKINS: Alone?

APPLEWHITE: Okay.

JENKINS: Any place else you'd like to go on vacation if you could?

THOMAS: No I'm not real keen on packing a bag.

JENKINS: Okay.

THOMAS: and going off and I have arthritis in my knees. You know, I'm not agile anymore <inaudible 48:38> if I go up and down stairs <inaudible 48:41>.

JENKINS: Do you have problems driving or are you okay with that?

THOMAS: No, I drive. I actually, like now, I wouldn't even know I have a problem. They don't hurt.

JENKINS: Your knees?

THOMAS: Yeah, they don't hurt. Just when I stand up to walk there's soreness and like standing here I should just stand up again.

APPLEWHITE: Yeah, I wondered about that too because it's kind of low...

THOMAS: No, I'm glad I got this chair, but I just – when I sit too long. I forget to move.

Interview with Joe Thomas

APPLEWHITE: I hate to tell you but mine do the same thing. Been on an airplane for a couple of hours it definitely...

THOMAS: Yeah, you can't hardly stand up. But I – like this chair's nice because it's got something to push me up with.

APPLEWHITE: Has anybody ever – like when you were going to your niece's, has anybody ever done a verification or have any contact with her?

THOMAS: Say that again.

APPLEWHITE: When we came into...

THOMAS: Not that I know of. I hope they don't ever.

APPLEWHITE: Well and I want to be completely honest with you, I mean, normally when there's children in the house, there's a verification that has to be done. But most of the time when we've come into the system that's already been done at some point.

THOMAS: No.

APPLEWHITE: But that's never happened?

THOMAS: No that I know of. I mean, she's never told me.

APPLEWHITE: Okay. Because that's probably something – I mean, out of everything we've talked about so far...

THOMAS: I wish it wouldn't.

APPLEWHITE: Well, I mean, and we can talk about how to get that done...

THOMAS: You can come with me sometime and see that I went there, but to be bothering them, I just – that goes right to my chest.

APPLEWHITE: And, you know, we don't want it to be a destructive thing at all.

THOMAS: Well, it is destructive.

APPLEWHITE: Okay, well I mean we'll talk about how to best get that done or...

THOMAS: Well, I mean I don't do anything. They'd be willing to write a letter saying that even when they were younger, you know, they can back me up.

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: Are you worried about their reaction...?

THOMAS: Any incidents or anything.

APPLEWHITE: But like you're saying that they'd be willing to write a letter and that sort of thing.

THOMAS: I think they would. I just – we don't even talk about it anymore. You know, it was bad enough when it happened...

JENKINS: Right.

THOMAS: But that was five or six years ago.

APPLEWHITE:

THOMAS:

APPLEWHITE:

THOMAS:

JENKINS:

THOMAS:

JENKINS:

THOMAS:

JENKINS:

THOMAS:

APPLEWHITE:

THOMAS:

Interview with Joe Thomas

- APPLEWHITE: I know. One thing that can be done is that something can be done in writing. Would it be more comfortable to you for her get something in writing that explained things?
- THOMAS: I mean, when I go there, the husband and the wife are there, usually other people, not always and the kids have their playroom downstairs and they float around, you know, up and down, they want a glass of water. I mean, there's a – summer time they're outside half the time. And I mean I'm never there alone with them at all.
- APPLEWHITE: And it's not...
- THOMAS: There's hardly any activity with the young ones. Now I'm just too old to keep up with them. When my nieces were younger, you know, we'd sit and play Monopoly or they, themselves, but these are younger kids. I'm not a threat to anyone.
- APPLEWHITE: And it's really...
- THOMAS: I don't know how you prove it.
- APPLEWHITE: No, it's not really about – there's a certain level that we want to maintain. One of those environments is private homes where there are children, especially young children.
- THOMAS: I won't go there anymore. I'll just call them up and tell them I can't come. If that's the way it's got to be.
- APPLEWHITE: We need to be clear, that not what we're saying...
- THOMAS: I just don't want them bothered, that's all – in any way or form for me and if you can't trust me, then I just won't go there anymore. I'll just tell them I can't go.
- APPLEWHITE: I hope we can work something out that's a little more positive for you than that. I mean, that's a – because this is – I mean, that's an important piece of your life. That's your family. That's your niece. That's...
- THOMAS: I know.
- JENKINS: I think that it sounds like when you say you're worried about bothering them, if the process was explained to you, then, you know – because I've made a – I've talked to a few people and it's

Interview with Joe Thomas

not done in an intrusive way. Let me come to your house and interview your kids. It's not done in anyway like that.

APPLEWHITE: But, you know, we don't have to decide all this today. It's just this is a piece that we just have to be up front about. We just have to talk about this.

JENKINS: Well, and we also need to be sure that you know that verifications have to happen for all kinds of activities, not just in homes with children. We need to be able to verify that you are where you say you are at other times too, not just when there are young children involved.

THOMAS: Why? What have I done in the past few years to bring this on?

APPLEWHITE: Nothing. It's completely not about anything you've done wrong. It's not that at all. It's the question of ...

THOMAS: Question of what?

APPLEWHITE: It's the question of what's a reasonably consistent level of...

THOMAS: I'm 81 years old. I'm not going to – I couldn't even chase after a kid. If they pushed me, I'd fall over.

APPLEWHITE: It's not that. I mean, these are relationships...

THOMAS: I don't know what it is then. I'm sorry. I just don't understand. It kind of gets me all roused up and now I'll be worried about this for a month. I just don't know what to do. I was hoping this would go smoothly.

APPLEWHITE: So the only way that you would feel satisfied about it is if there was no contact, whatsoever, with them from us?.

THOMAS: Right. Yeah, I have nothing to hide really, but I just don't want them bothered with this.

APPLEWHITE: Even if the initial information is provided in writing? I ask because I think that we're willing to be accommodating in terms of how it happens or how to do it in a way that's most comfortable for you.

THOMAS: What's supposed to happen though? Just say that I don't do anything when I'm there. That I'm not alone with them or something? Why?

Interview with Joe Thomas

APPLEWHITE: Because see there are guys in this situation who present themselves as priests who are still in good standing, there are guys who babysit, there are guys who are cuddling up with kids under blankets...

THOMAS: I understand that. I understand.

APPLEWHITE: There's all kinds of things that still happen.

THOMAS: I know, but I'm not one of them...

APPLEWHITE: The fear is – the fear is and it's not about you, but the fear is that there's a family that really doesn't know anything and that they really don't know that the intention is that you're not alone or babysitting or, you know, cuddling up on the couch.

THOMAS: [Laughs]

APPLEWHITE: And if something happens with anybody, not just you, but anybody, and a family comes back to Shawnte and says, you mean, you knew that he wasn't supposed to be babysitting and you never told me? We cannot have that happen.

THOMAS: I don't babysit them.

APPLEWHITE: And that's fair. The idea is that once you're in a home with children, that there would be a verification – it's just a verification.

THOMAS: Of what?

APPLEWHITE: Of –exactly what it is that you're saying.

THOMAS: [Laughs] Of what though?

APPLEWHITE: That you're not babysitting, that you're not alone with the children, that you're not spending time with them in their bedrooms.

THOMAS: [Laughs] Oh, geez. That sounds like I'm guilty or something. Does anyone ask you if you're cuddling up with kids?

APPLEWHITE: No, I...

THOMAS: I mean, [Laughs] what happened to our America system?

APPLEWHITE: Have you been through – has he been through an Ecclesiastical process?

Interview with Joe Thomas

JENKINS: No.

APPLEWHITE: No. Okay. Is what you're looking for an opportunity to go through a polygraph or to clear your name...?

THOMAS: I said I would. I said I would, but nothing ever happened.

APPLEWHITE: Do you want to pursue that now?

THOMAS: What go through a polygraph? I don't want to do that junk. [Voice raised] I just want to be left alone until I die.

APPLEWHITE: Okay. Because as we've gone through this, there are times when people have said the have not seen their files...

THOMAS: No, I don't want to see any of that. I just want the whole thing to go away. I'd probably get too nervous for a polygraph anyways because I get awfully nervous. I mean, right now my blood pressure's probably 500 over 962 or something.

APPLEWHITE: Let's hope not. I'm going to turn this off.

[Fr. Thomas then said he was finished and left the room. He came back approximately 5 minutes later and apologized for walking out.]

PFR-103

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
Office of Assistance Ministry
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Safe Environment Office




P. O. Box 1179
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1179
312-534-5254, general
312-751-8307, fax

 **FILE COPY**

MEMORANDUM

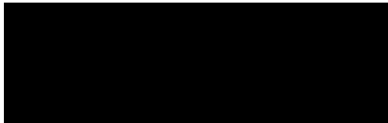
To: Rev. Patrick Lagges, Judicial Vicar

From: Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review 

Re: Thomas, Rev. Joseph [Retired/Withdrawn]

Date: January 9, 2009

Please find with this Memorandum a copy of Rev. Joseph Thomas' files in this office. I have also included copies of Review Board meeting minutes where the allegations against Fr. Thomas made by or on behalf of the following individuals were presented to the Board for its consideration:



The only file that I did not copy for you is Fr. Thomas' "Monitoring" file. If you would like this file copied as well, please let me know and I will have that copied and sent over to you.

Attachments

AOC 020725

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



835 N. Rush St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611

P R E C E P T

Bishops "have been designated by the Holy Spirit to take the place of the apostles as pastors of souls and, together with the Supreme Pontiff and subject to his authority, they are commissioned to perpetuate the work of Christ, the eternal Pastor." (*Christus dominus*, n.2b) However, since the pastors of the Church can never be expected to carry the burden of pastoral ministry alone (*Lumen gentium*, n. 30), they have been given the order of priests to cooperate in shepherding and guiding God's people. Indeed, bishops, "because of the gift of the Holy Spirit that has been given to priests at their ordination, will regard them as indispensable helpers and advisers in the ministry and in the task of teaching, sanctifying and shepherding the People of God." (*Presbyterorum ordinis*, n. 7)

Because of this common task, "bishops are to regard their priests as brothers and friends, and are to take the greatest interest they are capable of in their welfare, both temporal and spiritual. For on their shoulders particularly falls the burden of sanctifying their priests." (*Presbyterorum ordinis*, n. 7b)

Moreover, the *Directory on the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops* states, "In the same way as Jesus showed his love for his disciples....so also a bishop....can hardly fail to realize that he should show his greatest love and chief concern for priests....Led by a sense of duty and sincere and invincible charity he gives willing assistance in every way to help priests to esteem the loftiness of their priestly vocation, to live serenely, to spread joy to those about them and to fulfill their duties faithfully." (n. 107a)

This same document urges bishops to do "everything possible to prevent the troubles his priests could have....To keep them safe from trouble he takes prompt and prudent measures." (n. 112)

The Code of Canon Law has described precepts as a means by which ecclesiastical authority "directly and legitimately enjoins a specific person or persons to do or omit something, especially in order to urge the observance of law" (c. 49).

Therefore, I issue this precept, in accordance with c. 49, to urge **Reverend Joseph Thomas** to fulfill the obligations which were placed upon him at the time of his ordination. Because some suspicion has arisen about his fidelity to the sacred promises he made at his ordination, I urge him in particular to lead a life which is in keeping with the holiness of his vocation. Although he is not presently exercising public ministry in the Church, he ought to pursue holiness of life in the way that he lives. He is also still bound to the obligation to pray the liturgy of the hours daily, to set aside time for spiritual retreats and spiritual direction, to engage in mental prayer, to approach the sacrament of penance frequently, to honor the Virgin Mother of God with particular

veneration as Queen of Priests, and to use any other means of sanctification which he finds helpful (c. 276).

Because of the obligation to observe perfect and perpetual continence for the sake of the kingdom of heaven, **Father Thomas** is to act with due prudence toward persons who could endanger the obligation to observe continence (c. 277§1), and to observe the particulars of the attached Individual Specific Protocol (c. 277§3) which has been discussed and explained to **Father Thomas**. This Protocol may be modified from time to time, depending on the circumstances. Such modifications will be discussed beforehand with **Father Thomas**.

Father Thomas is to avoid all those things which are unbecoming the clerical state, or those things which are foreign to the clerical state (c. 285), especially those things which are set forth in the attached above-mentioned Individual Specific Protocol.

Father Thomas is hereby dispensed from his obligation to wear ecclesiastical garb (c. 284), and is strongly urged not to do so. **Father Thomas** is urged not to exercise the rights of any ecclesiastical office, and is to observe everything in accordance with the Individual Specific Protocol.

In order to ensure that these obligations are met, I am delegating **Ms. Shawnte Jenkins** to receive information regarding **Father Thomas's** fulfillment of this precept and his Individual Specific Protocol.

I am establishing this precept in a spirit of fraternal charity, mindful of my responsibility to encourage my priests to remain faithful to the obligations of the clerical state. Because the attached Individual Specific Protocol has been established in dialog between **Father Thomas**, the Vicar for Priests, Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, I accept the provisions of this document, and urge **Father Thomas** to fulfil them in accordance with the obedience he is to show to me as his ordinary (c. 273), and which he promised at his ordination.

Given in Chicago, Illinois on the 18th day of February, 2009.



Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
 Archbishop of Chicago





Ecclesiastical Notary

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK FOR JOSEPH THOMAS

Name	Relationship	Contact information
██████████	Niece	

Individual Specific Protocols

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Chancellor
Jimmy M. Logo



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

312-534-5382
Fax: 312-534-5381

FAX TRANSMISSION

To: Fr. Joseph Thomas

From: Maryann Fox

Fax:

Date: 8-5-09

You should receive ⁴ page(s) with this report, including this cover sheet. If you do not receive all pages, please call (312) 534-5382.

S e n d i n g C o n f i r m

Date : AUG-5-2009 WED 01:26PM
Name : CHANCELLOR
Tel. : 3127515391

Phone : 919475666082
Pages : 4/4
Start Time : 08-05 01:24PM
Elapsed Time : 01'27"
Mode : ECM
Result : Ok

Sending Confirm

Date : AUG-5-2009 WED 01:19PM
Name : CHANCELLOR
Tel. : 3127515381

Phone : 18475666082
Pages : 0/3
Start Time : 08-05 01:18PM
Elapsed Time : 00'00"
Mode : ECM
Result : No Answer

To: Vincent Costello, File
From: Shawnte Jenkins
Date: August 27, 2009
Re: Joseph Thomas ISP Violation

For your
records.

Shawnte

On August 27, 2009 I met with Fr. Joseph Thomas at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House. During our meeting I ask Fr. Thomas to tell me about any time he has encountered children within the past two weeks. He stated that last Sunday he was at his nephew [REDACTED] home and his grand nieces and nephews were there. I informed Fr. Thomas that per his ISP he is to contact me prior to his departure and disclose that he will be in a home with children prior to the event. Fr. Thomas stated that his ISP does not say that. I pulled out his ISP and read to him page 2 of his ISP that states:

With a prudent companion who is present from the time he arrives until the time he leaves, Joseph Thomas is permitted to spend time in homes with related families who have minor children. With permission, Joseph Thomas may visit with related families that have minor children, provided that the permission is obtained prior to departure, the accompaniment of a prudent companion can be verified and social time is spent in common areas of the home. Such contact must also be logged for review by his Compliance Supervisor. Joseph Thomas is prohibited at all times from being alone with anyone under the age of 25.

After reading this section of the ISP to Fr. Thomas stated, "I don't read that thing" he then stated that I said to him, "You don't have to do that". I informed Fr. Thomas that I have never and would never tell him that he did not have to follow what is written in his ISP, especially such an important protocol that specifically relates to contact with children. I then offered Fr. Thomas the opportunity to review the recordings of our meeting to reiterate that I never made that statement to him. Fr. Thomas declined. I reminded Fr. Thomas that he has followed this protocol in the past and has disclosed that he would be in a home with children and his adult niece [REDACTED] acted as his Prudent Companion. Fr. Thomas acknowledged that he recalls when he complied with this protocol. He then apologized for violating his ISP and stated that it will not happen again.

Additionally, after a review of the Clergy Daily Log for August 23, 2009, Fr. Thomas did not indicate this contact on his log sheet. The information on the log sheet is vague and nowhere indicates that he will be at his nephews home, with children present (see attached log sheet.)

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

312.534.2595
Fax: 312.7518307

NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE

To: Joseph Thomas
From: Shawnte Jenkins, Compliance Supervisor
Date: August 27, 2009
Re: Violation of ISP

This notification is to inform you that you are in violation of your Individual Specific Protocol. On August 23, 2009 you were in the home of your nephew [REDACTED] and children were present. You did not disclose this contact prior to your departure and did not log the contact on your "Clergy Daily Log", as required by your Individual Specific Protocol. Page two of your individual Specific Protocol states:

With a prudent companion who is present from the time he arrives until the time he leaves, Joseph Thomas is permitted to spend time in homes with related families who have minor children. With permission, Joseph Thomas may visit with related families that have minor children, provided that the permission is obtained prior to departure, the accompaniment of a prudent companion can be verified and social time is spent in common areas of the home. Such contact must also be logged for review by his Compliance Supervisor. Joseph Thomas is prohibited at all times from being alone with anyone under the age of 25.

Non-disclosure of daily activities and/or deception, whether active or passive, regarding destinations for daily activities are considered a serious violation of protocols.

CC: Fr. Costello

AOC 020733

CLERGY DAILY LOG

in the Archdiocesan program of Prayer and Penance are required to keep a "log" of daily activities. The completed daily each time you leave and return to the residence and is available at all times for verification of abouts. Please complete *prior* to your departure.

Name J THOMAS

Today's Date 8/23/9

Log out time	Destination(s)	Times at destination(s)	Address and telephone number of destination and/or chaperone	Log in time
420	Palatine	5:35		810
		<p><i>Sony - I somehow didn't know I was to call Shante ahead of time. It wasn't happen again</i></p> <p><i>JT</i></p>		

Cleric Signature: *J Thomas* Date: 8/23/9

CSRH (Received by) *Michael J. Hall* Date: 9/2/09

Date Reviewed: _____

Compliance Supervisor: _____

KB

INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS: JOSEPH THOMAS

IMPLEMENTATION DATE
February 15, 2009

REVIEW DATE
December 2010

ASSIGNMENT HISTORY

July 8, 1952 – July 6, 1960	St. Columba
July 6, 1960 – May 10, 1966	St. David
May 10, 1966 – June 1975	St. Ferdinand
June 11, 1975 – December 1975	St. Giles (Oak Park)
December 31, 1975 – December 8, 1987	St. Margaret Mary
December 8, 1987 – January 14, 1997	St. John Vianney (Northlake)
January 14, 1997	Retired
October 5, 2002	Withdrawn from ministry

HISTORY OF ALLEGATIONS: SUBSTANTIATED AND NON-SUBSTANTIATED

ALLEGATION 1. TIMEFRAME: 1980's

Allegation came forward in 2002. Victim reported that Joseph Thomas abused him when he attended St. Margaret Mary's grade school in the 1980's. Victim reported that the abuse began when he was in the 3rd or 4th grade and continued until he was in the 8th grade. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The abuse consisted of kissing on the mouth, fondling of genitals, masturbation and oral sex. This allegation was substantiated by the review board.

ALLEGATION 2. TIMEFRAME: 1959-1960

Allegation came forward in April 2004. A third party report was made against Joseph Thomas. The reporter stated that a male minor reported to him that Joseph Thomas sexually abuse him when he was sixteen or seventeen years old. [REDACTED]

ALLEGATION 3. TIMEFRAME: 1959-1960

Allegation came forward in April 2004. A third party reported that Joseph Thomas abused a male minor when the minor was nine or ten years old. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Joseph Thomas's response to this allegation was that

he definitely abused this victim and probably abused his [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Because this was a third party allegation and Joseph Thomas admitted to the abuse this allegation was not presented to the review board.

CURRENT CANONICAL STATUS

Cardinal Francis George issued Joseph Thomas a precept on February 18, 2009 stating that he is to observe the Individual Specific Protocol and avoid all things unbecoming of the clerical state. Joseph Thomas is dispensed from his obligation to wear ecclesiastical garb and urged not to exercise the rights of any ecclesiastical office.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Fr. Thomas was extremely resistant to any form of verification and was indignant when asked for the names of people with whom he spends time. Although he ultimately gave several names of his companions, he specifically said he does not want any of his friends or family to be called and did not provide any contact information. He reported that he just wants to "forget the whole thing." Fr. Thomas walked out of the interview for his protocol before it was concluded. Fr. Thomas continues to be concerned about the Archdiocese of Chicago having contact with his family, he has refused several times to have a family meeting that has been recommended by Compliance Supervisor [REDACTED]

CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT WITH MINORS

Joseph Thomas is currently living in the Cardinal Stritch Retreat house with 5 other members of the Archdiocesan Priesthood who have been removed from ministry due to substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors. The Cardinal Stritch Retreat House does not permit underage participants in retreats and on the occasions that minors are visiting seminary property, Joseph Thomas is instructed to avoid the area in which the minors are visiting. Joseph Thomas reports that he has contact with his niece's minor children that are ages 5, 7 and 9. He denied that he baby sits the children or is ever alone with the children. Compliance Supervisor has directly informed Joseph Thomas's niece of his history of sexual misconduct with minors.

Individual Specific Protocols

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM 1: SEXUAL OFFENSES AGAINST MINORS

RISK REDUCTION REQUIREMENT	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	KNOWN VIOLATIONS SINCE 8/15/08	PROGRESS TO DATE
With a prudent companion who is present from the time he arrives until the time he leaves, Joseph Thomas is permitted to spend time in homes with related families who have minor children. With permission, Joseph Thomas may visit with related families that have minor children, provided that the permission is obtained prior to departure, the accompaniment of a prudent companion can be verified and social time is spent in common areas of the home. Such contact must also be logged for review by his Compliance Supervisor. Joseph Thomas is prohibited at all times from being alone with anyone under the age of 25.	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Oversight by Compliance Supervisor. Unannounced verification (telephone, visits, GPS) of daily logs.</i>	8/23/09	Partial Compliance 8/23/09 Joseph Thomas was in the home of [REDACTED] with children present. He failed to disclose this contact as required and did not log the contact on his "Clergy Daily Log". Joseph Thomas is uncomfortable with his family being contacted and on many occasions has chosen not to request permission rather than have the family contacted.
Joseph Thomas is required to log out his whereabouts on the "Clergy Daily Log Sheet" daily as he leaves the retreat house.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	8/23/09	Partial Compliance On 8/23/09 log sheet incomplete, whereabouts not verified. Log sheets are frequently vague and rarely provide telephone numbers.
Joseph Thomas is required to complete the "Request for Travel" and receive approval in accordance with its timelines and procedures, prior to any trips or overnight stays away from the residence.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. All request have been made in accordance with timeliness and procedure.
Joseph Thomas is required to return to his residence no later than 9:00pm, unless previously approved by his Compliance Supervisor.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor and site monitor.</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. Joseph Thomas regularly abides by curfew. His request for curfew extensions has been minimal.

Individual Specific Protocols

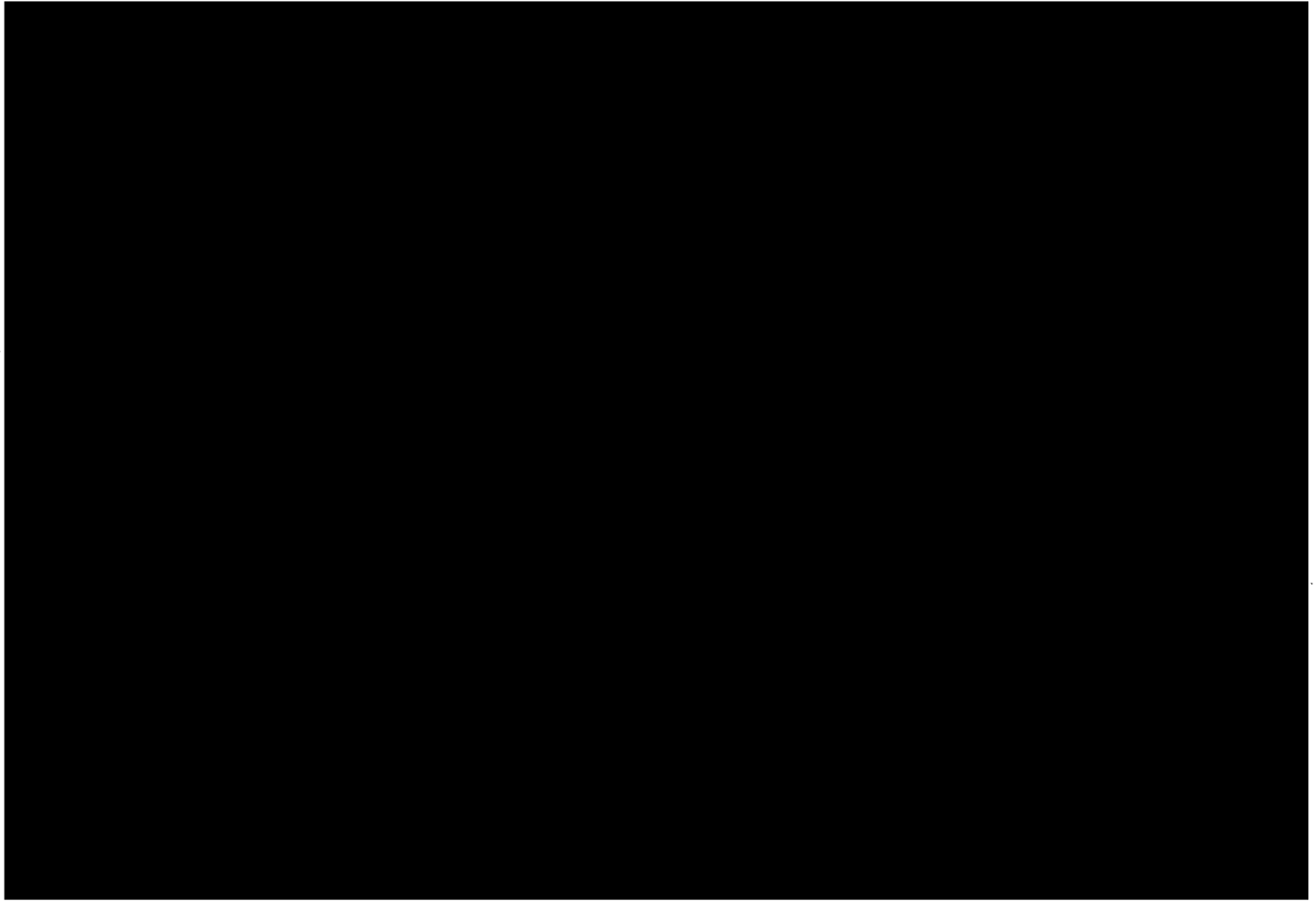
Once established, Joseph Thomas will be required to participate in dinner and faith-sharing group meeting weekly at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>		This protocol never implemented
Joseph Thomas will be required to participate in monthly meetings at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. Joseph Thomas has attended all meetings are required, though does not actively engage.
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from exercising priestly ministry in all forms, including, but not limited to public celebration of mass, wearing the Roman Collar or other symbols of ministry, wearing clerical garb and being called "Father." (or any garb that denotes priesthood or ministry).	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Oversight by Compliance Supervisor. Unannounced verification (telephone, visits) of daily logs.</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. There have been no reported incidents of Joseph Thomas exercising priestly ministry.
RISK REDUCTION REQUIREMENT	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	KNOWN VIOLATIONS SINCE 8/15/08	PROGRESS TO DATE
Joseph Thomas will provide to his Compliance Supervisor a listing of the close friends and relatives who support him, including contact information, for the purpose of verifying his adherence to the protocols and ensuring his ongoing support and accountability (to be submitted within 5 business days of implementation of protocol).	<i>Completion of Community Support Network form</i>	Community Support Network form was never completed and returned to Compliance Supervisor	Non Compliance Joe Thomas continues to resist verifications of his whereabouts. He has not demonstrated openness with family members, including those with young children. He prefers to cancel social plans rather than share information with family.
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from visiting or attending mass in any parish in which he has served in ministry.	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Unannounced verification (telephone, visits, GPS) of daily logs.</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. Joseph Thomas regularly attends Mass at Marytown where he never served in ministry.
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from engaging in liturgy, or any aspect of parish community life at any parish in which he has served in ministry. Participation at any level in a Roman	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Unannounced verification</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. There have been no known reports of Joseph Thomas being present at a parish in

Individual Specific Protocols

Catholic Parish must be disclosed to Compliance Supervisor.	<i>(telephone, visits, GPS) of daily logs.</i>		which he served in ministry.
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from communicating or contacting by telephone, email, birthday card, text or letter with anyone under the age of 25.	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Unannounced verification of daily logs.</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Compliance Although Joseph Thomas has requested a modification of this protocol to allow him to text, give presents to and be alone with young people under 25, this request was denied due to his failure to [REDACTED] fully disclose his history to those who are closest to him.
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from visiting "child-oriented destinations"	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Unannounced verification of daily logs.</i>	1/15/10	Partial Compliance In 1/10 Joseph Thomas was at Toys R Us. He claims that no children were present in the store and does not understand the risk. [REDACTED]

RISK REDUCTION REQUIREMENT	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	KNOWN VIOLATIONS SINCE 8/15/08	PROGRESS TO DATE
Joseph Thomas is not permitted to provide any form of childcare in a home or in public places. This includes bathing and assisting minors to the bathroom.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor. Verification with Community Support Network</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. There have been no reports made that Joseph Thomas has provided childcare in any form.
Joseph Thomas is required to attend monthly meetings at the cardinal Stritch Retreat House.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. Joseph Thomas has attended all meetings are required, though does not actively engage.
Joseph Thomas will meet every other week with Compliance Supervisor at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	No known violations of this protocol.	Full compliance. Joseph Thomas has attended all meetings.

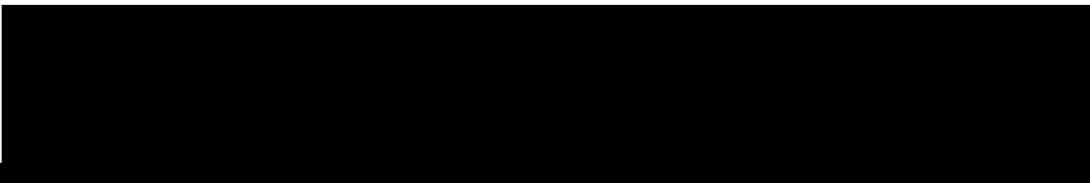
Individual Specific Protocols



Individual Specific Protocols

REPORTING PERIOD: DECEMBER, 2008- DECEMBER, 2010

Joseph Thomas's overall progress in the Prayer and Penance Program has been satisfactory.



Joe Thomas continues to resist verifications of his whereabouts. He has not demonstrated openness with family members, including those with young children. He prefers to cancel social plans rather than share information with family this remains a serious concern for Compliance Supervisor. Compliance Supervisor and [REDACTED] have suggested arranging family meeting for Joseph Thomas to fully disclose history and discuss potential risks he continues to refuse. All violations during this reporting period were related to Joseph Thomas having or attempting access to children, suggesting that this area continues to need close monitoring.

Individual Specific Protocols

Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract supplements the Individual Specific Protocols prepared for Fr. Joseph Thomas by the Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Protection of Children and Youth. The Protocols summarize three allegations of misconduct brought against Thomas. Victim KV alleged Thomas abused him at St. Margaret Mary School in the 1980s and the misconduct included kissing, genital fondling and oral sex. Victim LH was required to undress in front of Thomas and Victim LG alleged that Thomas required members of a parish sports team to undress and shower in front of the cleric.

COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago has initiated a program of support and accountability for the priests of the Archdiocese who have been removed from ministry due to their sexual misconduct with minors. The program is voluntary in that a priest may choose to participate or may choose to leave the priesthood. Joseph Thomas has expressed his desire to engage in this program, fully recognizing it will mean a significant increase in accountability and a decrease in his overall levels of privacy. This is seen as a positive sign, as openness to support and intervention by others is one of the essential components for long-term abstinence from sexual offending.

The Archdiocese has asked Joseph Thomas to identify the friends and family members who would be willing and able to offer support and accountability to him as he moves through his daily life. You were among those he identified.

If you are willing to accompany Joseph Thomas in this way, the following is asked of you:

1. That you review Joseph Thomas's history of allegations and substantiated offenses,
2. That you review his *Individual Specific Protocols*, which tell you what he is permitted to do and what he is not,
3. That you agree to support Joseph Thomas through interrupting high-risk behaviors (such as his attempting to be alone with a minor) if they occur and informing his Compliance Supervisor of any other concerns or violations of the protocols,
4. That you agree to on-going, open communication with Joseph Thomas's Compliance Supervisor so that any problems may be identified and addressed before they become serious.

I am personally grateful to you for considering what can only be considered a ministry to Joseph Thomas and for the support you have offered him thus far. If, for any reason, you do not wish to participate in this program, please do not feel an obligation and please do not turn to the pages that follow which contain confidential information. If you would like to move forward with the commitment to participate, please indicate with your signature below. Once you have reviewed all of the information, you will have another opportunity to indicate your willingness to move forward. Thank you once again for considering this important work.

Jimmy Lago
Chancellor

I have a commitment to support Joseph Thomas in his personal program of wellness. I am willing and able to assist him in avoiding situations that could lead to further sexual misconduct and further harm to others, including misinterpretations of his behavior or false allegations of abuse.

Signature and date

Individual Specific Protocols

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK FOR JOSEPH THOMAS

Name	Relationship	Contact information

Individual Specific Protocols

*Per
Mary Lynn @*

Page 1 of 1

Maryann Fox - Re: Fr. Thomas

Date of Death 8-24-2011 -

From: John Collins
To: Maryann Fox
Date: 8/29/2011 10:03 AM
Subject: Re: Fr. Thomas

Maryann,

Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning. The e-mail I received Thursday morning just said F. Thomas passed during the night.

Fr. Collins

Rev. John M. Collins
Vicar for Priests
Archdiocese of Chicago

>>> Maryann Fox 8/29/2011 9:46 AM >>>
Do you remember when Fr. Thomas died?

Could not find an obit.

INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS: JOSEPH THOMAS

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

December 2010

DATE OF REVIEW

December 2011

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

<u>RISK REDUCTION REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>METHOD OF VERIFICATION</u>	<u>DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION</u>	<u>DATE OF REVIEW</u>
With a prudent companion who is present from the time he arrives until the time he leaves, Joseph Thomas is permitted to spend time in homes with related families who have minor children, provided that the parents of the children are aware of his history of sexual misconduct. With permission, Joseph Thomas may visit with related families that have minor children, provided that the permission is obtained prior to departure, the accompaniment of a prudent companion can be verified and social time is spent in common areas of the home. Such contact must also be logged for review by his Compliance Supervisor. Joseph Thomas is prohibited at all times from being alone with anyone under the age of 25.	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Oversight by Compliance Supervisor. Unannounced verification (telephone, visits, GPS) of daily logs.</i>	12/10	12/11
In order to continue the established allowed contact with minors Joseph Thomas will arrange for a family meeting with Compliance Supervisor [REDACTED] present to discuss potential risk and disclosure of previous history.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is required to log out his whereabouts on the "Clergy Daily Log Sheet" daily as he leaves the retreat house.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is required to complete the "Request for Travel" and receive approval in accordance with its timelines and procedures, prior to any trips or overnight stays away from the residence.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is required to return to his	<i>Verification by Compliance</i>		

Individual Specific Protocols

residence no later than 9:00pm, unless previously approved by his Compliance Supervisor.	<i>Supervisor and site monitor.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from exercising priestly ministry in all forms, including, but not limited to public celebration of mass, wearing the Roman Collar or other symbols of ministry, wearing clerical garb and being called "Father." (or any garb that denotes priesthood or ministry).	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Oversight by Compliance Supervisor. Unannounced verification (telephone, visits) of daily logs.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas will provide to his Compliance Supervisor an updated listing of the close friends and relatives who support him, including contact information, for the purpose of verifying his adherence to the protocols and ensuring his ongoing support and accountability (to be submitted within 5 business days of implementation of protocol).	<i>Completion of Community Support Network form</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from visiting or attending mass in any parish in which he has served in ministry.	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Unannounced verification (telephone, visits, GPS) of daily logs.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from engaging in liturgy, or any aspect of parish community life at any parish in which he has served in ministry. Participation at any level in a Roman Catholic Parish must be disclosed to Compliance Supervisor.	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Unannounced verification (telephone, visits, GPS) of daily logs.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from communicating or contacting by telephone, email, birthday card, text or letter with anyone under the age of 25.	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Unannounced verification of daily logs.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is prohibited from visiting "child-oriented destinations"	<i>Verification with Community Support Network. Unannounced verification of daily logs.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas is not permitted to provide	<i>Verification by Compliance</i>		

Individual Specific Protocols

any form of childcare in a home or in public places. This includes bathing and assisting minors to the bathroom.	<i>Supervisor. Verification with Community Support Network</i>	12/10.	12/11
Joseph Thomas is required to attend monthly meetings at the cardinal Stritch Retreat House.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	12/10	12/11
Joseph Thomas will meet every other week with Compliance Supervisor at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	12/12	12/11
Joseph Thomas is required to continue with current life of prayer and spiritual support, which includes daily prayer and Marytown devotions.	<i>Verification by Compliance Supervisor.</i>	12/10	12/11

Individual Specific Protocols

CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROTOCOLS

Depending on the gravity of the instance of non-compliance, any of the following consequences may apply:

- Immediate polygraph to determine whether abuse may have occurred.
- Restriction from travel.
- Restrictions on time away from the retreat house.
- Change in residence.
- Canonical action, up to and including involuntary removal from the priesthood.

SIGNATURES

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature of Vicar for Priest: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Ecclesiastic Notary: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Cardinal: _____

Date: _____

Individual Specific Protocols

COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

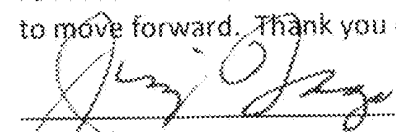
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago has initiated a program of support and accountability for the priests of the Archdiocese who have been removed from ministry due to their sexual misconduct with minors. The program is voluntary in that a priest may choose to participate or may choose to leave the priesthood. Joseph Thomas has expressed his desire to engage in this program, fully recognizing it will mean a significant increase in accountability and a decrease in his overall levels of privacy. This is seen as a positive sign, as openness to support and intervention by others is one of the essential components for long-term abstinence from sexual offending.

The Archdiocese has asked Joseph Thomas to identify the friends and family members who would be willing and able to offer support and accountability to him as he moves through his daily life. You were among those he identified.

If you are willing to accompany Joseph Thomas in this way, the following is asked of you:

1. That you review Joseph Thomas's history of allegations and substantiated offenses,
2. That you review his *Individual Specific Protocols*, which tell you what he is permitted to do and what he is not,
3. That you agree to support Joseph Thomas through interrupting high-risk behaviors (such as his attempting to be alone with a minor) if they occur and informing his Compliance Supervisor of any other concerns or violations of the protocols,

4. That you agree to on-going, open communication with Joseph Thomas's Compliance Supervisor so that any problems may be identified and addressed before they become serious. I am personally grateful to you for considering what can only be considered a ministry to Joseph Thomas and for the support you have offered him thus far. If, for any reason, you do not wish to participate in this program, please do not feel an obligation and please do not turn to the pages that follow which contain confidential information. If you would like to move forward with the commitment to participate, please indicate with your signature below. Once you have reviewed all of the information, you will have another opportunity to indicate your willingness to move forward. Thank you once again for considering this important work.


 Jimmy Lago
 Chancellor

I have a commitment to support Joseph Thomas in his personal program of wellness. I am willing and able to assist him in avoiding situations that could lead to further sexual misconduct and further harm to others, including misinterpretations of his behavior or false allegations of abuse.

 Signature and date

Individual Specific Protocols