

June 16, 1967

Rev. Siegfried F. Widera  
[REDACTED]  
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Father:

This letter is to inform you that you are herewith appointed curate at St. John de Nepomuc Parish, Milwaukee, effective Friday, July 14, 1967. You will kindly report on that date to the pastor, Father Joseph J. Wamsar.

(Under separate cover you have received a signed copy of the Faculties of the Archdiocese.)

May I again assure you that you are always most welcome to discuss any of your problems with me.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings in your priestly work, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

C O P Y

ADOM023277

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

The Chancery

2000 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE  
MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN 53233

September 11, 1968

The Reverend Siegfried Widera  
St. Mary Help of Christians Parish

West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

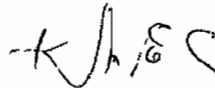
Dear Father Widera:

Religious instruction on the high school level becomes increasingly important. I am happy to inform you that you have been recommended to serve as part-time instructor of religion at St. John Cathedral High School, Milwaukee. I concur with the recommendations made, because they were founded in a recognition of your interest and competence, and officially appoint you to that task.

You are asked to report to Sister Mary Ignatius, the Principal, at your early convenience for a further delineation of your new duties.

With the warmest of personal regards, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,



Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM023278

May 16, 1972

C  
O  
P  
Y  
Reverend Siegfried F. Widera ✓  
St. Mary Help of Christians Parish  
[REDACTED]  
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

Dear Father Widera:

Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board regarding your assignment, I herewith transfer you from your present position as Associate Pastor at St. Mary Help of Christians parish, West Allis, and appoint you Associate Pastor at St. Mary parish, Port Washington, effective June 13, 1972.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings, I am

Faternally Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM023279

September 23, 1972

The Reverend Siegfried F. Widera  
St. Mary Parish  
[REDACTED]  
Port Washington, Wisconsin 53074

Dear Father Widera:

At the recommendation of Father John Endejan, Archdiocesan Director of our Catholic Youth Organization, and having the approval of Father Rolland Glass, Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Port Washington, I hereby appoint you to act as District CYO Director in Ozaukee County, CYO District Eleven. This appointment is effective immediately.

You may contact Father Endejan at the CYO Office for further information as to what your duties will be.

With warm personal regards and with appreciation for your willingness to serve in this capacity, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

CC: Father John Endejan  
Father Rolland Glass  
Personnel Board

COPY

ADOM023281

March 22, 1977

✓ Rev. Siegfried Widera  
St. Pius V Church  
[REDACTED]  
Buena Park, CA 90620

Dear Father Widera:

His Excellency, Bishop William R. Johnson has directed  
me to confirm your appointment as

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

at

ST. JUSTIN MARTYR CHURCH  
ANAHEIM

This appointment will become effective on Monday,  
April 11, 1977.

Praying God's every blessing upon you and your work  
I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Michael P. Driscoll*

Reverend Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

ph

cc: Rev. James Pierse  
✓ Most Rev. William E. Cousins

ADOM023293

*Copy*

February 2, 1977

Rev. Siegfried Widera  
St. Pius V Rectory  
[REDACTED]  
Buena Park, California 90621

Dear Siegfried:

It was good to meet with you in Los Angeles and to learn that you have already received a priestly assignment in the priestly diocese of Orange. Upon my return, I had occasion to speak both with the Archbishop and Fr. Sampon. The Archbishop explained that the term "in hospitality" is used to indicate that a priest may serve in residence in a diocese for an indefinite period of time.

I discussed with Fr. Sampon the matter of your Blue Cross-Blue Shield, your pension fund and your back salary for the four(4) months recently expired. He will be contacting you in the near future, and I'm sure will resolve these matters with you. This probably would have been much better if you had stopped to see him when you last were in Milwaukee; but, I'm sure that these matters can be negotiated properly at this time.

While our conversation that noon did not center upon the necessity of receiving psychological assistance while on the Coast, yet I'm sure that you are pursuing this matter. I met one of the priests of your diocese at the Convention I was attending. Without revealing too much data, I did ask him to pay you a visit and to help you feel at home in this diocese. Perhaps he could recommend a good psychologist, or I'm sure that [REDACTED] back here could make such a reference. Let's face it, Sig-a change in geography isn't going to change the person. But, perhaps a change in professional care could be of great assistance to you.

So, do keep in touch and be assured of my prayers. We all are greatly concerned for you and we wish to be of every supportive aid so that the past will never again become the present.

Fraternally yours,

*Sam*

cc: Rev. Robert Sampon

ADOM023295

January 25, 1977

C  
O  
P  
Y

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
440 South Batavia Street  
Orange, California 92668

Dear Bishop Johnson,

Your Chancellor, Father Driscoll, has informed me that Father Siegfried Widera of this Archdiocese has been assigned "in hospitality" to St. Pius V Parish in Buena Park, California. He has also informed me of our mutual understanding and that Father Widera will remain a member of the Archdiocese and as such be carried in our health and medical insurance program.

Permit me to express my sincere thanks to you and those involved for this consideration of a priest who has done good work and whose absence from the Diocese is predicated upon the local situation discussed in earlier letters.

I fully expect that upon the recommendation of those professionally helping him at the present time he will be reassigned in our Archdiocese.

With the warmest of personal regards, I am

Fraternally and gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM023296

January 10, 1977

Rev. Siegfried F. Widera  
St. Pius V

Buena Park, California 90621

Dear Father Widera:

His Excellency, Bishop William R. Johnson, has  
directed me to confirm your appointment in

HOSPITALITY AT  
ST. PIUS V  
BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA

This appointment carries with it the faculties of  
an Associate Pastor and will become effective on  
Wednesday, January 12, 1977.

Praying for God's every blessing upon you and your  
work, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

ph

cc: Most Rev. William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM023298



October 29, 1976

The Reverend Siegfried F. Widera ✓  
[REDACTED]

Costa Mesa, California 92626

Dear Siegfried,

This letter is written to you to follow our telephone conversation Wednesday morning. This relates to the recommendation of the Personnel Board at its meeting of October 26th. After I spoke with you, I called the Archbishop, who is aware of this direction and supports its intent.

The Personnel Board recommends a choice. First, that you pursue significant counseling to assist you in coming in touch with yourself about the action that has brought about a hasty exit from your last two assignments. Specifically, the House of Affirmation was suggested at the Board meeting and such information was given to you via the phone. Subsequent to such therapy, you would be considered for an appointment within the Archdiocese. The alternative would be for you to be released to the services of another diocese; with the permission of the Archbishop, you would request to minister elsewhere. Should you select the second alternative, the Board would ask periodic reports about your status.


You are confronted toward a decision by the Board, in what we hope is very positive toward dealing with your present situation. You may well decide to seek consultation from others like [REDACTED] your brother or others, but basically you will need to decide.


Your present status with the Archdiocese is delicate. Subsequently, your salary, insurance, and all other benefits need to be clarified. We suggest that you contact Father Sampon to finalize your present situation. Be assured that help is available to assist you through all of this. On the other hand, you may need to look to helping out in a priestly way during this duration, to get some method of financial income. The Chancellor, Father Sampon, would be able to direct you relating to faculties and benefits. His address is P. O. Box 2018, 345 North 95th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53201.

ADOM023303

We do ask that underneath all of what is stated, that you are assured of our interest in you. You are a generous and loving man, who has served as a priest for almost ten years. At the same time, there is something within you that you need to give adequate attention to, so that you can take away the suspicion and mistrust within yourself that forces you to run away. The Personnel Board is interested in being informed at the earliest possible time of your direction in all of this.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

 Reverend John J. Waldbauer,  
Executive Secretary  
Priests' Personnel Board

 CC: Reverend Robert G. Sampon✓





[REDACTED]  
CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGIST

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

July 13, 1973

[REDACTED]  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53211

TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

AREA CODE [REDACTED]

Mr. Charles Polidori  
Attorney at Law  
2922 West Forest Home Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215

Subject: Reverend Siegfried Frank Widera

Dear Mr. Polidori:

This letter is being submitted on behalf of the above named 32 year old priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese who was arrested on July 2, 1973, at 3:30 a.m. in the company of four minor males. Father Widera reports that the arrest took place on North Spring near Grand Avenue in Port Washington, Wisconsin. When it was alleged that Father Widera had had sexual contact with one of the minor males a charge of sexual perversion was made against him by District Attorney La Pointe of Ozaukee County and it is my understanding that the case is to come to trial on July 16, 1973, at 8:30 a.m. It is also my understanding that bail was posted for Father Widera by Father Rolland T. Glass, the pastor of St. Mary Church in Port Washington, the parish to which Father Widera had been assigned.

Archbishop Cousins, concerned about the stresses and strains that the event had subjected Father Widera to, referred him to me in a telephone conversation on July 3, 1973. Hoping to be of some service to Father Widera, to you his attorney, and to the court, Father was seen a total of seven times between July 3, 1973, and July 12, 1973. In addition to the beginnings of psychotherapy, extensive diagnostic evaluations were conducted and it is with these that the rest of the report shall concern itself.

Father Widera was first seen on the afternoon of July 3, 1973. Upon investigation he was a very anxious and upset very fair skinned male of 32 with a pronounced German accent. On that date and hence forward he has proved to be extremely cooperative and has been making a real and pronounced effort to cooperate with me in all areas pursued. From that date to this it would appear that the anxiety has abated somewhat but the residual depression and the very understandable fear of the court appearance and the disgrace to himself and to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee endure.

ADOM023312

Mr. Charles Polidori  
Subject: Reverend Siegfried Frank Widera

-2-

July 13, 1973

Father provided the following history.

He was born in Germany on the 20th of December, 1940, which would be approximately the year that World War II started. He relates that his father, an engineer, removed his children to the country where they could sometimes see and hear the bombers overhead but Father can recall only an occasional instance when they were in fact forced to the bomb shelter. He can remember playing in the burned out and bombed out buildings, recalling that at the time they were more understood as toys than as tragedies of war.

Father Widera's father, [REDACTED], is seemingly a very talented mechanical engineer. At the end of World War II he was invited to the United States by a large Milwaukee industrial firm because of his knowledge of the drop forge business. Father relates that his father was the designer of the largest drop forge hammers in the world. Mr. Widera spent a year in the United States deciding whether or not he wished to immigrate and at the end of approximately a year sent to Germany for the rest of his family who travelled to the United States in first class passage on the Queen Mary. Unfortunately for young Siegfried, who was then ten and about to enter the fourth grade, the trip is remembered more in terms of seasickness than luxury.

The family settled in South Milwaukee where Father recalls that the day after their arrival, wearing lederhosen, he and his brothers and sisters were enrolled in parochial school. Considering modern day concern over jet lag and culture shock it is interesting to note that the Widera children spoke not a word of English when they were dropped into the Sacred Heart Grade School in St. Francis, Wisconsin. Father Widera relates that the language came to him with facility.

Upon his graduation from grade school in June of 1955 he entered the St. Francis Minor Seminary the following September. He was further graduated from De Sales College in June of 1963 and from the St. Francis School of Pastoral Ministry in June of 1967. It was at that time that he was ordained to the priesthood.

He recounts that during high school he was active in sports and that during his college days he was a member (appropriately enough) of the German Society. He seems to have gone through school with about a B average in both high school and college. His interest in sports has continued after ordination and he still recounts his favorite recreations as golf, tennis, swimming, boating and ice skating.

The family relationships are described in prosaic terms. His father, as indicated above, is an engineer and Father Widera sees

ADOM023313

Mr. Charles Polidori  
Subject: Reverend Siegfried Frank Widera

-3-

July 13, 1973

the two of them as sharing certain "mannerisms". Father thinks that his dad "gets along with those he works". On the other hand he sees his father as being somewhat impatient. The father and son share some athletic interests in terms of fishing and golf and Mr. Widera is described by his son as being a benign and loving individual who is still somewhat ridden through with the stereotyped German rigidity. Father relates that Mr. Widera has been extremely upset and shaken over his son's arrest and plans to accompany him to Court for his moral support at the appointed time.

His mother, [REDACTED], is also living and in good health. At age 63 she is three years younger than her husband and both of them are cradle Catholics. She is seen by her son as a pleasant individual who is "able to get along real well with her friends". On the other hand, while her husband is impatient, she "jumps to conclusions--does not take that extra second to think". She spends her time working about the house, visiting with the neighbors, and attending various social activities.

Father Widera is the third oldest of four children. The father and mother's brightness have certainly been passed on to the children. In addition to Father Widera there is a 35 year old brother who received a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin and another brother who received a bachelor of arts degree from Ferris University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This brother is currently employed as a salesman. The youngest of the children is a 30 year old sister who received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is currently employed as an administrator of financial aids at the University of Illinois-Circle Campus in Chicago. All of the brothers and sisters seem to be making routine adjustments to the world about them and there is no indication that they are suffering from any more than the normal amount of stress in coping with the world about them.

This is Father Widera's third appointment since his ordination and he reports that all three of the pastors under whom he has served are cast somewhat in the age range and rigid temperament of his father.

Sometime was spent examining the history of Father Widera's inability to rid himself of the German overtones in his speech patterns. He relates that his brothers and sisters for the most part have made a better adjustment to deleting the German cast in their speech patterns and that while he was a student in the Seminary the Rector suggested that he attend the Marquette University School of Speech Pathology department to see if the teutonic overtones could be remedied. Inasmuch as the family has always continued to speak German at home it would appear that the design was ill-fated. While Father Widera speaks the English language with about as much verbal fluency and basic literacy as any other individual of his training and education, it is interesting to note that when reduced to the written and spelled word

ADOM023314

Mr. Charles Polidori  
Subject: Reverend Siegfried Frank Widera

-4-

July 13, 1973

he is in considerably more difficulty. As a case in point he lists his age as 22 rather than 32, relates that he and his father are alike "in mannerism" rather than stating in colloquial English "in mannerisms" or "in manners". It might be best said that his written use of the language is not illiterate but clumsy. He reports that in the verbal communication area he finds it extremely difficult to preach sermons extemporaneously and will sometimes tape record the Sunday homily on one of the two tape recorders that he owns in order to clarify his conceptualizations.

This led me to speculate on the fact that although Father Widera was basically literate in two languages I wondered if he was conceptually literate in either. For this reason three intelligence tests were administered. The results, I think, are worth considering:

1. On a thirty minute test of mental ability which has been used on millions of Americans since World War I and which is currently used on seminarians applying to study for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Father Widera is awarded an I.Q. of 108. This places him in the average range of intelligence and it is interesting to note that the thirty minute time limit left him seventeen answers short of the 75 items. Had he had enough time to complete the test and to plow his way through the semantics, the I.Q. instead of 108 would have been 125.
2. Because of this a roughly equivalent test was administered to Father which relieved him of the time limit. On this particular test he earned an I.Q. of 133 which represents a 25 point discrepancy from the first test. This becomes a little tricky in terms of the I.Q. equivalencies but assuming that they are at least roughly equivalent the increase from his projected 125 to the earned 133 is not significant.
3. It was at this point that he was administered a Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale which is an individual intelligence test requiring a one-to-one relationship between the psychologist and Father Widera. The test was administered by Mrs. [REDACTED] who is a psychologist in the Milwaukee area. I chose not to administer the test myself in order to get an independent opinion about Father Widera's intellectual functioning. The most salient finding of the individual intelligence test is that if one were to project Father Widera's working knowledge of English vocabulary he would find himself dealing with an individual whose I.Q. was less than the national average. When he is dealing with very simple verbal concepts such as basic information in simple terms or a basic comprehension of the culture in simple terms he performs very well. When he is forced to use the English language to abstract or when he is forced to define words in terms acceptable to dictionary usage he finds himself very severely damaged. As a result of this his verbal I.Q. on a carefully administered intelligence test is 111.

ADOM023315

Mr. Charles Polidori  
Subject: Reverend Siegfried Frank Widera

-5-

July 13, 1973

Like many people who were born to be verbal in one language or the other his performance score does not equal that of the verbal. This is especially accentuated because of an inability on his part to master material requiring new learning which is a function of the anxiety. As a result of this the full scale I.Q. on the individual intelligence test came out to 106. This in contrast to the 133 where he is completely free from pressure or the 108 where he is under a close time limit.

This led to additional investigation in terms of Father Widera's personality. The personality testing that was done on Father Widera is essentially within normal limits. It is not indicative of anyone who is experiencing extreme mental difficulties or emotional upheavals and there does not appear to be an even remote possibility that Father Widera is going to encounter what is commonly referred to as "mental illness". What the test is indicative of is an individual who handles his personality problems by essentially refusing to admit their existence and repressing into his unconscious whatever unpleasant vestiges of them remain. This is brought up because it ties in well with the confusion in intellectual functioning. When interviewed carefully Father Widera freely admitted that he found it extremely difficult to relate to other adults on an equal basis. One is reminded of the little boy in lederhosen, speaking no English. Inasmuch as he is unable to think comfortably (as opposed to clearly) in the English language there appears to have been a regression phenomenon back to the earlier days when he was relating well to his own peer group. Inasmuch as he stopped relating with his own peer group on the day he was dropped into the fourth grade of grammar school it is not awfully surprising to find out that he is now more comfortable with minor males than he is with either adult males or females. At some level there was an arresting of his psychosocial development at this level and this is the point to which Father Widera regresses when he is seeking companionship that is emotionally satisfying to him. If, in fact, the allegations against Father were true it would not be surprising inasmuch as the man would then express his sexuality in the area in which he was most comfortable as a social being. As unfortunate as it might be, he would find himself regressed to the level that he was when he came to the United States.

I would find Father Widera an extremely good risk for psychotherapeutic intervention and he has already profitted and understood greatly from initial therapy sessions that we have held. I would not see him at the present time as a constant threat to the young people of the community nor would I see him as in any way representing a liability to himself or to the community in any other sphere.

If the Court sees fit to place Father Widera on probation it is his plan and mine to continue with the psychotherapy that we have

ADOM023316

Mr. Charles Polidori

-6-

July 13, 1973


Subject: Reverend Siegfried Frank Widera

started so that he will in the future be able to relate to an adult population in a more adult fashion than he has been able to previously.

I hope this information will be of use to you in your defense of Father Widera; if there is any additional information I can provide please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours/very truly,

  
Consulting Psychologist

  
cc: The Most Reverend William E. Cousins D.D.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM023317



6/29/76

Archbishop called - [REDACTED], a therapist in Elkhorn, had called in to [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] is a counselor and now advocate for Mrs. [REDACTED]. She reported to [REDACTED] that her son had been sexually molested by Fr. Widera while on a weekend fishing outing - Son is [REDACTED] age 13, an altar boy at parish. Archbishop suggested I call Widera first, then [REDACTED] assuring complainants that W. will be removed from parish and will receive in-patient treatment, if necessary.

Called Widera - gone - his day off - left message with Henke to call me. Tried to call his parental home - [REDACTED] - but an unpublished number - no. info. available.

6/30

Contacted Widera in P.M. - appointment tomorrow.

7/1

At Swan - 10:30 A.M. - Widera admitted that he made "a slip". He took boy fishing alone about 3 weeks ago. He had heard nothing about the incident. He does not know therapist. He has been seeing [REDACTED] for past 3 years. He is "on probation" with the law - ends in August. He was apparently shook by this discovery and sought advice what to do. I informed him that he probably would be transferred and would need in-patient treatment. I would try to keep the lid on the thing, so no police record would be made. He went to his sister's at [REDACTED] --parent's number [REDACTED] and informed her of his problem. I can call her to inform him to call me back. Parents will not be informed.

Immediately called [REDACTED] at Lakeland Counseling Center, Elkhorn, [REDACTED], 2 miles east of Elkhorn ([REDACTED]). - ([REDACTED]) also works there - [REDACTED] was guided by him). Made app't to meet [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on Thursday, July 8 at 2 P.M. at Elkhorn. [REDACTED] said Mrs. [REDACTED] didn't know what to do after she pulled this info. out of the boy. Son must have manifested some trauma after the experience. She called [REDACTED] He feels that boy needs some help to re-establish spiritual values and attitudes toward Church and priests. Mrs. [REDACTED] had not gone to police. She is [REDACTED] and apparently feared reprisals from Church if she would go to police. She does not want priests from parish to counsel the boy. [REDACTED] feels that alcohol may be Widera's basic problem. He will contact Mrs. [REDACTED] and convince her not to act with police, if Church removes W. from parish, and gets him help, as well as counsels the boy.

Widera called back - gave him above info. He asked what he should do. I suggested no further action at this time, but he should prepare to be re-assigned - which is probably the Archbishop's recommendation. Will call Widera immediately after Thurs. meeting - he will meet me in Elkhorn.

Called and left above information with Ralph F. for the Archbishop.

7/7

██████████ called - had received note from Fr.W. saying that he would not be in for appointment because he would be going to St.Vincent Hospital, etc.

- ██████████ did not know what had happened but was greatly concerned that if Fr.W. leaves state during this probationary period, he could be picked up and immediately sent to prison without any further court trial. ██████████ is the de facto probationary officer. Has seen Widera weekly for past 3 years. ██████████ feels that if Fr.Widers must be sent to hospitalization, it must be within State (at least during next 60 days)- ██████████ doubts value of in-patient treatment however. If ██████████ will not approach police, ██████████ suggests that Fr.W. remain in Delalvan - at least temporarily. He suggests that I offer services of the Archdiocese for a one shot evaluation of the boy (to determine if there be any traumatic damages (usually in these cases, there is not). ██████████ at first was disturbed that his patient was being sent out of State without consultation with ██████████. I explained that nothing was finalized yet - and in view of his probationary situation, he probably would not be sent. (If necessary, ██████████ would suggest Milw. Sanitarium). I also explained that I was following Archbishop's agenda = contact, Widera, then ██████████ then mother, etc.

██████████ asked me to report back to him after Conference with ██████████ mother, etc. Discussed briefly with him the ██████████ situation. ██████████ feels if Widera goes, this above relationship will deteriorate. ██████████ feels that Widera is non-communicative, and willing to agree to anything and self-destructive (not suicidal, however). ██████████ feels that "one slip" in 3 years is not too bad a track record.

7/8

██████████ called - Probation officer is actually a member of his parish - attends W's Mass regularly. If W. is moved out of the State, P. officer will ask "Why?" Also, if W. is moved before probation period is over, P.O. will find out the reason. ██████████ does not know the legal consequences if P.O. finds out post hoc what happened pre-hoc - doesn't know what attorney to call.

Went to Lakeland Counseling Center at Elkhorn - met ██████████ Mrs. ██████████ and ██████████ - heard ██████████ story - mature lad of 10 years - incident happened in lake while swimming - also next day in sacristy before Mass.

- Mrs. ██████████ was not seeking hospitalization - only that Fr.W. be moved from parish - she doesn't want to see him
- otherwise she will take her children out of School
- she understands that Fr.W. is sick but was greatly disillusioned by his conduct - she agreed to bring ██████████ to ██████████ for an evaluation to see if any traumatic effects. No cost to her. I tried to help the boy sort through his feelings. I indicated that

SIEG WIDERA

3.

7/8 = cont'd.

I had spoken to [REDACTED] re:counseling for Fr. W. (I did not reveal that Fr. W. had been seeing him for 3 yrs. already)

Then called Fr. W. to come to Elkhorn restaurant.

- told him to re-schedule his appointments with [REDACTED]
- find himself a Spiritual director
- anticipate moving from Delavan after his probation is over
- not to tell Fr. Henke at this time
- stay away from Mrs. [REDACTED] and son
- also stay away from another boy he is seen with frequently

3/9

Reported to Archbishop. He agreed that Fr. W. should continue with [REDACTED] - should not be moved out of State for hospitalization - will move Fr. W. after probation period is over (I shall find out when from [REDACTED]). He said I can call Paul Noelke Co. attorneys to see if Probation Dept. has recourse if it post factum learns of a violation that happened pre factum - or call [REDACTED]. He agreed Archdiocese would pay for evaluation of boy. He thought "cover-up" removing Fr. W. in Fall because of shortage of priests (only 2 men necessary in winter at St. Andrew's) would be very feasible. He indicated that Fr. Vojtik would be leaving also. Perhaps Fr. Ron Kotecki could go there after he returns from Mexico

3/12

Called [REDACTED] - gave him above report - he does not know exact day of probation termination: but presumes it to be mid-August - he is concerned that Widera get a good spot without pressures as next assignment - wishes me to influence Personnel Board at that time - [REDACTED] will call Personnel Board, too, if necessary.

- He will call Mrs. [REDACTED] and make an appointment for [REDACTED] etc.

7/26

[REDACTED] called - Mrs. [REDACTED] had heard from no-one I told him I had contacted [REDACTED] and Archbishop  
- Widera will probably not be moved till after Labor Day because of replacement problems  
- he should give this info. to Mrs. [REDACTED]

I called [REDACTED] office - on vacation till the 10th - his secretary has been trying to reach Mrs. [REDACTED] to make an appointment with her and boy - she will continue to try to reach her to set up the appointment.

ADOM023320

8/20

- ██████████ called - he had seen Mrs. ██████████ and son-
- a) no permanent damage to son - spent 3 hrs. with mother.
  - b) Waldbauer called - Henke had called him and wanted Widera removed - he had learned about incident from other people - then he asked Mrs. ██████████ about it. Waldbauer agreed to get supply help for the parish.
  - c) Called ██████████ - Parole terminated Aug. 16th, he learned from lawyer.
  - d) Called Henke and Widera - they agreed that W. would go "on vacation" (California!) as soon as Waldbauer would find supply help. Then he would be transferred. W. should tell people only that he's going on vacation.
  - e) Called Waldbauer - he will hunt - has not alerted Board to this case - in agreement with above arrangements.

8/23

Told Archbishop of the above developments.

9/27

Approached Esser about above - the Personnel Board has heard nothing from anyone - Archbishop has not spoken to Personnel Board about this matter

- however, Paul knew that Widera's father had been to Delavan and moved out Siegfried's belongings
- Paul would have problem in conscience to re-assign Siegfried - When? and should they really - in view of Widera's record???

██████████ called - Widera calls him every week to 10 days from Calif. - he is living with his brother - dad is very incensed (disowning Sieg?) about matter - ██████████ said Siegfried said that maybe he should stay in California and get himself a job (outside ministry). ██████████ wondered if this should be the direction of counsel. I reluctantly agreed - esp. in view of Esser's above comments. ██████████ will call Esser and discuss this with him. I explained that if he sought ministry out there I would feel obliged to send reports to the diocese in which he works.

1/77

Waldbauer gave me address of Widera in Calif. - called ██████████

- but he has not heard from Widera recently - Widera was in to see Personnel Board recently.

1/11/77

Met Widera for lunch in L.A. He will work in Orange diocese

- showed me letter of app't. - confused with expression "in hospitality". He was concerned about 4 mo. back pay, Blue Cross, Pension Fund
- Said that I would confer with Sampon when I return - cf letter 1/7



# St. Pius V Church

BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 27TH, 1977

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

## "PLEASE TELL ME THINGS ABOUT BEING A PRIEST"

Dear Padre,

Please tell me things about being a priest. We used to have Father Murphy here . . . But the bishop changed him, and now the new priest is grouchy at us servers, and I'm afraid to ask him. . . .

Sincerely yours,  
Tommy

Dear Tommy,

I'm not sure what it is that you would like to know. But let me say a little about the priesthood and about the seminary where young men prepare for becoming priests.

The priest is, first of all, a Christian like all the other people in the Church. He believes that he and all of us followers of Jesus must try to love and serve other people, just like Jesus did, and must try to make the world a better place to live.

Most people serve others by getting married and living for their children and for each other. They also help other people, too, by the jobs that they have and by lots of acts of charity, but their families are their first responsibility. But the priest wants to serve other people in a special way. He wants to help people love God better by preaching to them on Sunday. He wants to bring them the sacraments — Penance, Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Sick — when they are in the hospital or sick at home. He wants to offer Mass, so that all the other Christians can come near the altar in church and can worship God their Father together and receive Jesus in Holy Communion together. These are some of the ways that a priest tries to make the world better. He helps other Christians grow in faith and hope and love, so that they, too, will keep trying to make the world better. The priest does not marry and raise a family of his own, but he helps all the dads and moms and kids become better in their families.

Boys and young men who think they would like to become priests go to a seminary. In the high-school seminary, they study English and science and math and all the other subjects. They play sports like kids do everywhere. But each day they also have time for prayer and for taking part in Mass and communion. There are priest-counselors there, and the seminarians talk things over with them. As time goes on, some of the boys decide that the priesthood is not what they really want, and they go back home. Others, on the contrary, become more convinced than ever that being a priest is exactly what they want to be. Of course, the final decision to be a priest is not made until the person is about 24 or 25 years old.

If you have any other questions you are not sure of, Tommy, just write again and ask about them. I am glad to answer you.

The Padre  
Father John Farnik, C.S.S.R.

REVEREND JAMES PIERSE, Pastor  
REV. DENIS LYONS, Asst.  
REV. DANIEL HOPCUS, Asst.  
REV. ARTHUR FERNANDO  
REV. SIEGFRIED WIDERA  
REV. SIARD A. HAIGLI, O. Praem.

### RECTORY

7691 Orangethorpe Avenue  
Phone 522-2193

SCHOOL: Phone 522-5313

C.C.D.: Phone 522-3971

### MASS SCHEDULE

ANTICIPATORY MASS: Saturday 5:15  
and 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAYS: 7:15, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.,  
12:15 and 6:30 p.m.  
Spanish Mass: 1:30 p.m.

WEEKDAYS: 6:30, 8:00 a.m.; 5:15 p.m.

ANTICIPATORY MASSES FOR HOLY  
DAYS: 5:15 and 7:00 p.m.

HOLY DAYS: 7:15, 8:30 a.m. and 12:15,  
5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

### CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS: 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and  
7:45 to 8:45 p.m.

NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER  
OF PERPETUAL HELP  
WEDNESDAYS: 7:15 p.m.

### BAPTISMS

By Appointment Only

### MARRIAGES

Rectory must be notified three months  
in advance.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approval  
Copyright © 1977, Liguori Publications, All Rights Reserved/Liguori, Mo. 63057

ADOM023322

## Sixty-eight years of daily MASS

— Lawrence WELK

The man whose name is synonymous with "champagne music" has spent a lifetime in close proximity to sacrificial wine.

Lawrence Welk, the nation's most popular band-leader, has attended Mass daily since he was five years old. He is now 73.

"I get so much good out of it," he declared. "I believe in the Golden Rule and I believe in the Ten Commandments. I believe in God and the guidelines that He has given us."

Welk was reared in a Catholic family in a North Dakota community that was 90 percent Catholic. That upbringing, he says, enabled him to cope with the reverses he encountered early in his career.

The worst occurred in the early 1930s in South Dakota. The members of his five-piece band approached him with an announcement. They were better than he was, they said, better speakers, better musicians. He was a hindrance. So they were going on without him, under a different name.

Welk had to choose between returning home in disgrace to a father who had opposed his son's musical career, or going ahead on his own.

"I knew myself and I had faith that I could handle hard times and hard knocks," he said. "So just a few days after having lost my band, I made my decision to stick with it."

The rest, as they say, is history.

BEFORE AND SINCE, however, Welk has never let any personal inconvenience except illness stand between him and the nearest Catholic church.

"There have been countless times when going to church meant going through all sorts of storms in order to go to Mass, but I never let anything stop me," he said.

"Numberless times through the years as we traveled throughout the country I would re-route the bus and go out of the way to get to a church. Those added miles must be in the thousands, but going to church was as natural and as important to me as breathing."

He added, "Many times I would call for a breakfast stop, and while everyone else was eating his breakfast, I would go to Mass. I felt better when I did that."

## \* . . . NEWS . . .

Dear Members of the Parish Family,

It is with extreme reluctance and a deep sense of parochial and personal loss that I share with you the communication that Father Siegfried Wiedera has been transferred from St. Pius. His appointment to St. Justin will be effective on April 11, 1977.

He has been with us only a few short months but during that brief time, he has endeared himself to all of us. We have grown to know and love him as a wonderful man of God who possess-

ed those admirable qualities of which we were in special need — leadership in the fields of youth direction, adult education, marriage encounter, charismatic prayer, athletic appreciation, and daily homilies. Always open, available and affable, we will miss his spontaneous warmth, carefree manner and joyful laughter.

Next Sunday a farewell reception will be held in his honor in St. Pius V auditorium to bid him "God-speed" y Vaya con Dios. Each of us will have the opportunity to thank him for all that he has done for us and meant to us — for just being someone special to whom we could all relate — our own dear Father Siegfried.

Devotedly in Christ,  
Rev. James Pierce

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

**DAILY MASSES** are at 6:30, 8:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. (Except on Wednesdays when evening Mass is at 7:30 p.m.)

**CONFESSIONS:** Thursday, March 31st, 4:30 to 5:30 and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6th, a Special Penitential Service after 7:30 p.m. Mass.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** are Fridays at 2:15 for students and 7:30 p.m. for adults.

## OPERATION RICE-BOWL

**AMERICAN CATHOLIC OVERSEAS AID APPEAL** collection is being taken up **TODAY** at all the Masses. Special envelopes are in the pews. Please be generous.

**FLOWERS** — You may help beautify the church and altars for Holy Week and Easter by contributing to the special flower collection which will be taken up next Sunday.

**OUR SUNDAY VISITOR**, a national Catholic newspaper, is available at the entrances of the church. This week's paper is a special issue on Catholic Youth and Education.

## RECYCLE LIFE — DONATE BLOOD

Monday March 28, from 2:45 to 7:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall

8410 Kass Drive, Buena Park

Your cooperation will insure a successful blood donor campaign among St. Pius parishioners. Please designate your donation for St. Pius V Blood Bank.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**Friday, April 1st** — End of 3rd quarter. Mass at 10:45 a.m. Stations of the Cross at 2:15 p.m.

**50/50 RAFFLE:** Our lucky winner for March 16th drawing was Doris Lang of Buena Park. Ticket No. 491 won for her \$691.00. Congratulations! Remember the April tickets are available after some of the Masses or call 828-1097; 523-5507.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Saints and Sinners:** Sunday, March 27th — serving Coffee and Donuts. Monthly business meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. — Youth Mass — All the youth of this parish are cordially invited to attend and bring a friend. Fr. Widera will be the celebrant. For information call Jon Martinez, 523-1131. May we of the Saints and Sinners take this most Holy time of the year to remind all of you of the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us.

**Young Singles:** Sunday, March 27th — L.A. Zoo, meet at the church. The Un-Game Experience at 7:30 p.m. Coffee and Donut Room. Come and join us.

Saturday, April 2nd — District Dance.  
Sunday, April 3rd — Volleyball, Cypress College.

Sunday, April 10th — Easter Sunrise Services. For information call Joel, 535-7413 or Carol, 522-3049.

**THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM** has a clothes closet with clothes available at no cost to parishioners in need. For information call 523-5166 or 521-7872.

**ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS:** Sunday, April 3rd, 8:30 a.m. Mass is our Communion Sunday. Meet in front of the church. There will be a special collection for Easter flowers at all the Masses. Monday, April 4th, will be our monthly meeting in the hall.

**MEN'S RETREAT** for St. Pius V at Serra Retreat House, Malibu, April 15th. For information or reservations call Hank Ficke, 527-1447, Nick Cotugno, 522-4542, or Marcellino Cipres, 926-7636.

**ADULT EDUCATION COURSE** conducted by Fr. Widera, will meet on Thursday, March 31, 8:00 p.m., in the Coffee and Donut Room. The topic will continue to be The Mass — The Easter Mystery (and befitting the season: a study of the Shroud).

**A CLASS FOR PROSPECTIVE CONVERTS** this WEEK will meet on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. (A make up class is held on Saturday mornings at 11:00.) All interested persons are cordially invited to attend. Please call the rectory, 522-2193, for further information.

**ST. PIUS V. SOCIAL CLUB** sponsors BINGO every Friday evening, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., in the parish hall. GRAND PRIZE \$250.00 Cash.

**ST. PIUS V CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meet every Sunday (except the 4th Sunday) in the library at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-8440 or (213) 926-6865.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER MASS** this Sunday, March 27, at 12:15.

**NEW DIOCESAN RADIO PROGRAMS** — KYMS FM 106.3 on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Mass and at 10:30 a.m. Catholic Dimensions. Each week there will be stimulating discussion about activities in the new Diocese of Orange.

**CATHOLIC TELEVISION**

Presented by the Diocese of Orange — UHF Channel 40.

"The Word Made Flesh," Catholic Scripture Study, Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.

"Ven Espirito Santo," Spanish language sharing program dealing with the renewal and special teachings by host Fr. Alejandro Burciaga, Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.

"It's A Brand New Day," Catholic sharing and teaching program, Sundays at 6:00 p.m.; Fridays at 2:30 p.m.; and Saturdays at 1:30 p.m.

**THE ORANGE CAMPUS** of Loyola Marymount University is sponsoring a series of lectures by Fr. John Wright, S.J., "Recent Developments in Roman Catholic Theology." The series will be held on Friday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. Donation: \$3.00 per lecture, \$10.00 for the series. For information and pre-registration, call 633-8495, ext. 7763.

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

3rd Announcement: Kenneth Haynes and Kerry Ann Lynch.

1st Announcement: Ray Carmody and Denise Capezzuto; Ron Chirumbolo and Paula Nelson.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

The repose of the soul of Andrew DiNoble; the recovery of the sick of the parish, especially John Horoszko, Jean Krier, Henry Hawrylew, Edna Collins, Dean Ristow, Mary Kastner, George Gonzales, Victor Medeiros, Frank Montegro, Veronica Reck, Pat Underwood, Anna Marie Shepard, Kathleen Callahan, Betty Filadelfia, Bonny Gillen, Betty Wigton, and Clare Melton.

**JEST KIDDING**

A priest had been called in to deliver the oration at a funeral. The departed was a complete stranger. After the service had started, the clergyman realized that the name given him, might be applied to male or female. The details given him about the deceased gave him no clue as to the sex. He was getting more concerned by the minute. He proceeded as diplomatically as possible but he finally arrived at the point where he just had to know.

At the propitious moment, the choir began to sing. He heaved a sigh of relief and bent over and whispered to a nearby mourner, "Brother or Sister?"

The weeping mourner answered hoarsely, "Cousin."

December 20, 1976

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
440 South Batavia Street  
Orange, California 92668

ATTENTION: Father Michael Driscoll

Dear Father Driscoll,

A few days ago I talked by phone to Bishop Johnson about a possible pastoral assignment for Father Siegfried Widera of this Archdiocese. The conversation was very general and the Bishop suggested that perhaps something could be done on a temporary basis. My reason for approaching Bishop Johnson is founded in the fact that Father Widera's brother and family live in Costa Mesa, California. In the course of our conversation the Bishop informed me that he would be absent for a while and asked that I discuss the matter further with you.

I talked to Father Widera this morning and informed him that I was writing to you at the Bishop's request. I learned that he is leaving to visit his brother and will arrive in California on or about January 5th. Under the circumstances I recommended that upon his arrival he immediately get in touch with you or with the Bishop and that in the meantime I would have written to you and to His Excellency.

Father Widera was ordained in 1967 and has done good work for the Diocese in the places to which he was assigned. In his earlier years there was a moral problem having to do with a boy in school. This seemed adequately confronted through treatment and an intense desire upon Father's part to avoid any repetition of a previous offense.

More recently, however, there has been a repetition, and according to our State Laws further psychiatric treatment is mandated with the strong recommendation that no immediate assignment be made in the environs of the Archdiocese.

Father Widera has cooperated in every way and is presently under treatment. His doctor is somewhat in favor of his leaving the scene but expects that there will be continuing treatment. This has already been arranged and a doctor in California will take over at this point. From all the professional information I can gather there would seem no great risk in allowing this man to return to pastoral work, but there are legal complications at present writing. Incidentally, these legal technicalities would permit Father's going to another State as long as treatment is continued.

ADOM023334



December 20, 1976

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend William R. Johnson

-2

ATTENTION: Father Michael Driscoll

C  
O  
P  
Y  
I would not expect Bishop Johnson or yourself to act in this matter without first of all interviewing Father Widera and satisfying yourself that charity will not add to existing personnel problems. If the man could be assigned on a temporary basis or if he could be given some part-time work that would give him the support of living in residence with other priests, half of the problem would be licked. This must be left to the Bishop's discretion and this discretion should not be exercised until pertinent and important questions have been answered. I hope this can be accomplished in a personal interview sometime in January.

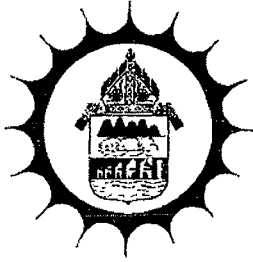
There is no thought of incardination involved, and I am quite willing to accept the man back into the Archdiocese whenever circumstances would indicate. Though I anticipate no recurrence of this past aberration, I would certainly want to be informed if the slightest suspicion were to develop. I would like to show fraternal charity to a fellow priest but I cannot be virtuous at the expense of a fellow Bishop.

With the warmest of personal regards and with every good wish for the Holiday Season, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM023335



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**

**MARYWOOD CENTER**

2811 EAST VILLA REAL DRIVE  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92667  
(714) 974-7120

October 27, 1981

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
345 North 95th Street  
Post Office Box 2018  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

RE: REVEREND SIEGFRIED WIDERA

Your Excellency:

Reverend Siegfried Widera has served within the Diocese of Orange in California since January 12, 1977. Father Widera came to the Diocese for medical reasons and His Excellency, The Most Reverend William E. Cousins, former Archbishop of Milwaukee, wrote His Excellency, The Most Reverend William R. Johnson, Bishop of Orange, regarding the possibility of extending the Hospitality of the Diocese of Orange to Father Widera while he was on leave from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Father Widera has served here since that time in an exemplary fashion. He was first assigned to St. Pius V Parish in Buena Park and was transferred four months later due to the fact that the parish was given over to the Irish Augustinian Fathers. Father Widera was then assigned as Associate Pastor at St. Justin Martyr Parish in Anaheim and served there from April 11, 1977 through July 6, 1981. He proved to be extremely popular with all the people and a very hard worker in the parish. Father Widera also works with the Naim Conference and serves as Spiritual Moderator for all conferences within the Diocese. On July 6, 1981, Father Widera was assigned as Associate Pastor to St. Edward's Parish in Dana Point. This assignment came at this time due to the diocesan policy of rotating Associate Pastors approximately every four years.

Father Widera has requested incardination into the Diocese of Orange. All the priests of the Diocese think very highly of him and those who have worked with him these past five years have recommended his incardination in very high and positive terms. On October 23, 1981, Father Widera's request for incardination was presented to His Excellency and his Board of Consultors. Once again and unanimously a decision was given in favor of incardinating Father Widera into the Diocese of Orange.

**ADOM023342**

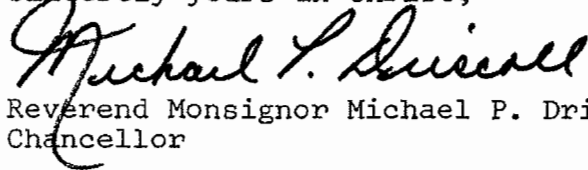
page 2.

Some time ago Father Widera wrote to Reverend Joseph A. Janicki, JCL, Vice-Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee regarding submitting his request for incardination into the Diocese of Orange. At this time, in behalf of His Excellency and the Diocese of Orange, I, too, would like to seek your permission to allow Father Siegfried Widera to be excardinated from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in order that he may be incardinated into the Diocese of Orange. We would consider the date of Father Widera's excardination to be the same as the date of his incardination into the Diocese of Orange.

I wish to thank Your Excellency for consideration of this request. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your ministry with the people of God in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Driscoll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Reverend Monsignor Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor

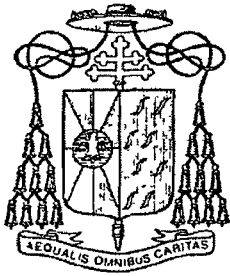
jr

cc: Rev. Joseph A. Janicki, JCL

ADOM023343

Father Sampon,

The Archbishop would ask you to kindly fashion  
a letter which would be canonically correct for  
the transfer of Father Widera (incardination)  
to the Diocese of Orange...



# REMBERTUS GEORGIUS

Miseratione Divina et Apostolicae Sedis Gratia

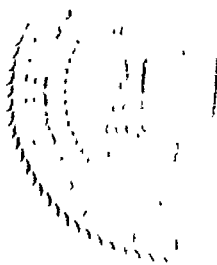
Archiepiscopus Milvauchiensis

The Reverend Siegfried Widera  
Priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

## GREETINGS IN THE LORD

In accordance with your request based on good reasons and having been informed by His Excellency the Most Reverend William R. Johnson, Bishop of Orange, that he is willing to incardinate you, I hereby excardinate you from this Archdiocese perpetually and absolutely and declare you excardinated according to canon 112 of the Code of Canon Law, transferring for all time whatever jurisdiction and authority I have over you to the same Bishop Johnson and his successors in the Diocese of Orange, with the condition that this letter becomes effective only when you are duly ascribed to the Diocese of Orange.

Given at the Chancery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this the 23rd day of November, 1981,



+Rembert G. Weakland, o.s.b.

+Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.

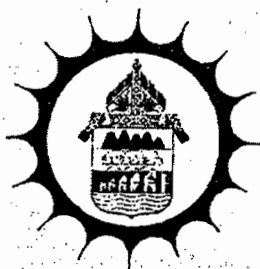
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Robert G. Sampon

Robert G. Sampon

Chancellor

ADOM023347



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**

**MARYWOOD CENTER**

2811 EAST VILLA REAL DRIVE

ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92667

(714) 974-7120

Reverend Siegfried Widera  
St. Edward Church

[REDACTED]  
Dana Point, California 92629

Reverend and dear Father:

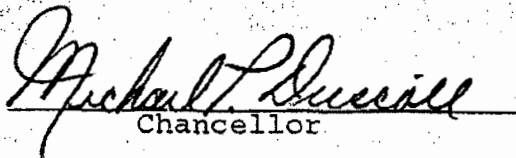
In view of the needs of our Diocese and in accord with the provisions of Canon Law especially regarding your title of Ordination and officially advised that you have recieved a decree of excardination from THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE with assurance of your good character, your course of studies and your good example and in view of your oath which I have received (personally or before a delegated priest) by which you declare and affirm that you wish to be permanently attached to the service of Our Diocese of Orange in California, in response to your petition, we by this present document incardinate and declare you incardinated in Our Diocese of Orange in California.

Given in Orange, California

on NOVEMBER 23, 1981

With our Seal and the co-signature  
of Our Chancellor.

  
Bishop of Orange, California

  
Chancellor

Seal

ADOM023348



*St. Michael's Priest Fund  
P.O. Box 2018  
Milwaukee, Wis. 53201*

July 21, 1978

Dear Father:

We hope that you will give the enclosed financial report of the St. Michael's Priest Fund for 1977-78 a few moments of your time. Altho much smaller than in previous years, we still realized a profit from our investments after expenses.

We never want the dollars and cents to obscure the more important issue of this report, - namely our priests. Since the Fund started in 1901, thousands of our brother-priests have been helped: the Fund will be there when YOU need it.

¶  
Upon the suggestion of the Personnel Board and strong recommendation of the Archbishop, the Directors voted to involve the Fund more in the financial end of the psychological rehabilitation of priest-members both at residential treatment centers or on an out-patient basis. With the prior approval of the Archbishop or ombudsman, the St. Michael's Fund will pay up to 80% of the unpaid balance after Blue Cross-Blue Shield has paid their part. The other 20% is the responsibility of the individual priest. Any other benefit follows the familiar B,C,D, classifications already in effect.

Supplementary aid to retired priests has been changed a little. Last fiscal year approximately \$4,800.00 was paid out to some 28 priests. Using the same formula as last year, 50% of the previous year's profit, we have only \$3,168.00 to work with this year. Therefore rather than sending out applications to all the retired priests, we simply ask that they write directly to the Board if they would like to receive the supplement. It will be small, but we never want to be lacking in our concern for those who have served so long and so well.

There is still a significant number of priests who are in arrears with regards their dues. Remember, this makes you ineligible for benefits. However, payments on past dues are recognized by the Board as a sign of good faith and usually prompts a positive response.

The Board members recognize that while times and needs change, our interest must always be the same, helping our brother-priests, - the purpose for which the Fund was established.

Happy summer

Sincerely in Christ,

The Board of Directors  
St. Michael's Priest Fund

ADOM023388

████████████████████  
CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGIST

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

████████████████████  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53211  
TELEPHONE ██████████  
AREA CODE 414

21 October 1976

Reverend John J. Waldbauer  
Executive Secretary  
Priests' Personnel Board  
6033 West Lloyd Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213

SUBJECT: Reverend Siegfried Widera

Reverend and Dear Father Waldbauer:

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 1976 regarding Father Widera. Thank you for stating in advance that you understand the delicate balance between professional confidentiality on the one hand, and the common good of both Father Widera and the people of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on the other. With this in mind, I would make the following observations:

- I. I, too, am aware of the rumors which relate to an alleged incident said to have occurred at St. Andrew's Parish in Delavan.
- II. Inasmuch as I was given permission by Father Widera to contact Father Donald Weber and inasmuch as Father Weber, in his role as ombudsman, operates in the external form, it would seem that, as the mathematicians say, quantities equal to the same quantities are equal to each other. In other words, it would seem to make little difference whether I relay information to you or Father Weber does. This belief is furthered by the fact that Father Widera has given me permission to discuss his future assignments within the Archdiocese with the Personnel Board.
- III. You are correct in assuming that Father left St. Andrew's Parish in Delavan for a much-needed vacation in California. It is again a matter of public record that his probation for a felony similar to the one alleged in Walworth County had but three weeks to expire under the sentence of a circuit court judge in Ozaukee County. In light of the intensity level of the rumors in Delavan, it seemed wise not to have Father Widera physically present in the community to serve as an on-going stimulus to the local gossipers.

ADOM023405



Rev. John Waldbauer  
RE: Rev. Widera

-2-

21 October 1976

IV. I had been in touch with Father Widera for the first two or three weeks that he had been in California, but I had not been for the last two or three weeks. I am also not in possession of any address at which he could be reached or telephone number where he could be called. This is because Father always called me collect in his contacts with me. I have no reason to suspect that he will not contact me again; on the other hand, I have no reason to suspect he will. I would guess that, inasmuch as Father is staying with his brother, Father Widera's own father would be able to give you an address or phone number where he could be reached.

V. I can fully sympathize with the problem facing the Personnel Board. If the allegations against Father were proven to be true, and with a previous history of conviction on a similar charge, Father Widera would be a very difficult priest to place in a parochial position within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This would be especially true since he has exhausted the geographic possibilities from the Dan of Fond du Lac to the Beersheba of Delavan. Consequently, it is readily apparent that Father would be a very difficult man to whom to give a parochial assignment.

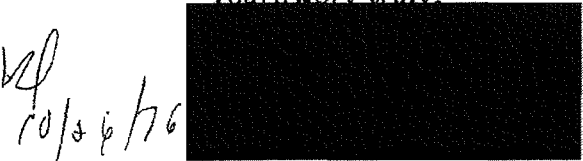
VI. I have suggested this much to Father, and it is a fact of life which he readily accepts. Father himself has mentioned the possibility of his staying on the West Coast in a non-sacerdotal occupation, at least for the time being.

VII. It would be my recommendation to Father Widera that his own mental health -- not to mention the corporate mental health of the Archdiocese -- would be better served if he were to choose not to attempt to pursue the active ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in the foreseeable future. This does not rule out such a possibility in years to come, nor does it rule out his attempting to find priestly work under the aegis of another diocese. It simply says that both he and the Diocese would be ill-advised to try to work out any type of assignment at this time which would not immediately be followed by the faithful of either Fond du Lac or Delavan to the new parish, where such information could only be deleterious to both Father and the pursuit of his priestly ministry, and to those people whose care he is charged with.

VIII. The problem with all of this is that I have lost touch with Father Widera. When last we talked, he was generally aware of my thinking, although not in the detail spelled out in this letter to you. While I have tried to walk the tightrope between the fora, I would appreciate your and the Board's treating my letter with the same confidentiality with which I submit it to you.

If there is any further help I can be to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

  
Consulting Psychologist

ADOM023406

October 8, 1976

Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

C Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

O Subsequent to a telephone conversation between yourself and Father Paul Esser, who is a member of the Priest Personnel Board, the contents were placed on the agenda of our most recent meeting. The matter relates to the dealings of the Personnel Board with Father Siegfried Widera. As you know, his present status is tenuous, and the Board will need to make some sort of a recommendation relating to his appointment at a future date.

P We are aware that Father Widera has been in consultation with you for the last number of years. It seems that rumors relating to an incident have forced his leaving St. Andrew Parish in Delavan under the guise of a taken vacation. We understand that he is presently in California and has been in communication with you. There has been no communication between Father Widera and the Personnel Board since his leaving Delavan.

Y Knowing how delicate this matter is, the Personnel Board has agreed to ask your consultation in our dealings with Father Widera in the future. Respecting your necessary professional confidentiality, we wonder if there is any information or suggestion that you might make that could assist the Board in its communication with him. Any response you are able to make could be most helpful and appreciated.

Your work and dedication with people who serve the Church of Milwaukee is a significant one. We pray for the Spirit to guide you in its continuation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend John J. Waldbauer,  
Executive Secretary  
Priests' Personnel Board

10/19/76  
JG

ADOM023408

We do ask that underneath all of what is stated, that you are assured of our interest in you. You are a generous and loving man, who has served as a priest for almost ten years. At the same time, there is something within you that you need to give adequate attention to, so that you can take away the suspicion and mistrust within yourself that forces you to run away. The Personnel Board is interested in being informed at the earliest possible time of your direction in all of this.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

C  
Reverend John J. Waldbauer,  
Executive Secretary  
Priests' Personnel Board

O

P

Y

May 27, 1975

The Reverend Siegfried F. Widera  
St. Andrew Parish

Delavan, Wisconsin 53115

Dear Father Widera:

Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board, regarding your assignment, I herewith appoint you Associate Pastor at St. Andrew Parish, Delavan, effective June 17, 1975. You will kindly continue to work with the Pastor, Father Eugene B. Henke.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings, I am

Faternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM023410

March 18, 1974

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

The Archdiocesan Priests' Personnel Board is in receipt of your letter dated March 2, 1974.

We Certainly do appreciate the very kind words you have to say about Father Sigfried Widera. The entire Board is most happy that Father Widera is doing so well at St. Andrew parish and your request that he should remain at St. Andrew will receive every consideration.

Thank you for your interest in the People of God in your parish.

Sincerely,

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

Rev. John J. Theisen  
Executive Secretary

JJT:pm1

ADOM023411

February 25, 1974

C  
O  
P  
Y  
  
Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

The Archdiocesan Priests' Personnel Board is in receipt of your letter dated February 20, 1974.

Your kind words concerning Father Sigfried Widera are most appreciated and will be brought to the attention of the entire Personnel Board at our next meeting.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and your interest in St. Andrew parish.

Sincerely,

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

Rev. John J. Theisen  
Executive Secretary

JJT:pml

ADOM023413

Feb 20 - 1974

Rev John Theisen  
Personal Board.

Dear Father Theisen

I am writing from St Andrews  
Church in Melaraw we have Fr. Widner  
helping us.

He is well liked & helps us  
keep him permanently his so good  
with the school children, he visits the  
sick and elderly and is so understanding  
that they all look for his visits.

He is so religious and preaches a  
very instructive sermon.

I hope you see fit to appoint him  
to St Andrews as we need some  
one like him for our Parish.

Sincerely,

PM  
LD - 2/26/74

February 19, 1974

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

The Archdiocesan Priests' Personnel Board is in receipt of your letter dated February 12, 1974.

We are most happy to hear that you are so pleased with Father Sig Widera. We are happy to hear that he is doing well in the school and shows so much interest in the children.

I assure you that your kind letter will be brought to the attention of the entire seven man Personnel Board at our next meeting.

Thank you again for the interest and kind words you have spoken in behalf of Father Widera.

Sincerely,

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

Rev. John J. Theisen  
Executive Secretary

JJT:pml

ADOM023417



[REDACTED]  
Feb. 28, 1974.

Rev. John Theisen,  
Personal Board -  
6033 Lloyd Street;  
Milwaukee, Wis.  
Dear Rev. Theisen:

This is to ask you if you will kindly consider allowing Fr. Sigfred Wedira, who is now at St. Andrew's Parish here at Delavan, to remain with us. He is one whom we all like, and the children are so happy with him. He is gentle, courteous and considerate and the children adore him.

We are all offering our prayers - that you will consent to allow him to remain among us.

Sincerely,

Mrs. [REDACTED]

psd 3/4/74 JME

Feb. 28 - 1974

Rev. John Theisen  
Personal Board -  
6033 Lloyd Street;  
Milwaukee, Wis 53213

Dear Rev. Theisen;

Every one here at St. Andrews Parish  
Thinks so much of Fr. Sigfred  
Wedisa. We are hoping you will  
allow him to stay here. The  
Children are very happy with him.  
We older people think it would  
be one of the most wonderful  
things that ever happened at  
St. Andrews. Thank you Father.

PME

JD 3/4/74

Sincerely

Miss

Feb 12, 1974

Dear Father Theisen,

I'm writing to tell you how pleased we are to have Fr. Sig. Widera here in St. Andrew's parish. He has endeared himself to all who have had contact with him.

The children in our school literally follow him around, he is so kind and shows so much interest in them.

It is really great having a priest in our parish who gives the kind of example Fr. Widera does and who relates to the youngsters.

I have also heard many fine remarks regarding Father's visits to the hospital. Well - I could go on and on - but I think you can see why we are so pleased with Fr. Widera being in our parish.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. [REDACTED]

n.j.k

# *St. Joseph High School of Kenosha, Inc.*

2401 Sixty-ninth Street  
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140  
Telephone (414) 654-8651

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REV. PAUL M. ESSER, M. Ed.  
EUGENE R. HAMMOND  
WILLIAM KUPFER  
REV. J. LOMASZ  
SR. AGNES MARIE  
G. THOMAS McTERNAN  
JACK RICE  
WM. G. SCHMITZ  
EUGENE W. SCHULTE  
FERD SERTO  
GENE F. SOENS

September 3, 1973

Conversation with Fr. Rolland Glass

From Paul Esser

Fr. Glass' comments on Fr. Siegfried Widera:

1. He was always in bed or sitting--literally. Not very ambitious.
2. He drank a lot. The police brought him home on at least one occasion in an intoxicated state. He would leave the bottles laying around his room.

He was a "loner." He had difficulty relating with adults. He had instant rapport with young boys and spent a lot of time with them.

4. His family seemed normal.. His father was a very strict German. His three brothers and sisters lost their German accent. Fr. Siegfried did not.
  5. He would do what he was directed to do, but no more. Would not really move in and take over with a job. He needs a programmed situation--possibly in education.
  6. He did not take care of his person. He smelled.
  7. A male grade school teacher saw Fr. Siegfried fooling around with the boys of another teacher. He said to father that if he fooled around in the same way with his students, he would punch Father in the face.
  8. Fr. Glass had reports for some time from within and without the parish that something was wrong.
  9. He coached the boys in basketball. He would be in the shower with the boys--all in the nude. When an adult male entered the shower, Fr. Siegfried covered himself with a towel.
  10. Fr. Siegfried took boys swimming at a motel in Milwaukee. Father knew the owner and could use the pool. This happened over a period of time.
  11. Parishioners came forward after the fact and indicated incidents they had noticed and warnings they had given their own children about not letting Father touch them.
- Fr. Glass' mother told Glass that Fr. Siegfried on at least one occasion had a boy ~~he~~ sleep with him overnight in the rectory.
13. Fr. Glass did confront Fr. Siegfried: "Circumstances are forcing me to draw certain conclusions about you and your conduct with little boys." Fr. Siegfried stopped seeing boys for a time but then went back to it.
  14. There was a pattern of contact with small boys.
  15. At the trial, the D.A.' office asked for the full five years in jail. The D.A. is a "good Catholic."

*PME*

ADOM023423

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

6033 West Lloyd Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213  
475-0150

August 14, 1973

Communication from Archbishop William E. Cousins to J. Theisen, Exec. Sec.  
of Priests' Personnel Board

Re: REV. SIEGFRIED F. WIDERA

Father Widera was arrested for, as the Milwaukee Sentinel stated it, sexual perversion with young boys. He appeared in the Ozaukee County Court yesterday, August 13, 1973 and was sentenced to three years probation. The Judge, who imposed the sentence, also ordered that Father Widera may not return to the Port Washington area.

Father Widera is presently seeing Dr. [REDACTED] twice a week.

ADOM023424

FROM: [REDACTED]  
DATE: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 03:05:11 GMT  
TO: Information <information@archmil.org>  
SUBJECT: Question

Question from the Ask Us: Ask A Question page:

Name:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Question:

I heard the Arch Bishop state that there is no higher percentage of pedophiles in the catholic clergy than in the general population. I thought about that, and I realized that I have met thousands of people during my youth, but the one time that I felt truly frightened was that time in the car of a priest, I was sexually groped by a very popular priest in the Delavan area. His name is/was Father Widera. I've always thought how odd it is that a man that was so popular in this town was someone that I hated and the fact that somehow it needed to be secretive is grossly unfair. There may not be any higher percentage of pedophiles in the catholic clergy than in the general population, but for me the percentage in the catholic clergy is much more than I ever hoped to have to consider.

# LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

██████████ (hereafter ██████████) has made an allegation that he was sexually abused as a minor by Siegfried Widera. ██████████ agrees to present this matter to the independent mediation system as soon as it is accessible. In the interim, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (hereafter Archdiocese) will provide ██████████ with a fund consisting of \$5000 to be used for sustenance. The establishment of this fund does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of the Archdiocese nor does it establish any contractual relationship between ██████████ and the Archdiocese. These funds are being provided entirely at the discretion of the Archdiocese out of pastoral concern for the well being of ██████████

██  
██████████  
Date

Barbara Anne Cusack 4-8-04  
For the Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
Barbara Anne Cusack Date