

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 27, 2003

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

Your Eminence:

In accord with the norms of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, I am submitting for your consideration the case of a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Reverend Franklyn Becker has been accused of multiple acts of sexual abuse of minors. The summary of these allegations is enclosed. Father Becker has admitted that a number of these acts of sexual assault occurred.

Over the years, efforts were made to provide spiritual and psychological interventions that would rehabilitate Father Becker. None of these efforts have been successful as he reoffended after each intervention, often while still in therapy. Father Becker was diagnosed as an impulsive pedophile in 1983. At that time, it was thought that a non-parochial assignment might be possible. A further psychological assessment was undertaken in 1996, after an additional accusation of past behavior came forward. In that evaluation it was advised that the potential for future reoccurrence of past behavior existed. Even while in ongoing therapy, he was known to have obtained child pornography. With our current understanding of the nature of his condition, it is clear that he will never be able to assume any public ministry.

As we have reviewed the various files, it is clear that he consistently abused his office both to gain access to vulnerable boys and to elicit the trust of their parents. Both in his parochial assignments and in his temporary functioning as a cruise chaplain, he found opportunities to abuse his office in a flagrant and repetitive fashion.

The impact on his various victims has been significant. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is paying ongoing therapy costs for several of them and has done so for a number of years. Our new found awareness of the severity of damage caused by sexual abuse at the hands of clergy makes it impossible for us to ignore this situation.

AMIL00811

Ex 341

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

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On May 10, 2003, Father Becker was arrested for sexual assault. The alleged offense took place in California in the 1970's but, because he left the jurisdiction of the state, it remains an offense that can be prosecuted. He will be extradited from Wisconsin to California for trial. The public display that will now take place in the criminal trial in California, to say nothing of the civil suits that could arise there, makes the potential for true scandal very real. The media reports on this case have already begun.

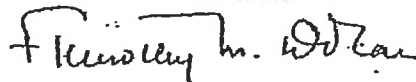
Given the nature and frequency of the alleged and admitted sexual abuse, along with the serious abuse of office, I have pondered long and hard to arrive at an opinion about the most appropriate action to be taken. In order that justice may be made manifest and healing of the victims and the Church may proceed, I am asking that Reverend Franklyn W. Becker be dismissed *ex officio* from the clerical state. Whatever financial needs he may have can be provided for from a special fund we will set up until such time as he is able to draw from the pension fund. Since it is conceivable that he will be spending some time in prison, he may be eligible for this pension by the time of his release.

If the judgement of Your Eminence is that this case should proceed to a dismissal by decree of your Congregation, I would cede to that judgement. Furthermore, if it is your judgement that this case should proceed through a canonical penal process, I humbly request a dispensation from prescription as well as a sanation of any procedural errors that may have occurred during the years this case was under investigation. The severity of the offenses is such that it is my opinion that these requests are justified.

I look forward to your further instructions in this matter.

With sentiments of deepest esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

AMIL00812

NAME: Franklyn William Becker

AGE: 65

ADDRESS: 1735 Dayton Street Apt #3  
Mayville, Wisconsin 53050

ASSIGNMENT HISTORY: Presbyteral Orders - May 30, 1964

Curate - Holy Assumption Parish (West Allis, WI) - July 1, 1964

Associate Pastor - St. John de Nepomuc Parish (Milwaukee) - September 9, 1968

Associate Pastor - Holy Family Parish (Whitefish Bay, WI) - February 25, 1972

Associate Pastor - St. William Parish (Waukesha, WI) - June 18, 1974

Campus Minister - Marshall University (Wheeling-Charleston Diocese) - January 16, 1975

Campus Minister - St. Louis University (Archdiocese of St. Louis) - August 1, 1976

Awaiting Assignment - October 3, 1976

Permission to accept assignment in Diocese of San Diego - May 27, 1977

Associate Pastor - St. Brigid Parish (Diocese of San Diego) - June 24, 1977

Return to Milwaukee - March 1979

Associate Pastor - St. Margaret Mary Parish (Milwaukee) - August 1, 1979

Administrator - St. Joseph Parish (Lyons, WI) - July 1, 1980

Associate Pastor - St. Eugene Parish (Fox Point, WI) - August 12, 1980

Associate Pastor - St. John Parish (South Milwaukee, WI) - December 9, 1980

Sick Leave - January 25, 1983

Clinical Pastoral Education - St. Joseph Hospital (Milwaukee) - September 1, 1983

Awaiting Assignment - January 1, 1984

Chaplain - West Allis Memorial Hospital (West Allis, WI) - November 6, 1984

Awaiting Assignment - October 1, 1990

Unassigned with restricted ministry - July 1, 1993

Restricted from all public ministry - April 2002

DECREES ISSUED:

April 10, 2002 - Precept issued with the following restrictions:

- 1) To refrain from all contact with minors, vulnerable adults, and other persons or categories of persons who have proven to be occasions of temptation in the area of sexual morality;
- 2) To cease until further notice all public ministry including the celebration of Eucharist; Eucharist may be celebrated in a private setting alone or with only another priest or priests in attendance; the celebration of any other sacraments will require explicit permission of a local ordinary in each case;
- 3) To avoid all places and situations that, from past experience, have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality;
- 4) To cease any and all activities and relationships that may be described under the broad category of pastoral counseling;
- 5) Until further notice the faculty to hear confession is revoked.

July 22, 2003 - Above noted precept was reissued as being in effect for an indefinite period of time.

AMIL00813

**INVESTIGATION PROCESS:**

September 1, 1995 a three-person team of psychological and criminal experts was established to explore allegations that had arisen. The accused was informed of his canonical rights and signed a document on November 15, 1995, attesting to the fact that he was informed of his rights and understood them. In the interviews with this investigative team, the accused admitted not only some of the alleged incidents but also factually described and admitted to multiple others. These admissions were supported by various letters and entries in his personnel file.

**CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLEGED DELICT(S):**

**DATE OF ACCUSATION:** February 1980 (Letter of admission by Franklyn Becker)

**DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S):** May 1979

**NAMES OF INJURED PARTY:** [REDACTED]

**PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM:** [REDACTED]

**GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM:** [REDACTED]

**NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:**

**KIND:** Attempted rape; genital contact

**NUMBER:** 1

**SURROUNDING EVENTS:** Franklyn Becker served as associate pastor and was able to use his office to gain access to the alleged victim's trust.

**DATE OF ACCUSATION:** January 1, 1981

**DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S):** Fall 1980

**NAMES OF INJURED PARTY:** Unnamed at this time

**PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM:** [REDACTED]

**GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM:** [REDACTED]

**NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:**

**KIND:** Improper touching

**NUMBER:** Two

**SURROUNDING EVENTS:** Franklyn Becker served as associate pastor and was able to use his office to gain access to the alleged victim's trust; the parents who brought the allegation stated that they had been pleased that a priest took an interest in their son

**DATE OF ACCUSATION:** August 17, 1982 (Reported by boy's priest uncle)

**DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S):** 1982

**NAMES OF INJURED PARTY:** [REDACTED]

**PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM:** [REDACTED]

**GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM:** [REDACTED]

**NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:**

**KIND:** Unclear at this time

**NUMBER:** Unclear at this time

**SURROUNDING EVENTS:** Franklyn Becker was associate pastor at the alleged victim's parish

DATE OF ACCUSATION: December 1, 1982

DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S): November 1982

NAMES OF INJURED PARTY: [REDACTED]

PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:

KIND: Unclear at this time

NUMBER: Unclear at this time

SURROUNDING EVENTS: Franklyn Becker was associate pastor at the alleged victim's parish; parents were proud that their son was chosen to serve as an altar boy on a cruise where their priest was going to be the chaplain and so they gave permission

DATE OF ACCUSATION: December 20, 1994

DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S): 1970

NAMES OF INJURED PARTY: [REDACTED]

PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:

KIND: Genital contact; attempted rape

NUMBER: 3

SURROUNDING EVENTS: Franklyn Becker was associate pastor at the alleged victim's parish and the alleged victim served as an altar boy for him

DATE OF ACCUSATION: May 16, 2002

DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S): 1966-1967

NAMES OF INJURED PARTY: [REDACTED]

PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:

KIND: Unclear at this time

NUMBER: Unclear at this time

SURROUNDING EVENTS: Franklyn Becker was associate pastor at the alleged victim's parish and the alleged victim served as an altar boy for him

AMIL00815

DATE OF ACCUSATION: June 17, 2002

DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S): 1966-1969

NAMES OF INJURED PARTY: [REDACTED]

PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:

KIND: oral sex; taking lewd photographs of the boy

NUMBER: 3

SURROUNDING EVENTS: Franklyn Becker was associate pastor at the alleged victim's parish and took him on a cruise to serve as an altar boy

DATE OF ACCUSATION: July 1, 2002

DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S): 1977-1979

NAMES OF INJURED PARTY: [REDACTED]

PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM: [REDACTED]

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:

KIND: Taken to watch homosexual male adults engage in group sex; genital fondling; nudity

NUMBER: 5

SURROUNDING EVENTS: Franklyn Becker was associate pastor at the alleged victim's parish; informed him that he was assisting him in forming his sexual identity; alleged victim worked part time at the parish

DATE OF ACCUSATION: December 4, 2002

DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S): 1982

NAMES OF INJURED PARTY: Chuck Limaman

PRESENT AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIM: 35

GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIM: Male

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE:

KIND: Genital fondling; oral sex; lewd photographs of boy

NUMBER: 1

SURROUNDING EVENTS: Franklyn Becker had been administrator at the family parish and took an interest in the boy; maintained contact when at another assignment; took the boy for an overnight stay at the new assignment when the incident occurred; made boy serve Mass for him the next day

AMIL00816

**CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLEGED PERPETRATOR:**

**CURRENT RISK:** Because Franklyn Becker is currently under criminal indictment, there is little risk that he will make contact with a potential victim at this time. However, the risk of serious scandal is extremely high.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION:** Franklyn Becker underwent several psychological evaluations and released their findings to his ecclesiastical superiors. The results of these evaluations are as follows:

1983 assessment - Psychology Associates, Wausau, WI (Signed current release on file, copy attached) - Evaluation conducted by a multi-disciplinary team of a spiritual director, medical doctor, psychiatric social worker, psychiatrist, and psychologist. - Psychiatric finding was Pedophilia.

1997 psychological assessment - Phoenix Clinic, Wauwatosa, WI (Signed current release on file, copy attached) - Evaluation conducted by a clinical psychologist - Conclusion - Compulsive behaviors and potential for future inappropriate sexual behavior

**CIVIL AUTHORITY'S ACTION:** Franklyn Becker was arrested on May 9, 2003 in Mayville, Wisconsin. He is being extradited to California where he will stand trial for at least two counts of criminal sexual assault.

**CURRENT STATUS:** Franklyn Becker has been without a ministerial assignment since 1990. He was permitted to provide weekend assistance at parishes under the supervision of the pastor. He was also monitored by archdiocesan officials. He was indefinitely restricted from all ministry in July 2002.

**RESIDENCE:** Private residence in Mayville, Wisconsin prior to arrest. Unclear where he will reside after extradition to California.

**SUSTENANCE:** Since being unassigned, he has received monthly support from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Currently that support is in the amount of \$25,633 annually with an additional housing allowance of \$9,355. He has been maintained on the archdiocesan health, medical and dental insurance as well. Since contributions to the priests' pension fund have continued, he will be eligible for pension funding when he turns 68.

AMIL00817

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
CHANCERY

May 31, 2003

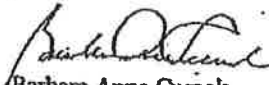
Most Reverend Gabriel Montalvo  
Apostolic Nunciature  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3687

Your Excellency:

Archbishop Dolan has asked that I send you the enclosed correspondence to Cardinal Ratzinger for transmission by diplomatic pouch to the proper authorities. The matter addressed in this correspondence pertains to transmittal of the results of a preliminary investigation in accord with the norms of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter. A token of appreciation for your kindness will follow.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Barbara Anne Cusack  
Chancellor

Enclosures

AMIL00810

Ex 344





CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

20 October 2003

348/03 - 17919

PROT. N.

(In response for motio laici sacerdoti)

CONFIDENTIAL


Your Excellency,

This Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has received the documentation in the case of the Reverend Franklyn William BECKER, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, who has been accused of multiple acts of sexual abuse of minors, and for whom Your Excellency is requesting the dismissal from the clerical state *ex officio et in poenam*.

After a careful study of the case, it is quite obvious that the nature and gravity of his past offences and the good of the Church would require a more cogent sign of penance from Fr. Becker. It is therefore the mind of this Congregation to ask Your Excellency kindly to enquire whether the said priest is willing to ask for laicisation, voluntarily seeking to be allowed to withdraw from the clerical state, as a sign of his heartfelt contrition. If Fr. Becker were to refuse this invitation, then it is the intention of this Congregation to submit his case directly to the Holy Father for a *dimissio ex officio e statu clericali una cum dispensatione ab omnibus oneribus sacerdotalibus*.

I take this occasion to express my sentiments of respect and esteem. I remain,

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

  
\* Angelo Amato, SDB  
Titular Archbishop of Sila  
Secretary

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend Timothy M. DOLAN  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
Office of the Bishop  
3501 South Lake Drive, P.O. Box 070912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912, USA.

AMIL00807

EX 347



December 1, 2003

Most Reverend Gabriel Montalvo  
Apostolic Nunciature  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3687

Your Excellency:

Archbishop Dolan has asked that I send you the enclosed correspondence to Archbishop Amato for transmission by diplomatic pouch. The matter addressed in this correspondence pertains to the Congregation's request for follow-up information on materials previously sent to the Congregation.

Once again, we are grateful to you for your kindness.

With every best wish for you and your ministry of service, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Barbara Anne Cusack  
Chancellor

Enclosures

AMIL00808

EX 349



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 21559

*This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer*

December 6, 2003

Personal and Confidential

Dear Ms. Cusack:

I write to acknowledge your letter of December 1, 2003, with its enclosure addressed to His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, regarding the case of The Reverend Franklyn William Becker (Congregation's Prot. N. 348/03-17919).

Please be assured that the above-referenced correspondence will be duly transmitted to Cardinal Ratzinger.

With prayerful and cordial best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo  
Apostolic Nuncio

Ms. Barbara Anne Cusack  
Chancellor  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
3501 South Lake Drive  
Post Office Box 070912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

AMIL00809

Ex 350