

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
DEPARTMENT FOR CLERGY

January 13, 2006

Reverend Thomas Biersack  
St. Mary Parish  
PO Box 22  
Mayville, WI 53050

Dear Tom,

As you were previously informed by Archbishop Dolan, Franklyn Becker has been dismissed from the clerical state and can no longer exercise any ministry, public or private. These are always difficult cases and are not attended to lightly. It is only after extensive discussion, and in the most serious cases, that this action is taken.

Franklyn resides in a geographical locale that is reasonably near you, so I wanted to reiterate to you his status. Because of the laicization, we no longer have any authority to monitor him and his actions. Local civil officials have been notified of his presence in the community as well. If you receive any information that he is presenting himself as a priest or doing anything that would appear to be "ministry" or that there are questions about his behavior, please advise me immediately so that I may make the necessary report to local civil officials. If you feel that you need to notify the civil officials for some reason, you are free and encouraged to do so.

Let us continue to support one another in prayer. I pray daily for you and for all our brother priests, those that struggle as well as those who go quietly about the work in the Lord's vineyard.

Thank you for the good work you do.

In the Lord Jesus,



Very Reverend Curt Frederick  
Vicar for Clergy

# CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED

Mail to all registered households  
Mail date: week of November 12  
Deadline for final approval: October 31

**DRAFT**

Masthead: To Be Determined

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Dolan

Headline: TBD

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you are painfully aware, during the past <sup>five</sup> years, there has been a lot of news regarding the sexual abuse of minors by priests -- both in this archdiocese and across the nation. <sup>much</sup>

Since my arrival, <sup>as your archbishop</sup> I have promised to try my best to be open and candid with you, the faithful Catholics of the Church in southeastern Wisconsin. Part of that openness has been my commitment to share news with you -- even when it's bad.

For example, you'll remember in summer of 2006, I told you about lawsuits facing the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for sexual abuse cases involving former priest, <sup>and Franklyn Becker</sup> Siegfried Widera, and the pending financial consequences of those lawsuits. Those ten cases in California were settled in a multi-million dollar agreement, all of which I made public.

In July of this year, the Wisconsin Supreme Court handed down a decision directing that cases alleging sexual abuse <sup>fraud by the Archd. about</sup> against two offending priests of the archdiocese could proceed, even though the events were 20-to-40-years old.

Those cases have now been returned to the trial judges to go forward through normal court procedures. In addition, since July 2007, two other cases have been

brought against the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, alleging sexual abuse in Wisconsin by a different priest, ~~named~~ Bruce MacArthur. MacArthur was not a priest of our Archdiocese of Milwaukee, but did serve here for several years.

During the next months, the records of the three offenders will be part of the court proceedings. Thus, I am sending you this newsletter to let you know of the information that will be forthcoming. As you have often told me: "Archbishop, when there is bad news coming, we'd prefer to hear it from you." Well, as you will see, this news is nauseating.

There are three priests accused of wrongdoing. None of these three accused individuals are serving as priests within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, nor have they done so for many years.

The accused are Siegfried Widera, Bruce MacArthur and Franklyn Becker. Widera is dead; MacArthur is under the direction of the Diocese of Sioux Falls and residing in a controlled nursing home; and Becker, who lives in Dodge County, was laicized in 2004 ~~and is no longer a priest~~. Information about all three men is included in this newsletter.

However, I want to talk specifically about the case involving Franklyn Becker. As I said, Becker was laicized in 2004. Although there could be various explanations for all the decisions that were made or not made, at the end of the day, you will see, I have to admit, a particularly ugly example of how the Church made dreadful mistakes in its handling of these cases. The information about this ex-priest is sickening.

Some might argue that since both doctors and civil officials made the same mistakes by recommending reassignments, transfers or "fresh starts," that the Church should not be held accountable for the decisions made 20 or 30 years ago. Some would say that the Church was simply following the "praxis" of the time, considering the circumstances, the body of knowledge then available to us, and the recommendations that were presented, suggesting offenders could be moved and reassigned.

This might all be true, but I need to say that our faith tells us that our Church must acknowledge that poor decisions were made, regardless of how these decisions were reached. And, the decisions about Becker were bad.

So what do we do next? Do we hide under the bed while the scab of this mess is once again picked open? No! The good work of Jesus Christ and His Church continues, despite this mess and despite any of us. The mistakes of the past do

I don't know if this is the best eugenism. 2

not change the needs of our people today, the needs of today's community, or the needs of our world.

Nor, let me remind you, do these things diminish the good work that has been done over the past five-plus years as we have ardently worked with victims/survivors and the wider community to bring healing and resolution. Nothing changes our commitment to continue to work together to ensure that we do everything in our power to protect our children and young people.

In the past, people <sup>could</sup> point and say the Catholic Church is a shining example of what NOT to do, as some of this data will show. Now, however, even outside, objective observers say the Catholic Church is an example of what TO do.

That is why we insist upon safe environment programs in all of our parishes and schools. That's why all staff and volunteers who work with children <sup>and youth</sup> take safe environment training as a way of recognizing the signs of abuse. That's why we have a full-time victims-assistance coordinator to work with victims/survivors, and I meet regularly with a community advisory board made <sup>participate in</sup> up of survivors, advocates and experts in the area of sexual abuse. That's why now, no one who has ever abused a minor can ever serve as a priest again. It's also why I directed the names of offending priests to be published on our archdiocesan website back in 200x.<sup>4</sup>

Some of you might ask, "why?" "Why are you telling us this; why can't you just let this be over and move on?" Part of me would like nothing more, but, I know, that this crisis will never be over. Practically, too, I know that you are better hearing this news from me, all at once.

So that's <sup>give</sup> why I share it with you now. May I ask that you please pray for people who have <sup>been</sup> victims/survivors of sexual abuse, especially for those whose abuse came <sup>about by</sup> at the hands of clergy?

May I also ask that you pray for our Church, especially our Church in southeastern Wisconsin, that the Holy Spirit continue to guide us and give us strength to get through this, and that His Church be cleansed, purified and renewed by the agony of this scandal, sin and suffering.

Faithfully in Christ,

+TMD

Front page sidebar: boxed  
Headline: Reporting Sexual Abuse

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual abuse, it is important that you come forward so you can receive assistance.

The Church has a mission to help the victims and survivors of sexual abuse. Sexual abuse is always wrong and not the fault of the individual who has been abused.

Reports can be made to the Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Services Office at ~~(414) 769-3436~~ 414-758-2232 or to the Healing Center - - - - (866) 302-9215

*www.archmil.org  
Community Contacts*

A list of agencies in the 10 counties of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee offering free services to victims/survivors of sexual abuse is available at <http://www.archmil.org/aboutus/ShowResource.asp?ID=1270>. Also available at this link is a card listing all agencies, which can be printed and distributed.

Lawsuit summary  
Headline: TBD

*2002 There has been much written about Siegfried Widera over the last year or so several in Calif & W/Sr.*

**Siegfried Widera.** Little needs to be added about Siegfried Widera. He was the priest who died in 200x while on the run in Mexico after being criminally indicted on multiple counts of child sexual abuse. He last served as a priest in the Diocese of Orange, California, and both the Diocese of Orange and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee settled lawsuits in 2006 with nine California victims because of the harm he caused. The lawsuits were settled for \$16.65 million, with more than half of the amount paid by archdiocesan insurance companies, to the nine California victims, as well as one California victim of Franklyn Becker. All files of the archdiocese involving Siegfried Widera were disclosed and provided to the attorneys representing victims as part of the suit.

**Bruce MacArthur.** MacArthur was ordained in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and served there both before and after serving in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. His years in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee were limited, from 19x to 19x, and, during that time (no incidents or of abuse were reported) However, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee was named in a lawsuit in South Dakota several years ago as a result of abuse that Bruce MacArthur committed when he served as a

*1965 1970*

*there is no record of reports of abuse*

chaplain for a hospital in the Beaver Dam, Wis., area. In that lawsuit, MacArthur admitted his abuse.

The earlier case involving MacArthur was brought in South Dakota and was settled, jointly with the Diocese of Sioux Falls, in 200X. All files of the archdiocese involving Bruce MacArthur were provided to the attorneys representing ~~victims~~ <sup>the plaintiffs</sup> as part of that lawsuit.

Since the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in July of this year, <sup>that</sup> allowing ~~ed~~ decades-old allegations to proceed under a fraud claim, ~~three~~ <sup>the</sup> additional persons have sued the archdiocese and the Diocese of Sioux Falls, alleging abuse by MacArthur.

I think it is two

Sidebar: Becker Assignments (boxed)

Headline: Pastoral Assignments of Franklyn Becker

Franklyn W. Becker

Year of Ordination - 1964

Pastoral work and assignments

Holy Assumption Parish, West Allis (1964-1968)

St. John de Nepomuc Parish, Milwaukee (1968-1972)

Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay (1972-1974)

St. William Parish, Waukesha (1974)

Campus ministry at Marshall University in Wheeling, West Virginia (1974-1975)

Campus minister at St. Louis University (1976)

St. Brigid Parish, San Diego, California (1977-1979)

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Milwaukee (1979-1980)

St. Joseph Parish, Lyons (1980)

St. Eugene Parish, Fox Point (1980)

St. John Parish, South Milwaukee (1980)

St. Joseph Hospital, Milwaukee (1983)

West Allis Memorial Hospital (1984-1991)

elsewhere says 2004?

**Franklyn Becker.** Franklyn Becker attended Saint Francis de Sales Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop William E. Cousins in 1964. He was laicized in ~~2003~~ and is no longer a priest. His laicization was ~~ordered~~ <sup>issued</sup> by the Holy See upon the request of Archbishop Dolan.

Although the archdiocese had earlier been sued in one case in California for the actions of Franklyn Becker, that case was resolved, along with the nine California lawsuits involving Siegfried Widera. Franklyn Becker's records were

not yet processed in the lawsuit by the time that suit was settled. But as the current Wisconsin lawsuits now go forward, Becker's records will be processed and delivered to the plaintiffs' lawyers. Those documents will show the following:

- Fall 1970: The first report of trouble came to the archdiocese in fall of 1970, when a telephone report was made about a problem between a parishioner's son and Becker. <sup>There is</sup> No ~~known~~ follow up ~~was done~~. <sub>on record.</sub>
- November 1974: Pastor complains that Becker does no work at St. William Parish.
- August to October 1976: Becker accepts position as <sup>two</sup> campus minister at St. Louis University. Becker was forced to resign after 2 months. The University advises the archdiocese that part of the reason for the forced resignation was Becker's relationship to homosexuals and his encouragement of practicing homosexuals to attend services at the University. Also noted is that Becker is "difficult to work with."
- 1977: Archbishop Cousins releases Becker to work outside the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Becker works in the Diocese of San Diego.
- 1978: Becker advises <sup>then</sup> ~~now~~-Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland of his decision to return to Milwaukee. Bishop of San Diego tells Archbishop Weakland that Becker was relieved of his duties and believes Becker "has psychological problems he must solve."
- 1979: Becker is assigned to St. Margaret Mary Parish, Milwaukee.
- February 1980: Two parishioners are aware <sup>who</sup> of an "unfortunate incident" with a boy. This is reported to \_\_\_ (vicar??) \_\_\_. After meeting with \_\_\_ (vicar??) \_\_\_, Becker promises treatment and ~~not to do it~~ <sub>to discourage behavior</sub> again. He requests transfer from the parish (St. Margaret Mary).
- February 1980: A few days later, Becker writes to Archbishop Weakland apologizing for becoming involved with a boy, but blames the boy for sharing the incident and says he has been "cast in a bad light" and "the decision that he leave the parish (St. Margaret Mary) seems to be a prudent one." Becker's letter also states: "With my orientation, the frequent presence of teenage boys in the house (rectory) at night was tantalizing to say the least."

- February 1980: Recommendation by <sup>the</sup> archdiocese that Becker consult with psychologist, which he does. After five sessions, Becker reports that no further counseling is needed and requests to stay at St. Margaret Mary.
- February 1980: Members of St. Margaret Mary Parish, aware of an incident of an inappropriate act with a teenage boy, ask for leniency and understanding, and requests Becker be allowed to stay in the parish.
- June 1980: Becker appointed temporary administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Lyons.
- August to October 1980: Becker <sup>name</sup> requests assignment at St. Eugene, <sup>Parish</sup> Fox Point. Pastor objects. Vicar for Clergy assures pastor that Becker is willing to settle down and "needs one more chance." Vicar also acknowledges that it is time to tell Becker that no priest wants to work with him.
- October 1980: Becker writes Archbishop Weakland complimenting the Archbishop's (Catholic Herald) column on homosexuality and the Church. Becker brings up his desire to return to California and whether there may be a "benevolent bishop" in California where he might serve.
- December 1980: Personnel Board recommends six-year assignment to St. John Parish, South Milwaukee.
- January 1981: Pastor (Heffron?) <sup>name</sup> informs Vicar <sup>inappropriately</sup> of incident with Becker and a young boy who Becker touched improperly during a swimming session. Becker denies events. Pastor does not tell parents of Becker's prior history. Parents believe Becker and apologize to him for accusing him of this.
- March 1981: <sup>from who?</sup> letter to Vicar (Fr. Janicki) tells of Becker "pursuing" boy and his friend because they have "common interests." Also talks of Becker's "living the good life."
- June to August 1982: Review by Personnel Board. Becker says he prefers working in a parish or with high school and college-age young people. Becker writes Personnel Board requesting campus ministry assignment and complains about not receiving one in the past. Complains about two other priests being possible candidates when those priests are equally "not above reproach."



- December 1982: Pastor (<sup>Heffron</sup>Heffernan?) reports to Vicar that Becker took a minor on a Caribbean cruise. Boy's mother supports Becker. Vicar confronts Becker. Becker admits using "bad judgment," but denies any physical contact with boy. Becker ordered to see doctor for immediate therapy. <sup>name</sup> <sub>psychologist?</sub>
- December 1982: New pastor of St. <sup>John</sup> does not want to work with Becker. Becker removed from St. John's and ordered to be sent for a holistic evaluation.
- January 1983: Friend writes vicar on Becker's behalf. Friend "aware of his problems, including those with young boys..."
- February 1983: Psychology report sent to archdiocese reports Becker with pedophilia. "Possibility of sexual acting out with male minor children is high." Report recommends Becker's reassignment preclude involvement with youths. <sup>diagnosed</sup>
- March 1983: Vicar consults with Milwaukee County District Attorney's office without using names. District Attorney advises that any such priest given adequate warnings should not be assigned where he could come in contact with youngsters. Advises to restrict from ministry for five years and if no other complaints are received, then, perhaps, give him another chance.
- March 1983: Becker's friend writes again reporting that, contrary to earlier belief, Becker has continued involvement with the boy (from the cruise).
- April 1983: After Becker writes Archbishop Weakland about future assignment, Archbishop Weakland refers him to the Priest Personnel Board saying he does not want to become too much involved at this point with Becker's assignments.
- May 1983: Mother of boy Becker took on cruise sends letter declaring nothing happened and defending Becker.
- May 1983: Another doctor advises archdiocese that Becker is ego-centric, a homosexual, and a pedophile, and has no mechanism to stop once he develops the urge to act out. Doctor says parish ministry is "out of the question" and recommends an all-girl college or high school, or a geriatric nursing home or hospital setting.

- August 1983: Becker assigned to St. Joseph Hospital. Weakland cautions Becker in assignment letter about the possibility of permanent removal from ministry. *Milwaukee*
- Fall 1983: Becker complains about hospital work, saying he does not wish to continue, that it is causing him stress, and he is not suited to the work. Requests to be placed on sick leave. Request is granted in November 1983.
- March 1984: After learning from <sup>?</sup> the Director of Pastoral Care at the VA Center that Becker would not be accepted as chaplain because of his background and past history, Vicar calls asking why the director would not give a person, who was trying to start over, a chance.
- June 1984: Another doctor, a (clinical psychologist? \_\_\_\_\_), recommends to archdiocese that Becker could serve as associate pastor, under the proper conditions, but Vicar informs doctor that parish ministry is not possible.
- October 1984: Becker appointed as Chaplain at West Allis Memorial Hospital. Term is six years. Member of Personnel Board, (Fr. Paul Esser), expresses concern but is assured by Vicar that Becker is getting treatment.
- April 1985: Archdiocese becomes aware that Becker served as Confirmation sponsor for young man being confirmed.
- June 1985: Because West Allis Memorial Hospital wants all <sup>not</sup> its chaplains to be certified, Becker requests letter of recommendation from Archbishop Weakland. Archbishop Weakland writes to National Association of Catholic Chaplains supporting Becker's certification and stating that Becker "is a priest in good standing..."
- July 1990: Complaint received by Vicar about Becker's insensitive pastoral care to her son (at hospital) and alleges Becker was riding through the family's neighborhood. Mother is concerned that Becker is calling her son.
- September 1990: Becker's term as chaplain at West Allis Memorial Hospital is renewed for an additional 6 years.
- August 1991: The parishes served by West Allis Memorial Hospital decide to replace Becker as chaplain.

- August 1992: Bishop Sklba give <sup>5</sup> approval for Becker to provide weekend "help out" at St. Mary Parish in Cascade.
- September 1992: Member of St. Mary's <sup>Sp</sup> parish, Cascade, request Personnel Board to allow Becker to remain at parish.
- December 1992: Becker begins working temporarily at St. Mary's <sup>Sp</sup> Parish, Cascade.
- July 1993: Becker unassigned with <sup>and</sup> restricted <sup>from</sup> ministry.
- January 1994: Becker wants to serve as temporary chaplain on a cruise, but needs a certificate of good standing from archdiocese. Archbishop Weakland is consulted because of Becker's restricted ministry. Certificate is issued.
- December 1994: Individual who sent letters in early 1983 as Becker's "friend," now notifies Archbishop Weakland that her own children were abused by Becker in the 1970s.
- February 1996: Becker sent for evaluation to the St. Louis Consultation Center. Report issued states that in absence of intervention, it is likely that patterns of problematic sexual acting out by Becker will <sup>re-occur</sup> recur. Treatment should be considered in a long-term residential facility specializing in treatment of sexual disorders.
- March 1996: Becker is referred to the Phoenix Clinic for treatment. An assessment report is issued in January 1997. <sup>where?</sup>
- April 1996: Becker requests permission to serve as chaplain on a cruise. No notation whether permission is granted.
- June 1996: Vicar for Clergy assigns a ~~Deacon~~ with professional law enforcement experience to check on Becker on regular basis.
- July 1996: Psychologist treating Becker advises archdiocese that Becker remains at risk to act out and questions whether he could be allowed on cruises. Archdiocesan staff (Piasecki) questions whether the treatment should shift to counseling Becker out of priesthood. Archbishop Weakland agrees that would be the best approach.
- November 1996: Becker writes Archbishop Weakland that "my greatest desire is for reconciliation with you and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee."

- January 1997: Phoenix Clinic advises archdiocese that without Becker in treatment, he remains a potential risk to act out against children.
- January 1997: Vicar <sup>informs</sup> Becker that he will have someone regularly check in on Becker to ensure Becker is maintaining his therapy and adhering to ministry restrictions.
- April 1997: New doctor treating Becker advises archdiocese that Becker is not cooperative and is, in fact, not treatable.
- July 1997: Becker continues to "help out" at parishes on an "as needed" basis.
- August 1999: Vicar reviews ministry restrictions with Becker, including approval for parish "help out" work, but restrictions against any other ministry, prohibiting contact with minors, and continuing therapy.
- January 2002: Becker requests approval to retain help out position at the Tri-Parishes <sup>in (or name parishes)</sup> of Rubicon, Neosho and Woodland. Vicar reminds Becker he is not eligible for assignment, but is permitted to help out on weekends.
- April 2002: Becker restricted from all public ministry, including weekend help out.
- April 2002: Archbishop Weakland issues a Church order (precept) against Becker, which states Becker is to cease all public ministry, all pastoral counseling, may not hear confessions, must not contact any minors or vulnerable adults, to avoid places that have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality.
- April 2002: The Archdiocese of Milwaukee receives word from the Diocese of San Diego that a <sup>n</sup> individual in California contacted them about Franklyn Becker and wants to be assured others are not at risk.
- May 2002: Becker is arrested for <sup>assault</sup> ~~childhood~~ sexual abuse <sup>of a minor</sup>.
- July 2002: Becker is advised that his name will be published by the archdiocese, along with five other priests who were not fully restricted from ministry because of sexual abuse allegations. } are being removed

active

three

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memo

then

?

- August 2002: The existing prohibitions against Becker are made permanent by ~~new~~ Archbishop Timothy Dolan. Vicar tells Becker, most likely, he will not be allowed to do any public ministry ever again.
- December 2002: Archdiocese receives allegation of childhood sexual ~~abuse~~ *assault* against Becker and refers it to the Milwaukee County District Attorney.
- May 2003: Becker arrested on sexual assault charges in California.
- May 2003: Archbishop Dolan petitions the Holy See, asking that Becker be removed from the clerical state.
- November 2004: Becker is removed from the clerical state. Archbishop Dolan authorizes payment of \$10,000, since Becker's insurance coverage as a priest has stopped, to subsidize emergency medical insurance until Becker is eligible for Medicare.
- December 2004: Vicar for Clergy notifies *Dodge County* Sherriff, of ~~the~~ county where Becker resides, that Becker is living in area and has substantiated cases of sexual abuse involving children.
- January 2006: Vicar for Clergy notifies pastor of neighboring parishes where Becker resides that Becker is living in area and is no longer a priest.

The above listing is a summary of the more than 800 pages of documents related to Franklyn Becker.

### Questions and Answers

Box: Archbishop Timothy Dolan speaks about the Franklyn Becker case and answers other questions related to clergy sexual abuse of minors at [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org)

Q: Why share this information?

A: The information will be part of a lawsuit filed against the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and will be released to the plaintiff's attorneys. It has been a practice

plaintiffs'

of Archbishop Dolan to share important news with the people of the archdiocese, even when the news is bad.

Q: So, are you sharing this now only because of these lawsuits?

A: Information has been shared in town hall meetings throughout this summer and fall when Archbishop Dolan met with priests and parish leaders regarding the *Faith In Our Future Capital Campaign*. The information is being shared directly now, because we believe it will become public through these lawsuits and want people to receive the information directly from the archdiocese.

first-hand

Q: Is this the worst of the records?

A: This is a summary of more than 800 pages of records. There are always phrases and parts of documents that can be used - in or out of context - that make something sound new or different or worse than reported in this newsletter. Nonetheless, we believe this is a fair portrayal of the incidents reported in the files. We do not make judgments on what is "better" or "worse." Any instance of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse of a minor is evil.

First time they do  
make public - need  
advance notice to clergy

Q: What about releasing the same information on all other suspected abusers?

A: The information from the files of diocesan priests with any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor were released and reviewed by civil authorities in 2002 and 2003. Any new allegations are immediately referred to civil authorities if the abuser is still alive.

In addition, an outside, forensic audit of all <sup>clergy</sup> diocesan priest files was conducted to ensure any incident of possible abuse by a diocesan priest was uncovered.

The names of all diocesan priests with substantiated incidents of sexual abuse of a minor are posted on the archdiocesan web site.

However, we do not believe that the ugly details of each individual case need to be released publicly. This serves no purpose, but to sensationalize the incidents and re-victimize those who have suffered abuse.

There is also the issue of an individual's right to privacy when it comes to personnel files. No business or organization would release information in the private, personnel files of someone in their organization. And, there should be

some principle upheld that assures people – whether a priest, deacon or lay person – that they can approach their bishop, in confidence, to discuss a private concern.

Q: What can we expect from the news media about these documents?

A: We would expect news media to treat this information as they would any other type of information considered “news.” By providing a chronology of events in our records, our hope is to give readers a more comprehensive view than they may be able to maintain from the news media or, because of limited space and time, the news media may be able to provide.

Q: What is the financial impact of these lawsuits?

A: The first concern of the Church is one of pastoral and spiritual care for all people of the archdiocese, including, especially in these matters, victim-<sup>3</sup> survivors. At the same time, part of our care has to be a healthy concern for all the other equally-important constituents of the Church, and the Church’s financial obligation to practice sound stewardship.

It is too early to tell what, if any, financial impact these lawsuits will have. Certainly, simply by paying for legal representation, the lawsuits cost money. Each year, a complete financial accounting of the financial impact of the sexual abuse crisis is prepared and that latest information is available at [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org). In addition, annually, the archdiocese has an outside, independent financial audit and the audit results are reviewed by the archdiocesan finance council and published on our web site. For more information, contact John Marek, CFO, at 414-769-3300.

Q: What about Legislation to open the statute of limitations

A: As much as we support helping victims of sexual abuse find healing, we cannot support a proposal that selectively repeals the statute of limitations.

The statute of limitations exists for very good reasons. Finding the truth becomes more difficult as time passes. Pivotal physical evidence is lost and personal recollections fade. Equally problematic, the accused or key witnesses die. Thus, there is a long history regarding the importance of the statute of limitations in the American legal system. It is good law and its removal, even temporary, raises serious constitutional questions among legal scholars.

may be deceased

temporarily

fair(?)

How does his statement fit w/ our consistent claim that we don't use parishioners' \$ for damages?

Perhaps, most importantly, the costs of defending lawsuits and of any damages that might ensue from them is born by innocent third parties, in this case Catholic parishioners, who are in no way responsible for mistakes made by others decades ago. Why should the innocent Catholics of southeastern Wisconsin, who abhor what happened, be penalized because of the actions of others.

Discussed legislation would permit lawsuits against any defendant, but it does not offer equal justice to every victims or survivor. State law limits the liability of government entities to \$50,000 per claim. Thus a child abused by a teacher in a Catholic school could be awarded millions by a jury, while a child abused by a public school employee could collect only \$50,000.

This is not speculation. Research reports the number of incidents of sexual abuse of children in the larger public school system(s) dwarfs the number of incidents in parochial schools.

Finally, the Church has not ignored victims whose claims are barred by the statute of limitations. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has voluntarily mediated settlements with over 150 survivors of abuse by clergy for whose claims were barred by the statute of limitations.

We think justice is better served learning from past mistakes and using our knowledge to secure better prevention, prompt reporting of abuse, and strict accountability for offenders.

Q: Why aren't people like Becker in jail?

A: The statutes of limitations on the criminal actions have expired. In 2003, the files on all diocesan priests with allegations of sexual abuse of a minor were reviewed by the Milwaukee County District Attorney to see if any criminal charges could be brought.

Although there has been a lot of talk about opening a legislative window allowing victims/survivors to file civil lawsuits and collect financial damages, there has been no discussion about opening a window that would allow the criminal charges to go forward. Wouldn't that be a better approach to ensuring that the people who are guilty for perpetrating the abuse are the ones who are held accountable?

That was found unconstitutional by US Supreme Ct re. CA legislation



Q: Recently you announced a capital campaign - how does this affect that campaign?

A: The *Faith In Our Future* Capital Campaign is moving forward, with pilot parishes already in "campaign mode" at 15 sites. The *Faith in Our Future Trust* has been legally established to <sup>ensure</sup> make sure the intent and conditions of donors are followed and respected. This trust is separate from the archdiocese, has obligations of its own, and can only be used for Catholic education and faith formation, not for debts of the archdiocese, the past or present expenses of the abuse crisis, or operating costs <sup>of the archdiocesan central offices</sup> at the Cousins Center. <sup>administrative/</sup>

Q: If you know that priests are guilty, why are you defending lawsuits? Why don't you just settle with the victims?

A: Resolution *has* been reached with <sup>more than 150 parishes of</sup> nearly 160 individuals - the majority through the independent mediation system. Recognizing the need for a process outside the Church structure to address claims of sexual abuse of a minor by diocesan clergy, an independent, voluntary mediation systems was introduced in January 2004.

Q: That's great, but why defend lawsuits?

A: For people who have chosen to sue, that is a decision they have made. Once the matter is in the legal system, the processing of those claims is up to the courts. As part of that process, the archdiocese hopes the courts require the parties to investigate out-of-court settlements as a way to reach resolution. If resolution is not reached, the archdiocese has no option but to proceed as directed by the courts to resolve the matter.

Q: I thought ~~victims/survivors~~ could not sue the Church in Wisconsin.

A: That has been a myth for some time. ~~Victims/survivors~~ have always had the right to sue the Church. However, just like with any civil action, the window for suing the Church has been governed by a statute of limitations.

Q: What about Becker? Is he still "at large?"

A: Becker has been laicized, so he can never again function as or represent himself as a priest. His name and crimes have been released to the media and his

*Civil authorities*

name is permanently listed on the archdiocesan web site. Local law enforcement officials have been advised of his presence and his history, as have local parishes in the area where Becker lives. Any new allegations against Becker are turned over to the police, as is archdiocesan policy with all allegations received against men that are still alive. Since Becker is laicized, the archdiocese has no influence over where Becker lives as an independent citizen.

*Because*

Sidebar on back panel: The Church's commitment to victims-survivors of clergy sexual abuse of a minor

Headline: TBD

Box: For more information regarding the Church's response to sexual abuse of minors by priests, visit [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org).

# CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED

Mail to all registered households  
Mail date: week of November 12  
Deadline for final approval: October 31

Masthead: To Be Determined

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Dolan

Headline: TBD

Dear Friends,

During the past 5 years, there has been an abundance of news regarding the sexual abuse of minors by priests - both in this archdiocese and across the nation.

Since my arrival, I have promised to be open and honest with you, the faithful Catholics of the Church in southeastern Wisconsin. Part of that openness has been my commitment to share news with you - even when it's bad.

For example, you'll remember in summer of 2006, I shared with you the news of lawsuits facing the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for sexual abuse cases involving former priest Siegfried Widera, and the pending financial consequences of those lawsuits. Those nine cases in California were settled in a multi-million dollar agreement.

In July of this year, the Wisconsin Supreme Court handed down a decision directing that cases alleging sexual abuse against two offending priests of the archdiocese could proceed even though the age of the events were 20-to-40-years old.

Those cases have now been returned to the trial judges to go forward through normal court procedures. In addition, since July 2007, two other cases have been

brought against the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, alleging sexual abuse in Wisconsin by a different priest, named Bruce MacArthur. MacArthur was a priest of the Sioux Falls Diocese, but served within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for several years.

During the next months, the records of the three offenders will be part of the court proceedings. Thus, I am sending you this newsletter to let you know of the information that will be forthcoming.

There are three priests accused of wrongdoing. None of these three accused individuals are serving as priests within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, nor have they done so for many years.

The accused are Siegfried Widera, Bruce MacArthur and Franklyn Becker. Widera is dead; MacArthur is under the direction of the Diocese of Sioux Falls and residing in a controlled nursing home; and Becker, who lives in southeastern Wisconsin was laicized in 200x and is no longer a priest. Information about all three men are included in this newsletter.

However, I want to talk specifically about the case involving Franklyn Becker. As I said, Becker was laicized in 200x. Although there could be various explanations for all the decisions that were made or not made, at the end of the day, you will see a particularly ugly example of how the Church made mistakes in its handling of these cases.

Some might argue that since both doctors and civil officials made the same mistakes by recommending reassignments, transfers or "fresh starts," that the Church should not be held accountable for the decisions made 20 or 30 years ago. Some would say that the Church was simply doing what it felt best, considering the circumstances, the body of knowledge available to us at the time, and the expert recommendations that were presented.

All true, but I need to say that our faith tells us that our Church must stand up for any decisions that were made, regardless of how these decisions were reached.

So what do we do next? Do we hide under the bed while the scab of this mess is once again picked open? No! The good work of Jesus Christ and His Church continues - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow - despite this mess and despite any of us. The mistakes of the past do not change the needs of our people today, the needs of today's community or the needs of our world.

Nor, let me remind you, do these things diminish the good work that has been done over the past five-plus years as we have ardently worked with victims-survivors to bring healing and resolution. Nothing changes our commitment to continue to work with victims-survivors and together ensure that we do everything in our power to protect our children and young people.

In the past, people can point and say the Catholic Church is a shining example of what NOT to do. Now, however, even outside objective observers say the Catholic Church is an example of what TO do.

That is why we insist upon safe environment programs in all of our parishes and schools. That's why all staff and volunteers who work with children take safe environment training as a way of recognizing the signs of abuse. That's why we have a full-time victims-assistance coordinator to work with victims-survivors, and I meet regularly with a community advisory board made up of survivors, advocates and experts in the area of sexual abuse. It's also why I directed the names of offending priests to be published on our archdiocesan website back in 200x.

Some of you might ask, "why?" Why are you telling us this; why can't you just let this be over and move on?" Part of me would like nothing more, but, I know, that this crisis will never be over. Practically, too, I know that you are better hearing this news from me, all at once.

So that's why I share it with you now. May I ask that you please pray for people who have been victims-survivors of sexual abuse, especially for those whose abuse came at the hands of clergy?

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Faithfully in Christ,

+TMD

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Lawsuit summary  
Headline: TBD

**Siegfried Widera.** Little needs to be added about Siegfried Widera. He was the priest who died in 200x, while on the run in Mexico after being criminally indicted on multiple counts of child sexual abuse. He last served as a priest in the Diocese of Orange, California, and both the Diocese of Orange and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee settled lawsuits in 2006 with nine California victims because of the harm he caused. The lawsuits were settled for \$16.65 million, with more than half of the amount paid by archdiocesan insurance companies, to the nine California victims, as well as one California victim of Franklyn Becker. All files of the archdiocese involving Siegfried Widera were disclosed and provided to the attorneys representing victims as part of the suit.

**Bruce MacArthur.** The Archdiocese of Milwaukee was named in a lawsuit in South Dakota several years ago as a result of abuse that Bruce MacArthur committed when he served as a chaplain for a hospital in the Beaver Dam, Wis., area. In that lawsuit, MacArthur admitted his abuse of the victim-survivor. MacArthur served in the archdiocese from 19xx to 19xx.

MacArthur was ordained in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and served there both before and after serving in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. His years in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee were limited and, during the time, no incidents or of abuse were reported.

The earlier case involving MacArthur was brought in South Dakota and was settled, jointly with the Diocese of Sioux Falls, in 200X. All files of the archdiocese involving Bruce MacArthur were provided to the attorneys representing victims as part of that lawsuit.

Since the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in July of this year, allowing 20 to 40-year-old allegations to proceed under a fraud claim, three additional persons have sued the archdiocese and the Diocese of Sioux Falls, alleging abuse by MacArthur.

Sidebar: Becker Assignments (boxed)

Headline: Pastoral Assignments of Franklyn Becker

Franklyn W. Becker

Year of Ordination - 1964

Pastoral work and assignments

Holy Assumption Parish, West Allis (1964-1968)

St. John de Nepomuc Parish, Milwaukee (1968-1972)

Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay (1972-1974)

St. William Parish, Waukesha (1974)

Campus ministry at Marshall University in Wheeling, West Virginia (1974-1975)

Campus minister at St. Louis University (1976)

St. Brigid Parish, San Diego, California (1977-1979)

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Milwaukee (1979-1980)

St. Joseph Parish, Lyons (1980)

St. Eugene Parish, Fox Point (1980)

St. John Parish, South Milwaukee (1980)

St. Joseph Hospital, Milwaukee (1983)

West Allis Memorial Hospital (1984-1991)

**Franklyn Becker.** Franklyn Becker attended Saint Francis de Sales Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop William E. Cousins in 1964. He was laicized in 2003, and is no longer a priest. His laicization was directed by the Holy See upon the request of Archbishop Dolan.

Although the archdiocese had earlier been sued in one case in California for the actions of Franklyn Becker, that case was settled, along with the nine California lawsuits involving Siegfried Widera. Franklyn Becker's records were not yet processed in the lawsuit by the time that suit was settled. But as the current

Wisconsin lawsuits now go forward, Becker's records will be processed and delivered to the plaintiffs' lawyers. Those documents will show the following:

- Fall 1970: The first report of trouble came to the archdiocese in fall of 1970, when a telephone report was made about a problem between a parishioner's son and Becker. No known follow up was done.
- November 1974: Pastor complains about Becker's lack of work ethic at St. William parish.
- August to October 1976: Becker accepts position as campus minister at St. Louis University. Becker was forced to resign after 2 months. The University advises the archdiocese that part of the reason for the forced resignation was Becker's relationship to homosexuals and his encouragement of practicing homosexuals to attend services at the University. Also noted is that Becker is "difficult to work with."
- 1977: Archbishop Cousins releases Becker to work outside the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Becker works in the Diocese of San Diego.
- 1978: Becker advises now-Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland of his decision to return to Milwaukee. Bishop of San Diego tells Archbishop Weakland that Becker was relieved of his duties and believes Becker "has psychological problems he must solve."
- 1979: Becker is assigned to St. Margaret Mary Parish, Milwaukee.
- February 1980: Two parishioners are aware of an "unfortunate incident" with a boy. This is reported to \_\_\_(vicar??)\_\_\_\_\_. After meeting with \_\_\_(vicar??)\_\_\_\_\_, Becker promises treatment and not to do it again. He requests transfer from the parish (St. Margaret Mary).
- February 1980: A few days later, Becker writes to Archbishop Weakland apologizing for becoming involved with a boy, but blames the boy for sharing the incident and says he has been "cast in a bad light" and "the decision that he leave the parish (St. Margaret Mary) seems to be a prudent one." Becker's letter also states: "With my orientation, the frequent presence of teenage boys in the house (rectory) at night was tantalizing to say the least."



- February 1980: Recommendation by archdiocese that Becker consult with psychologist, which he does. After five sessions, Becker reports that no further counseling is needed and requests to stay at St. Margaret Mary.
- February 1980: Members of St. Margaret Mary Parish, aware of an incident of an inappropriate act with a teenage boy, asks for leniency and understanding, and requests Becker be allowed to stay in the parish.
- June 1980: Becker appointed temporary administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Lyons.
- August to October 1980: Becker requests assignment at St. Eugene, Fox Point. Pastor objects. Vicar assures pastor that Becker is willing to settle down and "needs one more chance." Vicar also acknowledges that it is time to tell Becker that no priest wants to work with him.
- October 1980: Becker writes Archbishop Weakland complimenting the Archbishop's (Catholic Herald) column on homosexuality and the Church. Becker brings up his desire to return to California and whether there may be a "benevolent bishop" in California where he might serve.
- December 1980: Personnel Board recommends six-year assignment to St. John Parish, South Milwaukee.
- January 1981: Pastor (Hefferner?) informs Vicar of incident with Becker and a young boy who Becker touched improperly during a swimming session. Becker denies events. Pastor does not tell parents of Becker's prior history. Parents believe Becker and apologize to him for accusing him of this.
- March 1981: letter to Vicar (Fr. Janicki) tells of Becker "pursuing" boy and his friend because they have "common interests." Also talks of Becker's "living the good life."
- June to August 1982: Review by Personnel Board. Becker says he prefers working in a parish or with high school and college age young people. Becker writes Personnel Board requesting campus ministry assignment and complains about not receiving one in the past. Complains about two other priests being possible candidates when those priests are equally "not above reproach."
- December 1982: Pastor (Heffernan?) reports to Vicar that Becker took a minor on a Caribbean cruise. Boy's mother supports Becker. Vicar

confronts Becker. Becker admits using "bad judgment," but denies any physical contact with boy. Becker ordered to see doctor for immediate therapy.

- December 1982: New pastor of St. \_\_\_\_\_ does not want to work with Becker. Becker removed from St. John's and ordered to be sent for a holistic evaluation.
- January 1983: Friend writes vicar on Becker's behalf. Friend "aware of his problems, including those with young boys..."
- February 1983: Psychology report sent to archdiocese reports Becker with pedophilia. "Possibility of sexual acting out with male minor children is high." Report recommends Becker's reassignment preclude involvement with youths.
- March 1983: Vicar consults with Milwaukee County District Attorney's office without using names. District Attorney advises that any such priest given adequate warnings would not be assigned where he could come in contact with youngsters. Advises to restrict from ministry for five years and if no other complaints are received, then, perhaps, give him another chance.
- March 1983: Becker's friend writes again reporting that, contrary to earlier belief, Becker has continued involvement with the boy (from the cruise).
- April 1983: After Becker writes Archbishop Weakland about future assignment, Archbishop Weakland refers him to the Priest Personnel Board saying he does not want to become too much involved at this point with Becker's assignments.
- May 1983: Mother of boy Becker took on cruise sends letter declaring nothing happened and defending Becker.
- May 1983: Another doctor advises archdiocese that Becker is ego-centric, a homosexual, and a pedophile, and has no mechanism to stop once he develops the urge to act out. Doctor says parish ministry is "out of the question" and recommends an all-girl college or high school, or a geriatric nursing home or hospital setting.

- August 1983: Becker assigned to St. Joseph Hospital. Weakland cautions Becker in assignment letter about the possibility of permanent removal from ministry.
- Fall 1983: Becker complains about hospital work, saying he does not wish to continue, that it is causing him stress, and he is not suited to the work. Requests to be placed on sick leave. Request is granted in November 1983.
- March 1984: After learning from the Director of Pastoral Care at the VA Center that Becker would not be accepted as chaplain because of his background and past history, Vicar calls asking why the director would not give a person, who was trying to start over, a chance.
- June 1984: Another doctor recommends to archdiocese that Becker could serve as associate pastor, under the proper conditions, but Vicar informs doctor that parish ministry is not possible.
- October 1984: Becker appointed as Chaplain at West Allis Memorial Hospital. Term is six years. Member of Personnel Board expresses concern but is assured by Vicar that Becker is getting treatment. Board member (Esser) expresses relief and concurs that Becker needs to have a chance at re-establishing his reputation.
- April 1985: Archdiocese becomes aware that Becker served as Confirmation sponsor for young man being confirmed.
- June 1985: Because West Allis Memorial Hospital wants all its chaplains to be certified, Becker requests letter of recommendation from Archbishop Weakland. Archbishop Weakland writes to National Association of Catholic Chaplains supporting Becker's certification and stating that Becker "is a priest in good standing..."
- July 1990: Complaint received by Vicar about Becker's insensitive pastoral care to her son (at hospital) and alleges Becker was riding through the family's neighborhood. Mother is concerned that Becker is calling her son.
- September 1990: Becker's term as chaplain at West Allis Memorial Hospital is renewed for an additional 6 years.
- August 1991: The parishes served by West Allis Memorial Hospital decide to replace Becker as chaplain.

- August 1992: Bishop Sklba give approval for Becker to provide weekend “help out” at St. Mary Parish in Cascade.
- September 1992: Member of St. Mary’s parish, Cascade request Personnel Board to allow Becker to remain at parish.
- December 1992: Becker begins working temporarily at St. Mary’s Cascade.
- July 1993: Becker unassigned with restricted ministry.
- January 1994: Becker wants to serve as temporary chaplain on a cruise, but needs a certificate of good standing from archdiocese. Archbishop Weakland is consulted because of Becker’s restricted ministry. Certificate is issued.
- December 1994: Individual who sent letters in early 1983 as Becker’s “friend,” now notifies Archbishop Weakland that her own children were abused by Becker in the 1970s.
- February 1996: Becker sent for evaluation to the St. Louis Consultation Center. Report issued states that in absence of intervention, it is likely that patterns of problematic sexual acting out by Becker will recur. Treatment should be considered in a long-term residential facility specializing in treatment of sexual disorders.
- March 1996: Becker is referred to the Phoenix Clinic for treatment. An assessment report is issued in January 1997.
- April 1996: Becker requests permission to serve as chaplain on a cruise. No notation whether permission is granted.
- July 1996: Psychologist treating Becker advises archdiocese that Becker remains at risk to act out and questions whether he could be allowed on cruises. Archdiocesan staff (Piasecki) questions whether the treatment should shift to counseling Becker out of priesthood. Archbishop Weakland agrees that would be the best approach.
- November 1996: Becker writes Archbishop Weakland that “my greatest desire is for reconciliation with you and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.”
- January 1997: Phoenix Clinic advises archdiocese that without Becker in treatment, he remains a potential risk to act out against children.

- January 1997: Vicar informs Becker that he will have someone regularly check in on Becker to ensure Becker is maintaining his therapy and adhering to ministry restrictions.
- April 1997: New doctor treating Becker advises archdiocese that Becker is not cooperative and is, in fact, not treatable.
- July 1997: Becker continues to “help out” at parishes on an “as needed” basis.
- August 1999: Vicar reviews ministry restrictions with Becker, including approval for parish “help out” work, but restrictions against any other ministry, prohibiting contact with minors, and continuing therapy.
- January 2002: Becker requests approval to retain help out position at the Tri-Parishes of Rubicon, Neosho and Woodland. Vicar reminds Becker he is not eligible for assignment, but is permitted to help out on weekends.
- April 2002: Becker restricted from all public ministry, including weekend help out.
- April 2002: Archbishop Weakland issues a Church order (precept) against Becker, which states Becker is to cease all public ministry, all pastoral counseling, may not hear confessions, must not contact any minors or vulnerable adults, to avoid places that have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality.
- April 2002: The Archdiocese of Milwaukee receives word from the Diocese of San Diego that a individual in California contacted them about Franklyn Becker and wants to be assured others are not at risk.
- May 2002: Becker is arrested for childhood sexual abuse.
- July 2002: Becker is advised that his name will be published by the archdiocese, along with five other priests who were not fully restricted from ministry because of sexual abuse allegations.
- August 2002: The existing prohibitions against Becker are made permanent by now-Archbishop Timothy Dolan. Vicar tells Becker, most likely, he will not be allowed to do any public ministry ever again.

- December 2002: Archdiocese receives allegation of childhood sexual abuse against Becker and refers it to the Milwaukee County District Attorney.
- May 2003: Becker arrested on sexual assault charges in California.
- May 2003: Archbishop Dolan petitions the Holy See, asking that Becker be removed from the clerical state.
- Xxxxx: Becker is removed from the clerical state. Archbishop Dolan authorizes payment of \$10,000 to Becker for transition to lay status, to pay for medical insurance.

The above listing is not complete, but a summary of the more than 800 pages of documents related to Franklyn Becker.

#### Questions and Answers

Q: Why share this information?

A: The information will be part of a lawsuit filed against the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and will be released to the plaintiff's attorneys. It has been a practice of Archbishop Dolan to share important news with the people of the archdiocese, even when the news is bad.

Q: Is this the worst of the records?

A: This is a summary of more than 800 pages of records. There are always phrases and parts of documents that can be used - in or out of context - that make something sound new or different or worse than reported in this newsletter. Nonetheless, we believe this is a fair portrayal of the incidents reported in the files. We do not make judgments on what is "better" or "worse." Any instance of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse of a minor is evil.

Q: What can we expect from the news media about these documents?

A: We would expect news media to treat this information as they would any other type of information considered "news." By providing a chronology of events in our records, our hope is to give readers a more comprehensive view

than they may be able to maintain from the news media or, because of limited space and time, the news media may be able to provide.

Q: What is the financial impact of these lawsuits?

A: The first concern of the Church is one of pastoral and spiritual care for all people of the archdiocese, including, especially in these matters, victim-survivors. At the same time, part of our care has to be a healthy concern for all the other equally-important constituents of the Church, and the Church's financial obligation to practice sound stewardship.

It is too early to tell what, if any, financial impact these lawsuits will have. Certainly, simply by paying for legal representation, the lawsuits cost money. Each year, a complete financial accounting of the financial impact of the sexual abuse crisis is prepared and that information is available at [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org). In addition, annually, the archdiocese has an outside, independent financial audit and the audit results are reviewed by the archdiocesan finance council and published on our web site. For more information, contact John Marek, CFO, at 414-769-3300.

Q: What about Legislation to open the statute of limitations

A: As much as we support helping victims of sexual abuse find healing, we cannot support a proposal that selectively repeals the statute of limitations against the Catholic Church or other religious institutions, but not, equally, all other public and private institutions.

The statute of limitations exists for very good reasons. Finding the truth becomes more difficult as time passes. Key physical evidence is lost and personal recollections fade. Equally problematic, the accused or key witnesses die. Thus, there is a long history in our legal system regarding the importance of the statute of limitations in the American legal system. It is good law and its removal, even temporary, raises serious constitutional questions among legal scholars.

Perhaps, most importantly, the costs of defending lawsuits and of any damages that might ensue from them is born by innocent third parties, in this case Catholic parishioners, who are in no way responsible for mistakes made by other individuals decades ago.

Discussed legislation would permit lawsuits against any defendant but it does not offer equal justice to every victims or survivor. State law limits the liability

of government entities to \$50,000 per claim. Thus a child abused by a teacher in a Catholic school could be awarded millions by a jury, while a child abused by a public school employee could collect only \$50,000.

This is not speculation. Research reports the number of incidents of sexual abuse of children in the larger public school system(s) dwarfs the number of incidents in parochial schools.

Finally, the Church has not ignored victims whose claims are barred by the statute of limitations. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has voluntarily mediated settlements with over 150 survivors of abuse by clergy for whose claims were barred by the statute of limitations.

We think justice is better served learning from past mistakes and using our knowledge to secure better prevention, prompt reporting of abuse and strict accountability for offenders.

Q: Recently you announced a capital campaign – how does this affect that campaign?

A: The Faith In Our Future Capital Campaign is moving forward, with pilot parishes already in “campaign mode” at 15 sites. The *Faith in Our Future Trust* has been legally established to make sure the intent and conditions of donors are followed and respected. This *trust* is separate from the archdiocese, has obligations of its own, and can only be used for Catholic education and faith formation, not for debts of the archdiocese, the past or present expenses of the abuse crisis, or paper clips at the Cousins Center.

Q: If you know that priests are guilty, why are you defending lawsuits? Why don't you just settle with the victims?

A: Resolution *has* been reached with nearly 160 individuals – the majority through the independent mediation system. Recognizing the need for a process outside the Church structure to address claims of sexual abuse of a minor by diocesan clergy, an independent, voluntary mediation systems was introduced in January 2004.

Q: That's great, but why defend lawsuits?



A: For people who have chosen to sue, that is a decision they have made. Once the matter is in the legal system, the processing of those claims is up to the courts. As part of that process, the archdiocese hopes the courts require the parties to investigate out-of-court settlements as a way to reach resolution. If resolution is not reached, the archdiocese has no option but to proceed as directed by the courts to resolve the matter.

Q: I thought victims-survivors could not sue the Church in Wisconsin.

A: That has been a myth for some time. Victims-survivors have always had the right to sue the Church. However, just like with any civil action, the window for suing the Church has been governed by a statute of limitations.

Sidebar on back panel: The Church's commitment to victims-survivors of clergy sexual abuse of a minor

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Some of you might ask, "why?" Why are you telling us this; why can't you just let this be over and move on?"

Part of me would like nothing more, but, I know, that this crisis will never be over. ~~Part of me knows that deep down, maybe this is part of our penance as a Church.~~

Practically, too, I know that you are better hearing this news from me, ~~all at once, than reading about it in the newspaper over and over for the next six months as part of some legal strategy.~~

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+TMD

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Lawsuit summary  
Headline: TBD

**Siegfried Widera.** Little needs to be added about Siegfried Widera. He was the priest who died in 200x, while on the run in Mexico after being criminally indicted on multiple counts of child sexual abuse. He last served as a priest in the Diocese of Orange, California, and both the Diocese of Orange and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee settled lawsuits in 2006 with nine California victims because of the harm he caused. The lawsuits were settled for \$16.65 million, with more than half of the amount paid by archdiocesan insurance companies, to the nine California victims, as well as one California victim of Franklyn Becker. All files of the archdiocese involving Siegfried Widera were disclosed and provided to the attorneys representing victims as part of the suit.

He served here for a limited time and there were no reports of problems while he was here. Only decades later, did incidents arise. One of these cases was settled, jointly with the Sioux Falls diocese, in 200x.

4

ADOM026865

In that lawsuit, Bruce MacArthur admitted his abuse of ~~his~~ <sup>the</sup> victim.

**Bruce MacArthur.** The Archdiocese of Milwaukee was named in a lawsuit in South Dakota several years ago as a result of abuse that Bruce MacArthur committed when he served as a chaplain for a hospital in the Beaver Dam, Wis., area. MacArthur served in the archdiocese from 19xx to 19xx.

*MacArthur*

~~This priest~~ was ordained in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and served there both before and after serving in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. His years in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee were limited and, during the time, no incidents or of abuse were reported. ~~However, in 200x, allegations of abuse in Wisconsin surfaced.~~

*The earlier*  
A case involving MacArthur was brought in South Dakota and was settled, jointly with the Diocese of Sioux Falls, in 200X. All files of the archdiocese involving Bruce MacArthur were provided to the attorneys representing victims as part of that lawsuit.

H

Since the ~~Supreme~~ Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision in July of  
Sidebar: Becker Assignments (boxed) *this year allowing 20-40 year*  
Headline: Pastoral Assignments of Franklyn Becker *old allegations to*

Franklyn W. Becker

~~Year of Birth 1937~~

Year of Ordination - 1964

Pastoral work and assignments

Holy Assumption Parish, West Allis (1964-1968)

St. John de Nepomuc Parish, Milwaukee (1968-1972)

Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay (1972-1974)

St. William Parish, Waukesha (1974)

Campus ministry at Marshall University in Wheeling, West Virginia (1974-1975) *MacArthur.*

Campus minister at St. Louis University (1976)

St. Brigid Parish, San Diego, California (1977-1979)

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Milwaukee (1979-1980)

St. Joseph Parish, Lyons (1980)

St. Eugene Parish, Fox Point (1980)

St. John Parish, South Milwaukee (1980)

St. Joseph Hospital, Milwaukee (1983)

West Allis Memorial Hospital (1984-1991)

*proceeding, three additional persons have sued the Archdiocese and the Diocese of Sioux Falls alleging abuse by*

**Franklyn Becker.** Franklyn Becker attended Saint Francis de Sales Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop William E. Cousins in 1964. ~~Becker began his priestly ministry at Holy Assumption parish in West Allis.~~

5

Franklyn Becker was ordained in the Archdiocese in 1964. He was laicized in 2003, and is no longer a priest. His laicization was directed by the Holy See upon the request of Archbishop Dolan.

Although the archdiocese had <sup>earlier</sup> been sued in one case in California for the actions of Franklyn Becker, that case was settled, along with the nine California lawsuits involving Siegfried Widera. Franklyn Becker's records were not yet ~~produced~~ <sup>processed</sup> by the time that suit was settled. But as the current Wisconsin lawsuits <sup>in the suit</sup> go forward, Becker's records will be ~~filed with the court~~ <sup>processed and delivered to the plaintiffs' lawyers.</sup> Those will show the following:

now

- Fall 1970: The first report of trouble came to the archdiocese in fall of 1970, when a telephone report was made about a problem between a parishioner's son and Becker. No follow up was done. <sup>known</sup>
- November 1974: Pastor complains about Becker's lack of work ethic at St. William parish.
- August to October 1976: Becker accepts position as campus minister at St. Louis University. Becker was forced to resign after 2 months. The University <sup>advises the archdiocese</sup> writes that part of the reason for the forced resignation was Becker's relationship to homosexuals and his encouragement of practicing homosexuals to attend services at the University. Also noted is that Becker is "difficult to work with."
- 1977: Archbishop Cousins releases Becker to work outside the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Becker ~~pursues~~ <sup>works</sup> work in the Diocese of San Diego.
- 1978: Becker advises now-Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland of his decision to return to Milwaukee. Bishop of San Diego tells Archbishop Weakland that Becker was relieved of his duties and believes Becker "has psychological problems he must solve."
- 1979: Becker is assigned to St. Margaret Mary Parish, Milwaukee.
- February 1980: Two parishioners are aware of an "unfortunate incident" with a boy. This is reported to \_\_\_(vicar??)\_\_\_\_\_. After meeting with \_\_\_(vicar??)\_\_\_\_\_, Becker promises treatment and not to do it again. He requests transfer from the parish (St. Margaret Mary).

6

- February 1980: A few days later, Becker writes to Archbishop Weakland apologizing for becoming involved with a boy, but blames the boy for sharing the incident and says he has been "cast in a bad light" and "the decision that he leave the parish (St. Margaret Mary) seems to be a prudent one." Becker's letter also states: "With my orientation, the frequent presence of teenage boys in the house (rectory) at night was tantalizing to say the least."
- February 1980: Recommendation <sup>by Archbishop</sup> that Becker consult with psychologist, which he does. After five sessions, Becker reports that no further counseling is needed and requests to stay at St. Margaret Mary.
- February 1980: Members of St. Margaret Mary Parish, aware of an incident of an inappropriate act with a teenage boy, asks for leniency and understanding, and requests Becker be allowed to stay in the parish.
- June 1980: Becker appointed temporary administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Lyons.
- August to October 1980: Becker requests assignment at St. Eugene, Fox Point. Pastor objects. Vicar assures pastor that Becker is willing to settle down and "needs one more chance." Vicar also acknowledges that it is time to tell Becker that no priest wants to work with him.
- October 1980: Becker writes Archbishop Weakland complimenting the Archbishop's (Catholic Herald) column on homosexuality and the Church. Becker brings up his desire to return to California and whether there may be a "benevolent bishop" in California where he might serve.
- December 1980: Personnel Board recommends six-year assignment to St. John Parish, South Milwaukee.
- January 1981: Pastor (Hefferner?) informs Vicar of incident with Becker and a young boy who Becker touched improperly during a swimming session. Becker denies events. Pastor does not tell parents of Becker's prior history. Parents believe Becker and apologize to him for accusing him of this.
- March 1981: letter to Vicar (Fr. Janicki) tells of Becker "pursuing" boy and his friend because they have "common interests." Also talks of Becker's "living the good life."

7



- June to August 1982: Review by Personnel Board. Becker says he prefers working in a parish or with high school and college age young people. Becker writes Personnel Board requesting campus ministry assignment and complains about not receiving one in the past. Complains about two other priests being possible candidates when those priests are equally "not above reproach."
- December 1982: Pastor (Heffernan?) reports to Vicar that Becker took a minor on a Caribbean cruise. Boy's mother supports Becker. Vicar confronts Becker. Becker admits using "bad judgment," but denies any physical contact with boy. Becker ordered to see doctor for immediate therapy.
- December 1982: New pastor of St. \_\_\_\_\_ does not want to work with Becker. Becker removed from St. John's and ordered to be sent for a holistic evaluation.
- January 1983: Friend writes vicar on Becker's behalf. Friend "aware of his problems, including those with young boys..."
- February 1983: Psychology report <sup>sent to Archdiocese reports</sup> ~~diagnoses~~ Becker with pedophilia. "Possibility of sexual acting out with male minor children is high." Report recommends Becker's reassignment preclude involvement with youths.
- March 1983: Vicar consults with Milwaukee County District Attorney's office without using names. District Attorney advises that any such priest given adequate warnings would not be assigned where he could come in contact with youngsters. Advises to restrict from ministry for five years and if no other complaints are received, then, perhaps, give him another chance.
- March 1983: Becker's friend writes again reporting that, contrary to earlier belief, Becker has continued involvement with the boy (from the cruise).
- April 1983: After Becker writes Archbishop Weakland about future assignment, Archbishop Weakland refers him to the Priest Personnel Board saying he does not want to become <sup>too</sup> too much involved at this point <sup>5 let</sup> with Becker's assignments. ~~that particular~~
- May 1983: Mother of boy Becker took on cruise sends letter declaring nothing happened and defending Becker.

8

*Archdiocese representative*

- May 1983: Another doctor (Zimmerman) advises ~~Vicar~~ that Becker is ego-centric, a homosexual, and a pedophile, and has no mechanism to stop once he develops the urge to act out. Doctor says parish ministry is "out of the question" and recommends an all-girl college or high school, or a geriatric nursing home or hospital setting.
- August 1983: Becker assigned to St. Joseph Hospital. Weakland cautions Becker in assignment letter about the possibility of permanent removal from ministry.
- Fall 1983: Becker complains about hospital work, saying he does not wish to continue, that it is causing him stress, and he is not suited to the work. Requests to be placed on sick leave. Request is granted in November 1983. ?
- March 1984: After learning from the Director of Pastoral Care at the VA Center that Becker would not be accepted as chaplain because of his background and past history, Vicar calls asking why the director would not give a person, who was trying to start over, a chance.
- June 1984: Doctor (Durst) recommends Becker could serve as associate pastor, under the proper conditions, but Vicar informs doctor that parish ministry is not possible. *to Archdiocese that*
- October 1984: Becker appointed as Chaplain at West Allis Memorial Hospital. Term is six years. Member of Personnel Board expresses concern but is assured by Vicar that Becker is getting treatment. Board member (Esser) expresses relief and concurs that Becker needs to have a chance at re-establishing his reputation.
- April 1985: Archdiocese becomes aware that Becker served as Confirmation sponsor for young man being confirmed.
- June 1985: Because West Allis Memorial Hospital wants all its chaplains to be certified, Becker requests letter of recommendation from Archbishop Weakland. Archbishop Weakland writes to National Association of Catholic Chaplains supporting Becker's certification and stating that Becker "is a priest in good standing..." ?
- July 1990: Complaint received by Vicar about Becker's insensitive pastoral care to her son (at hospital) and alleges Becker was riding through the family's neighborhood. Mother is concerned that Becker is calling her son.

9

ADOM026870

- September 1990: Becker's term as chaplain at West Allis Memorial Hospital is renewed for an additional 6 years.
- August 1991: The parishes served by West Allis Memorial Hospital decide to replace Becker as chaplain.
- August 1992: Bishop Sklba give approval for Becker to provide weekend "help out" at St. Mary Parish in Cascade.
- September 1992: Member of St. Mary's parish, Cascade request Personnel Board to allow Becker to remain at parish.
- December 1992: Becker begins working temporarily at St. Mary's Cascade.
- July 1993: Becker unassigned with restricted ministry.
- January 1994: Becker wants to serve as temporary chaplain on a cruise, but needs a certificate of good standing from archdiocese. Archbishop Weakland is consulted because of Becker's restricted ministry. Certificate is issued.
- December 1994: Individual who sent letters in early 1983 as Becker's "friend," now notifies Archbishop Weakland that her own children were abused by Becker in the 1970s.
- February 1996: Becker sent for evaluation to the St. Louis Consultation Center. Report issued states that in absence of intervention, it is likely that patterns of problematic sexual acting out by Becker will recur. Treatment should be considered in a long-term residential facility specializing in treatment of sexual disorders.
- March 1996: Becker is referred to the Phoenix Clinic for treatment. An assessment report is issued in January 1997.
- April 1996: Becker requests permission to serve as chaplain on a cruise. No notation whether permission is granted.
- July 1996: Psychologist (Trachsel) treating Becker advises that Becker remains at risk to act out and questions whether he could be allowed on cruises. Archdiocesan staff (Piasecki) questions whether the treatment ~~is~~ <sup>skt.</sup>

Archdiocese  
skt.  
~~is~~

*sketch*  
We should shift to counseling Becker out of priesthood. Archbishop Weakland agrees that would be the best approach.

- November 1996: Becker writes Archbishop Weakland that "my greatest desire is for reconciliation with you and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee."
- January 1997: Phoenix Clinic advises *Archdiocese* that without Becker in treatment, he remains a potential risk to act out against children.
- January 1997: monitor Tom McGuine
- April 1997: New doctor (Garndt) treating Becker advises that Becker is not cooperative and is, in fact, not treatable. *Archdiocese*
- July 1997: Becker continues to "help out" at parishes on an "as needed" basis.
- August 1999: Vicar reviews ministry restrictions with Becker, including approval for parish "help out" work, but restrictions against any other ministry, prohibiting contact with minors, and continuing therapy.
- July 2001: A claim of sexual abuse is received by Project Benjamin.
- January 6, 2002: First story about clergy sexual abuse of minors runs in the Boston Globe.
- January 2002: Becker requests approval to retain help out position at the Tri-Parishes of Rubicon, Neosho and Woodland. Vicar reminds Becker he is not eligible for assignment, but is permitted to help out on weekends.
- April 2002: Becker restricted from all public ministry, including weekend help out.
- April 2002: Allegations of sexual abuse by Franklyn Becker begin coming into the archdiocese.
- April 2002: Archbishop Weakland issues a Church *order (precept)* against Becker, which states Becker is to cease all public ministry, all pastoral counseling, may not hear confessions, must not contact any minors or vulnerable adults, to avoid places that have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality.

- April 2002: The Archdiocese of Milwaukee receives word from the Diocese of San Diego that a individual in California contacted them about Franklyn Becker and wants to be assured others are not at risk.
- May 2002: Becker is arrested by \_\_\_\_\_ for childhood sexual abuse.
- July 2002: Becker is advised that his name will be published by the archdiocese, along with five other priests who were not fully restricted from ministry because of sexual abuse allegations.
- August 2002: The <sup>already existing</sup> prohibitions against Becker are made permanent by now-Archbishop Timothy Dolan. Vicar tells Becker, most likely, he will not be allowed to do any public ministry ever again.
- December 2002: Archdiocese receives allegation of childhood sexual abuse against Becker and refers it to the Milwaukee County District Attorney.
- May 2003: Becker arrested on sexual assault charges in California.
- May 2003: Archbishop Dolan petitions the Holy See, asking that Becker be ~~dismissed~~ removed from the clerical state.
- Xxxx: Becker is <sup>removed</sup> ~~dismissed~~ from the clerical state. Archbishop Dolan authorizes payment of \$10,000 to Becker for transition <sup>to lay status.</sup>
- 

The above listing is not complete, but a summary of the more than <sup>8</sup>900 pages of documents related to Franklyn Becker.

#### Questions and Answers

Q: Why share this information?

A: The information <sup>will be</sup> is part of a lawsuit filed against the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. ~~The records of the archdiocese would likely become public when~~ and will be released to the plaintiff's attorneys. ~~Better for people to hear these reports directly from the archdiocese without the filter of the media.~~ It has been ~~the~~ a mission of the Archbishop to share all news with the Archdiocese

Q: Is this the worst of the records?

--even when its bad.

important

(12)

A: This is a summary of more than 800 pages of records. There are always phrases and parts of documents that can be used – in our out of context – that make something sound new or different or worse than what has been shared in this newsletter. Nonetheless, we believe this is an accurate portrayal of the incidents in the files. We do not make judgments on what is "better" or "worse." Any instance of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse of a minor is bad.

reported in

a fair

reported

unacceptable and bad

Q: What can we expect from the news media about this documents?

condemned and evil.

A: We would expect news media to treat this information as they would any other type of information considered "news." By providing a ~~full~~ chronology of events in our records, our hope is to give readers a more comprehensive view than they may be able to maintain from the news media or, because of limited space and time, the news media may be able to provide.

Q: What is the financial impact of these lawsuits

including especially in these matters, ~~the~~

A: The ~~main~~ <sup>first</sup> concern of the Church is one of pastoral and spiritual care for ~~the~~ people of the archdiocese. ~~Still~~, part of our care ~~needs to be~~ a healthy concern for the financial standing of the archdiocese. It is too early to tell what, if any, financial impact these lawsuits will have. Certainly, simply by paying for legal representation, the lawsuits cost money. Each year, a complete financial accounting of the financial impact of the sexual abuse crisis is prepared and that information is available at [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org). In addition, annually, the archdiocese has an outside, independent financial audit and the audit results are reviewed by the archdiocesan finance council and published on our web site. For more information, contact John Marek, CFO, at 414-769-3300.

has to be

all

victim survivors.

At the same time,

all the other equally important constituents of the church and the church's financial obligations to them.

Q: What about Legislation to open the statute of limitations

A: As much as we support helping victims of sexual abuse find healing, we cannot support a proposal that repeals the statute of limitations in this area. ~~Catholic Church, or other religion institutions, but not all other~~ <sup>against the public and private institutions.</sup> The statute of limitations exists for very good reasons. Finding the truth becomes more difficult as time passes. Key physical evidence can be lost and personal recollections fade. Sometimes the accused or key witnesses are ~~dead~~. Thus, there is a long history in our legal system ~~the long history of a statute of~~ <sup>regarding</sup> limitations and its importance in the American legal system. It is good law and the removal, even temporary, raises serious questions among legal scholars.

selectively

against the public and private institutions.

the

of the statute of limitation

is

Equally problematic,

constitutional

145

13

Perhaps most importantly,

Further, the costs of defending lawsuits and of any damages that might ensue from them ~~is~~ be born by innocent third parties, in this case Catholic parishioners, who are in no way responsible for mistakes made decades ago.

Discussed legislation would permit lawsuits against any defendant but it does not offer equal justice to every victims or survivor. State law limits the liability of government entities to \$50,000 per claim. Thus a child abused by a teacher in a Catholic school could be awarded millions by a jury, while a child abused by a public school employee could collect only \$50,000. *And this is not speculation.*

Available research reports that the ~~number~~ number of incidents of

Finally, the Church has not ignored victims whose claims are barred by the statute of limitations. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has ~~reached~~ mediated settlements with over 150 survivors of abuse by clergy for whose claims were barred by the statute of limitations.

We think justice is better served learning from past mistakes and using our knowledge to secure better prevention, prompt reporting of abuse and strict accountability for offenders.

Q: Recently you announced a capital campaign – how does this affect that campaign?

A: The Faith In Our Future Capital Campaign is moving forward, with pilot parishes already in "campaign mode" at 15 sites. The Faith in Our Future Trust has been legally established to make sure the intent and conditions of ~~you as~~ donors is respected. This trust is separate from the archdiocese, has obligations of its own, and can only be used for Catholic education and faith formation, not for debts of the archdiocese, the past or present expenses of the abuse crisis, or paper clips at the Cousins Center.

are followed and

Q: If you know that priests are guilty, why are you defending lawsuits? Why don't you just settle with the victims?

A: Resolution has been reached with nearly 160 individuals – the majority through the independent mediation system. Recognizing the need for a process outside the Church structure to address claims of sexual abuse of a minor by diocesan clergy, an independent, voluntary mediation systems was introduced in January 2004.

Q: That's great, but why defend lawsuits?

Sexual abuse of children in the public school system dwarfs the number of any ~~such~~ incidents involving parochial schools.

voluntarily

14

the persons who have chosen to sue, that is a decision

A: For some victims-survivors, the choice of litigation is one they have made. The offer of the independent mediation system, for whatever reason, is not seen as the best way for them to achieve resolution. No one is arguing what has happened to them as individual victims-survivors of clergy sexual abuse as minors. However, what is a just resolution for the incidents is what the victims-survivors have asked a court to decide.

they have made.

Q: I thought victims-survivors could not sue the Church in Wisconsin.

Once the matters are in the

A: That has been a myth for some time. Victims-survivors have always had the right to sue the Church. However, just like with any civil action, the window for suing the Church has been governed by a statute of limitations.

in legal system, however, the

Sidebar on back panel: The Church's commitment to victims-survivors of clergy sexual abuse of a minor

Headline: TBD

~~Decision~~

If that is ordered the Archdiocese will ~~still~~ <sup>forwarily</sup> pursue that opportunity. Failing that, the Archdiocese has no option but to ~~proceed as directed by~~ <sup>proceed as directed by</sup> the Courts to resolve the matter.

processing of these claim is ~~the~~ up to the courts. As

part of that process, the Archdiocese ~~hope's~~ hopes the Courts require the parties to investigate out-of-court settlements as a way to resolve the cases.

15



As a sign of my personal commitment to transparency I have published each year since my arrival, an accountability statement that provides information & detail about the Church's response to sexual abuse from my point of view.

- release of names
- review of files
- voluntary mediation & #'s
- audits
- financial impact
- counseling & support

As you may know, we remain opposed to legislation ...

Our settlement in Louisville bought the archives to the best of bankruptcy.

We are within weeks and months of finalizing the sale of our HQ to pay these obligations. Any future obligation would, in doubt, again, surface those same issues again. OUS

Financial disclosure an open book.

JERRY TOPCZEWSKI

BECKER — SCRIPTURE  
Told you  
doesn't diminish our content  
doesn't impact the camp. — use  
language from Portal.

DETAILS  
REGISTRATION — Why we're  
opposed

COURTS — LAWSUITS — Why we  
defend

Commitment — What we do

## Lawsuits

### Communication Outline

#### Publication #1

- I. Letter from Archbishop Dolan
  - a. Been open and up front with you since my arrival
  - b. Rather hear good news and bad news alike - from me
  - c. Here's some bad news
  - d. Doesn't diminish the good work that's been done or our commitment to work with victims-sruvivors
  - e. Doesn't reduce the need for the vibrancy of our Church and the good work of the Church to continue
    - i. i.e. capital campaign
  - f. as
- II. Story about hot documents
- III. Discussion of any legislation
- IV. Why we Defend lawsuits
- V. Our commitment
- VI. Q&A

#### Publication #2

- I. Living Our Faith
- II. Living Our Faith TV show - sidebar
- III. Faith In Our Future Campaign
- IV. Parish Planning and re-org - why?
- V.

781. Becker, Franklyn  
On July 7, 1994, I called Franklyn Becker in response to his letter asking for a cost of living increase in his living expenses. After conversation with Wayne Schneider, it was agreed to raise it according to the percentage of salary increase 4.39%. He will receive \$680.00 a month, an increase of \$30.00 for living expenses. Franklyn would like all of this to be given as qualified Housing cost.

RTV

658. Franklyn Becker  
On October 6, 1994 in reviewing some Log items from Sr. Kathleen of the Vicar's office I noted in #70 (September 27, 1994) that Franklyn currently helps out at Neosho and Rubicon and that he is initiating conversation to do so at St. Killian's in Hartford as well. I believe this matter should be reviewed.

RJS

139. Becker, Franklyn  
On February 21, 1995, I conferred with Dr. Piasecki about following through on some of the allegations to bring some closure to this situation. This too is at the request of the Archbishop.

CCS

296. Becker, Franklyn  
On July 1, 1995, I called Fr. Becker and told him there is an allegation against him and that the Archbishop requested an evaluation and we would schedule it reasonably soon. He is planning a cruise July 7-21 but is not going as chaplain. I told him to go and we would be in touch when he returned.

CCS

104. Becker, Franklyn  
On August 30, 1995, Len VanVlaenderan asked that Carrol Straub respond to Franklyn Becker's questions relative to his past and future requests for a celebret. Carrol has spoken with Franklyn.

SKS

310. Becker, Franklyn  
On September 5, 1995, I called Franklyn to reconfirm that he will not be issued a current celebret because of a recent allegation. He asked me for the name of the complainant. I promised I would ask Liz. I returned his call again on September to notify him that at this time the name of the complainant could not be revealed.

CCS

393. Becker, Franklyn  
On November 7, 1995 I called Franklyn Becker to arrange his meeting with Liz Piasecki on November 17th, 1995 at 6:30 P.M.

CCS

409. Becker, Franklyn  
On November 21, 1995 Father Becker called to inquire whether he could have a canonist accompany him to the session with Dr. Piasecki and her SWAT Team.

CCS

20. Becker, Franklyn  
On January 19, 1996 I met with Franklyn Becker. I asked him to consent to go to St. Louis for an evaluation. We plan to discontinue the interview that is being done in Dr. Piasecki's office. He agreed to go. We have set the date for February 5, 1996. I'll be with him on February 8th for the summation of his evaluation.

CCS

AOM-BEC 00700

ADOM027057

*St. Margaret Mary Parish*

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53222

REV. RAYMOND E. VINT  
PASTOR

February 16, 1980

Rev. Robert G. Sampson  
345 North 95th Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Bob,

I don't know whether Fr. Joe Hornacek has been in touch with you, but on the recommendation of the Personnel Board and the Archbishop I am in consultation with Dr. [REDACTED]. I am not sure how the billing will be handled but I was informed that the Archdiocese would take care of it.

I am enclosing the billing I received today. Will you please refer it to the proper department:

Since my situation here is tentative, I do not know whether I should use the Blue Cross/Blue Shield number from St. Margaret Mary Parish or whether I will be assigned to another group.

I am grateful to you for your cooperation in seeing me through some difficult times. I believe that it was Providential that I did not get the military appointment. Hopefully with Dr. [REDACTED] help I will be able to reach some major life decisions.

If you need to contact me I expect to be here at least until the end of the month. My next appointment with Dr. [REDACTED] is scheduled for the 5th of March.

Sincerely yours,

*Frank*

[Rev.] Franklyn W. Becker ✓

Enc. Bill

*v. B. bill for #55 submitted w/ this letter.*

AOM-BEC 00103

ADOM027070

March 29, 1983

Rev. Joseph Janicki  
2462 N. Prospect  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Dear Father Janicki,

In your last conversation with me a week or so ago, you were concerned about Lyn Becker's continued involvement with the boy from Fox Point. At that time I told you I was certain Lyn had not made any effort to contact him and I really thought that particular door was closed. I was wrong. As a result I decided to drop you a note to give you an update. Over the week-end I talked to the mother and she informed me that her son had received another letter from Lyn last week, ostensibly to congratulate him on his performance in his school's class play. If it had stopped at that, I'm sure the mother would not have objected. What irritated her was the fact that the letter was mostly a recitation of the 'good life' he is leading---Le Club, trip to Chicago to see 42nd Street, dinner invitations, etc. What most upset her, however, was that he expressed a real desire to get this boy together with his roommate and himself, as they all (to quote Lyn) share common interests. This mother (a [REDACTED] is trying desperately to get this son's value system straightened out through the help of the priests at Marquette High and through professional counseling. She does not feel that she, her son, or the rest of her family need any further contact with Lyn and/or [REDACTED] his roommate, at this point.

I decided to write you as I think this latest effort on Lyn's part to re-establish contact with this boy is most disturbing. It is just one more indication of his continued persistence in thumbing his nose at anyone who is going to get in his way at this point. Past history shows that, as his options become less and less and his maneuvering space smaller and smaller, he becomes more and more capable of some pretty devious, irrational acts. I hope it doesn't happen this time around.

In a brief conversation I had with him over the week-end, he said he was going to see a Dr. [REDACTED] this week. He did not indicate to me any resentment or resistance to the idea. That's one optimistic note.

I would like to reiterate my concern for Lyn as a person and as a priest. There is much good there if it can ever be channeled properly. However, I, like you, am beginning to feel somewhat pessimistic over his future. There does not appear to be the faintest glimmer of any self-awareness of the position he's in right now. This is depressing. I wish there were some magic answers.

Peace...



AOM-BEC 00157

ADOM027092

Status Report .  
February 8, 2005

Mr. Franklyn Becker  
Person L#1

On Tuesday, February 8, 2005 at 8:10 PM I called Franklyn Becker at his residence. I told him I was calling as promised to relay some information that he had requested I check into. I stated I didn't have good news to offer.

First, I said that the \$10,000.00 check that we, Fr. Curt Frederick and I, had given him was in fact income and that he would be receiving a form 1099 shortly. He said that he had gotten it in the mail. I further advised him that no income taxes, either state or federal, had been withheld. He would have to claim the income and pay the taxes.

He said that he figured this when he got the 1099 form. But he was hoping there was some way to get a break on claiming it.

Secondly, I advised him that the archbishop was not going to pay for his health insurance, either directly or by making some kind of financial arrangement. I explained that this decision was based on a very recent case stemming out of Nashville. A former priest, now laicized committed another offense of sexual misconduct. The victim filed a lawsuit against the diocese. The diocese claimed that they had no responsibility since the man had been laicized. However, the court ruled against the diocese because the diocese continued to pay for the man's health insurance even after he was laicized.

Mr. Becker was not aware of the case. He was not happy and made a comment about the archbishop just getting rid of him and not caring for or about him.

He also made one of his statements about contacting the press or somebody because of all he knows.

I said he knew he wasn't going to do this. What purpose would it serve? The press wasn't going to give him insurance nor would they even give him much of a check for the information for a story.

He admitted he knew this but feels so abandoned.

He asked about [REDACTED] saying that he heard that he was the next one to be laicized.

I asked him where he heard this and he couldn't or wouldn't give an answer indicating it was just something he heard. I said this was just a rumor as I had heard it also. I told him not to believe everything he hears from the "grapevine".

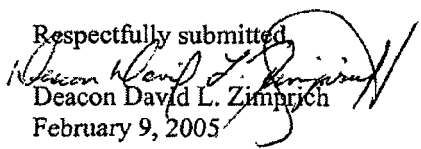
Thirdly, I asked him if someone had contacted him from Catholic Charities?

He said that he had. He is working with a man from there but the man basically told him there didn't appear to be much he could do at this time because Franklyn had looked into almost everything that is out there. He might have to liquidate the meager assets that he has to qualify for some type of welfare health benefits. The man, name unknown, is doing some more checking and said he would get back to Franklyn.

Franklyn is hoping that there is something out there so he can get insurance or he may just have to exist without any insurance. He is not very hopeful that the man will find anything.

I said that I would keep in touch and if I heard of anything would certainly call him.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Deacon David L. Zimprich

February 9, 2005

ADOM027151

Status report  
February 2, 2005

Mr. Franklyn Becker  
Person L # 1

---

On Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 11: 25 AM I met Mr. Franklyn Becker at Spinnaker's Restaurant located in Oconomowoc.

We discussed a number of issues during our time together.

He is extremely concerned about not having any health insurance. He said that he had called someone in State government. He asked about applying for a disability and was told he didn't qualify. He asked about some type of welfare or governmental health insurance and was told that he didn't qualify either because he was too young, too old, or had too high an income.

I asked if he had spoken to anyone in Catholic Charities. He previously mentioned he was going to call the Fond-du-Lac office. He said that since he lives in Dodge County he had to call the Beaver Dam office. He said he had done so and had spoken to someone, name unknown, who had taken some information. He has not heard back from this person. He didn't remember exactly how long ago he had called.

I said that I had spoken to Diane Knight the Executive Director of Catholic Charities about his situation. She was quite sure he would qualify for some type of health coverage under some type of assistance program. I said I would contact her and let her know that he had called someone at the Beaver Dam office. I would ask her to call and assign someone who knows the system inside and out to his case. I would ask that the person call him in the morning before 10:30 AM or in the latter afternoon or evening. I would further ask that this person be instructed to call Diane and/or myself back to let us know what, if anything was done for him.

He said he had called his dentist recently to ascertain how much a routine visit would cost since he has no dental insurance. He was told \$60.00 for a cleaning and \$91.00 if he saw the dentist. He scheduled an appointment with the hygienist for a cleaning.

He is still trying to find someone to buy his car or to assume his lease payments. He spoke to the car dealer where he got the car to see if he could get out of the lease and was told that he could not.

He asked if there had been any change with his compensation. I said that I tried to see the archbishop after receiving his letter dated January 21 but found out he was in Miami on vacation. I said that I would have an answer for him by Monday or Tuesday next week at the latest.

He said that he had applied for several jobs. He had gone to a state job facility to seek assistance. He never saw a person. He was directed to a computer and told to enter his information. He was then told he should go to a library or use his home computer, he doesn't have one, to access the system each day to see if there are any jobs he wanted to send his resume to. He can't believe they wouldn't have people to help you.

He has checked the computer for several days but hasn't found anything. He questions his applying for any position anyway because of his age, 67 years, and his past history. An employer can go on line and find out about his past. It probably even says that he has been laicized.

I told him I knew the archdiocese wasn't advertising that he had been laicized and unless he told people I didn't believe it was out there on the internet.

He said he would really like to work in a library but because of his involvement with kids that will probably never happen. He has applied at several grocery stores and other places but hasn't heard back as of yet. He is not hopeful.

He said that he had started to get things ready to take his taxes in. He asked whether or not he had to claim the \$10,000.00 settlement Fr. Curt (Frederick) and I had given him when we met with him? Is this income or a settlement like insurance or what? I said that I thought he was

ADOM027154



Page Two of Two  
Mr. Franklyn Becker  
February 2, 2005

going to have to claim it. He asked if taxes had been withheld from the \$10,000.00. I said that I didn't now but would check and let him know the answers to the above questions.

I asked what his days looked like. He said that he gets up and leaves the house around 10:45 AM to go to the library to check the jobs postings. Then he submits resumes. He is usually home in the afternoon after lunch. He goes to a senior meal program for his big meal, lunch, almost everyday. He has to sign up ahead of time. They only ask for a donation. Currently they are asking for \$2.20 per day. For breakfast he has a piece of fruit and for dinner he has a can of Slim-Fast and a few crackers. He said he should be losing weight but doesn't even eat that small amount. But he said he is satisfied. He never was a real big eater.

He said when he was in Florida in December and January he saw several priests. One was Don Peters. He said they went to Epcot at Disney World. He said Don and his sister love it there. She plays the organ there for Mass sometimes. He said Don is having trouble doing a lot of walking and rented an electric scooter. Don said that when he gets back to Wisconsin he will have to look into getting one because of the difficulty he has walking.

Mr. Becker asked numerous times why one priest got laicized and another didn't? Who made the decision? What was the reasoning for one to get laicized and one not to.

I said I wasn't privy to these decisions but thought they might have been based on age, health and individual cases. He bemoaned the fact that the archbishop never once sat down with him and told him anything, nor did he answer any of his questions. He was never given a chance to defend himself. His case was just sent over to Rome.

He asked about several other cases. I was non-committal. He did know I had met with [REDACTED] and wondered why he had been laicized and if [REDACTED] would be laicized.

[REDACTED]

I asked about his brother in Muncie. He said they speak on the telephone periodically. His brother and sister-in-law are doing some housework and then are going on a cruise for their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

He said he missed going on cruises but brought up some priest from California that used to schedule priests for cruises stating he was arrested and taken off a cruise liner during a cruise because of an allegation. That coupled with all the sickness that has been reported lately on cruises, he doesn't know if he would want to go on one again. This California priest was the same one that he sued to book cruises through.

I asked if he had been walking or exercising. He said that he had not. I told him that we both needed to do so.

On Wednesday, February 2 at 1:05 PM I called Diane Knight and left a detailed message on her answering machine regarding Mr. Becker and the assignment of someone knowledgeable to his case. I will also follow-up regarding his tax question.

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon David L. Zimprich

ADOM027155

316. Franklyn Becker  
October 25, 2004 Dr. [REDACTED] phoned to say that he tested Fr. Becker today. They spoke regarding his ongoing therapy. He recommends that Fr. Becker's therapy be reduced to monthly sessions. He notes Fr. as being narcissistic, angry, oephebaphile. He needs monitoring. Dr. [REDACTED] will send a written report to Dave Zimprich.

CJF

536. Franklyn Becker  
On November 19, 2004, I learned that a Decree of Laicization had been granted in an audience with the Holy Father on October 15, 2004. It was agreed that some further discussion and consultation would occur prior to delivering the decree to Father Becker directly.

RJS

# PRIESTS' PENSION PLAN

P.O. BOX 07912 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0912 • PHONE 414/769-3300

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

## APPLICATION FOR PENSION BENEFITS With/without Retirement

Name: Franklyn W. Becker

Address: [REDACTED]  
Mayville WI 53050

Present Assignment: none

Date of Birth: 07/15/37

Current Age: (at 7/31/05): 68

Date of Ordination: 05/30/64

Social Security #: [REDACTED]

Medicare #:

Pension Benefits permitted at age 68:

Effective Date: 07/31/05

Pension Benefits with Retirement:

Effective Date:

IF RETIRING, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION:

Address after Retirement: same as above

Telephone after Retirement: [REDACTED]

Franklyn W. Becker  
Signature

3/01/05  
Date

ADOM027167

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
DEPARTMENT FOR CLERGY

February 24, 2005

Mr. Franklyn W. Becker  
[REDACTED]  
Mayville WI 53050

Dear Franklyn,

I am writing in response to your letter dated February 15, 2004 (actually 2005) in which you request paperwork in advance of your 68<sup>th</sup> birthday in July 2005 for the Archdiocesan Pension you will be eligible to receive effective on July 31, 2005.

Enclosed are: the Pension application, the Notice of Withholding form, and the Application for Direct Deposit which need to be completed by you prior to July 31, 2005. Regarding the application for Direct Deposit (ETF) –complete the top portion of the form and ask your bank to complete the bottom portion before you return the form to me. Please return the completed items to me.

PENSION

The first pension check is issued at the end of the month FOLLOWING the last day of the month of your eligibility. Therefore your first check should be expected August 31, 2005. Direct deposit begins the month after you receive your first check.

It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to send notification of any future changes of your address to the Pension Department.

Effective January 1, 1997 the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Priests' Pension Plan (VI 6.4) was amended to provide that up to 100% of your pension benefit may be designated as rental or housing allowance and therefore not taxable. Please be advised, however, that the amount you exclude from income may not exceed the amount actually used to rent or provide a home. For example, if your annual pension totaled \$15,000 but your actual rent or cost of providing housing was only \$8,700, then only \$8,700 would be excluded from taxable income. The balance of \$6,300 would be included in income on your Federal form 1040. Wisconsin Statute 71.05, which lists modifications to Federal adjusted income, also allows this tax treatment.

In the future, if you have questions about this pension benefit, please contact the Finance Office (Kim: 414-769-3326).

Sincerely,

*S. Kathleen*

Sister Kathleen Schweihs, CSA  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of Vicar for Clergy

QUARLES & BRADY LLP

TRUST ACCOUNT

DEC 15 2004

DATE: 12-14-04 PAYEE: Franklyn W. Becker

CHECK #: 40487

DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATTER #	AMOUNT
12/14/04	Check to Franklyn W. Becker	130031.30108	\$ 10,000.00

THIS CHECK IS VOID WITHOUT A COLORED BACKGROUND AND AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK ON THE BACK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

**Quarles & Brady LLP**

TRUST ACCOUNT

411 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4497  
Phone 414-277-5000

M&I Marshall & Isley Bank  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

12-5750

CHECK NO. 40487

DATE 12-14-04

\$ 10,000.00

PAY Ten Thousand USD and no cents

TO THE ORDER OF Franklyn W. Becker

*John J. Peterbauer*  
 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE  
*Thomas R. ...*  
 VOID AFTER 180 DAYS

SIGNATURE HAS A COLORED BACKGROUND - BORDER CONTAINS MICROPRINTING

ADOM027182

NAME: Franklyn Becker

ORDINATION: 1964

ASSIGNMENT HISTORY:

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  
Dismissed from the clerical state December 2004

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.

CURRENT MEDIATION CASE:

DATE OF ACCUSATION: June 17, 2002  
DATE OF ALLEGED ACT(S): 1966-1969  
AGE AT TIME: 13  
NATURE OF THE OFFENSE: oral sex; taking lewd photographs of the boy (3 x)  
SURROUNDING EVENTS: B2 was associate pastor at the victim's parish

CURRENT STATUS OF B2:

He was dismissed from the clerical state ("defrocked") by an act of the Pope. Law enforcement officials in the locale where he is living have been informed of his presence in the community. His name is posted to our website as a substantiated sex offender. DA has reviewed the files for us to see if any cases can be prosecuted. He has found none. B2 was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor out of state and was awaiting extradition when the U.S. Supreme Court declared that retroactive prosecution of cases outside the criminal statute of limitations was unconstitutional.

ADOM029815

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 8, 2004

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

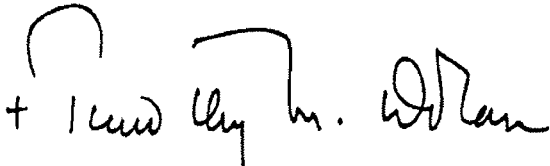
Dear [REDACTED]

In line with the assurances given in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, I have authorized the release of the names of priests who are now or would have been restricted from all priestly ministries. These men can not celebrate the sacraments publicly or represent themselves as priests in any way.

This action will bring with it additional publicity. My concern is that the publicity may bring you, personally, additional anxiety, stress or other difficulties. If you need to talk to someone, please do so. If you would like to contact our office for Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Services, please call 414-769-3436.

What happened to you was not your fault and should never have happened. For that, I apologize in the name of the Church. I hope our actions as a Church in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and my actions as archbishop continue to provide for healing. Please know you remain in my prayers.

Faithfully in Christ,



The Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

February 19, 2004



Dear 

Please allow me to continue to update you about developments that may concern you.

On February 27, 2004 the findings of the "John Jay Study" will be released. This study was commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at their Dallas meeting in June, 2002. John Jay College of Criminal Justice conducted a survey, and this report will include cumulative numbers from dioceses across the United States who reported on their individual numbers since 1950.

Naturally you will be interested in this news story because of its personal dimensions for you, but many victim/survivors have also let me know how extensive media coverage of clergy sexual abuse causes intense personal disruption and setbacks. In addition to a "heads up" about the turmoil you may face, let me make a few suggestions about how you might manage this time period.

- Be in charge of your media doses, rather than let it control you. Choose when and where and how much exposure you want. Turn off the TV or radio and put away the newspaper, as needed. Let people know if you don't want to talk about it now.
- Turn to people who offer you genuine caring and support. Distinguish these from the people who have another interest or purpose in talking to you about your personal relationship to the topic. Remember that you have choices about whether you publicly identify yourself as a victim. Talk with people with whom you feel "safe."
- Consider making an appointment with your therapist if you don't already have one. If you have not taken advantage of our offer to assist financially with psychotherapy, but would like to do so, please contact me. There are also support groups that focus on the healing needs of sexual abuse survivors, for which I can provide information. You are welcome to turn to me as a support person as well.

Previously we informed you that a new mediation program, independent of the Archdiocese, was forthcoming. The Clergy Sexual Abuse Mediation System is designed to resolve disputes for those who have been sexually abused by Catholic clergy, with the goal of healing, restoration and closure. If you are not already registered to participate in mediation, you may do so by calling 414-302-9215 or 1-866-302-9215. The last date for requesting mediation if you choose to seek resolution.

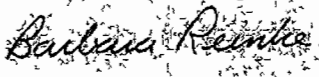


February 19, 2004

Page 2

I pray and hope that your journey as a survivor of clergy sexual abuse starts to become easier. For the Catholic Church it is a necessary time of public accountability in order to be responsible for what happened in the past, to change the culture and ways of operating in the present, and to practice prevention in the future. As we have said before, no words or actions erase the burden you have borne as a result of this issue.

May God be with you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Reinke". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat fluid and personal.

Barbara Reinke, Ph.D.  
Sexual Abuse Prevention & Response  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

BR:saz

ADOM030051

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 1, 2004

COPY

Dear 

I write to you because you have experienced, firsthand, the pain caused by sexual abuse within the Church, and you courageously reported the abuse to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. No words can apologize sufficiently for your experience, but I will continue to try by saying again how sorry I am. Knowing that no remedies can adequately address the harm done, I still want to make you aware of a variety of services available to you and intended to assist in your healing.

Dispute resolution services to address your unique needs for recovery will become available in mid-January. Eva Soeka, a nationally known expert in dispute resolution systems, is creating a process independent of the Church that will make use of the best mediators in the area. I continue to believe that this initiative represents the best way for us to meet together about your situation and provide assistance. More details and information about how to enter into this process will be available in mid-January. At this time, I ask you to start considering if this might be the right next step for you.

Catholic Charities is also offering a new support group in Milwaukee for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. This group will offer a faith-based perspective, and is meant to supplement other support groups available in the area. A flyer is enclosed.

Financial assistance with psychotherapy also remains available. To access this, or for other questions about our services, please contact Dr. Barbara Reinke in our office for Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Services (414-769-3436 or [reinkeb@archmil.org](mailto:reinkeb@archmil.org)). Also enclosed is a brochure about our policies and procedures when a report is made.

I continue to meet privately with those victim-survivors who find that helpful. Please contact me at 414-769-3496 if you would like to arrange such a meeting. We have also arranged for several priests, sisters and lay ministers, who are professionally-trained in providing spiritual direction, to be available. If you would like to speak with one of them, please contact Barbara Anne Cusack, my delegate for sexual abuse issues, at 414-769-3341.

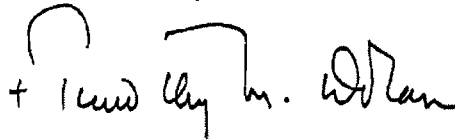
It is also important for me to communicate with you about our efforts to prevent clergy sexual abuse in the future. Our *Code of Ethics* makes it clear that no such behavior is to be tolerated within ministry. Our *Mandatory Reporting Responsibility* policy specifies that any employee or volunteer working in our parishes and schools must report any suspicion of abuse. In addition, all adult staff, and volunteers who work with children are required to participate in training to enhance awareness of childhood sexual abuse.

One final thing: if you would prefer not to have further contact from me or from any Church representative, please let us know using the enclosed return letter and pre-stamped envelope.

Much more remains to be done, and we welcome your suggestions. You can use the enclosed response letter and envelope for that purpose as well.

Please know that I am concerned about you and I pray for you. I apologize for the past misdeeds and wish to restore your wholeness as best we can.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

MOST REV. TIMOTHY M. DOLAN

JUL 30 2008

July 25, 2008

Dear Archbishop Dolan,

My name is [REDACTED] I am one of "Becker's Boys". I graduated from Holy Assumption Grade school in 1963. The abuse that I was a victim of began before I graduated. I was 13. It started in the confessional. I was a good Catholic boy, then. I was always confessing masturbation in fear of the fire and brimstone the nuns taught us in Holy Assumption.

I was in the confessional and confessing my sins to Becker. He asked if I would feel better if he told me he masturbated too. I was 13. I didn't give a thought to what the priests did sexually. Or anyone for that matter. I was shocked. He(Becker), said I should come to his personal quarters at the rectory to discuss the "problem" I was having. We set up a time and date.

I have areas of time that I am missing during the three years that man abused me. Three years of my life. Years he was not in titled to have. I felt that no one would listen to a kid's word against a priest's. I was the youngest of [REDACTED] Mom and Dad were busy and very involved in the church. They were trilled that "Father" took an interest in their son and took him on trips. We did a trip [REDACTED] and to his cousins in Steven's point. No one thought twice about Father and the boy sleeping together. I couldn't believe they were not stopping him. Toward the beginning of all this, he was to be a counselor at a camp and took me along. Of course the cabin had only one bed! He danced slow with me and told me their were bars where guys danced together. Next scene is on the bed. He had already ejaculated when were dancing. I only knew because he had told me. I remember being on the bed and him playing with my penis. I remember saying to him that if I didn't have one of these (penis) that he would not even be around. There are plenty of stories I remember. There are also areas where there is no memory at all. That is a first for me.

[REDACTED] and a recovering Catholic. My older sister sent me news clippings of what was going on with Becker. I debated, for many years, as to what to do. I finally saw all these guys coming forward and I had to speak up. I felt that the numbers had to be shown, for the church to realize the damage this man has done.

I am going to be in Milwaukee the first weekend in August. I would like an opportunity to speak with you about this matter. I will not hold all this inside anymore. It is always there. Just around the corner from my other thoughts-but there just the same. I was told that the psychiatrist we were all sent to had a job to do. His job was to convince us that it was our fault. Do you know, I carried that feeling around up until two years ago. I am now [REDACTED] years old. That is [REDACTED] years-I'll do the math for you. My childhood ended abruptly because of Becker. My adolescence was horrific. Counselor after counselor I have been to. Why was he allowed to continue? How could the church let this happen? So many boy's lifes ruined. You can bet that those of us that come forward are only the tip of Becker's ice burg. And may he live a long, long life.

He came to my parent's home. He told them of similar activities happening with myself and another priest. The other priest seemed to be the lesser of two evils. I told my parents, while he(Becker) was there, that he was in their home for one reason. He is jealous. He has been doing the same thing for three years. I went to my room and would not talk about it to them. I never did. They knew enough from Becker to go to the archbishop. They were not granted an audience! Mom was involved in Christian Mothers, she worked in the church office with out pay, and Dad in Holy Name. I was a reader at the church. My parents kept their faith in the church until they died. I am glad they did. I could not. If I never see the inside of a confessional it will be too soon.

This is only part of my story. It is still, after [REDACTED] years a very tough one to write or talk about. I have been talking to a few close friends about it, to be able to speak clearly to you about all of this. I do hope you will grant me an audience. If that Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> is available I would appreciate you saving me an extra trip to Milwaukee.

ADOM030624

One last thing, [REDACTED] She was in her final days. Becker had the nerve to go into her room and ask my Dad if he could give her his blessing. My Dad said, "I am not your judge. We need all the help we can get." Becker told my Dad to have me call him when I come into town. The man is unreal! I saw him at the hospital but he did not see me. I wanted to chase after him and tell him to stay away from my family. I began to do just that. Then I stopped. This time wasn't his. It was my Mom's. I would only have caused more turmoil than they needed. How dare he!

I will stop now. I am enclosing my home number and my cell number.

[REDACTED]

Please feel free to leave any message at all. I am now very open about all this. I am grateful that my family has been so supportive of my actions as well.

I look forward to meeting with you and for your phone call. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Amy Peterson**

---

**From:** Kathleen Hohl [HohlK@archmil.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2008 6:55 PM  
**To:** petersona@archmil.org  
**Cc:** Barbara Anne Cusack  
**Subject:** FW: One of Becker's Boys

I read this message from vacation and do not feel properly equipped to respond.

KATHLEEN

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 22, 2008 8:59 PM  
**To:** hohlk@archmil.org  
**Subject:** One of Becker's Boys

I believe the records of Becker's behavior are incomplete and I suspect I know why. I was abused by Becker, beginning the spring of 1963 at Holy Assumption Parish, West Allis ,WI. It continued for three years, off and on. My parents found out, by Becker's admission, that I was being abused by him. (Long story).

[REDACTED] What the church said was, well gospel at our house. After they were made aware of the situation, they went either to the Bishop or Archbishop. They would not be granted an audience. The man's secretary kept them at bay, knowing why they were there. Therefore no report. Do you think I felt I would have an ear, bringing this up to the bishop, or even the nuns at school. I was a kid-13 years old. Who will take my word, if they won't even talk to my parents

Therefore, when I read how Becker's abuse started in 1970, I am appalled. So what was I? Just some kid he was practicing on; therefore I didn't count.

I hope you all sleep well tonight. I have many sleepless nights over this-over the years. And now I still will, since there is no record that, maybe Fr. Rose could've fill out. Hardly.

I am most sincere, [REDACTED]

P.S. my email is [REDACTED] Not for Becker's eyes.

4/2/2008

ADOM030627

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
DEPARTMENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

May 14, 2002



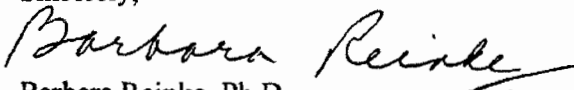
Dear 

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has decided to turn over all complaints about sexual abuse, no matter how old, to the District Attorney's office, and E. Michael McCann has agreed that his office will review all cases relevant to Milwaukee County. Because you recently made a report about sexual abuse, I am informing you that I will be forwarding this report to the District Attorney. If you have concerns about this, please notify me by May 24, or I will assume your report can go forward.

Thank-you for contacting Project Benjamin about the problem you encountered. On behalf of the Archdiocese, I am truly sorry this happened to you. We would like to assist your healing in whatever way we can.

You are always welcome to contact me at 414-769-3436.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Reinke, Ph.D.  
Director, Project Benjamin *BAR*

ARCHDIOCESE  OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

**COPY**

April 30, 2008



Dear 

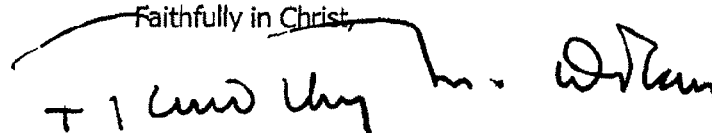
I received your letter in which you shared the story of abuse that occurred when you were a student at Holy Assumption Parish. First, let me thank you for your courage to report what happened and, then let me say that the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is very committed to assisting those who have been sexually abused by church personnel.

In my many meetings with survivors of sexual abuse, I have learned that the journey towards some resolution is painful and can seem unbearable at times. However, there is great hope for healing and to that end, the archdiocese has created an office that has a full time Victim Assistance Coordinator who is available to assist you with your own healing journey. Her name is Amy Peterson and her number is 414-758-2232. Her email address is [petersona@archmil.org](mailto:petersona@archmil.org).

Your letter to me was a brave first step in moving forward, please contact Amy and she will assist you as you continue on your journey. I would also be happy to meet with you as you have requested. Amy will assist you in scheduling an appointment with me.

I am sorry you have suffered and continue to struggle emotionally and spiritually. My hope and prayer for you is that you will contact Amy Peterson and begin to find the support you deserve and need.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,  


Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee





CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

20 October 2003

348/03 - 17919  
PROT N. -  
(In response fiat mentio huius numeri)

**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.

**ADOM039356**



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

DEC 11 2003

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

21559

No. ....

*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**

**ADOM039358**



CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

28 October 2004

PROT N 348/03 - 19853  
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Your Excellency,

I write with regard to the case of the **Reverend Franklyn William BECKER**, a priest of your Archdiocese, who has been accused of multiple acts of sexual abuse of minors and concerning whom Your Excellency has requested dismissal from the clerical state *ex officio et in poenam*.

This Dicastery, on receipt of notification that the cleric has refused to seek voluntary laicization as suggested by this Congregation as a sign of repentance, has decided to support Your Excellency's request that the above-mentioned priest be dismissed *ex officio et in poenam* from the clerical state.

In an audience granted to His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of this Dicastery, on 15 October 2004 the Supreme Pontiff decreed that the Reverend Franklin William Becker is dismissed *ex officio et in poenam* from the clerical state, and is, moreover, released from all obligations of the Sacred Priesthood, including that of celibacy. Any censures, under which he may be labouring, are remitted by this decree.

Your Excellency is asked kindly to inform Fr. Becker of this grave decision according to paragraph 7 of the enclosed decree. A signed and notarized copy of the decree should be returned to this Dicastery at your earliest convenience.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere respects and I remain,

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

\* Angelo Amato, SDB  
Titular Archbishop of Sila  
*Secretary*

(Enclosures)

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His Excellency  
The Most Reverend **Timothy M. DOLAN**  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
Office of the Archbishop  
3501 South Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912, U.S.A.

**ADOM039359**



**CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI**  
(Dimissio e statu clericali ac dispensatio ab oneribus)

Prot. N. 348/03

**Milvaukiensis**

**D.nus Franklyn William BECKER**

Die 15 m. Octobris a. 2004

**Summus Pontifex Ioannes Paulus, Papa II**

audita relatione Em.mi Cardinalis Praefecti huius Congregationis circa gravem agendi rationem supradicti presbyteri dioecesis Milvaukiensis (v.d. Milwaukee, U.S.A.), praemissis praemittendis, suprema atque inappellabili decisione nullique recursui obnoxia,

**decrevit**

poenam dimissionis dicto presbytero irrogandam esse.

Eidem presbytero etiam dispensationem concedit ab omnibus oneribus sacrae Ordinationi conexis iuxta sequentes rationes.

1. Dimissio ac dispensatio vim habent ab ipso momento decisionis Romani Pontificis.
2. Dimissionis ac dispensationis Decretum presbytero a competenti Ordinario loci notificetur, cui numquam fas est duo illa elementa seiungere. Idemque insuper secumfert absolutionem a censuris, quatenus opus sit.
3. Notitia dimissionis ac dispensationis adnotetur in Libris baptizatorum parociae praedicti presbyteri.
4. Quod attinet si casus ferat, ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, applicandae sunt normae quae in Codice Iuris Canonici statuuntur. Ordinarius vero curet ut res caute peragantur sine exteriori apparatu.
5. Auctoritas ecclesiastica, cui spectat Decretum praefato sacerdoti notificare, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruendi cum nova eius vivendi condicione, participet, aedificationem praestet et ita probum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum faciat ea quae sequuntur:

*a) presbyter dimissus eo ipso amittit iura statui clericali propria, dignitates et officia ecclesiastica; ceteris obligationibus cum statu clericali conexis non amplius adstringitur;*

**ADOM039361**

- b) *exclusus manet ab exercitio sacri ministerii, iis exceptis de quibus in can. 976 et 986 § 2 CJC ac propterea nequit homiliam habere, nec potest officium gerere directivum in ambitu pastorali neve munere administratoris paroecialis fungi;*
- c) *item nullum munus absolvere potest in Seminariis et in Institutis aequiparatis. In aliis Institutis studiorum gradus superioris, quae quocumque modo dependent ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit;*
- d) *in aliis vero Institutis studiorum gradus superioris ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica non dependentibus nullam theologiam disciplinam tradere potest;*
- e) *in Institutis autem studiorum gradus inferioris dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit. Eadem lege tenetur presbyter dimissus ac dispensatus in tradenda Religione in Institutis eiusdem generis non dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica.*

6. Ordinarius curet ne presbyter dimissus, propter defectum debitaе prudentiae, fidelibus scandalum praebeat. Haec pastoralis sollicitudo Ordinarium a fortiori gravissime urget si adest periculum quamvis remotum minoribus abutendi.

7. Notificatio dimissionis et dispensationis fieri potest vel personaliter per notarium aut ecclesiasticum actuarium vel per «epistulas perscriptas» (*raccomandata, certificada, enregistrée, registered, Einschreiben*). Sacerdos dimissus unum exemplar restituere debet rite subsignatum ad fidem receptionis et acceptionis eiusdem dimissionis ac dispensationis ac simul etiam praeceptorum, quod si non faciat integer manet effectus huius Decreti.

8. Tempore autem opportuno, Ordinarius competens breviter ad Congregationem de peracta notificatione referat, et si qua tandem fidelium admiratio adsit, prudenti explicatione provideat.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

Ex Aedibus Congregationis, die 15 m. Octobris a. 2004

† *Josephus Card. Ratzinger*

Josephus Card. RATZINGER  
Praefectus

\* *Angelus Amato*

\* Angelus AMATO, S.D.B.  
Archiep. titularis Silensis  
a Secretis

Dies notificationis 6 XII 2004

*Franklyn W. Becker*  
Subsignatio Presbyteri in signum  
acceptionis

*Thomas W. W. W.*  
Subsignatio Ordinarii

**LAICIZATION RESCRIPT - UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Prot. N.: 348/03

Milwaukee

Father Franklyn William Becker

October 15, 2004

The Supreme Pontiff Pope John Paul, II

having heard the opinion of his Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of this Congregation concerning the serious actions of the above named presbyter of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Milwaukee, USA), with the proper documentation having been sent and finding this final decision to be beyond appeal and not subject to recourse,

has decreed

that the penalty of dismissal from the presbyterate be imposed.

This same presbyter is also granted a dispensation from all of the obligations connected with sacred Orders in accord with the following consideration:

1. The dismissal and dispensation take effect at the very moment of the decision of the Roman Pontiff.
2. The decree of dismissal and dispensation are to be communicated to the presbyter by the competent Ordinary and no one has the right to separate those two elements. Indeed, further, it carries with it, insofar as it is necessary, absolution from censures.
3. Notice of the granting of the dismissal and dispensation is to be inscribed in the baptismal register of the aforementioned presbyter's parish.
4. With regard to the celebration of a canonical marriage, the norms set down in The Code of Canon Law must be applied. The Ordinary, however, should take care that the matter be discreetly handled without pomp or external display.
5. The ecclesiastical authority, to whom it belongs to notify the priest, should earnestly exhort him to take part in the life of the People of God, in a manner consonant with his new mode of living, to give edification, and thus to show himself a most loving son of the Church. At the same time, however, he should be informed of the following points:
  - a) the dismissed presbyter automatically loses the rights proper to the clerical state, as well as ecclesiastical dignities and offices; he is no longer bound by the other obligations connected with the clerical state;
  - b) he remains excluded from the exercise of the sacred ministry, with the exception of those functions mentioned in canons 976 and 986, §2, and, as a result, he may not give a homily nor is he able to hold a directive office in the pastoral field nor to exercise the function of parochial administrator;

**ADOM039363**

- c) similarly, he may not discharge any function in seminaries and in equivalent institutions. In other institutions of higher studies, which are in any way whatever dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not exercise a directive function;
  - d) in those institutions of higher studies which are not dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not teach any discipline which is properly theological or closely connected with the same;
  - e) in institutions of lower studies, which are dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not exercise the function of teaching a discipline which is properly theological. A dismissed and dispensed presbyter is held by the same rule in teaching Religion in an institution of the same kind not dependent upon ecclesiastical authority.
6. The Ordinary of the dismissed presbyter, in keeping with required prudence, must care that scandal not be given to the faithful. This pastoral care of the Ordinary is most important if a danger of even a minor abuse, although remote, is at hand.
  7. Notification of the dismissal and dispensation can be made either personally or through an ecclesiastical notary or through registered mail. The dismissed priest ought to retain a copy sign his receptions and acceptance of this dismissal and dispensation and also its regulations, but if he does not it does not impede the effect of this decree.
  8. At an opportune time, the Ordinary is to send a brief report to the Congregation on his completion of the notification, and, if there is any wonderment on the part of the faithful he is to provide a prudent explanation.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the Offices of the Congregation, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2004.

/s/ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger  
Prefect

/s/ Angelus Amato, S.D.B.  
Titular Archbishop of Silens  
Secretary

Date of notification: \_\_\_\_\_

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of presbyter as sign of acceptance

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Ordinary



  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
DEPARTMENT FOR CLERGY

December 7, 2004

DEC 09 2004

Todd M. Nehls  
Sheriff, Dodge County  
141 N. Main St.  
Juneau, WI 53039

Dear Sheriff Nehls:

I am writing to inform you that Mr. Franklyn William Becker (W/M 7-15-37 of [REDACTED], Mayville, WI 53050) is a former priest of the Roman Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. I was notified on Friday, November 19, 2004 that he was laicized, (returned to the lay state from the clerical state). He was notified on Monday, December 6, 2004 of his new status.

Mr. Becker has substantiated cases of sexual misconduct involving children. Criminal charges were never brought against Mr. Becker. When they did come to light they were outside of the statute of limitations. He does have a case pending in California stemming from an incident(s) in the 1970's. I don't know the current status of this case but know that the case had been dismissed because California's 1 year exemption from the State's statute of limitations was appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Mr. Becker has been monitored closely since the allegations first came to the attention of the archdiocese. He has complied completely with any and all directives imposed upon him by the archbishop(s). He will not be monitored by members of the archdiocese now that he is no longer a cleric.

I do not anticipate that he would commit any further criminal acts but feel I must notify you of his new status as well as his presence in the community. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (414)-769-3490.

Sincerely yours,

Very Rev. Curt J. Frederick  
Vicar for Clergy  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
3501 South Lake Drive  
PO Box 070912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Prot. No. 348/03 - 19853

December 10, 2004

Archbishop Angelo Amato, SDB  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11  
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Excellency

Enclosed please find the signed and executed decree of dismissal from the clerical state for Franklyn William Becker. The provisions of the decree have been explained and accepted. Out of charity, we are offering some financial assistance for transition needs.

Given the fact that there is general agreement among all areas of the local Christian faithful that someone with Franklyn Becker's history of sexual abuse of minors should not be able to remain in the clerical state, I do not anticipate any negative reactions to this dismissal. As the cases against him in the State of California unfold, I am convinced that the Congregation's action in this matter will be accepted as a positive measure.

Thank you for your assistance in resolving this serious matter.

With sentiments of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee



411 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4497  
Tel 414.277.5000  
Fax 414.271.3552  
www.quarles.com

*Attorneys at Law in:  
Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona  
Naples and Boca Raton, Florida  
Chicago, Illinois (Quarles & Brady LLC)  
Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin*

Writer's Direct Dial: 414.277.5351  
E-Mail jar@quarles.com

December 14, 2004

**BY CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Franklyn W. Becker  
[REDACTED]

Mayville WI 53050

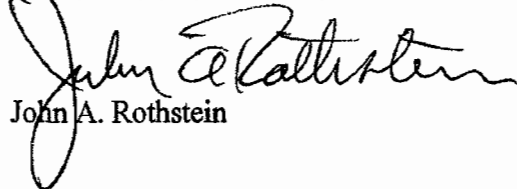
**RE: Settlement Check**

Dear Mr. Becker:

I have been asked by Deacon David L. Zimprich to forward to you the enclosed check in the amount of \$10,000.

Very truly yours,

QUARLES & BRADY LLP



John A. Rothstein

JAR:rlw  
Enclosure

cc: Deacon David L. Zimprich

QBMKE\5671146.1

ADOM039369

Franklyn W. Becker  
December 14, 2004  
Page 2

bc: ✓ Dr. Barbara Anne Cusack

QBMKE5671146.1

**ADOM039370**



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

21.559

December 17, 2004

No. ....

*This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer*

Dear Ms. Cusack:

I acknowledge your kind letter of December 10, 2004,  
with enclosure.

Rest assured that the executed decree of dismissal  
from the clerical state for **Franklyn William Becker** will be  
duly forwarded through the diplomatic pouch to Archbishop  
Angelo Amato, SDB, Secretary, Congregation for the Doctrine of  
the Faith.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo  
Apostolic Nuncio

---

Ms. Barbara Anne Cusack  
Chancellor  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
P. O. Box 070912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

ADOM039373

*T. Curt*

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

JAN 10 2005

December 29, 2004  
Year of the Eucharist

Reverend Patrick R. Lagges  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
155 E. Superior Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Father Lagges,

I am in receipt of your letter of inquiry about insurance coverage for Franklyn Becker to whom you are providing canonical advice. Thank you for your willingness to offer him counsel.

As you are aware, a monetary arrangement has been provided to Franklyn to assist him in transition expenses. In addition, we have tried to assist him in finding health insurance coverage which he could purchase, using some of these funds should he choose to do so. We have been unsuccessful thus far in locating any such coverage. If you are aware of a program that your archdiocese uses, we would be interested in hearing of it.

There may have been some years when, at ordination time, men were told to consider their options regarding signing up for Social Security. However, for at least the past twenty-five years, there have been multiple announcements, every time there was an open enrollment made available, encouraging priests to take advantage of that opportunity. Franklyn apparently ignored that encouragement until very recently. Over the years, therefore, when others were making their self-employed Social Security payments, Franklyn had this additional money available for his own investment for his future needs. Moreover, during the years that Franklin was unassigned and the archdiocese was paying his salary, he also received the "Retirement Savings Supplement." This is an annual amount calculated to match what priests would be paying for Social Security. It is provided regardless of whether or not the priest is actually enrolled in Social Security. Again, we would have anticipated that Franklyn would have invested these funds for his own future needs.

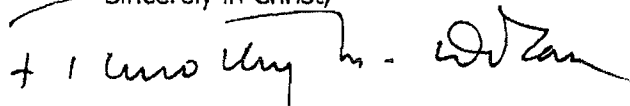
All of us live with the consequences of the decisions we have made, for good and for bad. What Franklyn is facing now is the result of a series of his own decisions. Were a lay employee to be terminated, there would be no assistance at the level Franklyn has experienced. Our financial situation at present does not allow us to consider additional charity on his behalf especially as we face the potential for multi-million dollar settlements in California, some of which will be the direct results of Franklyn's actions.

December 29, 2004  
Page Two

Thank you again for your assistance to Franklyn. I do expect that you will inform me of your expenses for this service.

With best wishes during the blessed Christmas season, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "D".

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

**ADOM039376**

June 20, 2003

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

Your Excellency:

Enclosed please find a small token of appreciation for your assistance in transmitting materials to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. 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

**ADOM039385**



Franklyn Becker was informed that Pope John Paul II had laicized him, or returned him to the lay state from the clerical state, in December 2004. Upon Becker's notification, Archdiocese of Milwaukee officials contacted Dodge County Sheriff Todd M. Nehls with information regarding Becker's return to the lay state, his past history, and his residence in Dodge County.

The laicization of Franklyn Becker upholds the assurances given by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" that states "Diocesan/eparchial policy will provide that for even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor—past, present, or future—the offending priest or deacon will be permanently removed from ministry, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state, if the case so warrants." The laicization affirms the words of Pope John Paul II that, "There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young." In 2002 victims advocates groups were insistent that clerics with substantiated reports of sexual abuse of minors be removed from the priesthood.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee placed full restrictions on Becker in April 2002. These restrictions became permanent in July 2002.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has been candid about Becker and there has been substantial media attention about his situation, including:

- In 2002, when he was permanently fully restricted from ministry;
- In 2003, when he was arrested and charged with sexual assault by California law enforcement authorities;
- In July 2004, when the Archdiocese of Milwaukee published a list of diocesan priests, including Becker, who have been restricted from all priestly ministry. This information was distributed to all archdiocesan, parish and school personnel and received widespread media coverage. This list remains available on the Archdiocese of Milwaukee web site ([www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org)) and is updated when there are changes to an individual's status. Becker's status on this list was updated following his Vatican-imposed laicization.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has kept its promises and remains committed to working proactively toward resolution of any issues brought to us by victims/survivors of sexual abuse as a minor by diocesan clergy. There is no clergy member with a substantiated report of sexual abuse of a minor in ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan is always open to hearing from victims/survivors and others regarding any concern or issue they may have regarding how the Archdiocese of Milwaukee works with victims/survivors of sexual abuse as a minor by diocesan clergy.

January 24, 2005

Reverend Patrick R. Lagges  
 Archdiocese of Chicago  
 155 E. Superior Street  
 Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Father Lagges,

Thank you for your input on the translation of the decree of dismissal for Franklyn Becker.

It was precisely in order to exercise my pastoral solicitude for all the people entrusted to my care and to do what could be done to repair the grave scandal his actions caused, that I made the decision to request the dismissal *ex officio et poenam*. I disagree with your interpretation that the decree states that the Archdiocese has a continuing responsibility for his actions. We have taken the steps that are possible to ensure that no harm will come to minors by notification of civil law enforcement and by listing him publicly as an offender. I do not disagree that, as a member of the Christian faithful, Franklyn continues to have a relationship with me. So does every other member of the Catholic Church committed to my care. He does not, however, have the same relationship as a cleric for then dismissal from the clerical state would be an empty act. I have consulted with civil and canonical counsel within and outside the Archdiocese in arriving at these conclusions which vary greatly from yours.

I reiterate my appreciation for your canonical assistance to our priests.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
 Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM039393

. 11

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
CHANCERY

March 19, 2005

[REDACTED]


Dear [REDACTED]

Enclosed is a signed copy of the agreement we reached and a check from the trust account. Amy Peterson is working full time at assisting with healing for victims / survivors and is more than willing to have you contact her for any needs which arise. Her direct line is 414-769-3436.

Although it would appear that you were not able to make the meeting with Archbishop Dolan as scheduled, please know that he remains ready and open to meeting with you. Amy can assist you with rescheduling.

Thank you again for engaging in this process. I pray that healing may continue to deepen in your life. May God's peace be with you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Barbara Anne Cusack  
Chancellor

**QUARLES & BRADY LLP**

**TRUST ACCOUNT**

DATE: 03-23-05

PAYEE: [REDACTED]

CHECK #: 40535

DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATTER #	AMOUNT
03/23/05	Check payable to [REDACTED]	130031.30108	\$ 50,000.00

THIS CHECK IS VOID WITHOUT A COLORED BACKGROUND AND AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK ON THE BACK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

CHECK NO. 40535



M&I Marshall & Isley Bank  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

12-5/750

**TRUST ACCOUNT**

DATE 03-23-05

411 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4497  
Phone 414-277-5000

\$\*\* \*50,000.00

PAY Fifty Thousand USD and no cents

TO THE ORDER OF [REDACTED]

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE  
*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 VOID AFTER 180 DAYS

SIGNATURE HAS A COLORED BACKGROUND - BORDER CONTAINS MICROPRINTING

ADOM056636

## AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE

This Agreement and Mutual Release (hereafter "Agreement") is made by and between [REDACTED] (hereafter "[REDACTED]") and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and all of its affiliated entities, schools, and parishes (hereafter "Archdiocese").

[REDACTED] has brought to the attention of the Archdiocese that he was sexually abused by Franklyn Becker (hereafter "Becker"), a priest of the Archdiocese, when [REDACTED] was a minor.

[REDACTED] and the Archdiocese entered into mediation to achieve reconciliation and restoration, to help repair the harm to [REDACTED] to address issues of concern to [REDACTED] about prevention of sexual abuse of minors in the future and reformation of Church practices in this regard, and to otherwise resolve and settle all disputes between them.

Accordingly, the parties to this Agreement wish to resolve and satisfy all claims of any nature that [REDACTED] has against the Archdiocese, and all of the Archdiocese's employees, agents, officers, directors, affiliates, insurers, and assigns, including, without limitation, all members of the Roman Catholic clergy and all parishes, schools, and religious orders, and any person or entity affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in the territory of the Archdiocese, arising from the sexual abuse of [REDACTED] by Becker without the necessity of further proceedings or expense of any nature, and all parties wish to generally release one another from all liability for any claims that may exist to the date of the signing of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, any claims for sexual abuse of [REDACTED] by Becker.

So, in consideration of the mutual promises made here, and other valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties to this Agreement agree as follows:

1. The Archdiocese agrees to provide [REDACTED] with \$50,000. These funds shall be used at [REDACTED] own discretion.

2. The Archdiocese agrees to provide payment for the professional services of a counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist and/or other mental health provider as deemed necessary and appropriate for [REDACTED] and his immediate family members. The Archdiocese shall make payments to the counselor for reasonable costs, billed at the counselor's usual and customary rate. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, the Archdiocese's therapy payments owed under this provision shall be based upon treatment plans submitted by the counselor. This payment and reimbursement is limited to medication and therapy expenses relating to injuries suffered as a result of the sexual abuse of [REDACTED] by Becker.

3. The Archdiocese agrees to arrange a meeting between [REDACTED] and Archbishop Timothy Dolan at a mutually agreeable time and place.

4. [REDACTED] and the Archdiocese will each bear their own costs and any attorney's fees associated with the Agreement, and there will be no payment to [REDACTED] other than that specifically enumerated above.

5. In return for the payment set out above, and for the mutual promises contained herein, [REDACTED] releases and forever discharges the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and all of the Archdiocese's employees, agents, officers, directors, affiliates, insurers, and assigns, including, without limitation, all members of the Roman Catholic clergy, and all parishes, schools, and religious orders, and any person or entity affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in the territory of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee from, and covenants not to sue them for, all claims, causes of action, charges, and demands, whether in

tort, contract, or otherwise, of any nature that he may have had at any time up to and including the date of signing of this Agreement, including, without limitation, any claim of any nature arising from the assault, injury, whether physical or mental, or any other activity by Becker.

6. The Archdiocese hereby releases and forever discharges [REDACTED] from all claims, demands, and causes of action of any nature that were in existence up to and including the date of the signing of this Agreement.

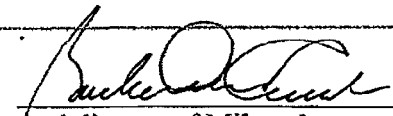
7. This Agreement supersedes all prior understandings and agreements between the parties, and constitutes the full agreement of the parties. No change to this Agreement shall be enforced against any party unless it is in writing signed by both parties.

8. The undersigned represent and warrant that each has read the foregoing Agreement; had an opportunity to discuss it with a lawyer; and fully understands its terms; voluntarily, freely, and without coercion signs the Agreement; and that Dr. Barbara Anne Cusack is an authorized representative of the Archdiocese and is duly authorized to execute this Agreement and Mutual Release.

[REDACTED]

Date

3/9/05

  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
by: Dr. Barbara Anne Cusack

3-17-05  
Date

## Select Becker Sexual Abuse Intake Reports

- 7/9/05 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting report of abuse by Becker when individual was 8-9 years old in 1965-1966 while a member at Holy Family Parish in Whitefish Bay, WI. Uncertain how many times the abuse occurred. Becker would take the youth camping and fishing. Becker would have him get naked and check him all over, including his genitals, for ticks. Becker also touched his rectum and something was inserted, possibly a finger. Becker also made the youth check him for ticks.
- 4/25/02 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting report of abuse by Becker when individual was 12 years old at Becker's parents' home in 1966. Becker pushed his bed up against the individual's and put his arm around him. Becker tried to fondle the individual.
- 4/22/10 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting report of abuse by Becker when individual was at Holy Family grade school in Whitefish Bay in 1972-1973. Becker took the victim to a hotel and fondled him and on another occasion, the victim was forced to swim naked.
- 5/14/08 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting report of abuse by Becker when individual was 10-11 years old in 1967-1968 at Holy Assumption Parish in West Allis, WI and at Becker's mother's residence. Abuse occurred at least 3 to 4 times and included kissing and Becker touching the individual's genitals.