

Entry for the File of [REDACTED]  
By Barbara Reinke

April 25, 2002

I had an extended conversation with [REDACTED] today, who reports that therapy with Dr. [REDACTED] is going well. She remains angry that Fr. Hoepf went on to work in other parishes, and that we at the Archdiocese claim no awareness, based on our records, that he had abused her despite the police report in 1969.

BR:saz

ADOM013487

February 12, 2004

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

Your Eminence:

In accord with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth* and *The Essential Norms* which are in effect in the United States, I am referring several cases for your consideration. I take very seriously the problem of sexual abuse of minors by clergy and the ensuing public outcry over past inaction by church officials. The demand for justice is one that receives a favorable hearing from me.

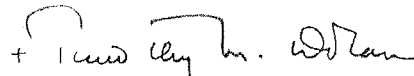
However, I also believe firmly that some situations call for justice tempered by mercy. I have reviewed carefully all of cases of alleged sexual abuse of minors by clergy. We are in the methodical process of preparing all such cases for referral to the Congregation. In the course of that review, I have come to the conclusion that some clerics, even though we are convinced about the substance of the allegations and even though, in some cases, the cleric has confessed, should not be imposed with canonical penalties.

I am sending in this mailing the cases of those priests whose life situations are such that a canonical penal trial or an administrative dismissal would be unreasonable. They are either of such advanced age or fragile health that such actions could be tantamount to a death sentence. Therefore, in each case I am asking that the priest be permitted to live out whatever may remain of his life in prayer and penance. The elements of such a life will be designed along the protocols presently being prepared by the Conference of Bishops. In all cases, there would be no public ministry permitted and the priest would not present himself publicly as a priest by title or attire.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Should Your Eminence determine that an alternate action be taken, I stand ready to accede to your wishes.

With sentiments of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM039323

## ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

NAME: Reverend George Stephen Hopf

DATE OF BIRTH: May 19, 1924

AGE: 79

PRESBYTERAL ORDINATION: May 28, 1949

YEARS OF MINISTRY: 24 years

DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION: Milwaukee

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Palatine, IL 60067

## ASSIGNMENTS:

YEAR	PARISH	LOCATION	APPOINTMENT
1949-1954	St. Joseph Parish	Milwaukee	Assistant Pastor
1954-1962	St. John Nepomuc Parish	Milwaukee	Assistant Pastor
1962-1966	St. Mary Parish	Waukesha, WI	Assistant Pastor
1966-1968	Immaculate Heart of Mary	West Allis, WI	Assistant Pastor
1968-1969	Holy Rosary Parish	Milwaukee, WI	Pastor
1969-1971	St. John Baptist Parish	Woodhull, WI	Administrator
1971-1975	St. Peter Claver Parish	Sheboygan, WI	Pastor
1975-1976	Sick Leave		
1976	Resignation		
1976	Retirement		

## ACCUSATION AGAINST THE CLERIC

YEAR	VICTIM	AGE	IMPUTABLE ACTS	DENUNCIATION
1969	[REDACTED]	12	Vaginal penetration with finger; fondling; forced masturbation	2002
1963-69	[REDACTED]	3-6	Not specified	2002

## CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC

The 1969 incident was supposedly reported to the police by the parents. There are no police records still intact. The statute of limitations has expired in both cases.

## MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE

YEAR	ACTION TAKEN
2002	Files studied for any indication of prior knowledge or reports. None found. Priest not able to be confronted due to total disability.
2004	Cased referred to Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

## SUSTENANCE PROVIDED TO THE CLERIC

Father is fully vested in the priests' pension plan and receives the same monthly payment as any other retired priest. He is cared for in a Catholic nursing home.

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RESPONSE / RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC  
None, he is totally incapacitated due to a severe stroke.

BISHOP'S VOTUM

The pattern of the allegations has an internal consistency. All of the dates and places are verified in the records. The accusers have no knowledge of or contact with one another. These cases have been given no public notoriety and there has been no scandal. Because of his inability to mount any defense, I am asking that he not be subjected to a penal trial. He does not appear in public and is capable of no ministry.

I ask that Father Hopf, for reasons of advanced age and poor health, be permitted to live a life of prayer and penance the details of which will be worked on with him to the best of his ability to understand the situation.

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