

THE DIOCESAN CLERGY PERSONNEL BOARD  
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

A G E N D A

Meeting No. 73 - The Fifth Board

Place: Clergy Personnel Board Office

Time: 10:30 A. M.

Date: Friday, March 4, 1977

1. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting No. 72

2. Reports:

A. Jim Brett spoke with McNamara and Adams about his problems with Bob Mayer.  
If he wants to confront the situation, he was advised to structure a meeting with  
the Vicar, a member or two of the CPB and Mayer.

B.

C.

3. Approval of the Agenda

4.

5.

6.

IV-162

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

To: Father Keating

From: Archbishop Bernardin

Re: Father Robert E. Mayer

Date: October 5, 1982

When you return, we will need to decide how we are going to handle the Father Mayer situation. Basically, we have agreed that we will review the matter. Our goal will be to arrange for a transfer, but on grounds other than those brought by those who have complained.

The next question is this: Do we simply permit him to be assigned elsewhere, or must there be some evaluation of the difficulty? If there is really a problem with him, it will not be long for a crisis to develop elsewhere.

Should there be some contact with the Personnel Board about this?

Many thanks,

*+ JLB Bernardin*

*10/15/82 Spoke with the Archbishop today.  
Suggested procedure:  
- M sees Fr. McDonagh  
- JLB - JRK - + " confer + decide.  
JRK*

CONFIDENTIAL

May 13, 1987

TO: CARDINAL BERNARDIN  
FROM: JIM ROACHE  
RE: BOB MAYER: TOM VENTURA MEMO 5/13/87

Alternate Scenario Proposed by Jim Roache

In light of what appears to be a certain "softness" of data, another approach might be envisioned. The reasons for this more conservative approach are:

- a) Information arrived at through an unsolicited phone call from Rich Daley that would indicate the Police Captain was operating merely on an anonymous telephone call. There did not appear to be a "stake-out." Furthermore, the Police Captain is not held in high esteem by the State's Attorney's Office. More information on this is available through Daley's associate, Ken Maltesta.
- b) The directive given Bob may have been ambiguous. It was not clearly communicated whether he should not have young people below the age of 18 or below the age of 21 in his room. He maintains the only visitors are three 17-year-old juniors from Maine Township High School.

In light of this, the alternate scenario would have:

- a) Jim Serritella getting more information from Ken Maltesta;
- b) putting Bob under a 3-month supervisory situation with
  - (1) Ray Goedert having weekly or bi-monthly sessions with him;
  - (2) requiring a total examination by Dr. James Cavanaugh;and then, one of the major pieces:
- c) having Tom Ventura and Bob Kealy meet with the Police Captain to advise him:
  - that we are making further internal investigations (e.g., with the Pastor, Business Manager, etc.);
  - that we are putting him under direct supervision of a priest/spiritual director, and having a thorough physical/psychological testing done;
  - and that we are requesting of him (the Police Captain) any specific data that the Police Department has over and above the anonymous telephone call. If that data is of a damning nature, obviously we would fall back on the Ventura scenario.

# # #

AOC 001138

DRAFT OF MESSAGE TO BE GIVEN BY CARDINAL TO BOB MAYER ON JULY 1, 1991

1. I cannot tell you how hurt and disappointed and angry I am that this meeting today has become a necessity. I feel that you have betrayed me and violated the trust I placed in you. Over the years, you have repeatedly been the subject of allegations of sexual impropriety, and yet you have refused to modify your behavior in such a way that the risk to yourself and to the Church would be eliminated. Your appointment to St. Odilo, as you well know, was approved by me only after I received your solemn assurance that you would no longer engage in the kind of behaviors that caused so much distress for your parishioners and yourself in your previous assignments. I regret to say that I now have reason to believe that you have broken this promise.

2. On June 2, 1987, you signed an agreement which included among other things the following condition for your continuation in ministry:

"A canonical mandate is given to Fr. Mayer to avoid all unsupervised contact with all persons under the age of 21. This applies especially to his private living quarters in the rectory. He is not to have persons under age 21 as guests at his cottage unless other adults are present".

I <sup>have recently learned</sup> know that you have violated this mandate on more than <sup>recently learned</sup> one occasion in the short time that you have been at St. Odilo's. Moreover, I also ~~have knowledge~~ of grossly inappropriate behavior on your part towards a young man, involving touches, sexual innuendos and pornographic material. Even if you deny any sexual intent, your judgment in these matters is so obviously impaired that I cannot allow you to continue in this position of trust any longer.

3. I am convinced, Bob, that you are laboring under the kind of psychic defect referred to in Canons 1041 and 1044, and for this reason I am withdrawing your faculties and I forbid you any and all exercise of your Sacred Orders until such time as it is evident that you are capable of resuming effective priestly ministry.

4. You are no longer empowered to act, therefore, as pastor of St. Odilo Parish. Because you have so seriously violated the trust I placed in you, I am asking you today to submit your resignation. If you refuse to do so, I will initiate immediately the canonical process for your removal.

5. Furthermore, I direct you to [REDACTED] on Wednesday, July 10. The Vicar for Priests and I will remain in contact with you [REDACTED] and a determination will eventually be made as to whether or not you will be permitted to return to the active ministry.

6. This decision, Bob, grieves me deeply. I can only hope and pray that you will commit yourself to participate fully [REDACTED] and, with the Lord's help, return to the Archdiocese a much better man and a much better priest.

DRAFT OF STATEMENT READ AT ST. ODILO AT WEEKEND MASSES

My dear parishioners,

It is with heavy heart that I must bring to you information that I know will be extremely distressing. Prior to Fr. Robert Mayer's appointment as Pastor of St. Odilo, there had been allegations of inappropriate behavior on his part with minor children. These allegations were investigated ~~carefully and exhaustively~~, and no substantiation of serious misconduct was ever found. On the other hand, it was evident to me that some of his actions were quite imprudent and could ~~easily~~ give rise to such allegations. Because of this, careful directives were given to Fr. Mayer restricting his behavior and these were a condition for his assuming the role of pastor of St. Odilo. I regret to say that he has violated these directives, and because he has shown such poor judgement in doing so, I have ordered him to undergo an intensive program of psychotherapy.

\*\*\* Fr. Mayer has agreed to do so and has already entered a treatment facility for this purpose. In his absence, I have asked Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ to administer the affairs of St. Odilo parish.

Please pray for Fr. Mayer, that he might return to us a much better man and a much better priest. Pray, too, for Fr. \_\_\_\_\_, for myself and for your parish, that Our Lord will help all of us get through this most difficult period.

With prayers and my own personal blessing, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

\*\*\* In the event Fr. Mayer refuses to undergo treatment, this paragraph will read as follows:

Fr. Mayer has refused to undergo such treatment, leaving me no alternative but to remove him as pastor. Until such time as a new pastor is appointed, I have asked Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ to administer the affairs of St. Odilo parish.

add (1) I will have to notify the parish of what happened. \*  
(2) move out of rectory within 24 hrs.

\* Card. feels he has to say the new evidence is what is prompted  
the action is: ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ case -