

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

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ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

NAME: James William Beck
 DATE OF BIRTH: October 10, 1943
 AGE: 60
 DATE OF ORDINATION: May 24, 1969
 YEARS OF MINISTRY: 21
 DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION: Milwaukee
 CONTACT ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Greenfield, WI 53220
 PROCURATOR (1992-1995): Reverend Daniel Ward, O.S.B.

ASSIGNMENTS:

YEAR	PARISH	LOCATION	APPOINTMENT
1969-1977	Holy Name	Sheboygan, WI	Associate Pastor
1977-1978	St. Robert	Milwaukee, WI	Associate Pastor
1978-1984	St. James	Mequon, WI	Associate Pastor
1984-1989	St. Catherine	Milwaukee, WI	Pastor
1989-1990	Tribunal	Milwaukee, WI	Staff
1991-1993	Tribunal	Milwaukee, WI	Staff
1993-1995	Unassigned		
1995	Permanent Leave		

ACCUSATIONS

YEAR	VICTIM	AGE	IMPUTABLE ACTS	DENUNCIATION
1971	[REDACTED]	Unknown	Not specified	1988 (Admission)
1982	[REDACTED]	12	Genital fondling on multiple occasions	1988
1988	[REDACTED]	Adult	Obscene phone call	1988

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC

YEAR	TYPE / CASE	CONVICTION	SENTENCE
1971	Criminal investigation	Yes	Probation
1988	Criminal investigation	Plea bargain	Counseling / restrictions
1988	Civil	Settlement	
1990	Civil	Settlement	

MEASURES ADOPTED BY DIOCESE

YEAR	ACTION
1988	In the course of confronting the allegation of a 1982 incident, Father admitted the previous 1971 incident without providing any more details than that he was in mandatory counseling and had been on probation. Ordered to have no unsupervised contact with minors.
1988	Asked to resign from pastorate. Professional evaluation conducted with potential for non-parochial assignment.

1990	Placed on administrative leave for eight months with commencement of civil suit
1992	Review of case file results in request that cleric no longer function in any ministerial capacity.
1992-1995	Negotiations with canonical counsel to resolve the issue, resulting in a legal contract binding cleric not to exercise any ministry, not to present as a cleric, and to pursue alternate career options. Assistance in career re-training provided by the diocese.
2004	Case referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

SUSTENANCE PROVIDED:

Cleric was provided full salary until the time of administrative leave when reductions in accord with diocesan policy were made. During that eight-month period of leave, he received \$1,074 a month with deductions for insurance and pension contributions (\$389). He was allotted \$300 a month room and board. Upon resumption of his position salary and benefits were provided in full. During the time of negotiations, full salary and benefits were provided along with payment for career counseling. He was provided with a lump sum of \$25,000 as assistance in transition to a new way of life. Because he participated in a self-contributory pensions plan and was vested, he retained full rights to his pension.

RESPONSE / RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC

YEAR	ACTION
1988	Admitted to 1982 abuse and informed diocesan officials for the first time of the 1971 case.
1990	Accepted non-parochial assignment
1992-1995	Cooperated with plans for "outplacement" with advice of canonical counsel to negotiate a just assistance in transition.

BISHOP'S VOTUM

Father Beck admitted the two incidents involving minors (1971 and 1982). He has not functioned in any ministerial capacity for almost 10 years. He has cooperated with all of the provisions of his contract. In recent years he has developed a variety of health problems from heart disease to recurrence of complications from childhood polio and possible multiple sclerosis. Given his full cooperation, his departure from any form of ministry for almost 10 years and his precarious health, I ask that, for reasons of advanced age and poor health, he be permitted to live a life of prayer and penance the details of which will be worked on with him.